

In memory of Enrique Bustamante Ramirez

An appreciation on behalf of the Editorial Board of *Media, Culture & Society*

Enrique was a corresponding editor of our journal since 1987 and as proud of his affiliation as we were honoured by it. As will be the case for many, the news of his untimely death has been devastating, for he was a great friend with whom much was shared over the decades. The Editorial Board wishes to offer its greatest sympathy to Enrique's family. It also wishes to endorse this statement, which I presented at our meeting on the day of Enrique's burial.

Enrique Bustamante Ramirez was an exemplary figure. He was an outstanding political economist of the media and the cultural industries. He inspired many in Spain by his work and personal conduct but also touched those much further afield, most notably perhaps in France, Italy and Portugal as well as in the wider Hispanic and Lusophone worlds. He stood out for his example of rigorous research and principled critical analysis, for his ability to accomplish his goals, and for his notable and generous willingness to nurture the careers of others.

Enrique was a founder and ultimately President of the Spanish Association of Communication Research (AE-IC), to which body he gave great commitment. He had a compelling sense of the need to pass things on by organising to do so. He contributed greatly to the creation of this new space for reflection and exchange, whose rapid growth and rising international reputation has been notable.

Enrique was highly principled in his university work, which sometimes won him no favours. His most noteworthy contribution to public policy was the advice he gave on media reform, for which he was awarded the Gran Cruz de Alfonso X el Sabio in 2005. Enrique was founding editor of the journal, *Telos*: under his direction, in its best years this was a landmark publication. In his many activities, Enrique was a builder motivated by a democratic spirit.

Media, Culture & Society is proud to have translated and published some of Enrique's work, with articles published in 1989, 2000 and 2004, as only a small corpus of his thinking is available in English. The range of these contributions was typical of his interests and commitments: TV and public service in Spain; a critique of right-wing communication policy in Spain; the cultural industries in the digital age.

The Editorial Board of *Media, Culture & Society* deeply appreciates its long association with one of Spain's most distinguished and internationally-minded researchers, whose loss we lament.

Philip Schlesinger
Chair, Editorial Board
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