

## **In Memory of Rachel Browne**

**By Geoffrey Klempner**

Readers of our sister publication *Philosophy Pathways* learned last January that Rachel Browne, the inspiration behind the *Philosophy for Business* e-journal died after a long illness on Christmas Day 2015.

As I wrote in Issue 199 of *Philosophy Pathways*:

Rachel was also the main instigator of the launch, in 2003, of our second e-journal, *Philosophy for Business*, writing to Company Directors and CEOs, and badgering potential contributors for articles.

Together in 2005 Rachel and I were invited to visit the London headquarters of Shell to talk to Robin Aram, Shell's Vice-President of External Relations and Policy Development, described by the think tank Sustainability as the 'Darth Vader of the human rights world' after leading a successful campaign against the original draft of the UN Human Rights Commission's proposed Norms on Business and Human Rights the year before. Rachel was in her element. It was a memorable meeting, with points scored on both sides.

Rachel and her retired husband Andrew had strong links to the business world, moving in circles that were inaccessible to someone like myself. I even heard a rumour that they were occasional guests of the Bransons in London.

From the beginning, we understood that the problem for a journal like *Philosophy for Business*, then as now, is getting material from business people that isn't just spin or window dressing from the PR department. We were looking for honest and searching reports, from a philosophical and ethical point of view, of the state of play in business both in the UK and around the world.

Although Rachel and I never considered *Philosophy for Business* as just another 'academic journal', as things turned out the majority of articles came from the academic world. There are various possible reasons why. The fear of being made to look foolish, the fear of criticism – these are justified in a business context where credibility plays such a large part in the bottom line. As a business person, you don't have tenure requirements to meet, so why stick your neck out?

On the other hand, we realized that there was a tremendous opportunity for business people to make their case on topics that are of keen interest in the business world – such as economic policy, social responsibility, sustainability, the European Union, the challenges of the global marketplace, and many other issues.

From the point of view of pure self-interest, having an article published in a widely read online journal can't be bad for your CV!

Over a year has passed since the last issue of *Philosophy for Business*. It is time to get a move on. I would really like to hear more from business people. What do you think of Brexit, for example? NGOs and 'whistle blowers' – do you have anything to say? This is your chance!

More than ever, we need input from new editors as well as from authors. If you think that you have got what it takes to be an Editor if *Philosophy for Business* drop me a line at [klempner@fastmail.net](mailto:klempner@fastmail.net) and we can talk.

I am dedicating this issue to Rachel's memory.

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