

**In Memoriam**

**Anson David Shupe**

**January 21, 1948- May 4, 2015**

Professor Anson Shupe, a member of the IPFW faculty for 25 years, from 1987 to 2012, passed away in Bloomington, Indiana this past spring on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Prior to his appointment at IPFW, he was a Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas, Arlington from 1976 to 1987. He was recruited to IPFW to serve as the chairperson of the department of sociology. He served as department chairperson from 1987 to 1991. Andy received his bachelor in Sociology from the College of Wooster in 1970 and Masters and Doctorate in Sociology from Indiana University in 1972 and 1975, respectively. His doctoral dissertation based on data collected in fieldwork he conducted in Japan was entitled “Political Culture, Political Activity, and Social Structure in Rural Japan. His areas of research specialization was in political sociology, social movements, and the sociology of religion.

Over his 37 year career Anson Shupe authored 24 books, 9 edited volumes, and more than 80 published works of article length in journals and edited volumes. To my knowledge, he was the most published faculty member in the history of the sociology department at IPFW. Andy came out of the American sociological tradition that was linked with journalist of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century referred to as muckrakers who investigated the corruption and deviance in public institutions. Much of this early investigative journalism focused on the abuses of business corporations and government. In Andy’s case he focused his investigations on the most trusted and sacred institution in the society, the religious institution. Although, his scholarship was recognized in several areas of research, his greatest contribution was in the sociology of religion and social movements, in particular, investigating the power, corruption and deviance within religious organizations. His first book, Moonies in America: Cult, Church, and Crusade published by Sage in 1979 made an important contribution to understanding the nature of religious based social movements, using archival data provided by a study of the Unification Church. He followed this work with 16 more books and 9 edited volumes on corruption and deviance across a wide range of religious organizations. All of them making a significant contribution to the literature and establishing Andy Shupe as an authority on US based religious organizations. Books such as The New Vigilantes’ Anti-Cultists, Deprogrammers, and the New Religions, published in 1980, Strange Gods: The Great American Cult Scare published in 1981, The Mormon Corporate Empire published in 1985, Televangelism: Power and Politics on God’s Frontier published in 1988, The Darker Side of Virtue: Corruption, Scandal and the Mormon Empire published in 1991, In the Name of All That’s Holy: A Theory of Clergy Malfeasance published in 1995, Spoils of the Kingdom: Social Exchange and Clergy Misconduct in America published in 2007, Rogue Clerics: The Social Problem of Clergy Malfeasance in 2008, and his last work published the year of his retirement; Pastoral Misconduct: The American Black Church Examined published in 2012. Over this same period, he published more than 30 articles on the subject of religious deviance and

corruption. In short, if you were investigating crime, deviance or corruption in religious organizations either as a journalist or a scholar, you were reading Anson Shupe's work.

His entry as a notable scholar in the Encyclopedia of Religion and Society states that "he incorporated a historical viewpoint of such movements into his writings, drawing parallels with earlier cohorts of religious movements, and contributed a number of concepts—"apostate," "atrocious story," and "anti-cultism"—that were widely employed in analyzing the controversy surrounding new religious movements." His work was often quite controversial and cutting edge, especially his work on the Mormon Church, The Church of Scientology, the Catholic Church and the Anti-cult Deprogramming movement.

Another area of scholarship that he made a significant contribution was in the area of violence, in particular his research in family violence. Some of the early research on the problem of domestic violence was done by Shupe. In 1983 he authored, The Family Secret: Domestic Violence in America which was one of the first comprehensive studies of the impact of domestic violence on families that was based on interviews of female victims. It provided important insights into the nature of the problem. This was followed up with two additional books that he authored on the topic; Violent Men, Violent Couples: the Dynamics of Family Violence published in 1986 and The Violent Couple published in 1994. Both of these works made important contributions to understanding the power dynamics of couples and its link to violence in the home and other important characteristics of family that are related to the incidence of domestic violence.

Andy worked with several co-authors throughout his career including David Bromley, Jeffrey Hadden, and John Heinerman on publications on religious organizations, William Stacey on publications on family violence, and several members of the sociology department at IPFW. It was my pleasure to have coauthored three editions of our text Violence, Inequality, and Human Freedom. In 2008, Andy was the recipient of the IPFW Outstanding Researcher Award for the quality and volume of his scholarship.

Andy was also often contacted by national and local media to be interviewed for an article or in many cases to write an article for the paper. He was interviewed by the New York Times and Washington Times on articles about Reverend Moon and the Unification Church, Newsweek on clergy malfeasance, MacLane's Magazine, Toronto on clergy sexual abuse with the Roman Catholic Church, Dallas Morning News on abusive pastors, Boston Magazine and the Oregonian on clergy sexual abuse, and ABC News "20/20" on clergy malfeasance to mention a few. Andy wrote newspaper articles on corruption in religious organizations for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Philadelphia Inquirer, Baltimore Sun, Houston Chronicle, Kansas City Star, the Wall Street Journal, as well as the local media in Fort Wayne. He was also a frequent expert witness to testify to his knowledge of sexual abuse and corruption by members of religious organizations, and lawsuits brought against deprogrammers.

Andy's classes on the Sociology of Religion, Social Movements, Deviant Behavior, and Social Psychology were very popular with the students at IPFW. He had a following of students that we referred to as Shupites that would regularly enroll in his courses. Some of his students referred to him as "Shupe Dog" because of his anecdotes about Molly and Toby his rat terrier and

Jack Russel mix dogs that he would often take for walks across the river in the wooded behind the soccer fields.

Andy was not just a scholar and teacher, he was also a martial arts expert possessing second degree black belts in Judo and Karate. He received his black belt in Judo at [Kodokan](#) a school where Judo was founded by Jigoro Kano while completing his doctoral dissertation research in Japan. While in Texas he and Chuck Norris, the martial arts expert and action film actor, went to the same school for training under the same sensei. Unfortunately after two hip operations, he was no longer able to do the high kicks required of the practice of his sport and took up archery to keep active. Although, local columnist Frank Gray, a bow enthusiast himself, told me that he wasn't any good at it, nevertheless he was known as a colorful character at the local indoor archery ranges in town.

Andy was also an avid reader of mysteries and crime novels of the early 1900s. He was a frequent customer of Hyde Brother's Bookstore where he would search the shelves for crime and detective novel classics to add to his library. He also loved to learn languages including Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish. Over the years, several faculty in the Department of International Languages and Culture had Andy as an auditing student in their classes. While in Bloomington he continued auditing a Japanese language course, in preparation for a trip that he and his wife Janet were preparing to take this year, returning to Japan where they had first met while they were students.

In his short retirement, living in Bloomington, Andy was able to return to the muckraking journalism passion that fueled his scholarship. For the last year and a half he was a writer and reporter for the consumer watchdog radio program, Better Beware of WFHB in Bloomington, Indiana. His final column entitled, Better Beware! – Bogus Debt Collectors was aired on May 13, 2015. Andy would often send me copies of his columns on consumer scams that were part of the program. He was excited to be a muckraking journalist exposing scam artists and unsavory business practices around the Bloomington community.

Andy is survived by his wife, Janet A. Shupe of Bloomington, Ind.; son, Andrew Shupe, and daughter in law, Nora Zuckerman of Los Angeles, California and daughter, Dr. Abigail Shupe and son in law, Dr. John Phippen of Wooster, Ohio.