

Symposium in Honor of Professor Austin Turk



Thursday, June 5, 2014, 12:30-2:00 PM

INTS 1113

UCR's Department of Sociology suffered a major loss during this academic year, when Professor Austin Turk passed away on the morning of Saturday, February 1. Since he joined the UCR Sociology faculty in 1988, Professor Turk was one of the leading figures in our graduate specialization in Criminology and Sociological Studies and in the Department of Sociology as a whole. His past contributions to the Department include years of service as Chair, and regular teaching of popular undergraduate and graduate classes on such subjects as Deviance, Criminology, Juvenile Delinquency, and the Sociology of Law.

Nationally and internationally, Austin was acknowledged to be one of the leading practitioners of conflict sociology. His book *Criminality and Legal Order*, published in 1969, is considered a classic in the study of criminology, deviance, and the sociology of law. Austin coined the definition of criminality as "that deviant status assigned by legal authorities," a definition that continues to challenge and inform discussions of conflicts arising from power differentials. His much cited work *Political Criminality: The Defiance and Defense of Authority* (1982) promoted scientific investigation of political criminality and policing as an alternative to more partisan treatments. Most recently, Austin's research focused on political violence and terrorism, including an article "Sociology of Terrorism" in the *Annual Review of Sociology* (2004), and the recently published book *Examining Political Violence: Studies of Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Internal War* (2013) with David Lowe and Dilip K. Das.

Speakers paying tribute to Austin at the symposium on June 5 will be a mix of current students, former students, and former colleagues, including the following:

Dinur Blum, current student

Dr. Kathleen Auerhahn, former student

Jesse Drucker, current student

Dr. Edgar Butler, colleague

Dr. Cory Lepage, former student

Dr. Dilip Das, co-author

Dr. James LaValle, former student