

# Introduction

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**John Germov**

On 5 September 2002 Steve Crook lost his 18-month struggle with cancer. During much of this time, in true stoic fashion, Steve continued with his duties as TASA President (1999–2002) and Foundation Professor of Sociology at James Cook University (1998–2002). Steve's last formal TASA duties occurred during the 2001 annual conference held in December at the University of Sydney, during which he participated in a number of sessions, chaired the AGM and was the MC at the Conference dinner. He clearly enjoyed his time at the conference, taking the time to socialize with colleagues who were obviously happy to share this time with him.

I persuaded Steve to submit his Presidential Address, which had originally been presented on 6 December, during the 2000 TASA conference at Flinders University, for publication in the journal. Steve had hoped to work the Address into a substantive paper, but failing health precluded him from doing so. Nonetheless, I am very pleased to see it published here, as I was fortunate enough to witness Steve's delivery of the paper firsthand. It was a truly insightful, articulate and nuanced analysis of the core issues and dilemmas facing the discipline of sociology. The power, persuasiveness and charm of Steve's Address still resonate in my memory, and I trust that much of this is also conveyed in the paper published here. This paper is one small example of the substantive contribution he made through research, teaching, publication and involvement in TASA.

To honour Steve's unwavering commitment to Australian sociology, TASA has established the Stephen Crook Memorial Prize, to be awarded bi-annually to the best authored monograph published in Australian sociology. All those who knew him appreciated his intellect, stoicism and friendly, charming manner. He will be greatly missed.

*Vale* Stephen Crook (1950–2002).