

In Memoriam Clifford C. Clogg

This book is based on a one-week symposium held at the Akademie Sankelmark in Northern Germany in May 1994. Cliff Clogg was among the 60 participants who contributed to the symposium. For most of us who had met him so often before - be it somewhere in Europe or in the United States - this was the last time to meet him, to follow his presentation of a new idea he had been working on for some time, to talk business with him or to just talk and laugh ... Hardly a year later we got the message that Cliff died unexpectedly on May 7th 1995. One of his European friends suggested to dedicate to Cliff what we called the Sankelmark book. We agreed right away and asked a few of his European friends what they are thinking of when thinking of Cliff.

Jürgen Rost

Rolf Langeheine

Cliff and his family stayed with me for a couple of weeks in Wuppertal in the summer of 1992. This is why I remember Cliff not only as a friend with whom I shared many common convictions and interest but especially as a devoted husband and kind father. After dinner there would be no more work but only time for his family and friends. Cliff had a keen interest in German culture. So one day we could see a performance of Goethe's Faust, and although Cliff could not understand all the verses in German, he was very happy to hear Faust in the original language.

Gerhard Arminger

I met Cliff Clogg for the first time in autumn 1985. I was spending a visiting year at the Department of Statistics, The Pennsylvania State University at State College. There is a tradition in the statistics department of having a party at the beginning of the fall term which is usually taking place outdoors in the beautiful vicinity of State College. I remember a warm autumn Sunday afternoon with bright sunshine. The colours of the earth, the grass, the leaves were blooming and at the horizon a dark-blue sky was trying to touch the edges of the mountains of lion country. A voice said suddenly: „I am Cliff Clogg. We have not met before“. It was the beginning of a relationship which ended in a long-lasting friendship.

The last time I met Cliff Clogg was at my most recent visit to PennState in September 1994. He and his family had invited me to join them for the Grange Fair, as they had done so many times before. It was a warm late summer evening, the air was full of moisture, joy and the laughter of people, and the earth smelled very much like earth.

Dankmar Böhning

On the frontispiece of their book „Latent Structure Analysis“, Paul F. Lazarsfeld and Neil W. Henry reprinted the poem „The Secret Sits“ written by Robert Frost:

„We dance round in a ring and suppose,
but the Secret sits in the middle and knows“.

We have to thank Cliff that this ring did become closer by his many significant contributions tackling a wide range of problems in statistics and the social sciences, and we have to regret that his untimely decease hindered him to continue his efforts to come to the centre of the ring.

Anton Formann

Clifford C. Clogg’s death is a tragic loss for his family, professional colleagues and friends. He was not only an internationally renowned expert in statistics who made many very important contributions and got numerous awards. Clifford C. Clogg was above all an extremely modest and exceptionally helpful man. I could enjoy his scientific advice several times, when he visited us. We always experienced his genuinely warm contact with his family. He was also an exemplary husband and father for his four daughters. We devote them our sympathy and regret Clifford C. Clogg.

Heinz Holling

If I remember it correctly, my first contact with Cliff Clogg was in 1979 when I struggled with getting familiar with latent class analysis. We had a lot of letters going across the Atlantic, and it was Cliff who patiently helped me to do the job. During these early years I first experienced one of his talents that I admired throughout: Cliff was one of the few statisticians who was able to explain complicated issues in simple words. He always did care that people did understand what he presented. The first time when we did meet was in 1982, when we were lucky to have him as an invited speaker at an IPN seminar. There was a slightly critical moment at this seminar that I will never forget because I learned a lot from how Cliff handled it. One of the participants came with an aggressive question. Cliff’s response was about this: Yes, I know that there are two views of the problem. This is in favor of X, and this is in favor of Y. I feel that arguments in favor of Y are more convincing because of ...

Cliff and I met next on the occasion of our 1985 IPN symposium where Cliff was one of the most heavily engaged discussants coming with a lot of helpful comments and suggestions, motivating others to continue with what they worked on. Again three years later Cliff came to visit us with his family. This meant a full house. On a sudden there were seven kids in our cottage. But things went easy. We did some work. However, a lot of time was devoted to the kids. I remember Cliff exercising with his kids counting from one to ten in German and reading German stories for our kids.

A year later I made my first trip to the U.S. with a one week stay at his home. Cliff was extremely busy at that time. Nevertheless, he took leave and showed me several places. I do remember our trip with his family to a market place of the Amish people and Cliff saying, after the kids having gone to bed: we should more often have days like this one.

Rolf Langeheine

Cliff was one of those scientists who do not view research as everyday business. Cliff represented a research institution. From this position and perspective he observed and solved methodology and statistical problems. I first met Cliff in 1982 in the hallway here at the IPN where he was searching for the room where the IPN seminar on „Statistical analysis of qualitative data“ was to take place. The experience we had at the IPN in working with the Rasch Model evidently awakened his desire to show that it is „just“ a special latent class model. During his second visit to Kiel in 1985 for the symposium „Latent Trait and Latent Class Models in Educational Research“, he presented the proof and showed under what restrictions the Rasch Model can be formalized as a special latent class model. For me that was one of the components of my fundamental belief that classifying is a more general form of measuring.

Cliff convincingly showed that science can progress when one believes in a scientific perspective, develops it with consequence and applies it to new questions. Cliff died one year after the IPN Symposium on "Applications of Latent Trait and Latent Class Models in the Social Sciences" in May 1995. His death was not only a great personal loss for all of us who knew him, but a whole field of research misses the genius, the creativity and the productive power of Clifford C. Clogg.

Jürgen Rost