

Obituary: Remembering Ann Snitow

Iva Šmídová

The feminist community lost a dear friend, teacher, scholar, and activist in August 2019, Ann Snitow. The world has lost a precious, open-hearted, and open-minded woman, too.

Professor Snitow, based in her loft apartment in downtown Manhattan and professionally at The New School university, generously supported the development of gender studies in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and even far beyond that region. She did so elaborately by building communities and lasting friendships, by helping to establish organisations, and by encouraging the local institutionalisation of feminist, gender, and queer expertise and local women's networks. As a co-founder of the Network of East–West Women (NEWW), Ann Snitow donated books and provided funding for purchasing books to establish gender libraries in the region and thus the foundations for informed scholarship. She also generously supported individual, such as researchers, teachers, and activists, by providing consultation, constant encouragement, engaging in critical but embracing debates, and through her unflagging sensitivity, attention, and firm conviction in the cause. Reflecting critically on her own US background, Ann Snitow was always very careful and sensitive in her approach to the issue of dominance in travelling of thoughts and ideas about feminisms.

I am one of the lucky women who experienced Ann's support repeatedly and even found a home away from home in the NYC apartment in which Ann Snitow and Daniel Goode, her life companion and husband, hosted many events and shared their private space with the community of feminists, musicians, and others. I am proud and honoured to have known Ann since 1997, I am grateful for her inspiration, enthusiasm, and lasting support on both the personal and the institutional level. She was a critical reader and a consultant on the syllabi for the very first gender courses taught at the newly founded Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University in Brno back in the fall of 1998. The co-operation was never just formal or purely academic, and it was her unflagging optimism, courage, and support that made Ann so special for many students, colleagues, and others.

Ann, we miss you tremendously, but your energy and inspiration, especially your all-embracing love and your passion for feminisms stays with us.