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Peter Ferentzy (1959-2023)

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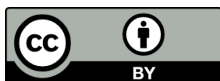
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Peter Ferentzy passed away on 15 January 2023 in Toronto Ontario Canada. I have known Peter as a colleague and friend for nearly 20 years. Peter Ferentzy was a recovering alcoholic and drug addict. After getting sober, Peter returned to university and received a Ph.D. in Social and Political Thought from York University.

Peter and I worked together a number of times and published 12 papers and one book together. Peter's doctoral work on how the language of sin in the 19th century was replaced by that of disease in the mid 20th century merged well with my own doctoral studies of figure language. The book (Ferentzy, & Turner, 2013) was on the History of Problem Gambling that looked at how ideas related to addiction had changed over the years, and in particular looked at the role of metaphoric conceptualization in the construction of scientific discourse.

Other highlights of his career include ethnographic studies of Gamblers Anonymous (with Wayne Skinner and Paul Antze) and a street level, ethnographic study of gambling patterns among crack users in downtown Toronto with Dr. Flora Matheson and Wayne Skinner.

Peter also wrote three other books: *Dealing with Addiction -- Why the 20th Century was Wrong*, *Dealing with an Addict*, and a novel, *The Corrective*.

Throughout the time I knew Peter, in spite of a solid resume of publications, he was always struggling to find a more permanent academic position. He was quite open about having overcome his own struggle with addictions. Peter had a great sense of humor and used to call himself Dr. Crackhead. His personal experience in addictions, provided him with a great deal of insight into the experience of addiction and the experience of mutual aid groups. In addition, because of his experience with addictions, he was not seen as an outsider by groups like AA and GA and was able to publish studies on mutual aid groups which greatly improved our understanding of mutual aid.

He was skilled in qualitative research, but he was a bit of a maverick who resisted the formalization of qualitative analyses method.

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