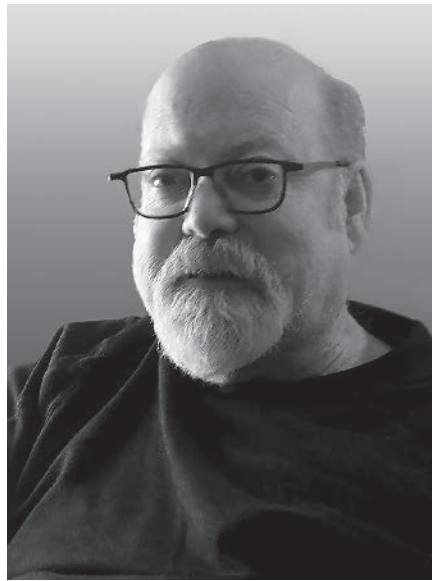


DANIEL CURTIS KNUDSEN

After more than 40 years at IU, 22 of them as department chair or program director, Dan Knudsen is retiring. Dan is widely known on campus for his selfless service to the university; his tireless support for faculty, staff, and students; and his consistent refusal to back down in response to higher administrative authority, leading to some memorable exchanges in chairs and directors meetings over the years.

Within geography, Dan is admired for his intellectual curiosity and bravery, having radically shifted fields and research methods twice during his career. He began his career specializing in cutting-edge statistical modeling of industrial and retail location patterns. Bored with this work post tenure, he dove into the use of critical theory in cultural geography, pioneering the use of Lacanian psychoanalysis in tourism studies. This work was recognized by the Roy Wolfe Award for Tourism Research in 2009. Most recently, he switched fields and methods again, and is now doing groundbreaking quantitative and spatial analysis of food-justice issues in Indiana.

In all of these intellectual endeavors, Dan has been notable for his generosity. He consistently built intellectual partnerships with students, as recognized via the Gordon Faculty Award from the Indiana University Division of Student Affairs in 2011, and by the 2014–15 GPSO (Graduate and Professional Student Organization) campuswide award for mentoring. His tourism research, for example, was based in collaborative work with current and recent graduate students, resulting in co-authored articles, two co-edited volumes, and many jointly organized conference sessions and presentations. His ongoing work with the Critical Food Studies Lab depends on collaborations with more than a dozen IU undergraduates, again resulting in co-authored presentations and publications.



Dan's strong and generous commitment to student development is visible in his teaching record, which paralleled his research career in spanning a jaw-dropping range of physical, social, and spatial science and humanities topics. He developed and taught 40 different courses during his time at IU on subjects ranging from cartography to statistics to cultural geography to urban geography and transportation. In recent years, even while he served as department chair, it was normal for him to teach three or four courses per semester to make sure our majors had access to all of the classes that they needed to graduate.

Dan's inventive research and teaching career was balanced with substantial administrative loads. He served four terms as chair of the geography department, interrupted only by a nine-year stint as the founding director of the International Studies program (now its own department). For his work developing this very successful program, he won the John Ryan Award for Distinguished Contributions to International Programs in 2009.

Outside of IU, Dan has been deeply involved in the arts community in

Bloomington. He and his wife, Linda Knudsen, were co-founders and long-time organizers of the annual Fourth Street Festival of the Arts and the By Hand Gallery. Dan is a gifted and dedicated gardener, growing more than a hundred heritage iris varieties at Shield Ridge Farms. He is also a gourmet chef and wine connoisseur who pioneered hands-on cooking classes as part of the food curriculum at IU. Always one to embrace contradictions, Dan was for many years a coach of youth hockey, teaching generations of Bloomington youth good sportsmanship, but also how to body-check their opponents without the referees noticing. Both the hockey skills and the willingness to bend rules had their roots in Dan's adolescence in Iowa, where he seems to have treated law enforcement with the same cheerful disrespect he later accorded college deans. When I interviewed at IU, he told me with pride that fully half of the geography faculty at that time had juvenile records for (relatively) harmless youthful hijinks; one of his favorite stories involved a police car, fireworks, and a realistic human dummy.

There are few people in the world able to explain both Poisson regression and the differences in how ideology is defined by Althusser, Lacan, and Zizek. Dan Knudsen is a rare bird (or perhaps better, given his love of irises, a rare flower), and the geography department has been so very lucky to have him as a core faculty member for more than three decades! We are delighted that his involvement with the Critical Food Studies Lab and the Food Studies Institute means that retirement does not mark the end of his intellectual engagement with IU.

Rebecca Lave