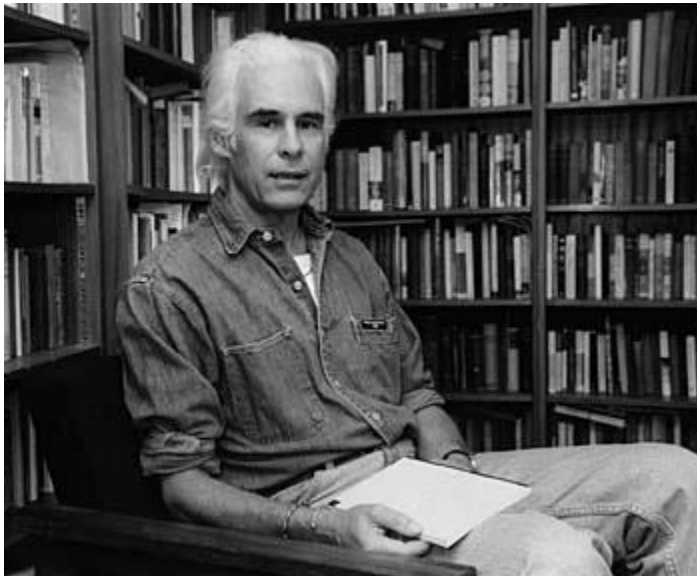


Alan Sinfield (1941-2017)

Professor Alan Sinfield, one of the most generative and generous of scholars, has died at the age of 75.



His first book, based on his M.A. dissertation, was on *The Language of Tennyson's In Memoriam* (1971). Teaching at the University of Sussex, he developed a theory and practice of cultural materialism that led to *Alfred Tennyson* (1965). The later book turned the former upside down.

He and his English Department colleagues subsequently made Sussex a leading center of theoretically informed study, nontraditional curricula, and intellectual excitement. In 1990, he co-founded England's first M.A. program on Sexual Dissidence and Cultural Change.

In total, he published seventeen books. His subjects took in Oscar Wilde (*The Wilde Century*), modern theater (*Out on Stage*, on Samuel Beckett), popular music (on the Pet Shop Boys' "Go West" as a gay anthem), twentieth-century public culture (*Literature, Politics, and Culture in Postwar Britain*), and dissident sexuality (*On Sexuality and Power* and *Cultural Politics—Queer Reading*). Throughout, his persistent themes were the connections between cultural form and social power; sexual identity and its complex intersections with age, race, gender, and class; and the transformative potential of collective actions and alternative meanings. He was a long-time editor of the journal *Textual Practice*; his collections include *Society and Literature, 1945-1970*.

Alan Sinfield was best known by SAA members for the work that revolutionized Shakespeare studies: *Literature in Protestant England, 1560-1660* (1983), *Political Shakespeare: Essays in Cultural Materialism* (1994, edited with Jonathan Dollimore), *Faultlines: Cultural Materialism and the Politics of Dissident Reading* (1992), and *Shakespeare, Authority, Sexuality: Unfinished Business in Cultural Materialism* (2006). All Shakespeareans will have learned some part of their practice from Alan's ways of reading and thinking.

He was born in north London. His father, an insurance salesman who was conscripted into the RAF during World War II, was lost in action when Alan Sinfield was three. His mother, left to raise two sons on a war widow's pension and a family allowance, developed early-onset Parkinson's disease. A scholarship for the children of those killed in military service enabled him to attend the Royal Wolverhampton boarding school. He received his B.A., M.A., and D. Litt. from University College London.

Alan Sinfield also came to suffer from Parkinson's disease, which led to his early retirement from teaching in 2004. With the care of his partner Vincent Quinn, he was able to continue writing for some years, and he died at home on 2 December.