



Tribute

Dr. Janet Bennett has left us.

Janet played a central role in the development of the field of Intercultural Communication. She lived for this topic and personified it, hoping that each training she organized or taught, every article she wrote, every conference at which she spoke would be a modest contribution to a stronger common understanding and to fostering peace in the world.

Without Dr. Janet Bennett, her intellectual and visionary force, her openness to the world and her capacity to build relationships, the field would be much the poorer today. Since 1986, she put all her energy, all her knowledge, and all her talent into ICI, the Intercultural Communication Institute in Portland, Oregon. This Institute trained thousands of people in intercultural competence, professionals from across organizations, educational institutions, and businesses. Who among us has not participated in a Summer Institute in Portland? It was “a must”, the place to be in summer... She also conducted numerous trainings in Switzerland, at CIP in Tramelan and then at Winterthur, at the invitation of Samuel Van den Bergh, and also at cinfo in Bienne, invited by Véronique Schoeffel.

Janet died at the end of January 2022, leaving interculturalists bereft of a pioneer and a source of inspiration. But her legacy continues to nourish us, through all she has written and through all that she shared across the breadth of her career.

Janet, how to thank you for who you were and for all you have given me, both personally and professionally... Rest in peace.

Véronique

Translation into English by Barbara Schaetti. Photo by Antimo Cimino.

I am deeply grateful to each of them.

Véronique Schoeffel, January 2022