

Biosketch: Renée C. Fox

Renée C. Fox, a summa cum laude graduate of Smith College, earned her Ph.D. in Sociology in 1954 from Harvard University, where she studied in the Department of Social Relations.

Before joining the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1969, she was a member of the Columbia University Bureau of Applied Social Research, taught for twelve years at Barnard College, and then spent two years as a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of Social Relations at Harvard. At the University of Pennsylvania, she was a professor in the Department of Sociology with joint, secondary appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry and Medicine, and in the School of Nursing; and she held an interdisciplinary chair as the Annenberg Professor of the Social Sciences. On July 1, 1998, she became the Annenberg Professor Emerita of the Social Sciences. She is also an Emerita Senior Fellow of the Center for Bioethics, and a member of the Affiliated Faculty of the Solomon Asch Center for the Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict at the University of Pennsylvania.

Renée Fox's major teaching and research interests – sociology of medicine, medical research, medical education, and medical ethics – have involved her in first-hand, participant observation-based studies in Continental Europe (particularly in Belgium), in Central Africa (especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and in the People's Republic of China, as well as in the United States. She has lectured in colleges, universities, and medical schools throughout the United States, and has taught in a number of universities abroad. During the 1996-1997 academic year, she was the George Eastman Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford.

She is the author of seven books and numerous articles. Her best-known books are *Experiment Perilous: Physicians and Patients Facing the Unknown*; *The Courage to Fail: A Social View of Organ Transplants and Dialysis*, and *Spare Parts: Organ Replacement in American Society* (both of which were written with medical historian Judith P. Swazey); and *In the Belgian Château: The Spirit and Culture of a European Society in an Age of Change*.

She has recently finished writing another book coauthored with Judith Swazey, tentatively entitled *Observing Bioethics*; and she is in the process of completing the sociological case study of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) that she has been conducting since 1994, which is focused on the

medical humanitarian and human rights witnessing and advocacy action in which MSF engages –its underlying ideology and value-commitments, the moral dilemmas it entails, and its unintended as well as intended consequences.

Fox is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an Honorary Member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. She is the holder of a Radcliffe Graduate School Medal, and of a Centennial Medal from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, and a recipient of the American Sociological Association's Leo G. Reeder Award for Distinguished Contributions to Medical Sociology. She has received several teaching awards: an E. Harris Harbison Gifted Teaching Award of the Danforth Foundation, and a Lindback Foundation Award for Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds nine honorary degrees, and in 1995, she was named Chevalier of the Order of Leopold II by the Belgian Government.