

**For Remarks at Sandi's Memorial Service
November 29, 2016**

Sandi was a gifted anthropologist – the impact of her scholarship on multiple fields was widely recognized while she was alive, and will continue for generations to come. I would cite three key accomplishments – although there are so many more I could name. First, she utilized “intersectional feminism” in her research, long before it was fashionable and Kimberly Crenshaw coined that term. For Sandi, whether she was writing about poor women’s access to health care in New Bedford or women welfare recipients and their struggle for economic security in Oregon, she insisted that one could only fully understand women’s lives by integrating an analysis of gender, with an analysis of race/ethnicity and class. Second, Sandi was a pioneer in building bridges between rigorous scholarship and impassioned activism. She held herself to the highest standards in both areas, and insisted that that one actually amplified the other, that the arrows of impact pointed in both directions, and that the only way to be a feminist anthropologist was to embrace both. Her books and many articles show how her learning in both domains guided her research questions, her multi-layered analysis of women’s lived experience, and her insightful critique of neoliberalism. Finally, Sandi was a collaborator *par excellence*: she collaborated with her colleagues at the University of Oregon and others around the country, co-authoring articles, giving feedback on manuscript drafts, supporting the work of the Society for the Anthropology of North America (SANA), and so much more: she collaborated with her students, giving new meaning to mentoring by combining teaching and personal support with full respect for each of her student’s own thinking and contributions; and she collaborated with the people she studied. While some might call them her “informants,” I believe Sandi would reject that term as elitist and paternalistic. She considered the people she interviewed as her teachers, and she was eager to receive, record and translate their wisdom. I know first hand about the excitement and the joy of collaborating with Sandi, as we co-edited our first book together, Women and the Politics of Empowerment. While am I proud of what we accomplished in the book, more than the product, I am humbled by the process of working with her – learning from her fierce intellect and her unwavering commitment to telling the stories of a diverse group working class women leaders. Collaborating with Sandi, was, and always will be, one of the greatest honors of my professional life.

Submitted by,
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