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Obituary

Dr. Wolfgang Haider (1953 – 2015)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of Dr. Wolfgang Haider, who died on August 24, 2015 at the age of 62 following a bicycle accident in Austria. He leaves behind his wife, Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl-Haider, and two children, Jamila and Emanuel Haider.

Wolfgang was born in Eisenstadt, Austria in 1953. After receiving a M.Sc. degree from the University of Vienna in geography and history and briefly working as a high school teacher, he traveled to Canada to pursue graduate degrees in geography at Carleton University (M.A.) and McGill (Ph.D. supervised by Dr. Gordon Ewing).

Wolfgang's Ph.D. research was truly innovative, and adapted recent developments from marketing and transportation and tourism to outdoor recreation research. This groundbreaking research ignited Wolfgang's career-long passion for understanding the unavoidable tradeoffs that underscore most natural resource management issues in a wide range of applications, including many from wildlife and inland and coastal fisheries management. In times where the field of human dimensions of wildlife was still centered on North America, Wolfgang worked with dozens of international collaborators in a range of countries to redefine and apply the choice-modeling approach to wildlife and fisheries management problems across the world. Over the years, he became a respected leader in the field of tradeoff-based decision modeling that nicely complemented the more social-psychological tradition of human dimensions research. His education spanning two continents probably contributed to his amazing ability to interface among different research communities and to contribute to interdisciplinary projects involving natural and social scientists in natural resource management issues.

Shortly after finishing his Ph.D., Wolfgang accepted a social research scientist position with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. He built an impressive research program based on theoretically grounded, yet pragmatic, research on decision-making by recreationists. Never content with the status quo, here too, he was an innovator. An outstanding example from his OMNR days was research he conducted with Drs. Terry Daniel, Brian Orland, Jordan Louviere, Michael Williams, and Len Hunt that sought to explain and predict destination choices by nature-based tourists traveling to northern Ontario. By combining choice modeling with the then fledgling approach of photographic manipulation (i.e., digital calibration of images), Wolfgang estimated how changes to the size, number, and orientation (spatial structure) of forest harvests could influence tourists' destination choices and thus, the bottom line for tourism operators. This and other OMNR experiences shaped his unwavering commitment to ensure practitioners were able to access and use his research products.

In 1998, Wolfgang left Ontario to accept a tenure-track position at Simon Fraser University's School of Resource and Environmental Management (REM) in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. He flourished in academia, supervising almost 50 graduate students and eventually becoming the School's director in 2013. As his reputation for innovative and applicable social science grew, so did his research network of collaborators and partners. He was a regular attendee of international conferences, shaped many of them and took great pleasure from these opportunities to connect with other researchers and dream up new projects.

Drawing interest from researchers in many sectors and disciplines, Wolfgang's research at Simon Fraser increasingly became both interdisciplinary and also international in scope, collaborating on large research grants both in Europe and in North America. For example, in 2006, Wolfgang teamed with Dr. Robert Arlinghaus in Berlin, Germany in a €1 million interdisciplinary grant devoted to study the adaptive dynamics of recreational fisheries as social-ecological systems (Adaptfish). This project also co-funded a Ph.D. student (Dr. Ben Beardmore) in his lab that brought increased exposure to Wolfgang's research among audiences in recreational fisheries and leisure studies.

Human dimensions have long struggled to be relevant to managers who have traditionally looked to biological sciences to guide their decision-making. Wolfgang's tradeoff approach, however, was well suited to integration with traditional fish population models, thereby explicitly and mechanistically accounting for human behavior in integrated management decision-making models in fisheries and wildlife management. Such developments have brought renewed and ongoing interest in human dimensions research among fisheries biologists. For example, with Drs. John Post and Murdoch McAllister and a large team of collaborators, partners, and graduate students, Wolfgang recently received a Collaborative Research and Development Grant from the prestigious National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to study recreational fishing within Canada. This current research seeks to assess the predictive validity of stated-preference tradeoff models by comparing model predictions to observed changes in angler behavior using a manipulative fish stocking experiment on some British Columbia, Canada lakes. Ultimately, the goal is to integrate angler behavior and ecological models to predict how management actions influence a variety of recreational fisheries management objectives—a theme that directly followed from the Adaptfish grant.

He is known to many readers of *Human Dimensions of Wildlife* for his publications and as editor of a special issue on International perspective of human-wildlife conflicts (2008, Issue 1). Almost 100 peer-reviewed publications in a wide range of journals, several of which are still to come, are an impressive testament of his work and passion for applied social science research. Wolfgang was the chair of the successful 12th International Symposium of Society and Resource Management that was held in Vancouver, Canada in 2006, and was an advisor for many conferences in Europe. With Dr. Ulrike Pröbstl-Haider, he established and became editor-in-chief of a complementary journal, the *Journal of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism*. It is our hope that this journal will continue as a lasting legacy of Wolfgang's pioneering work in choice-based outdoor recreation studies.

Wolfgang was an enthusiastic mentor to his students and devoted considerable time to them, wherever he currently was on his many international projects. His dedication paid dividends both to them and to the field of natural resource management as his students have successfully established careers in academia and also in government and nongovernmental organizations across North America and Europe. To commemorate Wolfgang's dedication to his students and his lasting contributions to the field of natural resource management, his children, Jamila and Emanuel, and his colleagues at REM have established the **Wolfgang**

Haider Fellowship Trust to provide scholarship support to graduate students in the School of Resource and Environmental Management at Simon Fraser University. It is our hope that this fund will ensure that Wolfgang's legacy of innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration will be carried forward by future generations of REM students for years to come. Information on donating to the trust can be found on the department website (<http://www.rem.sfu.ca/>).

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