



**IFHE**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

## **Obituary Note for Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Rosemarie von Schweitzer, Germany**

We are very sad to announce that Professor Rosemarie von Schweitzer passed away on 26 September 2020 in the age of 93.



Photo: Thomas Preuß

Rosemarie graduated from high school in Homberg/Efze, Germany in 1944. She completed the two-year training in rural home economics, and received a pedagogical training at the State Institute for Agricultural Education in Munich. From 1951 to 1957, she was teaching in different agricultural schools, in the Federal State of Hessen. Rosemarie studied sociology, and philosophy at the University of Frankfurt under Adorno and Horkheimer and in addition educational science and agricultural economics in Bonn. 1962, she received her doctorate at the University in Bonn. She worked at the Agricultural Institute for Education and Extension at Rauschholzhausen Castle. From 1969 to 1992, she was a full professor at the Institute for Home Economics and Consumer Research/Faculty for Agricultural Sciences, Justus Liebig University Giessen (JLU).

With great commitment, she successfully contributed to the establishment of the diploma program in home economics and nutritional sciences - the so-called Oecotrophology discipline - as the first of its kind. It was soon established at other German universities, based on the Giessen model. She inspired hundreds of students in her lectures, which focused on the systematic analysis of socio-economic processes and behavior of household actors and members. She expanded it to include scientific approaches from the fields of economics, women's studies, family, and population studies to address social challenges. In connection with this, she encouraged her students to reflect on the scientific methodology of various scientific disciplines in its possibilities and limits and thus to sharpen the own perspective on the scientific discipline home economics.

In her research, Rosemarie worked on a wide range of socio-economic issues. The analysis of value-creating care, nursing and upbringing services in conjunction with public services was a key issue, especially with regard to their importance for the quality of life of people in individual cases and for society. She showed the effects of the burden on households and families in the structural change in services of general interest on the solidarity between generations and genders. She supervised more than 30 doctoral students from Germany, Asia, and Africa. In addition to her teaching and research activities, she was involved in numerous committees inside and outside the university, such as the German Society for Home Economics (dgh) and the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE).

As a long-term member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Family Issues at the Federal Ministry for Family and Senior Citizens, Rosemarie von Schweitzer played a key role in the creation of the federal government's family reports. In 1994 she was the chairperson of the reporting commission for the fifth report 'Family and family policy in a united Germany - the future of human wealth'.

After her retirement, Rosemarie was actively involved in the work of the IFHE and dealt with the global issues and challenges dealing with everyday life, especially under aspects of sustainability. Together with her friend Dr. Gertraud Pichler from Austria, she took part in congresses in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Pacific region. From 2005-2007 she was one of the prominent home economics scholars of the IFHE Think Tank Commission, which published under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Donna Pendergast, Australia, the organic document 'Home Economics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' - developed for the next decade.

The IFHE post world congress symposium Rosemarie organized 1992 in the castle of Rauschholzhausen will be unforgettable for some of us. We were almost 50 participants from all over the world joining in depth discussions on the state of the art of scientific findings and research methods. Under her edition, the lectures are published 1993 as 'Cross-Cultural Approaches to Home Management' by Campus publisher, Frankfurt am Main.

One of her highlights is the book 'Home Economics Science and Arts – Managing Sustainable Everyday Life' (Editor: ZEU/Centre for international Development and Environmental Research/JLU, published by Peter Lang Verlag, Frankfurt am Main). It provides a comprehensive overview of her theoretical approach and applied research. She published it 2006 in English - in her age of 79.

It is indeed a great loss for not only her family, but also, all of us: her former students and her friends and last but not least for the IFHE members in Germany, Europe and around the world.

We all acknowledge her remarkable commitment and expertise in the field of Home Economics and her dedication to the IFHE. She will remain in our heart and memories forever.

At the beginning of November, Rosemarie will be buried in the family grave in her Austrian home village, Gneixendorf, in Lower Austria where she was born in 1927.

Giessen, 9 October, 2020

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IFHE Region of Europe