

The Stony Brook History Department mourns the loss of our former colleague and long-time friend, Mike Davis. Mike was a member of our faculty from 2000-2002. He came to Stony Brook as a "star hire," justifiably renowned for his brilliant and prescient studies *City of Quartz* (1990) and *Ecology of Fear* (1999), and having recently been awarded a MacArthur ("Genius") Grant. If there was any concern that such a highly lauded and sought-after public intellectual might have little time to devote to Stony Brook colleagues and students, it was quickly dispelled, as Mike threw himself into teaching, mentoring, faculty colloquia, and even committee work with his trademark generosity and gusto. He insisted on doing all his own grading, leaving his graduate teaching assistants equal parts grateful and perplexed. He bonded with our undergraduate majors, many of whom came from working-class backgrounds similar to his own, and who appreciated his commitment to open discussion and debate. He found running paths along the north shore of Suffolk County that he graciously, if unconvincingly, praised as (almost) equal to those in his beloved San Diego hills. On 9/11/2001 Mike grieved together with students and staff who had lost relatives, and expressed admiration for the courage and grit displayed by New Yorkers. And somehow Mike still found the time to produce remarkably original, wide-ranging, and probing scholarship, completing two books during his time with us: his near-prophetic analysis of a nineteenth-century global famine and pandemic, *Late Victorian Holocausts: El Niño Famines and the Making of the Third World* (2002); and *Dead Cities, and Other Tales* (2002), a searing examination of urban ecological recklessness. Although Mike returned to the West Coast in 2002, he remained an inveterate correspondent, generous colleague, and close friend to many of us.

We extend our sympathies to Mike's wife, Alessandra Moctezuma, and to his children Róisín, Jack, Casey, and James Davis.