

We invite you to commemorate and celebrate

The Life and Work of John J. McDermott

Friday, March 13, 2020

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Queens College Campus
James Muyskens Conference Room at the Summit

Join us as we remember philosopher, author, and revered Professor McDermott.

Please [RSVP here](#) or call 718-997-3930
by March 6th.

John Joseph McDermott (1932–2018)

John J. McDermott was born on January 5, 1932, in Richmond Hill, Queens, New York City, and died on September 30, 2018, in College Station, Texas.

He received his undergraduate education at St. Francis College in Brooklyn and did his graduate study at Fordham University, where he received his PhD “with Great Distinction” in January 1959. His dissertation, “Experience Is

Pedagogical: The Genesis and Essence of the American Nineteenth Century Notion of Experience,” was completed under the guidance of Robert Channon Pollock. McDermott’s teaching experience in higher education began in 1954 at St. Francis College. **In 1956 he joined the philosophy faculty of Queens College, CUNY, where he taught until June 1977.** Later that year, he moved to Texas A&M University, where he taught until his passing. At TAMU, McDermott was University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Humanities in Medicine, Regents Professor, and Presidential Professor of Teaching Excellence. McDermott also worked closely with such academic associations as the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, of which he was a co-founder; the American Montessori Society; the American Council of Learned Societies; the National Humanities Faculty; and the American Philosophical Association.

McDermott’s major publications included *The Writings of William James* (1967); *The Basic Writings of Josiah Royce* (1969, two volumes); *The Philosophy of John Dewey* (1973, two volumes); *The Culture of Experience: Philosophical Essays in the American Grain* (1976); *A Cultural Introduction to Philosophy: Volume One - From Antiquity to Descartes* (1985); *Streams of Experience: Reflections on the History and Philosophy of American Culture* (1987); and *The Drama of Possibility: Experience as Philosophy of Culture* (2007), ed. Douglas R. Anderson. McDermott was a co-founder and advisory editor of *The Works of William James* (1975–1988) and the general editor of *The Correspondence of William James* (1992–2004). A volume of essays exploring McDermott’s ideas and importance appeared in 2006: *Experience as Philosophy* (ed. James Campbell and Richard E. Hart).

