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In Memoriam Hanneke Janssen

15-01-1982 to 11-11-2008

We are devastated, more than words can say, to learn that Hanneke Janssen was killed in a senseless traffic accident in her home town of Nijmegen.

Hanneke was the Managing Editor of *Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics* from August 2006 to July 2008. She did this job with exceptional enthusiasm, dedication and joy. In her Thesis, completed last August, she expressed a feeling of great privilege to have been able to work for this journal, devoted, as it is, to the focus of her own interests.

Actually, the journal owes so much more to *her*. Many of the authors, referees and reviewers with whom she corresponded told us how impressed they were with her competence, accuracy, care, support and good cheer while dealing with their queries.

And as editors, working together with her on a daily basis, we had the privilege to experience her qualities even more intensely.

This summer, she helped to organize the Conference on History of Quantum Mechanics II in Utrecht, or rather: she single-handedly solved all organizational and logistical problems and made the meeting a success.

Also this summer, she submitted an excellent and impressive 170-page Master's Thesis, on the decoherence approach in the interpretation of quantum mechanics, to the University of Nijmegen. This thesis earned her a cum laude distinction on October 3. It is available at <http://philsci-archive.pitt.edu/archive/00004224/>

The plan was that she would condense this work into a publishable article and she was scheduled to give a talk on the subject in Utrecht on November 27.

Hanneke was truly extraordinary. She was bright and gifted, full of life and love, unconventional, with a strong sense of responsibility and social and environmental awareness, caring and joyful. She set very high standards for herself, and this also made her insecure. She had a true passion for philosophy of physics.

Her second great love was music. She was an accomplished cello player and performed regularly. But she also played the violin, piano, accordion, and other instruments.

She was still pondering over whether she would choose a future in music or whether she would dare to embark on a Ph.D. project, struggling with her incessant doubts that she might not be good enough. She had planned a break, working at an ecological farm in the French Pyrenees, in order to make up her mind. But the most recent signs showed that she was really on the verge of a choice for academia. She had even bought a laptop to take along and work on the promised paper.

We mourn for her loss, to her family and friends, and to the community of philosophers of physics. How incomprehensibly cruel that she was taken at a time when she was just ready to spread her wings. How sad that we shall not see her many talents develop and bear fruit.

It is hard to conceive that we shall never hear her joyful laughter anymore. We lose a dear, dear friend.

Editors

Jos Uffink, Dennis Dieks, Janneke van Lith, Geurt Sengers