I am standing here to pay tribute to Roger Silverstone, Professor of Media and Communications Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Roger died on 16 July 2006, at the age of 61. In this room we have many colleagues, students and friends, who could equally stand here instead of me and talk about our Roger. He touched so many lives of those who were fortunate enough to know him or who were familiar with him through his writings. In the Department of Media and Communications at LSE, it was only after Roger's death that we fully realized how wide and truly global this community of aficionados is. Roger himself would have been even more surprised: His family told me how shy Roger was and how he thought that nobody would want to have his company. I have never known a colleague or a teacher who was as loved as Roger was, and still the man himself seemed to be completely unaware of it.

As an academic, Roger is of course being remembered for his scholarly work. He was an author of 12 books including *Television and Everyday Life* (1994) and *Why Study the Media?* (1999), a book that was translated into 10 languages. As a department convenor, he is being remembered for playing a prominent role in the intellectual and institutional development of a new academic subject in the UK. In 1998 Anthony Giddens appointed him as the first Professor of Media and Communications at LSE to consolidate and develop the study of the field. This he did so successfully that, in 2003, the Department of Media and Communications was established as a separate department, as the first new department at LSE for 20 years. In this way, LSE became the first old university in the UK, before Cambridge or Oxford, to have a media and communications department. This is a major achievement as such, and a recognition of the maturity of our field. But Roger would not have been Roger if he had stopped there. He also brought to fruition the establishment of POLIS, a new journalism centre that has just started its new life at LSE and the University of the Arts/London College of Communication. This will eventually lead to a new MSc degree in global journalism, again a new breakthrough not only for LSE but also for the field of journalism studies.

Roger's academic achievements and his position in British media studies have been covered in many obituaries written by my distinguished colleagues, but it is his cosmopolitanism I would now like to concentrate on. As an academic cosmopolitan, Roger participated in many research projects such as the European Media Technology and Everyday Life Network on Media and Minorities in Europe. Roger was also a member of many editorial boards including *Global Media and Communication*, our journal that is also behind this conference. He was scheduled to be a keynote speaker today here and would have probably talked about his latest book *Media and Morality: On the Rise of the Mediapolis* due to be published next month.

*Media and Morality* is already a classic before its publication. Ulrich Beck wrote of the book (without Roger's knowledge) 'what a wonderful book, explaining the necessary question: how is the mediatised cosmopolitan public sphere - the Mediapolis - possible? A new Habermas! A new cosmopolitan critical theory of the emerging global civil society and its contradictions.' It is indeed in this book that Roger the individual cosmopolitan and Roger the academic cosmopolitan come together. We can now read it as his testament to us.

Roger places the global media at the heart of the moral future of civilization. He argues that the media have a profound significance for the way in which its citizens understand the world. His book proposes that we should think of the global media as a *Mediapolis*, using Hannah Arendt's idea of the “polis” as a space of political dialogue. Roger developed the concept of the “Mediapolis” to explore not only the reality but also the potential of global communication. For him *Mediapolis* is a single space of both political and social communication, in which the basis for the relationships between neighbors and strangers can be either destroyed or constructed. Questioning its present and future requires political attention to issues of media justice, media literacy and media regulation.
Media and Morality is Roger's most political book, and was influenced by thinkers like Isaiah Berlin and Emmanuel Levinas, as well as Hannah Arendt. For Roger, politics was a deeply moral and personal issue. Accordingly, he argued that the Mediapolis is a moral space, a space of hospitality, responsibility, obligation and judgment required from individuals. Without a clear understanding of that significance, and without a critique of the way in which the media go about their daily business, we are likely to see an erosion of the capacity of human beings to understand and respect each other, especially those whom we see and hear only via their mediation. One of Roger's key concepts is proper distance: the capacity to enlarge one's perspective, and the willingness to recognize the Other in her sameness and difference. Proper distance is a challenge that the Mediapolis poses on a minute-by-minute basis to all its participants. It is our individual responsibility as citizens to teach ourselves proper distance and live accordingly.

Roger's book makes me think of Isaiah Berlin. Berlin once wrote about how decent respect for others and the toleration of dissent is better than pride and a sense of national mission; that liberty may be incompatible with, and better than, too much efficiency; that pluralism and untidiness are, to those who value freedom, better than the rigorous imposition of all-embracing systems, no matter how rational and disinterested, better than the rule of majorities against which there is not appeal' (Berlin, 1980, p. 257). Roger's account of proper distance beautifully compliments Berlin's idea of liberalism in a national context and extends it to global citizenship.

Roger was himself a true cosmopolitan who lived as he preached. His father, Maurice Silverstone, was one of the first Jewish general surgeons to be appointed to a UK teaching hospital, after many rejections because of his Jewishness. Roger grew up in Birkenhead, a small town on the left bank of the River Mersey, opposite the city of Liverpool. The town was famous as a sea port and, close to Liverpool, as a centre for ship building. Roger watched the ships arriving and leaving, wondering where they came from and where they were going to. Roger carried with him throughout his life that curiosity about arrivals and departures, what is beyond what we see, what people carry within themselves when they arrive and depart.

For Roger, being at home meant including the Other. That is the everyday cosmopolitanism he practiced, and that is why we loved and respected him so much. Having lost his father at an early age, it was important for Roger to become a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather in his personal life. However, his love for Jennifer and his family never prevented him from reaching out to a wider world. For him, everyday life was a cosmopolitan life. He knew what it feels like to be excluded, what it means to be the Other, alone without the support of your family.

After Roger's death, we heard and told the same story over and over again: Roger understood and helped people whatever their race, religion or nationality was because somehow he knew how different they felt. This was also shown in the way he ran the department. He was a convenor who always kept his door open. So many of us would enter the building by a particular door just to be able to pass his door and say a daily hello to a man who understood how it is to be foreign in all its different meanings. Equally, after his death we found ourselves crying outside his closed door.

Roger leaves us a legacy of how to remain human in an academic world. He never asked anybody to do more than he did himself. His spirit and his enthusiasm for doing more and better were impossible to resist. All we can do now is to carry on, and remember him in our everyday life by trying to reach a bit further than we actually want to go but maintaining our morality and respect for others.

We will be holding an event to celebrate Roger's life and work in the Old Theatre at LSE at 6:30pm on the evening of Monday 16th October 2006. We will also be taking the opportunity on that evening, to announce the establishment of the "Silverstone Fund", the aim of which is to create a Silverstone Prize for Global Excellence in Journalism.

I would like to ask you to stand and honour Roger Silverstone, (in Bill Melody's words) the Gentleman Scholar who Left the Party Early, with a moment of silence.