Professor Patrick McAuslan MBE was a member of the team that established the Birkbeck Law School in 1993, where he taught and researched until his death in January 2014. He was a pioneer and world expert in land law, reform, sustainable development, the alleviation of poverty and planning law. In a tribute to Professor McAuslan, Professor Costas Douzinas, Professor of Law and Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, said: "Patrick studied at Oxford University and taught at the LSE, Warwick, UCL and Birkbeck. His Birkbeck Professorial Inaugural Address was his fourth, but he proudly stated that this exception afterwards was the best. His courses in planning, environmental and land law charged mainstream perceptions, as did his classic ideologies of Planning Law (1986). "His land policy work has been described in his prolific writing. His recent books include Development or Transformative? and Reform in Eastern Africa: Traditional or Transformational? and Bringing the Law Back In: Essays in Land, Law and Development. It is no exaggeration to call Professor McAuslan the father of postcolonial land law."

The Rt Hon the Lord Barnett PC (1923–2014) Former Labour Cabinet minister Lord Joel Barnett was educated in Manchester and began his working life as an accountant. Elected as the Member of Parliament for Heywood and Royton in 1964, he went on to serve as Chief Secretary to the Treasury from 1974-1979, working closely with Denis Healey in the Callaghan government. During this time he devised the system for allocating public spending to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which became known as the 'Barnett formula' – something he always considered a 'temporary fix'. He was appointed to Strathclyde University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 1989. He was awarded a Birkbeck Fellowship in 2010.

Professor Sir Graham Hills (1926–2014) Principal and Vice- Chancellor, University of Strathclyde. Visionsary university leader Professor Sir Graham Hills won a scholarship to his local grammar school but left with the equivalent of O-levels when his family were bombed out of their home during the Second World War. He had to work as a laboratory assistant at chemical company May and Baker, from where he gained practical experience at a vice-chairman of the BBC. He was made a Fellow of Birkbeck College in 1994 and a year later became Professor of Geography at the University of Reading. Latterly also becoming Professor of the University of California, Berkeley. He took up the chair of Planning at the Bartlett in 1989. He was awarded a Birkbeck Fellowship in 2012.

Sir Peter Hall (1932–2014) Leading expert in town planning, the leading geographical urban planner, Sir Peter Hall was Professor of Planning and Regeneration at The Bartlett, University College London, and President of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA). Knighted for his services to the TCPA in 1998, he was renowned for his work on the economic, demographic, cultural and management issues that face cities around the globe.

During the 1990s he was involved in public policy, advising the then Environment Secretary Michael Heseltine on the early vision for the Thames Gateway and Channel Tunnel rail link. Peter Hall gained a Master’s and doctorate in geography at St Catherine’s College, Cambridge, and began his academic career at Birkbeck in 1957 as an Assistant Lecturer in Geography. He had an abiding fascination with the historical development of London and its traditional industries. He later became Professor of Geography at the University of Reading, latterly also becoming Professor at the University of California, Berkeley. He took up the chair of Planning at the Bartlett in 1989. He was awarded a Birkbeck Fellowship in 2012.

Robert Swainson.

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