

In Memoriam

Howard Raiffa
1924–2016

Monday, October 17, 2016 | 6:00 PM

John F. Kennedy School of Government | JFK Jr. Forum
79 JFK Street, Cambridge | Massachusetts 02138



Howard Raiffa was born on January 24, 1924, in New York City. After graduating from high school, he attended the City College of New York, in part to be near his “true love,” Estelle, whom he married in 1945. World War II interrupted his time at CCNY, however, and he spent four years in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After his discharge, Howard resumed his college career at the University of Michigan, earning a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 1946, a master’s in statistics a year later, and a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1951. After teaching statistics at Columbia from 1952 to 1957, he joined the faculty of Harvard Business School, where he met Professor

Robert Schlaifer. Together they created the field of decision analysis, doing pioneering work on decision trees, game theory, statistics, risk analysis, and negotiation strategies. He also made his mark in the classroom as a superb case-method teacher. Committed to cross-disciplinary collaboration, Howard was one of the founders of the John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1969 and served on the committee that helped design its curriculum. At both HBS and HKS, he took great pride in the many doctoral students whose dissertations he supervised. Howard’s efforts also led to the Harvard Faculty Seminar on Negotiations and the Program on Negotiation, both at Harvard Law School. In addition, he worked with faculty at what is now the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health on issues regarding medical decision making. Beyond Harvard, Howard helped found the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), based in Austria and dedicated to coordinating research in areas of concern for advanced societies, including the environment, technology, and social issues. He was the author or coauthor of eleven books and numerous other publications as well as the recipient of many honorary degrees (Harvard among them) and prestigious awards and memberships. He died on July 8, 2016, aged 92, survived by his wife; their children, Judith and Mark; and four grandchildren.

PROGRAM

Prelude Beethoven, *String Quartet Op.18, No.1 (2nd movement)*

Judith Raiffa, daughter of Howard Raiffa

Richard Zeckhauser,

Frank Plumpton Ramsey Professor of Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School

Lawrence Summers, Charles W. Eliot University Professor,

Harvard University and Co-Director, Mossavar-Rahmani Center
for Business and Government, Harvard Kennedy School

David Bell, George M. Moffett Professor of Agriculture and Business,
Harvard Business School

Max Bazerman, Jesse Isidor Straus Professor of Business Administration,
Harvard Business School and Co-Director, Center for Public Leadership,
Harvard Kennedy School

Mark Thompson, President of Equity Resources Group, Inc.;
former Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management,
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Nebojsa Nakicenovic, Deputy Director General/Deputy Chief Executive Officer,
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

Ralph Keeney, President, US Marketing and Decisions Group, Inc., San Francisco,
and Research Professor Emeritus, The Fuqua School of Business, Duke University

Interlude Elgar, *Enigma Variations (Nimrod)*

Estelle Raiffa, wife of Howard Raiffa

James Sebenius, Gordon Donaldson Professor of Business Administration,
Harvard Business School

Robert Mnookin, Samuel Williston Professor of Law, Harvard Law School
and Director, Harvard Negotiation Research Project, Harvard University

Victor Fung, Group Chairman, Li & Fung

David Ellwood, Scott M. Black Professor of Political Economy and Director,
Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Thomas Schelling, former Professor of Economics, Harvard University and
former Lucius N. Littauer Professor of Political Economy, Harvard Kennedy School

Recessional Vivaldi, *Four Seasons (Winter)*

The music is provided by the Fenway String Quartet.

*This Memorial Service was made possible
by the collaboration of the Raiffa Family,
Harvard Business School and
Harvard Kennedy School .*