

IMPRESA DA UNIVERSIDADE DE COIMBRA
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HOMENAGEM A
IRENE RAMALHO SANTOS

THE EDGE OF ONE OF MANY CIRCLES

ISABEL CALDEIRA
GRAÇA CAPINHA
JACINTA MATOS
ORGANIZAÇÃO

A GENTLE AND WORLDLY WOMAN

Bill Whitford

Professor Maria Irene Ramalho de Sousa Santos has been a close friend for many years, and for the past 25 years or so as a housemate during the months she and her husband are working at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We have seen Irene (as we call her) hard at work and I have read several of her many academic papers. But I am not professionally competent to critique her professional work and will not attempt to do so, except to attest that she works hard at it and is very dedicated to it.

I will comment instead as a friend who knows Irene very well. One way to describe Irene is that she is “well raised”. By that I mean far more than that she has good manners, though that is certainly true as well. Irene is somebody who has empathy, and who is attentive to the situations and moods of persons around her. She is always ready to lend a sympathetic ear when it is needed, and to offer suggestions as appropriate. And she is always willing to help when needed.

Irene is also a very worldly person, who has traveled to many places and studied many subjects. She is an interesting conversationalist about almost all topics, and especially those related to literature, her academic specialty. Irene is a committed feminist and a democratic socialist, passionate about matters that touch on these deep ideological commitments.

No testimonial to Irene could neglect to mention how devoted she is to her family, and to the idea of family. She relishes her family relationships, whether they be as wife, mother or grandmother, and she devotes a great deal of her energy to nurturing them. And we believe that all of her family are better for it.

With Love, Bill