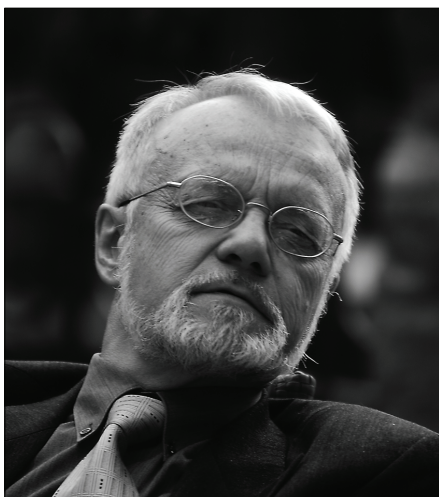


IN MEMORIAM

PETR BLAHUŠ (1944-2010)



23.1.1944 - 19.7.2010

Just when we seem to be ready to follow his ideas about international collaboration around the mathematical problems in the field of measurement in kinesiology/kinanthropology, kineziometrics, and the mathematical aspects of its development, our president, friend, colleague, beloved husband, father and grandfather - Professor Petr Blahuš of the Department of Kinanthropology (Research Methodology Division) at Charles University in Prague, founding president of the International Kinesiometric Forum (Kinesiometric Society) has left us at the age of sixty-six. After a serious illness, he died in his sleep at four in the morning on the 19th of July, 2010. With so many questions in mind which still need answering, we will try to pay tribute to person whom science and its

quantitative aspects were more a passion than a profession.

Petr Blahuš was born on 23 January 1944 in Prague. His early education, up to his academic degrees were continuously completed with excellent marks. Some will note that all this took place “behind the iron curtain”, with all that this implies. As a junior sportsman he was a gymnast, participating in competitions and winning several titles. It was this that guided him to study and earn his major in the area of physical education. There he was supervised by, and later cooperated with prof. Stanislav Čelikovski whom he often gave credit to for the opportunities he had been given to develop himself in the area of quantitative methodology. To reproduce here in brief what he, when he was just 59, a humble and decent person, considered as important to warrant being mentioned in his biography.

He graduated with his Master’s (an equivalent to a Master’s of Education, M.Ed.) from the Charles University, Prague, in 1968. The two last years of his study he had already spent working as a Technical Assistant at the Department of Anatomy and Bio-

mechanics. His specialization was in quantitative research methodology and educational theory. He also attended some selected external courses in statistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, general biology and anthropology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and in mathematical economy at the Prague University of Economics.

Then, in 1969 he registered for a one-year postgraduate course at the Faculty of Philosophy, passing subjects such as the history of philosophy, general psychology, and the philosophy of science. He also passed a further one-year external postgraduate course in probability/statistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics.

After having completed this rather interdisciplinary program, all the time stressing quantitative methodology, he defended his dissertation “A Comparison and Generalization of Factor Analytic Models and Their Application to the Structure of Motor Abilities” in 1974. His supervisor and the main reviewer were eminent individuals from the Department of Mathematical Statistics and Probability Theory.

Petr worked as a Junior Researcher in 1968, a Researcher from 1969 - 1974 and a Researcher-Specialist from 1974 - 1976 at the Department of Anthropomotomics, Biomechanics and Anatomy (renamed at that time).

In 1976 he changed to the position of Assistant Professor at the Department of Theory and Methodology. In 1979 he defended the s.c. habilitation thesis “Statistical Models with Latent Variables in Educational Research and Management” and was installed as a Associated Professor of Education (Docent).

In 1989 he defended the thesis “Theory of Application of Statistical Methods in Social Sciences” for the higher doctorate degree of Doctor of Science, Dr.Sc., and in 1992 became a full ranking Professor.

While teaching mostly at the Department of Theory and Methodology at Charles University, he was carrying out my research mainly at the Division of Mathematical Methods and Experimental Techniques at the Institute of Psychology, Academy of Sciences at that time - I was the Acting Head of the Division from 1982 till 1990. After accepting the position of Vice-Dean of Research in January 1990, I continued to consult for the Institute of Psychology till 1994 when Petr was installed as Vice Rector of the Charles University.

After 1998 he was fully back to the Division of Research Methodology and was involved mostly in teaching and supervising PhD students, Doctoral Council management and other academic duties. After finishing his academic term at the rectorate and in the administration of Charles University, his previous series of shorter teaching involvements at universities abroad culminated in 2001 when he spent a full academic year in the USA as a Visiting Professor of Psychological Statistics and Mathematical Psychology with Multivariate Psychometrics at the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

During that time, he wrote that he was in his fifty ninth year and that he was in great health, actively participating in outdoor activities, especially rock climbing with a small

group of enthusiasts. Among these people and also some of his very closest friends he was called “Pedro2”, a nick name used to demonstrate a secret bond and closeness. Petr was so enthusiastic, so full of optimism and ready for new challenges.

Our senior professors and we, their collaborators and successors in the Zagreb school of kinesiology in the 70's, 80's and early 90's knew about his dedication to his work from his published papers, books and monographs. On the occasion of the 2nd International Conference on Kinesiology in Dubrovnik in 1999, he was in direct contact with what remains of Prof. Konstantin Momirović's quantitative and well founded kinesiology circle. We spent several hours in between sessions in conversation regarding quantitative methodology in science, his favorite topic. And from that moment on, we continued to be in constant contact. He became a member of the editorial board of The International Journal of Kinesiology. He became a distinguished visiting professor at the University of Zagreb, incorporated directly in a postgraduate (master and doctor degree) studies in the area which we like to entitle mathematical kinesiology. During the exchange and with his visiting lectures, we continued to develop the idea of coordinating efforts towards a collaboration of individuals who dedicate their work on multivariate data and statistics on the European level.

His regular collaboration with his old friend Roderick McDonald and other he used to invite to Prague opened perspectives. On every occasion he used opportunity to express his optimism and new insights in the area. In between meetings, we continued our e-mail communication.

We used to say “we shall never surrender”. On one occasion, he gave me the first two hundred pages of a completely new book on quantitative methodology in science he had been working on. Wish everyone interested in multivariate data analysis and statistics to have opportunity to get such a course for the beginning to open the horizons. I have to admit that felt very much honoured to be at the spring. Reading it made me feel that I knew him so much better and increased my understanding of how much effort he was ready to put into any project.

After he returned from a visit to his friend Rod (Roderick McDonald) who was recovering from an illness, he made a great effort to organize some form of association of individuals and institutions experienced in the theory and application of measurement in the area of human movement and exercise science. Again he visited several international symposia and invited colleagues to Prague, where he expressed his idea about an association and from there, things began to take shape. A founding committee was established as a part of Research and methodology section at the 5th International Conference on Kinesiology in Zagreb in 2008. The provisional title of the International Kinesiometric Forum was proposed.

Declared as the International Kinesioetrics Forum, it is devoted to the development of kinesiology as a quantitative rational science, having in mind the theory and methodology of building human movement science on quantitative rational foundations.



Šimunič, Pišot, Prot, Blahuš, Kovar, "International Kinesiometrics Forum", Zagreb, September 2008

On 21st May 2009 at the University of Primorska in Koper, Slovenia, the constitutional meeting took place and Professor Petr Blahuš was the first elected President (unfortunately in abstention).

We used to say "we shall never surrender". Life, however, is very unpredictable. In one of his last e-mails in the middle of June, seriously ill, he wrote me, "I keep working on the book as far as I am able, now I am doing a revision and reworking the parts that were already tentatively written - finished at least that which had already been started. I will send it to you, perhaps in couple of weeks, it is now 504 pp., with a line spacing of 1.5, including references and only some of the figures that I was able to transfer into the text from other programs (about 7,5MB)". What a legacy!

He leaves to mourn his wife Eva, daughters Jana and Kristina, son Filip, grandchildren Tereza, Klara, Simon, and Daniel.

At a funeral service which was held on Monday, 26th July, at "Krematorium Stranice" in Prague, we were separated from him but not from his ideas which will continuously inspire us.

Hasta la Vista, Pedro.

Zagreb, 2nd October 2010

Franjo PROT

INVITATION TO ARTICLE SUBMISSION

“Annales Kinesiologiae” is a scientific and research interdisciplinary journal covering kinesiology in its related areas of medical, biomechanical and social sciences. This research employs knowledge and methods of inquiry into human interaction with the environment in the broadest sense of the term from the perspective of kinesiology. It combines fields and topics directed towards the study of the human organism, its movement and its response in the frame of motor effectiveness in specific environments.

“Annales Kinesiologiae” is published twice a year (June and December) and all papers are published in English. The journal has a distinguished editorial board with extensive academic qualifications, ensuring that it maintains high scientific standards with broad international coverage. A full list of editors can be found in the first pages of the Annales Kinesiologiae journal.

Manuscripts should be prepared according to guidelines set for authors. Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication it will undergo language copy-editing, typesetting, and reference validation in order to provide the highest publication quality possible.

We look forward to collaborating with you. Should you have any colleagues who may be interested in making a submission to the journal, please feel free to forward this invitation to them.

If you have additional questions about submitting content to Annales Kinesiologiae, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Editorial Board