

UDK:929 Давчев, В.

## IN MEMORIAM

## LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR VLADIMIR DAVCHEV, PHD

We received the news of the sudden death of Dr. Vladimir Davchev, a full-time professor at the Institute for Gender Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, with disbelief and shock.

Professor Davchev wasn't merely our professor and a colleague, but our lifelong friend. For the students, he was a valued professor, who knew how to be friendly but also to impart knowledge. We didn't lose just a man, but an individual with strong moral values, and as such he was virtuous, just, collegial, and moderate; a person whom you can collaborate with and also lean on.

Vladimir Davchev was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1962 in Skopje, where he concluded his primary and high school education. He continued his education studying philosophy at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje and graduated in 1987 with a grade average of 9.38. Continuing his postgrad studies the next year 1988 at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, he graduated with a grade average of 9.0. The academic title Master of Science in philosophy was awarded to him in 1994 by defending the theses "Spirit-body relationship in modern antic philosophy". The doctoral thesis, titled "Consciousness and analytical philosophy: analysis on the term consciousness in the philosophy of Bertrand Russell, Gilbert Ryle, and Daniel Dennett" was defended by him in the year 2000 also at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, thus achieving the academic title Doctor of Philosophy.

His working experience initiated in 1988 as a junior teaching assistant in the course The Fundamentals of Marxism at the institute of Marxism at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. With the transformation of the Institute of Marxism into a Department of Humanistic Studies Davchev became a junior teaching assistant in Philosophy of Technology. In that period, he was engaged as an expert collaborator at the Institute of Classical Studies at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, working with students in the ancient Greek language. In 1994 he was elected as a teaching assistant in Philosophy of Technology and Philosophy and sociology of technology at the Faculty for Civil Engineering and the Faculty for Mechanical Engineering in Skopje. In the year 2001 Davchev was elected as a docent, teaching the courses: Philosophy of Technology, Philosophy and sociology of technology, Urban anthropology, Sociology of technological development, and Philosophy of spirit.

In the same subjects, he was elected associate professor in 2005, and in 2010 he was elected as a full-time professor of the scientific disciplines: Contemporary philosophy, Philosophy of technique, History of sex and gender, Anthropology of gender, and Urban anthropology.

Professor Vladimir Davchev, with his devotion and expertise in lecturing, even as an assistant, achieved a huge rating among the students. To this day, when his name is mentioned, students talk about him with admiration of his manner of teaching and his demeanor towards students.

He was also one of the pillars of the Institute for Gender Studies, opened in 2008 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje at the initiative of Professor Slobodanka Markovska. From the very beginning, as part of the team in preparing the elaboration for the establishment of the Institute (2005) and in the further existence of the Institute, with all his turmoil, Davchev left a special mark. He prepared curricula, took part in organizing events and activities for students. In the absence of staff, first, as an associate professor and then as a full-time professor, extremely responsibly and fully engaged, held the lectures in several subjects: Academic writing, Critical approach to masculinity, History of sex and gender in the Middle Ages, History of sex and gender in 19th-century, Methodology of gender research, Techno feminism and cyberculture, and Gender and sexuality. At the same time, he was involved in teaching all three study cycles of the Institute of Philosophy, and in teaching the Graduate study program in Management human resources in social activities. He was also the first head of Graduate gender studies, which opened in 2017 at the Institute for Gender Studies. As one of the favorite professors, under his mentorship, numerous students took their master's degrees.

But this is not where his engagement ended. He has appeared in many papers, studies, critical reviews, reviews, and book reviews in the field of philosophical sciences. He is the author of the books: Analytical Philosophy and Mind-Body Interaction, and Consciousness and Analytical Philosophy. Attended conferences and forums and took part in several programs on Macedonian Radio and Television. He also actively participated in the faculty's bodies and commissions. As a longtime member of the Editorial Board of the Annual Proceedings of the Faculty of Philosophy, in the period from 2003 to 2005, Davchev was the Deputy Chair of the Board, and from 2008 to 2011, he was also the Chairman of this editorial board. He was also the president of the Philosophical Society of Macedonia (2003-2007); member of the editorial board of the magazine Philosophy (2006); member of the advisory board of the project "The Other in the teaching contents in higher education", initiated by the Open Society Institute – Macedonia Foundation and was a member of the editorial board of the publication entitled Exploring Otherness - Aspects of Otherness from the Perspective of Individual Disciplines in higher education in the Republic of Macedonia".

There is also his participation in national and international scientific projects. Professor Davchev was the project manager of: "Representation of the humanities education at the University "St. Cyril and Methodius "- Skopje", supported by The Ministry of Education and Science of R. Macedonia (2006), and "Intercultural education in R. Macedonia: content analysis implying inter-culturalism in textbooks in primary education in Macedonian language ",

a project realized within the Roma Education Program - Pestalozzi (2009). He was part of the teams in the realization of the projects: "The gender practice of the Universities in the Republic of Macedonia: involvement/exclusion of women in the bodies and processes of decision-making", initiated by the University of Friborg and supported by the Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (2008-2009); "Representation of teaching contents for religion in separate social-humanistic subjects in primary and secondary education (reformed high school and secondary vocational education)", supported by FOSIM (2007); and was a member of the translation project of the Edition A History of Women in the West (five volumes) intended as a teaching aid for the students of the Institute for Gender studies at the Faculty of Philosophy Skopje, supported by the Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje, FOOM and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. At the same time, he was a member of the professional and linguistic editorial office of the third volume of this edition, "The Silence of the Middle Ages" (ed. Christiana Klapish - Zuber), released in 2015.

In 2000, he was part of the team for consultation and selection of candidates for the summer school "The face of the other - face and violence: the limits of humanity". During 2008-2009, he was hired as a trainer at seminars organized within the project "Education for Social Justice - Roma Education Program".

Professor Davchev will be remembered as one of the initiators of the formation of the Interdisciplinary Center of Cognitive Sciences, opened in 2020, at The Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje.

And that is not all. It is only part of the whole engagement and activity of professor Davchev, whose professional and scientific interest was clearly defined and directed towards: Philosophy of the mind; Cognitive philosophy; Artificial intelligence and its social impact; Masculinity in modern civilization. His research of the phenomena of consciousness, mind, and body, united in one historical synthesis from Aristotle's teaching on the soul to the modern analytical theory of consciousness, is pioneering in this field, with which Davchev showed his innovation in approach and authenticity in interpretation. The authenticity and sovereignty of Davchev come to the fore in the analysis of the area of the greatest changes and movements that occur on a planetary scale, caused by technological innovations that with their dynamics and virtuality change human life in all aspects. In this field, he is also confirmed as an engaged thinker, capable of locating specific threats, challenges, and solutions in their social environment. Gender, sex, and identity issues constitute the newer realm of the philosophical preoccupation of Davchev, aimed at the controversial conceptions of phenomenism and essentialism. In this area, Davchev gives a special contribution, with his significant knowledge and insights related to the categories "sex" and "gender" and their impact on identity building.

Professor Vladimir Davchev left suddenly. Unfulfilled tasks, desires, and ideas remained. However, he left behind his works, left us with wonderful memories, and enriched our lives.

Suzana Simonovska

