

IN MEMORIAM

UDK: 929Симоновска, С.

A LIFE DEDICATED TO GENDER STUDIES, ETHICS, AND ANTHROPOLOGY: THE LIFE AND WORK OF PROFESSOR SUZANA SIMONOVSKA (June 18, 1963 - January 30, 2025)

It was with deep sorrow and immense pain that we received the news of the untimely passing of our respected and dearly beloved professor, PhD Suzana Simonovska.

Professor Simonovska was not only an extraordinary professor but also a person of rare human warmth, whose cheerful spirit left deep marks on all colleagues, students, and everyone who had the honor of meeting and collaborating with her. Her constant smile, the wit with which she shared her life experiences, and her unobtrusive yet astute advice remain deeply etched in the memory of her colleagues, collaborators, and students as a clear testament to her beautiful character and virtuous soul.

Her presence brought a special serenity and vibrancy to the academic daily life of the Faculty of Philosophy. Illuminated by her sincere smile and direct approach, the libraries and lecture halls were filled with her communicativeness, giftedness, and inspiration, and her readiness to always listen and support left a positive impression and mark on each of us. Her sense of humor, intelligence, subtlety, and profound humanity were not just a way of connecting but also an expression of sincere and deep life wisdom, experience, and cheerfulness.

Professor Suzana Simonovska (18.VI.1963-30.I.2025) was a philosopher, anthropologist, and ethicist. Simonovska graduated in 1987 and earned her master's degree in 1994 at the Institute of Philosophy, Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. She defended her doctoral dissertation titled "Technical Possibilities and Spirit" in July 2002 at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, earning the academic degree of Doctor of Philosophical Sciences.

In February 1988, she was employed as a junior assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, at the then Institute of Marxism. In 1995, she was elected to the position of assistant for the subjects Philosophy of Technology and Anthropology at the Department of Humanities. In 2003, she was elected to the teaching and research position of assistant professor for the same subjects.

She was elected to the position of associate professor in December 2007, for the scientific fields (disciplines): Philosophy of Technology, Cultural Anthropology, Ethics, and Social Anthropology. From 2008, Professor Suzana Simonovska also taught at the Institute of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. From October 2012, she was a full professor at the Institute of Gender Studies, and in 2017, she was re-elected as a full professor for the

scientific fields (disciplines): History of Gender and Sex, Ethics, Social and Cultural Anthropology.

She served as Head of the Institute of Gender Studies (2017-2024); was a member of faculty committees; a member of the Management Board of HERA; a member of the Philosophical Society of Macedonia; a member of the Council of Experts of the Center for Bioethics at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje; participated in the realization of the international project titled: "Feminist Ethics: Prolegomena for a Realistic Discursive Theory of Feminist Morality," under the patronage of Professor PhD Axel Honneth (Johann Wolfgang Goethe University – Frankfurt / Columbia University / New York); and served as a consultant within the project "Young People and Young People with Disabilities in Macedonia Have Access to Comprehensive Sexual Education," initiated by HERA.

Professor Suzana Simonovska, along with Professor Slobodanka Markovska, Profesdor Denko Skalovski, and Professor Vladimir Davchev, actively participated in the process of establishing the Institute of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje, where this Institute officially began its work at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje in 2008.

As one of the initiators and participants in the project for the establishment of the Institute, her contribution was essential for the establishment of gender studies as a legitimate, interdisciplinary, and relevant field of research, thereby contributing to increased awareness, critical thought, and institutional recognition of issues related to gender equality in Macedonian society. Also, in 2013, Professor Simonovska participated in the project for the establishment of the Institute for Family Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, as a member of the team responsible for the preparation of the elaboration for the development of the new study program. Professor Suzana Simonovska mentored a large number of diploma theses and master's theses, as well as two doctoral dissertations.

She published numerous scientific and professional papers, prefaces, and critical reviews in the fields of philosophy and gender studies. She authored the books: Mitko Ilievski – A Philosophical Profile (1995); Spirituality in the Era of Technology (2008); Ethics and Gender (co-author, 2012); Anthropology – Collection of Texts (co-editor, 1999); Gender Practice in Universities in R.M. – Inclusion/Exclusion of Women in Bodies and Decision-Making Processes (co-author, 2011). Simonovska participated in the team for the realization of the project to translate the five-volume edition History of Women by editors Duby, G., Perrot, M.

In the scientific-research experience of Professor Suzana Simonovska, her consistent and in-depth approach to key philosophical questions related to humanity, society, and ethics stands out. Her works reflect a striving for a holistic and critical understanding of contemporary man in the context of his self-identification through time and space. Her theoretical approach successfully connects classical philosophical thought with contemporary critical and interdisciplinary perspectives, primarily those stemming from feminist theory, ethics, and anthropology, thereby creating an analytical framework that al-

lows for an analytical, in-depth, engaged, and contextually sensitive approach to social reality. Her scientific work reveals an exceptional contribution to the development and deepening of scientific thought, especially in the fields of philosophy, ethics, gender studies, and anthropology.

Here are some of her scientific papers: *Some Aspects of Mitko Ilievski's Theory of Knowledge* (1994); *Humanistic Thought and the Spirit of the Times* (1997); *La Mettrie and the End of the Millennium* (1999); *Michel Foucault and the New Forms of Knowledge as Power and Domination* (2003); *Ethical Dimensions of Genetic Engineering* (2006); *In the World of Simulation and Simulacra* (2007); *Feminist Ethics – A Response to Elitism, Sexism, and Gender Patterns in Morality* (2010); *The Different Social Dimensions of the Concepts of Time and Work for Men and Women* (2011)¹; *High Education in the Balkans and the Inclusion of Women* (2016)²; *Ethics and Social Work* (2016)³; *Sexual Violence in Marriage and Intimate Relationships: Synthetic View About Macedonia*⁴ (2016); *The "New" Global Division of Labor Examined Through the Prism of Gender and Class Differences: The Textile Industry and Prison Labor* (2019)⁵; *Concerns of Regular Teachers About Inclusive Education of Students with Disabilities* (2020)⁶; *Cultural Conceptions of Masculinity and Femininity: Divergence of Masculinist and Feminist Culture* (2023)⁷; *Challenges of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities* (2023)⁸; *The Transformation of Fatherhood in the Modern Family* (2025)⁹.

However, her engagement did not stop there. Particularly significant was her contribution to initiating and advancing the public debate on introducing sexual education into the Macedonian educational system. Professor Suzana Simonovska was one of the few who consistently and argumentatively advocated for the need for comprehensive sexual education, based on scientific and ethical principles. She was a member of the Working Group for Promoting Cooperation with the Academic Community and Improving Curricula within the "Comprehensive Sexual Education" project, a national project initiated by HERA, during which she published her paper *The Concept of Comprehensive Sexual Education* (2014). Simonovska also brought to light various issues and

¹Co-author with Elena Spasovska

²Co-author with Dalibor Jovanovski

³Co-author with Biljana Nackovska-Veljkovikj

⁴Co-author with Vesna Dimitrievska

⁵Co-author with Neda Petkovska

⁶Co-author with Daniela Dimitrova Radojichikj and Zoran Kitkanj

⁷Co-author with Stefan Vasev

⁸Co-author with Stefan Vasev

⁹Co-author with Stefan Vasev

dilemmas related to gender differences, the need to introduce sexual education, and the improvement of quality of life through her active participation in national and international scientific and professional conferences. At the scientific and professional conference "Consultations on Sexual and Reproductive Health Education," held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje (28.X.2016), Simonovska gave a sectional lecture on the topic "What Else, Besides Health, Should Be Discussed in Sexual Education Classes." At the regional conference "Childhood in Focus – The Need to Introduce Shared Parenting and Development in Macedonia and the Impact of This Concept on the Realization of Children's Rights" (21.III.2017), held in Skopje, she participated as a panelist with a lecture on the topic "The Concept of Shared Parenting and Gender Equality."

Professor PhD Suzana Simonovska was an extraordinary person with a deeply rooted sense of Macedonian cultural, philosophical, and social thought. She knew how to convey her knowledge in a very inspiring way through lectures, consultations, internal readings, public appearances, and scientific papers, constantly opening up space for critical thinking and dialogue. With her untimely passing, her family, colleagues from the academic community, future generations of students, and the entire Macedonian society have lost a great thinker whose presence left an indelible mark.

Denko Skalovski
Stefan Vasev