

Konstantin Momirović (1932 – 2004)
Memorial Session
Data Mining, Statistics and Biometrics

ITI 2008
30th International Conference on
Information Technology Interfaces



K. Momirović, 1982
As the General Manager of the University Computing Centre (1979-1983)

Vesna Hljuz Dobrić¹, Franjo Prot², Vesna Lužar-Stiffler³,
Zoran Bekić⁴, Ksenija Bosnar⁵, Marijan Gredelj⁶

^{1,3,4}*University Computing Centre - SRCE, University of Zagreb, Croatia*

^{1,3,4}{vesna.luzar-stiffler, vesna.dobric, zoran.bekic}@srce.hr

^{2,5}*Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Zagreb, Croatia*

^{2,5}{pipo, xenia}@kif.hr

⁶*Institut for Research and Development of Sustainable Ecosystems, Zagreb, Croatia*

⁶marijan.gredelj@ires.hr

This year, when ITI Conference is celebrating its 30th Anniversary, *Data Mining, Statistics and Biometrics* Session is dedicated to the **Memory of Konstantin Momirović (1932-2004)**.

Professor Konstantin Momirović was a leader of the "*Zagreb Statistics School*". The term was coined in 1986 by the famous statistician Henry F. Kaiser of the University of Berkeley, USA, while working with Momirović and his team as a Fulbright Fellow at the University Computing Centre - SRCE.

From Momirović's rich and outstanding carrier [3], we are highlighting 3 activities that were of special importance to this Anniversary:

- His longtime contribution to the ITI Conference,
- His longtime contribution to SRCE, the Conference organizer, and
- His contribution to the founding of Croatian Biometrics Society (HBMD, 1989), coorganizer of the ITI topic *Data Mining, Statistics and Biometrics* for the last 15 years.

Professor Momirović was involved in the Conference in many different roles, as a member of the Organizing and International Program Committees, an author and a reviewer, starting from the first symposium in 1974 (held under the name *Computer at the University*) until the 1990 *Information Technology Interfaces* or ITI Conference. He introduced the Conference topic *Data Analysis and Statistics* which has remained a permanent theme since the second Conference (1980).

Konstantin Momirović's part/full time engagement with the University Computing Centre – SRCE started at its founding in 1971 and lasted until 1990. His work at SRCE comprised all levels of activities: from management to operations and all types of work: scientific research, education and consulting. He was the first President of the Council (management board, 1973), General Manager (1979 - 1983), and the President of the Scientific Council (for many years) of the University Computing Centre [5]. He lectured numerous statistical courses and, even while he was the General Manager, held his weekly statistical consulting for Zagreb University students at SRCE [3].

Some of Professor Momirović's long-term teammates have endeavored to prepare an overview of his work. We were fully aware that it would be impossible to prepare a comprehensive account of all the incredibly diverse aspects of Konstantin Momirović's interests, the prominent carrier, and his huge professional opus that has left an everlasting imprint on the academic, scientific, engineering, political and sport communities. His biography and bibliography [3] (based on [1]) and a review paper [4] on his work are our contribution to the Memory of Konstantin Momirović.

ITI 2008 organizers invited Professor Ingram Olkin from Stanford University, USA, member of the ITI International Program Committee for the last two decades, ITI keynote speaker and lecturer in statistics, as well as our very dear friend, to prepare a presentation on Momirović's work [2], based on his biography and bibliography [3].

A word from the authors.

Professor Momirović was a leader of our team, and our mentor from the beginning of our carriers. Kosta (as we used to call him) was the

first to teach us the concepts and methods of statistics, the variety and beauty of their applications, the importance of sound data, and the art of interpreting the obtained results. He encouraged us to discuss new ideas and projects, to prove new / modified methods and algorithms, to implement them in SS or GENSTAT statistical languages, and to finally use them to solve our users' statistical problems. He involved us in consulting and teaching, and never hesitated helping us in our daily routine jobs.

Kosta was our boss, our leader, our mentor, but most of all, our friend. Together, we worked as teammates, attended conferences at home and abroad, and occasionally, sailed to Cavtat (to an ITI conference) on his sailing-boat, experiencing a unique blending of the beauty of the Adriatic Sea, wind and sun with an excitement of a scientific discourse. Upon arriving to Cavtat harbor and to hotel "Croatia" (Conference venue), Kosta used to welcome us with a "statistician's" liquor Benedictine.

We presented our first papers, prepared under the watchful eye of our mentor, at the ITI Conference, met famous statisticians he invited to the Conference, and sometimes had an opportunity to work with them on projects. Professor Henry F. Kaiser ("Computer at the University, 1980") was one of these special people. He has also introduced us to Professor Ingram Olkin, who has helped us to maintain the high standards of the ITI Conferences (even during the war years), and to whom we are grateful for his contribution [2] to the memory of Konstantin Momirović.

Professor Konstantin Momirović influenced our professional carriers and our lives as well. We believe that his scientific legacy is as important to the young statisticians of today as it was for us.

Acknowledgements

The photograph used in this paper, as well as those in papers [2], [3], [4] were reproduced with the permission of:

- Emil Lehpamer, Faculty of Kinesiology (1971)
- Emil Hofman, Faculty of Kinesiology (1982)
- Franjo Prot, Faculty of Kinesiology (1997).

Authors thank Diana Šimić, a very dear friend, for valuable suggestions in preparing this paper, as well as paper [3].

References

- [1] Prot, F., A. Hošek, K. Bosnar (2008): Konstantin Momirović (1932 - 2004): Contributions to Biography and Bibliography. Zagreb: pp. 85. (unpublished, in Croatian).
- [2] Olkin, I (2008): In Memory of Konstantin Momirović (1932 – 2004). In Luzar-Stiffler, V., V. Hljuz Dobric, Z. Bekic, Editors. *Proc. ITI 2008 30th Int. Conf. Information Technology Interfaces*, Zagreb: University Computing Centre - SRCE, University of Zagreb, p. 309-310.
- [3] Prot, F., A. Hošek, K. Bosnar, V. Luzar-Stiffler, V. Hljuz Dobric, Z. Bekic, M. Gredelj (2008): Konstantin Momirović (1932 - 2004): Biography and Bibliography. In Luzar-Stiffler, V., V. Hljuz Dobric, Z. Bekic, Editors. *Proc. ITI 2008 30th Int. Conf. Information Technology Interfaces*, Zagreb: University Computing Centre - SRCE, University of Zagreb, pp. 200. (CD version: IEEE Cat.No. CFP08498-CDR; ISBN 978-953-7138-13-4; ISSN 1334-2762)
- [4] Prot, F., V. Luzar-Stiffler, V. Hljuz Dobric, K. Bosnar, Z. Bekic, M. Gredelj (2008): Konstantin Momirović (1932 - 2004): Methodological Contributions to Multivariate Statistics and Data Analysis. In Luzar-Stiffler, V., V. Hljuz Dobric, Z. Bekic, Editors. *Proc. ITI 2008 30th Int. Conf. Information Technology Interfaces*, Zagreb: University Computing Centre - SRCE, University of Zagreb, pp. 21. (CD Version: IEEE Cat.No. CFP08498-CDR; ISBN 978-953-7138-13-4; ISSN 1334-2762).
- [5] Bekić, Z. (2006): "SRCE: Our first 35 Years". Zagreb: University Computing Centre, SRCE News, Special Edition No.13., pp. 96. (in Croatian).
<http://www.srce.hr/novosti/>

