

Obituary: Radu Theodorescu, 1933–2007



Our dear colleague, Professor Emeritus Radu Theodorescu, passed away in Québec on August 14.

I met Professor Theodorescu for the first time in Lisbon, *circa* 1980. We had a long conversation, and in fact I was astonished and proud that he spent a couple of hours asking details about my thesis, instead of enjoying a visit to Lisbon and its outskirts. I was even more surprised when I found echoes of this conversation on his book with Bertin and Cuculescu, *Unimodality of Probability Measures*.

Our second encounter has been at Funchal, when I organized the 23rd European Meeting of Statisticians. He came to Funchal with his wife and their two children, and we stayed at the same hotel. Both before and after the meeting we exchanged many e-mails, and during this joyful week at Funchal I could observe his helpful and courteous attitude towards young statisticians, and his commitment to understand in depth all developments in Statistics. I recommended him to M. Ivette Gomes, who had been invited to be the Editor-in-Chief of REVSTAT, as an appropriate colleague to join the board of editors, an invitation that he gracefully accepted.

Radu published almost 200 papers and monographs, in a broad variety of areas of statistics. In the CV he prepared himself, he proposed a classification of his papers in: Probability theory; concentration functions; unimodality; depths, copulas; stochastic processes (general processes, Markov processes, non-Markovian processes, learning theory, Gaussian reciprocal processes, Lévy processes); statistics (quality control, parametric and nonparametric inference, applications to population dynamics, biology, and geology, stochastic approximation,

Linnik laws, estimation, quantile domains); programming, games (stochastic programming, game theory, dynamic programming); control systems, information and communication, automata; numerical analysis; mathematical education, biography, philosophy.

Aside from this huge amount of publications reflecting his many contributions towards the advancement of Probability and Statistics, he served the statistical community preparing more than 600 reviews for *Mathematical Reviews*, *Zentralblatt Math* and other scientific retrieving journals and databases. But above all he has been an outstanding Professor, being awarded the title of Professor Emeritus at University Laval, in 2001.

Radu had been a Ph.D. student of Octav Onicescu. The *Mathematics Genealogy Project* records seven of his Ph.D. students. Christian Genest prepared an obituary for the *IMS Bulletin* **36**, that can be read on-line at

<http://archimede.mat.ulaval.ca/pages/genest/publi/IMS-36-8-16.pdf> ;

read also his interview, in

<http://archimede.mat.ulaval.ca/pages/radutheo/Liaison-Interview.pdf> .

All these can be consulted at

<http://archimede.mat.ulaval.ca/pages/radutheo/> .

I am thankful to Marie-José, Radu's widow, for sending me the material he had himself prepared for his CV and list of publications. M. Ivette Gomes asks me to present the condolences of REVSTAT to her and Radu's children for their sad bereavement, shared by all the other editors.

Dinis Pestana

