

REPORTS

Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Stanislava Šprincová, PhD. has left us



Stanislava Šprincová came from Olomouc, where she graduated from grammar school. After the Second World War, she studied at, and graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Brno. After completing her university studies, she worked as an assistant at the Planning Studies Institute at Palacký University in Olomouc. It should be noted that from 1945, she participated as a secretary of the Action Committee of University Students in preparatory activities that led to the restoration of Olomouc University.

Then she completed her internal postgraduate studies of economic geography under the supervision of Prof. Blažek at the University of Economics in Prague. In 1959 she successfully defended her candidate dissertation on the theme “Economic Geography of Northern Moravia and Northwest Silesia”. In the same year she began lecturing at the Department of Geography at the Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc. In 1966, Stanislava Šprincová defended her work *Geography of Tourism (through the example of the Recreation Area of the Jeseníky Mountains)* and was awarded the degree of Associate Professor of Economic Geography.

In her pedagogical work, Assoc. Prof. Šprincová focused on lectures and tutorials dealing with general socio-economic geography. She educated a long series of teachers and specialists in geography. She supervised dozens of diploma and other student works. Assoc. Prof. Šprincová also worked as the second reader of PhD defences at other universities.

The research work of Assoc. Prof. Šprincová was particularly focused on the geography of tourism and recreation. She was one of the first experts in the former Czechoslovakia who began to deal with this issue in the post war period. The bibliography of her published works includes about 130 works.

Assoc. Prof. Šprincová also made a number of international study journeys. She studied at the Centre des études du tourisme at the University in Aix-en-Provence (France). She presented the results of her work at international conferences in London, Montréal, Moscow, Paris and Tokyo, and at a regional conference in Budapest. In 1972, she initiated the establishment of a working group for the geography of tourism at the International Geographical Union (IGU). This group became a committee in 1980 and Assoc. Prof. Šprincová participated significantly in its activities, taking advantage of her good knowledge of foreign languages.

As one of the authors who began to promote the spatial manifestations of tourism into the system of geographical sciences in our country, Assoc. Prof. Šprincová introduced new terminology for this field, which served as the basis for the official regionalisation of tourism in Czechoslovakia, published in the 1960s by the State Institute for Regional Planning in Prague. Some of her publications were assessed as groundbreaking and are still cited in geographical articles.

Under the rules laid down in the Higher Education Act, Assoc. Prof. Šprincová retired in 1989, but she did not lose interest in events in the world of geography. She remained a member of the Czech Geographical Society and remained in contact with the Department of Geography and Palacký University in Olomouc until her death.

For her long selfless teaching and educational work among students, the results achieved in her scientific research activities, and her successful representation of the Faculty of Science in the Czech Republic as well as abroad, she was awarded the Silver Medal of Palacký University and numerous other awards. At a celebratory convention on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc, she was awarded the Rector's Medal. She was also the winner of a medal from the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Science of Palacký University in Olomouc, which she received in 2009 when the Department celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. On the occasion of the anniversary of the restoration of Olomouc University she also received several certificates of merit for her active participation in the efforts of students in 1945 to revive Olomouc University.

Unfortunately, Stanislava Šprincová left us shortly after she reached the ripe old age of 90. Until the last moment she maintained her mental sharpness and remained interested in what was happening around her.

Honor to her memory!

Pavel Ptáček, Miloš Fňůkal

4th Geographical Discussion Forum

On 7 October 2014, the fourth Geographical Discussion Forum was held in Štramberk. The Geographical Discussion Forum is traditionally organized by the Center for the Analysis of Regional Systems at the Department of Geography at Palacký University in Olomouc, the Institute of Geonics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Department of Geography of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, with the support of the Internal Grant Agency of Palacký University in Olomouc under the auspices of the grant IGA_PrF_201401 *Human Behaviour and Activities in the Geographical Environment: Analysis and Modelling of the Organization of Space*.

The 4th Geographical Discussion Forum was attended by over twenty participants from seven different geographical institutions in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Besides members of the above-mentioned institutions, the Forum was attended by participants from the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development of Charles University in Prague, the Department of Human Geography and Demography of Comenius University in Bratislava, the Department of Geography of the Catholic University in Ružomberok and the Department of Regional Economics and Administration of Masaryk University. The topics of the Discussion Forum were concentrated into two main panels that addressed the issues of transport geography and geography of peripheries and borderland.

As in the previous years, the main purpose of the Geographical Discussion Forum was to bring together leading experts whose work is closely linked with the above-mentioned topics. The organizers of the Forum abandoned the traditional form of such events, which consists of individual PowerPoint presentations of the participants, and placed the emphasis on stimulating debate on major issues related to currently debated topics and opportunities for further research. In order to meet the requirements of the discussions the format of the Geographical Forum was adjusted. Both panels

were chaired by a pair of presenters, who at the beginning of each topic presented current issues to be solved and opened the discussion with several questions. Both panels were held in serial order so that each participant could contribute to each topic.

The Forum was opened with some introductory words by Dr. Kraft, followed by a paper presented by Dr. Hornák and Dr. Seidenglanz, which opened the first panel discussion. In a brief presentation they asked questions concerning the relationship between mobility, society and space. In the discussion that followed, the participants tackled issues such as what research methods should be used, whether the topic offers new methods of research and what other scientific disciplines deal with the geography of transportation and in what manner. They also discussed the issues of the availability of means of mobility and the term mobility as a new source of inequality in society or as an active force that transforms the geographical environment (see Hornák and Rochovská 2014 for more information on this topic).

The other panel, which focused on geography of peripheries and borderland, was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Chromý, together with Dr. Hurbánek. The introductory questions, formulated in the paper of Dr. Hurbánek, mainly concerned the possibilities and potential use of GIS to identify peripheral areas on the basis of population density and the relationship of peripherality and spatial polarization (Džupinová et al. 2008). The possibilities of using methods of human geographical regionalization for defining peripheral regions were also discussed (Halás et al. 2014).

The panel discussion was entered by all the participants of the Geographical Forum and their suggestions enriched the approaches of their colleagues. The expectations of the organizers regarding the main objective of the Geographical Discussion Forum – sharing ideas and allowing open discussion among the participants – were successfully met. The friendly atmosphere of the Forum was intensified with a morning excursion to the Štramberk karst.

References

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Martin Erlebach