

## Editorial Board Member František Znebežánek Has Passed away

We very much regret having to announce the death in August 2021 of Dr. František Znebežánek, assistant professor at the Department of Sociology, Andragogy and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, Palacký University in Olomouc. He was a member of the Czech Sociological Association and a member of the Editorial Board of the Historical Sociology Journal.

František Znebežánek was born in Teplice in 1950. In 1974 he graduated from the Faculty of Arts in Olomouc, majoring in Andragogy with a focus on sociology of work and industrial enterprise. In 1995 he obtained a doctorate in sociology. His thesis with the title *Social movement: Theory, concepts and perspectives* was published by the SLON Publishers in 1997. He is the author of three textbooks, and a number of articles dealing mainly with sociological theory.

He devoted all his professional life to sociology. Starting his career in the Socio-Psychological Centre of the General Management of the Ostrava-Karvina Mines, he went on to be engaged in research in the Fuel and Energy Research Institutes in Ostrava. In 1990, he entered the academe, starting to teach at the Faculty of Arts of Palacký University in Olomouc. In addition, he became a member of the Adult Education and Social Change Committee of the Council of Europe. For a number of years, he was an academic coordinator of the Czech Program for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest, U.S.A. He enriched his professional experience by study stays abroad (University of London, Birkbeck College, UK, University of East Anglia, UK, University of Chicago, U.S.A.). Between 2002 and 2005, he was a member of the Editorial Board of the Czech Sociological Review. Between 2000 and 2005 he was a member of the Evaluation Panel on Sociology of the Czech Science Foundation. In the period between 2013 and 2015, he participated in the solution of the research project *Changes in the Way of Life in the Hlučín Region and Modernization Processes*.

Dr. Znebežánek was extremely modest. He did not strive for titles or positions, fame or wealth meant nothing to him. He always asked questions and diligently pursued the answers. In the centre of his attention was the methodology of humanities. In the core of his interest was sociological theory. He was opened to all sociological theories and paradigms, but pragmatism interested him most. He found inspiration in the philosophy of William James and Richard Rorty, and was also influenced by Georg Simmel and symbolic interactionism. At the heart of his long-term scientific interest was the analysis of the possibility of changes in social behaviour from conflicting to cooperative, and from cooperative to conflicting. This resulted in an inspiring monograph *Between Conflict and Cooperation: Unified Theory of Conflict and Cooperation* published by SLON in 2013. In it, his scientific honesty is apparent: At the very beginning he formulated four requirements

which should be applied to all unified theories of divergent and convergent social processes. He did so to mainly avoid some possible misinterpretation concerning success or failure of what he offered as a unified theory of opposites. It enables the readers to see how the four requirements he proposed apply to his own writing.

František Znebežánek was a wise man. All of those meeting him felt inspired by him. He was a wonderful colleague, a reliable and witty friend, an accomplished sociologist, and a demanding, but well-liked and charismatic teacher. He spoke little, but accurately, clearly and intelligibly. He was an attentive listener, it was refreshing to have a polemic with him. He was kind and even when intellectually much stronger than his opponents, he would never humiliate them. His sense of humour was unmatched, and his readiness to make fun of himself admirable.

He was concerned not only with the development of the Department, but also in general with sociology as a science, which he so loved. He tried to organize sociological and interdisciplinary discussion groups. We could always rely on his unselfish help and advice. He was a moral authority to us. He will be missed dearly.

*Helena Kubátová and Ivana Marková*  
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