

In memoriam: Prof. Dr. Darko Marinković

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(10 September 1948 – 14 December 2021)

Darko Marinković was born in 1948 in Belgrade, where he lived his whole life, growing up in Čukarica. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Belgrade, where he obtained both his Masters (in 1975) and his Doctorate (in 1991).

He devoted his entire working life and career to research and education in general, political and industrial sociology and to providing research materials and evidence to help working people and the cause of labour, working firstly in the Federation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia and continuing briefly in the Federation of Trade Unions in Serbia. Subsequently, he helped to found UGS 'Nezavisnost' where he was director of the Centre for Education until 2002. Simultaneously, he was research associate at the Institute for Political Studies, and a long-time member of the board.

After his long trade union career, he became Associate Professor at Megatrend University where he taught a number of courses in and around human resource management until 2015. He was additionally a Professor at the Vocational College of Entrepreneurship and Visiting Professor at Middlesex University, in London.

He served as a special adviser to Dragan Milovanović, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Policy, in 2002-03 and was special adviser to Rasim Ljajić, Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Policy between 2008 and 2010.

He co-operated with a large number of institutions both at home and internationally, with his lifelong dedication to the cause of working people especially clear in his affiliations with the International Trade Union Confederation, the European Trade Union Institute and the International Labour Organization. He participated in a significant number of empirical studies, publishing around 200 scientific papers and over 20 books, monographs and university texts.

Darko focused on ethical norms and in working with young people, political and economic freedoms and the promotion of lifelong education as a *conditio sine qua non* of every individual's life. Essentially, right from the very beginning to the end of his life, he was an incorrigible liberal and a cosmopolitan who never gave up the fight for the advance of individual freedoms and rights.

Darko passed away after a short illness, leaving behind a wife and one son.

Béla Galgóczi writes: Darko has always been ready to help (getting an article, writing one himself) and full of ideas and energy – he was a great asset for the *SEER*! Darko was also a bit of a relic of the old Yugoslavia, in a good way. Despite all the difficulties he was always confident. I never forget two of his bon mots: 'Everything is under control' was one; each time we met, this was his way of greeting. The second is how he saw times of crises; as the *SEER* carried a great deal of cover-

age on the crises in the region, Darko used to say: ‘What crisis? Serbia has been in crisis for more than two decades; is there anything new?’

Bruno Sergi writes: I would like very much to pay a tribute to Darko, a great friend, long-time colleague and mentor. At the most recent *SEER* Editorial Board meeting in Brussels in May 2022, I missed his unique character, profound wisdom and holistic viewpoint as well as his exceptional understanding of the former Yugoslavia. He had excellent writing capacity and, when speaking to him at length around our Board meetings since the late 1990s, I enjoyed his intellectual curiosity and keen sense of the factors shaping south-east Europe. We have lost a friend, colleague and mentor.

Calvin Allen writes: Darko was a tireless member of the *SEER*’s Editorial Board and he also wrote frequently for it, having had an article in the very first issue – on trade unions and privatisation in Serbia – in February 1998. Darko was well-known for his jokes, usually around the planes, trains and automobiles required to get me to Board meetings. I recall one, in April 2010, at Plzeň which turned out not to be a joke at all: there really *was* an erupting volcano in Iceland... Not for the first time, nor the last, was he home well ahead of me; but, whenever I hear Darko’s name I think of those jokes and shared journeys; and that leads me to recall his *joie de vivre* and his evocation of the human spirit which knows that the only way to make sense of the madness of our lives is to do so with humour and, indeed, with a song in our heart.

Dobrin Kanev writes: Darko was together with us from the very beginning. An optimist, a patriot of his country and the region. I miss him.

Ela Golemi writes: I had the honour of knowing Darko during the ‘European Dialogue 2017’, organised by Hans-Böckler-Stiftung and Otto-Brenner-Stiftung in Brussels. We spent hours together with him and other colleagues, but Darko stood out because he was friendly, sociable, smart and full of a sense of humour. We travelled together from the hotel to the airport, greatly enjoying a constructive discussion on higher education issues in Serbia and Albania, as well as the integration process of our countries with the EU. Two months later, in June 2017, at his invitation, I attended the international conference organised by his Faculty. Thanks to Darko, this conference was a great experience for me. I will always remember him as a friend that I knew but briefly, but who had a special impact. Thank you, Darko.

Jens Becker writes: Darko was the soul of the *SEER* Editorial Board and the history of the *SEER*. Always with a joke, in a good mood with expressive humour, arguing for a democratic Serbia and a democratisation of the Balkans. Of course, he fought passionately for collective bargaining and trade union rights in the region. He was a Serbian patriot and an internationalist, always well informed and willing to co-operate. I remember Darko helping me with access to the Serbian parliament in 2019. Together with 14 students of the Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, we had a meeting with Darko’s son, Vladimir, and another member of parliament where we discussed the situation in Kosovo, etc. It was a highlight. Thank you, Darko.

Katya Ribarova writes: I was so sorry to hear of Darko’s passing and give my deep condolences to his family at home and at large. He was always so full of life

and of energy. We will always remember him and in particular, yes, his sense of humour.

Kemal Oke writes: Darko was such a good father and academic but, even more than that, he was a good friend. It has been always an honour to work alongside Darko on the *SEER* Editorial Board. I have learned so much from him about political institutes in Serbia and about the Balkans, as well as about life and our common experiences. I enjoy remembering the moments we shared and always feel both pleased and fortunate to have had them. We knew each other for a long period and I thank Darko for his lasting friendship. I will always treasure him as a great friend and colleague.

Peter Scherrer writes: It's been almost 30 years since I first met Darko. I did not know when he opened his office door at the Institute for Political Studies that he would also open a door for me into history, via an understanding of the lived experience of Yugoslavia and its people. For that and for your lasting friendship, I say: hvala Darko, you will always be remembered!



Darko Marinković, in typically good voice at Restoran 'Tri šešira', Belgrade, April 2012.

Rest in peace, Darko: our esteemed colleague and our joyful friend.



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