

## Prof. Ing. Roman Hušek, CSc. (✱ 1936, † 2022)

Bright, focused and with a cheerful mind, Prof. Hušek led many generations of students through the realms of econometric analysis. From the early days (mostly pre-computer) to modern forms of data analysis, he helped shape and focus the minds of many.

After graduating from the University of Economics, Prague in 1959, he started working at the Czech Statistical Office. By 1961, Roman Hušek returned to his alma mater, commencing his life-long successful academic career. He started by teaching courses at the Department of Statistics in 1961, yet his focus quickly shifted towards econometrics, which at that time was a relatively new standalone field of research. Furnished by state-of-the-art knowledge acquired during his doctoral and postdoctoral studies in Bonn and Leuven at the turn of 1960s and 1970s, Roman Hušek became a de-facto founding father of Czech (Czechoslovak) econometrics.

Professor Hušek curated econometrics as a rigorous mathematical-statistical discipline, teaching students that analytical conclusions should always be supported with proper data and informed statistical inference. While this may seem like a natural approach from today's perspective, this was not always the case. During the difficult period of the 1970s and 1980s, the Soviet-induced ideology viewed econometrics as a form of Western influence, even “non-scientific” and unnecessary for the centrally planned economy. To the credit of Professor Hušek, econometrics was taught at Prague University of Economics and Business on a world-class level long before the return of democracy and before the flourishing of economic and human sciences we experience today.

Under his supervision, the Department of Econometrics educated and hosted numerous students and researchers who later in their careers became important actors of the 1990s economic transformation (including government ministers) and who achieved high positions in business, academic and public sectors.

Professor Hušek's main professional interest was in macroeconometrics. During his long career, his area of interest ranged from multilevel macro models to forecasting effects of economic policies to estimating optimal strategies for economic policy makers. He also contributed to the field of time series analysis, particularly vector autoregression and cointegration. Throughout his fruitful career, Professor Hušek authored and co-authored more than twenty monographs and over one hundred research papers.

Besides his research and publication efforts, Professor Hušek was an active member of the scientific community. He worked in editorial boards of many scientific journals (including Prague Economic Papers in 1993–2005), served as scientific board member in many academic institutions and as a vice-dean of the Faculty of Informatics and Statistics at Prague University of Economics and Business.

Professor Roman Hušek passed away in January 2022. We thank him for his dedication to science and education. We hope his family finds comfort in knowing the amount of inspiration he provided to his many co-workers and associates.

*Tomáš Formánek, Michal Černý and Josef Jablonský\**

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\* J.J. acts as Head of Department of Econometrics at Prague University of Economics and Business where Prof. Hušek was a member for many decades. T.F. and M.Č. are members of the Department and Prof. Hušek's former Ph.D. students.