

Dušan Kecmanović, member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina (1942-2014)**Slobodan Loga**

Dušan Kecmanović died suddenly on 6th April 2014 in Sydney Australia. He was a member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and was previously a professor at the Medical Faculty in Sarajevo and one of the best known psychiatrists in the world from this region. Dušan Kecmanović was born in Belgrade in 1942 and from 1945 he lived in Sarajevo until the beginning of the war (1992-1995) when he emigrated to Australia. He completed his education and training in Sarajevo. After four years of elementary school, he attended classical high school. While he was still in high school, he spent much of his time reading books. As well as fiction, he was interested in books on psychology, sociology and philosophy. Even then he had a full knowledge of French. His knowledge of German enabled him to read the collected works of Arthur Schopenhauer in the Gothic script. He learned English after French and German. He finished high school as the best student in his year, went on to study at the Medical Faculty in Sarajevo and graduated within five years with an average grade of 9.4. He was then employed at the Psychiatric Clinic in Sarajevo, where he specialized in psychiatry. He ended his post-graduate studies in "The bases of scientific research" by writing his master's thesis entitled "Patients discharged against the advice of the doctor from the closed psychiatric ward." He attained his PhD from Belgrade University in 1975, on the thesis "An attempt at thematic and methodological conceptualization of social-psychiatric activities". The first book he wrote as a specialist student was a collection of essays under the joint title "Between the normal and the pathological", which aroused significant attention amongst psychiatrists. Very soon after completing his specialized studies he turned his attention to social psychiatry. In 1975 he published the book "Social Psychiatry with the Psychiatric Sociology", which very soon became a key textbook at university centres throughout Yugoslavia. Later the focus of his professional interest shifted to topics related to the social role of psychiatry and the mentally disturbed, as well as ethical issues in psychiatry. In 1990 he was elected to be a corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. When the war broke out, he was a full professor at the Medical Faculty and a full professor of political psychology at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. During the war he emigrated to Australia and was the first psychiatrist to have his psychiatry degree recognized without taking any exams, and he was declared a member of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. The death of Dušan Kecmanović is a major and irreplaceable loss for psychiatry in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His influence on the progress of psychiatry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and beyond, was enormous. Moreover, he represented Bosnian psychiatry throughout the world through his significant reputation. A well-rounded, educated man, who spoke three world languages, he reached the highest levels in the theory and practice of the science of psychiatry. He grew up in a family where spiritual values were paramount and the written word was nurtured. Thanks to this, and his tireless work, Dušan Kecmanović has left a legacy of numerous books, articles in journals and useful ideas for future study. He will be remembered as an excellent speaker and superb polemicist, who always had good arguments and knowledge on his side.