

*Milda Maria Burzała**

**POSTHUMOUS TRIBUTE
TO PROFESSOR BOGUSŁAW GUZIK
(1946–2009)**

Abstract. Professor Bogusław Guzik died suddenly on 6 July 2009 at 63, at the height of his creative powers. For over 40 years he was the worker of Poznań University of Economics, combining academic and administrative responsibilities. He was one of the most outstanding contemporary representatives of quantitative economics in Poland. He published approximately 300 scientific works on econometric modeling and forecasting, multivariate comparative analysis, finance econometrics and economic efficiency.

Professor Bogusław Guzik needs to be recognized as a creator of a new department of econometrics, devoted to the structure and utilizing segment econometric models.

Professor was an unassuming and kindly man and always there to help. He was a warm-hearted friend of students, he inspired respect and was likeable. He remains vivid in our memory.

Key words: Professor Bogusław Guzik, posthumous tribute.



Professor Bogusław Guzik died suddenly on 6 July 2009 at 63, at the height of his creative powers. For over 40 years he was the worker of Poznań University of Economics, combining academic and administrative responsibilities. He was one of the most outstanding contemporary representatives of quantitative economics in Poland.

Professor Bogusław Guzik was born on 4 November 1946 in Józefów (zamojskie) in a peasant family. In 1947 his parents moved with their children to the Regained Territories. He graduated from the elementary school in Barlinek (gorzowskie) in 1960 and high school (Technikum Ekonomiczne CRS) in 1965.

Professor had one brother and three sisters. It was his mother who always read a lot and took care of her children's education. Unfortunately, she died too early in an accident.

The scholar was connected with Poznań University of Economics from the beginning of his studies. In 1965–1969 he was the student of Faculty of Commerce

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and Commodities. After graduating from the University he started work at the Institute of Political Economics and then at the Institute of Statistics and Econometrics (since December 1969 called Chair of Econometrics). Bogusław Guzik acquired doctor's degree in economic sciences in 1975 (doctor's thesis on *Forecasting on the basis of segment trends*) and at the age of 34, in 1980, got post-doctoral degree, thesis on *Econometric forecasting methods* (being in fact Part 2 of *Econometric forecasting. Basics and methods*. PWE 1980). On 26 July 1991 he became professor of economic sciences.

Professor K. Zajac admits in his review of Guzik's post-doctoral degree thesis that the author did not choose an easy and simple way to consider the question of econometrics. Each problem in Guzik's work was considered not only from the point of view of formal-mathematical accuracy, but also in three various planes: mathematical, logical and factual.

Professor had the flair for writing. He published approximately 300 scientific works (11 came out after his death). He dealt mainly with econometric modeling and forecasting, multivariate comparative analysis, finance econometrics and economic efficiency. The following monographs and academic course books are worth mentioning:

- *Econometric forecasting* (co-author), PWE, Warszawa 1982
- *Modeling and planning of national economics growth*, PWN, Warszawa 1982
- *Econometrics with exercises*, WUAE, Poznań 1992 (co-author W. Jurek)
- *Introduction to forecasting and simulation theory*, WUAE, Poznań 2008
- *Basic DEA models in economic and social efficiency research*, WUEP, Poznań 2009
- *Introduction to operations research*, WUEP, Poznań 2009.

Moreover, in his achievements there are many works concerning operations research, mathematical statistics, market analysis and business conditions.

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Professor T. Kulawczuk from Gdańsk University wrote about Guzik's book *Segment econometric models*:

"It is the first in Poland (and presumably the first in Europe) monograph on segment econometrics (...). It contains, among others, segment model typology, description of a model verification methods, many new rules concerning location of turning points, formulation of forecasting rules, methods of building credibility interval and setting forecast horizon in the case of cross-section-time series. These are the issues depicted in literature for the first time."

Professor Zbigniew Czerwiński in his opinion on the question of giving professor's title to Mr. Guzik (1989) wrote as follows:

“Scientific achievements of doc. Guzik are really fruitful and their rough characteristics given above is incomplete. Furthermore, the selection of works to which more time was devoted, is surely subjective. Professor’s works were appreciated in economics area. They are frequently cited and constitute a starting point for further research. Professor’s works are inventive, his methodological suggestions are sometimes surprising and controversial. But still they are always thought through. He combines the methodological and implementation trends very freely and understands that only statistic-econometric methods which were confirmed in empirical research will last (...).”

Professor Guzik was prized many times and also rewarded by the Rector and MNSzWiT. He was awarded the medal of the National Education Committee and the Golden Merit Cross for his academic, teaching and organizational work.

He gave lectures in, among others, econometrics and operations research, econometric forecasting, and exploiting computers in econometrics. His master’s seminars were very popular among students. He supervised more than 100 master’s theses.

Professor B. Guzik was a supervisor of many research teams, in the last period he was a manager of “Finance econometrics” statutory research. He took active part in the Chair doctorate’s seminars – each doctoral student could count on his interest, good advice and support. Under his supervision four doctoral’s theses were conducted and completed, and also he was a reviewer of a dozen or so post-doctoral’s theses.

All his hard-working life Professor was above all an academic researcher and a teacher but also he was vice-Director of the Institute of Economic Cybernetics, vice-Dean and Dean of Faculty of Economics at Poznań University of Economics. For 15 years he led the Chair of Econometrics.

He was also, among others, Vice-President of KU NSZZ “Solidarity” AE Poznań (1980–1981), a member of some Editorial Committees (Wydawnictwo Uczelniane AE in Poznań, “Ruch Prawniczy, Ekonomiczny i Socjologiczny”, Prace Naukowe i Progностyczne in Wrocław,), Statistics and Econometrics Committee of Polish Academy of Sciences and GUS Mathematical Commission.

Professor Guzik had two children, Alicja and Aleksander. His wife Elżbieta recalls that he liked listening to music while working, had and liked movies by Charlie Chaplin, Woody Allen and Hitchcock. Leaving on holiday he always took several books with him. After his death on his night table the following books were open: *Quo vadis* by Sienkiewicz, *I recollect Poznań* by Z. Zakrzewski and *Rich Man, Poor Man* by Irwin Shaw.

Professor was an unassuming and kindly man and always there to help. He was a warmhearted friend of students, he inspired respect and was likeable. He remains vivid in our memory.

*Milda Maria Burzała***WSPOMNIENIE O PROFESORZE BOGUSŁAWIE GUZIKU
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Profesor Bogusław Guzik odszedł nagle 6 lipca 2009 w pełni sił twórczych, w wieku 63 lat. Przez ponad 40 lat był pracownikiem Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego, umiejętnie godząc obowiązki naukowe i administracyjne. Był jednym z najwybitniejszych współczesnych przedstawicieli ekonomii ilościowej w Polsce. Opublikował blisko 300 prac naukowych z zakresu ekonometrii, prognozowania, wielowymiarowej analizy porównawczej, a ostatnio także z analizy efektywności gospodarczej.

Pozostanie twórcą ekonometrii segmentowej, jednego z działów współczesnej ekonometrii, dającej zdecydowanie większe możliwości badawcze od ekonometrii klasycznej. W swoich pracach umiejętnie łączył nurt metodyczny z badaniami empirycznymi.

Profesor był człowiekiem niezwykle skromnym i zawsze gotowym do pomocy innym. Był serdecznym przyjacielem studentów, budził szacunek i sympatię. Pamięć o Nim jest ciągle żywa.