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Article

Doctor Honoris Causa Laureates of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies

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BUCHAREST UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMIC STUDIES

110 years of academic excellence

Doctor Honoris Causa Laureates of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies

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On the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the highest quality continuous academic performance of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, the university's decision-making bodies decided to acknowledge the historical dimension of this process by publishing several works that address the most representative aspects of the academic landscape. Since the engagement with the national and international academic and scientific community has been a fundamental element of the academic management process at the most prestigious business and economics university in Romania, and the inclusion as members of the most representative personalities, with notable professional, scientific, institutional or organisational contributions, is a basic component of operational strategies and programmes, one of the works published on this occasion presents the professional and scientific profiles of the personalities to whom the Senate of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, at the proposal of the Board of Administration, has conferred the highest honorary title, that of Doctor Honoris Causa.

The Bucharest University of Economic Studies is fully committed to the extensive process of modernising its professional, scientific, and relational activities in order to improve its standing in both national and international rankings. To this end, the Bucharest University

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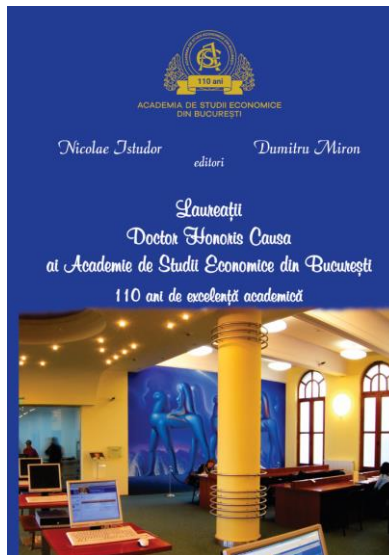


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of Economic Studies has expanded its range of inter-institutional partnerships, increased the number of nationally and internationally renowned scientific personalities it recruits to teach or conduct research for its students and researchers. At the same time, the institution provides financial support for an increasing number of interdisciplinary research projects, in which academics and students participate, and organises several prestigious professional and scientific events. Throughout its history, which is now in its second century of promoting academic excellence, the managerial teams that have led the Bucharest University of Economic Studies have been concerned with honoring, in terms of organisational culture, aspects related to high-impact relational rituals. This includes the presence of great personalities from science and culture in daily or celebratory activities.

As soon as one begins to go through the list of individuals upon whom the Bucharest University of Economic Studies has bestowed the highest honorary title, that of Doctor Honoris Causa, it becomes immediately apparent that a high level of exigency has consistently been demonstrated throughout the processes that led to the establishment of the decisions regarding the granting of honorary titles. Readers of this work will be able to see how rigorously the recipients of the title of Doctor Honoris Causa were chosen. If we consider the secular history of the university, the number of laureates is relatively low, and their scientific and professional profiles are referential on a national and international level. The comments of a distinguished former rector of the institution might be regarded typical of what has been continuously pursued at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, via the relationships that have been established and maintained with all of the representative players in the national and global social context.: *"we cannot move in our internal life, independently of international life and politics, even if we had our hands completely free of any formal commitments".¹*

In the pages of this work, readers are provided with a very valuable collection of professional, scientific and organisational profiles, including prominent exponents of the Royal House of Romania or of the international aristocracy; winners of the Nobel Prize for Economics; prestigious politicians with outstanding contributions in the field of economics and public administration; scholars and scientific researchers of great intellectual stature; prestigious diplomats or personalities with pioneering contributions in their fields of societal concern. The inclusion of more than 50 valuable academic, scientific, or organisational profiles in this work represents a significant contribution to the Bucharest University of Economic Studies' historiographical thesaurus, serves to highlight the most valuable component of academic excellence, and allows both members of the academic community and the general public to recognise the university's high level of international exposure. The team that worked on the elaboration of this work was concerned with presenting as faithfully and dynamically as possible an important component of the



¹ Ion N. Angelescu, *Îndrumări în politica economică și financiară*, București, 1920, p. 8.

relational assets of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies both as a reality and as an ideal. They operated under the premise that reality is constantly changing, aiming towards an also changing ideal, but the basic values, established by the founders of the university and promoted by its contemporaries, continue to be alive and must remain binding commandments for all members of a valuable university community.

This work presents chronological profiles of personalities who can serve as role models for young members of today's academic community. These profiles consist of highly representative selections from the laudatio presented on the occasion of awarding the high honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa. They provide concise presentations of some of the laureates' exceptional careers, their most significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the fields of economics, business and public administration, illustrative sequences, and carefully selected information. From reading the texts, one can extract relevant information about some of the most emblematic personalities of science, culture, or politics, who have contributed significantly to the development of advanced knowledge in many areas of the societal landscape, have promoted the referential values for the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, and, having become members of its academic community, can be sources of inspiration for all those who will have access to the pages of this book. The reader will note that, although the personalities featured in this work belong to quite different areas of the scientific and organisational landscape, strict compliance with the criteria laid down in the regulations for awarding this prestigious honorary title, has helped to achieve a high degree of homogeneity in the work. It can be seen that the professional and scientific profiles of the personalities described are part of a logic of rigour, coherence, and temporality, thereby shaping a highly representative and expressive narrative landscape.



Regele Mihai I al României

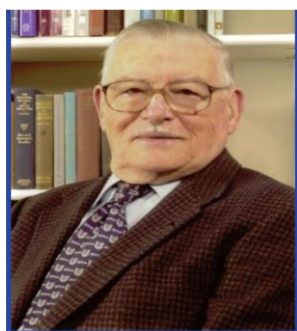
Through this work, strong character traits are outlined, clearly underlining the fact that at the heart of the evolution of each individual, and even more so of great personalities, lies the humanist vision. This vision is fundamental for the configuration of strong characters, which it associates with results obtained through sustained effort, in societal conditions where the principle of meritocracy is a priority, continuously optimising the relationship between education, conscience, responsibility, and self-determination. A first impression that emerges from reading the more than 50 personalised presentations is that of the inclusion of all these profiles in a format that defines what is meant at the level of the academic community of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies by professional and scientific excellence. Reading the presentations included in this work, it can be seen that in the case of all those who have received this title, there is a clear commitment to the basic values of the university, an assumption of responsibility derived from the reception within the academic community, and a contribution to the promotion of the Romanian school of economics and business across the world. From reading the pages of this book, the reader can also take note of another facet, one of high academic excellence, of the *ASE-ist ethos*, and translate it into a dynamic and relevant picture specific to what is designated as relational capital, the basic component of intellectual capital. For narrative and analytical heraldry reasons, the presentations open with the *laudatium* presented on the occasion of the awarding of the valuable honorary title of Doctor Honoris Causa to His Majesty King

Michael I of Romania, as a token of appreciation for the contribution that the Royal House of Romania has made to the various referential moments of the history of the university and that throughout his life he has served the Romanian people and identified with their ideals.

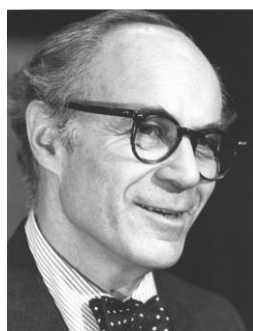
From the text of this first presentation, the contours of a remarkable personality emerge – a model of exemplary conduct whose components have been preserved unaltered for a lifetime, the unwavering belief in the victory of normality, the vivacity of ideals, and the generosity of dedication to truly important causes. From the pages of this work, one can see evidence of the high esteem in which he is held by all of us as an inspiring role model for many generations that have succeeded him in his lifetime and for future generations.

The other professional, scientific, or organisational profiles have been positioned in strict chronological order of the moments when the Doctor Honoris Causa awards were conferred. From reading these summaries, it can be seen that the decision-making and deliberative bodies of the ASE awarded this academic recognition with great selectivity and following an elaborate process of analysis, deliberation, and argumentation of decisions.

Three Nobel Laureates in Economics – James McGill Buchanan Jr.; Lawrence R. Klein, and Joseph Eugene Stiglitz – are included in the select collection of personalities who have received the highest praise from members of the academic community of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies.



James McGill Buchanan Jr.



Lawrence R. Klein



Joseph Eugene Stiglitz

Reading the presentations made by these prestigious contributors to the epistemological and praxeological landscape of economic science, one can take note of their remarkable contributions to the revolution of economics, congruent with the thematic areas addressed by the researchers of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, the most important being: a better understanding of the market economy system from the perspective of globalised monetary and financial flows; the extension of mathematics to the field of economics and the development of relevant models for the foundation of public policies; the analysis of developments in globalisation, the determinants of this process, and the pitfalls associated with these developments if constant attention is not paid to the macroeconomic landscape and the messages coming from the economy are not correctly interpreted. The reader of this book will gain easy access to consistent messages that are worth interpreting correctly, beliefs that belong to personalities who have achieved the highest international scientific recognition. Illustrative in this respect are passages such as: *"economics is the art of setting parameters on our utopias"* (James McGill Buchanan Jr.);

"I was in the White House when Russia was beginning its transition from communism, I worked at the World Bank when the Asian financial crisis began... I was constantly interested in economic development, and what I saw changed my perceptions of globalisation and development." (Joseph Eugene Stiglitz); "observed data from the economy must be objectively accepted, thoroughly and professionally analysed and put into comprehensive systems that explain the functioning of the economy or an economic phenomenon as a whole" (Lawrence R. Klein).

The list of professional, scientific or institutionally or organisationally significant presenters who have been awarded this honorary title continues with members of the highest national and especially international academic and scientific standing who have carried forward the valuable ideas found in Nobel Laureates in economics and have made outstanding contributions to the evolution of scientific ideas in the fields to which they have dedicated their entire professional and academic lives. From the summary presentations contained in this paper it can be seen that, each in their own specific way, the personalities that the academic community of ASE has honored with its most prestigious academic title, have distinguished themselves with notable contributions in diverse thematic areas such as: promoting the idea of economic integration at European level and the sustainable evolution of the European construct; the role of international institutions, particularly those in the economic field, in harmonising the efforts of the international community and in shaping a normative and principled framework that supports development; the factors that can contribute to the creation of an economic climate that supports and certifies performance; emphasising the need for a special framework for innovation; the need for infrastructure as well as a modern and specialised info-structure; modelling economic processes; research into the specific features of capital markets; the role of marketing in choosing and operating the most successful business models; building a new paradigm of decision theory and developing the new theory of uncertainty. Becoming emblematic in this regard is the professional and scientific profile of the great Romanian-American economist, of Romanian origin, Anghel Rugină, who offers readers a model of success in career, an invitation to internationality, given that the national ethos is cherished: *economics can only aspire to the status of science to the extent that it could provide therapies to cure economic and financial ills, and that the research economist has the task of identifying viable and rational solutions to society's problems, and that these solutions must be publicly known and communicated to policy makers in order to become operational.*

Other ideas, such as *"whoever wants to understand the era in which he/she lives, to scan the horizon and to think and act, must go back in time, can be appreciated as equally expressive, but also as having an important educational role. He must approach history like an artist painting a landscape"* (Thierry de Montbrial).



Anghel Rugină



Thierry de Montbrial

Another prestigious economist profiled in this work, Jean-Paul Pollin, a leading exponent of the French school of economics, points to the current problems of the global economy, drawing attention to the fact that inequality, the collapse of the social ladder, and the concentration of capital and skilled labour in a few centres of economic power "*creates a break in the social bond and generates distrust. Distrust of immigrants, of other classes, of institutions... It blocks cooperation.*" From reading this work, it is clear that we need to rediscover the importance of long-term thinking, on an individual, as well as an organisational level, since the economic environment is often influenced by the demands of the financial markets.



Jean-Paul Pollin

It may be noted that the editors of this work have sought to highlight the extent to which the speeches delivered by the laureate personalities have constituted lectures of the highest professional and scientific value, have contained legitimising exhortations for members of the university community, add to the thesaurus of ideas managed by ASE and can contribute to deepening or taking them further.

A third category of beneficiaries of the appreciation of the ASE's decision-making bodies is composed of members of the highest scientific body in Romania, the Romanian Academy. Personalities of national science and culture who have fully demonstrated that they fully share the professional, scientific, and organisational values defining ASE and have scientific contributions closely related to the fundamental fields of the university, have been selected to receive this prestigious honorary title. Within this category, the work includes relevant concise descriptions, but also carefully selected passages from the investiture speeches of the following titular members of this scientific forum: Mircea Malița; Florin Gheorghe Filip; Ion Aurel Pop; Cristian Ioan Hera; Mircea Dumitru.



Mircea Malița



Florin Gheorghe Filip



Ion Aurel Pop

The editors of this work were keen to emphasise, both explicitly and implicitly, that both the reading of the *Laudatiums* and the hearing of the inaugural speeches delivered by their Excellencies reverberated deeply in the minds and souls of those who read them or participated in those moments, ensuring that these structured reflections can leave deep traces in the minds of those who take note of them. The reader of this work can learn many valuable things about the life and work of the mathematician, philosopher, logician, diplomat, futurologist and historian Mircea Malița, about the professional and scientific contributions of Academician Florin Gheorghe Filip in the field of computer science in general and economics in particular, and will be delighted by the thoughts of Academician Ioan Aurel Pop whose firm belief is that "*without intellectuals and elites, a nation cannot*

exist. [...] Today's elites must show the young people who are now being formed that the present can also be lived in Romania, even if it is not ideal, and that the future can also be built here".

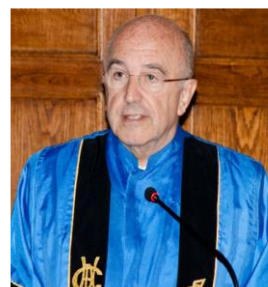
Recipients of the highest honorary title awarded by ASE have also been statesmen with outstanding political careers at the national level or in European and international organisations. The personal and organisational profiles of State Presidents, Presidents of the European Commission (Jaques Santer and Romano Prodi); representative members of the European Commission (Joaquin Almunia); Members of the European Parliament (Baroness Ema Nicolson de Winterborne), or highly prestigious heads of relevant European Union bodies (EUROSTAT, European Court of Auditors, etc.) can be found within the pages of this book.



Jacques Santer



Romano Prodi



Joaquin Almunia

It can be seen from the reading of this book that, both at the time of the decision to award the high honorary title of DHC and in the process of editing its contents, the contributions of the laureates to the development of higher education, their involvement in interstate partnerships that have boosted the international mobility of members of the academic communities, their significant contributions as politicians, militants for economic development and the quality of the academic and scientific environment, their status as promoters of humanist values and disseminators of these values in society were carefully considered. It is illustrative in this respect that Romano Prodi, who was awarded the prize for his contribution to the European idea and for a prodigious academic career dedicated to the field of economics, stressed that *"The main challenge of the new millennium is to govern tumultuous processes through a globalisation of politics that balances economic globalisation"*.

In the same line of thought, the urges of the European official who was European Commissioner for Monetary Affairs and Competition, Joaquin Almunia, can also be included, *"Europe will need to invest again in its citizens and the European Union will need to be at the forefront of this strategy, maximising the skills and resources at its disposal"*.

All the presentations of profiles of the recipients of the Doctor Honoris Causa title are focused on their achievements, each time of great consistency, sustainability, and invigoration, from which the similarity between the values on which they built their truly successful careers and those that define ASE emerges. It is easy to see that the high level of homogeneity of the entire text of this work is due both to the editors' efforts to comply with a set of very rigorous criteria, as well as to the existence of a single set of values shared by the laureates included in the work, their high professional, scientific, or institutional level, and the fact that they are all placed at the highest ranks of the hierarchy to which they

belong. The editors and the contributors to the publication of this book have strived to highlight the following relevant links of homogeneity: the commonality of ideas and professional interests; the positioning of the laureates in relation to the Bucharest University of Economic Studies; the synchronisation between the thematic areas addressed in the study programmes and research projects of the ASE and the field axes that constitute the foundations of the careers presented in this book.

We have reason to affirm that this work can be fully considered "*a work of learning*" because of the density of ideas, messages, states of fact and spirit, evidence of professional and scientific achievement; the homogeneity in description and narrative; the models of high achievement that younger readers can find in its pages.

About the editors

Nicolae Istudor is a professor in the Department of Agrifood and Environmental Economics and since 2016 is Rector of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. His professional and scientific fields of reference are: Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union; Logistics of agri-food enterprises; Regional and Rural development; Trade in agri-food goods; Strategic University Management; Higher Education Funding. He has successfully carried out a very rich professional and scientific activity, the most important components of which are: publication of 5 academic courses (1 as the only author; 1 as coordinator and 3 as co-author); author of 8 scholarly papers (2 as the only author; 3 as coordinator and 3 as co-author) published in journals indexed in the most important international databases such as Web of Science (33 documents) and Scopus (42 documents); 47 scientific communications published in volumes of prestigious scientific events; participated in 32 research projects (6 as director). In parallel with his valuable professional and scientific activity, he has held numerous leadership positions in academia and in numerous national and international associations. In this respect, the following positions held are relevant: Department Director, Pro-Rector and Rector of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies; Honorary President of the Association "Chamber of Commerce for the Promotion of Traditional Exports of Indigenous Products"; Expert in the UN_FAO World panel HLPE; Vice President and then President of the Association of Romanian Faculties of Economics; Vice-President of the Romanian Federation of Mountain Tourism; Member of the CNATDCU; Member of the Balkan Association for the Environment (BENA); Member of the Association of Agrarian Economists; Member of the Interministerial Management Committee for Public Finance Reform; Member of the Interministerial Committee for Mountain Areas; Responsible, authorised with the financial and technical implementation measures of measure 4. 2. "Technical assistance" in the framework of SAPARD Monitoring Programme



Dumitru Miron is a professor in the Department of International Economic Relations at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and President of the University Senate of this university. His preferred professional areas are as follows: European Union Economics; European Economic Governance; European Business Environment (Jean Monnet Course); International Trade and Trade Policies; Entrepreneurship and Business Development. He has published 22 books, as only author, coordinator or co-author, more than 55 articles in specialised journals, has presented more than 80 communications at scientific events organised in the country and abroad; and has been manager or member



of the implementation teams in more than 17 projects funded from various sources. In 2020 he received the Virgil Madgearu Prize of the Romanian Academy for his work entitled "100 years of Romanian foreign trade", he is a member of Team Europe and has received numerous national and international diplomas for his professional and scientific activity. He has had a long and rich activity in the leading structures of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, as well as at national and European level. From 1991 to 2000 he was the vice-dean and from 2012 to 2016 he was the dean of the Faculty of International Economic Relations. From 2000 to 2012 he was vice-rector of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies. From 2005 to 2008 he was Secretary of State responsible for higher education and European integration in the Romanian Ministry of Education.