

Obituary

Claude PONSARD

We just received the very sad news of the sudden death of Professor Claude Ponsard on March 24, 1990 after a short but painful disease. He was 62 years old. Professor Ponsard was internationally known as a great authority in mathematical economics, especially spatial economics [1][2].

He was one of the very first persons who seriously tried to apply fuzzy set theory after its introduction in France by Professor Kaufmann. He became very enthusiastic and confident with this new mathematical tool and since the mid-seventies, he had made important contributions to the development of fuzzy set-based models in economics with his colleagues of the "Institut de Mathématiques Economiques de Dijon". A short introduction to his view of the fuzzy approach in economics can be found in [3] ; let us quote two paragraphs of the conclusion of this paper, which summarizes Professor Ponsard's main convictions.

The concepts of imprecise preference and fuzzy utility are of such a nature as to put an end to a very ancient controversy which matches the ordinal theory of value against the cardinal one. It can be shown that the two points of view are particular cases of a fuzzy theory of value, when the problem is investigated in the framework of fuzzy measure theory.

[...]

Finally, the fuzziness of individual behaviors does not bar the way to the existence of a general equilibrium in an economy, although the conditions which are usually stated in the classical theory are very numerous. They appear purely and simply to be more restrictive than those which are required in a fuzzy model.

Professor Ponsard had been preparing for more than one year a synthesis of his works. It seems that this project is sufficiently advanced so that its publication in a form or another can be expected in the near future in spite of this sudden death.

Professor Ponsard was not only a highly respected scientist but also a very nice person with whom it was always a great pleasure to exchange ideas. He had encouraged, supported, and contributed to BUSEFAL from the beginning. His unexpected death is a terrible loss for the fuzzy set community, especially in France.

Didier DUBOIS Henri PRADE

- [1] Ponsard C. History of Spatial Economics Theory. Springer Verlag, 1983. Forthcoming translation in Japanese.
- [2] Ponsard C. Les espaces économiques flous. In : Analyse Economique et Spatiale (C. Ponsard, éd.), P.U.F., 1988. An English translation is to be published by Springer Verlag.
- [3] Ponsard C. Fuzzy mathematical models in economics. Fuzzy Sets and Systems, 28, 1988, 273-283.