

OBITUARY: Mario Montinaro

Professor Mario Montinaro passed away on January 24, 2017. He was 78, having been born in 1938 near Lecce, Italy. In the latest months his health worsened, nevertheless the news of his death came unexpected. For many years Mario Montinaro was full professor of Statistics in the Faculty of Political Sciences of Turin University; for the years 1998-2004 he was also dean of this same Faculty and chaired several committees at Turin University.

He was also an active member of the International Statistical Institute, of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS) and of the Association for Applied Statistics (ASA) of which he was also a member of the Council and treasurer.

Besides being a distinguished professor of Statistics, and a clever organizer of scientific meetings (he was the coordinator of the organisation committee of the SIS meeting held in Turin in 2006) and study programmes (he founded the degree programme in Statistical Sciences at Turin University), to me he was above all a dearest friend. We became acquainted in Milan during the year 1966, as the two of us cooperated with Professor Giampiero Landenna who was charged as lecturer of Statistics at the Catholic University of Milan. In the years 1965-1969 I was also working at the Chamber of Commerce of Milan, while Mario was concluding a post-degree course at the “Enrico Mattei” School (whose dean was Professor Marcello Boldrini), after obtaining a brilliant degree in Statistics at Rome University. In that period his main research interests were already both on the side of statistical methodology and on that of statistical applications. Applications were mostly devoted to the marketing and business administration fields. In this same period I was also acquainted with Giovanna Nicolini, who later became his wife and a professor of Statistics at Milan University.

I met Mario many times when I lectured in Turin, while he was the advertising manager of an important company. Our links were a bit curtailed after 1975, when I moved to the Faculty of Economics of Genoa University, while he had begun a didactic activity in Turin (I remember that his teaching was greatly appreciated by students). Nonetheless we maintained regular contacts, especially for the discussion of various research topics and for editorial work (together with his wife Giovanna Nicolini) in the preparation of university text-books. Just few years ago we co-authored a book on finite-population sampling.

B. Vittorio Frosini

benito.frosini@unicatt.it