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## Obituary

## Bernard Roy (1934–2017)



Professor Bernard Roy passed away on October 28, 2017. He was a pioneer of Operational Research (OR) in Europe and a world-wide recognized expert in the area of Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding (MCDA). He was a founder of the EURO Working Group on MCDA, and, more generally, a founder of the European School of MCDA. He was also a president of EURO and member of the editorial board of the *European Journal of Operational Research* since its conception 40 years ago.

Bernard Roy has made a very significant and innovative contribution to OR. His major breakthrough works were first in graph theory and project scheduling, and then in multiple criteria decision aiding. Among his many achievements, he is the father of the “activity on node” project scheduling technique and of the famous ELECTRE methods. Through his research, teaching, consulting, and service to the community, he was one of the major promoters of OR techniques in Europe.

Bernard Roy was the founder (1974) and Honorary Director of LAMSADE (since 1999), a research laboratory of CNRS and Paris Dauphine University on “analysis and modelling of systems for decision aiding” (Laboratoire d’Analyse et Modélisation de Systèmes pour l’Aide à la DECision), and Honorary President of ROADEF (the French association of operational research and decision aiding). He founded in 1975 the EURO Working Group on “Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding” which regularly held two annual meetings since then. He was president of this EURO Working Group during 25 years, and in 2010 he became its Honorary Chairman. He was President Elect and President of EURO in years 1983–1986.

Bernard Roy held a PhD in Mathematics from the University of Paris (1961); he was a graduate of the Statistics Institute of

Paris University (1957), and attended courses at Institut d’Etudes Politiques (1954–1956). Before joining the university, from 1957 to 1966, he was a consultant at SEMA (Société d’Economie et de Mathématiques Appliquées), applying Operational Research to real problems. From 1966 to 1972, he was SEMA Scientific Director (METRA International). He joined Paris Dauphine University in 1972 and created LAMSADE in 1974. From 1979 to 2009, he was RATP (the Paris mass transit authority) Scientific Advisor. Bernard Roy was Doctor *Honoris Causa* of seven distinguished universities. He received the “Prix Hermès d’excellence en recherché” from the Faculty of Business Administration, Laval University (Québec, Canada) in 1991, the EURO Gold Medal in 1992, and the MCDM Gold Medal granted by the International MCDM Society in 1995. In 2015, he was also decorated by the EURO Distinguished Service Medal Award. In September 2017, during the 86th meeting of the EURO Working Group on MCDA in Paris, Bernard Roy received the Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences corresponding to the highest scientific distinction conferred on personalities exterior to the Academy “for merits particularly related to the social role of science”.

Bernard Roy was the author of several books and hundreds of research papers. He has been the advisor of numerous graduate and doctoral students.

Bernard Roy’s main contributions focus on two broad themes:

- Graph Theory with path-breaking contributions to the theory of flows in networks and project scheduling (with the invention of the ‘activity-on-nodes’ method).
- Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding with the invention of the family of ELECTRE methods and methodological contributions to

decision aiding that have led to the creation of the European School of MCDA.

He was active in research until the last days of his life. His recent research addressed robustness in operational research and decision aiding, and multiple criteria tools for collective decision (called “concertation” in French).

His personality was non-dissociable from his family, and especially his lovely wife Françoise, with whom he had five children. Françoise passed away in 2015. Their house in Sèvres was particularly warm and friendly to the guests. Meetings at their table covered with dishes prepared by Françoise and wines chosen by Bernard were a feast at once gastronomic and intellectual, refined in simplicity.

In his office at LAMSADE, Bernard Roy had two portraits: those of Descartes and Pascal. I would say that they represented a mix of rationality and spirituality peculiar to him.

Despite his overwhelming scientific esteem, Professor Bernard Roy was a modest and considerate person. He radiated enthusiasm and kind encouragement for the young. We will keep a grateful memory of him alive.

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