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**IN MEMORIAM: BOB DEACON
(28. SVIBNJA 1944. – 1. LISTOPADA
2017.)**

Bob Deacon, počasni profesor Globalne socijalne politike pri Sveučilištu York, Velika Britanija i profesor emeritus Međunarodne socijalne politike pri Sveučilištu Sheffield, Velika Britanija, preminuo je 1. listopada 2017. godine u dobi od 73 godine. Cijenjeni član Međunarodnog dopisnog uredništva Revije za socijalnu politiku, Bob Deacon je često posjećivao Hrvatsku, doprinoseći razumijevanju znanstvenika koji se bave socijalnom politikom, donositelja odluka i drugih o učincima međunarodnih aktera u kreiranju socijalne politike.

Nakon završenog dodiplomskog studija kemije, akademska karijera tada mladog Boba Deacona u području socijalne politike započela je kada je 1966. godine postao istraživač suradnik na London School of Economics. Tri godine kasnije, 1969., postaje predavač socijalne politike na tadašnjem North London Polytechnic. Od 1974. do 1987. godine Bob je radio kao docent na katedri za socijalnu politiku na tadašnjem Plymouth Polytechnic. Kao uvjereni socijalist i predani aktivist bio je član grupe koja je u 1970-ima pokrenula i uređivala reviju *Case Con* te je na taj način sudjelovao u definiranju cijele generacije radikalnih socijalnih radnika u Velikoj Britaniji, pa i šire.

Bob Deacon bio je ključna osoba u skupini koja je 1980. pokrenula časopis *Critical Social Policy*. Prvi broj časopisa bio je objavljen u lipnju 1981. godine, upravo kada je »nova desnica« predvođena premijerkom Margaret Thatcher započela provoditi svoj hegemonistički koncept uvodeći individualističke i tržišne koncepte blagostanja. Časopis je, uz godišnje konferencije, doprinio stvaranju radikalnijih stavova prema socijalnoj politici u Velikoj Britaniji,

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**IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR BOB
DEACON (28 MAY 1944 – 1 OCTOBER
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Bob Deacon, Honorary Professor of Global Social Policy at the University of York, UK and Emeritus Professor of International Social Policy at the University of Sheffield, UK, died on 1 October 2017, aged 73. An esteemed member of the International Correspondence Editorial Board of the Croatian Journal of Social Policy, Bob Deacon was a frequent visitor to Croatia, contributing to the understanding amongst social policy scholars, policy makers and others, of the impact of international actors on the making of social policy.

After studying chemistry as an undergraduate, Bob Deacon's academic career in social policy began when he was a young research assistant at the London School of Economics, UK in 1966. In 1969, he moved to become a Lecturer in Social Policy at what was then North London Polytechnic. Between 1974 and 1987, Bob worked as a Docent in Social Policy at the then Plymouth Polytechnic. A committed socialist and activist, he was among those who founded, and edited, the magazine *Case Con* in 1970, helping to define a whole generation, in the UK and beyond, of radical social workers.

In 1980, Bob Deacon was a key member of the collective which founded the journal *Critical Social Policy*. Its first issue was published in June 1981 just as 'the new right', associated particularly with the then UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, began to assert its hegemony through the reworking of individualist and marketised conceptions of welfare. The journal and its annual conferences contributed to a more radical stance on social policy within UK higher education and internationally, fore-

ali i na međunarodnoj sceni, utemeljujući feminističku i kasnije antirasističku kritiku uz socijalističko razumijevanje blagostanja. Njegov rad objavljen u prvom broju časopisa pod naslovom »Social Administration, Social Policy and Socialism« (Deacon, 1981.), nastojao je istražiti mogućnosti socijalističke socijalne politike, barem djelomično kroz kritičko iščitavanje »pravog postojećeg socijalizma« na Kubi i u Rusiji. Isti je argument proširio u knjizi *Social Policy and Socialism: the struggle for socialist relations of welfare* (Deacon, 1983.) temeljenoj na dubljem promišljanju izazova za progresivnu socijalnu politiku u kontekstu kapitalističkih i socijalističkih društvenih uređenja.

Prelaskom na Leeds Metropolitan University gdje je od 1987. do 1997. godine bio na čelu odjela, zatim docent i kasnije profesor socijalne politike, Bob Deacon se sve više počinje baviti međunarodnom te globalnom socijalnom politikom. Bio je jedan od rijetkih znanstvenika iz zapadne Europe koji je istraživao socijalne države u centralnoj i istočnoj Europi prije pada Berlinskog zida, pri tome blisko surađujući s progresivnim znanstvenicima u području socijalne politike iz brojnih zemalja. Pokazalo se da su njegovi uvidi bili ključni za komparativne analize socijalne politike nakon pada Berlinskog zida. O tome svjedoči i knjiga koju je uredio s Juliom Szalai *Social Policy in the New Eastern Europe: what future for socialist social welfare?* (Deacon and Szalai, 1990.) i druge publikacije iz Ashgate serije – *Studies in the Social Policies of Central Europe and the Soviet Union* – koje je uredio. Bio je jedan od pokretača *Journal of European Social Policy* (JESP), čije je prvo izdanje objavljeno u siječnju 1991. godine, a koji je do danas ostao ključni časopis koji objavljuje komparativne analize europskih socijalnih država i politika.

Ne napuštajući interes za istočnu Europu, dapače, šireći ga na jugoistočnu Euro-

grounding feminist and, later, anti-racist critiques alongside socialist understandings of welfare. His text in the first issue, entitled 'Social Administration, Social Policy and Socialism' (Deacon, 1981), sought to explore the possibilities of socialist social policy, in part at least via a critical reading of 'real existing socialism' in Cuba and Russia. The argument was expanded upon in his book *Social Policy and Socialism: the struggle for socialist relations of welfare* (Deacon, 1983), based on a deeper reflection of the challenges to progressive social welfare in both capitalist and state socialist settings.

Bob Deacon's move to Leeds Metropolitan University where, between 1987 and 1997 he was Head of Department, Docent and, later, Professor of Social Policy, saw him working much more centrally on the issues of international and, later, global social policy. He was one of the rare scholars from Western Europe to explore social welfare in state socialist Central and Eastern Europe before the fall of the Berlin Wall, working closely with progressive social policy scholars in a number of countries. His insights were to prove crucial in widening comparative social policy analysis after the fall of the Berlin Wall, as reflected in the book he edited with Julia Szalai, *Social Policy in the New Eastern Europe: what future for socialist social welfare?* (Deacon and Szalai, 1990), as well as other publications in the Ashgate series - *Studies in the Social Policies of Central Europe and the Soviet Union* - which he edited. He co-founded the *Journal of European Social Policy* (JESP), whose first issue appeared in January 1991, and which remains the key journal for comparative European welfare analysis to this day.

Whilst never abandoning his interest in Eastern Europe; indeed, in collaborations with Paul Stubbs, expanding this to include South East Europe and the post-Yugoslav

pu i postjugoslavenski prostor, surađujući s Paul Stubbsom (cf. Deacon and Stubbs, 2007), sve više se bavi razmatranjem važnosti međunarodnih organizacija u oblikovanju nacionalnih izbora u području socijalne politike. Od sredine 1990-ih do danas, njegov je rad definirao novo istraživačko područje – globalnu socijalnu politiku. Ono se bavi socijalnim blagostanjem i socijalnom pravdom u cijelom svijetu iz perspektive 3R: regulacije (eng. *regulation*), prava (eng. *rights*) i redistribucije (eng. *redistribution*). Njegova trilogija koja se bavi ovima temama: *Global Social Policy: international organizations and the future of welfare* (Deacon with Hulse and Stubbs, 1997.); *Global Social Policy and Governance* (Deacon, 2007.) te *Global Social Policy in the Making: the foundations of the social protection floor* (Deacon, 2013.) doprinijela je da postane i ostane vodeći znanstvenik ovog područja u svijetu.

1997. godine prelazi na Sheffield University gdje postaje profesor Međunarodne socijalne politike, pokreće *Globalism and Social Policy Programme* (GASPP) u suradnji sa STAKES, National Research Centre for Welfare and Health u Helsinkiju, Finska. GASPP se kasnije proširio i postao globalna mreža. 2001. godine ponovno pokreće još jedan utjecajni časopis *Global Social Policy*, koji nastavlja definirati konture brzo rastućeg znanstvenog područja. Bob Deacon kreirao je i neke od prvih poslijediplomskih studija globalne socijalne politike, uključujući poslijediplomske studije na University of Sheffield i u sklopu World University Network.

Rad vezan uz globalnu socijalnu politiku nadopunjava jedinstvenim radom na socijalnim dimenzijama svjetskog regionalizma u bliskoj suradnji s UNU Centre for Regional Integration in Bruges, gdje 2011. godine postaje predsjednik UNESCO-va Odbora za regionalne integracije, migracije i slobodu kretanja ljudi (Deacon, Macovei,

space (cf. Deacon and Stubbs, 1998; Deacon and Stubbs, 2007), this interest was increasingly framed within an emphasis on the importance of international organisations in shaping national social policy choices. From the mid-1990s onwards, his work has defined a new field of research, that of *Global Social Policy*, concerned with social welfare and social justice around the world, framed in terms of the 3 Rs of regulation, rights and redistribution. His trilogy of books on this theme: *Global Social Policy: international organizations and the future of welfare* (Deacon with Hulse and Stubbs, 1997); *Global Social Policy and Governance* (Deacon, 2007) and, most recently, *Global Social Policy in the Making: the foundations of the social protection floor* (Deacon, 2013) established and maintained his position as the leading scholar in the field.

Moving to Sheffield University in 1997 to become Professor of International Social Policy, he established the *Globalism and Social Policy Programme* (GASPP), initially a collaboration with STAKES, the National Research Centre for Welfare and Health in Helsinki, Finland. Later, GASPP expanded into a wider, and more global, network. Again, he founded an influential journal, *Global Social Policy*, first published in 2001 and continuing to define the contours of a rapidly growing field. He also developed some of the first post-graduate programmes on Global Social Policy, including an MA at the University of Sheffield and a Masters' level course within the World University Network.

His work on global social policy was complemented by path-breaking work on the social dimensions of world regionalism, collaborating closely with the UNU Centre for Regional Integration in Bruges where, in 2011, he became the UNESCO Chair in Regional Integration, Migration and the Free Movement of Peoples. On re-

van Langenhove i Yeates, 2010.). Nakon umirovljenja postaje počasni profesor Globalne socijalne politike na Sveučilištu York te nastavlja predavati, istraživati i zagovarati globalnu socijalnu pravdu. Njegovo nasljeđe u području znanosti nadopunjuje njegov utjecaj u međunarodnim organizacijama, u tranzicijskim društvima i zemljama u razvoju, među studentima, istraživačima, donositeljima odluka i aktivistima predanim socijalnom napretku, socijalnoj pravdi i progresivnom i univerzalnom pravu na socijalnu zaštitu.

Posljednjih godina, Bob Deacon kombinira globalnu perspektivu s obnovljenim interesom za lokalne akcije. U završnom poglavlju knjige eseja objavljene u čast njegovog 70. rođendana, Bob Deacon piše:

»Ne znam više što treba napraviti i tko bi trebao nešto napraviti. Osjećam, slično kao i nova generacija eko-radikala, da se mi koji težimo globalizaciji trebamo ponovno ukorijeniti i povezati s oblicima otpora prema krizom vođenom, konzumerističkom globalnom kapitalizmu te graditi inovativne lokalne transformativne društvene odnose. Otpor na svakoj razini postaje sve važniji, a konceptualizacija o tome kako lokalne, nacionalne, regionalne i globalne politike otpora mogu postati međusobno podržavajuće postaje ključno pitanje.« (Deacon, 2014.)

Preselio se u Hebden Bridge, »tranzicijski grad« na sjeveru Engleske gdje je imao važnu ulogu u razvijanju i provođenju gradske vizije o obnovljivim izvorima energije, hrane, obrazovanju, zdravlju i blagostanju, prijevozu, recikliranju otpada, nastojeći osigurati da lokalna ekonomija bude, koliko je najviše moguće, neovisna od utjecaja multinacionalnih kompanija. Bob Deacon bio je jedan od ključnih koordinatora obnove grada nakon poplave koja ga je uništila oko Božića 2015. godine.

Cijeli svoj život posvetio je poučavanju, istraživanju i zagovaranju, u potrazi za »emancipatorskim alternativama posto-

tirom, he became Honorary Professor of Global Social Policy at the University of York, continuing to teach, research and advocate for global social justice. His legacy as a scholar is complemented by his influence within international organisations, in transition societies and in the developing world, shaping generations of students, researchers, policy makers and activists committed to social progress, social justice and progressive and universal access to social protection.

In recent years, he combined a global perspective with a renewed localism. In his chapter which closes a book of essays in honour of his 70th birthday, he reflected thus:

“I no longer know what is required to be done and by whom. I sense, in common with a new generation of eco-radicals, that we aspirant globalists need to also re-root ourselves in forms of resistance to crisis-ridden growth-driven consumerist global capitalism which build innovative local forms of transformative social arrangements. Resistance at every scale becomes even more important and the conceptualisation of how the local, national, regional, and global politics of resistance can reinforce each other becomes paramount.” (Deacon, 2014)

Moving to the ‘transition town’ of Hebden Bridge in the North of England, he played an important role in ensuring the town’s continued commitment to energy provision and use, food, education, health and wellbeing, transport and waste, as well as ensuring that the local economy was as free as possible from the influence of multinational companies. He was one of the key figures co-ordinating the regeneration of the town after floods devastated the town around Christmas 2015.

He devoted his entire life, teaching, researching and advocating to the search for “emancipatory alternatives to existing institutions and the possibility of a move-

ječim institucijama i mogućnostima postojanja onkraj kapitalizma i državnog socijalizma» (Deacon, 2014.: 215). Bob Deacon, »div socijalne politike«, kako ga je opisala Isabel Ortiz, Direktorica Ureda za socijalnu zaštitu pri ILO i njegov humanizam, predanost, strast i velikodušnost, nedostajat će svima koji su ga poznavali i susreli, te široj zajednici koja se bavi socijalnom politikom.

Paul Stubbs,
Ekonomski institut, Zagreb
Alexandra Kaasch,
Sveučilište u Bielefeldu, Njemačka

ment beyond capitalism and state socialism» (Deacon, 2014: 215). Described by Isabel Ortiz, Director of Social Protection in the ILO as 'a giant of social policy', Bob Deacon's energy, humanity, commitments, passion and generosity will be greatly missed by all who knew him, all who met him, and by the wider social policy community.

Paul Stubbs
Alexandra Kaasch

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