Introduction of the special issue: Economic theory in honor of Charalambos D. Aliprantis

Charalambos (Roko) Aliprantis was born and raised in the Greek island of Cephalonia during some of the most turbulent years of modern Greek history. He got an excellent elementary and high school education at his home island and then left to study mathematics at the University of Athens, Greece. In November of 1968 he received his Diploma in Mathematics from the University of Athens. The professor there that influenced him the most was Demetrios Kappos, a student of Constantine Carathéodory. He worked with him and became his assistant for a short period of time. Roko is proud to consider himself as an academic grandchild of Constantine Carathéodory. In 1969 he left Greece (during the turbulent and unpleasant years of the harsh dictatorship in his homeland) to pursue graduate studies in mathematics at the California Institute of Technology. He studied under Wilhelm Luxemburg and received his Ph.D. degree in Mathematics from Caltech in June of 1973. At Caltech he studied ordered vector spaces (in particular, Riesz spaces and Banach lattices) and positive operators—two subjects that later on played an important role to his research career in economics.

In 1981, while on sabbatical leave at Caltech, he met Professor Donald Brown of Yale University who was also visiting Caltech that year. Professor Brown had already started a research program in economics that utilized the functional analytic aspects and techniques of Riesz spaces. He initiated Roko to economic theory and together they introduced new ideas from the theory of Riesz spaces to economic theory. Their pioneering article Equilibria in markets with a Riesz space of commodities (J. Math. Econ. 11 (1983) 189–207) started the study of infinite dimensional economic models using the lattice structures of Riesz spaces and Banach lattices. Roko and Don Brown published several important papers in General Equilibrium and (jointly with O. Burkinshaw) they wrote the influential book Existence and Optimality of Competitive Equilibria (published by Springer-Verlag in 1989 and translated into Russian in 1995).

Since then Roko has made several contributions to economics (including equilibrium theory, game theory, experimental economics, econometrics and monetary economics) and he is not only a distinguish Economics at Purdue University, but also a Professor of Mathematics. What distinguishes Roko’s work is the clarity and elegance of his papers and books. Roko will make the most complicated arguments understandable to a layman. He always strives for excellence at all levels. He strongly advocates that work that is presented in a complicated manner is so because the work has not been understood well enough and has not been placed in its proper perspective in the big picture of a subject. Once something is well-understood, he believes that it can be presented in a simple manner that can be comprehended by all people.

Roko has written extensively and has collaborated with many people around the world. His published works are extremely impressive and one can see in Roko’s publications the diverse areas in mathematics and economics he has worked on. In addition to his influential works in Mathematics and Economics, Roko has provided a tremendous service to the profession. He launched Economic Theory, which in a very short period of time became a leading journal in economics. Furthermore, he co-founded the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory (SAET) and has organized the bi-annual conferences that have become the forum for young researchers to present their work. Over a short period of time Roko’s leadership opened the door to a large number of young researchers who found a home in Economic Theory.
and its Society, breaking the status quo. Roko is also the Editor-in-Chief of two other research journals: the *Annals of Finance* (a research journal devoted to finance and its applications to other fields) and *Positivity* (a research math journal devoted to order structures and their wide range of applications).

It was with great pleasure when we learnt that Purdue was honoring Roko’s 60th birthday with a conference. His friends and colleagues were gathered at Purdue University in October of 2005 to attend this conference in honor of Roko Aliprantis for his leadership and service in the scientific and academic community. In the conference his colleagues praised him for his sincerity, fair-mindedness, hardworking habits, loyalty, generosity and above all for his leadership at all levels.

It is our pleasure to edit this collection of papers in honor of Roko Aliprantis. This is the best homage anyone can do for Roko. We wish him all the best for the continuation of his great scientific career for many years to come.

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