

## **IN MEMORIAM - ANĐELKA MILIĆ (1942 – 2014.)**

The professor and scientist Anđelka Milić died in Belgrade on April 11<sup>th</sup> in 2014. She was born in Belgrade. On the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade she graduated in sociology (1965), got her master's (1970) and PhD degree (1975).

For those of us who have had the opportunity to meet her through the scientific work and personally, very briefly, the character of professor and scholar Anđelka Milić will never fade from memory. With her dignified posture of the professor and scholar, and her work she has left an indelible mark in science, sociology, more specifically, in the areas of family sociology and gender studies, but also in the fields of sociology of youth, sociology of education and anthropology. Her name has become the synonymous for the sociology of the family in this region and beyond. The professor and scientist Anđelka Milić gave a great contribution to the understanding of the family and its changes in contemporary society, as well as the sociological study of gender. Her scientific work listed her in the “immortal” academic and scientific community, as measured by universal scientific criteria.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Assistant Professor on the Faculty of Economics in Banja Luka, e-mail: dragana.vilic@efbl.org

<sup>2</sup> She started her scientific work at the Institute of Social Sciences in Belgrade (1965 - 71), and then proceeded to build an academic career at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade (assistant in 1971, assistant professor in 1978, associate professor in 1983, professor in 1986, retired since 2009). She was on training in Germany, England and the United States, where she later held the lecture. As a scholar of the Fulbright Foundation, she visited and lectured at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, 1990-1991. She has participated in and led several research of the Serbian society and family. In Belgrade she organized a conference of the International Research Committee for Family (at the International Sociological Association, 1988). At the University of Belgrade, she founded the Gender Studies in 1992 (the first department in the Balkans). She was the president of the Sociological Association of Serbia (Serbian Sociological Association, 1977 - 1979), as well as the chief editor of the Sociological Review (1981 - 1983, along with Borislav Džuverović) and Sociology (1993 - 1995). The leading international journals published her works (“The women’s movement in Serbia and Montenegro at the turn of the millennium” *Feminist Review*, 1/2004, “The Family and Work in the Post-socialist Transition of Serbia: 1991-2006”, *The International Review of Sociology*, 2/2007 et seq.). Books: *The Youth Puzzle: The Theory and History of the youth structures* (1987), *Class and Family* (1978), *Household, family and marriage in Yugoslavia* (1981, together with Eva Berković and Ruža Petrović), *Women, Politics, and Fami-*

Poised, dignified, educated, well-read, sensible, well-meaning, dedicated to science and those who sincerely want to justify life, not only academically, the call of the scientist. Simple, secure in herself, exemplary scientist - in one person contained all the virtues of *Homo Scientificus*. The example of the scientist, representative of the global academic, scientific community, which transcends time and space. In particular, the role model of how to become and stay worthy of the “call” of scientist, whose human, moral, scientific value, are rightfully assessed within and outside the academic community, and that outlives its “earthly” existence. A rare example of how to successfully merge the “call” of the scientist, with that is certainly inevitable, the “call” of being a human. An example of a person who was not an imitator of the scientist, who was not an attempt of the scientist, nor the scientist for “local” spaces and daily-use, but also the role model of a person truly dedicated to science, subtly pervasive, and not only in science, with her immense knowledge and effort. The works of this scholar remain her legacy to all who live Science and for Science, whose existence is justified with their actions - human and scientific. The professor and scientist Anđelka Milić, proved unsustainable all the misogynistic stereotypes of the (non) place of women in science. Strong minded, righteous and benevolent in expressing the criticism, showing the warm, above all, human compassion, and then the solidarity of scientist with those who are genuinely trying to get a ticket to the world of science from the sizes like she is, to justify it, and in the face of all the challenges, survive in the unnecessary, cruel academic world, the world of science, creating the distinctive character of a man and the scientist, distancing themselves from the pseudo scholars which, God knows how, put on the guise of science, desecrating the human and academic, scientific community. From her work you “read” about her as a human and scientists - objectively, but not cold, honestly humanly and scientifically interested in the problems (in) reality. Brief encounters with her were enough to see it. The professor and scientist Anđelka Milić presented herself in her works - a single, unified, simple to perfection, which in reality had no other character - but only one - the human and the scientist inextricably rarely successful, connected in one person.

Equally, side by side, with world-renowned scientists and theorists, she was analysing the causes of the occurrence, role, significance, the function, of the modern, nuclear family in a civil society, whose concept and practice are shaping and receiving the legitimate and legal presence in Europe thanks to the

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lies (1994.), *Generation in protest: a sociological portrait of participants in the Student Protest in 96/97 at the University of Belgrade* (1998, together with Ljiljana Čičkarić, *Sociology of the family* (2001 and 2007), *The Women's movement at the intersection of the millennium* (2002). The biographical and bibliographical data for teacher and scientist Anđelka Milić are taken from Serbian Sociological Association, 12/04/2014., <http://www.ssd.org.rs> [16/06/2014.]

struggle of citizenship in numerous revolutionary upheavals of the late 14th century.

Reflecting the contours of the modern family, the family in the truest sense of the word, the private sphere of individuals (backbone the marital dyad of free will and the choice of spouses, family autonomy and freedom from the binding kinship of solidarity, individualization of its members), has precisely separated it and “defined” it compared to the earlier, pre-modern forms of partnership and family relationships (domestic or home community). With the clear epistemological and methodological delineation and explanation of basic concepts in the sociology of the family (family, marriage, parenthood), looking at the structure, dynamics, relationships and family issues, she made a professional contribution to the consolidation of the modern discipline. She also demonstrated a large number of errors when defining the family, as well as the pitfalls in which fall the theorists of the family with the misstatement of the family, as well as treating it as something universal, natural, timeless, what is “implied”. After many years of dealing with family, its main subsystems (marriage and parenting), its processuality (the life cycle, the family as a group process, the process of socialization, etc.), its reciprocal relationship with society, but also with the analysis of a number of concepts that are intertwined with family, inevitably lead in connection with it (kinship, equality and gender division of labor in the family, household, childhood, an authority in the family, family values, etc.), resulted in an exceptional textbook “Sociology of the family - Criticism and challenges” (2001, 2007), which represents the enduring value of the sociology of the family. This scholar has pointed out the basic problems and the current state of the discipline.

She clearly observed the connection between the family and society (layered-class structure, industrialization, the transition of Serbian society, etc.), and she advocated the approach to the family as a social group that has a great role and importance in social changes and trends, which was often lost from vision in sociological explanations, and which undoubtedly contributed to maintaining its “social invisibility”. The family can not, especially in today’s pluralistic society, exist as a self-contained private community, because with its organizations, value systems, different networks, etc., the society always participates in it. It is forced to open up to society (its mechanisms, institutions, organizations, etc.), in order to by working together with it be able to fulfill various needs. Hence, in modern society are increasingly expressed the processes of socialization of the family and the state and its subordinate appliances are interfering in the family life (state governments, economic companies, school, church, the world of vacation industries, leisure and mass communication).

Scientifically, courageously and objectively, Anđelka Milić has looked at a number of contradictions skillfully “packaged” in a modern family - a civil institution, social group and relationship, hidden from the public eye. This distinctive symbol of the civil society, its “invention”, the product externally observed, was “the epitome of” the virtues of modern society (individual freedom and a commitment to another manifested through a combination of individualism, personal choice and the mutual desire for mutual adjustment in the marital dyad as the backbone of the modern family unity). But, seen from the inside, this small, enclosed, private family community maintained a patriarchal relations (dominance, governance and inequality) transferred from the widest kinship and inheritance plan into a new form of family relations and its basis - marital dyad (husband - the breadwinner, the holder of authority in the family, and wives - mothers, housewives, mistresses), which is regulated by the modern legal regulation of marriage and family relations in Europe three centuries ago. This patriarchal form of family relationships, but situated in a new social context and assimilated to the new form of family relationships (in accordance with civic values and culture of individualism) and strengthened with the logic of free choice of partner and ideological construct of “romantic love” (love as the basis of marriage and its sustainability, deeply erotic-sensitive attitude of love), as the main motivation for marriage, contributed to a large extent, to the reproduction of the social system, but also to the reproduction of the unequal status of women and children, subordinated to the authority of the husband / father. This, therefore, was not the idyllic construct, as the theorists (especially for this worthy T. Parsons), or, rather, the idealists of the civil society represented. The scientist pointed to the turmoils in this family (the First World War in Europe and the 30th years of the 20th century in the US), many temptations and problems that have long plagued the family, and who have been neglected (personal limitations and lack of freedom of the partner; inequality of partners, repression of women and children, domestic violence, etc.).

The professor and scientist Anđelka Milić gave a great contribution to the understanding of the family and its changes in society since the 60s of the 20th century, pointing to the numerous social, economic and demographic changes that, first, impacted the marital dyad (natality and sexual decomposition of marriage), then, logically, led to the transformation of the nuclear family and the emergence of the plurality of partner and family forms and relationships. Empirically rich with “evidence” of weakening for a long time the dominant form of the nuclear family and its “shift” with a number of family forms and patterns (a series of new semi-illegal and informal, more or less fragile, loose partnerships and relationships based on “emotional communication” as it says E. Giddens, but also one-sided pleasure), require the deconstruction of the concept of family

on a theoretical level. As the main driving force behind these changes, Anđelka Milić emphasized the women's struggle for their own emancipation, especially pronounced since the end of the 60s of the 20th century onwards, and that had a significant, tangible results in the achievement of equality between the sexes in the family and outside, which upset the patriarchal system of norms and regulations of family relations in contemporary society. Anđelka Milić and the other influential theorists have pointed us to the significant changes that “detronezed” the form of the nuclear family: the weakening of the institution of marriage, the increase in divorces, fundamental changes in the understanding and practice of sexual relations between partners, complete separation of sexuality from reproduction, changes in the concept and parenting practices, changes in the basic functions of the family, changes in the structure of authority and the like.

Without pretensions to set up a “diagnosis” of the future trends of development of society and the family, nor to differ to the theoretical directions and forecasts of the future of the family (from pessimistic to optimistic grasping the essence of change and forecasting the future of family), objectively weighing all the changes in the marital dyad and family, as well as the emergence of a number of partner and family forms, Anđelka Milić focused her attention more on the analysis of the importance of the family for the individual in the present, especially in our area. To the numerous studies of families and households in Serbia and conferences in which she participated, sharing experiences with researchers from the region, she gave a contribution to the knowledge about trends and characteristic and specific changes that families experience in the transitional transformation in Serbia and other countries in the region (structural developments and changes, changes in the functional level, interpersonal relationships - parenting, gender relations, conflict and violence in families, etc.). Anđelka Milić, precisely, in the dynamics of social events in these regions, which made the individuals disoriented, insecure, left without safe support, noted the great importance of the family for individuals - their attachment and dependence on the family in various ways in their whole life, regardless of whether they realize it or not, whether they like it or not, whether they want or do not want such a role of family or have indifferent attitude towards it. Although she was not placed on the side of optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the family, nor she was expressing the commitment to the nuclear form of families, I think that in terms of the family (always implied relation between parent - child regardless in what form this relationship is implemented) she had the attitude of the “moderate realist” more focused on the present moment and solving current problems, with careful foreshadowing of the future events in partner and family relationships - changes happen inevitably, numerous contradictions resurfaced, but the

only threat to the family represent childless marriages (ie, willing sterility) and single-person households.

She gave a great contribution and to the sociological study of gender. While studying the family and relationships in it, this scientist was bravely tackling the pervasive gender inequality, pointing to its reproduction in the family, but also in many spheres of society (private and public patriarchy, thinking along the lines of S. Volba). Although the emancipation of women, seriously shook the patriarchy and weakened it inside of a private family, it still has an untamed power in the family with the renew through the generation of ideology of a single family group and the mythology of “romantic love” from which it draws its strength to resist all social barriers and in the outside of the family sphere where powerful social actors (government, schools, political institutions, the church and the apparatus of coercion) engage in constant renewal of ideals, and practices of the patriarchal family (public patriarchy). In all the public sectors of social life (politics, labor, employment, etc.) is present this form of the patriarchal structure of power relations. To maintaining a closed circle of domination, in the opinion of this scholar, are largely contributing the means of mass communication and mass consumption market. In an effort to contribute to building a just and modern society, the achievement of complete transformation of gender relations, she founded the Women’s Party “Žest” and the first women’s studies at universities in Serbia in 1992.