

Masters must be appreciated appropriately!

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Abstract

The natural spiritual condition and worthy of gratitude of the disciple towards the Master is encouraging and uplifting, also expressing the continuing close relation between the disciple and the model represented by the Master. Professor Nicolae Suta is an undisputed Master of the Romanian University School of International Economic Relations, being actually the creator of the postwar Romanian School of International Economics and especially international trade. He is a man of vocation and highly dedication, who assumed challenges, cultivating stringency and not stepping aside from the principles of professional ethics, a demanding, fair, polite and punctual person. He brought forward a valuable and unique School management style based on scientific excellence, teaching and methodological rigor and strategic dimension. A true shaper of characters, Professor Nicolae Suta created at the Faculty of International Economic Relations, Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, an authentic family that passes on the values he believed in and strongly believes in. Professor Nicolae Suta is an expression of an exemplary career, properly recognized by the scientific and professional communities.

Key words: Master, disciple, gratitude, School creator, vocation, dedication

There are people who, from the very beginning of their career, have assumed the rigour, correctness, professionalism and warmth of authentic human relations. When their career has been an academic one, with the joys and the servitudes of the noble profession of teaching there also appeared the new category of young persons happy that they were privileged to come across such personalities on the road of their own personal becoming.

The Romanian school of international economic relations is proud to have a few remarkable people with a calling and high degree of commitment, to which many generations of graduates owe gratitude for receiving *knowledge* from the "magic" desk of the teacher and *guidance* for elaborating graduation and Ph.D. thesis. Real people are those who take on challenges, truly believe when others doubt, remain rigorous and do not give up the principles of professional ethics when around them the great majority changes as the wind blows. In the complex landscape of academia it has always been essential to understand the importance of fairness and punctuality.

Many generations of alumni of the Academy of Economic Studies, the Romanian Diplomatic Institute and other universities consider Professor Nicolae Sută to be a true academic and a worthy role model to follow. Me and my fellow colleagues first encountered professor Sută in the academic year of 1979-1980 during the "International Trade and Trade Policies" course. Many "stories" circulated around the student community about the professionalism, rigour and dedication of professor Sută. Reality, as I perceived it, surpassed all these elements of academic ethos. At the end of the course and of the academic year I began to consider a teaching career and I realized the importance of all the values promoted by professor Sută. In 1981 when I finally decided to pursue a teaching career I chose the Department of International Business and Economics which, at the time, was managed with dedication, professionalism and unmatched management skills by Professor Nicolae Sută. Just like many of my fellow department colleagues I began my academic career under the guidance of professor Sută having the privilege, with each course or exam, to accumulate, defining elements for my academic vocation. Professor Sută helped me realise that a successful academic career needs, besides effort and dedication, a mentor from whom to learn the secrets of the noble, but difficult teaching "craft". The young people in the department, myself included, learned to appreciate the value of work well done, not to give in to our impulses, to be honest, to respect our students and colleagues, to manage teams and to stick to our principles. I had the privilege and

honour to work with professor Sută in his role of Ph.D. supervisor and I was lucky enough to benefit from his guidance in the very difficult area of scientific research. My first scientific articles and papers have been written and presented with professor Sută as co-author, learning from, his now proverbial, thoroughness on how to elaborate and structure scientific papers and the respect with which his ideas and papers were encountered in the scientific community.

True leaders are people who move organizations from where they are to where they should be. As head of the Department of International Business and Economics, Professor Nicolae Sută showed us how such values learned from text books translate into real life. One of the main qualities of an individual that shapes the characters of the young ones is the patience to teach them how to be themselves and search for excellence and make them strive for more without ever compromising. As a true role model that influences and inspires those around him, professor Sută has formed and managed working groups, gaining respect for who he was and for his activity. Professor Nicolae Sută created within the Faculty of International Business and Economics a real family, which carries on the values and ideas in which he strongly believed and continues to believe. It is very touching when former graduates of the Academy of Economic Studies (AES), regardless of their career path, upon returning to the AES inquire about Professor Sută and when the time comes for the daughters and sons of former graduates to become students at the AES, they come with their "lessons learned" from home about the values of the school of international economic relations. It is a true debt of honor for each and every member of the academic family who has received academic life lessons from Professor Sută to pass on the values that he advocated throughout his life and strive to rise to the level at which he aimed. We can show our gratitude by carrying forward the values that he believed in a lifetime and by cherishing his persona.

Professor Nicolae Sută was born on the 5th of December 1927, in Albeni, a village in the Gorj county, to a financially poor but spiritually rich family. He went through all the stages of the national education system always being at the top of his class. In 1950 he graduated from the Faculty of Economics of the Academy of Higher Commercial and Industrial Studies and was assigned as teaching assistant in the Department of World Economy of the Academy, being promoted to lecturer in 1952 in charge of the course of world economy. During 1952-1967, due to the organizational reconfiguration and change in the academic curriculum, Professor Nicolae Sută designed and elaborated the courses in "International Trade", "The Economy of International Trade" and "Romania's foreign trade". In 1968 he became a reader in the Department of Foreign Trade (later called International Business and Economics) and in 1973 was promoted to professor. Professor Sută began and carried out his academic career in a period of permanent and radical societal change, but he remained faithful to what is durable and does not fade with the passing of time.

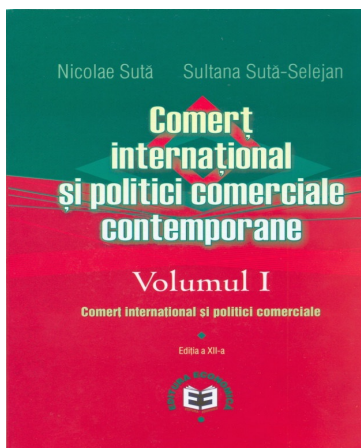
He received his Ph.D. in economics in 1970 with a thesis entitled "Changes in international trade in the post-war period" which is a thorough and accurate analysis of international trade flows in goods worldwide. Such research was extremely difficult in a time when access to information was a dream, when reality was supposed to be enhanced and when the world was divided into the "healthy" and the "rotten" part of the international economy.

In order to succeed in his endeavour of being an honest researcher, meaning to describe international trade flows accurately, Nicolae Sută had to reinvent the method of reconfiguring the whole from its small fragments, for many of which only the elements from the other side of the flux existed. His doctoral thesis can still be read at any time and distinguishes itself through its accurate information, fair analysis and thorough conclusions. Starting with 1971 professor Nicolae Sută was a Ph.D. supervisor in the field of economics with the specialty international business and economics and has supervised Ph.D. theses for more than 100 researchers myself included. Scientific rigour, analytical excellence and a bold approach are qualities that he always encouraged and tried to inspire in those surrounding him.

We can state without a doubt that professor Nicolae Sută is the founder of the post-war Romanian school of international economics and particularly that of international trade. Being totally committed to the academic career, he worked for the Ministry of Education in a time when the foundations of a new educational system were built and was head of the Department of International Business and Economics from the Academy of Economic Studies between 1976-1985 and 1991-1999.

Professor Nicolae Sută published, as sole author or as co-author, 23 books on European and International Economics, 40 workbooks on the matters of trade policies, foreign trade and international trade organisations and more than 100 articles and studies on international trade, world economy and Romania's foreign trade. His work distinguishes itself from others on the same topics by scientific rigour, analytical style and stylistic accuracy. His outstanding career has been properly acknowledged by the professional and academic communities. Professor Sută's scientific and professional contributions as well as his personal qualities have been recognized in "The Dictionary of Experts" (*Dicționarul Specialiștilor*) published by the Technical Publishing House in Bucharest in 1999 and in "Key figures of the economic life" (*Protagonisti ai vieții economice*) published by the Economy Publishing House in Bucharest in 2002. In 2000 he received the "Opera Omnia" award from the Academy of Economic Studies in recognition of his lifetime activity in the field of economic research and in 2003 he received the "Excellence Award" from the General Association of Economists in Romania for his lifetime activity in research and education.

Just as Professor Nicolae Sută stated on his 80th birthday “I have always been dedicated and passionate about my educational career and my work with students which led to mutual respect and understanding even though I was one of the the most demanding teachers in the AES yet always fair and polite with students and my colleagues in the department”.



The Magnum Opus of Professor Nicolae Sută, in two volumes, has appeared in 12 editions, the most recent at Editura Economică, in 2003.



Professor Nicolae Sută (in the middle) together with Professor Sterian Dumitrescu, Professor Gheorghe Dolgu and Professor Virgil Gheorghiuță.



During the student's conference with Professor Gabriela Dragan and Reader Mirela Diaconescu.



At the Academy of Economic Studies, in 1995, during a book launch

