

## *Eulogy for Dunja Jutronić (1943–2025)*

*Arriving in Dubrovnik for the 2025 Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conference, it was hard to believe that Dunja wouldn't be amongst us welcoming everyone on Sunday night to Troubadour in the Old Town for pre-conference drinks. We had a sense that the conference would be marked by her absence.*

*For twenty years, Dunja was the lynchpin and key organiser of this series, bringing together a remarkable cast of characters each September to focus on language and linguistics. She started the existing series with Michael Devitt in 2005, although the conference was not always called, *Philosophy of Language and Linguistics*. Originally, its title was *Mental Phenomena*. That was because it was the continuation of a series of meetings at the IUC with an important Dubrovnik pedigree. The *Mental Phenomena Workshop* was the brain-child of Mike Martin and Tim Crane, from UCL at the time, whose aim was to rebuild the philosophy connections between the UK and the former Yugoslavia following the end of the war in 1994. The workshops started in 1997 and were funded for this purpose by the British Academy for three years. These British Academy workshops (and grant award) celebrated the outstanding, and commendably brave, work of Kathy Wilks in championing analytic philosophy in pre- and post-communist Europe, and her support for Croatian philosophers throughout the war. Her courage and commitment to the IUC and the Croatian people during the siege of Dubrovnik are commemorated in a plaque at the Pile Gate.*

*The work of Kathy, together with her colleagues, David Charles, Justin Brookes, and the philosopher of science, Bill Newton Smith, established a strong connection between Oxford and philosophers from the former Yugoslavia gathering at Dubrovnik. Now it was London's turn and the aim was to provide a space where philosophers from these now separate countries could once again come together and pursue topics in the philosophy of mind. Matthew Nudds took over the running of *Mental Phenomena*, which is when I started regularly attending conferences in the IUC. By 2004, there was a desire to pass the baton, and this is where Dunja and Michael Devitt stepped in. They suggested a conference on philosophy of language and linguistics, and Michael was just about to produce his *Ignorance of Language* book. There were enough*

*philosophers in the generative grammar tradition who sought to relieve him of that ignorance to make for a lively set of meetings. And so, the first conference in our series was born in 2005. Many of us didn't mind the title, Mental Phenomena, since as Chomskians we took language to be a mental phenomenon anyway. However, with the IUC's permission the title was amended in the following years to The Philosophy of Language and Linguistics and it has been supported ever since by the University of London's Institute of Philosophy through its Centre for Logic and Language (CeLL), with Dunja and Michael Devitt steering its course.*

*To begin with the meetings were titanic struggles between the leading supporters of experimental generative grammar and the common sense, thought experimental, philosophers of language. In session after session, Dunja held the ring between Michael Devitt, Geoff Pullum and Paul Pietroski, Stephen Neale, John Collins. Frankie Egan, Una Stojnic and Jeff King took us to loftier places, and at times we indulged in the semantics-pragmatics Holy Wars. We have always been extremely grateful to the Croatia Journal of Philosophy for publishing so many papers documenting the elaborate skirmishes from these meetings.*

*Dunja was constantly aware that we mustn't just turn to the big guys as speakers at these conferences. We needed to encourage younger researchers and especially philosophers from the region. She was tireless in consulting and sending out messages to younger people and encouraging them to come. The late Nenad Mišćević, who even his best friends wouldn't call organised, did his bit in encouraging a string of young philosophers to attend.*

*However, it was Dunja who was the mainstay of these events. Very gently and persuasively, she led from the back, asking people's opinion, trying out suggestions, and tirelessly sending email reminders to the errant co-organisers who were never chided for their tardy replies in order to keep things moving and make sure the conferences happened. She encouraged Frankie Egan, Michael Glanzberg, Una Stojnić and me to be part of the organising committee, and more recently, Mirela Fus-Holmedal. Nenad was mostly an honorary part of the organising committee although Dunja knew it was best to include him and defer to him while quietly getting on with things behind the scenes. She knew his larger-than-life presence could be tricky but she was fond of him and gave him his due. Characteristically modest and other-regarding, she never claimed any of the success for herself, but I think she was rightly proud of what she had achieved at the IUC: The Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conferences.*

*We won't forget her knowing irony and gentle admonishments. She had a quiet wisdom and the measure of all of us. The occasional and kindly given roll of her eyes, her constant concern for fairness and equity, including people, especially the young researchers, and her equally attentive obsession with the air conditioning, which she considered to*

*need constant fine-tuning through those long mornings and afternoons in IUC classrooms. Most of all, we will remember Dunja taking soundings of where we should all go to swim at lunchtimes: Danča or the Cove? And there she would set off at an even pace and swim steadily till she was far out of sight. Once we had all swum, talked and sorted out whatever philosophical topic we were chewing over and decided where we would go for lunch we would scan the horizon and spot the steady stroke that we knew was her. I like to think of her as out there still. Thank you for everything, Dunja. You were always much appreciated and will always be much missed.*

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