



In Memoriam Ngo Van Long

(1948-2022)

by Hassan Benchekroun and Gérard Gaudet

Our dear friend and colleague Ngo Van Long passed away from acute myeloid leukemia on January 15th, 2022. He passed away peacefully, in Montreal, surrounded by the love of his family: his spouse Kim, his son Bach, his daughter Chi and her partner Eric and his granddaughter Bambou.

Long was born in Vietnam in 1948. He got his university education in Australia, at La Trobe University (B. Ec., 1972) and at Australian National University (Ph.D., 1975). He began his academic career at Australian National University and joined the Department of Economics at McGill University in 1989. He was James McGill Professor at the time of his death. He was also research fellow at the CIREQ and the CIRANO.

He made significant and lasting contributions in several areas in economic theory, including natural resource economics, environmental economic theory, industrial organization, game theory and dynamic games. From the start of his career, he attacked some of the most pressing societal issues related to the scarcity of resources and environmental policies, their impact on economic development and growth, both in a national and international context. His work contributed to the development of the theoretical tools to deal with intertemporal constraints in economic theory arising from resource scarcity. He pioneered the extensions of dynamic economic theory to cover strategic interactions and game theory. A nonexclusive list of the societal challenges that he addressed in his research includes the sustainability of resource use, the transition to clean energy sources, the stability of international climate agreements, intergenerational equity, the transmission of social norms and the fostering cooperation. He has served on the editorial boards of 16 scientific journals including the most influential in his areas of interest, such as *Journal of International Economics*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Resource and Energy Economics*, *Dynamic Games and Applications*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Public Economic Theory* and *Canadian Journal of Economics*. He published 8 books, more than 200 articles in the top scientific journals in the discipline and some sixty book chapters.

Long will be remembered as a most humble, gentle, kind, and generous colleague. More than 80 scholars from all around the globe had the privilege to have him as a co-author, and to many, in particular graduate students, he was an exceptional and inspiring mentor. He was a regular participant in the Montreal Workshop in Natural Resource and Environmental Economics, where many doctoral students from all Montreal universities were able to benefit from his generous advice and encouragement. In scientific events he liked to interact with junior colleagues and graduate students. Two of his books published by Cambridge University Press, *Optimal Control Theory and Static Optimization in Economics*, co-authored with D. Léonard and *Differential Games in Economics and Management Science*, co-authored with E. Dockner, S. Jorgensen, and G. Sorger, rapidly became the authoritative reference respectively in dynamic optimization and in differential games. These books are a good reflection of Long's character: they both bring state of the art sophisticated technical material at a level that is accessible to a graduate student or a junior researcher. In these books, and his work in general, concise presentation and rigorous treatment were never at the expense of accessibility. His more recent book, *Dynamic Games in Economics: A Survey*, manages to achieve the same *tour de force* while generously offering a wide range of potential applications of the technical tools covered and potential research questions: a real treasure for graduate students and young scholars.

Long will live on as an inspiration in the mind of all those who have known him.