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Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology
of the **International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology**

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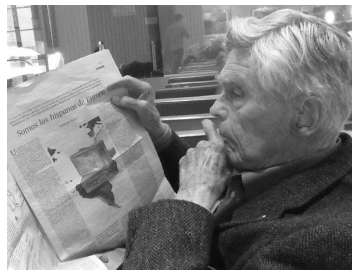
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Mario Bunge (1919-2020)



On 24 February 2020, the physicist and philosopher Mario Bunge passed away aged 100 in Montréal, Canada. Bunge was born in Buenos Aires on 21 September 1919 and obtained his degrees in physics from the *Universidad Nacional de La Plata* in 1942. After holding chairs in physics and philosophy at the *Universidad Nacional de La Plata* and the *Universidad de Buenos Aires*, he was the *Frothingham Professor of Logic and Metaphysics* at McGill University in Montréal from 1966 to his retirement.

Bunge was a prolific writer, publishing 70 books and 540 articles and making substantial contributions to physics, philosophy of science, metaphysics, moral philosophy, and political philosophy. He was best known for his realist interpretation of quantum mechanics and his strong conviction that science and philosophy should be brought together for the advancement of human welfare. His philosophical core principles were the search for non-subjective truth, the universality of science, the value of rationality, and the respect for individuals, and he vigorously fought for them. Particularly important were his battles against pseudo-science in all forms: this part of his work is particularly urgent and relevant right now and we consider the fight against pseudo-science and science denialism to be one of the current scientific priorities of our Division.

In his autobiography, Quine recalled encountering Bunge for the first time at the 1956 Inter-American Philosophical Congress in Santiago de Chile: “The star of the philosophical congress was Mario Bunge, an energetic and articulate young Argentinian of broad background and broad, if headstrong, intellectual concerns. He seemed to feel that the burden of bringing South America up to a northern scientific and intellectual level rested on his shoulders. He intervened eloquently in the discussion of almost every paper.”

In 2016, Bunge published his own autobiography, entitled *Between Two Worlds*, recalling events and conversations from his prodigious memory and laying out in fascinating detail his personal, family, cultural and scholarly life. In particular, he devoted two pages to his attendance at our Division's first Congress in Stanford in 1960, summing up in his characteristic pithy style: “The Stanford Congress was of a high level, taught me a lot, and gave me the chance of making some interesting acquaintances. Nobody seemed to regret the absence of Thomists, Kantians, Hegelians, Marxists, phenomenologists, or existentialists. But I regretted the pre-eminence of logical positivists, who attempted to fill their ontological vacuum with logic, or to find use for non-standard logics.”

Last year, just a month before his centenary, our Division celebrated his work at the sixteenth Congress in Prague with a symposium in his honour. The General Assembly of DLMPST in Prague recognised his centenary acknowledging his immense, diversified yet systematic, science-informed, life-time contribution to philosophy of science with admiration. His passing is a loss for the scholarly world and our field of logic, philosophy and methodology of science and technology.