



HOMMAGE TO PROF. DR. GÉRARD BELTRANDO (1956-2016)



Born in the year 1956 in Arles (France), Prof. Gérard Beltrando graduated from the Geographic Institute of the University Aix-Marseille II in 1980, where he also followed his Master's Degree (DEA). In 1990, at the same institution, he obtained the title of Doctor in Geography, having completed the thesis "Pluviometric Variability in Eastern Africa and Indicators of the Oceano-Atmospheric Circulation"; in 1997, by defending the work titled "Climatology: a geographical science" at the University Paris VII "Denis Diderot",

he obtained his habilitation as a doctoral advisor.

The university activity of Prof. Gérard Beltrando began in the year 1989 at the University Paris XIII (1989-1991). In 1992, he became Associate Professor at the University Paris VII "Denis Diderot", where he activated until 1998. Since October 1998, he held the title of University Professor in the speciality Climatology. In this quality, he initially carried out his activity at the University of Sciences and Technologies of Lille and, beginning with the university year 2001-2002, at the University Paris VII "Denis Diderot", where he secured the position of member of the Mixed Research Unit (UMR) 8586 PRODIG.

His remarkable results, both scientific and didactic, led to his being entrusted numerous responsibilities and teaching and administrative positions, on the level of his university, and nationally, which he carried out with a lot of seriousness and responsibility: director of the Master's Degree *Géographie et Sciences des territoires* and director of the Institute of Doctoral Studies of the University Paris VII; responsible of the research axis *Risque, vulnérabilité et gestion des Territoires* (2010-2014) of PRODIG ; president of the commission « Climat et Société » of the French

National Geographic Committee; CPU expert of the National Environmental Research Alliance (Allenvi), Group 5 *Climat : évolution, adaptation, atténuation, impact* ; founder member (in 1988) of the International Climatology Association (AIC), where, during the period 2006-2012, he held the position of treasurer.

The didactic career of Professor Gérard Beltrando was doubled by a scientific activity of high level, appreciated both nationally and internationally. His research focused mainly on aspects of applied climatology (in the fields of vine-growing, transport etc.) and the consequences of the environmental changes (mainly climatic) on society. He published as unique author and co-author over 60 articles in national and international journals with peer review (*Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment; Annales de Géographie; Climatic Change; Cybergeog; Espace Géographique; Erkunde; Environnement, Risques & Santé; Geografia Fisica e Dinamica Quaternaria; Géomorphologie; Historiens & Géographes; Hommes et Terres du Nord; Int. J. of Climatology; L'Information Géographique; La Météorologie; Meteorological Applications; Nat. Hazards Earth Syst Sci; Photo-Interprétation; Reg Environ Change; Sécheresse* etc).

Out of his most representative works in volume and chapters in collective volumes, one can note: 1) Beltrando G., Madelin M., Briche E., Lereboullet A.L., 2014, *Changement climatique et terroirs viticoles*, Ed. Lavoisier, Collection Tec&Doc ; 2) Briche E., Beltrando G., Quénot H., 2014, *Approche modélisatrice du changement climatique à l'échelle de la Champagne viticole*, in *Changement climatique et terroirs viticoles*, Lavoisier Tec&doc; 3) Salit F., Beltrando G., Zaharia L., 2013, *The impact of the July 2005 flood to river management: study case of the Lower Siret River (Romania)*, in *European Continental Hydrosystems under Changing Water Policy*, Friedrich Pfeil Verlag; 4) Beltrando G., 2012, *Changement climatique simulé et réponse possible des forêts françaises*, in *Cahier d'Etudes « Forêt, Environnement et Société »*, Editions du CNRS ; 5) Beltrando G., 2011, *Les climats : processus, variabilité et risques*, Armand Colin; Beltrando G., Chemery L., 1995, *Dictionnaire du Climat*, Larousse.

As a doctoral advisor, he coordinated 16 theses that were defended, of which 5 in international co-tutorship.

Professor Gérard Beltrando was one of the French geographers strongly interested in and fond of Romania. Begun in 1999, his collaboration with the Faculty of Geography of the University of Bucharest took multiple forms: organization and/or participation in scientific meetings, realization of common studies and projects of research in the domain of climatology and hydrology, student coordination (at BSc, Master's Degree,

Doctoral studies). In the year 2004, thanks to the interest of Prof. Gérard Beltrando for the collaboration with the Faculty of Geography of Bucharest, was achieved the bilateral agreement within the programme ERASMUS which allowed the exchange of students and teachers between the Romanian Institution and the University Paris VII. During the period 2010-2013 he coordinated together with Prof Liliana Zaharia a doctoral thesis in international jointly supervised.

Considering his prestigious scientific and didactic activity, his passion, his innovating spirit and his enthusiasm for geographic research in general and especially for hydro-climatological research, his interest and his large openness to the collaboration with Romanian geographers, and also his feelings of friendship and appreciation to the Faculty of Geography of the University of Bucharest, in 2005, Professor Gérard Beltrando was awarded the title of “Profesor Honoris Causa” of the University of Bucharest. As a token of high appreciation of his scientific activity in the field of climatology and of his interest in the collaboration with the Romanian specialists, in 2004, Professor Gérard Beltrando was awarded the title of “Honorary Member of the Association of Climatology of Romania”.

During the period 1999-2015, Prof. Gérard Beltrando carried out numerous missions in Romania (at least once a year), in different contexts (bilateral cooperation, ERASMUS programme, research projects, participation to conferences), which allowed him to know people and places from most of the regions of Romania, from “Porțile de Fier” (The Iron Gates) to the Danube Delta and from Bucharest, to Cluj-Napoca, Săpânța, Iași and the lower valley of Siret, down to Galați and Brăila. He lived intensely each experience in Romania and appreciated the beauties of this country and the hospitality of its people, from the most various social levels.

By his valuable didactic and scientific activity, known and appreciated internationally, Professor Gérard Beltrando occupies a special place in the gallery of the world-famous geographic personalities from France and is one of the many great French geographers fond of Romania, who intensely contributed to the development of the Romanian-French academic collaboration relations in the domain of geography.

Professor Dr. Liliana Zaharia
Lecturer Dr. Gabriela Ioana-Toroimac