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IN MEMORIAM: VLADIMIR ALEKSANDROVICH SMIRNOV
1931–1996

Vladimir Aleksandrovich Smirnov, a leader of philosophical logic in Russia who had done much to establish the subject in the former Soviet Union, died in Moscow on 12 February 1996. Professor Smirnov was born 2 March 1931 in Moscow. He studied at Moscow Lomonosov State University, where his scientific supervisor was the well-known Russian philosopher V. F. Asmus. He received the Diploma in 1954. From 1961 till his death he was affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow, where in recent years he was the Head of the Department of Epistemology, Logic and Philosophy of Science. He also was the Director of the Institute for Logic, Cognitive Science, and Development of Personality, and the Head of the Center for Logical Investigations (all in Moscow). From 1970 on Smirnov also taught at Moscow Lomonosov State University where he became Professor in the Philosophy Department.

Through this activity he was the founder and supervisor of the school of philosophical logicians in Russia, and many of his pupils are now working logicians in Russia and abroad. Smirnov's area of scientific interest embraced logic, methodology and philosophy of science. Already in the early 1970s he was attentive to the role of the structural rules in relating systems of logic to one another. This idea was important for much of the work on the classification of logics done in the 1980s. Smirnov was also one of the first to note the consequences of the absence of contraction rules. He proved that, under broad assumptions, a sequent calculus without contraction rules has a solvable decision problem.

In 1962 he drew international attention to the Russian logician N. A. Vasiliev, who is considered a founder of the study of paraconsistent logics. While reconstructing a system of non-Aristotelian logic of Vasiliev, Smirnov formulated so-called combined logics. The elaboration of another idea of Vasiliev led Smirnov to the construction of n-dimensional logics with n-types of the atomic sentences. Other results of Smirnov concern the creation of computer aided proof search systems. He offered a number of natural deduction calculi along with decision procedures intended for computer implementation.

In the adverse situation faced by philosophical logic in the USSR, Smirnov was the key person among the organizers of all-USSR conferences on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science. With the help of his personal contacts, he organized, beginning in the 1970s, a series of Soviet-Finnish and

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Soviet-Polish conferences on Logic and Philosophy of Science. He participated in many international conferences and gave lectures in a number of countries. He was engaged in tight and vivid collaboration with logicians and philosophers in other republics of the then Soviet Union and also maintained the connection between philosophical logicians and mathematicians in his country.

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