

Remembrance of Robin Hudson

The worldwide community of scholars of quantum probability is saddened and grieved at the news that Robin Hudson is gone.

He was much more than a pioneer in this field. The fact, that the first time the term quantum probability appeared in the official program of a conference was in a conference he organized in Nottingham in 1979, shows that he was one of the first to realize that quantum probability was not going to be a fashion or a niche field, but the natural evolution of one of the fundamental branches of mathematics: the study of the mathematical aspects of the various possible laws of chance.

The creation, by Hudson and Parthasarathy, of quantum stochastic calculus is a monumental contribution to this field on which generations of mathematicians have worked and will work in the future: if you look at the contemporary scholars of quantum probability in the range of age over forty, you will hardly find one who has not written a few papers strictly related to quantum stochastic calculus. He also pioneered other fields of quantum probability destined to have a great development, like quantum central limit theorems and De Finetti exchangeability theorem.

Those who had interacted with him more closely will not only regret the loss of a greatly creative scientist, but they will keep his personality in their memories, cheerful and full of vitality, his sense of humor, his love for art, especially music, his strong political passions and polemics (many, who discussed with him over a beer or a glass of wine, can remember how his voice and glance changed when he spoke of Margaret Thatcher!), Many of his former students are now internationally reputed scholars. The best wish we can offer to those who have participated or will participate in the great adventure of quantum probability, pioneered by Robin, is that this environment will be capable of producing other people of his human and scientific level. The whole community of quantum probability shares the grief of this loss with his wife Olga and his children.