

A Century since the birth of Milorad Dimitrijević and Stevan Karamata: A tribute to their scientific legacy

NEVENKA ĐERIC¹ 

The *Geološki anali Balkanskoga poluostrva* has long been committed not only to publishing scientific research but also to preserving the memory of the scientists whose work laid the foundations of geological research in the former Yugoslavia. In this spirit, the present issue is dedicated to two scientists whose influence extends far beyond the pages of any single journal. Regardless of whether, and to what extent, their research was published in this journal, their contributions to the geological sciences in Serbia and the broader Balkan region remains immeasurable. At a time when scientific achievements are often viewed only through current metrics and publication records, it is important to remember the scientists whose work established the foundations upon which present-day research continues to build.

This Special Issue is dedicated to the memory of Milorad Dimitrijević and Stevan Karamata and to their enduring scientific legacy. This year also provides a fitting opportunity to celebrate these two giants of Serbian geology through the organization of the international Alpine Workshop (17th EGU Émile Argand Conference on Alpine Geological Studies) in Serbia. Therefore, the contributions collected in this volume reflect not only the breadth of geological disciplines they helped shape and their lasting impact on the understanding of Balkan geology, but also their dedication to field-based geological research, exemplified by the publication of the Alpine Workshop field guides included in this issue.

Remembering Milorad Dimitrijević and Stevan Karamata is therefore more than an act of commemoration. It is an opportunity to bring their work closer to younger colleagues and students who know their names from textbooks, geological maps, and scientific citations, but may not have had the opportunity to experience their personalities and influence firsthand. Many members of today's Serbian geological community had the privilege of being influenced by their work and ideas. Some of us were fortunate enough to know and collaborate with both of them. Although they differed greatly in personality, scientific approach, and professional style, each left a profound mark on our development as geologists and researchers. Beneath these differences, however, they shared the same vision: to advance geological knowledge, to educate future generations, and to ensure that the achievements of Serbian geology would be recognized within the broader European scientific community.

One hundred years after their birth, their scientific contributions remain an integral part of Serbian geology. Equally enduring are the values they embodied: a deep respect for fieldwork; the understanding that a geological observation remains a fact regardless of how differently it may be interpreted; and the conviction that scientific data become truly valuable only when shared with the broader community through publication and constructive scientific debate.

¹ University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology, Kamenička 6, Belgrade, Serbia. E-mail: nevenka.djeric@rgf.bg.ac.rs