

Remembrance by Nikolai Mionov

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Recently, I was talking with my younger brother about my university years. In particular, I mentioned how important a life event it can be to meet a good professor or scientific supervisor. In rare cases it may even be fateful.

In this context I told my brother how I met Elena Trubina by chance at Ural State University in the Department of Social Philosophy. I had come to find out whom I was supposed to write a term paper for. It was evening, and there was no one else still in the department but Elena Germanovna.

"Do you write well?" she asked.

"I think so."

That's how my mini-academic career began, even if it was a modest one. At that time, it was so important to me to have a cool professor who was known and respected everywhere, who shared interesting information, and who believed in me and supported my personal interest in social philosophy. Her belief in me was especially important because I was the first person in my family to try to get a higher education. Through her I discovered how wonderful the academic world could be and how I could contribute something to it, and how I had a great mentor! Wow!

Over six years in the philosophy department, Elena Germanovna and I became practically friends, even though we saw each other only rarely. I remember how she was there when I received my bachelor's degree and how afterwards we went to her place and ate borscht and talked about life, relationships, and politics. I remember how Elena Germanovna brought out English tea and cheese. How she helped me find an English tutor, how she later lured me into political philosophy. How I, encouraged by her but without her assistance, went with my future wife to live and work in a European university.



I was 20 when I met Elena Germanovna. And such trusting communication with a successful adult professor just lifted me up. The most important question was probably hers: "Nikolai, academia is, of course, wonderful, but how are you going to earn money?" I believe that this question was the beginning of my professional career and in general, my life, which I am now very pleased with.

On August 4, Elena Germanovna passed away. I am very, very sorry that I did not have time to talk to her one last time. In fact, I was just about to call her after talking with my brother. The last time I spoke with her I only managed to tell her that I had successfully emigrated in 2022. That's why I want to leave this post here on her Facebook page, in memory and gratitude.

Life in the philosophy department would have been very different without Elena Germanovna. And I believe that without her I would not have become the person I am today. Our chance meeting in the department was so important for my whole life. Thank you.