



Tuomo Martikainen

* 7.4.1939 † 20.11.2018

TUOMO TAPANI MARTIKAINEN, emeritus professor of political science at the University of Helsinki, died in Helsinki on 20th November 2018 after a long period of suffering with a heart condition. He was born on 7th April 1939 in Mäntyharju, where he spent his childhood and youth. He matriculated from Hämeenlinna Lyceum in 1958.

Although he made various visits to Ireland, Great Britain, Poland, Germany and the United States for research purposes, he spent the vast majority of his working life engaged in research and teaching in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Helsinki. He was also docent in political science at the University of Turku.

Martikainen completed his doctorate in 1973 with a thesis on structural factors influencing involvement in politics, which was based on research into political participation, voting activity and election results stretching over several decades, his earliest work having been concerned with political youth organizations and the local government elections of 1968. This behaviourally oriented line of political research was quite typical of that period in time.

Once his doctoral thesis was finished Martikainen turned his attention more to-

wards public administration and the public sector economy, particularly the expansion of the latter, central government, the production of collective commodities and the re-distribution of incomes and taxation. From research into the public sector it was then quite natural to move over in the mid-1970s to coordinate the major Academy of Finland DETA project on democracy and equality in Finland together with Professor Ilkka Heiskanen. Alongside the left-wing Tandem Project that ran parallel with it, this project aroused a great deal of public discussion at that time, although for different reasons. The DETA project shed light on decision-making and control in Finnish society and thereby had a significant effect on the directions that research in the social sciences and general discussions within society were to take at a later stage. Even though Martikainen found a highly productive colleague in Risto Yrjönen, Lic. Phil., in this connection, once the two projects were over he returned to the topic of voting activity, within which he cut out a career of considerable depth and breadth for himself.

Tuomo Martikainen acted as coordinator for a number of research projects. In-

spired by the imminent prospect of Finland's first presidency of the EU, he founded a Centre for Research into Europe in Helsinki in 1997, and this came up with an exceptionally comprehensive analysis of the presidency and the nature of the first Euro-elections in the late 1990s. His principal colleagues at this research centre were Professor Kyösti Pekonen, Olli Rehn and Teija Tiilikainen, and the whole project led later to the rise of a European research network within the University of Helsinki. Meanwhile, Martikainen accepted the leadership of two unique European research projects concerned with voting activity that were connected with his interest in political activity amongst young people.

Elections and participation in them occupied a crucial role in Marikainen's research work, and one in which he collaborated with many other people, among whom Professor Hanna Wass was particularly prominent in the later years, but his interests also extended to local economics and particularly the drift of the welfare state towards a competitive state. Near the end of his career he wrote an ambitious book entitled *Presidentin valta* ("The Power of the President") together with Pekka Hallberg, Jaakko Nousiainen and Päivi Tiilikainen, in which they examined the actions of the presidents of Finland from the point of view of decision-making and their historical significance, with analytical evaluations of the most important and most difficult decisions taken by each.

Alongside his own research, Tuomo Martikainen was especially successful in looking after the newer generations of researchers. He was a tireless supervisor of their work and was always ready to obtain

finance for it and to help them to look for employment after graduation. He retained this interest in his numerous former students up to the end of his life and would regularly enquire whether the Department of Political Science had any fresh news of appointments. He enjoyed the company of his students and would defend them with his whole heart, although he would also expect them to produce results. Many of those who wrote a doctoral thesis or degree dissertation under his supervision went on to become influential members of the community, such as Seppo Kääriäinen, who gained a doctorate, and Timo Soini, who took a master's degree.

Tuomo was a straightforward person who never hesitated to express his own opinions provided he could justify them. At the same time, however, he had a conciliatory streak and was ready to seek mutual understanding on most matters. With age, he became more critical of the Finns' notions of politics and their attitudes towards populism, regarding these as superficial and short-sighted.

Tuomo Martikainen gained his first degree in political science in 1963 and his licentiate in 1968, following this with a doctorate in 1973. Having worked for some time in a highly progressive cooperative organization, he was selected for a position of assistant in political science at the University of Helsinki in 1965, and eventually he was appointed associate professor of administration in 1977 and professor of political science in 1983. He was head of department for many years and held offices in the Finnish Political Science Association, eventually becoming an honorary member. He was a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters from 1992 onwards.

Tuomo's favourite pastime was exploring the islands on the Finnish coast in the large wooden-built motorboat that he had bought in the early 1970s, although this was replaced in the 1990s by a summer cottage near Mantyharju, which became a base for the whole family and a place where they could symbolically "return to their roots". Tuomo was a home-loving man and

his friends and colleagues were welcome to visit him at his home in Kapteeninkatu, where many a pleasant evening would begin with a "Tuomo special" (a vermouth-biased dry Martini with Angostura Bitters), followed by a delicious dinner prepared by Tuomo together with his wife Tuula. Tuomo was particularly proud of his two sons Mikko and Pekka and his grandchildren.

*Obituary by Olli Rehn
and Raimo Väyrynen*