



## Seppo Siirilä

\* 2.10.1937 † 26.3.2023

Professor Seppo Siirilä died in Helsinki on 26 March 2023, aged 85.

Seppo Siirilä had a long and successful academic career. His thinking and actions were reflected in many ways in the development of geography and regional studies in Finland. After graduating from high school in 1956, Seppo Siirilä studied geography and biology at the University of Helsinki, graduating with a M.A. in philosophy in 1961, a licentiate in 1965 and a doctorate in 1968. Siirilä's doctoral thesis focused on the functional structure of the city of Tampere and, in line with common practice at the time, he published it as a monograph in German.

Seppo Siirilä's main career was at the University of Tampere. He was appointed Acting Professor of Social and Economic Ecology in 1969 and worked as a full professor from 1971 until his retirement. In 1974, the subject of social and economic ecology was renamed regional studies. In addition to his duties as Professor, Siirilä was Head of the Department, Dean of the Faculty, Vice Rector, and Acting Rector of the University of Tampere. As an academic leader, Siirilä was humane and respected.

Seppo Siirilä conducted research in England in 1971 and in Australia from 1973 to

1974. Early in his career, his research activities focused on issues of urban ecology. His later research focused on regional differences in well-being. Over time, he contributed to the field of regional policy in several specialist positions. In recognition of his many contributions to the development of research and science in Finland, he was invited to become a member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters in 1985.

Seppo Siirilä's contribution to the development of regional studies is still visible in many ways today. His activities in the field led to a number of significant research projects and the development of a strong research culture in Tampere. He also developed the department into a recognised educational unit, which was selected four times as a national centre of excellence in high-quality education.

In addition to science and research, Seppo Siirilä always had a place in his heart for orienteering. He was President of the Finnish Orienteering Federation from 1984 to 1991. In 1995 he was made an honorary member of the Orienteering Federation.

Siirilä will be missed by his two sons and a wide circle of relatives and friends.

*Markku Sotarauta and Jouni Häkli*