

Obituary: Professor Giuseppe Volpato



Professor Giuseppe Volpato passed away on Wednesday the 4th of April 2012. It is a huge sadness for the members of the editorial board, authors and readers of the *International Journal of Automotive Technology and Management*.

He was member of the editorial board since its beginning and submitted several papers to the evaluation process covering most of subject of interest of *IJATM*. These papers issued by *IJATM* prove the impressive and large knowledge in the automotive industry analysed by Giuseppe:

- ‘Redesigning the automakers-suppliers relationships in the automotive industry’ with Yannick Lung (Vol. 2, No. 1)
- ‘Partnering in the global auto industry: the Fiat-GM strategic alliance’ with Arnaldo Camuffo (Vol. 2, Nos. 3/4)
- ‘The role of ICT in the strategic integration of automotive supply-chain’ with Andrea Stocchetti (Vol. 2, Nos. 3/4)
- ‘The OEM-FTS relationship’ (Vol. 4, Nos. 2/3)
- ‘Competitive assembly: brown or green field site – conventional or flexible plant – what’s the best?’ with Evaristo R. Clementi and Pier Angelo Piazza (Vol. 5, No. 3)
- ‘Knowledge management in the automotive supply chain: exploring suppliers’ point of view’ with Andrea Stocchetti (Vol. 7, No. 3)
- ‘Managing product life-cycle in the auto-industry: evaluating carmakers effectiveness’ with Andrea Stocchetti (Vol. 8, No. 1)
- ‘In quest for a sustainable motorization: the CNG opportunity’ with Andrea Stocchetti (Vol. 10, No. 1).

He was amongst the first European scholars who detected the emergence of new industrial models in the automotive industry and he was working until the end on a collective book on the automobile carmakers in the crisis.

All those who have worked with him know the care and the consideration with which he respected his engagements, but also the kindness and the patience that he showed to others. He was always ready to facilitate contacts and to engage in the collective debate over the organisation and the objectives of our network. He knew how best to organise at just the right time, and showed the greatest discretion at meetings and conferences, as many amongst us will remember. He has been, by his constancy and loyalty, one of those who have contributed most to the continuity and value of our research activities, despite his many academic responsibilities.

A graduate of the Economic Faculty Ca' Foscari of Venice in 1969, he started to teach at the Faculty of Statistical Sciences of Padua, and later became Professor of Industrial Economy at his home faculty. He published in 1983 an exceptionally well researched book that has been recognised ever since as a major reference in its domain, *L'industria Automobilistica Internazionale*. This was followed by a second book in 1986 that would lay the foundations of his teaching, *Concorrenza, Impresa, Strategie – Metodologia dell'analisi di settore e della formulazione delle strategie d'impresa* – now in its third edition and regularly updated and extended. From 1987 to 1993, he taught at the Faculty of Economics of Trento, where he took tenure of the Chair of Finanza Aziendale and became Director of the Istituto di Studi Aziendali. In 1993, he was appointed to the Chair of Economy and Enterprise Management at the Economic Faculty Ca' Foscari of Venice. He was subsequently elected President of the Faculty, from 1999 to 2002.

Despite this busy and successful career, he managed to publish several books on the industry in Veneto as well as articles on the automobile industry and distribution. He co-coordinated five Gerpisa books, and many special issues of academic journals. He wrote another reference book in 1996, *Il caso Fiat. Una strategia di riorganizzazione et di rilancio*, and pursued the meticulous analysis of this carmaker in *Fiat Auto. Crisi e riorganizzazioni di un'impresa simbolo* (2004) and in *Fiat Group Automobili – Un'araba fenice nell'industria automobilistica internazionale* (2008). His last book *L'auto dopo la crisi* (with Francesco Zirpoli) came out just one year ago. One can fully appreciate the scale and the value of his work through study of his bibliography, <http://www.unive.it/persone/volpato>. His books and articles will long live as a source of inspiration for all of us.