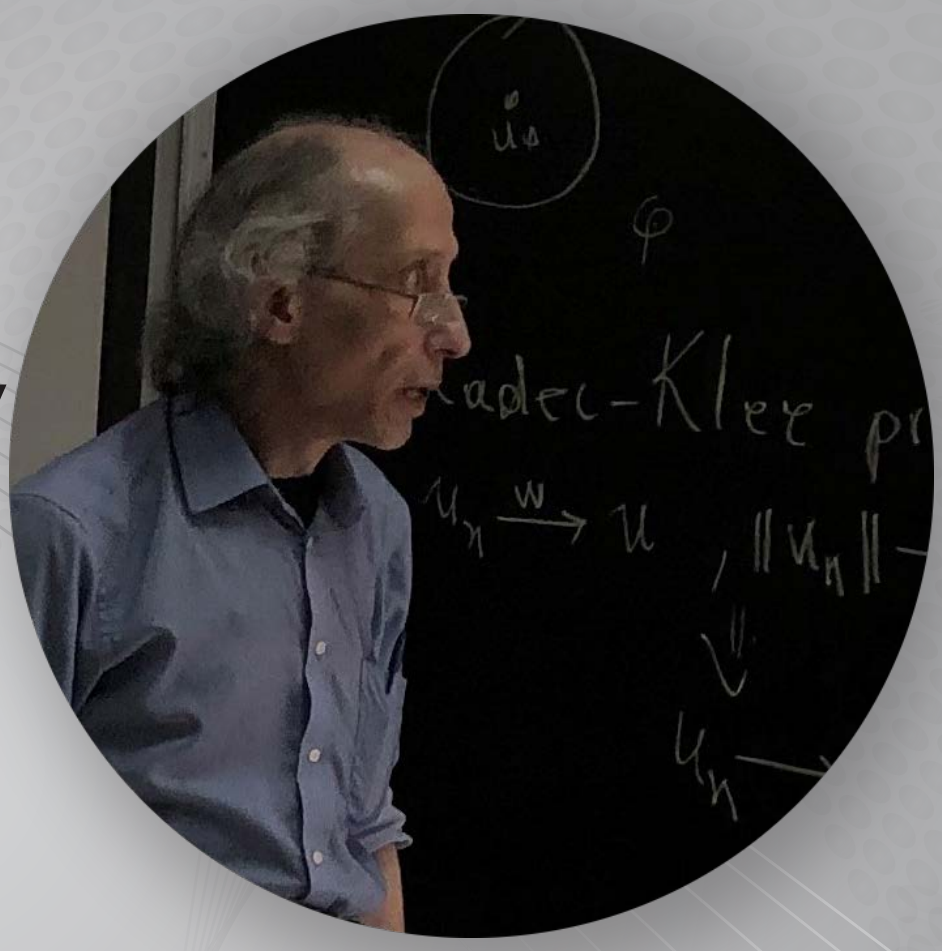
Doctor Honoris Causa
at the
University of Craiova

Nikolaos S. Papageorgiou, Professor of Mathematics at the Technical University of Athens, has been awarded the degree of **Doctor Honoris Causa** from the ***University of Craiova*** , for his work as a leading scholar in the field of nonlinear analysis.

The whole scientific work of Professor ***Nikolaos S. Papageorgiou*** , combines the passion of developing pure and applied mathematics with tireless intellectual curiosity.



The Honorary Degree Ceremonies will take place on

8th of November 2019 at 12am

in ***Aula King Michael I*** of the University of Craiova

L A U D A T I O

Carissimi Rectorem Servetur,

Cara Praeses et Senatus,

Carissimi Magistri,

Carissimi Discipuli,

It is a great honor to present to you Professor Nikolaos Papageorgiou, who receives the Honorary Degree *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the University of Craiova. Talking about Professor Papageorgiou means to talk about total passion for mathematics and full devotion to research at the highest scientific level. More precisely, talking about the scientific achievements of Professor Papageorgiou means to talk about the development of the pure and applied *nonlinear analysis* in the last few decades. You have all reasons to ask me: "Why *nonlinear analysis*?" The answer is simple: because our world is *nonlinear*. The importance of nonlinear problems in our times is huge, because they make a connection between pure and applied sciences.

Nikolaos Papageorgiou was born in 1958 and the same day with Martin Luther King and the Romanian national poet, Mihai Eminescu. He is a Full Professor at the Department of Mathematics of the National Technical University of Athens. Professor Papageorgiou studied in the best universities in the world. During 1976 and 1980 he studied at the Massachusetts University of Technology where he obtained two Bachelor of Science degrees: both in Mathematics and in Electrical Engineering. Between 1980 and 1983 he prepared a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics at Harvard University.

All the work of Professor Papageorgiou is characterized by a very clever use of mathematical analysis and the choice of nice mathematical problems, which are

strongly motivated by the applied sciences. His research interests are very large and they are situated at the interplay between nonlinear functional analysis, calculus of variations, boundary value problems, partial differential equations, evolution equations, applied measure theory, mathematical physics, optimization, optimal control, approximation theory, mathematical economics, and game theory. In his numerous works, Professor Papageorgiou has developed powerful techniques, which are mainly devoted to the refined qualitative, quantitative and asymptotic analysis of solutions of wide classes of nonlinear problems.

Working at the interface of various pure and applied fields has been a visionary idea of Professor Papageorgiou. Indeed, in 2016, hence many years after the beginning of his scientific career, the National Science Foundation disclosed a set of '10 Big Ideas', which aim to be long-term research and process ideas for future investment at the frontiers of science and engineering. One of these 10 Big Ideas is that "the great changes of today will not be solved by a discipline alone. They require convergence: the merging of ideas, approaches and technologies from widely different fields of knowledge to stimulate innovation and discovery".

Professor Nikolaos Papageorgiou has published an impressive number of research papers in the best mathematical journals in the world. At this moment, his name appears with 919 published papers in the database of the American Mathematical Society (MathSciNet). Some of the journals with the highest visibility where he has published his work are: *Transactions AMS, Proceedings AMS, Memoirs of the AMS, Math. Annalen, Journal of Differential Equations, Journal of Functional Analysis, Journal de Liouville, Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Indiana Journal of Mathematics, Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Israel Journal of Mathematics, Annali di Matematica Pura ed Applicata, Calculus of Variations and Partial Differential Equations,* etc. Professor Papageorgiou has

published until now 12 books and he collaborated with the best publishers in our field: Springer New York, Springer Switzerland, Chapman & Hall, Kluwer, Walter de Gruyter, and so on. Professor Papageorgiou has also an impressive number of citations, namely 7150 citations at this moment. His most cited work has about 850 citations and is a handbook of multivalued analysis published in 1997.

I am proud to mention here that we have published until now several joint papers and others are accepted for publication. In 2019 we published (jointly with Professor Dusan Repovs from Ljubljana) a monograph of almost 600 pages in the series Springer Monographs in Mathematics. This first volume is dedicated to the main abstract methods used in nonlinear analysis, while the second volume (dedicated to applications) will be published next year in the same series of Springer Switzerland.

Professor Nikolaos Papageorgiou devoted all his life to mathematics. Trying to synthesize his passion to think deeply, I guess that the most appropriate words to characterize his devotion to science are the following: *"To think freely is great, but to think rightly is greater."* These words are due to Thomas Thorild and are engraved in golden letters above the entrance to the Grand Auditorium of the University Main Building in Uppsala.

Professor Papageorgiou is not only a distinguished scientist but also a very close collaborator and I am most pleased to use this excellent opportunity to warmly thank for all I have learned from my dear friend, Professor Papageorgiou. Have a very pleasant stay in our university, in Craiova and in Romania!

To finish, let me congratulate Professor Papageorgiou for his magnificent work and because it is a *laudatio* we should say in latin: *Laudamus Nicolaus*!

Prof. Vicentiu Radulescu November VIII, MMXIX