



**Professor Stefan Stefanov Mutafov**

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It has been one hundred years since the birth of our outstanding Bulgarian anthropologist and neurologist Prof. Stefan Mutafov. Let us remember his life, his academic career and scientific contributions.

Stefan Stefanov Mutafov was born on March 20, 1925 in the town of Popovo in the family of Stefan K. Mutafov and his wife Dochka. His father was a famous merchant, but died in his early fifties while his son was 8 years old.

Stefan Mutafov – Jr., graduated in 1945 simultaneously from two high schools - Sofia Theological Seminary, and the Classical Department of the Male High School in Ruse. In 1952 he graduated in medicine at Higher Medical Institute in Sofia (now Medical University – Sofia).

As a son of prominent merchant and because Stefan Mutafov graduated from theological seminary, he encountered many difficulties in his life and academic career, which he overcame through his intelligence and amazing work capacity.

After Stefan Mutafov graduated from the Medical University he was appointed as a physician in village of Kamenovo (district of Kubrat) and then quickly was promoted in the Chief physician of the hospital in the town of Kubrat. He was the Head of Department of Public Health and Social Care in the town of Silistra (1953-1955). In 1958 Stefan Mutafov became a senior inspector in the District Health Department in the city of Ruse and the Head of Department of Neurology of the three medical and sanitary units in Ruse.

During this period, Stefan Mutafov also completed two specializations at the Institute for Specialization of Medical Doctors in Sofia – in “Organization of Health Care and History of Medicine” (1953) and in “Neurology and Psychoneurology” (1957-1958). Later in 1967 he has got specialization in medical anthropology in German Democratic Republic (1967) and in neuro-defectology and bioanthropology in Switzerland (1972-1973).

Apart from his busy work, Stefan Mutafov conducted anthropological studies on the population of Northeastern Bulgaria from different ethnic groups, which remained unpublished, but preserved in the archive. His work was noticed by Dr. Petar Boev, scientist in ethnical anthropology, who invited him to work at the Institute of Morphology (now Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. Thus, in 1961, after a competition, Stefan Mutafov started his scientific career as Assistant Professor in the Institute. In 1969 he successfully defended his PhD dissertation on oligophrenology and later in 1984 – dissertation for Doctor of medical sciences. In 1969 he acquired his first habilitation as Associate Professor in medical anthropology followed by full professorship in applied anthropology (1982). He was Head of the Laboratory of Applied Anthropology and Defectology established by him and later he became Head of the Department of Anthropology in the Institute.

Stefan Mutafov has a great contribution for universities not only in student's education but in establishing specialized departments. He started to teach students in 1959 as a lecturer in Medical School in Ruse. In 1969 Stefan Mutafov was elected as a part-time lecturer in Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” starting with training of students in clinics of oligophrenia. Since 1973, he was Head of the Sector of Defectology at the Department of Pedagogy of the Faculty of Philosophy. In 1975, he was promoted in full-time associate professor in neurology and psychopathology, and in 1986 he became full professor in neurology. In 1987 Prof. Mutafov established in the Sofia University the first Department of Defectology (now Special Pedagogy) in Bulgaria and he was Head of the Department until his retirement in 1991. Soon after his retirement Prof. Mutafov continued his academic activity in Shumen University “Konstantin Preslavski” in the Department of Special Pedagogy and Sociagogy established by him in 1993 at the Faculty of Pedagogy. Since 1996 he worked in Thracian University – Stara Zagora in newly-established Department of Special Pedagogy as well.

Prof. Stefan Mutafov is the author and co-author of over 550 scientific papers of which more than 100 have been published abroad. He is also the author of 35 monographs and 7 university textbooks. He participated in over 250 scientific congresses, conferences and symposia. He is author of 12 inventions and 5 rationalizations, which are in the field of applied anthropology and ergonomics, for which he received the title of “honorary inventor” of Bulgaria. Prof. Mutafov was recognized as one of the greatest anthropologists in Bulgarian scientific societies. His broad scientific output is highly appreciated – in the fields of anthropology, neurology, psychology, pedagogy, defectology, ergonomics, hygiene, cultural studies, history of medicine. Prof. Mutafov is the founder of several research fields in anthropological sciences - applied anthropology, ergonomic anthropology, neuro-anthropology, anthropological standardization biodeflectology.

Bellow I will mention few of his works, emphasizing those that are related to anthropology.

✓ “Anthropometry and somatoscopy” (1959) - a work revealing his early interest in anthropology, while still working in Ruse.

✓ “Anthropometric study of the Bulgarian population” (1976), co-authored with I. Goranov, D. Sepetliev, S. Tornjova, A. Nacheva.

✓ “Psychophysical characteristics of children with anomalies” (1981)

✓ “The human skull in a medical-anthropological aspect” (1984), co-authored with another great Bulgarian anthropologist Prof. Dimitar Kadanov, corresponding member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The scientific data generated by both scientists on the cranial material from the Military Ossuary in Sofia, were used by the prominent German anthropologist Rösing for comparison with other European populations. Another famous anthropologist Prof. Jelinek highly appreciated the cranial variations discovered by Stefan Mutafov.

✓ “Anthropological and ergonomic characterization of the Bulgarian population” (1985), co-authored with I. Goranov, D. Sepetliev, S. Tornjova, A. Nacheva. This work and the previous one by the same authors (1976), analyzed the results of a large-scale, very well-organized and methodologically relevant study of the Bulgarian population.

✓ “The foot in a medical-anthropological aspect” (1988). The work is largely based on the study of the foot by using devices invented by Prof. Mutafov.

✓ “Pedagogical hygiene” (1991), co-authored with Veska Shosheva.

✓ “Clinical forms of oligophrenia” (1992)

✓ “Medicine in Bulgarian iconography” /1992/

✓ “Anthropology, ergonomics, robotics” (2000).

Prof. Mutafov was a member of several national and international scientific societies. He was member of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian National Academy of Medicine.

Prof. Mutafov received honorary awards from the Sofia University (2000) and Shumen University. He was recognized by one of the most prestigious awards – The Order “Sts. Cyril and Methodius” 1<sup>st</sup> degree”.

Prof. Mutafov will be remembered not only with his bright mind and encyclopedic knowledge but with his civil and purely Christian position. He did not allow himself to make compromise with his own conscience and openly opposed the linking of anthropology with political situations/background in Bulgaria. As a person and scholar he remained humanist and dreamer.

*Racho Stoev*

