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Eloge of Dan McFadden by Nathalie Picard for the honoris
Causa degree awarded by the University of Cergy-Pontoise

December 17, 2015

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Labex MME-DII

Modèles Mathématiques et Économiques de la
Dynamique, de l'Incertitude et des Interactions.



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When Olivier Donni, who was the director of THEMA at that time, asked me to suggest an economist for the honoris causa ceremony organized by the University of Cergy-Pontoise, the name of Daniel McFadden naturally came to my mind, although I was wondering whether I would dare asking him to make us such an honor. However, this initial hesitation was only because I forgot during one second how nice Dan is.

I first met Dan in 2005 in Lausanne, during an intensive course in Discrete Choice Models organized by Michel Bierlaire, who is here today. This is the European version of the course organized in MIT by Moshe Ben-Akiva, who is also here today. Like all attendees of these yearly courses, and I would say even more, I could appreciate Dan's fantastic scientific and also human qualities.

Six years later, Dan kindly accepted to be a member of the committee of my *habilitation à diriger des recherches*, and at that occasion, he made so many interesting comments about demography, development economics, education, voting theory and finance, in addition to his more familiar topic of transportation.

This illustrates one striking aspect of Dan's multidisciplinary contribution: whenever he attends a presentation or discusses with specialists of any domain, he always provides extremely relevant and accurate comments and suggestions.

The domains which significantly benefitted from Dan's contribution include, among others, econometrics, statistics, transport, environment, microeconomics, cognitive and behavioral economics, utility and prospects theory, welfare economics, political economy, health, ageing, demography, agriculture, marketing, finance, insurance.

But I will let André de Palma, who has been knowing Dan for longer than me, go on with the *éloge* of Dan.