

Obituary: Adrian H. Pitariu (1970–2025)

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Dr Adrian H. Pitariu, a tenured Associate Professor at the Hill & Levene Schools of Business, University of Regina, passed away in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, on April 22, 2025, following a brief illness. Adrian leaves behind his wife of 26 years, Gabriela, his beloved children, Erin and Alex and his mother, Ana. He was predeceased by his father, Dr Horia D. Pitariu, the esteemed industrial and organizational psychologist. Adrian's sudden passing brings immeasurable grief to his family, friends, collaborators, colleagues, students and the University of Regina community.

Born and raised in Romania, Adrian's academic interests were evident early on. He demonstrated a gift for languages, completing elementary and high school in German immersion. After high school, he earned his undergraduate degree at Babeş-Bolyai University, where he met his future wife, Gabriela. In 2000, he completed his first Ph.D. in Psychology at the University of Bucharest. He was then awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue graduate studies at the University of South Carolina in the USA, where he earned both an MBA (2002) and a second Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior (2007).

In 2007, Adrian and Gabriela moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where he held faculty positions at the University of Toronto and York University. In 2009, Adrian joined the Hill & Levene Schools of Business as a full-time Assistant Professor. Due to his exceptional service, mastery in teaching and impactful scholarship, he was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in 2013. Throughout his career, Adrian developed an extensive management research program that significantly advanced the discipline. His work explored topics such as customer satisfaction and employee engagement, and he published in top management journals, including *Journal of Management*, *Career Development International*, *Small Group Research* and *Business Ethics: The Environment and Responsibility*, among others. His research on real estate and property management was both novel and practical. In his final publication in *Property Management*, Adrian examined the positive outcomes of financialization in real estate, showing that financialization correlated with renter-perceived property owner effectiveness, thereby challenging the prevailing narrative that it strictly benefits shareholders and the financial elite (Wilson et al., 2025).

Adrian's passion for research led to the development of the MSc in Organizational Studies program at the Levene Graduate School of Business. His contributions to the Hill & Levene Schools of Business and the University of Regina were profound and long-lasting. He served on numerous committees at both the unit and university levels, offering pragmatic and evidence-based insights. In recognition of his leadership and commitment, he was appointed Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs from 2018 to 2020.

In addition to his scholarly contributions, Adrian was an exceptional educator. He taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in human resources management, organizational behavior and management research. He was a passionate instructor, a supportive mentor and a respected professor.

Adrian's impact will continue to resonate in the fields of real estate economics and property management and in the knowledge he shared with his students. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, colleagues, collaborators and students – but he will never be forgotten.

Grant Alexander Wilson

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References

Wilson, G.A., Jogia, J. and Pitariu, A. (2025), "Financialization and vertical integration enhance renter-perceived property owner effectiveness", *Property Management*. doi: [10.1108/PM-06-2024-0062](https://doi.org/10.1108/PM-06-2024-0062).