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*Reviews. Reports*

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Recenzje. Sprawozdania

**Andrzej Kansy, review of: *Życie w służbie ludziom i edukacji. Księga pamiątkowa na jubileusz dziewięćdziesięciolecia profesora Antoniego Rajkiewicza* [Life in the service of people and education. Commemorative book for the 90th anniversary of Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz], ed. Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak, Oficyna Wydawnicza Aspra-JR, 2012, p. 398.**

A conversation with Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz resembles drawing from a treasure trove of information. During the meetings with this scholar one touches the truth about mankind. The authors of the publication *Life in the service of people and education* have provided this knowledge for a wider group of recipients. The book edited by Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak was published in celebration of the 90th anniversary of A. Rajkiewicz, a meritorious Professor of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences at Warsaw University, one of the pioneers of social POLICY in Poland. The authors of the commemorative book published in 2012 are prominent scholars – A. Rajkiewicz's colleagues, alumni and Professor's friends: Beata Bereza, Grażyna Chorążykiewicz, Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak, Walter Fridrich, Justyna Godlewska, Beata Kaczyńska, Adam Kurzynowski, Emilia Jaroszewska, Ewa Leś, Jolanta Supińska, Hanna Ziółkowska and Cezary Żołędowski. The book comprises two parts.

The first part, entitled *Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz – teacher, supervisor and friend*, has been divided into three chapters. The first one consists of excerpts from an interview RZEKA with A. Rajkiewicz *From the life of a positivist*. It was conducted by Beata Bereza in the years 2011 and 2012. Professor's opinions revealed the most significant facts from his life which had shaped him as a man, teacher and scholar. His memories from Druźbice, a village situated between Pabianice and Bełchatów where A. Rajkiewicz was born in a family with teaching tradition are worthy of notice. Drawing attention to the events which, after years, became significant in the interviewee's biography shows the Author's preparation for this interview. Already as a child, wandering around his village, he noticed differences in living standards of people and tried to investigate into the reasons behind such a situation. Questions posed at that time would become signposts for the future scientific and research

work. As a student of a middle school in Piotrków Trybunalski, he was observing layoffs of laborers as well as their protests in the 30's of the 20th c. "It made me sad to see how the police were treating shipyard workers who went on strike, spontaneously I sympathized with those who were being beaten and humiliated. I rebelled against all forms of exploitation" – he recalls (p. 39). Thanks to this and other facts mentioned during the interview it is easier to understand A. Rajkiewicz's beliefs and future path as a community worker, and as a result – Minister of Labor and Social Policy. The second chapter of the first part entitled *How to be a scholar, teacher and master – Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz in the memory of his students and colleagues* contains opinions confirming the uniqueness of the figure being presented. His alumni emphasize the impact that the Professor had on their lives. "Apart from the closest family no-one else influenced the place where I am as much as he did" – says Cezary Żołędowski, Director of the Institute of Social Policy at Warsaw University, A. Rajkiewicz's student (p. 67, 69). The Authors draw our attention to kindness he showed towards young people being introduced into the world of science (Jolanta Supińska; p. 75, Emilia Jaroszevska, p. 79; Hanna Ziółkowska, p. 86). For numerous people he has been a guide in their adult lives. "He has always been an Authority, Educator and Friend to me" writes Grażyna Chorążykiewicz (p. 93). The third chapter entitled *Organization of teaching and propagating knowledge of social policy in Professor's biography* presents his scientific achievements, teaching results as well as organizational achievements related to his cooperation with SGPiS (now Warsaw School of Economics) as well as Warsaw University. This chapter includes an article written by Adam Krzynowski entitled *Scientific, organizational and didactic activity of Full Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, PhD at Warsaw School of Economics* and an article by Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak entitled *Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz in the process of establishing and creating the development of the Institute of Social Policy at Warsaw University*. The Author has emphasized that the Institute of Social Policy, thanks to Professor, became a source of humanistic values and school of respect of the human being (p. 134). The publication also includes 25 years of A. Rajkiewicz's activity as the editor-in-chief of a monthly magazine "Polityka Społeczna". Beata Kaczyńska reminded about the areas of Professor's particular interests presented in it. These were, among others, issues related to globalization, unemployment, family life. The Author has also stressed the high level of this scientific magazine, which was confirmed with the highest number of points (9) awarded to a domestic periodical by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

The second part of the commemorative book entitled *Within the triad – research, teaching, practice: the anthology of texts by Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz consists of four sections*. Two of them reflect the Professor's thoughts on the issues of social policy, constituting his contribution to this field. What draws the attention of readers is the relevance of ideas. Social progress as an objective of social policy resulting from, among others, proper perception of work as a source of affluence, fair division, a method for equalizing chances, respecting human dignity, or a family as a source of a human being's basic environment – is a timeless idea (p. 158). Soon after the political transformation he emphasized that "the specific character of Poland requires specific approaches and concepts of development" as well as that in the new reality one needs to show concern about one's own values, which creates a chance for including Poland in the European economic system (p. 179). A. Rajkiewicz's words said in 1993 concerning the issue of growing unemployment sound bitter twenty years later: "All this is happening contrary to the state's obligations resulting from ratified international conven-

tions, contrary to social education of the Roman Catholic Church. It is enough to quote here article 43 of the encyclical *Centesimus annus*, which states: The duty of earning a living by the sweat of one's brow also assumes the right for this". He referred to the unemployment as a waste of human abilities, and the approach to this issue – reprehensible. He spoke out for establishing a protective community of the state, local government and citizens (p. 189). From the perspective of 23 years, the interview *To make a living* seems interesting. It was published in "Trybuna" in 2000, where the issue of labor migration was raised. This issue was discussed in the work from 2004 entitled: *The dynamics and structure of labor migration in contemporary Poland*, which has been included in this collection. The Author predicts here, among others, that during the entire period until 2030, a rise in educational migration should be expected, which has presently been confirmed by increasingly frequent information on educating foreign students at Polish higher schools. In another article entitled *A demographic bomb of population processes – areas of social dialogue* from 2010 the Author emphasized the necessity of taking greater care of the quality of human potential. As an attentive observer of processes occurring within mature European societies, he encouraged to use the experiences of other societies within usefulness and progress (pp. 261–262). Professor's reminiscences constitute section III of the book, entitled *Remembering people and their works*. Statements related to the organization Students' Mutual Help of the University of Łódź, whose secretary was A. Rajkiewicz, and then its president. In a text which was full of reflection, Professor paid tribute to his fellow colleagues from the organization, with whom he provided help for students (e.g. cheap meals, or a place in a student's hostel). Moreover, this section includes personal memories of Prof. Edward Strzelecki (1894–1967), Prof. Waław Szubert (1912–1994), Prof. Kazimierz Secomski and Prof. Lucyna Frackiewicz. Section IV entitled *Usefulness of political studies in the process of transformation* includes comments made by A. Rajkiewicz on teaching political sciences during the breakthrough decades of the 80's and 90's. The notes of the ending of the strike in Gdańsk and conclusion of the August Agreement deserve attention. Professor participated in these events as an expert on the government's part and mediated in negotiations between Lech Wałęsa and Edward Gierek. Participants of these events have been described with unusual precision, which reflects the gravity of and hope of those days very well. An important text entitled *Social costs of the transformation* of 2004 contains bitter reflection on social damage which was experienced by a significant part of the Polish society after 1989. The Author discussed the issue of demographic regress, occupational deactivation, pauperization and differentiation in terms of wealth. These lead to, among others, an increase in crime rate and feeling threatened, weakening of interpersonal bonds, passivity towards public matters, a rise in the number of suicides. "Domination of economic values which found their expression in the popularization of marketization, and also commercialization in the systems of satisfying human needs as important as health and education results in dehumanization of life" – notices Prof. Rajkiewicz, and it seems difficult to ignore such a warning (p. 379). However, honesty, efficiency and activity are the hope for the fatigued society – thanks to these values, according to Prof. Rajkiewicz, "tomorrow may be better" (p. 381).

The lack of opinions on Professor from the people connected with the Płock Learned Society, in which he has been active for over 40 years and whose honorary member he is, is a certain shortcoming of the book. Admittedly, the book mentioned research on Płock as an industrialized idea, yet also comments made by doctoral seminar participants, which

A. Rajkiewicz conducted at the Płock Learned Society for 30 years without taking remuneration for it, could prove interesting. As a result of the seminar's activities a great number of people obtained doctor's degrees, thus improving the potential of the Płock region, which appeared to be particularly helpful during the period of higher education development in Płock.

Full Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, PhD, is one of the pioneers of social policy in Poland. His scientific, didactic and educational achievements are unquestionable. Professor's social activity in many areas is worthy of admiration. However, this information may be found in libraries, bibliographical notes or official biographies. The book entitled *Life in the service of people and education* includes much more information. Opinions about the Professor, as well as his own memories, present a person touching the essence of life. It is a combination of knowledge about interpersonal relations, of human strengths and weaknesses, and also the ability to emphasize with those who were hurt during great political and economic processes of the 20th and 21st centuries. This book's value is its versatility. Due to its didactic and educational values, it may be interpreted even separately from the person it has been devoted to. Professor's life becomes here the source of information which may be applied to anyone and used in the process of individual development. It may prove helpful particularly in the case of young people searching their own paths. The global economic crisis caused by greed has also exposed a crisis within the system of values. It will not be possible to recover from this collapse without reinstating their proper definitions. It is worth searching for them among the works of the Polish scholar A. Rajkiewicz as well as in his biography.

**Katarzyna Bielska, review of: Adam Leszczyński, *Dziękujemy za palenie. Dlaczego Afryka nie może sobie poradzić z przemocą, głodem, wyzyskiem i AIDS* [Thank you for smoking. Why is Africa unable to cope with violence, hunger, exploitation or AIDS], Warszawa 2012, p. 308.**

The author of the reviewed publication works as a Reader at the institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Science. He is a University of Warsaw graduate, a PhD in Humanities, in the field of History. In his academic work he deals with modernization ideologies in peripheral countries, including Poland. He has published two monographs about social history in the People's Republic of Poland as well as a book *Naznaczeni* (Marked) which is a reportage on HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa in a social context. Adam Leszczyński is also a journalist, reporter and publicist for "Gazeta Wyborcza" and "Krytyka Polityczna". He has cooperated with "Newsweek", "Polityka", "Przekrój" and "National Geographic". *Thank you for smoking...* was published as part of a project Knowledge leads to changes! Strong cooperation between non-governmental organizations and academia in promotion of development issues among politicians and the society.

A. Leszczyński's publication is a collection of reportages based on an in-depth participant observation by the author. Chronological censorship presents descriptions of events between 2002 and 2011. Most of the reportages, though, were written in 2010 and 2011. The book is divided into eleven chapters, each bearing a title, subtitle, date and the place of events.

The titles and subtitles were created based on dialectical expressions as well as heroes' and heroines' quotations. They are also a clear harbinger of topics and the main ideas of each chapter. The described observations relate to events as well as social and economic problems in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Malawi and South Africa. The reportages have been put in chronological order. The author tries to answer the following research questions: How to fight exploitation on plantations in Malawi?; Does Fairtrade work in accordance with its idea and principles?; How do western activists and the United Nations eliminate slums?; How does HIV virus spread so quickly in Africa?; The secrets behind microcredits; Where does the conflict between people and elephants originate from?; Where does famine have its roots?; Why can't we overcome malaria in Africa?; Why is violence and sexual abuse predominant in African societies?; Is it possible to put an end to superstitions and witch hunt in Africa?; Where do mistakes concerning the help to African societies lie? With the help of anthropologists and non-governmental organizations A. Leszczyński puts forward many theses which explain, at least partially, African problems, which are often incomprehensible to activists from developed countries working in Africa. Additionally, at the end of the publication one can find bibliography, index of names and sources (inseparable) final annotations, a brief description of Polish Humanitarian Action activities and its cooperation with other non-governmental organizations, profiles of people working on the publication and the table of content at the end.

The aim of this publication is to educate citizens of developed countries, as well as to show validity and the need for academia and non-governmental organizations to cooperate. The choice of topics concerns the most important economic and social issues, which have been intensifying in Africa for years and are not widely discussed by western societies. The topics cover crucial issues which are not unknown outside the African continent such as hunger, violence, HIV virus, economic exploitation, prostitution, persecution based on disobedience against hegemonic culture by being non-heteronormative. A. Leszczyński visits tobacco processing plant and commodity exchange in Malawi where he investigates the structures of economic dependence of native people on western buyers as well as slave labour in cultivation and sale of tobacco. He explores slums and investigates the work of the United Nations officials in Kenya and exposes the Fairtrade system in Ghana. He analyses the reasons behind women abuse in South Africa and describes the status of non-heteronormative people in whole Africa. He chooses Kenya as an example to describe the source of hunger in Africa, using Ghana he explains things incomprehensible to Western countries such as superstitions, witch hunt and blaming children for family failures. Based on interviews and analysed documents the author shows duplicated mistakes made by activists from developed countries, which are the result of not only the clash of cultures but also lack of appropriate planning and application of knowledge of economy, including the social one.

The objectives which the author has set himself are clearly defined, nevertheless, they are not straightforward because the book does not contain a separate chapter covering research methodology. Neither are research questions, which are to familiarize the phenomenon but do not lead to finding the answer, the readers are left to find the answers themselves. Similarly, hypothesis are not presented in a clear way, however, Adam Leszczyński outlines them and in most cases describes them through interviews with people engaged in a certain activity. Each chapter is dedicated to a distinct issue. The weakness of the publication, though, is the fact that the researches which were conducted and described concern only four African

countries. The author, however, quite often pictures a certain phenomenon in the context of the whole continent, which undoubtedly shares, at some point, the most serious problems, nevertheless, it is culturally diversified. He treated citizens of the countries he had visited in the same manner relating to them as Africans instead of Kenyans or Malawi. And so we can read "I have also met many educated Africans (...), (...) something incompatible with African sexuality (...), African idea of manhood (...)". A holistic approach to the so-called African problem may mistakenly reinforce the notion of this continent as a colonial or post-colonial body. The structure of the text is clear with each reportage put in chronological order. The content of each part of the publication pursues its objectives, which can be found by the reader in the introduction of each chapter. A considerable advantage of the book are the topics covered in it, which concern and are faced with ostracism and stigmatization on other continents as well. These are e.g. religious fundamentalism, misogyny, homophobia or market monopoly (see chapters 1, 2, 9, 10).

The language of A. Leszczyński's publication does not refer to scientific terminology related to a specific area of science. The book is descriptive, though it does not lack a range of paradigms. They most often refer to scientists' comments (e.g. anthropologists, sociologists) or other reportages on similar subject. The author therefore gives a theoretical base for his empirical work or makes reference to other works by scientists and publicists. Neither hypotheses nor research questions have been set straightforward. Since the author is not only a publicist but also a scientist we can presume that such a method was not accidental and was meant to coherently adjust both the language and terminology to the nature of the book. In his book the author applied a qualitative method and active participant observation. His identity and destination were known to everyone interviewed and to all those who helped in the research. Similarly to the research objectives, we can be sure that A. Leszczyński used the method consciously and deliberately. Every chapter in the book is a typical case study which is examined and described by the author. Based on the structure of the content of the book we can observe that the author is emotionally engaged in the events and issues described in the book. Very broad knowledge from other sources contributes to his editorial style which makes the book a description of empirical research. It is also very clear in terms of epistemology as it is *a posteriori* that predominates in the publication. The hypotheses which can be found in the content of the book relate to the influence of economic superpowers on the state of devastation of African countries; international and municipal law which does not work properly in case of non-governmental organizations; inconsistent picture of Africa in the media of developed countries; relation between superstitions and high death rate among children and adults. The primary aim, however, is to raise awareness and criticism of the economic and social situation in Africa.

The bibliography (general criterion) includes literature on the subject with predominant Anglo-Saxon output which, apart from literature, contains extensive press sources. Among the footnotes in the book predominate content footnotes with the usual source which enable the reader to broaden information and, if need be, refer to the source. The author has also included bibliographic footnotes. The aim of the description of the Polish Humanitarian Action activities, which can be found at the end of the publication, is not only there to broaden the knowledge about the organization but most of all to give reference to other publications which have been released under its auspices. The last chapter has been named an epilogue and its content is to sum up the book. The author himself does not pass judgments, he only

gives opinions and reflections of his interlocutors. A. Leszczyński's publication is hence a reliable description of problems facing Africa. He shows a case study of particular countries in a clear way and introduces the reader into the world of dichotomy between the West and the African continent.

**Katarzyna Bielska, review of: Grzegorz Żuk, *Europe in Polish Public Discourse*, Peter Lang, Frankfurt 2013, p. 176.**

The author of the reviewed publication is a lecturer at the Institute of Cultural Studies, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. Grzegorz Żuk got his PhD in the field of linguistics in 2005. Since 2009 he has also been the head of UMCS University Press. In his academic work and papers he deals with European integration, literature, meaning of museums, tradition in the Polish and European context, Poland and Poles in Europe, Polish and European contemporary education and culture problems. He is publishing in English and German as well. In academic teaching he deals with knowledge of the literature, museums and collecting, cultural communication, newspaper editor workshop, Public Relations, introduction to cultural studies. G. Żuk is also an active participant of Polish and international conferences. He has an extensive experience in books and periodicals editing. Except *Europe in Polish Public Discourse*, he is the author of two monographs *Fortress or the Community? Europe in the Polish Public Discourse* (Lublin 2010) and *Literary Museums – History, Education, Prospects* (Lublin 2012).

The publication is divided into three chapters, introduction and conclusions. The first chapter *Picture of Europe in the linguistic-cultural consciousness of Poles* is focused on the linguistic data of Europe, which is also etymology and the original meaning of words. The reader can find there definitions, semantics, phrasemes and mostly signification of Europe in Poles' reflections. The chapter contains many examples from Polish literature, dictionaries and encyclopedias which have the meanings of Europe as a word and cultural construct. The same interpretation applies to a male and female European, European as an adjective, Eurocentrism and all compounds of prefix *euro*, which is divided into three levels: geographical, cultural and institutional. The reader can also find and compare poll's results of American Statistical Association which touched cultural, national, biological and other perception of Europe between 1990 and 2000. The second chapter *The nature of integration – Europe in selected contexts* contains again examples of Europe significations for Poland which the reader may find in the literature. The author presents here deeper problems of connections between Poland and Europe, which are: borders, citizens, common history, culture, religions and traditions. This is the shortest chapter from the three theoretical parts and it contains a very specific interpretation of Polish and European connections. In particular ways it gives a picture of Pole's awareness of Europe as a community, not only a geographical structure. This reminds us of nations and national conflicts as well. The last main chapter *The dilemmas of the present – Poland and the European Union in the integration discourse* shows a wide Poles' opinion about European integration. The reader can find there perspectives

on both politics and society. The author uses here again *radix* from the literature and press, where the particular role fulfil humorous press publications, jokes, adages and unofficial discussions of popular politicians, journalists and others. Another important case in this chapter is media context and vocabulary, metaphors, terminology used in press and other media streams. G. Żuk also presents many important press views about European integration both as a chance and risk for Poland and Polish citizens. Except the main chapter, significant place have the introduction and conclusions. In the introduction, the author becomes readers acquainted with other scientists and writers taking up similar issues. He writes about the chosen methodology, explains his groundwork for using research instruments, historical and ideological base. Conclusions contain two summaries: English and German. They present predictions and questions about the future of Poland's and Europe's integration, their cooperation, common denominators and divisions.

The aim of the publications is quite clear to know, readers can find it *inter alia* in the introduction. The methodology, chosen instruments and support of the quoted scientists are explained and applied in the following chapters. The author works with basic questions constantly and gives some answers in order of the topics he sets in the introduction. G. Żuk outlines a hypothesis and in most cases he describes it by press and research examples. The objectives which the author has set himself are clearly defined as well. The language used in the publication is specified but also very clear and perspicuous for every reader, not only focused on political science or international relations. The terminology used in the book is connected to political science, international relations and cultural studies indeed, but it brings advantage in respect of the language level of the publication. Moreover, readers can find metaphors and double semantic interpretation which the author presents with the words *Europe*, *European* (male and female, which is important for the Polish language), *euro* and other phrasemes. The author shows contents also in tables, which is especially valuable for polls results presentation. G. Żuk uses many types of analysis, for example: a private letter, statistics and opinion survey, press comments, historical literature. What is more, the author carries out an analysis of historical, literary and media studies areas that makes the reviewed publication a very professional and reliable expression of the Polish public opinion about European integration, Europe and all Polish connections.

The five-part publication includes bibliography of works quoted and referred to with the literature on the subject with predominant Polish output. Special, separate place in the book has also the index of dictionaries of the Polish language divided into technical dictionaries and encyclopedias and dictionaries of the Polish language. Both in chronological order. The book has the index of sources, which are historical, literary and journalists texts. Endnotes of the works quoted and referred to are placed at the end of the publication. The author uses footnotes very rarely and they contain mostly information of comparative character. Visual advantage give grids, dividing the text into chapters and sections of chapters, which makes pages clear and transparent.

G. Żuk's publication is an attempt to reconstruct, based on semantic analyses of linguistic data, which was the European and Polish reflection. The book takes Poles' opinions about the European Union as a community and the place of Poland in the European Union as well. It's connected with Polish public discourse about global history, culture, tradition and the future of complete integration. The publication also shows fears and hopes of Poles and the main topics which are present in the public space and discourse. Throughout many



areas which the author decided to study, readers have a very wide and professional focused view of Poles' opinions about the European integration. What is important, the book also raises case of Polish secular discourse, meaning of words, many semantic significations of words, literature, press texts. G. Żuk investigates in his publication all the metaphors which are connected to media sources, speeches of journalists, politics, comments in newspapers and specified magazines. That is a very strong advantage of this book. Owing to this, readers can understand, by means of historical, media and cultural studies analysis, how real and substantiated Polish discourse is. This literary and linguistic researches show many important and interesting facts about Polish culture, thinking about Poland's place in Europe and the European Union. The author presents not only statistic proofs, but even many doubts, open questions, different views on, for example, religious and secular issues and this is the second strong advantage of the book. What's worth adding, the author is focused on many backgrounds of Polish-European relations, including tradition, politics, history. He doesn't seem to base just on institutional structures. There is no skipping hard issues, everything is orderly and matched, including secular and religious spheres of public discourse. This publication is a very important addition to many science areas. It's definitely helpful for students and experienced scientists focused on international relations, cultural studies, political and other social sciences.

**Krzysztof Duda, Magdalena Musiał-Karg, Report from the 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference in a series of "Europe of the 21st century", *Europe and the European Union in the Face of Crisis. Diagnosis, Solutions and Scenarios for the Future*, Collegium Polonicum, February 7–8, 2013.**

On February 7–8, 2013, the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań organized the 13<sup>th</sup> conference in a series of *Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century*, hosted by Collegium Polonicum in Słubice, that is a joint research and scientific unit of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań and Viadrina European University in Frankfurt on Oder. The title of this year's conference was *Europe and the European Union in the Face of Crisis. Diagnosis, Solutions and Scenarios for the Future*, and similarly to last year's conference, it focused on the issue of the crisis which has impacted not only Europe as a continent, but first and foremost the European Union. The conference was supported by three partners: the European Commission Representation in Poland, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (Konrad Adenauer Foundation) and the Embassy of the Swiss Confederation, Warsaw.

This year's *Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century* conference provided an opportunity for the exchange of opinions and views, as well as for the presentation of research into the modern problems of the Old Continent, including the aftermath of the economic crisis that has tested the resilience of the EU structures, the efficiency of its mechanisms and procedures. The financial crisis has practically had an impact on every EU member state, and its consequences have turned out to be serious enough to justify the question of the influence the crisis has exerted on the political and economic future of European integration.

The objective of the conference, among others, was to demonstrate the determinants of the role and significance of the European Union in the global economy and international cooperation; the influence of the loan crisis in selected EU member states on the current and future condition of Economic and Monetary Union; the reasons for the Euroland's problems, and the influence of these problems on the development of collaboration within the EU; the prospects for further enlargement of the European Union; the possibilities of maintaining the old divisions across Europe and the EU, as well as the emergence of new divisions; the significance of supranational interest groups for the emergence of the crisis and in overcoming it; the influence of the crisis on different dimensions of the security of EU states and citizens; new social movements as a consequence of the economic problems and the resulting sharper divisions in society; the role of the mass media in the furtherance of the idea of European integration, the promotion of the image of European organizations and institutions, and overcoming the consequences of the crisis; barriers to and conditions for the development of Europe and the European Union in relation to the increasing competition of international markets; desirable and possible directions of changes in the EU legal and institutional systems in relation to new threats, and the consequent tasks for politicians, academics, the media and journalists.

It is worth noting that this year's conference has been the largest one of all thirteen Ślubice conferences in terms of the number of participants. This year, the organizers hosted approximately 270 guests, including the scientists from various academic centers in Poland and researchers, practitioners, journalists, politicians and experts from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Cyprus, Switzerland, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan and other countries. Apart from eminent guests from the academic circles, Ślubice were also visited by the representatives of the European Commission, the Embassy of Switzerland and the Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The two days of the conference "Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Europe and the European Union in the Face of Crisis. Diagnosis, Solutions and Scenarios for the Future", encompassed plenary sessions and twenty-three thematic panels, including two held in the English language and one in the Russian language. The session of the Board of the Polish Political Science Association was also held on the first day of the conference.

The conference was inaugurated by the Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Prof. UAM dr hab. Tadeusz Wallas, who emphasized the topicality of the issues to be discussed at the conference. The Director of the European Commission Representation Office in Poland, Ewa Synowiec PhD, stressed the fact that recent years had been the time of unprecedented reforms in the European Union. She also emphasized that the picture of Europe emerging from the crisis raised crucial questions concerning Poland and its role in the new European Union. This plenary session was also contributed to by Prof. dr hab. Roman Bäcker, the President of the Polish Political Science Association, who stressed the significance of the "Europe of the 21<sup>st</sup> century" conference for Polish political scientists and experts in the European studies.

Nine lectures were given during the plenary session. The first speech of Prof. Jens Lowitzsch from Viadrina European University in Frankfurt on Oder concerned a specific instrument of counteracting the economic crisis, Employees Financial Participation. The speech of Prof. dr hab. Konstanty A. Wojtaszczyk from the University of Warsaw was entitled *Political transformations of the European Union from the point of view of crisis*

*phenomena*, while Prof. dr hab. Bogdan Koszel from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań discussed the role of Germany in overcoming the financial crisis of the Euro zone. The last speaker in the first part of the plenary session, Prof. dr hab. Janusz Węc from the Jagiellonian University, presented a lecture entitled *The European Union debate on the second political reform (2011–2012)*.

The second part of the plenary session comprised five lectures. The representative of the University of Wrocław, Prof. dr hab. Wiesław Bokajło, addressed the issue of the European Union in the context of deficit of democracy and oligarchization of power; Prof. Kaken Kamzin from Kazakhstan (Al-Farabi Kazakh National University) presented a speech entitled *The news set of modern journalism*; Prof. dr hab. Teresa Łoś-Nowak from the University of Wrocław discussed the position of nation-state in the European Union in the context of autonomy, assimilation and adaptation. Prof. Volodymyr Yemelyanov from Ukrainian Petro Mogyla University delivered a lecture on “The development of Ukrainian business in the agreements of global competition”. This part of the conference was concluded by Prof. dr hab. Ryszard Zięba from the University of Warsaw, who presented scenarios for the future of the European Union in the crisis conditions, followed by a discussion.

The first day of the conference continued in eleven thematic session focused mainly on the crisis in Europe, democracy in the European Union, social issues, the role of Poland in the EU, as well as the EU’s eastern neighbors. The panels also concerned the issue of the media in Europe and the attempts to assess the Polish presidency of the EU Council. This part included the panel held in English that discussed European exclaves and the panel on the relations of Switzerland with the EU, which was interpreted into English. It should be mentioned that thanks to the courtesy of the Ambassador of Switzerland Lukas Berlinger, who assumed the honorary patronage over the panel on the European policy of Switzerland, the conference was accompanied by an exhibition on direct democracy in Switzerland and the relations between the Swiss Federation and the European Union.

Sixteen thematic sessions were organized on the second day of the conference: four panels that had begun on the previous day were continued (the panels on social matters, the role of Poland in the EU, Eastern partnership and the crisis in the media), and another twelve were commenced. They concerned, among other issues, the policy of the EU at the time of crisis, the role of Germany in the EU, external relations of the EU, regions and local policy, scenarios for the EU’s future, the image of the EU in the media, security in the EU, EU economy, and the role of women in the EU.

The last item on the agenda was a plenary panel. In its course the Dean of the AMU Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Prof. Tadeusz Wallas, summed up the thematic sessions and proceeded to conclude the whole 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference. He observed that the multifaceted remarks presented in the speeches and productive discussions, made it possible to achieve the goals of the conference and facilitated the integration of the research circles and the exchange of opinions and experience.

**Zbigniew Tomasz Klimaszewski, International Academic Conference *The Poles in Germany: the Past, the Present, the Future*, Warsaw, 20–21 April 2012.**

The Polish immigrant community in Germany, even though it was a subject of numerous debates and papers, is still a topical and rediscovered issue. The significance of this problem is influenced by many factors which primarily include: the size of this community reaching 2 million people, a several centuries long tradition of Polish emigration to Germany, the geographical proximity of the country of immigration making the contacts with the Homeland easier, and finally the frequently raised political factor concerning the lack of the ethnic minority status of the Poles in Germany who have been only qualified as an “ethnic group”.

Considering the above factors, the World Research Council on Poles Abroad together with the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw organised an international academic conference entitled: “The Poles in Germany: the Past, the Present, the Future” which took place on 20–21 April 2012 at the Museum of Independence in Warsaw. Its participants included eminent representatives of science specialising in the research on the issues of Polish immigrant community in Germany as well as well-known activists of the Polish community abroad, mainly from Germany, among them the leader of organisations of the Polish community abroad Alexander Zając and the defender of Polish identity, lawyer Stefan Hambura.

The conference brought much interesting information based mainly on the authors’ own research, which proved the academic and empirical dimension of presented papers.

At this conference, a variety of form and style in particular lectures was allowed. To preserve an individual expression in the conveyance of information, no common model standardising the lecturers’ speeches was introduced.

Interesting lectures will certainly contribute to a better understanding of problems of the Polish immigrant community in Germany, and also provide a new look at it. The issues related to the “old” immigrant community were raised during the first half of the conference whereas the recent emigration, close to us due to being of topical interest, was the subject of its second part.

An introduction to the deliberations on the problems of the Polish immigrant community in Germany was the speech of the President of the World Research Council on Poles Abroad, Wiesław Gołębiewski, residing in Florida (USA). He accurately noticed the dependences of historic events which took place in neighbouring countries (Poland and Germany) with migration movements, particularly of the Polish population. This observation enabled a chronological outlining of the development of the Polish emigration to Germany, from the most ancient times to the present.

The President Wiesław Gołębiewski, as a well-known activist of the Polish community abroad, in an explicit way described the present situation of the Poles in Germany, acting as an “advocate” of their unsolved problems. He clearly stressed a progressing asymmetry between the situation of the so-called “Polish ethnic group in Germany” and the German minority in Poland, of course to the disadvantage of the Poles living in Germany. A proper regulation of these legislative inequalities is possible by introducing amendments to the provisions of the Polish-German Treaty of 1991.

Many speakers elaborated on the problems of the “old” Polish immigrant community in Germany. For a better understanding of the legal situation of the Polish minority in Germany

in the interwar period it was necessary to learn the regulations laid down in the post-Versailles Minority Treaties. This issue was elaborated by the Senator of the Republic of Poland, lawyer Łukasz Piotr Andrzejewski. Summing up, he rightly emphasized “It is incomprehensible that at present there is no political will in Germany and in Poland to restore the rights of the Polish minority in Germany, the rights which were not questioned until 1940, in the Third Reich”.

The lecture of Sebastian Fikus, PhD, describing the actions of selected leaders of the anti-Hitler opposition was only loosely connected with the central topic of the conference. However, it seemed significant in respect of outlining the atmosphere in relation to the Polish matter in that period. The author revealed little known, and maybe conjectured, even though extremely interesting events from the life of selected Third Reich dissidents, including their leader Helmut von Moltke. Their pacifist attitude, often favourable towards Poland, deserves a special recognition, especially considering that they took up a fight which was doomed to failure from the start and in which they died as traitors to the National Socialism and the German nation. However, the underground activity of the German opposition or its cooperation with the Polish resistance movement or London government did not have much influence on the course of the war.

The youth movement, including the scouting, considerably contributed to the organisational development of the Polish immigrant community in Germany. The scouting, which was active in Germany since 1918, constituted a great force in defending the national culture, language and customs as well as maintaining the native tradition on the foreign – German land. Wiesław Kukła, PhD, and Marian Miszczuk presented in their lecture the scouting activity, mainly related to publishing, in Germany, prewar Gdańsk and Austria. In the interwar period, numerous scouting organisations published a surprisingly large number of press titles. Such activities, after the wartime break, were also carried out until 1950. An alarming disappearance of scouting occurred in the following years, and in contemporary Germany Polish scouts are very rare. According to the estimations of 2009, the number of Polish scouts in Germany did not exceed 100 individuals. Thus it appears that the scouting movement in the Polish immigrant community has perished.

A difficult problem linked with the Polish immigrants in Germany is their adaptation in the German society. These issues were brought up by the Reverend Prof. Zygmunt Zieliński who, on the basis of observations over many years, analysed the situation of the Poles in Germany in different time periods: on the lands incorporated into the Reich, after the end of the Second World War, and in our age. Prof. Zieliński showed the psychological relationships which occurred when the two nations, Polish and German, were living together. These relationships developed and consolidated on the basis of the war and occupation years and the political events which took place after the end of the Second World War. It is a very important subject because it concerns finding a common ground for agreement, which in turn allows a peaceful coexistence of Poles and Germans on an equal footing in the united Europe.

The postwar years are associated in Germany with the mass of over a million of Polish DPs. Sabina Bober, PhD, exposed in her lecture a dark side of behaviour of the Poles who, maybe to survive, although more often to loot goods, took the criminal path. In the postwar atmosphere, plunders on the German population happened quite often. According to the quoted data, they were perpetrated by up to a dozen or so percent of Poles staying in Germany. Other immoral deeds committed by the Polish DPs included: dealing in stolen goods, prostitution, illegal moonshine production and drunkenness. Certainly, to a great

extent, the demoralisation of the Poles was an effect of the experience of wartime atrocities, and above all the camp life. Sabina Bober, PhD, described the role of Polish clergymen in combating the social ill among Polish DPs. Apart from this difficult work undertaken by the priests, their services in the daily pastoral work as well as in running educational institutions in which they taught religion, Polish and other subjects were inestimable.

Certainly all circles of the “old” Polish immigrant community in Germany met with the activity of the Union of Poles in Germany (ZPwN) established in 1922, being the oldest organisation active to the present day. ZPwN was the largest structure uniting the Polish immigration movement in Germany. When presenting the activities of ZPwN, Zbigniew Tomasz Klimaszewski, PhD, particularly highlighted the role which the Union played in the Polish minority community. As the only representative of the Polish immigrants in Germany, ZPwN really struggled for the preservation of values and traditions among the Poles in Germany, defended them against the Germanisation policy and raised the Polish national awareness. The heyday of its activity was in the period until the Second World War. The post-war re-establishment of the Union did not bring the desired result, and the organisational split in 1950 irreversibly destroyed it. Today, this once strongest organisation of the Polish community in Germany is about to collapse, which is a result of many factors.

The postwar time in Germany was one of the most difficult periods for the Poles for obvious reasons, brought by the ravages of war. In spite of the ubiquitous poverty and chaos the Poles quite early made attempts to organise themselves. On the basis of hardly accessible sources the Reverend Roman Nir, PhD, presented the formation in 1945 and the activity until 1949 of the Polish Federation. It was a central organisation of the Polish immigrant community operating in the western Occupation Zones of Germany. The Polish Federation embraced Poles whom the end of the war found in Germany and those who fled from Poland just after the war. Both groups did not intend to return to the “new” Poland. The Reverend R. Nir, PhD, very thoroughly characterised the Poles staying in postwar Germany, and it was the whole cross-section of the Polish society.

The unique character of the Polish immigrant community in Germany is perceivable for anyone studying its history. Such deliberations were taken up by Zbigniew Tomasz Klimaszewski, PhD. This uniqueness has had many reasons, primarily the neighbourhood of both countries as well as the border changes. This had a favourable effect on the movement of population, even to a mass extent. The uniqueness of this immigrant community was also influenced by the reasons for emigration which included primarily economic, political, socio-cultural, and even religious factors. This lecture was also an attempt to define the national awareness of the Poles in Germany as well as the factors influencing it.

The postwar Polish immigrants settled on the entire territory of the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, although their largest population was in the Ruhr Area in North Rhine-Westphalia. The Polish identity was most clearly established in this area. The towns and settlements were overflowed with Poles who, in an extraordinarily organised way, led common religious, cultural, social and sports life. Today, only few people are aware that the well-known German premier league football club Schalke was established by the Poles, and its players included young emigrants from Poland living in Gelsenkirchen and in the vicinity.

Elżbieta Later-Chodykowa, PhD, referred in her lecture to the genesis of the Polish immigrant community in the Ruhr Area. On the basis of her own research she also described the profile of a “Polish Westphalian”. The survey conducted for this purpose on a sample

of several ZPwN members living in the Ruhr Area appeared to be hardly representative. However, the statements contained therein are a very interesting, authentic reading matter depicting the Polish immigrant community in those years. The Ruhr Area is a unique region of Germany in which the Poles, called "Ruhr Poles" are deeply immersed in the German society.

The Polish immigrant community in Germany many times showed its initiative and commitment in problematic and difficult situations of our country. In the 80's of the last century, when the "Solidarity" uprising swept through Poland, the Poles from Germany came to the aid of their countrymen on the way to democracy. The eminent activist of the Polish community in Germany, Alexander Zajac, in an encyclopaedic form collected and described the pro-independence pro-Solidarity organisations active in the FRG in the 80's. In his lecture the speaker recounted the activities of these organisations and the aid which they provided to the Polish "Solidarity". These organisations, supported by the Polish immigrant communities in Germany, played an important, historical role in the restoration of democracy in Poland.

The aid provided to the Polish opposition many times took on different forms. The issue of a special cooperation of a group from Stuttgart with opposition organisations in Poland was the subject of the lecture of Norbert Wójtowicz, PhD. The researcher investigated the immigration activity of two individuals coming from the left-wing circles in Poland who were no strangers to foul play, intrigues and the fight for followers and support. In such an atmosphere, these individuals provided aid to the representatives of the pro-independence opposition, primarily to the Confederation of Independent Poland (KPN) and to the Fighting Solidarity. N. Wójtowicz, PhD, on the basis of collected sources, mainly letters, presented the extent of the one-off aid delivered by courier to locations in Poland. It included primarily objects which were useful in the underground activity.

Over a long historical period, the fortunes of Polish emigrants to Germany were connected with the Church and the pastoral activity of Polish priests. At present, the main care of the Polish immigrant community is provided, in an organised way, by the Polish Catholic Mission. The Reverend Prof. Jan Pietrzykowski revealed the activity of Polish Salesians in the pastoral work in the Polish community abroad. In his speech he depicted the long tradition of activity of the priests from this congregation on the territory of Germany. The extremely interesting examples of pastoral work of the Salesians, frequently former concentration camp prisoners, presented by Prof. Pietrzykowski proved their great contribution in the care of "old" and new Polish immigrant communities in Germany.

A concern for the future of the pastoral work on the territory of Germany was expressed by the Reverend Prof. Wojciech Necel. He remarked that the 21<sup>st</sup> century brought new challenges with which the contemporary priests must cope. The role of the Church is on the one hand to help the emigrants in the integration with the new society and the local Church, and on the other hand, to help them in maintaining their cultural and religious roots. Particularly in the age of progressing globalisation, the pastoral work should concentrate on the care for ethical, cultural and language values of the Poles in Germany. In the Church, the Polish immigrants should meet with the Gospel and the native language connecting them.

An interesting look at the Polish immigrant community in Germany was presented by Katarzyna Walczuk, MA. In her lecture she attempted to give answers, with the aid of the research based on immigrants' memoirs, to the questions how the Polish immigrants felt in the German society and what were the motives for their emigration from Poland. The author

collected interesting statements which revealed the inner and outside images of the Poles living in Germany and made them more realistic.

The results of research of the next academic, Roland Łukasiewicz, PhD, showed intergroup relations between the “old” and the recent Polish immigrant communities in Germany. In the light of this research, the Poles who emigrated to Germany in the 80’s and later, after 2004, were hardly a coherent group. They were characterised by the isolationism, the absence of a need to establish contacts on the cultural plane, the reluctance to be involved in the religious and organisational life, and above all the lack of mutual trust. The author concluded that despite these negative characteristics the Polish immigrant community in Germany had great possibilities of cooperation and activity.

The lecture of Prof. Marian Marek Drozdowski revealing negative and positive effects of the Polish emigration to Germany, using the example of the city and region of Opole was different from the previous ones. On the basis of statistical data, the author noticed that this emigration not only was a reason for an outflow of people, but also caused the secularisation of the Polish society, the notable effect of which was an increase in the number of legal separations and divorces as well as other family tragedies connected with a separation. Certainly, the emigration would not have taken place on such a great scale if it had not had positive effects. The emigration has been a driving force of the growth of wealth of the population, which has a considerable impact on the prolongation of life. In general, the emigration has boosted the economic growth and contributed to the reduction of unemployment.

The presented conference does not claim to have exhausted the issues mentioned in its title. However, it is a valuable supplement to the knowledge on the subject of the “old” and new Polish immigrant communities in Germany. It has unveiled many problems which previously remained unnoticed. In view of its considerable cognitive aspect it can be useful for researchers as well as for anyone to whom this subject is close, who would like to learn about the Polish community in Germany something more than the news brought by the mass media.

In addition, we should not forget about the continuous need to inspire further activities for the benefit of the Polish immigrant community in Germany in which the current situation appears to be extremely complicated and difficult in the legal, organisational as well as economic respects.