



**The 35th Anniversary of the Polish Educational Research Association  
Scientific Conference *The Identity of Pedagogy:  
Sociability – Ethicality – Communalit*  
(Warsaw, 11 May 2016)\***

The scientific conference *The Identity of Pedagogy: Sociability – Ethicality – Communalit* was held on 11 May 2016 at the hall of the old University of Warsaw Library located at 26/28 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street, Warsaw. The conference was organized on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Polish Educational Research Association. Before the actual proceedings, the participants could enjoy a performance by musicians of the Grand Theatre in Warsaw.

The entire conference consisted of two major parts:

Part One – *The 35th Anniversary of the Polish Educational Research Association – The Identity of Pedagogy Evolution*;

Part Two: *Sociability – Ethicality – Communalit*.

Professor dr hab. Joanna Madalińska-Michalak (President of the Polish Educational Research Association) delivered the opening address of the conference. Next, Professor dr hab. Anna Wiłkomirska, who is, in turn, the Dean of the Department of Pedagogy, University of Warsaw, welcomed participants of the conference.

In the initial conference presentation Professor Madalińska-Michalak gave the account of current achievements of the Association in the speech entitled “The Polish Educational Research Association: Tradition and Modernity.” She referred to the organization of the then upcoming 9th All-Poland Pedagogical Convention *Towards Valuable Life: Ideas – Concepts – Practices*, that took place on 21–23 September 2016 in

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\* The Polish, more extensive version of the present text was published in „Edukacja Dorosłych” 2017, nr 2.

Białystok, as to the first of the Association's achievements. The Polish Educational Research Association was also an organizer of the mentioned convention in co-operation with the Committee on Education Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences as well as the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology of the University in Białystok. The said convention was the key event for the educational research community – over 500 scientists had declared their participation in the nine problem sections. Such a meeting undoubtedly facilitated the exchange of opinions and experiences as well as the integration of the education research environment.

Moreover, Madam President listed amendments introduced to the *Statute of the Polish Educational Research Association* concerning organizational cause as the second important achievement of the Association. Their main purpose was to adjust the provisions of the Statute to the current needs and realities of the education research environment.

Another mentioned achievement was the updating of the website of the Polish Educational Research Association, which undoubtedly next could play a positive role in improving the image of the Association. As a result, the current website of the Polish Educational Research Association features, among others, the promotional film broadcasted in the course of the 9th All-Poland Pedagogical Convention.

During the first part of the conference – *35th Anniversary of the Polish Educational Research Association* – the speeches were delivered by:

Professor dr hab. Henryka Kwiatkowska – “The Evolution of the Convention Mottoes or the Evolution of the Identity of Pedagogy?”;

Professor dr hab. Zbigniew Kwieciński – “The Development of Pedagogy and Its Enemies – A Quarter of a Century Perspective”;

Professor dr hab. Stefan Kwiatkowski – “Between the Theory and Practice of Pedagogy.”

The speeches of the researchers referred to, among others, the issues of contemporary education, its role and significance. Main purpose of education is included in the thought of Professor dr hab. Zbigniew Kwieciński: “Everything that facilitates the upbringing of a wise, independent thinking individual, ‘healed’, open to others and the good of the world, is worth our support and remembering and proving that there are forces intended to transform us, humans, into mindless consumers as well as forces which in the name of fundamentalisms, nationalisms, xenophobia, and egoisms attempt to treat people like herds of sheep led by them through the only proper way.

The education of critically thinking people, fully capable, bravely handling their fates, and cooperating with regard to creating decent society, is possible and it is our permanent concern.”<sup>1</sup>

In the second part of the conference entitled *Sociability – Ethicality – Communality* the speeches were delivered by:

Professor dr hab. Maria Czerepaniak-Walczak, “Sociability in Science: Its Essence, Symptoms, and Effects”;

Professor dr hab. Zbigniew Kwieciński, “The Need for Community of Pedagogues in Times of Instability of the Upbringing Society. The Socio-Pedagogical Perspective”;

Professor dr hab. Tomasz Szkudlarek, “Communality and Ethics”;

Professor dr hab. Joanna Madalińska-Michalak, “Community, Society, Sociability.”

The researchers depicted in their speeches, among others, various attitudes of contemporary individuals and their interpretation of sociability in the ethical aspect.

The following thought shows complexity of problems undertaken during the conference: “Multidimensionality and dynamics of the conditions; in which processes and educational interactions are organized; require the application of attention and theoretical openness as well as considerable sensitivity to pedagogical praxis with regard to ‘revolutionary and Romantic nostalgia’<sup>2</sup> for harmony and uniformity, for collision-free integration of individualism, uniqueness of aspects related to individuals and aspects that refer to plurality and communitarization.”<sup>3</sup>

At the completion of the conference – in order to highlight its special character – members of the Association, who arrived in great numbers, were served a jubilee cake.

Joanna Michalak-Dawidziuk

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<sup>1</sup> Z. Kwieciński, a paper delivered at the opening of 7th All-Poland Pedagogical Convention in Toruń. See *Teoria a praktyka edukacyjna*. Eds. M.M. Urlińska, A. Uniewska, J. Horowski. Toruń: Adam Marszałek, 2012, p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> The expression by Jacques Rancière from his: *Na brzegach politycznego* [On the Shores of Politics]. Kraków: Ha!Art, 2008, p. 78.

<sup>3</sup> M. Czerepaniak-Walczak, Z. Melosik: *Różnica czy zamęt – imitacja czy swojskość?* W: *Teoria a praktyka edukacyjna...*, p. 198.