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**Report from the International Scientific Conference
“The Young. What Are They Rebellious Against?
What Are They Longing For?
What Are They Creating?”**

Cracow, June 9–10, 2016

The conference was organized on 9–10 June 2016 in Cracow, on the initiative of the Department of Social Pedagogy of the Faculty of Pedagogy at the Jesuit University Ignatianum. It proposed co-organizing the work of similar academic units in Poland such as: the Department of General Pedagogy and Methodology of Research of the Faculty of Ethnology and Educational Science, University of Silesia in Katowice and the Department of Sociology of Education and Social Pedagogy of the Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. To help diffuse the results of the conference, the support of the Association for the Support of Intercultural Education was secured. Since the conference was an international one, foreign universities acted as co-organizers with the Jesuit University Ignatianum: the Faculty of Education, Linguistics and Arts Technology Academy in Rezekne (Latvia), the Faculty of Education of the Boris Grinczenki University in Kiev (Ukraine) and the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Ivan Franko State University in Zhytomyr (Ukraine). Delegations of academics and doctoral students from these units participated.

SPI Vol. 19, 2016/4
ISSN 2450-5358
e-ISSN 2450-5366

Sprawozdania z konferencji

Reports from the conferences



Patronage of the project was undertaken by the Rector of the Jesuit University Ignatianum and the Governor of Malopolska, President of Cracow, Chairman of the Council of the City Cracow. Patronage was also given by the Board of the Polish Society for Pedagogy and Group of Culture Pedagogy and Intercultural Education KNP PAN. The chairmanship of the Scientific Committees and Programme included Dr Maria Marta Urlińska, Prof. UMK and Dr Ewa Ogrodzka-Mazur, Prof. UŚ, while the direction of the Organising Committee was taken on by Prof. Joanna Łukasik. Secretaries of the Conference were: Dr Ewa Sowa-Behtane, Rev. Dr Bogdan Stańkowski and PhD-students of AIK: Agata Tatara and Magdalena Urlińska.

The idea of organizing a conference in this city and on such a topic was not accidental as Cracow had been preparing for the World Youth Days for over 2 years. This is why that the Jesuit University Ignatianum, supported by the local authorities of the province and the city, decided to hold a debate on the condition of the young generation. Specialists interested in the problems of youth were invited to participate in the conference by the Chair of the Programme Committee, Prof. Maria Marta Urlińska and the authorities of the province, city and university: the Vice Governor of Malopolska—Piotr Ćwik, the Chairman of the Council of the City of Cracow—Bogusław Kośmider, the Rector of the Jesuit University Ignatianum—Prof. Józef Bremer SJ and the Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy Jesuit University Ignatianum—Dr Krzysztof Biel SJ.

The conference was organised around two plenary sessions and six sections devoted to a particular issue. The first plenary session focused on the theme: “Youth in the period of civilization and cultural changes” and the moderators were: Dr Anna Szafrńska-Gajdzica (UŚ) and Prof. Joanna Łukasik (AIK). Prof. Danuta Wajsprych gave a paper entitled *Globalization—cultural imperialism or a new individualism* which introduced the participants to the debate taking place in the modern world, then Prof. Suchomlyńska asked the question: *How to educate today's youth—such as the Ukraine*, followed by Prof. Liudmyla Khoruzha who presented research conducted by herself on the subject *Values of Ukrainian students*. Prof. Andrzej Bałandynowicz, in the paper *Cyberspace as facilitation of degenerative behaviour of young people* highlighted the dangers of internet use, while Prof. Anna Kieszkowska presented a text *Immoral friendship and tolerance*

in the process of secondary socialization pointed to the role of values in the educational process. On the other hand, Dr Błażej Przybylski attempted to answer the question about the rebellion of young people and in his paper *Young involved or young indifferent?* he showed the results of his exploration.

On the first day of the conference there were three sections entitled: *Towards what identity? Dilemmas of identity of today's youth* (moderators: Prof. Danuta Wajsprych, Dr Markus Lipowicz), *Values appreciated by the youth—a “shifting axiological horizon” or the crisis in valuation?* (Moderators: Prof. Klaudia Węc, Prof. Olga Sukhomlynska from Ukrainian Academy of Pedagogical Sciences), *The crisis of culture and the risky behaviour of young people* (moderators: Prof. Anna Kieszowska, Dr Krzysztof Biel SJ). Participants had the opportunity to listen to twenty-one presentations and join the discussion on the topics indicated by the speakers. Questions posed included: *Who are the young? Who are they not? Who would they be? What is the identity of today's youth in theoretical and empirical terms, how is the modern identity of youth created in the context of the cultures: popular, consumption and individualism, is a narcissistic personality a sign of our times?*

They outlined the path to a crystallized personality in an era of pop culture and inter-generation dialogue as a value in shaping the identity of the modern teenager. There was talk of globalization and youth as a challenge for the contemporary world, discussions about the world of young people, the impact of values on the education of youth, they highlighted the importance of preparing teachers to work with young people, the development of intra-personal competence, the phenomenon of teachers favourites or tolerance of teachers for diversity present in the school. The counter culture movements of the 1950's and the 1960's were also mentioned as a phenomena that determined the perception of risk taking behaviour of children and 21st century youth. The activities presented as part of this section included the risky behaviour of young people and the rehabilitation of socially maladjusted minors in the Silesian MOW. Topics focusing on subcultural youth groups over the years were particularly interesting, with important exemplifications being the oppressive behaviour of young people in their attempts to interpret or to show the young “outside the school” with truancy being seen as oppositional and defiant behaviour on the part of students.



The first day of the conference ended with a gala dinner in the Gardens of the Jesuit which featured a concert by the bard Jacek Beszczyński, author of music for children, the first teacher in Polish schools in Latvia and the co-author of educational innovations introduced in the non-public kindergarten *Słoneczko* in Torun, which involves learning to read using music theatre.

The second day of the conference was launched by a plenary session entitled: “Young people to the values and issues of humanity”. The moderators of this part were: Prof. Barbara Grabowska (UŚ), Rev. Dr Bogdan Stańkowski (AIK). The speakers focused were around the following issues: *Risk of risky behaviour of young people* (Dr Krzysztof Biel SJ), *Homeland’s youth on the borderland* (Dr hab. Barbara Grabowska), *The young—between the need and the rejection of the community* (Prof. Ryszarda Cierzniewska), *Between longing and desire, between the void and the abyss* (Prof. Piotr Petrykowski), *The young as informal carers of dependent people in their homes. The challenges for family caregivers and unrelated volunteers* (Prof. Piotr Krakowiak).

Plenary papers were given in three successive sections: *Dimensions of everyday life. What are they rebelling against and what are they longing for?* (Moderators: Dr Szafrńska-Gajdzica, Prof. Ryszard Cierzniewski) *Religiosity and religion in the lives of young people. Between faith and doubt* (Moderators: Dr Krystyna Ablewicz, Dr Łukasz Kwadrans), *Migration crisis in Europe. Youths against the “Other”* (moderators: Prof. Liudmyla Khoruzha, Dr Ewa Sowa-Behtane). During the meeting, the three sections involved a further 21 people, presenting their texts and engaged in a lively discussion.

In the debate, the values of the young people were appealed to and there was talk about respect and tolerance. They pointed out the important role of religion and its place in the life of a young person. Participants in these sections drew attention to the contemporary threats to the growth of young people. An important and current challenge today is to work with young people coming from other countries. Results of research on the perception of refugees from Muslim countries by the Polish upper-secondary youth were presented. Both speakers and participants in the discussion emphasized the role of schools, educators, state and local government institutions and universities during the migration crisis in Europe. The present study showed the work with foreign children and youth conducted in

schools. Conference participants also had the opportunity to become familiarised with the work of Polish schools in Latvia in terms of the results of research on leisure time and interests of young people.

At the end of the conference a summarizing panel was held during which Prof. Maria Marta Urlińska thanked all the guests and participants of the two-day debate in Cracow. The conference fulfilled the expectations of the academic community, with substantive discussion being run in a relaxed atmosphere conducive to establishing and strengthening scientific contacts. The value was to be found in the combination of the organizational forces of several academic centres, for whom the cooperation at the conference was one of many projects that have helped to integrate the community of various universities in the country and abroad. The fact that Cracow played host to the conference also guaranteed attractions. Courtesy of the director of the Historical Museum of Cracow, conference participants had the opportunity to see the permanent exhibition at the Schindler Museum and also received promotional materials. Cracow City Council helped with the costs of the organization of this scientific forum, for which the organizers very grateful to the local government of the city of Cracow.

The advantage of this scientific organization of the event was to gather a large group of about 80 people who were interested in the proposed issues. Fifty-five participants coming from twenty academic centres presented, including ten people from five foreign universities (Scotland, Ukraine [2], Latvia, Italy). As well as the Jesuit University Ignatianum, the following were also represented: The Maria Grzegorzewska University in Warsaw, University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, Olsztyn College of Further Education. The Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, The Jagiellonian University, The Pedagogical University in Cracow, The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Cracow, Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, University of Białystok, University of Silesia in Katowice, Szczecin University, Old Polish University in Kielce. Practitioners who work with young people were also participants.

Thanks to this new experience, we can confirm a lot of demands put forward during the conference. The condition of young people in the age of late modernity has become extremely complex and



ambiguous. Contemporary social changes in the dimension of civilizational and cultural have meant that many of the classic paradigms and concepts of the social sciences have lost their relevance. To find new ways of conceptualizing and researching youth, we had to lean on the issues shaping the identity of young people in the period of liquid modernity (in terms of axiological relativism) and tried to define the roles of educational entities present in the debate, identify the opportunities and threats to identity on the part of contemporary culture, or look at the crises of identity. This broad discussion among specialists gave the opportunity to learn and understand the condition of contemporary youth. The conference served not only as an exchange of ideas, but above all, as a critical analysis and interpretation of the latest ways of recognizing youth as a subject of research by pedagogy, sociology, psychology and philosophy. Youth is a challenge for the adult world but also its future. Regardless of language, culture or country of origin, the young are not only looking for acceptance and love, but they can also offer a lot to the world. Cracow playing host to the World Youth Days is the perfect example of this.

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