

## BOOKS RECOMMENDED

Polish Sociological Review Recommends:



**Wykluczeni:  
Wymiar społeczny, materialny i etniczny  
[The Excluded:  
Social, Material and Ethnical Dimensions]**

**Edited by Maria Jarosz**

**Warszawa: Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN,  
2008, pp. 326.**

**ISBN 978-83-60580-14-1**

From the Editor:

Social exclusion is a phenomenon opposite to social participation in broad entities: a nation, a society, a community, etc. It means voluntary, or more often, forced isolation caused by some external conditions. Such an isolation of individuals or social groups from communities or institutions of the contemporary state petrifies the splitting up into “ours” and “strangers” which dramatically marginalizes large social groups into being “unwanted.” The book *Wykluczeni: Wymiar społeczny, materialny i etniczny* [The Excluded: Social, Material, and Ethical Dimensions] is the first attempt to present a comprehensive study of social exclusion in Poland. It combines selected key elements of the knowledge on marginalization with the newest results of empirical studies. The main goal is to identify and analyze the social groups that for some reason have been marginalized, as well as to analyze the level of public awareness of the exclusions’ reasons, scale, and importance.

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**Anna Kacperczyk**

**Wsparcie społeczne w instytucjach opieki  
paliatywnej i hospicyjnej  
[Social Support in Hospices  
and Palliative Care Institutions]**

**Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego,  
2006, pp. 304**

ISBN 83-7171-970-1



From the Autor:

The book discusses the issue of support offered to the terminally ill by palliative care institutions and hospices. The analysis focuses on *social support* as a specific form of human interaction triggered by a particular problem which calls for organised assistance of other people.

The research targeted mainly the dimensions of assistance as provided by institutions and organisations in hospices and palliative care facilities, in an attempt to answer the questions: How do these institutions support their patients? What are the concrete forms of their support and what does it consist of? And how does the care process develop?

The analysis has been based on materials collected by the author in 1997–2001 in Poland. She employed: 130 postal surveys, 179 telephone inquiries, 30 in-depth interviews with employees, voluntary workers and hospice founders, and quasi participant observation during meetings, congresses, conferences of the Polish hospice-palliative care community.

The book consists of three parts. The first part deals with the origin, definitions and applications of the term “social support” in social sciences. This notion, the author believes, sparks the classic sociological questions, regarding the roots of pro-social and pro-affiliation behaviour, the origins of building a community (bonding) and the foundations of social order.

The second part addresses the institutional and organisational background of assistance to the terminally ill. Palliative care is presented in the background of changes in medicine, with a hitherto mechanistic and reductive paradigm as contrasting with new holistic and salutogenetic approaches. The author describes the development of hospice movement and social processes accompanying it in Poland and worldwide. Part three provides an analysis of care as actually provided to patients and their families by the regular and voluntary workers of hospices and palliative care institutions. Stages of that process are described here in detail, as are supportive relations that can be developed by participants in each stage.

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