

Solidarity: the Event—the Consequences—the Memory

On September 22–23, 2005, in Warsaw, the conference “Solidarity: the Event—the Consequences—the Memory” took place. It was organized by the Institute of Sociology, Warsaw University, and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology Polish Academy of Sciences to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the “Solidarity” movement. Sociologists from these two institutes were deeply involved in the empirical cognition and intellectual analyses of the 1980’s strikes, “Solidarity” and the period of the Marshal Law. The conference was a contribution to the 25th anniversary celebration and many sociologists from these institutions and people who had worked there during the first “Solidarity” were the speakers. The program was prepared by Dariusz Gawin, Mirosława Grabowska, Andrzej Rychard and Antoni Sułek.

The following speeches were presented:

Session I: Roots and meaning of “Solidarity”

Ireneusz Krzemiński, “Solidarity”—organization of Polish hopes; Edmund Wnuk-Lipiński. “Solidarity” on the wave of globalization processes; Dariusz Gawin, “Solidarity” in a light of the republican tradition.

Session II: Achievements and heritage of “Solidarity”

A. Capital and work after “Solidarity”

Włodzimierz Pańków, Is this the end of work in Poland?; Wiesława Kozek, Employers and employees in a globalizing society; Elżbieta Tarkowska, Life without work.

B. Politics and open society after “Solidarity”

Mirosława Grabowska, “As a lightning:” problems with political institutionalization of the “Solidarity” movement; Tadeusz Sawiel, “Solidarity” as an event and as persistence; Piotr Gliński, Self-governing Republic in the Third Republic.

Session III Memory of “Solidarity”

A. In the society

Jadwiga Staniszkis, My memory of “Solidarity.” A story about rebuilding and loosing again subjectivity on the background of two concepts of a man in the European culture; Elżbieta Hałas, Symbolic construction of “Solidarity:” a conflict of interpretation and politics of a memory; Zdzisław Krasnodebski, “Solidarity” in Europe.

B. In sociology and in thinking about society

Antoni Sułek, Why sociology did not predict “Solidarity” and what resulted from it; Joanna Kurczewska, Sociology towards and under the influence of “Solidarity;” Paweł Śpiewak, “Solidarity,” “a great absent” in political thought after 1989.

Presented speeches will be published. The book cannot, however, show the unique climate of the conference nor the emotions of the long discussions.