

COMMUNIQUÉS

The 50th Anniversary of the Polish Sociological Association

A solemn session was held on the 13th of June on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of renewal of the Polish Sociological Association. Members of the association from all over Poland assembled in the Round Table Room of the Staszic Palace in Warsaw. Among them were persons who had taken part in a meeting of a sociological section of the Polish Philosophical Association, which resolved on December 13th, 1957 to transform the section into an independent body, the Polish Sociological Association.

The session was chaired by Piotr Gliński, President of the Polish Sociological Association. After his address, the members of the Association who were present there listened to five speeches. Nina Kraško read out a paper under the title “Polish Sociological Association from a Historical Perspective: the First Decade and Later Years.” Of particular interest were her remarks on the history of formation of the Polish Sociological Association itself, whose anniversary was being celebrated. Nina Kraško’s showed the thoroughness and inquisitiveness of a historian of sociology.

The speech of Krystyna Lutyńska on the milieu of Łódź sociologists “Early Days of the Polish Sociological Association in Łódź: from the History of the Łódź Branch of the PSA,” had a slightly more personal ring. The history of postwar activities of PSA in the centre so important to Polish sociology.

The paper which followed, “Polish Sociological Association and Other Sociological Associations,” was of a comparative type. Janusz Mucha presented the upshot of his internet research of the workings of sociological associations in other countries. Two important conclusions follow from his report. First, compared with many other sociological societies, the PSA is a big and strong organisation. Second, there is no correlation between the “robustness” of a sociological association in a country and the vigour of sociology as a discipline there, sociological associations in many countries with impressive sociological traditions being of just marginal importance.

Just like Krystyna Lutyńska’s speech, so the paper “Polish Sociological Association: Climates of Friendship” delivered by Andrzej Koder, have a personal ring.

The last report, authored by Mikołaj Pawlak, dealt with current and future issues of the PSA as seen by a young sociologist. Its title was “What the Polish Sociological Association can offer to Young Sociologists, and what Young Sociologists can offer to the PSA?”

In the résumé Piotr Gliński, said among other things that successes outnumbered failures in the recent years of the Associations. During that session, Antoni Sułek, a disciple of Stefan Nowak, was a protagonist of a sort, as his texts and definitions

coined by him, eg *oral sociology*, were quoted by all who spoke there. The main topic of discussion was the ethos of the Polish Sociological Association, and chances for restoring its glory from the Polish People's Republic era, when the PSA held a dominant position not only in Polish sociology but also in public life, semi-official and unofficial, in which, paradoxically, the PSA was more important to the sociological milieu than today. Some members of the discussion were of the opinion that the PSA played a much lesser role at present than in the past. Others, however, believed that it was a sign of normalcy, and artificial upholding of former intellectual and civil ethos was not necessary.

A really conclusive statement on the state of the Polish Sociological Association can be made not after discussions at a session dedicated to its fiftieth anniversary, which certainly evoked nostalgia in some members, but in September, after the Sociological Congress.

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