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REPORT ON THE 5th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
A Person in a world of cultural and social change –
new problems, new challenges,
Poznań, Poland

The 5th International Conference “A Person in a world of cultural and social change – new problems, new challenges” was held on 3 July 2019 in Poznań, Poland. The conference was a follow-up to the successful previous edition organised in Poznań in April 2018. Since 2014, the event has been held on a regular basis as one of international meetings at the Faculty of Educational Studies. It brings together professionals in the field of education from around the world. The 2019 conference focused on the cultural and social changes and the modern challenges they pose.

The main aim of the meeting was for the leading researchers and doctoral students to congregate and share their ideas and comments on the sociology of education. Moreover, the organising committee managed to create a diverse community of ambitious participants ready to change the future of education in the world. The conference was organised by Adam Mickiewicz University, a leading institution of higher education in Poland. The event was organised under the patronage of the Vice-rector for Research and International Cooperation and the Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The participants of the annual meeting were welcomed in Collegium Novum, a modern building located in central Poznań.

The 5th International Conference was officially opened by Prof. Hanna Krauze-Sikorska, the conference chair who addressed her welcoming addresses, Prof. Ryszard Naszkęcki – the Vice-rector for research and international cooperation at AMU and Prof. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, the Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies at AMU. The opening was followed by a keynote session and three concurrent sessions attended mostly by international guests. The opening speech was delivered by Prof. Ryszard

Naskręcki who, as mentioned before, is the Vice-rector at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. His speech revolved around the new perspectives and opportunities of the new law on science and tertiary education in Poland. Next, Prof. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, delivered a speech on “The proactive orientation of a subject in a world of limitless careers“. Orit Haller-Hayon, Ph.D. was a subsequent speaker who presented her point of view on children’s games and their impact on collectivism and individualism. The next lecturer, Prof. Jacek Pyżalski, presented important issues reflected in the current EU Kids Online Polish data. His presentation was followed by Michał Klichowski, Ph.D., Mateusz Marciniak, Ph.D. and Tomasz Przybyła, Ph.D. who drew the participants’ attention to the COST projects and the opportunities they create for young scientists. The last speaker in this part of the agenda was Prof. Jakub Isański who presented his research results. On the same day, three concurrent breakout sessions were organised in different sittings.

After a short break, the second session started with three concurrent sessions. The first of them was opened by Sali Manor Franco who talked about a model future graduate of the educational system in Israel. Next, Iman Fahoum talked about transforming schools into a professional learning community based on a case study of Israeli junior-high schools. Later on, Orit Lehrer Kanfo delivered a presentation about improving the quality of tertiary education. His speech was followed by Anna Schmidt who presented the environment’s cooperation which can be conducive to the development of a pre-school child. Later on, Michalina Kasprzak presented her research on developing the creative potential of children based on of local centres in Poland and Spain. Elanit Ayzik delivered a speech about teachers’ awareness in Israeli schools. Next, Fani Alezra talked about educational initiatives as a way of empowering pre-school teachers and improving their image., Chen Goldberg presented his findings on Northern Israel’s pedagogical outlook on Arab mathematics and religion among teachers. The last speech was delivered by Jakub Adamczewski who focused on the education, the problems and challenges faced by teachers in Finland.

The second session on the same day was continuation of some of the topics from the morning. The first to start was Joanna Sikorska who talked about new media in schools as a way of reaching younger generations. Next, Maja Abu Hatoum presented the impact of online collaborative research into mathematical competence in the Arab community. Eman Baloum delivered a speech about adolescents with learning disabilities and the risk of the Internet addiction. Ibrahim Haj Yahya talked about the modernisation of the Arab population and its share of cyberbullying among adolescent students. Maciej Zychowicz presented his research into intergenerational relations in the Internet-based reality. Next, Tal Brock Mizrahi explained the trust between e-patients and their physicians. Or Elimelech Raiskin delivered a speech about ISIS’s use of cyberspace and its territorial loss. The final speech was given by Jumana Mussa who talked about illnesses and the struggle against becoming a human computer based on Nicole Kruass’ novel.

The third section was devoted to multiculturalism and migration across the world. Firstly, Gaida Khatib focused on women's contribution to al-mahjar literature. Secondly, Sima Shamir-Shachar presented a speech "Children write, Youth Home L414 – Ghetto Theresienstadt". Thirdly, Ronit Manselblit talked about young adulthood and the coping methods of young people aged 18-35. Wafa Taya reported on the exclusion of Arab women in Israel from physical activity. The subsequent speaker presented her research on violence in the Arab minority in Israel. The following person, Syma Marta Al-Azab Malinowska, raised the problem of teenage depression in Poland. Next, Agata Kukawska explained the situation of the Polish community in Brasil. Dikla Divon explained to the audience the area between integration and inclusion. On the other hand, Karolina Domagalska-Nowak reported on the situation of migrant children in Norwegian schools. Idit Perelmuter talked about the opportunities offered by national days in a bilingual school. The last speaker, Abu Ahmad Laila, raised a question whether meaningful learning is fiction or reality.

The 5th International Conference will be remembered as one of the most interesting conferences held at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. The presentations were delivered by passionate experts with different educational backgrounds and, more importantly, from various scientific perspectives. As a speaker and participant, I met a number of academics and doctoral students from around the world. The presented ideas were impressive and engaging which leads to a conclusion that the next edition can be even more powerful and inspiring.