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REPORT FROM THE 14th SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
from the series
Discourses of Special Education
“Disability versus changes – changes versus disability”

From 10th to 12th of May 2017 in Gdańsk, the 14th Scientific Conference on Discourses of Special Education was held. This time the lectures were focused on the subject: “Disability versus changes – changes versus disability”. The conference was organized by the Department of Special Education, the Institute of Pedagogy, the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Gdańsk and the Polish Association of Special Educators. The participants of the conference were accommodated in the charming, sea-front Hotel Nowotel Marina.

The conference was opened by the host of the meeting, prof. zw. dr hab. Amadeusz Krause, who greeted the guests and introduced the main topics of the conference by giving a lecture on “Building knowledge in special education, and on the harmfulness of point parameterization for the development of social and human sciences.” On the same day, two more plenary sessions were held, addressing issues of current and changing disability models, disability studies and examples of changes in the practical approach to people with disabilities. On the first day of the conference speeches were delivered by: prof. dr hab. Andrzej Twardowski (UAM – Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) *Is the social disability model still valid?*, dr hab. prof. US Marcin Wlazło (University of Szczecin), *Studies on dis/ability – between the fight for rights and theoretical change*, prof. dr hab. Aniela Korzon (DSW – University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław), *Seniors with Disabilities –*

Discrimination or Integration, prof. dr hab. Anna Nowak (University of Silesia), *Measures to protect the rights of people with disabilities – proposals for changes*, dr hab. prof. UP Grażyna Gunia (UP Kraków – Pedagogical University of Cracow), *Students' readiness for alternative communication in educational and therapeutic activities with people with disabilities*, dr hab. prof. APS Bernadeta Szczupał (APS – The Maria Grzegorzewska Pedagogical University in Warsaw), *The sense of dignity of adult oncologically ill patients in the opinion of volunteers*, dr hab. Dorota Podgórska-Jachnik (UKW Bydgoszcz – Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz) *Between “medical” and “medicine-controlled” – questions about the place of medicine in contemporary interdisciplinary studies on disability*, dr hab. Lilianna Konopska (University of Szczecin) *Pre, peri – and early postnatal conditions of speech development of children with desonization*, dr hab. Stanisław Byra together with dr hab. Monika Parchomiuk (UMCS Lublin – Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin), *Positive changes in the perception of mothers of children with disabilities – structure and conditions*, and the presentation by dr hab. prof. Teresa Żółkowska (University of Szczecin), absent at the conference: *Disability in the neomaterialist discourse*, read by her doctoral student. The fruitful and very interesting first day of the conference ended with a gala dinner and discussions in the lobby.

On the second day of the conference, the session was held at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Gdańsk. In the morning, four plenary sessions were planned. The first speeches were delivered by: dr hab., prof. UR Krystyna Barłóg (University of Rzeszów) *The motivation for rehabilitation and activity of young people with reduced mobility*, Joanna Kulisiak-Kaźmierczak PhD and Joanna Zborowska PhD (DSW in Wrocław), *„Good changes” – a family with a child with disability*, Dorota Prysak PhD (University of Silesia) *The project „Meeting with Dignity” – pedagogical research in action*, Kamila Miler-Zdanowska PhD (APS in Warsaw), *New Perspectives on the functioning of institutions acting on behalf of people with sight disability in the context of changes in the educational and social space*, Marta Mikołajczyk PhD (APS Warsaw), *Change or persistence? Social services on working with homeless people*, Dorota Chemicz PhD (UMCS in Lublin), *Diagnosis of the needs and expectations of environments supporting people with disabilities in the changing social and legal reality*, Monika Gołubiew-Konieczna MA (Psychological-Educational Counselling Centre No. 7 in Gdańsk), *Parents of disabled children from public schools and their teachers – a reflection of the educator / psychologist, practice in process, widely understood change*.

During the second plenary session, speeches were delivered by: Katarzyna Pawelczak PhD (UAM in Poznań), *The (no) presence of a person with intellectual disability in the hybrid space*, Irena Ramik-Mażewska PhD (University of Szczecin), *Social innovations as a factor of changing the image of people with disabilities*, Izabela Belzyt Joanna PhD (University of Gdansk), *„Loneliness in a situation of dual exclusion – disabled people in South Africa (post-workshop reflections)”, Agnieszka Olechowska PhD (APS in Warsaw) Change, lack of change and the „third space” of disability*, Małgorzata Oleniacz PhD (DSW in Wrocław), *Youth with disability in the context of change and coping with change*, Jakub Wolny MA (Special Schools Complex no 4 in Sosnowiec), *The functioning of students with deeper intellectual disability in the digital space*.

During the third plenary session, speeches were delivered by: dr hab., prof. UZ, Zdzisława Janiszewska-Niescioruk (University of Zielona Góra), *The socio-educational context of poverty of people with intellectual disability*, Jolanta Gebreselassie PhD (The Jacob of Paradies University in Gorzów Wielkopolski), *Prevention of speech disorders in the case of students with intellectual disabilities in the light of a new model of prevention*, Dorota Krzemińska PhD (University of Gdańsk), *„My case”. The change of meaning of the theater of people with intellectual disability in the context of the category of carnival and borderline by M. Bachtin*, Zofia Redlarska PhD (University of Białystok), *Contexts of children’s literature in the artistic world of a disabled child. How do we discover beauty?*, Ewa Gawlik PhD and Sabina Pawlik MA (University of Silesia) *Protected housing as an element of the ecosystem – on the example of the author’s concept of a „Perfect World”*, Agnieszka Woynarowska PhD and Jolanta Rzeźnicka- Krupe PhD (University of Gdańsk) *Theatre as a place of work of adults and the team*.

In the last, fourth plenary session, the speeches were delivered by: dr hab. Anna Wojnarska and Katarzyna Korona MA (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin), *The sense of loneliness as a factor of victimization*, dr hab. prof. UM Tadeusz Pietras (UM in Łódź), *Change in the understanding of schizophrenia-induced disability in the light of special education paradigms*, Kornelia Czerwińska PhD (APS in Warsaw), *Gradual loss of sight and fulfillment of social roles in adulthood*, Monika Jurewicz PhD (SGGW – Warsaw University of Life Sciences), *The trajectory of suffering in individual biographical experiences in the perspective of F. Schutze*, Agnieszka Wołowicz-Ruszkowska PhD (APS), *Access to reproductive rights of women with intellectual disabilities in Poland*, Buchnat Marzena PhD (UAM in Poznan), *Supporting the social competences of pupils with slight intellectual disability in school*.

After the lunch break, the sessions took place in seven sections divided by themes: The first section: **Education as action**, the speeches were delivered by: Dorota Otapo PhD, Agnieszka Sakowicz-Boboryko PhD, Dorota Wyrzykowska-Koda MA (University of Białystok), Petr Franiok PhD (Ostravska Univerzita Ostrava), Igor Hampl PhD, Renata Kovarova PhD (Ostravska Univerzita Ostrava), Karol Bidziński PhD (Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce), Elżbieta Lubińska-Kościółek PhD (Pedagogical University of Cracow), Jerzy Wolny PhD (Silesian University of Technology), Bełza Małgorzata PhD (University of Silesia), Katarzyna Nadachewicz PhD (University of Białystok), Kasper Sipowicz PhD (APS in Warsaw), Jolanta Maciąg PhD (Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk), Agnieszka Muchacka MA.

In the second section: **The child as the subject of educational and therapeutic activities**, the speeches were delivered by: Szymon Godawa PhD (University of Silesia), Beata Gumienny PhD (University of Rzeszów), Agnieszka Pawluk-Skrzypek PhD (Warsaw University of Life Sciences), Lidia Wawryk PhD (University of Zielona Góra), Aleksandra Mach PhD (University of Rzeszów), Izabella Kucharczyk PhD (APS in Warsaw), Justyna Wojciechowska PhD (University of Bielsko-Biała), Aleksandra Szczesiul, MA.

The third section entitled **Teachers, educators, therapists, curators** gathered the following speakers: Edyta Nieduziak PhD (University of Wrocław), Monika Skura PhD (University of Warsaw), Ewa Grudziewska PhD (APS), Krystyna Moczka PhD (University of Silesia), Anna Karłyk-Ćwik PhD (DSW in Wrocław), Aneta Lew-Koralewicz PhD (University of Rzeszów), Grażyna Walczak PhD (APS), Joanna Skibska PhD (University of Bielsko-Biała), Małgorzata Osieńska MA (Regional Court Lublin-Zachód), Maria Flanczewska-Wolny MA (Silesian University of Technology).

The fourth section devoted to **Family and Disability** was attended by the following speakers: Grażyna Kwaśniewska PhD (PWSTE in Jarosław), Dorota Tomczyszyn PhD (Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska), Karolina Kaliszewska MA (University of Szczecin), Barbara Czuba PhD (PWSTE in Jarosław), Małgorzata Zaborniak-Sobczak PhD (Univeristy of Rzeszów), Diana Aksamit PhD (APS), Ewa Janion PhD (University of Zielona Góra), Anita Szafrńska PhD (University of Silesia), Patrycja Łaga MA (University of Gdańsk).

The lectures of the fifth section were focused on the subject of **Childhood Support and Therapy**, delivered by: Anna Lis-Zaldivar PhD (The Jacob of Paradies University in Gorzów Wielkopolski), Sylwia Niemiec MA

(UP in Cracow), Ewelina Kłak MA (Lower Silesian Association for the Support of Children and Adolescents "Ostoja"), Aneta Rudzińska-Rogoża PhD (University of Zielona Góra), Małgorzata Bilewicz PhD (University of Białystok), Anna Kobylańska PhD (University of Gdańsk), Magdalena Olempska-Wysocka PhD (UAM in Poznań), Agnieszka Hamerlińska-Latecka PhD (Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz), Sara Knapik-Szwed MA (University of Silesia), Karolina Tersa PhD and Joanna Doroszuk PhD (University of Gdańsk).

The sixth section which focused on **Support in Adulthood** began with a lecture by Elżbieta Minczakiewicz PhD, followed by: Iwona Myśliwczyk PhD (UWM - University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn), Agnieszka Ochman MA (Pedagogical University in Cracow), Anna Banasiak, PhD (Jan Długosz Academy in Częstochowa), Monika Dąbkowska PhD (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń), Agnieszka Lewko MA (University of Silesia), Beata Tylewska-Nowak PhD (UAM in Poznań) and Iwona Lindyberg PhD (University of Gdańsk).

The topic of the seventh section: **Around the change in thinking about disability** was presented in eleven speeches delivered by: Agnieszka Buczek PhD and Jacek Sikorski PhD (UP in Cracow), Małgorzata Mozyńska PhD (PWSZ - The State University of Applied Sciences in Elbląg), Izabela Marczykowska PhD (University of Rzeszów), Danuta Grzybowska PhD, Katarzyna Kampert PhD and Katarzyna Materny PhD (University of Gdańsk), Anna Bernacka MA (University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn), Magdalena Bartniczak MA (University of Gdańsk), Anna Wolny MA (Special Schools Complex No. 7 in Gliwice), Justyna Juszcak MA (County Community Self-Help Home), Wioletta Stęczniewska MA (UWM in Olsztyn), Agnieszka Muchacka MA, Ewa Wodka-Natkaniec MA and Anna Steliga PhD (University of Rzeszów).

The issues presented at the plenary sessions and during the discussions in particular sections were very interesting and their number could be an inspiration for both pedagogical practice and research. After an exhausting day, the scientific discussion moved to a more informal seaside area.

On the third day of the Gdańsk conference a debate was held, together with a discussion, under an intriguing title, particularly interesting to the environment of special educators: „Where is special education going?”. The debate included: prof. dr. hab. Iwona Chrzanowska and dr hab. prof. UAM, Beata Jachimczak from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, dr hab. prof. APS, Grzegorz Szumski from the Maria Grzegorzewska Ped-

agogical University in Warsaw, prof. dr hab. Bożena Muchacka from the Pedagogical University in Cracow, and prof. dr hab. Marzenna Zaorska – Chairperson of the Special Education Team at the Pedagogical Sciences Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and dr hab. prof. UWM, Sławomir Przybyliński from the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, dr hab. prof. UG, Sławomira Sadowska from the University of Gdańsk, dr hab. prof. UW Grażyna Dryżałowska from the University of Warsaw. The discussion was moderated by prof. dr hab. Amadeusz Krause (University of Gdańsk), the organizer of the conference.

The debate focused on finding the answers to the four main questions: 1. What kind of learning? – the strengths and weaknesses of special education, 2. What kind of school? – the direction of changes in education and their consequences for special educators, 3. What kind of education? – who will educate special educators in 20 years and how, 4. What kind of studies? – directions of activities strengthening special education

Voices from the audience were also added to the debate. It was impossible to exhaust such extensive and important issues concerning contemporary special education in the prescribed time frame. It is likely that the discussion will take place long after the end of the conference in the particular environments of special educators. The 14th scientific conference from the series: Discourses of Special Education ended on Friday, May 12 at noon. The numerous groups of special educators, educators, representatives of other scientific disciplines and practitioners gathered at the conference prove the need to exchange thoughts and experiences, as well as reflections on the direction of activities and the condition of special education. We would like to thank the organizers, being aware of their great effort in preparing the conference, and we look forward to the 15th edition.