On December 5, 2017 a scientific event was organized at the Faculty of Educational Studies of the Adam Mickiewicz University by the Department of Multicultural Education and Research on Social Inequalities at the AMU. The conference was held under the patronage of the Committee of Education Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The chairman of the Scientific Committee of the conference was prof. zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik. The Conference Organizing Committee co-created the Doctoral Study Council of FES AMU. The purpose of the meeting was to present various research projects carried out primarily by third degree PhD students at the Faculty of Educational Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University.

The guests were welcomed by the chairman of the Scientific Committee of prof. zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik. She pointed out the presence of the Faculty authorities and other people with recognized scientific achievements in the field of pedagogy, which significantly strengthened the importance of the conference.

The conference was then officially opened by the Dean of the Faculty of Educational Studies, prof. zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska. She noticed that the event is a part of a regular cycle, and carries a lot of scientific value and the prestige of the Faculty of Educational Studies, holding a high position in many national rankings. At the same time, she concluded
how important discussions on current pedagogical and humanistic problems are.

Professor zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska, was then invited to present a reflection in the introduction of “Pedagogical thinking in the contemporary image of the world”. She proposed to listeners to consider pedagogical reflection from the perspective of two dimensions - time and space. Man co-creates culture, as well as various “worlds of images” resulting from it. According to the lecturer, contemporary social and cultural reality is difficult to describe, subject to many fluctuations. In everyday life there are many styles of life, values are pluralized. The pedagogical imagination that, in the opinion of the lecturer, is able to capture the essence of the multiple transformations affecting upbringing in the modern world can come with help in these challenges.

The second lecturer in the first part was prof. dr hab. Marek Konopczyński from the University of Bialystok. He presented the speech entitled “Resocialization, re-adaptation, reintegration. Myths and reality”. According to the guest, the correct rehabilitation process cannot proceed without re-adaptation, that is rooted in social conditions and without reintegration, meaning the increase of interpersonal contacts. The professor proposed rethinking these three components in one dimension in which it is possible to improve the human identity. This involves being ready to take on a different role in society and taking up work on oneself. The impulse for such a resolution may be a certain “flash” or extraordinary circumstances, giving rise to a resocialized person to change their thinking about themselves. These causes may be external or may result from within the person with life difficulties. Apart from presenting social rehabilitation reflections, the guest also presented to the listeners films about helping prisoners with convictions for serious crimes, such as murders. He also presented the material in which it was shown how the prisoners were given support in the form of artistic modification of their tattoos to ones that could be accepted by the society and potential employers. In the opinion of the guest, there are also numerous stereotypes, for example, in terms of appearance, a person dressed in a smart suit will receive help much more quickly, and a person who looks like a homeless person can expect a much smaller chance of resuscitation.

The last lecture in the first part was presented by prof. zw. dr hab. Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik with the subject “Feminization of the teaching profession. Pink collars “and paradoxes of the labor market”. The
speaker analyzed the social fact that the teaching profession is dominated by women in almost all countries of the world. More and more women perform professions that were previously attributed to men. The author discussed selected transformations on the labor market, taking place in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, from the perspective of gender emancipation. You cannot analyze this issue without using the category of feminization and gender segregation. The lower remuneration paid to women was and still is a problem. In addition, women were excluded from many administrative positions, e. g. in Great Britain. The liberal doctrine and its application could also have resulted in lowering the attractiveness of work in education, which resulted in the lawful departure of many men from this sector, which implied the feminization of the teaching profession. On the other hand, women’s desire is to become independent and economically independent so that they do not have to be dependent on men. The injustice is also the fact that although women dominate in elementary and secondary education in the United States, the majority of managerial positions in educational institutions are occupied by men.

After the break the deliberations in the second part began.

The first to start was Agnieszka Nymś-Górna, MA, with the subject “Educational possibilities in the conditions of penitentiary isolation”. The speaker drew attention to the consequences of the fact that prison schools are subject to the Ministry of National Education in Poland, also discussed the problem of qualifications of prisoners for teaching, as well as the lack of possibilities for some prisoners to learn. A positive aspect of rehabilitation processes is the increase in the number of people obtaining a high school diploma in prisoner communities in Poland.

The second speaker was Agnieszka Bojarczuk-Tüncer, MA, who presented the subject “Differences between the aspects of linguistic knowledge of Polish and English and the acquisition of linguistic competence by children with special educational needs”. She referred to the presented problem by presenting linguistic tools in the field of syntax, semantics, phonology and pragmatics.

Another participant with the report “Hip-hop as an independent culture. The impact of hip-hop culture on the process of shaping the identity of youth “ was presented by Monika Bieńkowska MA. She presented audiovisual material illustrating the behavior of contemporary young people who spend a lot of time on perfect processing of images, placed in social media, promoting their lifestyle.
As the fourth took the floor mgr Katarzyna Bogucka with the problem “Happy luck?” Education in the process of adaptation of migrant children from Poland in the UK”. According to the researcher, the school is a lens for observing adaptive struggles in British children’s and their families’ facilities. It is important to prepare teachers to support effective, non-segregational education.

The fifth speaker with the subject “In search of understanding social perception of childhood. Old and new myths” was Paulina Głowacka. She presented four main myths about a child: the myth of a child as an adult, the myth of a happy childhood, the myth of child’s innocence and the myth of a child’s cunning.

The last person in this part was Beata Iwanicka MA with the paper “Theoretical-empirical perspective of language education of people with hearing impairments”. The author presented the concerns of parents and educators in teaching a foreign language to children with hearing impairments, which turned out to be an unwarranted and harmful stereotype for the pupils. According to the researcher, there are no obstacles to teaching HOH children foreign languages on condition of overcoming difficulties in language education, using appropriate forms of support, such as: dedicated language courses, computer technologies, or lengthening language classes.

After the break, the deliberations were continued.

Małgorzata Klimorowska, MA, who presented the paper “Model FRIS – communication in a research team”. FRIS is a Polish model that serves as a tool to describe the diversity of ways of thinking and acting. It is based on 4 cognitive perspectives: facts-relations-ideas-structures. They explain what information you give the highest priority, especially in new situations. The benefits of using this model show human resources, natural talents and human predispositions.

The next speaker was Dr. Magdalena Szafran, she talked about “National research programs”. She presented programs at the National Science Center, listing and describing examples of competitions such as: Opus, Preludium, Sonata, Maestro, Miniatura and Etiuda (this last module is dedicated to PhD students).

The next guest was Wojciech Andraszczyk MA with the paper “Women’s crime in selected criminological theories. Social and pedagogical contexts.” He characterized the penitentiary system in Poland, calculating that there are 9 prisons in Poland for women (for a total of 87 prisons in the
country). He described the most common crimes committed by women and the conditions they face in Polish prisons.

The fourth participant of the section was MA Justyna Mrozek, presenting the subject of “Socializing function of subcultures”. She told about two types of socialization, primary and secondary, while presenting the types of subcultures. According to her, young people want to be everything that they are culturally discouraged from, citing the idea of prof. Lech Witkowski.

The fifth one was Michałina Kasprzak with the subject of “Non-formal education in local forms of support and care. Considerations based on own research”. She discussed the problem of children coming from dysfunctional environments who are disadvantaged, reducing the person’s chances of exercising their rights. Cooperation between the educator-teacher-educator results in the preparation and willingness to work with another person, communication, security, being with each other and bonding.

Then, Ms. Maria Kaźmierska, MA, was invited to speak, with the paper “The role in creating and developing social competences of students in their education”. She sketched attempts to include terms such as “social competence” and a model of a student who does not develop social skills, which results in lower academic achievement, remaining socially maladjusted and showing less self-confidence.

After the discussion, the deliberations continued.

A paper entitled “Family life appropriated by the virtual space of Sharenting as a new form of Internet addiction” was presented by MA Joanna Sikorska. The term “sharenting” is a combination of the words “parenting” and “share”. She spoke about the dangerous phenomenon of grooming, which from the English “grooming of the child”, means actions taken to make friends and establish emotional ties with the child, to reduce its resistance, and then abuse sexually.

Then, Anna Michniuk presented the problem of “Student as a user of (new) media in the school space – a report on my own research”. The new media student according to literature is immersed in the media world and knows technology well. The author presented positive effects of the use of media at school, such as awareness of copyright, the ability to create media messages, distinguishing truth from fiction, reflection and distance.

The next speaker was Ms. Elwira Litaszewska MA, with the lecture “Development of novice entrepreneurship – educational exemplifications”. 
She spoke about the step by step character of introducing entrepreneurial activities to the market (pre-incubation), followed by the incubation and acceleration phases. The incubation process involves a company managed by an entrepreneur. Next, the Academic Entrepreneurship Incubator was presented. The main idea of this project is to provide space suitable for the needs of companies, providing business support services, as well as shaping the climate to take on the development of new ventures.

Ms. Daria Szykowna, MA presented the issue of “Peer tutoring as a promising perspective of education involving children with autism”. Tutoring occurs when more skilled children begin to give advice and instructions to their peers to introduce them to a similar level of competence. It showed benefits for the student, which result from it, such as: the source of positive experience, different from those gained in the interaction with adults, the chance to confront positions and exchange arguments and increase motivation to learn and the level of involvement, as well as the impact on changing position in peer group.

Later, Mr. Tomasz Herman gave a lecture on “Sociotherapy in the activities of the day care facility”. He presented the goals and tasks of sociotherapy, which form part of the statutory activities of day support centers. He also talked about methods and forms of work in sociotherapy, such as group work, brainstorming, playing, art classes, music therapy, fairytale therapy and the like. He also referred to the qualities a sociotherapist should possess, such as observing the rules, flexibility, patience and consistency.

The next participant was Ms. Anna Schmidt MA with the report “Cooperation as an important element in building a support network for the development of a child at pre-school age”. She presented the project “preschoolers at the university” as an example of activities promoting the subject of cooperation between communities to support the development of a child at pre-school age. She also discussed the benefits that result from cooperation with the local community from the perspective of parents and teachers.

Ms. Natalia Ulaniecka, MA presented the topic “Between reflection and action – action learning method in pedagogical practice”. The focus of her considerations were the main principles of this method, such as: participation and activity of all people in the group, leading as a moderator, permanent team composition as an important element of a sense of security and working on real problems based on real experiences. The discussed method
is used in business and coaching. The PhD student also presented the pedagogical and social application of this tool, also being able to develop in a social intervention project.

The next speaker, Ms. Aleksandra Rożek, talked about “Using music and movement in working with students in the integration class”. From the moment of birth, the preference to listen to the mother’s voice is revealed in a child. A newborn prefers to listen to the voice of the mother rather than to a strange woman, as well as to the female voice rather than the male voice, and shows a greater interest in the human voice than other sounds. Recognized by newborns in their prenatal life rhythmic cartoons and poems read to them in their prenatal life, testify to their auditory memory. Subsequently, the method of active listening to music by Batia Strauss was also discussed. The main purpose of this method is to introduce children to classical music.

Then, Mr. Maciej Zychowicz, MA, spoke about the issue of “Seniors and the media – opportunities and threats to social functioning”. He presented the image of seniors, which is shaped in the media and the figure of a senior in social media. He discussed the barriers to entry of older people into the virtual world, such as: financial, health, technical and psychological. He emphasized that along with the popularization of social networks, activity after 55 and 65 years of age also increases.

The next participant of the section was Ms. Anna Wojewoda with the speech “Immersion method in teaching foreign language to children – innovation or return to the past?”. She presented the concept of immersion and its immersion in a language where one or more subjects as well as other activities included in the projects, are held in a foreign language continuously, for many years. She compared modern methods of teaching, in foreign language learning in the nineteenth-century cognition.

The last speaker of the conference was Ms. Ewelina Szczecichowiak. She spoke about the topic of “Professional counselor in the modern educational system”. She discussed educational inspirations and the importance of vocational counselors in schools. She also stressed that young people in their choice of high school are guided by the parents’ and acquaintances’ opinion. Junior high school students show a negative attitude towards the school career counselor. An important aspect is also the insufficient number of hours with a vocational counselor and a change in the model of linear education into a modular model in Polish gymnasiums. The course of vocational counseling classes in the space of three years allowed young
people to learn about their weaknesses and strengths, which in turn, will allow them to choose the right career path.

The conference was closed by a discussion and a short summary delivered by the Vice Dean for PhD studies and international cooperation, prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik. At the same time, she invited all participants to participate in the social and artistic part of the meeting.