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Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

Report on the Polish Conference *Creating Intimacy.* *Daily challenges* (Wrocław, 4 December 2017)

The Polish Academic Conference *Creating Intimacy. Daily Challenges.* was held on 4 December 2017 in Wrocław. The organisers of the event were the Sociology Institute of the University of Wrocław, the Department of the Sociology of Gender and Family and the Polish Sociological Association. It was already the fourth edition of the conference.

The first speech was given by Paweł Czajkowski, PhD. He substituted for Professor Rafał Drozdowski, who, unfortunately, could not attend the conference for health reasons. He spoke about the role of new technologies and market trends relevant to the perception of contemporary intimacy. He was followed by Professor Dorota Majka-Rostek of the University of Wrocław. She deliberated on whether intimacy is nowadays private or public. She quoted the concepts of such classics as: A. Giddens, Z. Bauman and U. Beck. The last speech was given by Ewa Banaszak, PhD, who discussed the assumptions and some of the results of her research. She said that embodiment and intimacy are not easy research areas. She also mentioned that in the family, bodily presence affects the quality of bonds. The above three speeches opened the conference.

The first part was moderated by Paweł Czajkowski, PhD. Robert Florkowski, PhD spoke about intimacy in BDSM. He mentioned that those who practise BDSM pay more attention to the needs of the partner and are more emphatic. He also discussed the role of safe words in this kind of relationship. He shared with the audience his experiences as psychothera-

pist. He was followed by Paulina Stępień, MA, whose speech proved to be very controversial. She discussed intimate relationship with a plastic doll imitating a real woman, a popular phenomenon in Japan and the USA. She emphasised the fact that it concerns not only lonely persons. In this context, she also presented the concept of intimate relationships according to L. Jamieson. The next speaker was Grzegorz Wiktorowski, MA, who discussed at length the transformation of intimacy in American Fundamentalist and Evangelical Protestantism. The last speech in the session was given by Agnieszka Sobik, MA, who presented the results of her own research concerning the important topic of the attitude to intimacy of homosexual persons.

After the coffee break, the second part was moderated by Robert Florkowski, PhD. In this part, presentations were given by: Monika Mucha, MA, Sebastian Surendra, MA and Joanna Jankowska, MA. They spoke about the perception of intimacy and sharing intimacy in cyberspace, and more specifically in various social networks (mainly Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and reality shows (e.g. Big Brother, Warsaw Shore, Dating Naked, Naked Attraction, Undressed). Next, Julita Czernecka, PhD presented the results of surveys conducted among users of the Sympatia.pl dating portal. She emphasised the fact that real feelings may be born in virtual reality.

The third part of the conference, concerning intimacy in the family, was moderated by Professor Dorota Majka-Rostek. Agnieszka Nymś-Górna, MA, introduced the audience to a different perception of intimacy in the context of the family. Her line of thought was continued by Ewa Malinowska, PhD, who spoke about the intimate relationship between grandmother and granddaughter. The social context of the contemporary phenomenon of voluntary childlessness was presented by Emilia Garncarek. Andrzej Perzanowski, PhD spoke about close family relationships and intimacy in psychiatry. He presented examples from the Psychiatric Hospital in Choroszcz (near Białystok). The session was closed by Krystyna Dzwonkowska-Godula, PhD, who presented the intimacy of women in delivery. She also mentioned the role of the Childbirth with Dignity Foundation.

More speeches were given in the fourth session, moderated by Ewa Banaszak, PhD. Mariola Bieńko, PhD spoke about the intimacy in young adult couples, Aleksandra Drabina-Różewicz, MA and Agata Krasowska, PhD presented the intimacy of the young precariat class, Agata Rejowska-Pasek, MA spoke about humanist wedding vows, Jolanty Klimczak,

PhD discussed the intimacy created in every home and Klaudia Renusch, MA presented her analyses based on Sławomir Mrożek's Journals.

The conference passed in a very pleasant atmosphere. It became a platform for exchange of opinion and development. It is worth noting that the multiple perspectives offered during the conference presented the current status of research and theory in this particular field and inspired further academic explorations.

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