

The members of **Department of Culture Research Methods** are currently conducting research on the following topics:

Prof. Magdalena Dudkiewicz

Subject: Environmental social work in Wejherowo: 5 years later

The research' purpose is to analyze the effects of a social project implemented by social workers in Wejherowo between 2012-2013 as part of a system project for the functioning of the 5.4 Human Capital Operational Program, entitled *Creating and developing standards of social assistance and integration*. This project, conducted according to principles of the Innovative Method of Organizing the Local Community (OSL), was deemed a success in terms of: a) its impact on the target group (the community considered excluded) (activation, increased readiness to undertake new actions, increase in agency); b) the local environment (both closer and further away); c) the functioning itself of a social welfare center. Unfortunately, due to a lack of support from local authorities (after the subsequent local government elections), the positive effects of these actions have also managed to fall through the cracks. The research project was also carried out in two other locations. As a result, three different cases were selected for the current research, which makes it possible to draw conclusions about internal and external factors affecting the integration of innovative social methods in local communities.

Prof. Barbara Fatyga

Subject: Contemporary methodology of researching culture in research and teaching

Since 1986, the author has dealt with, among others, an interdisciplinary methodology of qualitative research in sociology and contemporary anthropology. This methodology creates a whole with the original theory of living culture, rooted in Stanisław Pietraszka's axiosemitic theory of culture, the structuralism of Claude Lévy-Strauss, and the achievements of the Tartarus School. Individual techniques and tricks have been tested in numerous research projects, including international ones. She realized them for over 30 years, mostly with undergraduate and doctoral students. She initially started with research on biographical materials, later she dealt with narrative interviews and other types of texts and materials she had observed, and finally her research focused on various iconic messages. The author created new methods (eg: measurement of emotional temperatures, a metaphor pyramid, sociability analysis in paintings) or modified existing ones (eg: their semantic field, mental maps). Such work has until recently existed mainly in didactics. Furthermore it was disseminated in various texts (in the methodological chapters of study reports, articles, chapters in collective books, etc.). Now the time has come to collect it, sort it out and systematically describe it. The work should result in a several-volume manual.

Albert Jawłowski PhD

Subject: Local contexts of social and cultural identity and the biographical experiences of Eastern Siberia's inhabitants.

The basic field of research and its theoretical references are sociological and anthropological problems of local communities, biography, cultural identity, the region's role as a civilizational and cultural borderland as well as repression and colonialism in the cross-border region of Russian Eastern Siberia, northern Mongolia and Chinese Manchuria. The research' subject consists of: the cultural role of repressed Buryat Lamas in Russia and strategies for defending the Buryat social and cultural identity at a local community level. During the project, scientific and popularizing articles were published

regularly in Polish, English and Russian. One scientific collective monograph was created (which I edited) and one popularizing book. The results of the individual research stages were presented during international conferences, seminars and scientific workshops (including in Poland, Russia and Germany). The research articles are at their final stage. The last bibliographic and archival queries are under way. A book publication is being prepared for print, which is a summary of several years of field work.

Tomasz Olczyk PhD

Subject: Celebrities - Sociology of fame

Despite the growing interest in social sciences and humanities, fame, celebrities and celebritization of our society have so far lacked sociological analyses of these phenomena (which would be grounded in empirical data). Reflection on fame, celebrities and “celebritization” is dominated by normative speculation and this small number of cases is not very thoroughly studied. In addition, the dominant frame of celebrity studies captures the phenomenon in ideographic-casuistic categories which tend to be difficult to reconcile with the theoretical and empirical approaches of sociology. Therefore the aim of my project on the one hand is to analyze the microsociological practices of fame production, celebritization and celebrification while on the other hand performing a macrosociological analysis of the structure and dynamics of celebrating and the so-called “celebritariat”. The project’s scientific effect will be the verification of basic assumptions of celebrity studies and the creation of an empirically grounded sociological theory of celebrities.

Iwona Oliwińska PhD

Topic: Local communities

Since 2013 I have studied local communities in Warsaw's Szmulki district, the Tolkmicko commune (Elbląg county) and Różanymstok (Sokół county). The research’ main goal was to reconstruct lifestyles of groups that are important for the studied communities. The residents (among others) included seniors, social activists, as well as participants of my earlier studies on lifestyles in Szmulki which took place between 2000-2006. In my research, I use qualitative techniques to collect and process data (observations, interviews, desk research, and semantic field analysis). In addition to descriptions of cultural spaces, it was possible to distinguish a local “baskets of needs” in the fields of culture, sport, activities that benefit the local community, as well as the attitude towards tradition, place of residence, revitalization of identity and urban space or their hierarchy of values. Local associations used the research results to develop cultural and sport offers for members of their communities to take advantage of. The second important goal was to solve many methodological issues, including specific problems in relations with respondents, since the researcher happened to be a member of the community they were studying on more than one occasion.

Mariusz Piotrowski PhD

Subject: The creators of local internet portals - in search of media identity.

The most important area of my research interests focuses on spatial conditions and their effect on culture. These issues are divided into two main topics of analysis. The first includes topics that every cultural researcher gathers from data produced by public institutions, in addition to those that are created in bottom-up, social processes. This is where the more detailed problem of the current research resides. The second topic involves spatial analysis of culture and is related to the development

and visualization of data derived from various other sources. I simultaneously carry it out in other research projects. In my work, I use knowledge and IT tools for data geolocation.

Paweł Tomanek PhD

Discourse on corporal punishment of children in public (in Poland).

The research' aim is to recreate the process in which physical punishment of children (which used to be considered as one of the undisputed prerogatives of parental educators) acquired the status of a social problem in the Polish public sphere. It culminated in a new ban on corporal punishment as part of an amendment to the Act on Counteracting Domestic Violence of 2010. I consider this process a classic case of an antagonistic construction of a social problem, i.e. the struggle between organized groups of social actors (politicians, activists, experts, journalists) who undertake actions to recognize a certain phenomenon as undesirable and demanding to counteract or defend its unproblematic status. In the particular case being studied these struggles largely involved discourse and were primarily concerned with the definition of physical punishments (whether they can be considered a form of violence), their impact on the psyche and behavior of children (causing psychological problems versus desired parenting), and finally, the legitimacy and enforceability of their prohibition (perceived by supporters mainly as a tool to change the awareness of parents, and by opponents as a manifestation of excessive state interference in family functioning). In addition to the main topics being discussed, the research also includes rhetorical treatments used by its participants (including "splitting hairs", "personal testimony" or "horror stories") and the semiological structure of social campaigns aimed at demonizing physical punishments.