

Research topics implemented under the framework of the Applied Social Research statute drafted by the University of Warsaw

1. Subject: ***Strategies of public intervention: between social policy and public policies***

Head: **Marek Rymza Assistant Professor (Phd Habil.)**

Description: Science in Poland has recently been subject to decentralization, partly as a result of systemic changes that have been occurring in the country between 1989 and the present day. This deconcentration of university management has gone hand-in-hand with the fragmentation of already accumulated scientific knowledge. Such organization was conducive to the emergence of new research paradigms and new scientific disciplines. Public Policy is one of these new disciplines. Its popularization took place haphazardly and impulsively, causing many "side effects". One of these is the difficulty in aggregating new research results conducted within Public Policy as well as within a discipline which has enjoyed a longer academic tradition in Poland namely Labor and Social Policy. In recent years, we have once again witnessed a consolidation in the management of scientific fields, which goes hand-in-hand with aggregation of scientific disciplines. Because of this, the integration of various trends in social policy analysis and public policies has become absolutely essential.

The subject was created to synthesize social policy studies which exceeded the scope of the science discipline Labor and Social Policy. In particular the analyses are aimed at: 1) emphasizing a common framework for analyzing public interventions, which refer to applied social sciences and 2) pointing out the potential of studying public activities from a sociological perspective (sociology of public affairs/sociology of public sphere). The results of these analyses have been published in two scientific publications, among others.

M. Rymza, *Analiza polityk publicznych i analiza polityki społecznej: wzajemne pozycjonowanie [Analysis of public policies and analysis of social policy: mutual positioning]*, in: J. Kwaśniewski (ed.), *Nauki o polityce publicznej. Monografia dyscypliny [Public Policy Sciences. Monography of the discipline]*, Warsaw University Publishers, Warsaw 2018, pp. 36-60.

K. Gadowska, M. Rymza, *Od socjologii transformacji do socjologii sfery publicznej. Nowe możliwości syntezy wiedzy o zmianie systemowej [From sociology of transformation to sociology of the public sphere. New possibilities for the synthesis of knowledge about systemic change]*, "Studia Socjologiczne" 2017, No. 4, pp. 19-47.

2. Subject: ***Child Welfare and the Activities of Social Services***

Head: **Magdalena Arczewska Assistant Professor Phd.**

Description: The research aim is to define and implement the principle of “child welfare” by representatives of various social services: family judges, family probation officers, social workers, as well as representatives of social organizations which carry out statutory tasks for children and families. Furthermore, the study also includes a semantic analysis of the “child welfare” concept.

Such research will provide comprehensive scientific knowledge when implementing the “child welfare” principle by representatives of various social services whose activities already focus on this area to begin with. In addition, the research will also provide knowledge in pinpointing the definition of “child welfare”, in which a semantic field analysis will be helpful. The research conclusions will fit into a broader context consisting of a child’s functioning assessment and family support system in the local environment, as well as analyzing institutional relations and connections. The conclusions drawn can also help family justice function.

Conclusions and recommendations extrapolated from this research will be disseminated in published scientific journals and through presentations and speeches (both local and international). This is of particular importance, because comprehensive action is virtually absent from Polish and foreign literature in the context of “child welfare”

Such research will bring about practical implications, as the development of recommendations for social policy institutions at the central and local levels (as well as the identification of desired changes in the functioning of numerous institutions and services operating on their behalf). The practical effect of stated research will therefore be the potential to use it to create new laws and as part of planned reforms of the child and family support system in the local environment.

The results of previous analyses have been included in the following scientific publication:
Magdalena Arczewska, *Dobro dziecka jako przedmiot troski społecznej [Child Welfare as an Object of Social Care]*, NOMOS Publishing House, Krakow 2017, pp. 528.

Topic 3: ***Care: Commodification of Support and Active Gratitude?***

Head : **Mariola Raclaw Assistant Professor (Phd Habil.)**

Description: The research aim is to analyze how caretaking activities have changed, which have morphed into professional social services. An example of this is foster care and senior care services, including end of life care (in Poland and in relation to EU countries) and their social consequences. To a large extent, these transformations stem from institutional order changes which occurred in early 21st century developed European societies (which in turn were shaped by transformations of post Second World War European welfare states. Reimagining “classic care” activities as part of the service scheme results in: the transformation of social ties into relationships based on a market exchange

mechanism; tensions caused by economic pressure to obtain maximum efficiency of services at the expense of their social quality; the risk of objectifying the recipients receiving the services and the creation and consolidation of the status of groups of “wounded identities” of certain social categories (eg. children in foster care).

The Polish literature which discusses this matter lacks sufficient analyses indicating any social consequences of the transformation of reimagining `care activities into services, in spite of a growing interest in research in the development of the social services sector and the concept of a state which was theoretically responsible for all social services. The research is part of a larger debate in the literature on the subject (in sociology) of commodification of care *per se* (C. Ungerson); as well as care as a social process (J. Phillips); care as an emotional process (S. Bolby et al) or care ethics (J. Tronto). My current research is a continuation of my previous research interests (foster care, informal care over seniors, care in local communities).

The results of the analyses have been included, among others in a scientific monograph:
M. Raław, *Zinstrumentalizowane rodzicielstwo. Rodziny zastępcze – między usługą a odruchem serca. Perspektywa socjologiczna [Instrumentalized Parenthood. Foster Families – Between Service and Reflex of The Heart.. Sociological Perspective]*, AKAPIT Educational Publishing House, Toruń 2017.

4. Subject: ***Work-related changes in Poland in industrial sociologists analyses and research experience.***

Head: **Ewa Giermanowska Assistant Professor (Phd Habil.)**

Description: The research papers written about the subject aim to analyze changes in labor and employment models regarding the functioning of selected social categories in the labor market force, including (but not limited to) young people, people with disabilities, and social workers. Changes in work and employment models are presented, taking into account three different perspectives: 1) sociology of work perspective 2) social policy perspective, and 3) public policy perspective. The analyses undertaken in this subject’s framework takes into account the many years of research, teaching and professional expertise of the professional role of an sociologist of work. They include the subject’s literature analysis, as well as an analysis of the obtained empirical material. Among others this includes: 1) interviews with senior sociologists of work in Poland, 2) group discussions with social workers, 3) intelligence gathering efforts with research scouts among IASS graduates who work in Human Resource Departments.

The project is longitudinal in nature. In 2017-2018, analysis results were presented in papers presented at 6 conferences and placed in published scientific papers and three others submitted for publication, including:

- E. Giermanowska, K. Lignar-Paczocha, *The Social Roles of Sociologists in the Work Process: from plant sociologists in the socialist workplace to HR professionals in the market economy (Polish experience)*, "Sociological Review" (in print).
- E. Giermanowska, *Socjologia pracy jako nauka stosowana, zaangażowana, publiczna: rozwój i dylematy subdyscypliny [Sociology of work as applied science, engaged science and public science: development and dilemmas of the subdiscipline]*, "Studia Górnośląskie" (in print).
- E. Giermanowska, *O roli socjologii i socjologów w diagnozowaniu i wspieraniu zatrudnienia osób niepełnosprawnych [The role of sociology and sociologists in diagnosing and supporting the employment of disabled people]*, [in:] *Niepełnosprawność w socjologii – socjologia niepełnosprawności [Disability in Sociology – Sociology of Disability]*, Poznań: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Wydziału Nauk Społecznych UAM (in print).