

## ABOUT PROFESSOR JANINA JÓZWIAK'S LEGACY

I met Professor Janina Józwiak as a student of the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) when she was the Rector, and then the head of the Institute of Statistics and Demography. During the third year of my studies, I was lucky to attend her lectures in statistical methods. Next year, I was invited to run tutorials for that course, which was a great honour for me. In later years, I had a chance to meet Professor Józwiak as a member of the Scientific Council of the Central European Forum for Migration and Population Research, where I worked, not to mention our always warm meetings at numerous conferences and seminars. At the same time I discovered how important her position was in the Polish and European demography and how many crucial functions she performed in the Polish science, going well beyond statistics and population studies. The gap left by her passing away will be very hard to fill.

The education reform was a great achievement of Professor Józwiak as the Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics. She abandoned the rigidly defined specializations and programmes and gradually introduced more flexible educational framework in higher years of studies. From my point of view, as the student of the Warsaw School of Economics in the years 1996–2002, it meant becoming an active contributor to the educational process rather than its passive subject, or a mere consumer of educational services. The educational system that started at the Warsaw School of Economics with the reform of Professor Józwiak and her colleagues required more maturity and responsibility from students, but in return, it offered vast possibilities to shape our education. From an overall perspective of time and professional experience, I am more and more convinced that such a model of study is of enormous value.

Professor Józwiak was also a highly regarded teacher and populariser of science. Even as the Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics, she taught advanced aspects of statistics methodology from multidimensional reasoning to statistical decision analysis. From the point of view of a student, and then a trainee assistant, I can say that it was a fantastic school of academic practice, linking the methodological rigour with the passion to discover more sophisticated statistical tools. Also on the undergraduate level, the contribution of Professor Józwiak as a co-author of a popular university textbook on the introduction to statistics (*Statystyka od podstaw*,

co-written with J. Podgórski, PWE) was invaluable. The book has already had seven editions and has served several generations of students, including myself.

Professor Józwiak is renowned not only for her achievements in the organization of university education. Her purely scientific legacy also needs to be mentioned. Her habilitation thesis on mathematical models of population was published both in Polish (SGPiS, 1985) and in English by NIDI (*Mathematical Models of Population*, 1992). The thesis discusses various categories and forms of mathematical models of population dynamics, single- and multi-state, both in continuous and discrete time. Professor Józwiak presented some new and unique qualities of these models, for instance the time needed to stabilise the age structures, or the properties of aggregation in multi-state models.

Remembering Professor Janina Józwiak and her contribution to the development of social sciences in Poland and in Europe, we need to remember unique aspects of her academic achievements. The main trend in the contemporary European demography usually focuses on the analysis of demographic behaviour based on survey studies, while a wider view of the population renewal mechanisms, offered by mathematical demography, is fading into the background. At a time when mathematical population models are slowly becoming a domain of evolutionary biology, with a huge loss for social demography, it is worth coming back to formal roots of describing population processes also for *Homo Sapiens*, drawing inspiration from the legacy of such scientific masters as Professor Janina Józwiak.

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