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Conference Report

Contemporary Psychology: Academic and Practical Perspectives

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Report on the Jubilee Conference on the 10th Anniversary of the Institute of Psychology at the Ignatianum University in Cracow, Poland, June 17, 2025.

In 2025, the Institute of Psychology at Ignatianum University in Cracow celebrated its 10th anniversary. On June 17, 2025, a ceremonial National Conference was held at the University to summarize the teaching and research activities of our Institute of Psychology. A little over 10 years ago, by the resolution of His Magnificence Rector Prof. Józef Bremer SJ, the Institute of Psychology was established at the University Ignatianum in Kraków. The first Director of the Institute was Jacek Bielas, PhD. Since 2022, the position of Director has been held by Jacek Prusak SJ, PhD. Currently, the Institute consists of seven departments: Department of General Psychology, Department of Experimental Psychology, Department of Human Development Psychology, Department of Psychopathology and Psychoprophylaxis, Department of Social Psychology and Interpersonal Communication, Department of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, and Department of Forensic Psychology and Psychocriminology. The Institute also includes the Center for Trauma and Dissociation Research and the Sleep Research Laboratory.

During the conference, research activities of the individual departments as well as the research and practical contributions of Ignatianum graduates were presented. The conference began with a lecture by Jacek Bielas, PhD, who discussed the context of the Institute's founding, the people involved, and his reflections on the challenges of leading a newly created Institute.

The Department of Experimental Psychology was represented by Łukasz Michalczyk, PhD, who presented research on covert attention orientation and its motor foundations. The results supported the premotor theory of attention, summarized by the author as: *look where you prepare to act*.

Next, Krzysztof Nowakowski, PhD, presented the activities of the Department of Forensic Psychology and Psychocriminology, focusing on criminal violence risk assessment and studies on juvenile psychopathy. The data highlighted the integration of forensic psychology with clinical contexts and other subdisciplines.

The Department of Psychopathology and Psychoprevention was introduced by Adam Pawlak, PhD, who outlined its wide-ranging research areas: psychological aspects of religion and personality, psychosomatic conditions, sleep disorders and sleep quality, changes and dynamics of personal identity, personality disorders, chronic fatigue, as well as psycho-oncology and psychological approaches to authoritarianism. Key publications of the department, including monographs and articles, were also highlighted.

Prof. Halina Grzymała-Moszczyńska, together with Adam Anczyk, PhD, presented cultural psychology as a useful theoretical and empirical perspective for the psychology of religion. Their talk addressed research perspectives on religion

in the context of globalization and multiculturalism, linking psychology with anthropology and religious studies. They distinguished three approaches to the psycho-cultural interface: universalist, absolutist, and relativist, and demonstrated how the cultural perspective has been applied in research at the Department of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality at the Institute

The Department of General Psychology was represented by Jerzy Gruszka, PhD, who discussed measures of subjective income inequality and how people understand them. He outlined the development of these methods – from vignette studies, through questions about perceived and desired earnings, to simple indicators based on income visualization. The studies revealed inconsistent and sometimes contradictory results regarding perceived and desired inequalities, as well as methodological challenges due to participants' limited knowledge of earnings and numerical reasoning difficulties.

A key part of the conference was devoted to presentations by alumni. The first was given by Weronika Jarecka, MA, who presented research on the experiences of older siblings of individuals on the autism spectrum. Interviews showed that siblings faced difficulties and additional responsibilities, but also developed empathy and new ways of understanding their family situation. The ambivalence of these experiences was emphasized, along with the importance of considering siblings' perspectives in research and family support practices.

Next, Natalia Brzozowska, MA, presented research on the relationship between moral intuitions and Poles' economic views. Analysis of data participants showed that individuals with right-leaning economic views exhibited weaker care and fairness intuitions than those with left-leaning views. The study also found that in Poland, the terms „left” and „right” more often refer to cultural issues than to economics. The conclusions underscored the need for further research into the semantics of these concepts and their social differentiation.

The final presentation was delivered by Piotr Kochowicz, MA, who discussed the work of psychologists in psychiatric hospitals, highlighting the gap between expectations and daily practice. He examined the psychologist's role in interdisciplinary teams, the limitations imposed by the healthcare system, and opportunities for professional development. Particular attention was given to the problem of burnout, its scale, risk factors, and protective mechanisms, stressing the need for systemic solutions to support psychologists in their work.

The conference also featured a poster session, where psychology students and doctoral candidates presented their research. Topics included: *Between Suffering and the Need for Understanding*; *The Emotional Face of Misophonia*, *The Role of Synchrony in Interpersonal Communication*; *A Review of Scientific Research, Attitude as a Useful Concept in Qualitative Research, BI-AS*; *What Connects Bi – and Asexual Identities*, *Individual Experience as a Category in Qualitative Research*,

Drug-Like Behavior; Selected Aspects of Behavioral Addictions; Sleep Quality in Older Adults Living in a Nursing Home; Nomads of the Global World – Third Culture Kids; Cult Online Communities as a Research Space; It’s Like Someone Was Telling Me About Another Planet – The Experience of Conducting Psychotherapy for Foreigners.

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