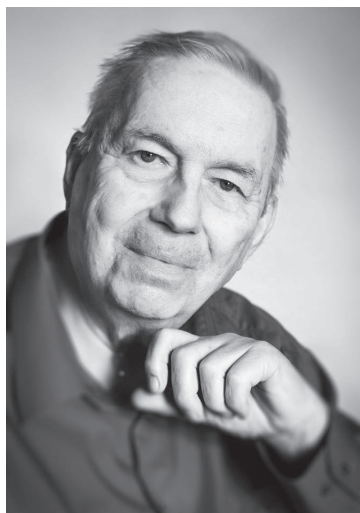


PROFESSOR JERZY MIKUŁOWSKI POMORSKI (1937–2020)



Expressing in merely a few words who Professor Jerzy Mikułowski Pomorski was, not only for the Polish but also the international science world, is a downright unfeasible task. The Professor was both a pre-eminent scientist and an expert as well as a distinguished persona in the science world esteemed domestically and internationally. Nonetheless, for his alumni he was primarily a guide, a mentor, a Master whilst, what is found to be most rare, a spiritual friend.

Born in Katowice, he located his scientific activity in Silesia and Lesser Poland. Graduating from law (1958) and sociology (1963) in Cracow, he continued his scientific work to reach far beyond both disciplinary and territorial frameworks. His career started in 1956 when joining the emerging, at the time, Press Research Center team in Cracow. In 1962 he joined the Academy of Economics (which later was transformed into the University of Economics). He obtained his Ph.D. in 1969, gained a post-doctoral degree in 1977 and became a full professor in 1990. On 27 June 2017 he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by Senate of the University of Silesia. Previously, in 1993, he was awarded the same title by the Grand Valley State University in Allendale (in humanities) and in 1996 by the University of Teesside (in law).

In 1975, Professor Mikułowski Pomorski became head of the Department of International Economy Organizations and deputy-director of the Institute of International Socio-Economic Relations at the University of Economics in Cracow. There, between 1990 and 1996, he also held the position of rector, and in 1991 he founded, a first in Poland, the Chair of European Studies headed by him until 2007. One of his unquestionable merits was developing social communication and media at the University of Silesia, where he worked almost 30 years, 1984–2012. It was a place where Professor founded new media studies, concurrently raising – literally – a generation of outstanding Polish researchers in media and communication. Also, it's worth remembering, that he knew the media not only from the theoretical but also the practical side – he cooperated with such renowned journals as *Przekrój*, *Życie Literackie* and *Tygodnik Powszechny*.

Looking at the Professor's international work activity, it is important to mention his collaboration with such prestigious institutions as the Institute of Communication in London, the European Studies Institute at the University of Salford, the International Council of Museums, the University Council of Education Management Transfer in Stockholm and the Network of International Business & Economic Schools. In Poland, the Professor headed the Press Commission of the Department of Polish Academy of Sciences, was a member of not only the Polish Academy of Learning, but also sat on the Committee on European Affairs, the Culture and Media Committee, and Committee of Economics, and was also an honorary member of Polish Communication Association. He participated in the expert work of the Citizens' Center for Legislative Initiative which was in process of preparing legal reform in Poland. In his beloved city of Cracow, he was vice-president of the City Development Committee, was a member of the Social Monument Restoration Committee and was a member of the Programme Committee at the International Cultural Centre.

On behalf of UNESCO, the Professor was an expert in the field of international information order and the Right To Communicate (RTC), which by the way was seen by him as downright philosophical. Whilst working on RTC, he observed difficulties in grasping the real concept of it, particularly in new technology and the new communication tools driven society. And especially so its relations with politics and economics. The questions he posed in his scientific research enabled him to explore more and more areas of studies as well as to weave them together in theories and concepts which have served successive generations, not only those of Polish but also international researchers. Each of his collection of over 20 monographs and nearly 300 research papers integrates studies of communications, sociology, issues of identity and intercultural dialogue, as well as international relations. The Professor insightfully explored processes related to the fragmentation of societies and the environment. Human and human rights were ever his key interests. Inalienable human rights.

The Professor was undoubtedly of the scientific elite. His scientific and community work have been honored with numerous distinctions and awards by the hands of scientific and creative communities and authorities of various levels. Awarded for his outstanding achievements with the Cross of Polonia Restituta and the Gold Cross of Merit, and for his contribution to communicology and media studies with honorary membership by the Polish Communication Association, he was also awarded distinctions by the journalistic environment and cultural institutions. Nonetheless, it was not the numerous titles and decorations that proved the uniqueness of the Professor, they were but the specific crowning of his proactive, comprehensive activity.

Professor Mikułowski Pomorski was a rare example of a scientist whose work had no limitations, as evidenced by his exceptional almost hyperactivity – he never

came to retire from his professional career, he was always eager to capitalize on all new available tools too, by himself, embodied the concept of formerly mentioned Right to Communicate and to inform. He was an open-minded and kind man; always keen to listen what we, his alumni, had to say to him, and as an astute observer he loved to share what he considered significant, worth contemplating and, most importantly, what could activate inspiring discussions. This was the core of his teaching. This is what drove him as a supervisor. This is how he educated, or in fact shaped multiple future media researchers who have proceeded to continue his work and concepts on the grounds of science, culture, didactics and social activity. He skillfully spread the love for unceasing (re)search and exploration, he stimulated and inspired. He showcased what scientific wisdom is.

We will miss Our Professor.

Dariusz Baran

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