

PROFESSOR JANINA JÓŹWIAK  
1948–2016

Professor Janina Józwiak, the head of the Institute of Statistics and Demography in the Collegium of Economic Analysis of the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH) since 1999 and the Rector of SGH in the years of 1993–1999, passed away on 19 July 2016. The shocking news deeply moved the academic circles in Poland, particularly the community of demographers and statisticians, but also our colleagues and friends from the European demographers' community and many persons from outside the academic world that Madam Professor met as part of her numerous pro bono activities. Professor Janina Józwiak was not only an eminent and internationally renowned representative of the Polish academic and scientific circles as a researcher of population processes, statistician, expert involved in the development of higher education systems, research development and organisation, and education of researchers but also an expert on the collaboration between research and business practice. Some of numerous manifestations of her outstanding achievements in each and every of these areas are significant publications in Poland and abroad, participation in and management of many Polish and international research projects, as well as the responsible and prestigious positions she was entrusted with. More than once she was elected for these positions. Apart from that, Professor Józwiak was a highly regarded educator, immensely popular with students. Among others, she used to teach statistics, advanced statistical methods, demography, demographic modelling and forecasting. She educated several generations of Polish demographers and reissues of the textbook on statistics she wrote together with Dr. Jarosław Podgórski have served subsequent generations of students.

In 1970, Janina Józwiak graduated from the Department of Econometry at the Central School of Planning and Statistics (SGPiS). She worked as an assistant lecturer at Warsaw School of Life Sciences for one year and then got enrolled in a doctoral program at the SGPiS. When she graduated from the program, she got employed in the Department of Statistics and Demography at the Faculty of Finance and Statistics. In 1976 she was granted the PhD degree in economics based on the dissertation about aggregation in Markov chains, which she completed under the supervision of Professor Ira Koźniewska. Having gained the doctoral degree, Janina Józwiak took interest in population issues. In the late 1970s, centrally coordinated research of population processes was undertaken and the coordination body was the Institute of Statistics and

Demography (ISiD) founded in 1978 and managed by Professor Jerzy Z. Holzer. As the head of the Demography Unit, Janina Józwiak was involved both in the organisational work related to the coordination, and the research work. At that time, her work focused on modelling population dynamics and structure, demographic forecasting, applications of models in the analysis of demographic processes. The 1970s and 80s saw the development of demographic modelling, including multi-state models of population dynamics. The research conducted in centrally coordinated projects and supervised by Janina Józwiak related to this trend in the demographic research. There is no doubt that it let Poland make significant progress in the application of quantitative tools to the analysis of demographic processes. This stage of Janina's scientific development was crowned by the "Mathematical Models of Population" habilitation thesis (1985, Monografie i Opracowania no. 176, SGPiS). It included a review of projection models in the classic, multi-state and stochastic version, as well as new, proposed analytical solutions. The thesis served as the basis to grant Janina the degree of habilitated doctor (*doktor habilitowany*) of economics in 1986.

In the 1980s, the collaboration between ISiD and the European demographic community intensified. In 1983, Professor Jerzy Z. Holzer was actively involved in the foundation of European Association for Population Studies (EAPS), an organisation that has integrated researchers of population processes in Europe. Professor Dirk van de Kaa, the President of EAPS and a director of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) in the Hague, offered scholarships to the Institute staff members. It was Janina's first academic trip abroad and the two months yielded closer working relations and more. In 1992 NIDI published the "Mathematical Models of Population" monography based on Janina's habilitation thesis. The book piqued the interest of the demographic circles and contributed to Janina Józwiak's recognition by the community.<sup>1</sup> At the same time, the collaboration of a team of Polish demographers with Professor Frans Willekens, who frequently visited ISiD to lecture in the International Training Workshop on the Use of Population Projection for Socio-Economic Planning – a UNFPA program implemented in ISiD, increased the interest in demographic modelling in Poland, including multi-state models.

Still in the 1980s, Janina Józwiak was interested not only in the application of mathematical and statistical methods to research on population processes, but also noticed demographic behaviour in the changing socio-economic context and implications of changes in the demographic structures. Apart from dealing with theory, she worked with applications of projection models, particularly to the research on population ageing – its demographic determinants and consequences for the retirement benefits plan in Poland, ahead of the coming debate around the topic, by the way. Publications on the dynamics of demographic behaviour became a part of the European debate on the changing paradigm of demographic research, i.e. transition from the macro to a micro

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<sup>1</sup> In their tributes published in this issue of Demographic Studies, Frans Willekens and Ewa Tabeau write about the importance of this work for the development of mathematical demography and their recognition for Janina Józwiak.

scale, which contributed to the modification of research approaches and widened the spectrum of methods to study the course of a person's life. This resulted in the development of surveys related to demographic behaviours on the one hand, and in the improvement of analytical techniques used in the analysis of individual data, on the other hand. The last publications by Professor Józwiak on population issues relate to the identification of the mechanism of changes to demographic behaviour in Poland and the impact of social and economic factors on these changes.

Janina Józwiak's academic achievements and her active role in the promotion of demography and economic development were rewarded with the title of professor in economics in 1993.

Diversity of research topics and the evolution of Professor Józwiak's academic interests were a part of the most significant trend in contemporary demographic research, which indicates her ability to notice important problems in succeeding stages of their development. Participation in international research projects and conferences, as well as the work for the international demographic community made her recognizable in the international arena. Her position as a demographer was acknowledged when the members of European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) chose her to serve as a Vice-president (1999–2003) and then President (2003–2008). When her term expired, she was appointed EAPS's Honorary President. Due to her efforts, the world-renowned demographer Professor Dirk J. van de Kaa received SGH's *honoris causa* doctorate in 2003. Since 2009, Janina served as a Vice-president in the Presidium of Council of Advisors for the European Population Partnership, an institution that integrates and propagates demographic research in Europe. At the same time, she was committed to the education of population research students, working with EAPS's Committee on Education on the master and doctoral degree learning programs for demography specialists in Europe. She was a member of the International Max-Planck Research School in Demography (2000–2004). Professor Józwiak took part in the establishment of the European Doctoral School of Demography in 2005 and served on the school's Scientific Board.

Professor Janina Józwiak was also actively involved in the growth of the demographic community in Poland and served as an expert on the demographic issues. In the years of 1990–1993, she served as a Vice-Chair of the Demographic Science Committee by the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), to end up as its Chair between 1993 and 2003. In 2004, she got the status of an Honorary Chair of the Committee. Since 2007, she had presided the Editorial Board of "Demographic Studies." She co-authored the expert opinion commissioned by the National Development Council, which was a part of the RP President Lech Kaczyński's administration. She was also invited to an expert task force on pro-family policy launched by the RP President Bronisław Komorowski's office.

The parallel stream in Professor Janina Józwiak's research activity, which emerged in the 1990s, touched on the issues of higher education and research management. She was an active member of both the official team for the higher edu-

cation reform in Poland, and the informal reform team at the Central School of Planning and Statistics. The work of the team resulted in a fundamental reformation of the alma mater. The efforts were crowned by the restoration of the original name of the university – the Warsaw School of Economics. Professor Janina Józwiak was the second rector elected in free elections. Only 45 at the time, she faced a challenge of restructuring the university, radically reforming the curricula, and intensifying academic collaboration with foreign and business entities. Against all odds, she succeeded and created a school responsive to the changing needs of the environment. The Professor was the one to initiate the SGH Partners' Club, serving as an institutional liaison between the academic and business circles.

Professor Janina Józwiak's long-standing work to transform higher education targeted both Poland's and the European higher learning systems. She was a Vice-President of the Conference of Rectors of Academic Schools in Poland (1997–1999). As she was able to share her achievements and experience with international community, she was elected to CRE-Association of European Universities (an association of rectors of European universities) Management Board to actively promote educational reforms in Europe.

Between 2007 and 2011, Professor Józwiak sat on the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles and was a member of the committee for the Prime Minister's awards. Another manifestation of activities related to the development of higher learning was her work in Polish and international committees dealing with the quality of higher education.

This area of activity also included her work to develop management education and collaboration between research and business practice. Professor Janina Józwiak served as a Chair of Polish Higher Education-Business Forum (1998–2002) and the Association of Management Education FORUM (2003–2014), she presided the Chapter of the President's Business Awards (1998–2005) and was the Chapter's member (2011–2014). She coordinated the work in the "Knowledge and Innovation for Development" segment of the Polish Lisbon Strategy Forum (2004–2005). Apart from that, she was a member of the Banking Ethics Committee by the Polish Bank Association and the Council of Ludwik Kronenberg Banking Foundation.

At the same, the Professor was involved in activities fostering research organisation and management in Poland: she lead the Academic Research Committee's unit for Economics, Social Sciences and Law, served as a deputy chair on the Academic Research Committee (2000–2004), and chaired the Cross-functional Team on International Collaboration in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (2005–2008). She was a chair of the "Poland in the United Europe" Committee by the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) Presidium (2003–2006). The important stage in these activities was the involvement in the Foundation for Polish Science – Professor Józwiak was a member of the Foundation's Board (2000–2004) and then she was elected the Board's Chair (2004–2008). In the years of 2007–2008 she was the deputy chair of the Main Panel in the "Poland 2020 Foresight" national program by

the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. One of the chief goals of the program was to identify the top research priorities in selected sciences and respective application areas. She used the experience later, as an SME leader of the regional foresight for Warsaw and Mazovia universities “Academic Mazovia 2030” project, whose purpose was to develop alternative scenarios for the development of higher education with a view to the needs of a knowledge-based economy.

In the years of 2008–2010, Professor Janina Józwiak was entrusted with the function of a Vice-chair in the Committee for National Academic Policy and the Council for Science and Technology. In 2010, she was appointed a member of the National Science Centre and she had chaired the Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts Committee by the National Science Centre since 2012. She became a member of the PAN Science Studies Committee in 2007.

The knowledge and experience of Professor Józwiak was appreciated worldwide. She was a designated expert in the efforts to foster the structuring of research in Europe. She was the Polish delegate to the Programme Committees of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> European Commission Framework Programmes and an expert in international research institutions, including the European Commission. Since 2008, she had participated in SH-3 “Environment and Society” Starting Grants panel in the European Research Council. Since 2012, she had been a member of the Network Board in the New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Co-operation in Europe. It is an institution that funds research in Europe and the Polish National Science Centre is its member.

Undoubtedly, Professor Janina Józwiak was a world-class scholar. Her position resulted from her ability to address up-to-date, important research topics and place the results in internationally circulated publications, as well as to initiate new currents in research. In every area of her activity – research and science, work for organisations and research promotion, development of researchers and academics, improvement of the higher education system or the collaboration between research and business practice – her achievements and works gained enormous recognition across the community. The evidence includes awards and distinctions, but also the tributes by people that worked with her in various national and international groups<sup>2</sup>. She was honoured with high state decorations for her achievements in Poland and abroad. To honour her contribution to the development of academic collaboration, the President of France awarded her with the National Order of the Legion of Honour in 1996. Among other decorations, she received the Order of Polonia Restituta Commander’s Cross (1998) and Commander’s Cross with Star (2011). In 2015 she received the highest individual award granted by the Minister of Science and Higher Education for her career achievements in science and research, education, and organisation. On the occasion of SGH’s 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April 2016, the Mazovia Voivodeship Marshal awarded her with a certificate of merit to acknowledge her substantial contribution to the dynamic growth

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<sup>2</sup> The tributes were posted in the special material about Professor published in the *Gazeta SGH* no. 9/16 (330) <http://kolegia.sgh.waw.pl/pl/KAE/struktura/ISiD/Strony/default.aspx>, and in this issue of *Demographic Studies*

of the Warsaw School of Economics and the improvement of educational standards, as well as her work for the Mazovia voivodeship.

In his assessment of Professor Janina Józwiak's achievements due to the application for the highest individual award of the Minister of Science and Higher Education for her career achievements in science and research, education, and organisation, Professor Emil Panek from the Poznań University of Economics and Business said: *“Even this very synthetic overview of Professor Janina Józwiak's works makes one realize the enormousness and weight of her achievements in every area of research, science and educational activity, publications, work for research organisation and development of academics, improvement of the higher learning system and collaboration between research and business practice. In each and every field, Professor Janina Józwiak is an unquestioned, real academic authority, a very dynamic person consistent in her actions, with a passion for research and authentic organisational skills. She is a role-model as a scholar and research organiser, an academic teacher, and a community worker fully committed to the idea of disseminating knowledge and education in the society”*.

Professor Kazimierz Stępień from the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Warsaw, who worked with Professor in groups related to research organisation and science/research policy, in his assessment made also due to the application for the award of the Minister of Science and Higher Education, wrote: *“To conclude, I have never written an opinion about organisational activity of a person who would render such considerable services to the Polish research and science”*.

The tremendously active professional life of Professor Janina Józwiak makes it difficult to grasp its scope and scale of her achievements even for her friends, relatives and colleagues. It's hard to believe that the list of numerous activities and achievements relates to a single person, even extremely hardworking; nevertheless, the list still doesn't exhaust all the forms of Janina's involvement in pro bono work. We need to supplement this list by her involvement to establish the Solidarity Trade Union in the university, her work for Solidarity when it was illegal, and finally her efforts to make the university union legal again, what happened in 1988. I was lucky to be a part of Professor's professional development and work with her. She offered me a gift of friendship. We studied econometry in the same class, and econometry was a new course at SGPiS, we both completed our respective master's theses under the supervision of Professor Wiesław Grabowski, and had the same supervisor for our doctor's theses, i.e. Professor Ira Koźniewska. Then, Professor Jerzy Z. Holzer encouraged us both to take interest in demography, however, I undertook research coordinated by ISiD later than she did, i.e. in the early 1980s. Professor Holzer convinced us about the importance of working towards the development of demographic research in Poland and the concern for the position of Polish demography in Europe. In 1999, he handed over the Institute of Statistics and Demography to Janina Józwiak.

Professor's Janina Józwiak's ability to spot and take on strategic challenges showed not only in the SGH reforms. In the 1990s, the Professor lead the TEMPUS programme, which fundamentally changed the curriculum of the ISiD and allowed

us to network for contacts we used in research in the following years. Her involvement in the work for the European demographic community and scholarly authority substantially reinforced ISiD's position – owed to the efforts of Professor Jerzy Z. Holzer – in the international arena. This resulted in the Institute's staff being regarded as a partner in international research projects and entrusting the Institute with responsible actions on behalf of the European demographers' community. In 1997, the Institute and Cracow University of Economics co-organised the *Inter-mediate Population Conference* under the auspices of the European Association for Population Studies. In 2003, the Institute was entrusted with organising the *European Population Conference* EAPS, which came to Central-Eastern Europe for the first time. Lately, in the years of 2013–2015 the Institute lead two editions of the European Doctoral School of Demography, which was established in 2005.

We are losing an unusual person, who seamlessly combined the characteristics of a scholar, charismatic leader, kind teacher, demanding and attentive boss, warm-hearted colleague or a faithful friend. She also was a wise advisor, willing to offer support to research and education goals of her peers and colleagues, including unconventional ideas. She was and will remain an unquestioned moral authority. Her commitment to pro bono work as well as attachment to values and concern for holding on to them inspired admiration and respect, while her kindness and openness to other people's life matters – liking and gratitude. For many, the Professor was a lodestar – her advice and tips helped in hard choices, not only work-related. We are deeply grateful for this. We admired her courage to shield the beloved in her battle against the disease, her willpower to act despite her deteriorating condition. Till the very end, she remembered about her commitments to others. This mislead us, especially that the Professor kept planning for the nearest future regardless of the need to reduce her activity. It seemed that a reasonable reduction of workload would be sufficient... The deal with the disease fell apart.

With grief and great sadness, we bid farewell to our Director and the Honorary Chair of PAN's Demographic Science Committee and thank her for the gift of working together and communing with such a remarkable person, whose absence we will feel constantly. Let's consider this to be our – her friends, colleagues, and partners – commitment to continuing her work. Naturally, we are aware how hard it will be to meet the standards she introduced. Nevertheless, we are proud we had the opportunity to meet the Professor, whose life is best described by the reaction of Professor Frans Willekens to the message about her death: "*Janina contributed significantly to a better world. We need people like her*".

I bid farewell to a Friend I had in my entire life as an adult. It hurts badly. For the rest of my time, I will have to live struggling with her absence here and getting used to her presence in another dimension.

Irena E. Kotowska

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