

# FACING A CRISIS OF TRUST...

**T**he temptation to regard the times in which we live as exceptional is probably shared by every generation. In our case, however, I believe this perception is well justified.

It is difficult to predict what lies ahead in the revolution brought about by universal access to artificial intelligence. The range of possibilities opening up before us is enormous. All we have to do – here, on the banks of the Vistula – is not to miss this moment and not allow this train to depart without us on board. Yet this very accessibility to AI, and its ability to generate fake content instantly, is fueling a counterrevolution against reason. We live in times in which spreading misinformation has become child’s play. How are scientists supposed to find their way in such a world? What role are they meant to play? We explore these questions in a conversation with Nobel Prize winner Prof. Harold Varmus.

In this issue, we examine the importance of science and scientists from a variety of perspectives. Readers will find reflections on the ethos of the researcher, along with an honest discussion of the paths followed by people of science – paths that are often “laden with thorns” yet nevertheless fascinating. We write about how the concept of scientific responsibility has evolved and how it is understood today, particularly in medicine, but also in fields such as design. We also address the issue of caring for our heritage, including natural heritage. Fostering talents and the ways in which the academic world turns toward society are far from straightforward, as academics tend to focus on precision, specialized skill sets, and discipline-specific language. For this reason, we asked practitioners – renowned and successful science communicators – for their opinions and advice.

Finally, we reflect on science that is co-created with society. This is a moment to pause and ask ourselves how much we really know about contemporary society, particularly in the midst of the crisis facing traditional polling and opinion survey paradigms.

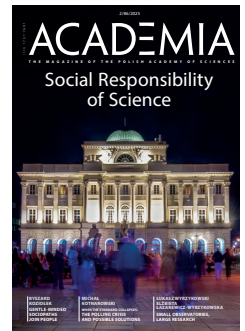
We have made every effort to ensure that this issue is as comprehensive, diverse, and cohesive as possible. We believe this is precisely what we are presenting to you.

**KAROLINA GŁOWACKA**



ANETA KARWOWSKA, PAS

We publish a painting created during art workshops at the Staszic Palace of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The author of the work is unknown. If anyone recognizes the author or has any information about them, please contact the editorial office (academia@pan.pl).



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