

IN MEMORIAM OF MY COLLEAGUE  
AND FRIEND JANINA

When I learned about Janina's premature death, I was very sad indeed though not completely surprised. Irena, Janina's good friend, had already told me of her severe, presumably terminal health problem at the EAPS Conference in Budapest in 2014. And only two years later, shortly before the next EAPS Conference in Mainz, Janina's international colleagues received the sad news. In Mainz, many colleagues remembered her as a well-known Polish demographer and an Honorary President of EAPS. Some probably recalled the EAPS Conference 2003 she had hosted and organised in Warsaw.

As soon as I received the sad news, I tried to remember when I first had met Janina Jozwiak. It seemed to me I had known her for ages. She definitely was a professor when I met her for the first time. In the late 1980s, the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) started an exchange of staff members with Jerzy Z. Holzer's Institute of Statistics and Demography at the Warsaw School of Economics. In my capacity as the Director of BiB, I was frequently invited to visit my Polish colleagues and to attend meetings in Poland. So, I had known Janina for 25 years or so. Back then, Janina held the second chair in demography and then she was elected to become a Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics. Though rather short and plump, she had the immediate attention whenever she entered a hall or a room. She radiated authority and dignity with or without the rector's chain and cloak. She made excellent speeches, her voice was firm and warm, and her messages convincing.

In the more private settings at dinner parties she was a generous and charming host, both as a rector and later as ordinary professor and, after Jerzy Z. Holzer's death, as the Director of the Institute of Statistics and Demography. I have learned from her everything about Polish vodkas until I found my favourite (Zubrowka); and I smoked many cigarettes with her. She had the most serene temperament one can imagine and was a great companion.

Not that her scientific work would have been neglected or not taken seriously – quite the contrary. Let me mention just one special example of which I have personal experience: When we worked together in the DIALOG Working Group sponsored by the EU, she was actively involved and instrumental in bringing discussions to fruition and consensus. In the book that was the final outcome of DIALOG, her contribution (co-authored with Irena Kotowska and Anita Abramowska) is enti-

tled “Activating Older Workers: Policies Versus Opinions and Expectations” (in: Höhn, Charlotte; Avramov, Dragana and Kotowska, Irena (eds.) “People, Population Change and Policies”, Vol. 2, p. 221–243). She also was a great colleague in the EAPS Council, and a remarkable President of EAPS.

I, of course, was never her student but I am positive she was an excellent teacher. She was most knowledgeable and would share her insights with students and colleagues. She was balanced in her opinions, open to arguments, and hence would excel in discussions and debates.

There are not many scholars of high quality that are also ready to organise research. Janina was one of these rare colleagues who would devote much of her precious time to representation and organisation. She proved this in several capacities, namely as the Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics, as well as the Director of the Institute of Statistics and Demography and the President of EAPS. She had the charisma and the willingness to lead and take responsibility in these positions. And she did it so remarkably well with competence and constancy, with charm and the necessary distance.

In my memory of my colleague and friend Janina it is not just the researcher and the organiser though impressive enough that will remain, it is her charming and good-natured face that predominates because this is rare in intelligent and hard-working first-row women and men. I miss her very much and will never forget her.

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