

TRIBUTE

I started to wonder when I first met Professor Józwiak. It was at the beginning of the 1990s, at the main lecture hall of the Warsaw School of Economics, where she had her lecture in statistics. Crowds of people gathered there to listen to and understand various complexities of estimators from equations written with chalk on a blackboard. Attending lectures of the person whose textbook in statistics (co-written with Jarosław Podgórski, PhD) has for many years been a basic source of statistical knowledge, not only for economists, was an unforgettable experience. It somehow happened, however, that I could not join her lecture group because of other obligatory courses at the same time. But those meetings, even short, made me fall in love with statistics.

I started my cooperation with the Institute of Statistics and Demography as an assistant when it was headed by professor Jerzy Z. Holzer. I did not have any direct contact with Professor Józwiak for some time, but soon I ran workshops connected with her lectures with, among others, wonderful Basia Sakson (whom I also miss a lot), and other colleagues. We did our best to implement Professor's concept of teaching statistics. I remember Professor Józwiak had a big trust in us and believed that the workshops are in line with her ideas and principles, and that we are able to show that statistics (similarly to demography) can be a fantastic adventure.

When Professor Janina Józwiak took the helm of the Institute in 1999, and especially after professor Jerzy Z. Holzer died in 2001, we had more opportunities to meet to discuss my reports, planned projects – it was a very intense implementation time of international projects – or publications. I will never forget her support in organizing important scientific seminars and moderating discussions, implementing projects (letters of intent), or selecting reviewers of my research. Everything was always agreed smoothly, quickly and without unnecessary talking. I remember that she always followed the principle of just and good, high quality education, having in mind the idea of working for future generations.

She always found time to talk with me. When I had to decide whether to stay at the Jagiellonian University or not (in 2007) or when I needed consultations for my habilitation documents. I felt support and a good, I think, opinion about my activities which I highly appreciated and respected. There are some situations I will never

forget. One of them is a meeting on a train to Cracow. The probability to meet on that route was quite high because of my frequent trips and her membership in the Council of the National Science Centre (NCN). Such talks in places other than work, free from rigid organizational and institutional limitations, give a chance to get to know the other side of people. At the end of the journey we agreed to have a cup of coffee at the Old Square in Cracow. Then we put it off again and again. Not a long time ago, shortly after I had my post-doctoral degree, I received an e-mail, in which Professor Józwiak wrote she was waiting to give me a hug. She put it so joyfully and wholeheartedly. We were supposed to work together in the habilitation commission of Anna Matysiak, PhD.

Dear Professor Józwiak! Me and coffee, tea will be fine too, not only at the Old Square in Cracow, are waiting for you.

Doctor habitatus Jolanta Perek-Bialas

Institute of Statistics and Demography
Collegium of Economic Analyses, Warsaw School of Economics