


Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw  
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# STUDIA ECOLOGIAE ET BIOETHICAE



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## Report on the 15<sup>th</sup> Polish Conference on the “Humanistic Ecology” Series: “Anthropological and Natural Aspects of Consumption of Moderation and Excess” (Warsaw, 27 October 2021)

Sprawozdanie z XV Ogólnopolskiej konferencji naukowej z cyklu „Ekologia humanistyczna” pt. „Antropologiczne i przyrodnicze aspekty konsumpcji umiaru i nadmiaru” (Warszawa, 27.10.2021)

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The 15<sup>th</sup> Polish Conference “Anthropological and Natural Aspects of Consumption of Moderation and Excess” is yet another event organized by the Department of Ecophilosophy at the UKSW Faculty of Christian Philosophy. The initiator of the “Social Ecology” conference series, first organised in 2006, was Rev. Professor Józef Marcei Dołęga. The series comprised ten conferences held between 2006 and 2016. After Rev. Professor J.M. Dołęga passed away, the conference profile was changed and a new series – “Humanistic Ecology” – was launched in 2018. However, in view of the fact it is a continuation of the original concept, and in order to honour the person of the originator, a decision was made to continue the numbering of the conferences – hence this year’s edition is already the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference to address current environmental challenges.

Problems discussed at the Conference were concerned with an extremely important issue, namely the phenomenon of consumption. The ever growing consumerist mentality and increasing manifestations of consumerism are part of the development of a non-environment friendly consumer

culture. This culture is becoming more and more prevalent, and not only does it illustrate the attitudes of current consumers, but also shapes the mindset of today’s children and youth – the next generation of adult consumers. Unreflective, compulsive consumption focused on acquiring material goods is one of the main reasons for the excessive exploitation of the planet’s resources and the production of waste, thus contributing to the deepening environmental crisis.

The organizers intended the conference as a meeting place for representatives of various branches of knowledge – from natural sciences, through technical, social and legal sciences, to the humanities. Only such an interdisciplinary approach to the issue of consumption offers hope for adequate answers being found to questions about the sources, manifestations and consequences of contemporary consumerism, as well as for finding optimal solutions to the growing problems related to unsustainable consumption.

The event was held under the honorary patronage of Adam Struzik – Mazovia Province Marshall, and Wojciech Hann – President of Bank Ochrony

Środowiska. The main organizer and originator of the conference was the Department of Ecophilosophy at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, and the co-organizers were the Mazovia Province Marshall's Office, the National School of Public Administration, the Warsaw Seminar of Administrative Axiology and the Don Bosco Green Alliance. Patrons of Honour were represented at the Conference by Janina Ewa Orzełowska – Mazovia Province Board Member, and Sławomir Mazurek – Managing Director of the Support and Ecology Division at Bank Ochrony Środowiska SA.

Owing to constraints related to the increasing fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Conference was held in the hybrid format, with speakers presenting their talks in person, while the audience having the choice of participating either in person or on-line. Due to the growing number of infections, several speakers cancelled their participation at the last minute, which resulted in 18 lectures being delivered even though the Scientific Committee had accepted 25 papers for presentation, prepared by 30 speakers representing 15 research centres from all around Poland. In addition to the speakers, the Conference was attended by 61 in-person and 78 remote participants, representing as many as 30 scientific and educational institutions, national and local government administration agencies, NGOs, foundations, businesses and other organisations.

Proceedings of the Conference included sixteen papers: R.F. Sadowski, A. Kosieradzka-Federczyk, A. Klimska (eds.), *Anthropological and Natural Aspects of Consumption of Excess and Moderation*, Warsaw: KSAP 2021. ISBN: 978-83-61713-26-5; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5590464>. The publication was made available free of charge on the day of the Conference in print and electronic format thanks to the financial support of Bank Ochrony Środowiska.

The theme of the Conference was introduced by a plenary lecture presented by

Professor Piotr Skubała and Ryszard Kulik, Ph.D., entitled *Why Do We Lack Moderation in the Exploitation of the Planet's Resources?* Other papers were delivered in two parallel thematic sessions addressing the issue of consumption from the philosophical and the social perspective.

The philosophical session featured the following presentations:

- Mikołaj Niedek, Karol Krajewski, *Frugalism in the Context of Economic and Axiological Determinants of Sustainable Consumption Patterns*;
- Małgorzata Gutry-Korycka, *Fraternity and Social Friendship as the Foundation of Pope Francis' Social Encyclicals*;
- Michał Latawiec, *Consumption of Nature – Man's Impact on Nature*;
- Marcin Leźnicki, *Redundancy in the World of Consumption*;
- Anna Batorczak, *Consumption from the Perspective of Warsaw University Students*;
- Joanna Mysona Byrska, *Deconsumption – the Path to Liberation from Consumerism*;
- Małgorzata Jagodzińska, Anna Strumińska-Doktór, *The Role of School in Shaping Sustainable Consumption Attitudes*;
- Katarzyna Łukaszewska, *Return to Asceticism. Recapitulation of the Ethical Meaning in the Context of Henryk Elzenberg's Views*;
- Anna Kalinowska, *The Rarer, the More Valuable. The Natural, Health, and Criminal Consequences of Luxury Consumption*;
- Dominika Dzwonkowska, *The Virtue of Moderation as an Expression of Commitment to the Environment*.

The social session featured the following presentations:

- Irena Burzyńska, *Dynamic Growth and the Pressure on the Environment*;
- Agata Kosieradzka-Federczyk, *The Impact of Demographic Change on Consumption – a Global Perspective*;
- Grażyna Pol, *Redundant or Desirable? On Waste in the Culture of Excess*;
- Katarzyna Uklańska, *Being and Having. The Values of College Youth in 2020*;

Paulina Legutko-Kobus, *Selected Activities of Local Governments in Support of Sustainable Consumption*;

Marek Żur, *Prosumption as a Process of Optimizing Consumption and a Trend Implying the Sharing Economy*;

Bogumiła Lisocka-Jaegermann, Zofia Piotrowska-Kretkiewicz, *Finding the Right Measure. Development Challenges in the Anthropocene Era and the Rules of Wealth Production and Consumption in Traditional Indigenous Communities*.

A considerable portion of the papers have been included in the Conference monograph,

hence they will not be discussed here. The publication is available on the Internet, so anyone interested may study the lectures presented during the Conference.

The organizers would like to express their gratitude to the Patrons of Honour and all the participants in the Conference for creating a friendly atmosphere for the exchange of ideas and joint search for solutions to the complex environmental challenges facing humanity today.