



Editorial: Family culture

A new volume – number 48 – of the “Horizons of Education” entitled “Family culture” closes the cycle of scientific studies devoted to “About the family,” which illustrated the past and the present of the Polish family in diverse contexts. The Authors reflected on the condition of the contemporary family in the dynamically changing global world, which – according to a large group of researchers – is characterized by a state of permanent anomie, affecting all spheres of human life, including the family. Thanks to the historical analyses presented at the beginning of the cycle, the path the family has travelled from its very beginning to the present day has been reconstructed. We have also shown how the family has been adapting to the world and – inevitably – distancing from its earlier patterns. This adaptation often makes it difficult for us to recognize the contemporary family as the family in its traditional understanding. Today the term “family” embraces much more than it did during the previous centuries.

The presentation of the wide spectrum of evolutionary changes and transformations the family has undergone is complemented by reflections on its spiritual and material heritage, its legacy – both overtly realized and deeply hidden – that we find in the family of the 21st century. This volume of the Horizons of Education includes texts that reflect the discussion on the condition of the Polish family from the perspective of broadly understood culture. Culture relates to the ideas and values, defines the scope of human activities and behaviours and ways of thinking and feeling, is a source of satisfying human needs and the way of achieving material goals. Since the beginning of his existence, man has created a specific culture, which makes us, on the one hand, heirs to the culture of our ancestors and, on the other hand, creators of the culture inherited by our descendants. We communicate and express ourselves through culture and thanks to culture. Culture is always somebody’s culture, and its creation, persistence, and development is achieved, among other things, through the processes of upbringing, socialization, and learning. The Authors of the texts published in this volume attempt to diagnose the contemporary reality in the context of family culture, its opportunities and threats, challenges and potentials that can contribute to qualitative changes in the functioning of the contemporary family and the fulfilment of a satisfying life. We hope that their reflections not only reveal the significance and complexity of the issues they discuss, but also indicate the ways in which the findings of scientific research can be applied in pedagogical or psychological practice, and are an invitation to further analyses.

Anna Błasiak
Tadeusz Borkowski
Irmina Rostek
theme issue editors