



Editorial: **Memory – Humanities and Social Sciences Contexts**

Memory is one of the essential concepts of science and it is present not only in scientific works of psychology, pedagogy, sociology, linguistics, history, cultural studies but also in neurobiology and computer science. Memory is also the subject of philosophical research and artistic achievements. One can describe every concept in terms of the category of the poly-semantic structure which is being shaped during the development of a language. In order to get to know a concept one should consider the social, cultural, psychological and religious background together with other contexts. The concept of Memory is verbalized by using by the aid of many words, expressions, collocations and statements. The words which are used to verbalize the concept are nouns, for example *memory*, *(auto)biography*, *reminiscence*, *retrospect*, *anniversary*, *jubilee*, *birthday*, *monument*, *memorial*, *museum*, *heritage park*, *reconstruction*. The most frequent word which is used in this context is the noun *memory*, which – according to the entry of the word *memory* from contemporary dictionaries of the Polish language – has several distinctive meanings which relate to the functioning of our mind. By using the word *memory* the user defines his or someone else's ability, predisposition to assimilate, store and playback past events, people, things and places in the mind. There are also thoughts about past events or people known in the past, their activities. *Memory* is defined as a feeling of reverence for the deceased. *Memory* is also thinking about someone else's issues, needs and feelings, caring about someone or something. In this sense, we use this word to mean the part of our mind in which we store memories. This word is also the computer science term of *memory*, the device in the computer which is used to receive, store and share programs and data.

In contemporary social discourse we are seeing an exponential growth of the terms in which the word *memory* is utilized. They are associated with the collective memory in the context of history, tradition and cultural heritage, the functioning of the systems and social institutions, and expressions such as: *the restoration of memory*, *false memory*, *politics of*

memory, debate of memory, historical memory, the memory of the victims, the memory of the Holocaust, Institute of National Remembrance.

Wojciech Chlebda (2011, pp. 90-91) points out that the word *memory* in Polish is used frequently used today in the plural (*a multiplicity of Polish memories, auction of national memories, the confrontation of different national memories*), which indicates that *memory* from the category of purely mental, intangible and ephemeral phenomena has been moved in our social discourse to a category of phenomena which are observable and measurable.

The articles contained in this volume of "Horyzonty Wychowania" make a contribution to the broad stream of studies on memory, representing a voice in the discussion on the concept of memory present in the social sciences and humanities. We invite you to reflect on these issues as they have been presented here by the Authors.

Bożena Sieradzka-Baziur

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