

Instytut Socjologii Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego



Understanding Ageing in Contemporary Poland: Social and Cultural Perspectives

eds Stella Grotowska, Iwona Taranowicz

**LOWER
SILESIA**



**DOLNY
ŚLĄSK**



Uniwersytet
Wrocławski

**Understanding Ageing
in Contemporary Poland:
Social and Cultural Perspectives**

Online access: <http://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/publication/54526>

**Understanding Ageing
in Contemporary Poland:
Social and Cultural Perspectives**

eds Stella Grotowska, Iwona Taranowicz

Wrocław 2014

Projekt współfinansowany z budżetu Województwa Dolnośląskiego
The project was co-financed from the funds of the Self-Government of Lower Silesia



Peer review: *prof. dr hab. Maria Libiszowska-Żółtkowska*

© Copyright by Authors

Cover design: *Patryk Bochenek*
Typesetting: *Marta Uruska, Tomasz Kalota - eBooki.com.pl*

ISBN 978-83-63322-24-3

Publishing House
Instytut Socjologii
Uniwersytet Wrocławski
ul. Koszarowa 3 bud. 20
51-149 Wrocław
tel. +48 71 375 50 97
www.socjologia.uni.wroc.pl

CONTENTS

Introduction	9
WHAT IS OLD AGE NOWADAYS AND HOW DO WE SPEAK ABOUT IT?	11
Iwona Taranowicz Deconstructing old age? On the evolution of social concepts of the late stage of life.....	13
Stella Grotowska Old age – roleless role or time of freedom	25
Anna Gomóła Problems with <i>starość</i> (age). On natural and scientific categories.....	37
Iwona Burkacka Are there any attractive names for elderly people in Polish?	47
PRIVACY, INTIMACY AND HOME	59
Zofia Kawczyńska-Butrym Potential of elderly persons – from homeland to home abroad.....	61
Mariola Bieńko The sexual aspects of intimacy in old age, in the public and private spheres	71
Dorota Majka-Rostek Non-heterosexual ageing	79
Bartłomiej Gapiński Old age and death. The perception of old age in the context of death in the Polish countryside at the turn of 20th century and the interwar period (1918–1939).....	89
IMAGES OF OLD AGE IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE	97
Beata Łaciak Portrayal of senior citizens in Polish television drama serials	99
Karolina Korczewska Can seniors be trendy? Elderly people in pop culture	109
Monika Anna Kalinowska The image of old age in selected cultural texts – an analysis of middle school textbooks for Polish classes	115
Ewa Banaszak, Robert Florkowski Fashion and old age. Paradox or tactic of negotiating normality	127

ACTIVITY AND LIFESTYLES IN OLD AGE	135
Anna Kotlarska-Michalska	
Limited public and private space for Polish retirees	137
Joanna Zalewska	
The third age in Poland. Pleasure and a new form of sociality	151
Iwona A. Oliwińska	
The lifestyle of senior citizens, or what affects their change	161
Elżbieta Bojanowska	
Activities and lifestyles of elderly people	167
OLD AGE IN SOCIAL POLICY	179
Wiesława Duży	
Statistical data regarding the situation of elderly people in the databases of the Central Statistical Office – an outline of the issue.....	181
Sabina Wejner	
International initiatives for the benefit of senior citizens	187
Teresa J. Zbyrad	
Marginal of elderly people towards social acceptance. Changes in attitudes to seniors on the example of social help institution.....	193
Monika Zwartka-Czekaj	
Senior residents of Silesian cities and the social welfare system: challenges and dilemmas for local communities.....	201
The authors	209

Introduction

The topic of old age and ageing is currently being discussed by everyone from politicians, economists and journalists to ordinary people. It figures as a topic in political and media discourse, highlighting the multitude of problems that result from population ageing and that need to be addressed. These issues are being researched by specialists in a variety of disciplines, including demographics, medicine, social policy, economics, psychology and sociology.

This tome is a collection of texts by authors representing admittedly diverse academic fields, but with a shared conviction that the phenomenon of population ageing merits in-depth research, as this megatrend is shaping the future of contemporary society – and hence affects us all.

The book is subdivided into five parts.

The first part – *What is old age nowadays and how do we speak about it?* – explores the social construction of old age in rapidly changing societies, old people's place in social structure, and the language that is used to refer to old age not only in the media, but also in academic and scientific contexts.

The second part – *Privacy, intimacy and home* – consists of four texts that look at how senior citizens function in the private sphere, i.e. in the context of home and familial care, intimacy, sexuality (including non-heteronormative sexuality) and death.

The texts comprising the third part – *Images of old age in contemporary culture* – analyse television drama serials, school textbooks and the relationship between clothing/fashion and (old) age, to show how old age is presented in contemporary culture.

The fourth thematic subsection of the book – *Activity and lifestyles in old age* – is devoted to issues concerning the way senior citizens lead their lives, including the imposition of social restrictions, as well as changes in lifestyle and the emergence of new lifestyles.

The fifth and final part – entitled *Old age in social policy* – consists of four texts which present statistical data concerning old age in Poland, local support structures for senior citizens, the evolution of social care homes, and the activity of institutions that deal with old people.

As can be seen from the above overview of the issues touched upon in the respective articles collected here, this book is an interdisciplinary attempt to grasp and address selected aspects of old age and ageing, from a predominantly cultural perspective.

We trust that our book not only provides a range of interesting perspectives on old age and ageing, but that it will also inspire both reflection and extensive further research.

*Stella Grotowska
Iwona Taranowicz*

The authors:

Ewa Banaszak, dr

Institute of Sociology
University of Wrocław
E-mail: ebanaszak@wns.uni.wroc.pl

Mariola Bienko, dr hab.

Institute of Applied Social Sciences
University of Warsaw
E-mail: mariola.bienko@gmail.com

Elżbieta Bojanowska, dr

Institute of Sociology
Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński
University in Warsaw
E-mail: elabojanowska@op.pl

Iwona Burkacka, dr hab.

Institute of the Polish Language
University of Warsaw
E-mail: i.burkacka@uw.edu.pl

Wiesława Duży, mgr

Central Statistical Office, Bydgoszcz
E-mail: w.duzy@stat.gov.pl

Robert Florkowski, dr

University School of Physical Education in Poznań
E-mail: rob.florek@poczta.onet.pl

Bartłomiej Gapiński, dr

Institute of History
Jagiellonian University
E-mail: bartlomiejgapinski@gmail.com

Anna Gomóła, dr hab.

University of Silesia in Katowice
E-mail: anna.gomola@us.edu.pl

Stella Grotowska, dr hab.

Institute of Sociology
University of Wrocław
E-mail: stella.grotowska@gmail.com

Monika Anna Kalinowska, mgr

Faculty of Humanities, Department of Pedagogy,
University of Szczecin
E-mail: monikaannakalinowska@gmail.com

Zofia Kawczyńska-Butrym, prof. dr hab.

Institute of Sociology, Maria Curie Skłodowska-University, Lublin
Chair of General Sociology and Research on Migrations
E-mail: zofkaw@wp.pl

Karolina Korczewska, mgr

Institute of Pedagogical Sciences
Opole University
E-mail: korczewska.karolina@wp.pl

Anna Kotlarska-Michalska, prof. UAM dr hab.

Institute of Sociology
Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań
E-mail: anna_michalska@poczta.onet.pl

Beata Łaciak, prof UW dr hab.

Institute of Applied Social Sciences
University of Warsaw
E-mail: Beata_Laciak@poczta.onet.pl

Dorota Majka-Rostek, dr hab.

Institute of Sociology
University of Wrocław
E-mail: dorota_majka@poczta.onet.pl

Iwona A. Oliwińska, dr

Institute of Applied Social Sciences
University of Warsaw
E-mail: i.oliwinska@uw.edu.pl

Iwona Taranowicz, dr hab.

Institute of Sociology
University of Wrocław
E-mail: i.taranowicz@wns.uni.wroc.pl

Sabina Wejner, dr

Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Silesia in Katowice
E-mail: s.wejner@wp.pl

Joanna Zalewska, dr

The Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education, Warsaw

E-mail: joanna.marta.zalewska@gmail.com

Monika Zawartka-Czekaj, dr

Higher School of Labour Safety Management in Katowice

E-mail: monizaczek1@wp.pl

Teresa J. Zbyrad, dr

Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology

Pedagogical University of Cracow

E-mail: tzbyrad@interia.pl

ISBN 978-83-63322-24-3