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A Tribute to the Outstanding Pedagogist, Professor Maria Dudzikowa

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Maria Dudzikowa was born on 23.04.1938 in Ożenin and died on 30.10.2018 in Konin). She was a philologist of the Polish language, a pedagogist, and a professor of the Faculty of Educational Studies of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. For 20 years, she was managing the Department of School Education, and for 25 years, she ran a summer university for young scholars under the patronage of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences – a one-week SUMMER SCHOOL OF YOUNG EDUCATORS. Between 1993 and 2018, she was a member of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, including 15 years of service as the Vice-President of the Committee. She was the head of the Doctors' Self-Education and Peer Self-Help Team operating at the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She worked as the Chief Editor of the "Rocznik Pedagogiczny" journal published by the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She was awarded the "Amico Uł" medal by the University of Lodz, and the "Skrzydła Wyobraźni" [Wings of Imagination] statue by the Lodz Centre of Teacher Training and Vocational Education. Her research activity began the era of holistic, empirical and interpretative pedagogical research in educational sciences. Her research interests focused on problems of interdisciplinarity in science, the relation between research and practice, school as the subject of changes and the environment of personal development of students and teachers, school daily life and culture, the processes of enculturation, upbringing and self-creation.

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She is widely known and highly appreciated in Poland as the initiator of young scholars' academic development movement. She published more than 200 works. Maria Dudzikowa was the head of a cross-university research team (a grant of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education) called: *Studenci I roku UAM 2005/06 – 2009/10. Doświadczenia szkolne pierwszego rocznika reformy edukacji a zmiany zasobów jego kapitału społecznego w warunkach szkoły wyższej. Badania panelowe* [First Year Students of the Adam Mickiewicz University 2005/06 – 2009/10: School Experiences of the First Students Affected by the Reform of Education and the Changes in Their Social Capital Resources in University Conditions. A Panel Study] and a scientific editor of the publication series: *Maturzyści 2005' – Studenci UAM w Poznaniu* [2005 High School Graduates as Students of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań]. Vol. I: *Doświadczenia szkolne pierwszego rocznika reformy edukacji. Studium teoretyczno-empiryczne* [School Experiences of the First Students Affected by the Reform of Education: A Theoretical and Empirical Study] (edited with R. Wawrzyniak-Beszterda, 2010); Vol. II: *Kapitał szkolny w szkołach różnego szczebla kształcenia. Diagnoza i uwarunkowania* [School Capital in Schools of Different Education Levels: Diagnosis and Determinants] (team work, 2011); Vol. IV: *Oblicza kapitału społecznego uniwersytetu: Diagnoza – interpretacje – konteksty* [Facets of University Social Capital: Diagnosis – Interpretations – Contexts] (team work, 2013). The value of that project and the successes of team work was confirmed by the Władysław Spasowski's award granted to her team by the Division I: Humanities and Social Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2015.

The books rewarded by the Polish Academy of Sciences are a report from longitudinal research, made up of a theoretical part, a methodological study, and the interpretation of results obtained at each stage of reconstructing school experiences of the same respondent population. Researchers from Poznań and Zielona Góra tried to find out whether and to what extent students' attending renowned high schools contributed to the development of their social capital. For the first time in many years, a longitudinal study was conducted in Poland to monitor on an ongoing basis to what extent school is an environment in and through which social capital is created and what we can predict in this regard.

The titles of the most important books by Maria Dudzikowa and publication series that she co-edited with young scholars best reflect the purpose and joy of living a life full of pedagogy, thinking in humanistic categories and acting through politics (within the Aristotle's meaning of this word as a rational pursuit of the common good). The late educator was a Polish language teacher, collaborating with her master and tutor, professor Heliodor Muszyński, in creating a kind of school whose aim is to bring young people up but whose design and operation differs from the previous ones. Whoever opens the book *Wychowanie przez aktywne uczestnictwo* [Upbringing through Active Participation] (Warszawa 1987) can read the chapter that is still very up-to-date: *Wychowanie przez role społeczne a niebezpieczeństwo manipulacji* [Upbringing through Social Roles and the Danger of Manipulation], where she approaches manipulation as the opposite of upbringing. Later, her excellent studies were published, such as: *Praca młodzieży nad sobą* [Young People's Self-Improvement] (Warszawa, 1993), *Mit o szkole jako miejscu wszechstronnego rozwoju ucznia. Eseje etnopedagogiczne* [The Myth of School Being a Place of Student's Universal Development. Ethno-Pedagogical Essays] (Kraków, 2001, 2004); *Pomyśl siebie ... Minieseje dla wychowawcy klasy* [Think Yourself Up: Mini Essays for Class Tutors] (Gdańsk, 2007); a five-volume series co-edited with M. Czerepaniak-Walczak: *Wychowanie. Pojęcia – Procesy – Konteksty* [Upbringing: Concepts – Processes – Contexts] (Gdańsk: 2007-2010 awarded the "21st Century Education Award" in the category "academic textbook" at the 23rd Educational Book Fair); a multi-volume series co-edited with H. Kwiatkowska: *Palące problemy edukacji i pedagogiki* [Hot Issues of Education and Pedagogy] (Kraków, 2013–2015), including the volume titled *Sprawcy i/lub ofiary działań pozornych w edukacji szkolnej* [Causes and/or Victims of Surface Activities in School Education] (co-edited with K. Knasiecka-Falbierska, Kraków, 2013) with her excellent text: *Użyteczność pojęcia działań pozornych jako kategorii analitycznej. Egzemplifikacje z obszaru edukacji (i nie tylko)* [The Usefulness of the Concept of Surface Activities as an Analytical Category. Examples from the Area of Education (and More)]; a co-edited anthology *Interdyscyplinarnie o interdyscyplinarności. Między ideą a praktyką* [An Interdisciplinary Book on Interdisciplinarity: Ideas vs Practice] (with A. Chmielewski and A. Grobler, Kraków: 2012), including her text: *Sytuacja prob-*

tematyczna interdyscyplinarności w naukach społecznych i humanistycznych (z kryzysem w tle) [*The Problem Situation of Interdisciplinarity in Social Sciences and the Humanities (with a Crisis in the Background)*] and a co-edited book *O pasjach cudzych i własnych – profesorowie* [*Professors' Voices on Their Own and Others' Passions*] (together with Rev. Marian Nowak, Lublin 2015), including a moving text by the Professor titled *O mojej miłości do książek. Esej osobisty* [*On my Love for Books: a Personal Essay*].

Professor Maria Dudzikowa was a master of pedagogical essays, publishing i.a., two outstanding ones: *Oznaki dehumanizacji szkoły w perspektywie metaforyki odzwierzęcej* [*Signs of School Dehumanization in the Perspective of Animal Metaphors*] (in: *Uczłowieczyć komunikację. Nauczyciel wobec ucznia w przestrzeni szkolnej*, ed. Henryka Kwiatkowska, (Kraków 2015), and the above-mentioned essay on love for books. Her research activity began the era of holistic, empirical and interpretative pedagogical research in educational sciences. Her research interests focused on problems of interdisciplinarity in science, the relation between research and practice, school as the subject of changes and the environment of personal development of students and teachers, school daily life and culture, the processes of enculturation, upbringing and self-creation.

Sadly, on October 30, 2018, she died in Konin after nearly two years of combat with cancer. There are few people at universities who serve others with their lives, and thanks to their exceptional passion and real self-improvement effort, they consider their family, academic and social roles as a moral imperative. Professor Maria Dudzikowa used to read for others, and she did so with her whole being. It was enough to mention a thought or an idea to immediately hear from her the titles of the most important and valuable books, both new and old. The deceased professor was a great person with Renaissance wisdom, encyclopedic knowledge and excellent education, using in her research and lectures knowledge of the humanities and social sciences, not only of pedagogy but first of all of belles-lettres, literary studies, linguistics, psychology, cultural anthropology, sociology and modern philosophy. She was a unique, exceptional person, interdisciplinarily studying the phenomena of education and upbringing, as well as educational and academic policies. She imparted to us the personal passion she had for multidirectional pedagogical study of processes, events and institutions that are fundamental for the culture and daily life of each human and each community.