

### **Anna Kochanowska-Nieborak**

Keywords: literary constructions of values, motivation of achievements, fight against poverty, Gustav Freytag, “bourgeois values”, “Prussian/German values”

The aim of the article is to examine the meaning of literary constructions of values in the context of fight against poverty. It is to be noted that the significance of the transmission of values is underscored especially by scholars who study the phenomenon of the inheritance of poverty.

The article formulates the hypothesis that in the context studied, literature can take over the role of “transmitter of values”. In order to confirm this hypothesis, the findings of the American psychologist David McClelland in the field of motivation psychology were referred to and then developed in the analysis of the text of a 19<sup>th</sup> century German novel by Gustav Freytag titled *Soll und Haben*, followed by an examination of the history of the novel’s reception. The two threads of analysis, on the one hand, serve as proof of the real impact of literary constructions of values, while on the other hand reveal what values were advocated in novels from the period preceding Germany’s spectacular economic growth.

The results of the analysis are assessed according to their applicability to strategies for fighting poverty.

### **Gerda Nogal**

Keywords: Lifestyles, modern society, prosperity, contemporary literature, female characters

For some time, the concept ‘lifestyle’ has become the object of intensified scientific research. Starting from the 80s and 90s of the previous century, the research has placed emphasis on the deconstruction of the traditional class and gender role assignments in regard to individualistic and pluralist lifestyles and life situations. Considering the above ideas, attempt is made to trace and analyse these processes in literary forms.

The question arises, whether and how these social changes are expressed in the literary narrative forms. This is specified on the example of a contemporary German writer Silke Scheuermann. As Scheuermann involves her female characters in the context of rich modern societies and thus aims at reality effects, her stories make it possible to follow the time spirit.

It is to show, whether the post-modern worlds contribute to a new 'orientation' of the literary figures, i.e. whether their lifestyles and systems of values are the outcomes of an autonomous development or result from a variety of possibilities.

### **Piotr Sałustowicz**

Keywords: older people, active ageing, labour market, culture, education, exclusion, cultural exclusion

The aim of the article is to examine the possibilities and limitations of the implementation of the active ageing program on the example of the labour market and culture. In the case of the labour market, a research question was asked regarding institutional exclusion (retirement) and whether it is possible to observe the readiness of older people to continue employment. In the case of culture, a question was asked about the extent of participation / exclusion of older people in culture.

The initial hypothesis was that the institutional exclusion of older people from the labour market should lead to their greater participation in culture, which is an important mechanism of social integration that prevents social exclusion.

To obtain answers to the research questions, the desk research method was used, including official statistics, Statistics Poland surveys, and literature on the subject.

The analysis of statistical data shows that despite some increase in the number of people working after reaching retirement age in Poland, the level of employment in this age category is still clearly lower than in many OECD countries. Analysis of data on the activity of older people in the field of education and culture showed large diversification especially relative to education, place of residence and status on the labour market. People with low education and living in rural areas are particularly vulnerable to exclusion in this sphere. It can be concluded that the institutional exclusion of older people from the labour market does not lead to a clear shift of their activity to the area of culture.

The article formulates a series of recommendations regarding the extension of the employment period of older people as well as changes in the activities of cultural institutions.

## **Radosław Murkowski**

**Keywords:** migration, refugee crisis, refuge, refugee, immigration policy

The aim of the article is to characterize the development of illegal influx of people from the Near East and Africa to Europe since 2015, commonly known as the “refugee crisis”. The research problem is to show the scale of currently ongoing migratory movements to the European Union against the backdrop of earlier migratory streams and to forecast possible future developments of migration.

The author puts forward the thesis that the currently observed movements of people are just a part of greater migratory streams to Europe that became intensified in the period since 2015 due to armed conflicts in some of the Arab states. A hypothesis is also formulated that in the future further intensive development of migratory movements to European Union can be expected due to predicted marked population growth in the countries of Africa and the Near East.

The study is based on analysis of statistical data on migratory movements published by Eurostat (European Statistical Office), Frontex (European Border and Coast Guard Agency) and the United Nations Organization.

## **Grzegorz Zbińkowski**

**Keywords:** EU migrant crisis, directions of Poland’s migration policy, population, death rate, fertility rate, emigration, migration, migration balance, Frontex, labour deficit.

The objectives of this paper are: (i) presentation of theoretical aspects of migration and migrant crisis in the EU in 2015 (its causes, the Vysehrad Group’s position on the issue and the status of the relocation process, including the arrangements on strengthening the role and enhancing operating capacity of Frontex); (ii) comparative analysis of selected demographic indicators for individual EU countries (including Poland) / EU-28 in the context of the migrant crisis: fertility rate, mother’s mean age at first birth, death rate and population in 1998–2018 together with the population forecast until 2049; (iii) discussion of the following data for Poland: emigration-immigration migration balance in 2006–2017 and labour deficit; (iv)

presentation of Poland's migration policy (its formal aspects, threats and opportunities, directions).

The research objective is an answer to the question of what the causes were of the 2015 migrant crisis and steps taken by the EU in this scope; and what directions Poland's migration policy should take. The analysis assumes the following research hypothesis: "a failure to introduce and implement a deliberate, multiyear migration policy, addressing the existing and future challenges will result in Poland's population decreasing by 3.44 million in 2019–2049". The hypothesis was verified through presenting Eurostat's forecasts with the simultaneous definition of required directions of Poland's migration policy after 2018, that is: (i) deceleration of the decrease rate for Poland's population through: increase in the replacement rate, reduction of the death rate (to at most the EU-28 average) and decrease in mother's mean age at first birth; (ii) striving to obtain a positive migration balance (with emigration reduction prioritised); (iii) support for remigration; (iv) preventing illegal immigration; (v) implementation of simple mechanisms and procedures for employing foreigners in Poland, with resulting reduction of labour deficit; (vi) integration of foreigners.

The hypothesis has been verified to be true. The following research methods were applied: the historical method (origin, progress, meaning), content analysis (research into documents), as well as the quantitative and qualitative method (numeric data analysis).

## **Filip Kaczmarek**

Keywords: poverty, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, migration, hazards

The aim of the paper is to present the impact of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa on Europe with special emphasis on the European Union and its member states. Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region of the world; Europe is one of the richest and most developed. The two continents border on each other, which in the past and today means that the transition of people and goods between the two regions is relatively easy. The disproportion in the level of development and the ensuing inequalities must bear on mutual relations.

The research problem is how the Sub-Saharan poverty impacts Europe. The adopted hypothesis is that such an impact exists and is of a negative character. The poverty of Sub-

Saharan Africa is a challenge and can be a threat to Europe. One single independent threat is weakening of Europe's international position. Another area of hazards for Europe is the instability of the African states and the frequency and intensity of armed conflicts. Specific areas of hazard such as: migrations, security, natural environment overlap and interdepend on poverty as well as one another.

The research method is a review of the state of research and analysis of secondary data, including economic and demographic forecasts.

### **Natalia Sienko**

Keywords: multiculturalism, cultural and civilizational circle, migrants, cultural policy, Central and Eastern Europe

The aim of the article is an analysis of the possibilities, means, and projects that lie within the scope of protection of national identity, rights of ethnic minorities, cultural policy activities, and bodies and institutions for the national cultural heritage.

The research problem is an assessment of the intercultural dialogue in the Czech Republic, Moldova, and Bulgaria - states operating in the area of three cultural and civilizational circles of Central and Eastern Europe.

The author puts forward the hypothesis that there exist differences and similarities between these countries in their developed perception of the issue of protection of culture and national identity, and in particular of non-ethnic solidarity and challenges in a multicultural 'space'. In pursuing this research objective, finding answers to the following questions will be particularly important: To what extent is national culture and identity protected in Central and Eastern Europe? Is multicultural space in the Czech Republic, Moldova and Bulgaria treated as a threat or an added value?

Due to the identification of behavioral variables as well as internal and external conditions, the study makes use of a systemic, historical-critical method, institutional and legal analysis, and a comparative method based on the consent method.

**Magdalena Karolak-Michalska, Wioletta Waloch**

**Keywords:** ethnic structure, Eastern Europe, national minorities, ethno-politics, Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

Political and economic developments in the Eastern European countries are an important element of the public debate. Ongoing socio-political and economic transformation in the subregion (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine) highlights the diversity of individual countries also in ethnic terms, with Ukraine and the current war in Donbass being a particular example, as well as Crimean annexation events where the nationality of the society plays a special role.

The aim of the article is to analyze the ethnic structure of Eastern European countries in an attempt to identify the demographic potential of their national and ethnical minorities in the context of the threat to the security of the subregion. The research hypothesis is as follows: the demographic potential of national and ethnic minorities in the countries of Eastern Europe is an important element threatening the security of individual states. Detailed research questions take the following form: 1) What is the ethnic diversity of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine? 2) Does the ethnic diversity of the subregion's states constitute an element of threat to their security and as a consequence to the security of the entire subregion? 3) Which of the minorities in the subregion has a real demographic strength (numerical potential) to threaten the security of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, respectively?

Looking for answers to the research questions raised, the authors treat the determinants of the ethnic structure of the surveyed countries, then present a comparative view of the contemporary demographic picture of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, and also point to clusters of national/ethnic minorities in particular regions of the surveyed countries. They also identify the demographic potential of minorities in terms of security threats. In their final remarks they come to the conclusion that in comparison to the countries of Eastern Europe, particular national and ethnic minorities, due to their size, are an important crisis-generating element in Moldova and Ukraine (mainly the Russian minority), in contrast to Belarus.

In the writing of this article the interdisciplinary research approach was particularly helpful, combined with the integrating quantitative method, qualitative analysis, and the comparative method.

## **Agnieszka Miarka**

**Keywords:** Moldova, migration, corruption, instability of political power, economic problems

The aim of the article is to identify and characterize the most important challenges facing Moldova in the context of the dynamic process of its accession to the European Union (EU) in the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The research hypothesis of the article is as follows: Moldova's rapid participation in the EU is hindered by many vital internal problems which must be solved by the centre of power in Chisinau. In this context, the answers to the following research questions seem to be very important:

- What economic and social challenges does Moldova have to face?
- What political challenges does Moldova have to address?
- How do the Moldovan authorities respond to these challenges?

The author divided the challenges into two categories: economic and social challenges on the one hand, and political challenges on the other. This division was inspired by the Copenhagen Criteria adopted by the European Council in 1993, which are a set of criteria that must be met by a state in order to be accepted into the European Community. In the case of the first group of challenges, the following phenomena were distinguished and presented as the most important: the economic weakness of the state, the problem of labour migrations, the issue of human trafficking. Among the policy challenges, corruption, instability of the authorities and the lack of full control over the territory of the state were presented. In the course of the research, methods and techniques characteristic of political sciences were used, among others: analysis of documents, secondary analysis of quantitative research, deduction. Due to the subject of the article, the events of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century were considered as priorities.

## **Igor Ksenicz**

**Keywords:** interregional cooperation, paradiplomacy, local government diplomacy, Wielkopolska region, Kharkiv oblast

The aim of the article is to analyze the cooperation between the regions of Wielkopolska and Kharkiv as an example of Polish-Ukrainian interregional cooperation. Ukraine plays a significant role in Polish paradiplomacy (local government diplomacy), as Ukraine holds the

second position (after Germany) among the foreign partners of Polish local and regional governments.

The paper attempts to answer the question, if the partnership between the regions of Wielkopolska and Kharkiv has an unwanted character. For the purpose of political analysis, the author used the method of desk research, based mainly on documents shared by the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region in Poznań and press releases, completed by an interview with a long-time employee of the MOWR, involved in foreign cooperation.

In conclusion, the author states that the cooperation between the regions of Wielkopolska and Kharkiv represents a typical example of Polish-Ukrainian partnership of local or regional governments. Its main characteristic is the dominance of official contacts over substantial activities.

## **Mirosław Jaremba**

Keywords: Bamar people, conflict, Rohingya people, refugees, European Union

The purpose of the article is to analyse the activities of the European Union aimed at resolving the conflict in Myanmar and helping the Rohingya refugees. In turn, the research problem are the activities that the European Union has undertaken to resolve the difficult situation of the Rohingya people. The conflict between the Buddhist Bamar people and the Muslim Rohingya people is escalating. Since the overthrow of the military junta and the introduction of democratic rule (since 2011), the anti-Muslim sentiments have intensified, which has led to regular attacks on the Muslim ethnic minority. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people had fled from Myanmar to the neighbouring countries in search of help and security. The refugee crisis that has arisen from the events of 2011 is a challenge for the international community. The European Union is one of the actors at the stage of international relations that has drawn attention to this problem.

The following research hypothesis has been adopted: the European Union's efforts to resolve the conflict between the Bamar people and the Rohingya people in Myanmar are insufficient.



Two methods of research were primarily used to verify this hypothesis. One of them is the genetic method and the other is the institutional-legal method.

### **Katarzyna Gelles**

Keywords: Rosa Luxemburg, Social Democratic Party of Germany, SPD, First World War, labour movement, antimilitarism

The aim of the paper is to present the profile of Rosa Luxemburg as an example of complex and diverse Polish-German relations at the turn of the 20th century. She began her career in the Polish labour movement in the Russian Partition and later continued developing her career in the Social Democratic Party of Germany. She engaged in all forms of political activity gaining international recognition.

The research problem is to review the figure of Rosa Luxemburg on the centenary of her tragic death, as a woman who evades simple categorization but came to be known as an intellectual and a leader in a world then dominated by men.

The focus is on Rosa Luxemburg's involvement in actions against the impending world war. Contrary to the militaristic mood prevailing in the German political circles and German society, she courageously and tenaciously carried a pacifistic message - which remains relevant to the present day – that unleashing a war for the benefit of a minority brings only destruction and victims.

For her peaceful beliefs and uncompromising attitude she paid with years of imprisonment as she spent almost the entire time of war in prisons: in Berlin, Wronki near Poznań and Wrocław. The authorities insisted on keeping her away from soldiers and labourers who were becoming increasingly susceptible to her words and influences. She was released from prison only on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1918, the day of the outbreak of the German revolution.

It is important to highlight her insightful criticism of the then attitude of the SDP, which decided to support the partition plans of the imperial government which ultimately resulted in a split of the labour movement in Germany. The author states the thesis that the inconsistency and irrecoverable loss of unity of the left-wing party as well as its incoherent actions paved the way to power for the Nazis.

The research method used in the study was analysis of Rosa Luxemburg's rich epistolary and journalistic output with reference to mostly German literature on the subject.

