

REPORT

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THE 25TH FIELD SEMINAR *RESEARCH WORKSHOPS ON THE GEOGRAPHY OF TOURISM*, ŁÓDŹ, 10-12TH SEPTEMBER 2009

The 25th, jubilee edition of the field seminar '*Research Workshops on the Geography of Tourism*' took place from September 10-12th 2009. It was an exceptional event for a number of reasons. The 25th anniversary of the Workshops coincided with the death of Prof. Elżbieta Dziegieć who had been one of its initiators and supervisors for many years. On the other hand, the anniversary was an occasion to sum up the achievements of the longest regular academic conference in Poland concerning tourism, as well as to introduce some changes for the future. This time the venue was the *Collegium Geographicum* in Łódź. It had not been the first seminar organized in Łódź, but on the previous occasions the organizers had nearly always tried to arrange them outside the city. Despite the exceptional character of the seminar, its topics and programme remained largely traditional. Similar to previous years, during individual sessions speakers presented the results of current studies on tourism, as well as the results of PhD theses related to it completed and defended over the last year. The terminology session was devoted mainly to the notion of 'recreational tourism' (*turystyka wypoczynkowa*). A novelty was the session devoted to the new tourism regionalization of Poland, combined with a discussion on the methodology and the purpose of devising a new division of the country into tourism regions. This session was held within the framework of the Tourism Geography Commission at the 'Polish Geographical Society'.

The seminar was opened by Dr Robert Wiluś, the conference secretary, who welcomed the participants in place of the late Prof. Elżbieta Dziegieć, who was then honoured with a minute of silence. The whole of the first session was devoted to her.

First, Prof. Stanisław Liszewski presented Prof. Dziegieć's biography and her academic, didactic and organizational achievements. After that, a film was presented recounting many moments in Prof. Dziegieć's life, and evoking personal memories connected with her. All her co-workers from the Institute of Urban Geography and Tourism at the University of Łódź, as well as colleagues and friends from the Geography Department as a whole and her closest family, stressed her involvement and success in research, teaching and organizational work as head of the Tourism Geography Department. They also recalled the principles that Prof. Dziegieć followed in her professional and personal life.

The second session on the first day was devoted to the history of the research workshops on tourism geography. Dr Wiluś (University of Łódź) talked about the venues where consecutive seminars have been organized, as well as their aims and themes. The next two presentations were workshops and terminology sessions. First, Dr Jolanta Latosińska and Dr Joanna Kowalczyk-Anioł (University of Łódź) discussed the condition and range of the studies of 'recreational tourism' conducted at the Łódź centre. The last lecture during the second session, by Dr Beata Krakowiak (University of Łódź), concerned the changes observed in museums in Poland and all over the world.

During the next session, on the second day of the conference, three papers were presented. In the first, Prof. Agnieszka Niezgoda (University of Economics in Poznań) discussed the structure of the tourism offer, using examples of holidays offered in Egypt, Tunisia and Jordan. The second presentation, by Dr Wiesław Alejziak (Academy of Physical Education in Kraków), concerned research into large-scale

tourist activity. In the last presentation Prof. Andrzej Kowalczyk (University of Warsaw) discussed the problems of the tourist development of protected areas using the examples of national parks in South Africa.

The fourth session started from a presentation of the results of four PhD theses, completed and defended in 2009. One of them was based on the thesis written by Dr Renata Krukowska (Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin) focusing on the development of recreational tourism in the Łęczyn-Włodawa lake district. After that, Dr Krzysztof Parzych from the Pomeranian Academy of Pedagogy in Słupsk talked about what conditioned tourism activity at selected Polish seaside resorts. The last presentation, by Dr Alina Zajadacz and Krzysztof Piotrowski MA, considered how deaf people spend their leisure time.

The fifth session started with a presentation by Prof. Maciej Jędrusik (University of Warsaw) who discussed tourism development in Madagascar. The next lecture, by Prof. Ewa Nowak (University of Humanities and Natural Science in Kielce), concerned tourist regionalization. Using the example of the Chęciny-Kielce Landscape Park, the author presented the main criteria for designating tourism regions. Closing the fifth session, Dr Bernadetta Zawilińska (University of Economics in Kraków) presented the results of her PhD thesis on tourism development perspectives in the landscape parks of the Polish Carpathians, in the light of the concept of sustainable tourism.

The sixth session started from a presentation by Dr Ilona Potocka (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) on the tourism space of Kórnik-Zaniemyśle and Pszczew Lakes. The issues discussed by Dr Potocka were the results of her PhD work. In the next presentation, Dr Krzysztof Szpara (University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów), discussed the structure of tourism in the Podkarpackie *Województwo*. The last presentation concerned the GIS spatial analysis methods used in the evaluation of the tourism attractiveness of walking trails from Mateusz Rogowski MA (University of Wrocław).

On the second day after lunch two more workshop sessions took place, featuring eight presentations. Session VII on conference tourism included the example of the ICRE congress in Łódź (Dr Joanna Kotlicka – University of Łódź); changes in tourist accommodation in Kołobrzeg, 1989-2009 (Dr Mariusz Miedziński – Pomeranian Academy in Słupsk); the accessibility of selected tourism regions in South-East Asia (Dr Renata Rettinger – University of Pedagogy in Kraków); tourism activity as a basic measure of the

tourism function of destinations in the Eastern Beskidy Mountains (Łukasz Quirini-Popławski – Jagiellonian University in Kraków); the significance of private-public partnership in the development of investments in the tourism and para-tourism sector (Prof. Aleksander Szwichenberg – Technical University of Koszalin); forms of tourism settlement in the Bieszczady Mountains (Magdalena Skała – University of Information Technology and Management in Rzeszów); the influence reservoirs on the development of tourism in the Carpathian Mountains (Katarzyna Duda-Gromada – University of Warsaw); and finally development processes in the urbanisation of recreational areas in the urban-rural fringe zone of Łódź (the results of Dr Marzena Makowska-Iskierka's PhD dissertation – University of Łódź).

At the end of the second day, a short ride across Łódź by a historical tram was organized leading along the central streets of the city.

The third day of the conference consisted of one workshop and a meeting of the Tourism Geography Commission. The last session featured four presentations. First, Dr Janusz Ustupski (Pedagogical University in Kraków) presented issues regarding the role of a tourism region in creating a tourism product. Next, Prof. Roman Malarz from the same university discussed the evaluation of the 'geographical environment' in fixed territorial units for tourism purposes. The following presentation by Dr Jacek Potocki (University of Economics in Jelenia Góra) concerned the demographic transformations in the tourism centres of the Sudety Mountains. At the end of this session, Weronika Michalak, a fifth year student of tourism and recreation at the University of Łódź, presented the results of her MA thesis, entitled 'Conditions for tourism development in the urban-rural *Gmina* of Izbica Kujawska'.

After the workshops, a meeting of the Tourism Geography Commission was held, during which a plan for Poland to be divided into new tourism regions was presented and discussed. The meeting was opened by the Commission chairman, Prof. Stanisław Liszewski, who presented his own idea for the tourism regionalization of the country. The second presentation, by Prof. Jerzy Wyrzykowski (University of Wrocław), concerned the role of tourism regionalization in spatial economy. It was followed by a discussion contrasting two different approaches to tourism regionalization – functional and spatial. The introduction to the discussion was a presentation by Dr Sławoj Tanaś (University of Łódź) who presented a methodological approach to a new tourism region division.

The 25th field seminar 'Research Workshops on the Geography of Tourism' hosted 67 participants

from 16 research and academic centres in Poland, represented by seven Polish universities (University of Łódź, Jagiellonian University, University of Warsaw, University of Wrocław, Maria Skłodowska-Curie University in Lublin, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, University of Szczecin), one foreign university (Angers University in France); three universities of economics (Poznań, Kraków and Jelenia Góra); two pedagogical universities (Pomeranian Academy of Pedagogy in Słupsk and the Pedagogical University in Kraków); the Natural Science

University in Poznań; the Technical University of Koszalin; and the Academy of Physical Education in Kraków; as well as two non-public higher education institutions (the College of Tourism and Hotel Management, Łódź and the University of Information Technology and Management, Rzeszów). All in all, 30 presentations were given, divided between ten sessions. Prof. Stanisław Liszewski supervised the seminar and Dr Robert Wiluś was the seminar secretary.

Translated by Ewa Mossakowska