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## **Habilitation colloquium of Edyta Zierkiewicz, Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, University of Wrocław**

Dr Edyta Zierkiewicz is an educator, a counselling researcher and, currently, Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Pedagogy, Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, University of Wrocław. She is an exceptionally valuable faculty member in terms of both her research and her dedication to teaching and non-educational work. Her undoubtedly above-average scholarly achievements include four monographs: *Poradnik – oferta wirtualnej pomocy?* (*Guidebook – an offer of virtual help?*) (Impuls, Kraków 2004), *Rozmowy o raku piersi. Trzy poziomy konstruowania znaczeń choroby* (*Conversations about breast cancer. Three levels of constructing the meanings of disease*) (ATUT, Wrocław 2010), *Amazonki – moje życie. Historia ruchu kobiet po leczeniu raka piersi z biografią liderki w tle* (*The Amazons – my life. A history of the movement of female cancer patients with a glimpse at their leader's biography*) (co-authored with Krystyna Wechmann, Federacja Stowarzyszeń Amazonki, Poznań 2013), *Prasa jako medium edukacyjne. Kulturowe reprezentacje raka piersi w czasopismach kobiecych* (*The press as an educational medium. Cultural representations of breast cancer in women's magazines*) (Impuls, Kraków 2013), as well as 73 articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, research reports and reviews. She has also edited 11 collected volumes. The habilitation candidate's research interests focus on the scholarly underpinnings of guidance and counselling (she is a founding member of the Naukowe Towarzystwo Poradownicze [The Counselling Association]), in particular press- and guidebook-mediated counselling (that is why she serves as Subject Editor of the Media Counselling section in *Studia Poradownicze/Journal of Counsellogy*). She also does research into gender and cultural frameworks of the discourse on disease, specifically breast cancer. Equally important is her editorial and authorial contribution to *Artmix* (an arts and visual culture journal) and advocacy for female breast cancer patients. Edyta Zierkiewicz successfully combines these roles and pursuits with her academic teaching position.

The habilitation colloquium of Dr Zierkiewicz was held on 21 May, 2014. The Faculty Board session was chaired by Prof. Elżbieta Kościak, Dean of the Faculty.

The habilitation was refereed by Dr Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik, Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Dr Roman Leppert, Professor at Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz, Dr Ewa Skibińska, Professor at the University of Warsaw, and Dr Mirosława Wawrzak-Chodaczek, Professor at the University of Wrocław (all of them habilitation holders). The reviewers assessed the habilitation candidate's scholarly achievement as outstanding. The habilitation book – *Prasa jako medium edukacyjne. Kulturowe reprezentacje raka piersi w czasopismach kobiecych* (*The press as an educational medium. Cultural representations of breast cancer in women's magazines*) – was equally highly praised. The study comprehensively analyses the educational function of the popular press, as exemplified in the construction of the discourse on breast cancer. The colloquium commenced with the candidate's answers to the reviewers' questions and her habilitation lecture. In the discussion that followed, Dr Edyta Zierkiewicz's broad interdisciplinary knowledge and critical mind-set consistently underpinning her research were commended, and the readers' appreciation for the originality of her work was highlighted. In a secret ballot, the board unanimously conferred on her the degree of doctor habilitatus in the social sciences. The decision was communicated together with best wishes of further academic success. Prof. R. Leppert proposed to put forward Dr Zierkiewicz's habilitation book for the Award of the Minister of Science and Higher Education. It is expected that her future publications on counsellogy and other socially important domains will be equally brilliant, illuminating and valuable.

*Translated from Polish by Patrycja Poniatowska*