

Barbara Skałbania's Habilitation Colloquium, Faculty of Education, University of Lower Silesia, Wroclaw

The Habilitation Colloquium of dr. Barbara Skałbania took place at the Faculty of Education of the University of Lower Silesia. Barbara Skałbania is an educationist, a researcher and a lecturer in the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology at the Faculty of Philology and Pedagogy of the Kazimierz Pulaski University of Technology and Humanities in Radom. Barbara Skałbania's research focuses on pedagogical aspects of diagnosis, therapy of students with special educational needs and counselling. Her four books: *Terapia pedagogiczna uczniów dyslektycznych w teorii i praktyce (Educational Therapy of Dyslectic Students: Theory and Practice)* [2007], *Poradnictwo pedagogiczne. Przegląd wybranych zagadnień (Educational Counselling: A Review of Selected Issues)* [2009], *Diagnostyka pedagogiczna – wybrane obszary badawcze i rozwiązania praktyczne (Educational Diagnostics: Selected Research Areas and Practical Solutions)* [2011], *Instytucjonalne poradnictwo pedagogiczne okresu przemian – kontynuacja i zmiany (Institutional Counselling in the Transition Period: Continuation and Changes)* [2012], and forty articles in anthologies and journals. The Habilitation Committee referees were Prof. Bogusław Śliwerski (Maria Grzegorzewska Academy of Special Education, Warsaw), Prof. Ewa Marynowicz-Hetka (University of Lodz), Prof. Ewa Syrek (University of Silesia, Katowice) and Prof. Elżbieta Siarkiewicz (University of Lower Silesia).

In their reviews, the referees acknowledged that the quality of Barbara Skałbania's publications qualified her as eligible for the higher academic degree. At an extraordinary meeting held as part of the habilitation procedure at the University of Lower Silesia, the Board of the Faculty of Education and the referees, after hearing Barbara Skałbania's answers and her habilitation lecture, unanimously by secret ballot declared her habilitation in the field of social sciences as successful.

The postdoctoral thesis qualifying Barbara Skałbania to apply for the next academic degree and commence the habilitation procedure is entitled *Instytucjonalne poradnictwo pedagogiczne okresu przemian – kontynuacja i zmiany (Institutional Counselling in the Transition Period: Continuation and Changes)* (2012). As a scientific analysis of the organisation of institutional counselling help provision it is a significant contribution to counselling research. In her book, Barbara Skałbania discusses transformations in the organisation of counsellors' work in counselling

centers offering services for children, youth and adults which have taken place since the mid-20th century. She focuses on the roles performed by the counselling situation participants, ways of communicating in counselling processes and the social perception of counselling activities. The author outlines also the probable directions of future changes in “world of lives of the counselling centers,” indicating both positive and negative developments which have already taken place and solutions which are to be reasonably expected given the postmodern conjuncture.

The research projects carried out by Associated Professor Barbara Skałbania are bound up with her experience as a counselling practitioner, diagnostician and therapist. She is a member of Naukowe Towarzystwo Poradownicze (the Counselling Association) and the thematic editor for “educational counselling” of the Journal of Counsellogy. She is a recognised expert in educational counselling. Her works deliver descriptions of strategies which are used in the institutional educational, psychological-educational and educational-vocational counselling. Her knowledge is an outcome of constant search for new methodological solutions to be implemented in counselling which, as all other spheres of social and cultural life, must face up to dynamic transformations.

Alicja Czerkawska

(Translated from Polish by Andrzej Czerkowski)