

Professor Jolanta Supińska: obituary (1 March 1944 – 31 January 2022)

Who a social politician should be: *In my opinion, it should be a person of opposition, a person of rebellion, who can look critically at the existing reality. Their scientific and life knowledge should help them in turn in this meaningful rebellion. And yet it is necessary to have an axiology that is beneficial to the maximum number of entities that surround them,* quoted after: Interview with Professor Jolanta Supińska in the book *Portrety w polityce społecznej* (Grewiński & Karwacki, 2019).

Professor Jolanta Supińska, Jola, was a special person. We remember her as kind-hearted, curious about the world and sensitive to the harm of people and animals. A person who rebelled and wanted to change the world to make it better and fairer. We remember her as a scholar who tackled the most difficult subjects in social policy, namely, its entanglement in disputes between the most important values of social life.

We are grateful to you, Jola, for your contribution to the creation of social policy science at the University of Warsaw. For the cult book *Dylematy polityki społecznej* (Dilemmas of Social Policy), which has set new perspectives for the discussion of this area of science and practice. When I looked through this book in 2014 to write the introduction to the new edition, I was again impressed by how many of the issues covered there were later developed in global theory and practice, e.g., behavioural social policy.

We bid farewell to a beautiful person and a great scholar. We will remember you, Jola, and your legacy in our lives and work.

Jolanta Supińska graduated in economics at the University of Warsaw in 1966. She has written her master's thesis on wage policy and wage inequalities at the seminar by Professor Zofia Morecka. She defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "Yugoslavian socio-economic strategy and the diversity of living conditions of the nations of Yugoslavia" in 1974. Its supervisor was Professor Jan Danecki, one of the co-founders of the Institute of Social Policy at the University of Warsaw. She obtained her post-doctoral degree on the basis of her dissertation *Dylematy polityki społecznej* (Dilemmas of Social Policy) defended in 1989, and the title of full professor was conferred on her in 2015. Six doctoral theses have been defended under her supervision.

The postdoctoral dissertation was published in 1991 and was a landmark work in the sense that it was conceived and completed at a time when the system of real socialism was collapsing, and was published when the rapid construction of a new

system had begun. It was also ground-breaking in addressing the most important issues of social policy from an axiological and instrumental perspective. It thus combined the value-based approach typical of political philosophy with the orientation towards instruments for changing human behaviour characteristic of social policy science. The dilemmas formulated in the book were skilfully defused and resolved in moderate and realistic positions that together provided a solid basis for building a humanist social order.

Among her many positions, it should be mentioned that she was a member of the Presidium of the Committee on Labour and Social Policy of the Polish Academy of Sciences, President of the Social Council to the Prime Minister, a member of the Consultative and Programme Council to the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status of Women and Men, editor-in-chief of the scientific journal *Social Policy Issues. Studies and Discussions*, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Library of the Social Worker publishing series.

She also took an active part in political life as a member of the Labour Union (she ran for the European Parliament in 2009 from the Democratic Left Alliance's list), and in elections to the Warsaw City Council (she ran from the list of Jan Śpiewak's "Wygra Warszawa" electoral committee). She was a vegetarian and a supporter of the Green Party and took part in many animal rights campaigns.

On behalf of the editorial team,
Ryszard Szarfenberg

References

Grewiński, M., Karwacki, A. (2019). *Portrety w polityce społecznej. 1*. Polskie Towarzystwo Polityki Społecznej.