

Joanna Czaplińska, D.Litt.  
The Institute of Slavonic Philology  
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### **Professorship application – the author's abstract**

1. Personal data:

- Name: Joanna Czaplińska
- Date and place of birth: 7 Aug. 1961. Szczecin
- Current position: University of Opole professor, the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, University of Opole
- Work place: Institute of Slavonic Philology, University of Opole

2. Education:

- 12 Apr. 2007: the degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) in the field of humanities (literary studies) awarded by the Council of the Faculty of Philology, Jagiellonian University, on the basis of the habilitation dissertation entitled *The Identity of an Outlaw. The Issue of Self-Identification in the New Czech Emigration Prose after 1968* [*Tożsamość banity. Problematyka autoidentyfikacji w młodej czeskiej prozie emigracyjnej po 1968 roku*]. Referees: prof. Jacek Baluch, prof. Bogusław Bakula, prof. Jacek Kolbuszewski.
- 22 Sept. 1998: doctoral degree in the field of humanities (literary studies) awarded by the Council of the Faculty of Philology, University of Silesia, on the basis of the doctoral dissertation entitled *Dystopia in the Context of the Czech Science Fiction of the 1970s and 1980s* [*Dystopia na tle czeskiej fantastyki naukowej lat 70. i 80. naszego wieku*]. Supervisor: prof. Józef Zarek; referees: prof. Halina Janaszek-Ivaničková, prof. Antoni Smuszkiewicz.
- 1986: Master of Arts degree in the field of Slavonic philology (Czech philology), obtained in the Faculty of Philology, University of Silesia.

3. Data regarding professional career in academic units:

1986-1990: expert in culture and information in the Czechoslovakian Centre for Culture and Information;

1990-1992: assistant in the Institute of Slavonic Philology, University of Szczecin;

1992-1998: senior assistant in the Institute of Slavonic Philology, University of Szczecin  
1998-2007: assistant professor in the Institute of Slavonic Philology, University of Szczecin;  
2004-2007: head of the Department of the History of Russian, Ukrainian Literature and Comparative Studies University of Szczecin,  
2007-20013: assistant professor with habilitation in the Department of Slavonic Philology, the Institute of Polish Philology, University of Opole;  
2008-2013: head of the Department of Slavonic Philology, the Institute of Polish Philology, University of Opole;  
Since 2009: professor of the University of Opole;  
2016-to date: the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, elected on the term of 2016-2020.

#### **4. Academic achievements**

##### a) Before habilitation

Having completed the Bohemistic studies at the University of Silesia in 1986 (MA thesis written under the supervision of Józef Zark, D.Litt., and entitled *Fráňa Šrámek's Protagonists* [*Bohaterowie prozy Fráni Šrámka*]), I was employed in the Czechoslovakian Centre for Culture and Information, where my duties centered on promoting Czech and Slovakian culture. This job helped me to improve my Czech, the language I can use fluently not only because of my studies, but also due to the 3-year stay in Czechoslovakia in 1976-1979 where I graduated from the last year of the Czech primary school and where I continued my education in the first two years of the secondary school. This also enhanced my knowledge of the Czech culture in its diverse aspects. My work in the Centre was primarily about translating and interpreting various speeches, notes, promotional materials and brochures concerning the social and economic aspects of life in Czechoslovakia.

In 1990 I started working at the University of Szczecin, first on the position of an assistant, and from 1992 a senior assistant. I had classes connected to the Czech philology, which at that time at the University of Szczecin developed as the second major of the Russian philology. During this time I also debuted as a Czech literature researcher publishing in academic journals my articles devoted to Milan Kundera's *The Joke* and the issues of the Czech science fiction, which paralleled the topic of my doctoral dissertation. This topic stemmed from my long-standing interest in science fiction, deepened by my multiple translations of the Czech prose of

this genre into Polish; this issue has remained an important element of my research work ever since.

In 1998 I finished my doctoral dissertation entitled *Dystopia in the Context of the Czech Science Fiction of the 1970s and 1980s* [*Dystopia na tle czeskiej fantastyki naukowej lat 70. i 80. naszego wieku*] written under the supervision of prof. Józef Zarek and defended at the Faculty of Philology, University of Silesia. It resulted in the publication of the monograph – financed by the Committee of Academic Research [Komitet Badań Naukowych] – entitled *The Robot's Heritage. On the Modern Czech Science Fiction* [*Dziedzictwo robota. Współczesna czeska fantastyka naukowa*], Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, pp. 187, which then was the capstone of my academic considerations on the 20th-century Czech science fiction.

I have always directed my academic passions at these fields of Czech literature that seem unexplored or poorly described in the Bohemistics. This gives rise to the second academic thread which I undertook in 1992 when I became the Oxford Hospitality Scheme fellow, and which resulted in a one-month long internship at the Oxford University devoted to the studies on the Czech emigration literature and its reception in the Anglophone countries.

In 2001 I obtained a three-month long academic scholarship at the Charles University in Prague awarded by the Polish Ministry of Education. My residence in Prague enabled me to return to my research on the Czech emigration literature and to gather elsewhere inaccessible materials to my habilitation dissertation, as well as to apply for the research grant in the State Committee for Scientific Research. The project entitled “Czech emigration prosaic debuts” obtained the Committee’s full financial support (no. 2H01C 02823) and I was realizing it from 2002 to 2005, with the result of publishing a series of articles and, most importantly, the habilitation monograph *The Identity of an Outlaw. The Issue of Self-Identification in the New Czech Emigration Prose after 1968* [*Tożsamość banity. Problematyka autoidentyfikacji w młodej czeskiej prozie emigracyjnej po 1968 roku*], Szczecin: Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Szczecińskiego, 2006, pp. 243. I concentrated on the oeuvre of those writers who not only emigrated without any significant literary achievements, but also those who changed their artistic idiolect outside of their fatherland (e.g. Ivan Binar, Vlastimil Třešňák and Jiří Klobouk), or even debuted only there (Sylvie Richterová, Jaroslav Vejvoda, Jan Novák, Jan Pelc, Stanislav Moc, Jan Křesadlo, Karel Srpen). This choice was reinforced by the conviction that despite the diaspora, it is thanks to them that Czech literature remained its continuity, that it escaped fossilization, and that it engaged with the European fiction trends. The text analysis focused on the issue of identity enabled me to interpret these works differently than the Czech



researchers do. Looking at the novels in which the authors contemplate their self-identity, I noticed in them the prevailing autobiographical tone, realized by each of them in their own, individual way.

The grant obtained from the State Committee for Scientific Research also enabled me to intensify the conference activity: in 2000 and 2005 I presented the papers during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress of the Czech Literary Studies [Światowy Kongres Literaturoznawstwa Bohemistycznego] organized by the Institute of Czech Literature, The Czech Academy of Sciences; I made academic contacts with the Czech departments at University of Ostrava, Silesian University in Opava and Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem, as well as the Slavonic institutes in Poland. One of the most touching experiences – both on the personal and academic level – was the participation in the 2004 conference in Náchod devoted to the life and body of work of Josef Škvorecki whom I had a chance to meet there.

Before habilitation I actively participated in 9 international and 9 home conferences, I published 10 articles in academic journals, 26 articles in collective monographs, and I coedited 2 collective monographs.

Habilitation final exam took place on 12 Apr. 2007 at the Faculty of Philology, Jagiellonian University in Cracow and resulted in obtaining the degree of Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) in the field of literary studies.

#### b) After habilitation

After obtaining the degree of Doctor of Letters I started working at the Department of Slavonic Philology, the Institute of Polish Philology, University of Opole, since 2008 taking the position of the head of this department (presently: the Department of Western and Southern Slavonic Philology).

My research interests continued to focus on the prose produced by the Czech emigration writers after 1968, especially these aspects of their writing, as well as these writers, that I did not include in my habilitation dissertation. This category included Jan Křesadlo, in my opinion one of the most interesting figures in the contemporary Czech literature: not only due to his extraordinary biography, but also surprising – on the level of plot and form – and often controversial texts and, first of all, his mastery of language (or rather languages, as in writing he frequently makes use of his polyglot skills) and unusual linguistic abilities (in two of his novels he uses the languages he created himself; in other two he decided to write down the erotic excerpts in Cyrillic and Glagolitic). Despite relative interest mixed with literary critics'

attacks, Křesadlo has remained the author who still deserves deeper understanding and description: in my considerations I attempted to pinpoint both the postmodern features of his texts and the fact that literary extravaganzas were not an example of art for art's sake philosophy, but were concentrated on diagnosing the society of his "ex-" fellow countrymen from the distance, but with an important addition of experiences of living in a country with a completely different political culture.

The second writer I devoted my academic attention to is Lubomír Martínek, whose texts fascinate me with their consistently displayed nomadism, their lack of roots, their drive for freedom combined with the desire to comprehend the surrounding world both through reflexion and the personal experience of living in various parts of the globe. Martínek endeavors to taste with all of his senses "being-somewhere-else" and to stress in his works that *navigare necesse est, vivere non est necesse*. His texts can inspire a literary researcher not only on the level of the plot, but also regarding their structure: the aforementioned nomadism verbalized by his protagonists mirrors the rhizome-like form of his writing that expands like a rootstock and frequently disables to clearly identify the beginning, the ending, or the dominating element.

These considerations were included in the monograph which I present as the first academic achievement after habilitation: *Přidaná hodnota exilu. Úvahy o české exilové literatuře po roce 1968*, published in the Episteme series by the University of South Bohemia in cooperation with the most prestigious publishing house in the Czech Republic – Academia (České Budějovice-Praha 2014, pp. 189). The texts from the book only slightly retrace my consideration for the habilitation monograph, since even those analyses that appeared in *The Identity of an Outlaw* were not just translated, but modified, supplemented and prepared specially for the Czech reader with their different knowledge of the realities and history of the post-war Czechoslovakia. The book contains my deliberations on Křesadlo and Martínek which I came to after the publication of the habilitation monograph; cross-sectional considerations on the categories of time and space in the writings of the emigration authors; deliberations on the degree to which the researches on emigration literature may constitute the basis for the reflexion on literature in general; the idea about emigration as an "added value" on the example of Jan Novák's literary activity and Miloš Forman's films, as well as deliberations on Milan Kundera's bilingual writing.

The change of the language of writing in the field of emigration literature is another theme that fascinates me. I do not view it only as a natural consequence of the writer-emigrant's functioning in the alien linguistic and cultural area, but I try to focus on the diverse strategies undertaken by the authors.



This direction of my research was inspired by Milan Kundera's words from one of his essays: "When Věra Linhartová writes in French, does it mean she remains a Czech writer? No. Does she become a French author? Rather not. She is somewhere else, where Chopin or Gombrowicz used to be." Out of this evaluation there stems my reflexion whether it is possible to identify this "somewhere else" and what methods should be employed to make the answer to this question plausible. In my research I concentrate on the literary activities of Polish, Czech and Slovakian prose-writers who emigrated after WW2, and the change of the language of their writing caused by various factors. In some cases, it was the result of the necessity to escape from the traumatic memories to an alien linguistic dimension; in some, the willingness to participate in the literature of the second fatherland and to reach a wider circle of readers; in others, it was connected to a growing difficulty with articulating one's thought in the mother tongue. The basis for my study constituted the foreign-language writings of the Polish-origin authors: Piotr Rawicz and Ewa Stachniak; Czech: Milan Kundera, Věra Linhartová, Libuša Moníková, Jan Novák; and Slovakian: Irena Brežna and Zdenka Beckerova.

Similarly to Antonina Kłosowka who in her *Kultury narodowe u korzeni* writes about national identity in the context of the nationality change, I describe the change of the language of these author's writings as a conversion built on departing from one system of values and accepting another one in the same field and scope. The acceptance of another language results in both the change of the receiver and – more importantly – accepting and assimilating new cultural heritage. For a literary researcher, however, the writers' decisions about the linguistic conversion cause a number of problems. One of the most important ones is placing such a literary activity in the national literature: very often the proselyte writers are appropriated by the literary history of the country of their birth, despite the lack of their novels written in their mother tongue. Simultaneously, the literary history of the nation whose language they use in their writing emphasizes their ethnical origins. They belong to the category of writers who exist "between" two histories of literature and – even more significantly – between two cultures.

In the series of articles which I present as the second academic achievement, I focus both on the individual cases and on the more universal attempt to define and categorize the strategies displayed by the writers who create in a second language. The first strategy which I notice is the "search for a language" with the intention of uttering what is impossible to describe in Piotr Rawicz's oeuvre, since – paraphrasing Jean-François Lyotard – only those who survived the Holocaust can testify it. The next one is the "strategy of distance" that via a foreign language paradoxically enables to identify with the situations which actually did take place in a mother tongue; I applied this method to Jan Novák's, Libuša Moníková's and Irena Brežna's writings.



The third strategy is a “glance from the outside,” closely linked to the culture of a fatherland, but with an addition of a new, independent look. Jan Novák appears to be a representative of it, both as the author of fiction and non-fiction. Although Novák publishes mainly in English, he continues to write about the Czech issues, and his texts reach the Czech reader in translations. These include his essays on the social and political situation in Czechoslovakia and then the Czech Republic, as well as the novels set in the Czech history. *Zatím dobrý: Mašínovi a největší příběh studené války* is a fictionalized story about the Mašín brothers written with an American vigor in the form of an almost ready script for a TV action series. Only he could afford such a treatment of the historical events, the treatment that has been the source of controversies and contradictory interpretations since the 1950s. What enables him that is the position of an author emotionally and ideologically independent, one that feels a profound connection with his roots, deprived of an instant engagement, but at the same time historically and culturally conscious.

Moníkova’s writing is an interesting topic of research as it tends to be approached from various perspectives: gender studies, connections to the poetics of Franz Kafka and Jorge Louis Borges, and intertextuality. My studies, however, focus on a different aspect of her literary activities. The German academic and writer Friedrich Christian Delius characterized her in the following way: “Moníkova is an author who writes in German, but thinks and dreams in Czech.” At the same time he described her writings as the highest act of patriotism. She created her works for the German-speaking reader who is poorly knowledgeable in the matter of the newest history of Czechoslovakia (or does not know anything at all). All the historical and political issues that Moníkova writes about are then explained and approximated. One could call this method a “mission.” A similar strategy can be applied to Zdenka Beckerova who, in her novel *Berg* published in Austria, raises unpopular issues concerning the post-war history of Czechoslovakia (e.g. the forced deportations of Sudeten Germans), and Ewa Stachniak, who in her novel *Necessary Lies* explains the 20<sup>th</sup>-century history of Poland to the non-Poles.

Milan Kundera’s writing is the most complex case here since he changed his language as an already acclaimed writer, “checking out of” the Czech literature and debuting as a French author. However, it is impossible to overlook the alterations in structure, form and even volume of his French novels. If one looks at his oeuvre in the French language from the perspective of a literary academic who attempts to assign him to a given literature, Kundera’s most adequate strategy will be the one of “being somewhere else.”

The articles dealing with the considerations on the linguistic conversion of the emigration writers are included in the following cycle:



- 1 *Změna prostoru, změna jazyka. Otázka jazykové konverze exilových spisovatelů.* [In:] *Prostor v jazyce a literatuře.* Ed. J. Koten. Ústí nad Labem, 2007. CD-ROM.
- 2 *Język-tożsamość-emigracja.* [In:] *Język. Człowiek. Dyskurs.* Ed. M. Hordy, W. Mokijenko, H. Walter. Szczecin, 2007. 446-451. Print.
- 3 *Hranice nejsou, protože neexistují – nomád a noman v prózách Lubomíra Martínka.* [In:] *Podzwonne dla granic.* Ed. J. Lipovski, D. Žygadlo. Wrocław, 2009. 261-267. Print.
- 4 *Nad otázkou dvojjazyčnosti textů Milana Kundery.* [In:] *Pocta Milanu Kunderovi/Hommage a Milan Kundera.* Ed. A. Haman. Praha, 2009. 9-17. Print.
- 5 *Wokół dwujęzyczności czeskich pisarzy emigracyjnych. Literatura jako transgresj.* [In:] *Studia Slavica* 2013, XVII/2. 111-122. Print.
- 6 *Strategie jazykové konverze – případ Libuše Moníkové, Ireny Brežné a Ewy Stachniak.* [In:] *Jazyky reprezentace 2.* Ed. D. Skalický, M. Bauer, Z. Brdek, V. Papoušek. Praha: Akropolis, 2014. 227-234. Print.
- 7 *Strategie konwersji językowej – przypadki polskie, czeskie i słowackie.* [In:] *Literatura polska w świecie. Vol. 5: Mapowanie, opisy, interpretacje.* Ed. R. Cudak. Katowice: Wydawnictwo Gnome, 2014. 139-148. Print.
- 8 *Strategie nalézání jazyka – případ Piotra Rawicze.* [In:] *Literatura jako výzva a apel.* Ed. O. Mainx. Opava: Slezská univerzita v Opavě, 2014. 173-179. Print.
- 9 *Konwersja pisarzy pochodzenia słowiańskiego jako strategia komunikowania z literaturą większościową.* [In:] *Porównania* 2014, no. 14. 9-18. Print.
- 10 *Czescy pisarze emigracyjni wobec języka własnej twórczości.* [In:] *Słowianie na emigracji: literatura, kultura, język.* Ed. Kodzis Bronisław, Giej Maria. Nysa 2015. 141-151. Print.
- 11 *Pisanie pomiędzy kulturami: twórczość obcojęzyczna pisarek z Europy Środkowej.* [In:] *Pogranicze wschodnie i zachodnie. Kultura na Pograniczach.* Ed. Czabańska-Rosada Małgorzata et al. 2015, no. 10. 253-261. Print.
- 12 *Jak pozostać sobą w obcym języku? Strategie konwersji językowej pisarzy pochodzenia słowiańskiego.* [In:] *Tożsamość Słowian zachodnich i południowych w świetle XX-wiecznych dyskusji i polemik, vol. 1. Konteksty filologiczne i kulturoznawcze. Prace Naukowe Uniwersytetu Śląskiego w Katowicach, no. 3617.* Ed. K. Majdzik, J. Zarek. Katowice: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2017. 139-153. Print.
- 13 *Tvorba Jana Nováka digitálním pohledem. Vše ropadá se, střed se zevnitř hroutí: lomy, vertikály, refrakce,* red. Bílek Petr A., Nagy Ladislav, Skalický David), 2017, Jihočeská univerzita v Českých Budějovicích,, s. 178-186. Print.





- 14 *Odbiorca ma znaczenie, czyli jak snuć opowieść o historii powojennej Czechosłowacji.* [In:] *Bohemistyka* 2018, no. 4. 350-360. Print.

Apart from emigration literature and its diverse features, my field of academic interests also includes contemporary writing. Following feminist recognitions, I focused on Miloš Urban's novelette *Pole a palisáda* which constitutes a polemic dialogue with the feminist discourse and discredits a female figure in history. The feminist analysis dominates my interpretation of the women's poetry from the volume *Herstorky* which I presented in the paper *Nad Herstorkami neboli česká feministická poezie* given at the "Soudobá česká poezie" symposium. The feminist thought was also the main method in the analysis of Aleksandra Berkova's *Knižka s červeným obalem* (published in the article *My – kobieta, pisarka. Metafora kobiecego losu w utworze Knižka s červeným obalem Alexandry Berkovej.* [In:] *Prace Filologiczne. Literaturoznawstwo.* 2016 no. 6).

I have also continued the research in science fiction that I initiated in my doctoral dissertation. It has been realized in the articles on the similar issues as those undertaken in the dissertation, but with the focus on the most recent literature of that kind. These articles include: *Jsou scifistky feministky; Spotkanie z Obcym – fantazja, antycypacja, metafora; Libusza zdekonstruowana – gra mitem w noweli Pole i palisada Miloša Urbana; Alternativní dějiny jako pokus o vyrovnání s národními traumaty; Jaromír Šavřda – nepopulární autor z Ostravy i zapomnianá perelka czeskiej fantastyki; Czy czeska fantastyka po roku 1989 naprawdę jest o niczym?* In all of them I analyzed the Czech science fiction texts that were not included either in the dissertation, or the post-doctoral monograph.

After obtaining the degree of Doctor of Letters I partook in two international academic projects. I was a member of the research team on the "Rozumíme si navzájem?" project realized by Silesian University in Opava and University of Opole in 2010-2011, financed by the Polish-Czech Forum. It resulted in the publication of the collective volume *Rozumíme se navzájem? Možnost reflexe minulosti v současnosti v české a polské literatuře, jazyce a kultuře 20. stol.* Ed. L. Martinek, Opava–Opole 2011, to which I contributed the chapter entitled *Alternativní dějiny jako pokus o vyrovnání s národními traumaty.*

The second project in which I actively participated was realized by the Faculty of Philology, University of South Bohemia. The research team comprised the academics from that university as well as from Charles University in Prague, University of Glasgow, and University of Opole. The project was financed by the European Social Fund and the budget of the Czech



Republic (OP VK CZ 1.07/2.3.00/20.0125) between 1st January 2012 and 31st December 2014. It resulted in two collective volumes: : *Jazyky reprezentace*, ed. V. Veberová, P.A. Bílek, V. Papoušek, D. Skalický, Praha, 2012 (I contributed the chapter *Způsob evokování domova v prozách Sylvie Richterové a Josefa Škvoreckého*), and *Jazyky reprezentace 2*, ed. D. Skalický, M. Bauer, Z. Brdek, V. Papoušek, Praha: Akropolis, 2014 (I authored the chapter *Strategie jazykové konverze – případ Libuše Moníkové, Ireny Brežné a Ewy Stachniak*). Within the frames of the project, also my monograph was published: *Přidaná hodnota exilu. Úvahy o české exilové literatuře po roce 1968*. České Budějvice-Praha: Episteme-Academia, 2014, pp. 189.

I also applied for four grants to the National Science Centre, and for one to the National Programme for the Humanities Development. However, despite positive reviews, neither of them received financing.

Since 2009 I have been a member of the scientific board of the *Česká literatura* journal, published by the Institute of Czech Literature (as the sole Polish representative of the Czech studies), the Czech Academy of Sciences, indexed in the Erih+ and Scopus databases. Since 2010 I have been a member of the scientific board of the *Tahy* journal, published by the Faculty of Philology, University of Pardubice. Finally, since 2014 I have been a member of the scientific board of the *Liticon* journal, published by the Faculty of Philology, Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia.

Since 2007 I have been systematically entrusted with the function of a referee of grant applications applied to the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic [Grantová agentura České republiky]. In the years 2007-2013 I prepared the total number of 34 grant evaluation reports.

Since 2015 I have been acting as a foreign expert in evaluating the outstanding output of the Czech research as well as research-and-education units in the panel of social studies and humanities. During four years I have evaluated several hundred publications (both academic articles and monographs) applying for this prestigious status.

In 2011 the Board of the Czech Academy of Sciences appointed me as a member of the commission evaluating the Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the years 2006-2009. The same Board entrusted me with the function of a member of the commission evaluating the Institute of the Czech Literature and the Institute of Slavonic Studies of the Czech Academy of Sciences for the years 2010-2014.

The remarks I lodged during the evaluation process triggered the foundation of the Consortium for the Czech Literary Studies [Konsorcjum Bohemistyki Literaturoznawczej], the association of the Czech philology units from all over the world. The Institute of Slavonic Philology, University of Opole is one of the founding members of the Consortium which is the

platform for the information exchange about the output of the international Czech researchers. Another phase of the Consortium activity was to establish “Czeska Bibliografia Literacka:” the research unit working within the frames of the Institute of the Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences. It was soon recognized by the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports as the subject creating the research infrastructure. In 2017 the Scientific Board monitoring the activities of “Czeska Bibliografia Literacka” was established and I was elected its head.

In 2009 the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, University of Ostrava, nominated me the member of the Permanent Scientific Board for the Doctoral Studies in the field of “Literary studies – theory and history of national literatures.” In 2011 the Dean of the Faculty of Philology, Palacký University Olomouc, entrusted me with the function of a member of the Permanent Scientific Board for the Doctoral Studies in the field of “Literary studies.” Finally, in 2018 the Rector of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice charged me with the membership in the International Scientific Board.

I am a beneficiary of numerous scientific scholarships; after obtaining the degree of Doctor of Letters I was awarded a one-month-long scholarship for the foreign Czech researchers awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences twofold (in 2008 and 2013); in 2017 I won a one-month-long Zdeněk Pešat scholarship awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences.

c) Achievements in the field of scientific guardianship and education of the personnel

Since accomplishing scientific independence, I promoted one doctoral student, Gabriela Gańczarczyk, MA, who defended her dissertation *Obrazy macierzyństwa oczyma wybranych czeskich i polskich pisarek przed I wojną światową* on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at the Faculty of Philology, University of Ostrava and obtained her doctoral degree.

As for now, I am the doctoral supervisor in two procedures registered for the Ph.D. conferment:

- Aleksandra Paluch, MA – procedure registered on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the title of the dissertation: *Kategoria przestrzeni w powieściowych utopiach negatywnych na przykładzie polskiej i czeskiej literatury XX wieku.*
- Anna Gnot, MA – procedure registered on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016, the title of the dissertation: *„Dziewiąty życiorys” – wymiar przestrzeni autobiograficznej w twórczości Oty Pavla.*

I refereed in 10 procedures registered for the Ph.D. conferment:

- Marek Słowiaczek, MA, Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, 2008;
- Aleksandra Seidel-Maczyńska, MA, Faculty of Philology, University of Wrocław, 2011;
- Karolína Slamova, MA, Faculty of Philology, University of Ostrava, 2011;
- Małgorzata Kalita, MA, Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, University of Silesia, 2012;
- Lenka Pořízkova, MA, Faculty of Philology, Palacký University Olomouc, 2011;
- Justyna Kościukiewicz, MA, Faculty of Philology, University of Ostrava, 2014;
- Monika Hornova, MA, Faculty of Philology, Masaryk University in Brno, 2015;
- Karolina Ćwiek-Rogalska, MA, Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw, 2016;
- Matěj Antoš, MA, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Ostrava, 2017;
- Michal Jareš, MA, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Ostrava, 2018.

I refereed in 9 procedures registered for the habilitation conferment:

- Anna Gawarecka, Ph.D., Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 2012;
- Marcin Całbecki, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Gdańsk, 2014;
- Anna Car, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, 2013;
- Patrycjusz Pajak, Ph.D., Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw, 2014;
- Klaudia Koczur-Lejk, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, 2016;
- Agata Firlej, Ph.D., Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, 2017;
- PaedDr. Ivo Harák, Ph.D., Faculty of Philosophy, Masaryk University in Brno, 2016;
- PhDr. Ladislav Naga, Ph.D., Faculty of Philosophy, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, 2017;
- Robert Kulmiński, Ph.D., Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw, 2017.

I was a secretary of the habilitation commission in 3 procedures:

- Sabina Giergiel, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, 2014;
- Adrian Gleń, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, 2014;
- Aleksandra Pajak, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Opole, 2018.

I was a member of the habilitation commission in 3 procedures:

- Michał Stefański, Ph.D., Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw, 2013 r.
- PhDR. Peter Hrtánek, Ph.D, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Ostrava, 2014 r.
- Lucyna Spyrka, Ph.D., Faculty of Philology, University of Silesia, 2017 r.

Additionally, I was a referee in the procedure concerning awarding prof. Pavel Janoušek, CSc. Ph.D. with the academic degree of a research professor, the Czech Academy of Sciences, 2017.

I was also commissioned with preparing inside reviews of individual monographs and articles in academic journals. The list of such monographs includes: Dominika Oramus, *O pomieszaniu gatunków. Science fiction a postmodernizm*, Warszawa: Wydawnictwo Trio, 2010; Pavel Janoušek et al., *Přehledné dějiny české literatury 1945-1989*, Praha: Academia, 2012; Manuela Maciołek, *Tożsamość narodowa Czechów w świetle piśmiennictwa czeskiego do XVIII wieku*, Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Atut, 2012; Małgorzata Kalita, *O wielowymiarowości współczesnego czeskiego eseju literaturoznawczego*, Katowice: Wydawctwo Uniwersytetu Śląskiego, 2013; Lenka Pořízkova, *Přátelský podvod. Mystifikace v (nejen) české literatuře 20. Století*, Praha: Academia, 2014; Tereza Dědinová, *Po-divné krajině. Charakteristika a vnitřní členění fantastické literatury*, Brno: Filozofická fakulta Masrykova univerzita, 2015; Leszek Engelking, *Nowe mity. Twórczość Jáchyma Topola*, Łódź: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Łódzkiego, 2016; Matěj Antoš, Petr Hrtánek et al., *Přízraky a masky. Gotický modus v české postmoderní próze*, Ostrava: Ostravská univerzita, 2017. I also refereed academic articles for the academic journals, such as *Česká literatura*, *Pamiętnik Słowiański*, *Poznańskie Prace Bohemistyczne*, *Slavia Occidentalis*, *Annales Neophilologiarum*, *Przekłady z Literatur Słowiańskich*, *Kultura i Literatura Popularna*.

d) Didactic achievements

In the field of didactic, one of my achievements is coordinating at the University of Opole the project *Czech and Polish Partntership in Culture and Didactics* [*Czesko-polskie partnerstwo kulturowo-dydaktyczne*] within the frames of the Operational Programme for the Cross-Border Cooperation RCZ-RP 2007–2013, realized together with the Palacký University Olomouc between 2009 and 2012. As a result of the project, two elective courses were added to the study programme: “The Czech feature movie” and “Film adaptations of the Czech literary texts.”



In 2008 I applied to the International Visegrad Fund for a grant on launching the new course in “Emigration literatures of the Visegrad Group countries and other Slavic countries.” The grant got approved for financing and between 2009 and 2011 the course was included to the study programme of the Department of the Slavonic Philology. It enabled to invite 18 academics from Czech, Slovakian and Hungarian universities for their guest lectures.

During my academic and didactic work after obtaining the degree of Doctor of Letters I have had classes with students on the three level of education, starting with Czech language practical teaching, history of Czech literature and emigration literatures of the Slavic countries, through Czech realities, international communication, artistic translation, to intercultural discourse and literary studies methods on the doctoral studies. I have also given very popular variable classes on the Czech language and culture that introduce students from various faculties to these elements of Czech realities. All the classes I have given enabled me not only to pass the already acquainted knowledge, but also – through dialogues with students – to expand my perspectives, both scientific and didactic.

During my academic and didactic work, I have successfully promoted over 30 BA students and over 20 MA students, which – considering the total amount of neophilological students at the University of Opole – is a respectable number.

Since 2008 I have been the institute coordinator of the Erasmus programme (presently: Erasmus+), which allowed me to send students to didactic scholarships and internships (over 50 people), and to travel as a visiting professor to the universities with which the Institute of Slavonic Philology has signed bilateral agreements (12 one-week-long visits with lectures).

I have been frequently invited with guest lectures for doctoral students at University of Ostrava, Palacký University Olomouc and Masaryk University in Brno, most often during the Erasmus and Erasmus+ scholarships. In two cases, these were cycles of lectures: between 28<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 I gave lectures on the Polish contemporary literary theories for the doctoral students at Masaryk University in Brno; between 3<sup>rd</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 I had a series of lectures on writers’ linguistic conversion for the Department of Czech Studies, Palacký University Olomouc.

e) Activities popularizing sciences

Since 1999 I have been a juror in the all-Poland translation contest for the Czech philology students. Since 2009 the contest has been organized annually under the auspices of the Czech

Centre. In 2003 I organized the concluding gala linked with the “Czech Philologists Days” at the University of Szczecin.

In 2009 I organized the first edition of the “Symposium Opoliense” international conference, instantly becoming the head of its Organizing Committee. Up to 2018 I have organized 7 editions of this conference, the last one in cooperation with the Faculty of Law and Administration, University of Opole. Each edition of the conference gathered over 50 participants from universities situated in Slavic countries and others.

One of my greatest achievements in the field of popularizing sciences is launching Young Polyglot’s Academy [Akademia Młodego Poliglotty]: a series of lectures and workshops for primary school students (aged 9-12) whose intention is to popularize learning foreign languages. The classes are held circa once a month, and each time are devoted to a different language from the didactic offer of the Faculty of Philology. The objective of the lecture (that resembles a real university lecture) is to get young participants acquainted with the sound of the language and basic information on the given country. The workshop that follows the lecture is to solidify the knowledge through learning the basic polite phrases and doing some arts tasks connected to the given culture. Young Polyglot’s Academy is extremely popular among the children from the Opole Voivodship, with the admission limits fulfilled within the very first days of the recruitment.

In 1999 I started cooperating as a commentator with the Czech Section of the BBC Radio. I continued this work ceaselessly up to 2006 when the Czech section was closed down. In the following years I also cooperated with other Czech radio broadcasting stations occasionally.

Among my personal achievements in the field of popular science I can enumerate translations of Czech literature into Polish. It is mainly science fiction literature published in periodicals such as: *Fantastyka*, *Nowa Fantastyka*, *Problemy*, *Kamena*, and *Panorama*. In the season of 1988/89 the Polish Theatre in Szczecin staged Daniela Fišerova’s drama *Princess T* [*Księżniczka T*] in my translation. In 2007 and 2008 the Solaris publishing house released the first two volumes of František Novotný’s *Dlouhý den Valhaly* saga in my translation: *Długi dzień Walhalli. T. I Miecze i pierścień* (Wydawnictwo Solaris 2007) and *Długi dzień Walhalli. T. II. Najeźdźcy* (Wydawnictwo Solaris 2008).

In 2015 I was asked to write the afterword to Vilma Kadlečková’s novelette *O snovačce a přemyslovi* which was published under the title *Druhé obrození české* in Prague by the Argo publishing house the same year (pp. 165-174).

Similarly, in 2017 I wrote the afterword entitled *Doslov aneb Zde je každá autoska feministka?* to the anthology of science fiction short stories by Czech and Slovakian female writers published under the title *Žena s drakem. Antologie povídek českých a slovenských autorek fanatstiky* (Naklatelství Fortna, 2017, pp. 339-343).

Since 2018 I have been a juror of the Jerzy Żuławski Literary Award, admitted by the Polish literary academic specialists to the best and most original Polish-language science fiction texts.

In „Indeks,” the Journal of the University of Opole, together with Piotr Stec I published a series of fairy tales under the collective title of “Awakening Fairy Tales:” *Bajka o smoku Punktoku*, „Indeks” Pismo Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, 2017 no. 7-8, pp. 65-66; *O tym, jak brzydkie kaczątko się z Cyceronem zaprzyjaźniło*, „Indeks” Pismo Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, 2017 no. 12, pp. 48-50. *Miszlona przewodnik po gastronomii magicznej*, „Indeks” Pismo Uniwersytetu Opolskiego, 2018 no. 1-2, pp. 57-59;

f) Information on awards and distinctions:

In 2003 I was admitted with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Award of the Rector of University of Szczecin for organizational achievements, and in 2014 with the Award of the Rector of University of Opole for academic achievements. In 2003 I was awarded with the Bronze Cross of Merit, and in 2015 with the Silver Cross of Merit.

