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**Ph.D. dissertation defence of Maciej Jeż:
*Multidimensionality of Counseling in the Tarahumara
Community in Mexico. Interdisciplinary Approach.***

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On 13th December 2021, at the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, a public defense took place of the Ph.D. dissertation by Maciej Jeż, entitled *Multidimensionality of Counseling in the Tarahumara Community in Mexico. Interdisciplinary Approach*. This work was written under the scientific guidance of Prof. Bożena Wojtasik and the auxiliary supervisor, Dr Marcin Gołębnik. The reviewers of the dissertation were Prof. Jolanta Lenart from the University of Rzeszów and Prof. Andrzej Ładyżyński from the University of Wrocław. Both reviewers and members of the Ph.D. Commission were connected online with an intramural sitting team consisting of: the Chairman of the Ph.D. Committee, Prof. Paweł Rudnicki, the supervisor, Prof. Bożena Wojtasik, the Ph.D. student Maciej Jeż, and the author of the present report, who prepared the protocol of doctoral thesis defence.

The main topic of the dissertation was the issue of counselling and its multidimensionality in the culture of Tarahumara Indians living in northern Mexico. In his report, the Ph.D. student emphasised that the ethnic group chosen by him seemed interesting primarily due to its cultural diversity. To get to know it, he developed his linguistic skills for many years. The interpersonal contacts he established were constantly maintained and strengthened so much that it allowed him to become part of the studied community. Thanks to this, he was able to gain a more complete insight into the life of the Tarahumaras, in which he participated several times for over two months. In his observations, he highlighted the situations in which counselling activities take place and distinguished the dependencies that occur as well as the relationships between counsellors and people taking advice. He expanded his knowledge of counselling to include new issues relating to unconventional counselling activities. In the self-report, he discussed the content of the entire dissertation, which consists of seven chapters and is both theoretical and empirical in nature. He

tried to answer the fundamental question: “How is counselling understood, organized and implemented in the Tarahumara community and how can its multidimensionality be approached?”. This project was prepared in the interpretative and participatory paradigm, as evidenced by the structure of the dissertation. Chapter One provided a fundamental methodological outline, in correlation with the humanities in general, and presents the current state of research on counselling in the Tarahumara community. In the second chapter the author presented his approach to counselling referring to the main concepts of Roy Wagner, Kristen Hasstrup, Alicja Kargulowa and Marian Kulczycki. Chapter Three was a presentation of the Tarahumara culture, taking into account its historical aspects, as well as the current state, the current system of values and the way the ethnic group functions. The fourth chapter is a reference to selected methodological solutions. The author emphasised that in his findings he did not remain a passive observer and assumed the role of a committed researcher, which allowed him to get to know the life of the Tarahumaras from inside, to analyse and interpret various behaviours, facts and processes together. The study was therefore not only about looking at the community from the outside, but also about participating in everyday activities. Chapter Five, which is the fruit of these experiences and reflections, presented the everyday life of the Tarahumaras, while in the sixth chapter the author presented the types of problems they face every day and described the roles of counsellors in the studied community. The last chapter is a sketch of the Tarahumara education system. The Author presented the overview of the curriculum and the role of the teacher. He did not limit himself only to the analysis of broadly understood education, he also included a description of the indigenous court and indicated how important role it plays in the studied community.

The Ph.D. dissertation prepared by Maciej Jeż was very highly rated by reviewers. In the closed part of the proceedings, both Prof. Lenart and Prof. Ładyżyński as well as all members of the commission repeatedly emphasized the excellent embedding of the research issues in the theoretical context. The Ph.D. candidate showed his excellent skills in navigating through various types of sources with high sensitivity, inquisitiveness and reflexivity. His courage was also highlighted of participating in such a difficult research and the excellent ability to use theory to analyse the collected material. During the online discussion, it was stressed that his entire dissertation is the fruit of long-lasting research into various scientific disciplines. High appreciation was expressed for the fact that the author undertook the difficult challenge of recognising counselling in such a remote and culturally different region. Supplementing the theoretical and descriptive content with numerous photographs was also met with positive assessment. Prof. Elżbieta Siarkiewicz expressed the opinion that while reading this dissertation, she felt she moved to the Tarahumara community. She had no doubt, therefore, that apart from the scientific dimension, this work is an enchanting story of the bright and dark sides of the everyday life of this exotic ethnic group.

Finally, by the decision of the Council of the Faculty of Applied Studies of the University of Lower Silesia, the educator and ethnologist Maciej Jeż, MA, obtained the degree of Ph.D. in social science. The reviewers agreed that due to its significant contribution to the humanities and an extraordinary topic, the work deserves a distinction and publication. The Ph.D. candidate, speaking in Spanish, acknowledged the Tarahumara community of Rejogochi and Basihuare, expressing gratitude for introducing him to their culture and helping him carry out his research. He also thanked all those who supported him in the whole project, especially Prof. Bożena Wojtasik, Dr Marcin Gołębniak and his friends. He expressed special thanks to his partner.