

From the editors: Award Winners

We are proud and happy to announce that two members of the Counselling Association and editors of our *Journal* have received the President of the Council of Ministers Award and the Minister of Science and Higher Education Award for outstanding research work. The President of the Council of Ministers Awards are granted in recognition of superior doctoral dissertations, important contributions to scholarship that count as a basis for the conferral of the *doctor habilitatus* degree and for prominent research, technological and artistic work. “The Minister of Science and Higher Education Awards are given each year for outstanding scientific or science and technology achievements [...], for achievements in scientific and didactic mentoring, for lifetime scientific achievement and organisational achievements. [...] The names of prospective candidates for the Minister of Science and Higher Education Award are put forward by scientific councils, faculty councils or organs representing other scientific institutions and non-governmental organisations which work for the benefit of science as well as the Chairman and particular committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences” (the MSaHE website).

Dr hab. Edyta Zierkiewicz

in 2015, was the only educator among ten researchers to receive the President of the Council of Ministers award for the best habilitation dissertation and outstanding research work in 2014. Dr hab. Edyta Zierkiewicz is a researcher in the Counselling Studies Unit at the Institute of Pedagogy, Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, University of Wrocław. In 2000, having submitted a doctoral dissertation supervised by Professor Dr hab. Alicja Kargulowa, she obtained a PhD degree from the University of Wrocław. The dissertation was published as *Poradnik – oferta wirtualnej pomocy? (A self-help book – an offer of virtual help?)*. Her habilitation colloquium based on the monograph *Prasa jako medium edukacyjne. Kulturowe reprezentacje raka piersi w czasopiśmie kobiecych (The Press as*



Dr Anna Bilon

received the Minister of Science and Higher Education Award of 2nd degree for the work that secured her a PhD degree. She was the only social-sciences award winner representing the discipline of educational sciences in 2015. Her dissertation titled *Poradnictwo kariery w Holandii – założenia, organizacja, perspektywy aplikacji w Polsce (Career Counselling in the Netherlands: Assumptions, Organisation and Prospect of Application in Poland)* was supervised by Professor Dr hab. Józef Kargul. At the board meeting of the Faculty of Education, University of Lower Silesia, Professor Dr hab. Eugenia Potulicka, a referee, proposed that the dissertation should be put forward for the Award, with the other referee – Dr hab. Bożena Wojtasik, Professor at the University of Lower Silesia – joining in



an Educational Medium: The Cultural Representations of Breast Cancer in Women's Magazines) took place on 21 May, 2014. The referees in her habilitation procedures were Dr hab. Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik, Professor at Adam Mickiewicz University; Dr hab. Roman Leppert, Professor at Kazimierz Wielki University; Dr hab. Ewa Skibińska, Professor at Warsaw University; and Dr hab. Mirosława Wawrzak-Chodaczek, Professor at the University of Wrocław. Prof. Leppert proposed to put forward the habilitation book for the award with the remaining referees and members of the Faculty Board of the Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Sciences, University of Wrocław, fully concurring.

Dr hab. Edyta Zierkiewicz's research focuses on health and illness (in particular the situation of female breast cancer patients) as well as on contemporary counselling issues, mediated counselling, counselling theories and counselling studies methodology. Since 2002, E. Zierkiewicz has been a mentor to a research group on Counselling in Theory and Practice, at the Institute of Pedagogy, University of Wrocław. For several years, she co-organised the work of the Gender Studies Student Group at the Department of English Studies. She is a social activist, collaborating closely with the Federation of the "Amazons" Breast Cancer Survivors Associations and several clubs of female breast cancer patients. She is a co-founder and member of the Counselling Association and the thematic editor of our *Journal*.

Congratulating the award-winners, we wish them further successful work.*

the motion. The formal request was filed to the Ministry by Rector Dr hab. Robert Kwaśnica, Professor at the University of Lower Silesia, and the book was reviewed for the Minister Award by Professor Agnieszka Cybal-Michalska (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań), Professor Zenon Jasiński (University of Opole) and Professor Joanna Rutkowiak (University of Gdańsk).

The award-winning dissertation was driven by two research questions: How does career counselling in the Netherlands "arise"? and What are the prospects of applying the Dutch solutions in career counselling in Poland? To answer these questions, A. Bilon drew on Anthony Giddens's structuration theory. She used it innovatively both as a theoretical framework for interpretation of empirical findings and as a research method. She studied processes and rules underlying Dutch career counselling and identified options of and limitations to applying the Dutch model in Poland. All referees highly appraised her research and its findings.

Dr A. Bilon graduated in Educational Studies and Philosophy (BA) and was a two-time participant in the European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counselling (ECADOC). She won an award in the "Passionate Knowledge: Promoting Young Researchers" competition. She is a co-founder and member of the Counselling Association. The readers of *Studia Poradownicze/Journal of Counselling* know her as an author and secretary to the Journal's editorial board.

Alicja Kargulowa, Elżbieta Siarkiewicz

* For more information on E. Zierkiewicz's habilitation colloquium and A. Bilon's viva, see *Studia Poradownicze/Journal of Counselling* 2014.