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THE RHETORICAL AND GENERATIONAL DIMENSION OF CHANGES IN THE SOCIO-POLITICAL ACTIVITY OF POLES. INTRODUCTION

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This issue of the journal is devoted to the matter of socio-political activity as a factor proving the dynamic development of civil society and the political maturity of contemporary society. Research in this area is constantly topical in many scientific disciplines, although when we add the concerns of the changing rhetoric of the authorities and the rhetoric of protest, as well as generational changes, we obtain extremely interesting research threads and studies constituting a picture of dynamic changes in Polish society.

The years 2019–2021 were crucial for Polish society and politics due to several significant events, trends, and shifts that impacted the country's socio-political landscape. The ruling party's efforts to reform the judiciary continued to be a major point of contention both domestically and internationally.

In October 2020, Poland's Constitutional Tribunal ruled to impose a near-total ban on abortion, sparking the largest protests in Poland since the 1989 fall of communism. The ruling fueled a massive social movement, with protests led by women and young people demanding more progressive policies. The above-mentioned facts contributed significantly to the change, which to a large extent concerned the rhetoric of protest, which was a response to the change in the way in which the essence of the rule of law was understood by the state authorities. The aim of contemporary rhetoric is to reach recipients and convince them to adopt an attitude towards the content presented to them. It is through appropriate rhetoric that representatives of the public sphere, both political and non-political, communicate with recipients.

The substantial opening article concerns the civic activity of generation Z. Joanna Radzioch and Łukasz Scheffs show the results of their pilot research conducted in June 2023. In their research, based on Karl Mannheim's theory on the existence of generations, they created a research tool (a questionnaire) intended to answer the question as to the extent to which this civic activity is prevalent among representatives of Generation Z, i.e. people born between 1995 and 2008. The results obtained prove that the young generation of Poles is interested in politics, although they do not necessarily comment on it, or even create political content. However, they themselves take part in political discussions at home, and they draw knowledge and information about politics from various sources.

Paweł Sarna and Ewelina Tyc adopt a different perspective and focus in their article on rhetorical strategies for presenting heroes in media narratives. In their narrative analysis of the reports, daily press and weekly opinion magazines surrounding the death of Paweł Adamowicz, they use concepts such as those of Robert Rowland. The authors prove that the media narratives about Paweł Adamowicz, over the course of several years, were based on the model of tragedy and were characterised by extraordinary evocativeness, which was revealed not only in the profiling of the topic, but also in the way the means were selected to influence recipients' emotions.

Marta du Vall and Dominika Popielec reflect on the rhetoric of "non-political" actors (NGOs, social movements, media), which can be described as a rhetoric of protest. The first author focuses on the events related to the announcement of the judgement of the Constitutional Tribunal of 22nd October, 2020 on the unconstitutionality of certain provisions of the so-called "abortion compromise". This caused a wave of protests in Polish society, and thanks to the involvement of young Poles, the creativity of slogans, and the associated radicalisation of language, these protests became much more visible and media-related. They have already permanently changed and enriched the repertoire of means previously used by demonstrators. Dominika Popielec, in turn, addresses the issue of media involvement in reporting on various demonstrations and social protests, which, thanks to the media's interest, gain the opportunity to reach a wider audience

with their demands. However the main subject of the analysis is the protest of the media environment itself “Media without choice” (February 2021) and its expression – the cessation of the publication of media content. The author analyses the reactions of the political, media and social environment to this organised event.

In the “Varia” part, the reader will find two interesting articles. The first one is devoted to the evolution of the public administration sphere in connection with the digitisation of public information and the use of advanced information and communication technologies. According to the author, Marta Majorek, the convergence of public administration, blockchain technology and contemporary initiatives and challenges should be at the forefront of intelligent management practices in the public sphere. The last paper, by Justyna Wojniak and Katarzyna Górka, present the results of research conducted on selected narrative axes around the teaching profession. The authors present the opinions of kindergarten and early school teachers on their professional work against the background of organisational and legal aspects combined with the social perspective.

The issue is supplemented by Joanna Bierówka’s report from the V Kongres Edukacji Medialnej “Edukacja medialna X.0: przekraczanie granic” (5th Media Education Congress “Media Education X.0: Crossing Borders”) – which took place in November 2023. During the Congress, panellists from fourteen academic centres discussed the dilemmas of media education in the era of rapid changes in both the media and reality. In this context, the keynote speakers talked about the post-pandemic world of post-truth, fake news, disinformation and excess information, clickbait and the manipulation of cultural memory by creating a sense of threat, uncertainty and loneliness.

We are convinced that reading this year’s first issue of the journal “State and Society” will prove to be extremely interesting for readers and will encourage additional reflections.

