

## EDITORIAL

The leading theme of this volume of *Przegląd Socjologiczny* (Sociological Review) concerns the social boundaries and meanings of work in contemporary capitalist societies. The articles discuss the problems of modern labour markets, related to the adjustment of employees and employers to the dynamics of the globalised economy in several European countries. Addressing the ongoing debates on the variable relationships between working and non-working lives, formal and informal employment, productive and reproductive work, they represent various methodological approaches and theoretical perspectives aimed at studying men and women at work within industrial and post-industrial work settings. The picture which emerges from the articles in the volume seriously questions the theses about the declining relevance of work in contemporary societies. In fact, the work situation indeed remains one of the central categories structuring people's lives, social activities and social consciousness, and is an important condition of their position in contemporary societies.

The authors explore institutional, economic, structural and cultural contexts of work and employment, as well as their consequences for various spheres of activities of the working people, including their social identities, coping strategies, social consciousness, approaches to business-making and political involvement.

Karol Muszyński, in the article *Labour Law Violations as Innovations In East Central Europe*, presents the results of his analysis of Czech, Hungarian, Polish, and Slovak labour inspectorate reports to demonstrate that the violation of labour law can be understood as one of the important institutional comparative advantages in Central and Eastern European countries.

Anna Kiersztyn explores the impact of labour market precarity on political attitudes of Poles and suggests that the impact of the latter on the former is mediated by a range of other factors, such as age, education and income.

The theme of precarity and labour exploitation is further discussed by Maria Velizarova and Vassil Kirov, whose analysis suggests that one of the core mechanisms of coping with precarious employment among Bulgarian migrants in Europe is the strong social networks of family and close friends.

The effects of changing public policies, involving the income support for families introduced by the Law and Justice party, on the work-related strategies of women with many children in Poland are discussed in the article by Izabela Kaźmierczak-Kałużna. From a different angle, taking into account the temporal perspective of entering adulthood by young university graduates in Poland, the meanings of work are also explored in a joint paper by Justyna Sarnowska, Dominika Winogrodzka and Paula Pustułka.

The next two articles explore social changes related to privatisation and the functioning of the private sector in Poland. Jan Czarzasty, exploring the institutional dynamics of changing property relations and its impact on workers' social consciousness, suggests that privatisation can be legitimately seen as the driving force behind the evolution of labour relations in Poland. Łukasz Trembaczowski, in turn, presents the results of his study on family-led companies in Poland, identifying the conditions of a successful succession of such businesses.

In the last article, Erik de Gier proposes a novel approach to the analysis of the history of the sociology of work and suggests that modernist industrial novels might be seen as a specific expression of pseudo- or ex-ante sociology, whose value is rarely acknowledged in the mainstream social sciences.

The review section includes a review by Joanna Róg-Ilnicka of the book of Jacek Gądecki, Marcin Jewdokimow and Magdalena Żadkowska entitled "I work here! A sociological study of work carried out at home on the basis of telework" [Tu się pracuje! Socjologiczne studium pracy zawodowej prowadzonej w domu na zasadach telepracy. Kraków. 2017].