

## **Popular-scientific summary**

Home and family are key notions in Basque culture. The aim of this project is to examine the cultural significance of home, especially the concept of “traditional Basque family”, which made its way into national ideologies and became an important component of contemporary cultural politics. The project will yield a characterization of transformations resulting from the dynamic political situation in the region, which had a considerable effect on the customs and patterns of family life; the role of tradition in Basque culture and politics will be discussed as well. The establishment of the Basque Autonomous Community in 1979 brought an end to the repressions of Francoist regime, and initiated a revival of Basque culture. At the same time, the latter is referred to as “culture in the making”, which means that answers to questions about Basque identity and cultural heritage are still being sought. One of the foremost aspects here is the relationship between what is traditional and what is modern. Without doubt, the change which has taken place over a number of Basque generations is a radical one, both in politics and in culture; it has also influenced Basque language and the mores of the community. However, the myth of traditional Basque family is still alive, being one of the fundamentals of collective identity. Elements of the erstwhile lifestyle (or rather its romanticized notion) have become very fashionable, but there are also those who critically approach current initiatives seeking to sustain “traditional Basque culture”. What characterizes contemporary Basque family? What is the place of tradition and its prominent symbol – the traditional Basque family – in present-day culture and cultural politics of the Basque Country? Given the bilingual and increasingly multicultural nature of the region, one should also ask about the relationship between lifestyle and the language spoken in the family. Perhaps the choice of language is a decision of political nature and translates into attitudes towards tradition and the manner it is passed on to children (considering that there are three models of education which rely on different languages of instruction). These research questions determine the direction of investigation which will be undertaken as part of this project.

Basque culture is little known in Poland while those publications which actually address it focus rather on political aspects or on the folklore. Therefore the project offers a valuable addition to Polish Basque studies and makes a contribution to anthropology of family and kinship. The approach this project adopts is highly original and has not been previously employed in research, even by Basque authors.