

Aim of the research project is to analyse Ludwik Królikowski's political ideas in a semantic and transnational perspective in the light of new sources. Królikowski was an extraordinary colourful figure in the Polish 19th century politics. He was not only an important thinkers in the left-wing of the Polish Great Emigration, but also one of the main ideologists of the Icarian Movement, as well as a secretary of the Icarian revolutionary club, created in Paris in 1848.

It is difficult to consider the current state of research on his political ideas as satisfactory. Polish researchers (among others Jan Turowski, and Adam Sikora) did not reach a number of materials, accessible both in Polish and foreign institutions. In turn, French historians (Michel Cordillot, Francois Fourn) do not know Polish sources, and because of that they also have not avoided many mistakes and simplifications. To fill the existing gaps, research stays in foreign libraries (in Amsterdam and Paris) are scheduled in the project. In mentioned libraries are stored materials to history of the Icarian Movement, as well as French journals containing Królikowski's articles.

A Polish thinker's ideas are interesting, before all, because of he was using very specific language to describe political phenomena. This specificity was to some extent inscribed in the context of his activity, because the periods of 1830s and 1840s are in Polish history the time of vehement change of the political language. In the course of these two decades many new concepts (for instance, socialism, democratism) were introduced to the Polish language, but also many of the already existing concepts had totally changed meaning. The language of Królikowski was the religious one, which abounding in metaphors derived with the Bible. He called his political enemies "heretics", and he compared a revolutionary terror to the "sword of Christ". Królikowski was also probably the first Pole in history who, under the influence of French radicals, said about himself "Je suis communiste".

The question of mutual inspirations and borrowings between Królikowski and his French collaborators creates important research problem. During the realisation of the project I am going to verify, to what extent Królikowski's ideas were the reception of French socialism, and to what extend his ideas were based on Polish experiences. But it is worth turning the question around: to what extent the Icarian Movement was international, and what was the effect of Królikowski's activity on the shaping of the ideology of this movement.

The examining of Królikowski's political ideas requires paying attention on his biography. One of the most important problems, which is still not resolved, is the date of the Królikowski's death. However, his life entails many other questions. It was an unrooted person, who repeatedly changed his place of residence. Moreover, Królikowski is a rare example of a nineteenth-century thinker of peasant's origin. His correspondence, but also the memoirs of other persons, should provide many facts relevant for the reinterpretation of Królikowski's political ideas.

As a result of the project, first and foremost, a comprehensive and innovative monograph is to be prepared. Moreover, as the researches on Królikowski may be interesting for foreign historians, I am planning the presentation of results of the project in the form of a paper (to present at an international scientific conference in English), as well as in the form of an article (in French).