

## Popular Science Summary

The project is a socio-historical analysis of Polish Marxists' formation and intellectual development between 1944 and 1956. The analytical framework is illustrated by the theories and political practices of Nina Assorodobraj-Kula (1908-1999), Julian Hochfeld (1911-1966), and Adam Schaff (1913-2006). The study aims to address two fundamental questions. Firstly, the project will focus on the evolution of the main lines of theoretical and methodological disagreement and the associated shifts that define the set of beliefs, values, and aspirations of the selected actors. Secondly, through the prism of ongoing conflicts and divisions within the scientific community, the project will reveal the relationship between the field of power and science and its impact on structuring the social sciences in post-war Poland.

In contrast to the totalitarian perspective of the study of communism, Marxists were not an ideological monolith; like representatives of other scientific paradigms, they underwent a process of evolution. This can be seen in the intense debates in the early post-war years about the shape and direction of 'reconstruction' of the Polish state and society, which formed Polish Marxist thought. The representatives of the emerging intellectual formation had institutional autonomy in the newly established socio-literary journals. The "soft revolution" period enabled intensive dissemination of ideas, in which authors tackled a broad spectrum of issues such as education policy, political transformation, or the genealogy of the Polish intelligentsia. The following years brought further debates on the relevance of Marxism in the context of the epoch, the model of practicing science, and the history of Marxist historiography. An important point of reference is the confrontation with the Lvov-Warsaw School and the Catholic neo-Thomist milieu.

An investigation of social and political practices will provide insights into how Marxists positioned themselves in the fields of power and academia and, through an analysis of polemics, which arguments were dominant at a particular time. Some may mark an increase in prestige in the intellectual field, while others may indicate a decline. By tracing the clashes in the academic field, I will focus on what caused the divisions to crystallize - the margins between Marxists and non-Marxists. These were intellectuals who knew each other, which, on the one hand, mitigated the conflicts but, on the other hand, raised the stakes - it was a struggle for intellectual survival and access to didactics.

A preliminary review of the literature on Polish sociology shows that the phenomenon of Marxist polemics has received limited attention among sociologists and has not yet been the subject of a systematic study; it appears mainly as a side issue in historians' discussions. The project aims to fill this gap. Firstly, it will extend research on the history of Polish Sociology over the years, considering both the individual biographies of Polish Marxists and the Marxist collective as a whole. Secondly, it will provide a novel perspective on the intellectual history of the social thought of this movement, which is still strongly resonating in the present Polish socio-political imaginary.

The research is based on the analysis of five types of sources: archival queries (e.g., Archives of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Archives of the University of Łódź); socio-literary periodicals (*Kuźnica*, *Odrodzenie*) and academic journals (*Myśl Współczesna*, *Myśl Filozoficzna*, *Kwartalnik Historyczny*); books and publications on the subject related to Marxism; scientific congresses (First Polish Congress of Science, First Methodological Conference of Polish Historians); in-depth interviews with students of Assorodobraj, Hochfeld and Schaff and other individuals who knew them personally.