

## **WOMEN FROM THE LVOV-WARSAW SCHOOL. THE ANALYSIS OF THE PHENOMENON**

In the first decades of the 20th century, Poles had to first fight for their country's independence and then rebuild it from scratch after over 100 years of partitions by their possessive neighbors. In many aspects, Poland was lagging behind the wealthy countries of Western Europe at the time. However, there were fields in Poland that achieved the highest level. One such field was philosophy and mathematical logic, and the group that produced the most outstanding Polish philosophers and logicians of the 20th century was the Lvov-Warsaw School (LWS).

This school of scientific philosophy and clear, rigorous thinking was founded at the end of the 19th century by Kazimierz Twardowski in Lwów, with its second branch established in interwar Warsaw. Besides Twardowski, the most prominent representatives of the School include Jan Łukasiewicz, Władysław Witwicki, Stanisław Leśniewski, Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz, Tadeusz Kotarbiński, and others. The School's achievements in logic and its applications in philosophy became an "export product" that gained international renown. However, the impact of the LWS on Polish science and culture was not limited to these "flagship" accomplishments. In just the first two generations, the School had nearly 300 representatives, including scholars from various disciplines (philosophy, logic, psychology, pedagogy, sociology) as well as distinguished educators and intellectuals active outside Academia.

Another factor that highlights the uniqueness of the Lvov-Warsaw School is large – not found anywhere else in the world – representation of women in it. In Lwów, women gained the right to study only in 1897, and they immediately began attending Kazimierz Twardowski's lectures and seminars. Twardowski, known for his strict principles and impartiality and fairness, treated them equally to male students: neither discriminating against them nor favoring them. Thanks to this approach, the first women soon earned their doctorates in philosophy under Twardowski's supervision. Throughout Twardowski's didactic career, fourteen women earned such degrees. His students followed his example, also adhering to the principle of gender equality in academic life, accepting women as part of their group more often than other professor. As a result, women's contribution to the LWS activities is exceptional on a global scale, and in this regard, the LWS environment was a pioneer at the time.

Even if we consider only the first two generations of the School, we must count thirty-seven women as members of the LWS. When we include the post-war period, this number rises to sixty-six. By comparison, in other European centers of scientific philosophy, women appeared only as rare exceptions.

Women in the LWS were not passive participants in academic life; many made significant contributions to their research areas. Nearly thirty women from the LWS continued their academic careers in fields such as philosophy, logic, psychology, pedagogy, or sociology, while others pursued careers in journalism, social activity, or education at different levels and in various forms. Many also became professors, securing some of Poland's first "female" university chairs. Among the most prominent female representatives of the LWS were Maria Ossowska, Izydora Dąmbska, Janina Hosiasson, Janina Kotarbińska, Maria Kokoszyńska, and Helena Rasiowa. These great leaders did not operate in a vacuum. There was a considerable group of female scholars, making up about one third of all representatives of the LWS, who, though less creative, formed a necessary group within the academic community, fulfilling other vital roles in science: teaching, editorial, and organizational functions.

The project participants intend to undertake comprehensive, interdisciplinary research leading to an explanation of the phenomenon of women in the LWS as a certain group, as well as to trace the individual fates and assess the achievements of individual members of this group. Among other things, we want to answer the question of what made such a large group of talented women undertake studies and then independent research within the School: were these factors historical, social or personality-related. We will examine the works of SLW representatives so that their scientific achievements are not forgotten. Finally, we will address the issue of the extent to which the LWS contributed to the implementation of the idea of gender equality in science and how it came about that women from the LWS shaped the model of Polish female intellectuals.