

Introduction

A multicultural family is a small social group, consisting of parents and their children who declare origin from (belonging to) two (or more) different larger cultural groups.

Scholarly interest in multicultural marriages and families focuses primarily on the functioning of culturally distant couples and discussing this phenomenon in the context of the relationship between the separate traditions from which the spouses come. This research thread often concentrates on the differences and conflicts arising on religious grounds, as well as on the negotiations of patterns of cultural socialization and integration of children from mixed relationships.

A family entangled in cultural differences, both within itself and beyond, is a complex and multidimensional environment of educational influences. These cultural differences create spaces for the personal, social and cultural self-identification of family members, also in terms of intergenerational transmission. Therefore, the cultural potential of the family, which can be considered in two perspectives, family and social, is the most important in its functioning.

Multicultural marriages are becoming a factor leading to social transformation: increasing diversity and crossing or even blurring the boundaries of cultural groups, especially through the emerging mixed identities of children born in multicultural families.

More and more Poles are entering into such marriages every year. On the one hand, this is due to the greater migration possibilities

of Poles than, for example, 30 years ago, and on the other hand, to the intensifying intercultural relations in Poland. This is a result of the growing immigration of foreigners to Poland after joining the European Union, which has made Poland a more attractive country for non-EU citizens. In addition, the globalization of the world, which enables travel, student exchanges and the use of global Internet portals, contributes to intermarriages and the formation of multicultural families.

This issue of *Studia Paedagogica Ignatiana* deals with the questions of the broadly defined functioning of multicultural families. This collection of studies is a significant contribution to the growing body of knowledge in the researched field.

The most important process from which the analysis of the functioning of multicultural families should begin is the formation of the cultural identity of their members. It is the being of a person, their personality, and within it their identity that is the result of functioning in a particular family. Three articles in this issue are devoted to the problem of cultural identity.

In the first article, Alina Szczurek-Boruta provides an analysis of the importance of the family in the construction of an individual's identity (on the basis of the interviews with families living in Cieszyn [the Polish part of Cieszyn Silesia] and in Zaolzie [the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia]).

The problem of how identity is shaped in multicultural families is also addressed in the work of Adela Kożyczkowska, entitled "I Felt That Two Cultures Were Competing for my Identity": Bicultural Families as a Space of Discursive Identity Creation." The goal of the article is to identify the conditions of constructing human identity (child/adult) in Kashubian-Polish bicultural families.

The next authors, Gabriel Alberto Ceballos Rodríguez and Marek Ainsaar, in the article entitled "Influence of Parenthood on Ethnic Identity: A Qualitative Study Among Parents of Children with Mixed Ethnic Background Children in Estonia," analyze the impact of parenthood on the awareness of ethnic identity among parents of children from different backgrounds in Estonia.

Irena Bogoczová, in her article "One House, Two Languages," touches on the subject of home (family) bilingualism and deals with the issue of which language a child (children) should learn first from

their parents in a multi-ethnic and multi-lingual environment. An example of such an environment is Zaolzie, i.e. the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia.

In the article entitled “Jewish Motherhood in the Narratives of Mothers Living in Poland,” Agnieszka Krawczyk and Magdalena Matusiak-Rojek describe the styles of motherhood and show the importance of the transfer of the culture of origin and upbringing for the parenting role of Jewish women.

The topic of Jewish identity is also explored by Agnieszka Krawczyk in the article “Landmark Events in the Lives of the Characters in the film *Purim Miracle*.” The fate of the characters is interpreted in relation to the process structures distinguished by Fritz Schütze.

Two research articles are featured in the research reports section. The first, by Agnieszka Knap-Stefaniuk, entitled “Managers’ Power and Its Sources in Managing People in Multicultural Teams: The Results of Interviews With Czech, Portuguese, and French Managers,” presents the ways in which Czech, Portuguese and French managers define the concept of “power,” identifies the sources of power they use, and demonstrates the impact of managers’ power on managing people in culturally diverse teams.

The second, entitled “Integration of Immigrants With the Host Society: On the Example of Participation in Traditions, Holidays, Celebrations and Cultural Life,” of which I am the author, presents the problem of integration of immigrants in Poland, which was described by means of a survey conducted in 2022 among immigrants living in Krakow.

The above content of the journal is enriched with two reviews. The first one, prepared by Cyprian Rogowski, is a review of a book by Janusz Mariański entitled *Socio-cultural Pluralism as a Megatrend vs. Religiosity and Morality: A Sociological Study*. The second one, prepared by Władysława Szulakiewicz, is a review of Stefan Kieniewicz’s book entitled *Memoirs*, which was edited and prepared for printing by Jan Kieniewicz.

As the thematic editor of this issue of *Studia Paedagogica Ignatiana*, I hope that reading the articles will contribute to expanding your knowledge of the functioning of multicultural marriages and families, and, more broadly, of multicultural societies.



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