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PREFACE

The works and activities of the Polish psychiatrist Antoni Kępiński (1918–1972) have always been and still are of interest for psychiatrists and psychologists as well as for philosophers and ethicists. Unfortunately, his works are only selectively known outside Poland, mostly within a small circle of dedicated psychiatrists. In order to make Kępiński and his works accessible to an international audience, the director of the “Interdisciplinary Working Group for Ethics of Medicine in Poland and Germany” (<https://blogs.urz.uni-halle.de/medizineethik/>), Florian Steger (Ulm, formerly Halle/Saale), with the participation of Jan C. Joerden (Frankfurt/Oder) and Andrzej M. Kaniowski (Łódź) took several initiatives. Individual Kępiński’s works were the subject of workshops and his selected texts were translated from Polish into German. Against this background, the fourth session of the “Interdisciplinary Working Group on Ethics in Medicine in Poland and Germany” which was dedicated to the topic “Antoni Kępiński (1918–1972) Philosophy and Psychiatry” took place in Łódź from 29 to 31 July 2015. The aim of this conference was to express appreciation for a thinker whose works and activities are of particular importance for the ethics of medicine. The exchange of ideas that took place during the conference resulted in preparation of a series of essays in which Antoni Kępiński's works and his activities were discussed. Special attention was given to the actuality of Kępiński's concepts of therapy as well as to his philosophical understanding of medicine. His basic concept of psyche (Kępiński's concept of informational metabolism) was also dealt with in detail. In two of the essays, Kępiński's work on the so-called KZ syndrome was discussed.

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