**Book review: Małgorzata Kamola-Cieślik, Łukasz Tomczak (eds.),
Commemorative Book dedicated to Professor Benon Zbigniew Szalek *Gospodarka
i polityka w czasach przemian (Economy and Politics in Times of Change)*.
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Last year witnessed the 70th anniversary of the birthday and 47th anniversary of scholarly work of a meritorious – not only for Szczecin but also for the West Pomerania Province and also for the circles of political scientists throughout Poland – wonderful academic teacher and an involved social-activists, professor dr hab. Benon Szalek.

On this occasion, students and friends of professor Szalek prepared and published a commemorative book dedicated to the distinguished jubilarian. As a custom of the scholarly circles, the book is a form of a thank you, recognition and expression of respect for the jubilarian's contribution to the development of Polish science.

The work is divided into three parts.

The first part presents professor Benon Zbigniew Szalek's scholarly achievements and a list of his most important publications. Professor Szalek is the author of

a few hundred scholarly works which have gained recognition not only in Poland, but also internationally, he has received numerous national and foreign awards and distinctions. A special distinction involves honouring professor Szalek with the West Pomerania Province Nobel Prize in the field of humanities (2005) and being on the list of Top 100 Scientists (2007). His scholarly achievements and scientific activity are testimony to what an extraordinary intellectual and scholar he is. It is worth noting that professor Szalek's biographical entry was included in *Tamiṛukku ttontārriya piranāttu ariṇarkal*, Pi. Irāmanātan, Sennai/ Madras, Tamiṛman (2012) and in American catalogues: *Who's Who in Science and Engineering* (in 2002–2009) and *Who's Who in the World* (2015). Professor Szalek is a polyglot with knowledge of a number of languages, including English, German,

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French, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Latin, Greek, Japanese, Tamil, Basque and Sumerian.

Part two includes texts of jubilee laudations. Dr hab. Renata Podgórska, professor of the University of Szczecin, presents the professor's profile as a distinguished researcher, educator, teachers' teacher, individualist and an incredibly modest person focused on his research, always rational and helpful who does not boast about his knowledge or skills. Duty and the good of others always take the prime spot for professor Szałek, often at the expense of his own health or interests – personal tasks. Without a doubt, he is a true master, happy for the success of his students and colleagues and a true teacher. Dr hab. Urszula Chęcińska, professor of the University of Szczecin, emphasizes that professor Benon Szałek is a person who is inscribed in what he teaches. Professor dr hab. Janusz Ruszkowski demonstrates in his laudation that the jubiliarian is a scholar of extraordinary knowledge, skills and eloquence which do not only refer to his economics-related interests, but also to much broader social, cultural and linguistic pursuits. Appreciation for the jubiliarian's scholarly achievements was also expressed by employees of the University of Szczecin, the Maritime Academy in Szczecin and Poznań universities – The Adam Mickiewicz University and the Poznań Banking School (Wyższa Szkoła Bankowa). They emphasize that regardless

of what fields they deal with, they always apply professor Szałek's systemic approach, not only to solve academic problems but also practical ones. They believe that professor Szałek's teaching has shaped them in such a way that when observing phenomena occurring in the world they instinctively search for links between them and try, as conveyed by professor Szałek, to get to the bottom of the real cause. They all stress that professor Szałek is a respected and valued scholar in the academic circles, a kind and friendly person, open to others and incredibly modest at that.

The last, third part of the book prepared by professor Szałek's friends, pupils and colleagues, includes articles dedicated to the jubiliarian. In this way all authors would like to honour professor's Szałek's scholarly achievements in research in the field of economics, political science, linguistics, cryptology, semiotics, praxeology, heuristics, logistics and history.

The texts compiled in the book reflect the authors' academic interests. They concern political, economic, social and historical processes occurring in Poland and in the world in the 20th and 21st century. Hence the title of the book dedicated to professor Benon Szałek: *Gospodarka i polityka w czasach przemian (Economy and Politics in Times of Change)*.

In the first chapter of part three, authored by Piotr Chrobak, nationwide and self-government programmes of the Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland

are analysed, demonstrating the party's stand on Poland's national and regional security. In turn, Tomasz Czapiewski addresses the relations between the governments of Great Britain and Scotland as part of negotiations for Great Britain's withdrawing from the European Union. A chapter authored by Izabela Dembińska concerns the degree of development of theoretical studies and empirical research in the area of issues of sustainable development in logistic infrastructure of the economy. Maciej Drzonek shows factors necessary for a state to emerge and function. In the next chapter Janusz Jartyś presents the issue of homophobia in Poland. Then, Małgorzata Kamola-Cieślik presents the degree to which assumptions of the policy of the Polish government were implemented in terms of gas security in 2015–2017. In turn, Ryszard Kowalczyk, discusses the strategy of the so-called petty party politics in Poland, taking into account historical facts. The history of Polish aviation is addressed by Zygmunt Kozak who presents the circumstances of the establishment, tasks and equipment of the Flight-and-Air Defence Forces. In the next segment, Kazimierz Kozłowski sheds light on political and economic transformations in West Pomerania in the 20th and 21st centuries. Krzysztof Malinowski attempts an analysis of the transformation of Polish-German relations after the second world war. Dariusz Milewski and Beata Milewska are interested in the

systemic approach as seen in the example of selected issues of the clothing industry. The text of Marcin Orzechowski addresses, in turn, the problem of the asymmetric dimension of Russian-Ukrainian relations in the 21st century. Jarosław J. Piątek refers to asymmetric, hybrid and irregular warfare by showing differences occurring between them, while Renata Podgórzńska presents Poland's stand towards Albania's European aspirations. In the next chapter, Monika Potkańska demonstrates instruments of the Common Security and Defence Policy towards threats in the context of external activity in the sphere of freedom, security and justice of the European Union. In the following part Dorota Rdzanek presents problems of the agricultural policy before Poland's accession to the European Union. Mateusz Smolaga attempts to analyse the stand of a weakly institutionalized international grouping co-created by Brazil, Russia, India, People's Republic of China and South Africa (BRICS) in terms of development cooperation. Szczepan Stempiński and Cezary Guźniczak address the problem of safety and security on football stadiums in Poland in a legal and statistical approach. Whereas Bartłomiej H. Toszek, by means of the heuristic method, present the phenomenon of mythologisation of the significance of selected film actors for the development of Welsh culture. Łukasz Tomczak presents the problem of shaping majority in the City Council as seen in the

example of Szczecin. Luiza Wojnicz classifies the mission of the European Union under the Common Security and Defence Policy, while Andrzej Wojtaszak presents the situation of the arms industry in the 1930s. The chapter authored by Dariusz Wybranowski concerns the problem of migrants and refugees of the Visegrad Group in 2015–2018 in the opinion of political elites and media. The entire part three closes with a paper by Katarzyna Zawadzka, in which the author analyses the position of women in the Islamic tradition in the context of the possibility of accepting Turkey in the European Union.

The very high editorial standard of the presented work needs to be emphasized. In the opinion of all authors the life path, the vast achievements in the scholarly and education work as well as the innate modesty and hard-work of professor dr hab. B. Szalek could be honoured in this way.

Commemorative Book dedicated to Professor Benon Zbigniew Szałowski *Gospodarka i polityka w czasach przemian (Economy and Politics in Times of Change)* with scholarly editors Małgorzata Kamola-Cieślik and Łukasz Tomczak was published by Wydawnictwo Adam Marszałek.