

About the Authors

BARBIER Jean-Marie, professor emeritus at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris, specialist in the field of adult education, activity analysis and experience construction processes. In research, education and professional activity, he adopts the paradigm referred to as “the discovery of activity” (*entrée activité*). He has an honorary doctorate from the Catholic University in Louvain. Together with Augustin Mutuale, he is responsible for the UNESCO Chair ‘*Formation Professionnelle, Construction Personnelle, Transformations Sociales*’, at the Catholic University in Paris. He is the chair of the Biennale Internationale de l’Education, de la Formation et des Pratiques Professionnelles.

DUTOIT Martine, teacher and researcher, first at the University of Evry, currently at the Catholic University in Paris. In her research, she combines the issues of activity and processes of constructing the experiences of the population to which social and/or health activities are addressed, as well as the activities and experiences of the professionals who accompany them. Her research work clearly shows the constructivist approach and the paradigm known as the “discovery of activity” (*entrée activité*). She is responsible for the development of the UNESCO Chair ‘*Formation Professionnelle, Construction Personnelle, Transformations Sociales*’, where research is carried out in cooperation with representatives of social professions.

GAJEK Katarzyna, a social pedagogue, a Doctor of Humanities in the discipline of Education, and an Assistant Professor at the University of Lodz, Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Rehabilitation. Her research areas include Gender Studies, the phenomenon of violence (domestic violence, bullying, human trafficking), social exclusion and empowerment processes, qualitative research methods (especially biographical method and discourse analysis). She is the author of the book: *Doświadczenie przemocy w rodzinie. Autobiograficzne narracje kobiet* [The Experience of Domestic Violence. Autobiographical Narratives of Women] (2018).

HYPPOLITE Marie Jasmine, PhD in adult education, is passionate about social sciences. Born on Reunion Island (French department in the Indian Ocean). Her studies in economics, politics, law and education led her to teaching positions in secondary and higher education. As a trainer for adults, she questions how actors are preparing to negotiate opening up a new field of research on “preparing for action”.

KAFAR Marcin, Interdisciplinary scholar working at the intersection of human and social sciences; he combines fields of anthropology of culture, education, literary studies, sociology, and philosophy. He is the editor-in-chief of the book series "Biographical Perspectives" published by the Lodz University Press. He has authored, co-authored and edited several monographs, recently *Autoethnographic "Proximities" and "Distances." On Autoethnography in Poland* (originally *Autoetnograficzne „zbliżenia” i „oddalenia”. O autoetnografii w Polsce*, Lodz 2020). Recipient of internships (2010, 2016) and a visiting professor (2018) at the Department of Communication, University of South Florida.

KAMIŃSKA-JATCZAK Izabela, social pedagogue, Doctor of Pedagogy in Social Sciences, assistant professor in the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Rehabilitation at the University of Lodz. Research interests: analysis of activity in the field of social work, family social work, biographical and historical contexts of social pedagogy, methodology of interpretative research. The author of the monograph *Aktywność asystentów rodziny. Analiza narracji w ujęciu transwersalnym* [The activity of child protection workers. Analysis of narratives in a transversal approach] (2021).

LÉONARD Myriam, doctor of education sciences, specialization in adult education. Member of the research team at the FOAP laboratory (Formation et apprentissages professionnels) at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris and volunteer researcher at the Unesco Chair led by Jean-Marie Barbier and Augustin Mutuale. She conducts didactic activities for adult education staff, in the private sector, as well as at university level, aimed at future teachers. She has established a unit to promote research as a tool for educating professionals and actors in the field of vocational training in France. For 6 years she worked with policemen, first as a researcher and then as head of the Research, Studies and Innovation section of the French Police Education Directorate (Police nationale française).

MARYNOWICZ-HETKA Ewa, social pedagogue, Professor Emeritus of the Humanities, University of Lodz, D.H.C. University of Ostrava. Research interests: reflection on the basis of social pedagogy in the field of practice; training for social professions and action in the field of social/societal work; epistemological and methodological issues of social comprehension as a discipline and as orientation of social activity. She is the editor-in-chief of the journal "Educational Sciences. Interdisciplinary Studies" produced by the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Lodz and the Lodz University Press.

RODRIGUEZ Daniela, PhD in adult training and associate researcher at the Centre for Research on Work and Development, Psychosociology of work and training, anthropology of practices group at Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris. Her research focuses on the links between work and training at the level of the professional biography of subjects.

VU Kim, doctor of Educational Sciences, member of the research group FOAP (Formation et apprentissages professionnels) at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers in Paris. Her thesis, defended on June 16, 2020 under the supervision of Jean-Marie Barbier and Line Numa-Bocage, is based on the hypothesis that, through experience, managers can modify the way they make employees act, and thus acquire the human skills to carry out their managerial activity.

WALCZAK Anna, professor at the University of Lodz. Works at the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Rehabilitation at the Faculty of Educational Sciences at the University of Lodz. Her scientific interests concern philosophical anthropology, philosophy of education and ethics from a phenomenological, hermeneutic and dialogical perspective. In her work, she does (re)construction of existential pedagogy, also referring to narratology and related biographical approaches (narrative identity), heterology and cultural psychology inspired mainly by the thought of Jung.

WITKOWSKI Lech, professor of humanities, philosopher and pedagogist, he has published 20 books and (co)edited 15 volumes, he teaches at the Pomeranian University (Akademia Pomorska) in Slupsk, Poland. His interests are concentrated on philosophy of education, epistemology and history of pedagogical thinking, he builds a perspective called "Applied Humanities"; his monographic studies are devoted to such categories as: authority, life cycle, duality, identity; he is mostly influenced by such authors as: Bachelard, Bachtin, Bauman, Erikson, Giroux, Habermas, Radlińska, and others.

WRÓBLEWSKA Halina Monika, professor at the University of Bialystok, Faculty of Education. Main threads of scientific and research activity: subjective creative competences and conditions for their development; diagnosing, educating and supporting the development of creative abilities and talents in the education process; conditions for the development of a gifted student; education supporting the development of creative activity. Art and creative expression in developing and supporting creative self-development. Creative experiences in narratives and biographical materials. Author of several books, including: *Kompetencje twórcze w dorosłości* [Creative competences in adulthood] (2015); *Potencjał podmiotowy i kompetencje – w perspektywie rozwoju kariery zawodowej* [Subject potential and competences – from the perspective of professional career development] (ed.) (2018).