

**AFTER BATESON:  
TOWARDS A NEW DISCOURSE  
AND APPLICATIONS**

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## EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

It is our great pleasure, and undoubtedly also an intellectual gain, that our *Journal for Transdisciplinary Studies on Culture and Education*, being hitherto a yearbook of the KPSW University in Bydgoszcz, has got such a wonderful chance to publish a set of special contributions, namely a collection of papers consisting of voices for discussions during the Second Polish Bateson Symposium (1–4 June 2017, Silesian Botanic Garden, Mikołów), to be held under the auspices of the International Bateson Institute from Stockholm, Sweden. From the side of our University, it has appeared as natural to us that our Guest Editor might exclusively be Nora Bateson, the President and founder of IBI, and first of all the daughter of worldwide famous anthropologist and intellectual Gregory Bateson to whom this Symposium is devoted. We would like to thank Nora for her kind acceptance of our invitation. Her great Father has become a symbolic Name whose patrimony within the ideas of the ecology of mind has paved the way to a further increase of a new consciousness about the idea of what ecology should be and with what kind of novel assumptions this may only happen, being in the first instance of epistemological nature.

Now is the highest time not only for multifaceted studies of this enormous theoretical achievement but also for applicative searches of its foundations, while dealing with the most challenging issues of present days. That's why we have decided to entitle the present collection of texts as *After Gregory Bateson: Towards a New Discourse and Applications*. In this particular context, we are particularly indebted to Phillip Guddemi for his contribution in commenting and giving us the right to publish a text by Gregory Bateson being still not known to the public beyond the archive researchers.

At the same time, it is my satisfaction and duty to make clear that while our Journal alludes to “transdisciplinarity”, we do not underestimate, by any means and reasons, the postulate having been put forward by Nora Bateson to pass to the „intercontextuality” horizon of analysis as a principle of further elaboration of the consequences which might result from the project of “the ecology of mind”. We are only aware of the fact that it is already so difficult

to gain support for transpassing the contextual zones of “interdisciplinarity”, which are still accepted with resistance or misunderstandings, and which we try to overcome with a still too revolutionary concept of “transdisciplinarity” as such. In this effort, we see Nora’s commitment as coherent with our own concerns, and we share her major practical preoccupations, being very grateful to her for expressing them at our forum od debate.

It must be also emphasized, all at once, that the set of contributions, as presented and lead by Nora Bateson’s impressive considerations, constitutes a supplement part to the separately published volume of a new editorial initiative of books series *Batesoniana Polonica* for the same event of the Second Polish Bateson Symposium. It is equally valid to stress all this activity as a follow up to a successful beginning of a new dynamics of reception in the Polish humanities and social sciences along with a historical put forward having been done by the First Polish Bateson Symposium a year ago, which has resulted in the book on “humanistic challenges of the ecology of mind” (see the reference below). It is our pleasure that with publication of the present special issue of our Journal we will open new debates on the practical applications of Batesonian paradigm, including reference to its reception in such countries as Singapore, Italy, or Holland, to name just a few, we take part in an effort to launch the World Bateson Congress to be held in Poland next year. It is symptomatic, that such a commitment has already received attention and appreciation from important and supportive regional authorities in Poland, what is illustrated by the Honorary Patronage attributed to the Symposium and the Congress by the leaders of two regions: Mr. Mieczysław Struk The Marshal of Pomorze Voivodship from Gdańsk and Mr. Piotr Całbecki as the Marshal of Kujawy and Pomeranian Voivodship from Toruń. A special academic support comes from the KPSW University Rector Prof. Dr. Helena Czakowska who has agreed to support nad finance the present volume without hesitations. We are exceptionally thankful for all such gestures and recognition. I wish all our readers to feel satisfaction from visiting our Journal in this issue as well as in its future editions.

## REFERENCES

- Jaworska-Witkowska, M., Witkowski, L. (Eds.) (2009). *Humanistyczne wyzwania ekologii umysłu: Gregory Bateson w Polsce* (Humanistic challenges of the ecology of mind: Gregory Bateson in Poland). Warszawa: Fundacja na Rzecz Myślenia im. Barbary Skargi.