
PREFACE

The presented special issue of the „Cultural Studies Appendix” – an academic journal of the Institute of Cultural and Religious Studies at Faculty of Humanities of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw – features translations of various archive articles, which were published in the issues from 2015, 2016 and 2017. The papers featured in the thematic section were taken from the 2/2015 issue.

The main theme of this issue – presented by many original voices – is ‘Articulations of the Polish Identity’, which remains particularly relevant at the moment, since it nearly automatically becomes a part of the process of problematizing Polishness in public and political discourses. This, however, is an issue whose relevance and significance would be difficult to question at any historical moment, even beyond its local dimension. The growing importance of reflection on identity shaped nationally, culturally or ethnically seems to be an increasingly common trend, not only in the West. The ongoing presence of questions about Polishness in social life prompts reflection on the possibility of deepening the perspectives of perceiving various aspects connected with this issue through the lens of cultural studies. The articles collected in the thematic section form a complex whole, allowing the readers – as we believe – to capture the internal diversity of this issue, showing how every original view of these issues is rooted in a specific axiological perspective. At the same time, the presented perspectives can be thought of as a counterbalance to those narratives, which form the dominant discourse of the presentation and expression of Polishness, or in other words, statements whose style is far from radicalism, and instead points to the possibility of addressing the issue of Polishness with diligent and thorough research, as well as distanced, yet, at the same time engaged, scrutiny. We believe that this kind of debate is not only valuable, but also extremely important in our time.

Join us in exploration of issues connected with Polishness and – more broadly – the issue of national identity, by learning more about various internal perspectives of its perception, presented in these studies by Polish authors. We also cordially invite you to read papers published outside the thematic section of this edition of the „Cultural Studies Appendix”.

The Editorial Team