



Seminar

MICHAL KACZMARCZYK

Fellow, SCAS.

Professor of Sociology, University of Gdansk

*When Philosophy Met Social Psychology:
The Collaboration of Florian Znaniecki
and William Isaac Thomas*

Tuesday, 9 February, 11:15 a.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
www.swedishcollegium.se

S W E D I S H
C O L L E G I U M
for ADVANCED STUDY

ABOUT MICHAL KACZMARCZYK

Michał Kaczmarczyk studied law and sociology at the University of Gdansk and received his Ph.D. in Sociology in 2004 at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Afterwards he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Gdansk. In 2010, he received a Kosciuszko Foundation Scholarship and taught at the University at Buffalo, NY, in 2011–2012. In 2013, he received his habilitation at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and was appointed Associate Professor at the University of Gdansk. During his academic work, he has been awarded several scholarships, including research stays at the Max-Weber-Kolleg für kultur- und sozialwissenschaftliche Studien, Erfurt (2008) and at the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg (2014). Both in Poland and abroad, he gives numerous lectures and organizes seminars on the sociology of law and sociological theories.

Kaczmarczyk's publications include *An Introduction into a Sociological Theory of Property* (in Polish, 2006), for which he has been awarded the Ludwik Krzywicki Prize by the Polish Academy of Sciences, and *Civil Disobedience and the Concept of Law* (in Polish, 2010). He has translated into Polish several major theoretical works, including Niklas Luhmann's *Social Systems* (2007) and Talcott Parsons' *The Social System* (2009). For the latter, he has been awarded a prize by the Polish Sociological Association.

During his stay at SCAS, Kaczmarczyk will work on the problem of determinism in sociological theory, focusing on the ideas of classical pragmatism and the evolving picture of man in sociological literature.

ABSTRACT

The Polish Peasant in Europe and America is one of the foundational works of American and world sociology. Its authors, William Thomas and Florian Znaniecki, proposed a new method, analyzing personal letters. They also proposed several theoretical ideas, like the concept of counterfactual causal laws, an original model of the relationship between attitudes and values, and a new theory of personality combining a behavioral concept of temperament with a culturalist concept of character. Interpreters of the book still disagree about the extent of each author's actual contribution to the monumental work and about its scientific status in light of modern sociological theories. I claim in the lecture that to understand the work one has to take into account their previous intellectual trajectories of both authors as well as their personal interaction. As a real theoretical compromise between representatives of two contrary approaches, the work may be seen as an alternative to the supposed theoretical "convergence" offered two decades later by Talcott Parsons.