

Summary of professional accomplishments

1. Name and surname: Agnieszka Demczuk

2. Diplomas, scientific/artistic degrees - with name, place and year of their award and the title of doctoral dissertation:

- 2018 - I graduated from the 22nd edition of the Polish School of International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts in Radziejowice, Polish Red Cross, Radziejowice, 19-23 November 2018;
- 2007 - I was awarded a doctoral degree in the humanities in the field of political sciences, my dissertation was entitled: *Dostęp do informacji publicznej w Polsce [Access to public information in Poland]*, supervisor: prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Pawłowska, reviewers: prof. dr hab. Zbigniew Hołda and prof. dr hab. Stanisław Michałowski;
- 2006 – I graduated from the Human Rights School at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw;
- 2003 - I completed a one-week course at the Akademia Dobrego Państwa [Good State Academy] in Kraków organized by the Klub Jagielloński, Kraków, 24-30 August;
- 1999 - I graduated from the master's course at the Faculty of Political Science at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin;
- 1999 – I graduated from the master's course at the Faculty of Law and Administration at the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin;

3. Information on the previous employment in scientific/arts institutions:

- 2020 - I took the position of the head of the Research Team for Disinformation and Propaganda at the Institute of Political Sciences and Public Administration (hereinafter: INoPiAP), WPiD UMCS;
- 2019 - I was appointed a member of the Program Team in the field of Public Administration for the 2019-2024 term, Resolution of 3 December 2019.
- 2008 - I took the position of an assistant professor at the Department of Human Rights of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism [WPiD] at UMCS in Lublin headed by prof. dr. hab. Grzegorz Janusz, which in 2019 transformed into the Department of Political Systems and Human Rights;
- 2002-2006 - I completed doctoral course at WPiD UMCS in Lublin;

4. Indication of the achievement resulting from, inter alia. 219 section 1 item 2 of the act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 1668):

a) title of scientific/artistic achievement:

The work published in its entirety, entitled *Wolność wypowiedzi w społeczeństwie informacyjnym*; [Freedom of expression in an information society];

b) (author/authors, title/titles of publication, year of publication, publishing reviewers):

Agnieszka Demczuk, *Wolność wypowiedzi w społeczeństwie informacyjnym*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Lublin 2020, ISBN 978-83-227-9420-3, publishing reviewer: prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Pawłowska;

c) analysis of the scientific/artistic purpose of the above listed work/works and the results achieved, together with an analysis of their possible uses:

The published thesis entitled *Wolność wypowiedzi w społeczeństwie informacyjnym* served two main types of scientific objectives, i.e. theoretical-methodological, and cognitive ones. The rationale for selecting the research topic and subject is presented below, the objectives, research methods and the results of the research and analyzes are summarized in detail.

Justification for the selection of the research subject. Four issues deserve our attention and clarification at this point:

I. The cognitive issue: freedom of expression in the information society forms an interesting research issue for several reasons. Freedom of expression plays an important role in liberal democracies, it is one of their cornerstones, and one of the basic mechanisms conducive to the organization of social life, conducting discourse and pluralistic public debate, good governance and self-realization of actors in social communication. However, the exercise of freedom of expression is also associated with certain obligations and responsibilities, resulting from the requirement to respect human dignity and personal rights, non-discrimination and counteracting extremist and totalitarian views that threaten the very essence of democracy. In recent years the universal access to the Internet and the universalization and democratization of freedom of expression in contemporary information societies rendered it possible to express views and transmit and receive information in cyberspace to both human and non-human actors, i.e. artificial intelligence. The technological advances made it necessary to define new social processes and phenomena, to create a new conceptual network that would define these phenomena and processes, and to explain many concepts. Terms: "trolling", "flaming", "hating", "pathostreaming", "bullying", "botting", "fake news", "deepfake", "filter bubble/information", "propaganda 2.0", the trend of "weaponization of information" or "computational propaganda" were all widely applied for several years in mass culture, media language, public discourse, as well as in scientific literature. Many of the aforelisted terms are either imprecise or ambiguous in terms of their meaning due to the short passage of time, and thus require redefinition and clarification. They also form examples of various forms of abuse of the freedom of expression. Although fake news, disinformation, hate or hate speech recently disseminated via electronic media are quite common phenomena characteristic not only for modern times, their scale, scope and harmful social, political or economic effects are particularly severely marked in the second decade of the 21st century.

The two contemporary media spaces, i.e. *online* and *offline* ones, which complement each other and intertwine in the information society, create a kind of hybrid of the contemporary infosphere¹, constitute a huge challenge for political scientists, media scientists, communication researchers, sociologists, lawyers and other researchers. The hybrid infosphere is now democratized and infected with distorted information such as misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation². There appears the legitimate question of how the exercise of freedom of expression in the information

¹ L. Floridi, *What Human Project Should Be Pursued by A Mature Information Society?*, [in:] *Transforming Digital Worlds: 13th International Conference iConference 2018 Sheffield*, (ed.) G. Chowdhury et al., Springer International Publishing 2018, p. 2

² The types of distorted information follow the classification adopted by Claire Wardle; see C. Wardle, H. Derakhshan, *Information Disorder: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*, Council of Europe Report DGI (2017)09, pp. 16-17, <https://rm.coe.int/information-disorder-report-version-august-2018/16808c9c77> [accessed on: 18/11/2020].

society and the hybrid *online* and *offline* sphere affects, on the one hand, the essence of freedom of expression and its previously defined limitations, and on the other hand - selected contemporary democratic processes and mechanisms, such as like pluralist public discourse, protection of human rights or the election processes. We observed in recent years that the public discourse accompanying almost every social, political and economic event was burdened with disinformation, polarization propaganda, stigmatization, conspiracy theories and a narrative that undermines scientific achievements. Thus, the observed processes and changes taking place now, and accompanying the dynamic development of information and communication technologies, deserve our closer examination and analysis in terms of their social, political and economic impact. Brexit disinformation and the polarization campaign, election campaign by Donald Trump in 2016 (and his "twitter" leadership in 2016-2021), anti-vaccine narratives, and, starting from 2020, also the so-called anti-covid and anti-mask narratives, as well as anti-refugee narratives accompanying the phantom refugee crisis in Poland after 2015, and other such narratives, demonstrated real threats to modern democracies, civil society and human welfare. The task of researchers and scientists is to talk about them and to forecast them.

II. The linguistic issue: in the information circulation, actors of social communication commonly use the terms "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press", which, according to the author, no longer stand the test of time and do not sufficiently take into account the effects of the information and communication revolution experienced in social communication, and in particular that with participation of novel media³. Therefore we opted to apply the term "freedom of expression" in the subject, as it refers to the actual sphere of social communication between various human and non-human actors. In the theoretical as well as the normative sense, the concept of "freedom of expression" can in fact, in its broadest sense, be applied to two partial freedoms: freedom of expression and of imparting and receiving information. The monograph uses the terms "freedom of expression" and "freedom of the media" consistently, in place of "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press", as the former two have a broader subject scope. Freedom of expression concerns not only about words, but also gestures, images (including memes), reactions (including emoticons), movies and streamed TV, and freedom of the media no longer refers solely to the radio, television, press and internet portals, but also the social media, referred to in the professional literature as "new media". Therefore, the linguistic postulate is justified, according to which we should propose the consistent use of the terms "freedom of expression" and "freedom of the media" in scientific circulation. The monograph also attempts to define, organize and systematize the basic concepts characteristic of information and media phenomena related to the issue of freedom of expression in the information society, such as: hate, hate speech, pathostream, polarizing and computational propaganda, disinformation, fakes, deep fake, trolling, botting, flaming.

III. Research issue: in Polish literature, the issue of freedom of expression is, for obvious reasons, raised mainly by representatives of legal sciences, including: Ewa Łętowska, Marek A. Nowicki, Ireneusz C. Kamiński, Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska, Jacek Sobczak, Wojciech Mojski, Rafał Mizerski, Kinga Machowicz, Wiesław Waclawczyk, and others. Robert Andrzejczuk, Hanna Wiczanowska and Michael Byers wrote about the prohibition of abuse of rights in the light of international human rights law. However, the aforelisted authors did not sufficiently take into account contemporary threats and challenges connected with the freedom of expression, instead focusing primarily on legal issues. In foreign literature, the challenge related to the description of issues related to the freedom of expression on the Internet was undertaken in 2016 by Timothy Garton Ash. We should also mention the publishing series edited by Dominika Bychawska-Siniarska, Dorota Głowacka and Adam Bodnar, published in 2010–2014, dealing with the issues of contemporary challenges

³The media studies literature, applies the terms "new media" and "new new media". The term "new media" defines technologies and communication techniques that have been widely used since the mid-1980s, whereas the term "new new media" refers to computer technologies as content distribution platforms, such as YouTube, Twitter, Facebook. P. Levinson, *Nowe nowe media*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu WAM, Kraków 2010.

related to freedom of expression in cyberspace and beyond⁴. Nevertheless, these publications, for obvious reasons, focused on selected issues of freedom of expression from the juridical perspective. The present publication attempts to fill the cognitive gap in this respect, and in particular that related to characterizing the issue of abusing the freedom of expression in those contemporary democratic systems, in which the ICTs dynamically develop. On the basis of four selected case studies, i.e. Brexit, vaccine movements, Donald Trump's election campaign in 2016 and the "phantom" refugee crisis in Poland, the public discourse was analyzed for the presence of mentions containing incorrect information, misinformation and malicious information (i.e. including stigmatization, hate narratives and others). The harmful effects of the disinformation campaigns accompanying the events of the recent years, are and will remain to be experienced in selected democratic systems for many years to come. For example, although the effects of Brexit are obviously difficult to predict, especially since modern times are quite unpredictable and the ongoing processes are complex and dynamic, political scientists and economists are already pointing to the negative social, legal, economic and political consequences that leaving the EU will have on the United Kingdom. Similarly we can also speak of negative effects in the case of Donald Trump's four-year "twitter" leadership. The popularity of pseudoscience and conspiracy theories as the main fuel for anti-vaccine movements, whose range and influence among Internet users, especially in the social media, was, for years, underestimated by medics, researchers and politicians, and on the contrary even supported by some, e.g. politicians, is now taking its toll in the age of covid-19. Finally, the polarizing, stigmatizing and hateful language used by some journalists, media and politicians during the "phantom" refugee crisis in Poland, especially in 2015-2018⁵, generated a reversal of the trend regarding the attitudes of Poles and Polish women to the issue of migration and migrants. The echo chamber effect accompanying the anti-refugee rhetoric has perpetuated and enhanced the negative stereotypes of "mythical Muslims", dehumanized them and induced an anesthetic effect on the "tragedy of refugees in general". The research project I carried out on the questionnaire study among students of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at UMCS in May and June 2018 confirmed the hypothesis about the presence of the echo chamber effect regarding polarization propaganda in interactive media.

The social, political and economic consequences of the abuse of freedom of expression certainly form an important research issue for political scientists, sociologists, media scholars and other researchers. And the study of these processes allows us for the construction of many valuable critical reflections on the condition of contemporary democratic systems. We should also bear in mind that the research on the issue of freedom of expression, its limitations (i.e. understood as provided for in law) and limits (i.e. internally understood by an individual) in a modern digitized society and with commonly available interactive media must take place primarily in their space because it is there that the participants of all public discourses communicate most comprehensibly. And it is this sphere that is most vulnerable to and penetrated by propagandists using the manipulation infrastructure of social media.

IV. Scientific issue: freedom of expression is the fundamental element constituting a pluralist public discourse, which is the crucial causative factor in the construction of social life. Hence, according to Teun van Dijk's critical discourse analysis, discourse must be understood as the use of language, the transmission of ideas (and information), and interaction in social situations. The tools for the said

⁴*Wolność słowa a pamięć historyczna*, (ed.) A. Bodnar, D. Bychawska-Siniarska, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, Warszawa 2010; *Własność mediów, pluralizm informacyjny, wolność słowa*, (ed.) D. Bychawska-Siniarska, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, Warszawa 2011; *Mowa nienawiści w Internecie: jak z nią walczyć?*, (ed.) D. Bychawska-Siniarska, D. Głowacka, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, Warszawa 2013; *Wirtualne media – realne problemy*, (ed.) idem, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, Warszawa 2014.

⁵I took 2018 as the limes here, because, as demonstrated by the research carried out under the research project *Monitoring samorządowej kampanii prezydenckiej pod kątem ksenofobii metodą social listening* [Monitoring the local government's mayoral campaign in terms of xenophobia using the social listening method] carried out in cooperation with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and SentiOne, the topic of migrants, refugees and foreigners was not one of the leading topics of the campaign prior to the 2018 local elections. A. Mikulska-Jolles, *Migranci, uchodźcy i ksenofobia w kampanii wyborczej 2018 – raport z monitoringu*, Helsińska Fundacja Praw Człowieka, Warszawa 2018, <http://www.hfhr.pl/migranci-uchodzczy-i-ksenofobia-w-kampanii-wyborczej-2018-raport-z-monitoringu/> [accessed on: 20/01/2021].

discourse are both language and other symbolic phonic and visual acts, because in the era of social media these include memes, images, emoticons, reactions to posts and others⁶. Thus, the category of discourse has a broader meaning than the category of public debate. Moreover, in order to characterize the issues related to the growing phenomenon of harmful disinformation along with its supports, i.e. *fake news*, it is necessary and justified to refer to Vladimir Volkoff's theory of disinformation and propaganda⁷, developed at the end of the 20th century. This theory, due to the observed trend of "arming information" in the contemporary world and the penetration of cyberspace of democratic systems by pro-Kremlin, Chinese and other propagandists, sets the basic theoretical framework for the analyzed issue of abuse of freedom of expression. The theoretical basis is also the concept of liberal democracy, in which democratic procedures are not an end in themselves, but a means to protect human rights and freedoms, as well as Karl Loewenstein's doctrine⁸ of "defensible" (otherwise, "militant") democracy, according to which some content and behaviour presented by anti-democratic organizations contradict the basic principles of the functioning of the democratic system to such an extent, that in order to protect it, they should not be displayed in the public forum. What is also relevant for the contemporary public debate on the condition of democracy in the world in the context of deliberations on freedom of expression is the theory of the paradox of tolerance and democracy by Karl Popper⁹, according to which absolute tolerance may lead to tolerance of ideas promoting intolerance, which may destroy tolerance and democracy itself, based on tolerance and pluralism of views. Therefore, due to the proliferation of polarizing and anti-democratic propaganda in democratic systems, this theory takes on a new dimension. The more so because after the closed publishing process, the world was also shocked by the events on the Capitol related to the rebellion of Donald Trump supporters, and at the same time there were heated discussions about the effects of disseminating, by means of social media, of the ungrounded thesis about the allegedly rigged presidential election in the United States of America, whose main originator was Donald Trump himself, as well as discussing the limits of decision-making by private interactive media administrators in the field of removing posts and blocking internet users' accounts.

The issue of abuse of freedom of expression should also be presented in the context of the doctrine of abuse of rights, taking advantage of general legal principles such as: "good faith" (*bonae fidei*), "good manners" (*boni mores*) or "equity" (*aequitas*). What is also important for the dignity of man and its inalienable and inherent rights and freedoms is the personalistic concept of man, including the integral humanism of Jacques Maritain, John Paul II, or in its social version - the open personalism by Emmanuel Mounier, which in the twentieth century strengthened the statement and postulate about the need for existence of free and creative people in an open society, that would be free from totalitarianism and authoritarianism. On the other hand, Maritain stated that it is extremely important to maintain the importance of the dignity of a person made aware by the community in that it made it aware it is called to live in that community. Thus, the community became aware of this dignity of the person as the objective it pursues¹⁰. Maritain's thesis in contemporary informationism becomes current and the question arises whether, and to what extent, contemporary democratic systems, based predominantly on Christian foundations, implement this postulate of affirming human dignity in public life.

To recapitulate, the process of the influence of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) on public discourse and democratic processes was the subject of research for several years, which, however, should still be considered insufficient, especially in Polish literature. At the same time, several research projects that were carried out for over a dozen years in the world and in

⁶T.A. van Dijk, *Dyskurs jako struktura i proces*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 2001, p. 10.

⁷V. Volkoff, *Dezinformacja – oręż wojny*, Wydawnictwo Delikon, Warszawa 1991; idem, *Tratat de dezinformare. De la Calul Troian la Internet*, Antet, Bucharest 1999.

⁸K. Loewenstein, *Militant Democracy and Fundamental Rights*, "The American Political Science Review" 1937, vol. 31, no. 3, pp. 638–648.

⁹K. Popper, *Spoleczeństwo otwarte i jego wrogowie*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN, Warszawa 1993.

¹⁰J. Maritain, *Humanizm integralny. Zagadnienia doczesne i duchowe nowego świata chrześcijańskiego*, Polish Catholic Centre "Veritas", London 1960.

Poland deserve special attention. For example the University of Oxford launched the Computational Propaganda Research Project (COMPPOP¹¹) to analyze the phenomena of algorithmization processes, automatic electronic communication and politics. In London, the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, i.e. a think tank, operates since 2006, pioneering in research on political processes and operational activities in the context of the growing phenomenon of extremism and terrorism in cyberspace and beyond it. The institutions and bodies of the European Union are also taking actions, for example, to counteract disinformation, i.e. by the separation of the East StratCom Task Force and the launch of the EU vs. Disinformation site, i.e. a website that verifies disinformation and false news disseminated in cyberspace.

In Poland, research on the abuse of freedom of speech, i.e. digital propaganda and online security, is conducted by experts from the Panoptykon Foundation, and since 2018 the research on the increase in xenophobic statements on the Internet by researchers from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights. For years, researchers from the Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw were researching the phenomenon of hate speech in cyberspace, and Jacek Pyżalski and Agnieszka Ogonowska on cyberaggression among young people. Adam Bodnar, the 2015–2021 Polish Ombudsman¹², joined the process of counteracting hate speech with the use of legal instruments and as part of popularizing educational programs. These studies are conducted within selected subject areas. There is not a single study, however, that would generally characterize the issues related with abuse of freedom of expression in public discourse, and cyber-discourse, and that both from the juridical and political science perspectives, the latter with elements of conceptual apparatus of the media sciences.

Scientific objectives of the dissertation. The objective of the monograph was to analyze and present issues related to the abuse of freedom of expression in contemporary democratic systems in the context of the development of the information society and the accompanying development trends (information, media and social). What supported this selection of research topic were both empirical, axiological, normative and political considerations. The issue of abuse of freedom of expression has not received sufficient attention in the scientific literature. Perhaps the reason for this is the fact that freedom of expression was and is extremely firmly anchored in the system of various democratic values, and it is difficult to accept the fact that, in the name of a false belief in its absolute character, human dignity and human rights may be undermined, and the common good destroyed. For several years now we were dealing with a specific renaissance - linked mainly to the dynamic development of ICTs as part as Web 2.0 (i.e. a network that is interactive, horizontal, open and devoid of intermediaries) - of decentralized anti-democratic, polarizing or populist tendencies in democratic systems, that were enhanced or justified by a rhetoric of hostility, exclusion, stigma, classification and division. Thus, both the private good - human psychophysical well-being, and the common good, understood as a good covering not only individuals endowed with inalienable dignity, but also the systemic and organizational structure of the state based on standards and constitutional system principles (the principles of a democratic rule of law, non-discrimination or social solidarity)¹³ were targeted. Public authorities in democratic systems that systematically record declines in democracy level rankings¹⁴ (incl. Poland, Hungary, United Kingdom, the United States, Italy etc.) failed to take action or activate other entities to a sufficient extent, e.g. IT companies, to counteract the abuse of freedom of expression, violations of human rights, undermining human dignity or the destruction of electoral processes.

¹¹The Computational Propaganda Project, Algorithms, Automation and Digital Politics, Oxford Internet Institute, <https://compprop.oii.ox.ac.uk/> [accessed on: 20.01.2021].

¹²Adam Bodnar's mandate as the Ombudsman was extended due to the fact that the Polish Parliament had not appointed a new candidate for this position before the end of his term. Art. 3 s. 6 of the Act of 15 July 1987 (Journal of Laws of 2020, item 627) states that the current Ombudsman shall perform his duties until the new Ombudsman takes up his position.

¹³I. Lipowicz, *Dobro wspólne*, "Ruch Prawniczy, Ekonomiczny i Socjologiczny" 2017, z. 3, p. 27.

¹⁴*Economist Intelligence Unit Report*, pp. 17–20, EIU, <https://www.eiu.com/topic/democracy-index> [accessed on: 18/01/2021], Freedom House, *Freedom in the World 2018. Democracy in Crisis*, 2018, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/freedom-world-2018> [accessed on: 19/01/2021].

In addition to the rule of law, legalism, free elections and political pluralism, at the centre of attention and the foundation of any democratic system there is also the freedom of expression and of media. Therefore, there seems to be an obvious relationship between the condition of "free speech" and free media - i.e. free from propagandization, hypertrophy of distorted information, infection with hatred and stigmatization of speech - and the condition of democracy itself, which only functions when basic ethical principles are respected i.e. truth, honesty, respect, integrity and impartiality. And it is precisely the deficit of these values that we are dealing with in contemporary public discourses. Therefore, it should be emphasized that the noticeable and observed regression of liberal democracies in the world is closely related to:

1.) abuse of freedom of expression, by which we understand its exercise that inconsistent with international and national legal standards, or with ethical principles, or inconsistent with both the law and ethics, in statements disseminated in the information society containing hate speech, incitement to hatred and/or violence, propaganda, including polarizing and computational propaganda, i.e. an ideologically tinted, untrue, manipulated or fabricated narrative and supported by the manipulative infrastructure of social media (the so-called black market social media infrastructure¹⁵) and disinformation with its supporters in the form of fakes;

2.) abuse of social networks, which in recent years are serving propagandists originating from both democratic systems (populists using polarizing propaganda in their rhetoric, extremists, radicals) and authoritarian systems (e.g. paid trolling, pro-Kremlin media centers, Chinese propagandists and others) as a convenient, cheap, widely available instrument for spreading propaganda, conducting effective disinformation campaigns, spreading the narratives of hate, exclusion and stigmatization. Black market social media manipulation infrastructure available on the open internet (i.e. fake accounts, automatic verification, account content with profile picture and/or several photos on the timeline, and/or images and posts on the timeline, with friends, manipulative social metrics and other) became the basic and effective instrument for conducting the policy of hostility and thus, in line with the *divere et impera* principle, contributed/continues to contribute to the gradual erosion of democratic rules.

The main hypothesis of the present analysis is based on the assumption that for nearly a decade, freedom of expression was a value that was commonly abused in the information redundancy society by human and non-human actors: Internet users, politicians, media workers, bots, and also by external entities specialized in disinformation, often based in authoritarian systems and/or using the logic of conscious polarization of democratic societies. Supplementary hypotheses are as follows: abuse of the freedom of expression has many negative consequences for human well-being and self-fulfillment and for selected democratic mechanisms, i.e. public discourse and election processes; the public authorities are not taking sufficient steps to guarantee better protection of human rights and respect for human dignity; using the so-called black market infrastructure for manipulating social media, authorities and other political actors spread propaganda and disinformation for the needs of an ad hoc political game, and finally - actors (public and other) using propaganda and disinformation are thus responsible for the gradual regression of democracy and growing social conflicts and lowering the political culture. To verify these hypotheses, we proposed the following questions:

1. What threats to people, public discourse and democratic processes are created by the process of abuse of freedom of expression?
2. What steps are public authorities taking to limit abuse of freedom of expression?
3. What role do the modern digital technologies play in this process?
4. What is the role of public authorities/institutions in dissemination of disinformation and propaganda?

¹⁵S. Bay, A. Reynolds, *Countering The Malicious Use Of Social Media. The Black Market For Social Media Manipulation*, Riga 2018, p. 18, NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, <https://www.stratcomcoe.org/black-market-social-media-manipulation> [accessed on: 01/02/2021].

The structure of the dissertation. The study consists of an introduction, six chapters, ending and bibliography. The first chapter analyzes the media context, and more broadly the social context, which gives a certain direction to the contemporary social and political phenomena and processes. We discussed, among others, the challenges, threats and accompanying development trends of information society. The second chapter presents the theoretical and methodological framework for research on freedom of expression in an information-redundancy society. We describe the role of freedom of expression, which is the cornerstone of a democratic rule of law, and its place in the doctrine of human rights. The informational and psychological mechanisms of influence that co-determine the phenomenon of disinformation, hate speech and propaganda, which have been growing in cyberspace for several years, were also listed and characterized. The methods used by the author in her own research on freedom of expression are also discussed. The third chapter is devoted entirely to the discussion of international and national standards for the protection of freedom of expression, describing the issues related to the terminology of freedom of expression used in the literature, as well as its essence and limitations. We also presented the basic international and national legal documents safeguarding freedom of expression and jurisprudence in this respect. From the point of view of the objective of the study, a distinction was made between the protected and unprotected statements, and then those that enjoy such protection were discussed. Issues concerning the emerging, *in statu nascendi* jurisprudence in the field of freedom of expression on the Internet were also discussed. In the fourth chapter, we focused our attention on the issue of abuse of the freedom of expression, both in theoretical and practical terms. In periods when the law is unable to keep pace with rapid social change, it is advisable to refer to the doctrine of abuse of rights, according to which abuse of right occurs when the exercise of an individual's right harms the interests of another individual or community interests. Then we went on to discuss the selected examples of disinformation and propaganda in historical terms, and the prohibition clause introduced after World War II in the 20th century, aimed at combating and preventing the spread of views inciting hatred and those extreme ones, that were threatening for the existence of democracy. Abuses related to the development of social media and contemporary examples of abuses of freedom of expression were also characterized. Chapter five is devoted to four case studies on the application of propaganda, disinformation and hate speech in contemporary social and political processes, i.e. in anti-vaccination movements, the "phantom" refugee crisis in Poland, the Brexit campaign and the 2016 US election campaign by Donald Trump. The last chapter, in its entirety, was devoted to the current instrumentation for counteracting the abuse of freedom of expression. The bibliography consists of normative acts, listed according to the alphabetical criterion used in the political and administration sciences, international and national jurisprudence, documents, statistical sources, encyclopedias, lexicons and dictionaries, monographs and scientific articles as well as press articles both in Polish and English, and web-based literary resources.

Research methods. Freedom of expression is a research issue falling in the field of various scientific disciplines: law, political science, sociology, social psychology, economics, media studies, social communication, as well as computer science and linguistics. It is an interdisciplinary scientific category, just as human rights and freedoms are interdisciplinary, and therefore getting to know them better is associated with undertaking research at the interface between several scientific disciplines, and even scientific fields. The eclecticism of freedom of expression makes the study of its constituent elements and the way it affects individual aspects of human activity extremely interesting. The research aimed at achieving the objective of the work was carried out with the use of the following methods: formal-dogmatic (i.e. institutional and legal method based on the political and administration sciences, combining a group of methods from the field of legal sciences) with elements of historical methods and comparative; systemic analysis that allows to study the phenomena, processes and events taking place in the contemporary world as a consequence of technology development and the desk research method, allowing for the secondary use of data from reports and publications of public institutions, non-governmental organizations and think tanks. The framing method was applied to

study selected narratives present in public discourses, and the social listening and the actor-network theory methods applied to examine the moods in cyberspace, the emitted mentions and their senders disseminating these mentions. In 2018, a proprietary questionnaire survey was conducted with students of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, examining their opinion on refugees and the refugee policy pursued by the Polish authorities in 2015–2018 (N = 180).

The *sine qua non* precondition for research on freedom of expression is to identify and characterize legal documents and jurisprudence in this area, i.e. international and national law based on international agreements, constitutions, including the Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2 April 1997 and selected ordinary acts in Poland and other democratic countries. International and domestic jurisprudence was also discussed, i.e. the Strasbourg case law, decisions of the Constitutional Tribunal, the Supreme Court and common courts in Poland, and decisions of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

Documents and political strategies adopted by the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union relating to the development of the information society, its opportunities and threats it poses to democratic institutions in the second decade of the 21st century, as well as statistical materials (e.g. by Eurostat, the Statistics Poland, the Centrum Badań Opinii Publicznej and others). We also used reports from research on the process of development of technology, information society in Poland and in the world, by both Polish and international law enforcement bodies and public institutions (e.g. NATO Strategic Communications Center of Excellence, Representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for media freedom, the Ombudsman) and think tanks (incl. Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, The Economist Intelligence Unit), as well as non-governmental organizations (incl. the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Freedom House).

The research is the result of our own research carried out in 2012-2020 and research carried out in cooperation with other institutional partners, i.e. non-governmental organizations (Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, European Front, Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana, Fundacja im. Profesora Bronisława Geremka and others), the SentiOne IT company, some of them were realized with the financial support of European Union funds.

Results achieved. Analysis of public discourse in terms of illegal and harmful content disseminated in cyberspace and beyond it to the press, radio and television, based on the narrative of anti-vaccination movements, discussions on the "phantom" refugee crisis in Poland, as well as the Brexit campaign of the "leave" camp and the Donald Trump's electoral campaign, allows us to form the conclusion that propaganda, disinformation and hate speech were published in the infosphere with the intention of achieving specific strategic and political effects on issues important from the point of view of short-term political goals. The thesis about the widespread abuse of the freedom of expression in contemporary information societies was justified and substantiated. Due to the limitations related to the volume of this monograph we limited ourselves to characterizing only four examples of abuse of the freedom of expression in selected public discourses. It should be noted, however, that the dissemination of illegal and harmful content already accompanies the actors of social communication in almost every contemporary discussion on any topic, e.g. the climate crisis and the new climate policy, equality marches in Poland, yellow vests protests in France, the 2019 teachers' strike in Poland and many others, and in 2020 also the global struggle with the covid-19 pandemic. It should be emphasized that almost from the beginning of the dissemination of information about the new epidemiological threat related to covid-19 infection, the infosphere was completely "flooded" with conspiracy theories, fakes and disinformation, rumors and other manipulations about the SARS-CoV-2 virus itself, as well as the respiratory diseases it caused. The new term "infodemia" has also entered the circulation of information, which is a term for an excess of information, most often untrue, unverified, about the virus and the disease caused by it, rendering it difficult for Internet users to

access verified information and reliable medical knowledge¹⁶. Thus, the coronavirus infodemic has, in practice, become a reflection of the information disorder mechanism described by Claire Wardle and another example of abuse of both freedom of expression and the media, and social media in particular.

Almost every social, political or economic issue communicated to the public 'instantly' becomes 'infected' with disinformation, fakes and polarizing propaganda. Almost every cyberdiscussion uses a widely available social media infrastructure in which fake accounts, paid trolling and botting as well as ideological messages serving to polarize and radicalize views in a democratic society play a key role.

Abuse of the freedom of expression has a destructive impact on basic democratic values: human welfare and self-fulfillment, public discourse and democratic processes. During the election campaigns, cascades of disinformation are disseminated as part of computational propaganda, using the so-called black market manipulative infrastructure. This infrastructure allows for the effective manipulation of voters' emotions, arousing their fear and aversion towards "strangers", that any social group may become temporarily in accordance with the mechanism and logic of the "hate carousel". Manipulation practices are becoming more and more effective due to the use of mechanisms of psychological and informational influence. Distorted images of social and political reality, reinforced by conspiracy theories, resonate for a long time in online echo chambers, rendering it impossible to reach a compromise and social agreement. Brexit, anti-refugee and anti-migrant echo chambers as well as anti-vaccine, anti-covid and anti-mask ones were and/or are still available in cyberspace. Propaganda and disinformation have become again, as they did before World War II in the 20th century, albeit fortunately and so far to a much lesser extent, a weapon of political struggle against inconvenient opponents in democratic societies, as well as against those social groups that do not share the chosen political vision of the rulers. In this sense, the most important myth of democracy, that is, the compromise in the worldview, "averaging" views in the eyes of voters became a thing of the past. Without the new model of thinking and behaviour elaborated for the 21st century, it will not be possible to effectively counteract further degradation of the infosphere, politics and democracy.

Polarizing, excluding and stigmatizing language became an attractive mode of populist political discourse in democratic systems of the last decade. And it has become an effective instrument of discriminatory legalism. This disturbing trend is observed in the pluralistic and hitherto open societies, characterized by a long tradition of historical memory of the Second World War and hate crimes. It seems that international standards for the protection of freedom of expression, such as the prohibition of disseminating hateful, authoritarian and denying views of war crimes committed in the 20th century, and developed in the second half of the 20th century, are not sufficiently prohibitive.

One of the reasons for this is the fact that the European legal order based on respect for human dignity and fundamental rights, the rule of law and pluralism was developed on the basis of pre-digital doctrinal-philosophical and legal-institutional assumptions. The contemporary system for protection of freedom of expression is still based on the assumption that it is the free media that act as intermediaries in the transmission of information, and these they play the fundamental role of the creator of public discourse, and the legal and organizational framework adopted for freedom of expression and media freedom has been designed for the single-way communicative character of these media. The post-war media system constructed in this manner does not take into account the specificity and potential of interactive media, and in particular the manipulative infrastructure of social media. Nowadays, there are two basic models for the protection of freedom of expression, depending on whether the exercise of this freedom takes place in the space of traditional and electronic media or in social media. In the first pillar, traditional media and forum administrators in the electronic media space are intermediaries in the transmission of information and views, and they decide, on the basis of applicable legal regulations, their own IT tools and a policy of moderating the discussion, what will be allowed and will not be published in their space for communication between the Internet users. The traditional and electronic media, which have its legal and organizational foundations set in numerous

¹⁶J. Zarocostas, *How to fight an infodemic*, "The Lancet" 2020, vol. 395, issue 10225, p. 676.

legal documents on the protection of freedom of expression, media law and journalistic deontology principles, base their discussion management decisions precisely on those democratic and pluralistic principles and standards that they have managed to develop over all these years. However, during the last two decades, this model is still searching for a new, realistic paradigm of media freedom, i.e. one that would be based on "good", reliable journalism, professionalism, and journalistic ethics, thus departing from granting unequivocally broad legal protection to "sensationalism in social matters". This forms a response to and opposition to the ongoing media, social and political trends, such as: tabloidization and commercialization of media and media discourse, media propagandization, "institutionalization of lies" in the media, the rise of post-truth, decline in social trust or the "death of expertise" and the renaissance conspiracy theories. At the same time, it is primarily domestic and international courts that are attempting to fill the legal gap that has arisen for many unresolved legal situations related to the publication of hate speech and extremist views at online electronic media portals.

The second model concerns social media, which have currently become the primary sphere in the dissemination of illegal and harmful content. The dissemination of propaganda and disinformation became extremely simple due to the Facebook effect and the so-called black-market manipulation infrastructure, which is extremely easy to access, without the need to know the rules of the dark side of the Internet. With each successive stage of disseminating social media, their infosphere is flooded with a new wave of destructive and harmful statements. Cyberspace has become an ideal place for polarizing propaganda and the pursuit of hostility policies by various populist forces. The diffusion of disinformation and propaganda is shifting from cyberspace to the information space of traditional media, further boosted by the crisis of reliable journalism that we observed for years. An information hybrid is created, plagued with an intolerant, radical stigmatizing, discriminating and often dehumanizing language. Public entities are expected to be more active, otherwise the contemporary societies will approach the paradox of tolerance, according to which tolerant societies must be intolerant of intolerance in order to survive as democratic and pluralist societies. And public entities within the concept of "militant democracy" are obliged to take a more active role in counteracting the spread of undemocratic views.

Freedom of expression in the information society as it currently stands must therefore be subject to critical reflection. The postulate that there is a need for some form of regulation of access that is uncontrolled today, including that granted to authoritarian political forces, populists, extremists and political radicals, to the manipulative infrastructure of social media and the uncontrolled exchange in their elements and indicators, which are used by digital propagandists to spread lies and hate, is thus justified. Both the institutions and bodies of the European Union, as well as national decision-makers, interactive media administrators, NGO leaders and experts should play an important role in it. The actions adopted by the EU institutions so far, albeit ever more intensive, still remain insufficient. It has also become obvious to social media moderators that anyone, who allows discriminatory, hateful or extremist statements to be posted online is therefore also changing the course of democratic public discourse. Although the democratic values and legal standards adopted for years under international legal systems should also apply in the digital environment, in practice their implementation looks completely different. The administrators of these networks do not have sufficient support from public services, whose priority should be to take measures to respect human dignity and protect basic human rights. The Internet, including social media, is subject to the rules of market economy, which often makes it difficult to fight against unwanted "illegal and harmful content" that is generating additional revenues for publishers and owners of Internet portals. While the fight against hate speech, which is legally unacceptable, is undisputed - although nowadays often ineffective or even not undertaken (see the issue of underreporting in Poland) - the fight against harmful content from the category of false and fake messages remains difficult.

Well-founded fears arouse controversy over the pioneering so-called anti-fake news legislative solutions, which, according to some observers, may be used as a convenient instrument in the political fight against competition. Certainly, the effectiveness of such provisions must be assessed from a broader perspective, i.e. monitoring the compliance with the rules of a democratic rule of law as such.

This is because anti-fake laws can become a double-edged sword, an effective instrument to combat fraud and disinformation, but also a tool for violating the freedom of expression. An important role in shaping new standards of exercising freedom of expression in the framework of free media must be played by the very IT companies, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and others, and they should take action in a more responsible manner to remove, i.e. through artificial intelligence, disinformation, and fakes in particular. Public authorities should take legal and extra-legal actions, especially in the area of creating and implementing a modern education policy. Such modern media education that develops cognitive intelligence and critical thinking is the primary remedy for disinformation. *Last but not least* - policymakers should take more intensified actions in the area of security in order to counteract pro-Kremlin disinformation. It proves impossible to effectively combat the propaganda of the pro-Kremlin media centres without investing in education, programs promoting fact-checking initiatives and rating initiatives to index disinformation in democratic systems. Only a well-educated, open and pluralist democratic society has a chance to defend itself against the authoritarian propaganda rhetoric. What forms an effective remedy, first of all, are new educational strategies aimed at consolidating positive patterns of use of the novel media and developing cognitive intelligence and critical thinking from an early school age. Without the implementation of a modern educational policy in this area, we are dooming the next generation to a crisis in the field of critical thinking in pursuit of truth, which is the basic cognitive pillar. What we need is a new media foresight development strategy, which is an introduction to the implementation of a policy based on proactive ethics, pluralism, responsible use of the freedom of expression and the development of cognitive intelligence.

The present publication is an attempt to join the discussion on the contemporary condition of freedom of expression in the hybrid *online* and *offline* infosphere, and to draw the attention of other researchers to how dangerous it may turn out (in the light of the examples I presented) to continue allowing and not taking any remedial actions regarding the mass scale dissemination of harmful and illegal content, the content that should also include misinformation, fakes, stigmatization and other pseudoscientific theories, such as conspiracies and "anti-scientific nonsense", which, especially during the covid-19 pandemic, turned out to be fatal for many Internet users¹⁷. The publication is also an *ad vocem* argument for journalistic purists and advocates of democratic fundamentalism¹⁸, proving that they are wrong in claiming that the legal and media order developed after World War II within international intergovernmental organizations is sufficient in the context of the challenges we face at the threshold of the third decade of the 21st century, and that it is neither justified nor plausible that the post-war prohibition regulations (anti-abusive clause) are sufficient, and secondly that profiles and accounts on social networking sites spreading disinformation and hatred should not be subjected to effective control, as such actions would be considered as unauthorized censorship. We should ask ourselves a general question whether, if Joseph Goebbels lived in the age of social media, would it be legitimate for the administrators of these media to act to block his profile spreading polarizing propaganda against the Jews? Of course, the question who would have the power to make such decisions and on what legal basis, remains open. Certainly the decision - according to which the CEOs/administrators of private IT companies, i.e. social networking sites, delete the post or block the account of the incumbent president of the United States of America, as it happened a few days before his term in office ended in January 2021 - is controversial and what we all need is an in-depth legal reflection on who, when and under what conditions could make it. A new "traffic rules" for cyberspace are certainly required. New social media should be subject to new regulations, according to which they

¹⁷Researchers from the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene have alerted that in the first months of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 6,000 people worldwide were admitted to hospitals in the consequence of disinformation distributed on social media. More than 800 people have died from drinking methanol or other alcohol-based disinfectants; see M.S. Islam, T. Sarker, S.H. Khan et al., *COVID-19-Related Infodemic and Its Impact on Public Health: A Global Social Media Analysis*, "The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene" 2020, vol. 103, issue 4, p. 1622.

¹⁸Karl Loewenstein wrote about democratic fundamentalism in the context of the harmful negligence of the national authorities in the 1930s in connection with the growing wave of populism, polarization and propaganda claiming that there was no need for prohibitive, so called anti-fascist provisions.

would be classified as media companies, and not only IT companies, as previously. Moreover, it is highly probable that in the near future European standards regarding the anti-abusive clause will be universalized, and the clause itself may be revised and detailed, as it was developed after World War II as part of the concept of self-limiting democracy and thus will penetrate back to the ground of American legal culture or at least to the practice of social networking sites removing/blocking posts/accounts that spread polarizing propaganda.

5. Elaboration on other scientific and research (arts) achievements

Scientific and specialist publications.

My scientific achievements include over 30 publications, i.e. apart from the author's monograph mentioned in the fourth item, also a co-authoring monograph, author's and co-author's scientific articles, author's and co-author's chapters in collective monographs, reports, and also a bulletin edited together with dr. hab. Walenty Baluk, prof. of UMCS entitled "Monitoring Propagandy i Dezinformacji"¹⁹; (ISSN 2719-5082) published by the *Propaganda and Disinformation Research Team*, of which I have been the head since 2020. The publications were published in Polish, English and one of them in Ukrainian.

My most important scientific publications were in the following research areas:

1. information society and its political, legal, social, organizational and cultural dimensions,
2. local government, public administration, information policy, computerization of public administration in Poland in 2000 - 2020²⁰
3. protection of human rights in Poland after 1989,
4. freedom of expression in law and practice, its limitations, and abuse in contemporary social communication,
5. Strasbourg jurisprudence (of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg),
6. new social movements in contemporary Poland and worldwide.

In my period of professional work in non-governmental organizations (Związek Gmin Lubelszczyzny in the years 2000-2004, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights 2004-2008), from 2000, and from 2002 also doctoral studies at UMCS, my scientific publications focused primarily on issues connected to the question of public administration in general and the functioning of local government in Poland after 1989, with particular emphasis on issues related to the then dynamic process of computerization of public administration, as well as European and Polish policy in the field of constructing and developing the information society. The challenges then faced by public administration and officials, and resulting from the changes accompanying the dynamic development of information and communication technologies, were issues that were fascinating from the viewpoint of the young researcher not only because of their pioneering and innovative nature, but also of fundamental importance for political scientists from the point of view of the important reason of state boiling down to the need to build a modern state communicating with its citizens via electronic mass media (list of publications on the list).

In 2012, my co-authored collective monograph prepared together with dr Julita Agnieszka Rybczyńska from WPiD UMCS devoted to the issue of human rights protection in Poland after 1989, its diversity, multidimensional and complex nature in the Polish legal system during the political

¹⁹W. Baluk, A. Demczuk, *Biuletyn „Monitoring Dezinformacji i Propagandy”*, BIULETYN Monitoring Propagandy i Dezinformacji 1/2020 - Wrzesień - 2020 - Wydarzenia - Centrum Europy Wschodniej UMCS - UMCS homepage [accessed on: 19/01/2021].

²⁰I.e. from the March 2000 adoption, by European decision-makers, the Lisbon Strategy document (Information Society for All and the inauguration of the Lisbon policy in the "old" and "new" member states of the European Union), to the "Europe 2020" Strategy and the inauguration of a new, so-called post-Lisbon policy.

transformation and practice violating in the context of the development of Strasbourg jurisprudence was published, reviewed by prof. dr hab. Irena Rzeplińska from the University of Warsaw.

In the subsequent years, i.e. in the period from 2013 to 2020, my research interests focused on issues related to the protection of human rights, with particular emphasis on the issues of freedom of expression, as well as freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to good administration, the right to public information and the right to ICT services. On the one hand, I conducted a source query of juridization and national and international judicial practices concerning human rights and freedoms, on the other - my interests continued to focus on social, political, legal and cultural aspects of the dynamic development of the information society and its infrastructure in Poland and worldwide. These included the dynamic transformation of digital networks towards interactive media, penetration of cyberspace by authoritarian actors, including pro-Kremlin media hubs²¹, further development of social, media and information trends, including the mediatization of politics and politicization of media, information hypertrophy, propagandization of the infosphere, renaissance of conspiracy theories, deficit of social trust in democratic and scientific institutions, regression of democratic rules, the development of post-truth culture and others, that have fundamentally altered our social, media and political reality in recent years. The recently observed political and social events, incl. Brexit, the US elections of 2016, the migration crisis in the world and in Europe, as well as the climate crisis, i.e. global warming, have become a new research challenge for me, serving as interesting examples for the widespread abuse of freedom of expression in recent years (propaganda, disinformation and its fakes, hate speech, incitement to violence, incitement to hatred) and the abuse of social media infrastructure (list of publications on the list).

In recent years, I have also attempted to discuss two innovative research methods in the field of social communication and media sciences and their practical application in research on public discourse, i.e. the social listening method, which found its application in political linguistics and the actor network theory method.

In the years 2016-2018 I also published what was a recapitulation of the issues of the development of the information society, computerization of public administration, Lisbon-treaty policy in EU countries and the right to infrastructure and ICT services in the last dozen or so years (list of publications in the attached list).

In addition to the aforementioned publications, I also published on the issues of the deficit of human rights and the regression of liberal democracy in the contemporary world and the institution of constitutional complaint, an article constituting a transcript of a report by Magdalena Mierzevska-Krzyżanowska, a lawyer at the Chancellery of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in the years 1993-2018.

I devoted two publications to an attempt to analyze a new social movement in Poland, i.e. the Komitet Obrony Demokracji, which is a response and a form of opposition to the constitutional crisis advancing in 2015-2016. Furthermore two volumes of the *Encyclopedia of Political Science* include my entries on the foundations of law, selected human freedoms and the Polish judiciary (list of publications in the attached list).

Research projects.

For years I combined two distinct areas in my research work, i.e. scientific and research one - implemented since 2002, i.e. the moment is undertook the doctoral course and expert, popularizing and educational studies in the field of law, the rule of law, protection of human rights, local government, public administration from 2000 as part of my professional career in two local government and non-governmental organizations. In 2000, I started my work at the Związek Gmin Lubelszczyzny [Association of Lublin Region Municipalities] (hereinafter: ZGL) in Lublin as a specialist for the promotion of ZGL, a local government association associating municipalities and

²¹See: *EUvs.Disinformation*, <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/> [accessed on: 20/01/2021].

poviats from the Lublin Province. After graduating from the master's course, as part of my duties at the ZGL, I was able to carry out research projects on the degree of computerization of local government administration, information policy of local government units and the effects of implementing legal requirements related to the implementation of the Public Information Bulletin institution in local government units provided for by the Polish Act of 2001 on access to public information²².

In 2004, I was offered a position at the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw, where I was a coordinator of, inter alia, organization of the Watch Docs film festival "Human rights in film" and the coordinator of, among others monitoring of the judiciary in Poland entitled "Courtwatch" I was able to combine work in a watch dog NGO with research work related to the preparation of a doctoral dissertation, and development and research, i.e. related to the implementation of a grant from the Scientific Research Committee, as well as to pursue didactic work.

In the years 2000 - 2020, I participated in over a dozen research projects. These research projects were carried out independently or in cooperation with other institutional partners and/or scientists and experts from research institutions and NGOs.

Projects implemented in the years 2000 - 2006.

- 2004-2006 - I realized a grant funded by the Scientific Research Committee entitled *Dostęp do informacji publicznej w Polsce* [Access to public information in Poland], grant number 1H02E 019 27, the head of the grant was prof. dr hab. Agnieszka Pawłowska;
- 2002-2005 - I completed five research projects, the scope of which covered local government administration at the levels of poviats and municipality. I carried out two research projects using the traditional questionnaire technique in the cooperation with Monika Tarajko of ZGL, and in three other with use of the WAES (*Website Attribute Evaluation System*) method to research websites (the study covered 213 units of local government administration). We conducted our first WAES research together with dr Marcin Sakowicz (Warsaw School of Economics) in 2002 and it was the first empirical research of this type in Poland concerning the Public Information Bulletin, carried out in three voivodeships: Lubelskie, Zachodniopomorskie and Podlaskie;

Projects implemented in 2008-2020.

After being awarded the doctoral degree and taking up the position of assistant professor at the Department of Political Systems and Human Rights, I participated in several further research projects, i.e.:

- 2021-2023 I am taking part in the implementation of the team grant under Horyzont 2020 entitled *Ochrona praw podstawowych przy wykorzystaniu technologii cyfrowych w usługach e-zdrowia* ("Preserving fundamental rights in the use of digital technologies for e-health services", *REINITIALISE*) coordinated, among others, by dr Ilona Biernacka-Ligęza, incl. UO as part of cooperation between UMCS, Catholic University of Leuven, University of Macerata, Eurocentro SRL, grant number H2020-WIDESPREAD-2020-5, No. 952357
- 2019-2020 - I co-implemented a team grant entitled *Wojownicy Klawiatury* (*Keyboards Warriors Community*) in cooperation with, among others Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana, Fundacja im. Prof. Bronisława Geremka, and financed by the European Commission;
- 2018 (August-November) - I took part in the project monitoring local government elections in Poland, in cooperation with the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and the SentiOne technology company of Warsaw, the purpose of which was to analyze xenophobic mentions in cyberspace during the local government mayoral campaign in 10 Polish cities, including Lublin (project title: *Monitoring samorządowej kampanii prezydenckiej pod kątem ksenofobii metodą social listening*);

²²Consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2019, item 1429, of 2020, item 695.

- 2018 (May-June) - I conducted research among students (N = 180) of the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of UMCS in Lublin using the traditional method (questionnaire) regarding the research on the sources of information obtained by students and the existence of the echo chamber effect in their opinions on the refugee policy implemented in Poland from 2015 onwards.
- 2016-2019 - I took part in the implementation of the team grant entitled: *Instytucje samorządu w demokratycznym państwie prawa* [Institutions of self-government in a democratic rule of law] coordinated by the Department of Constitutional Law at the Faculty of Law and Administration of UMCS in Lublin; the objective of this program was to popularize research (in the form of scientific conferences organized at the Faculty of Law and Administration of UMCS) on local government institutions in a democratic state ruled by law from the perspective of their constitutionalisation;
- 2012-2014 - I took part, in the role of local coordinator, in the implementation of the team grant entitled *Monitoring zagrożeń dla wolnych mediów w Polsce i wzmacnianie funkcji kontrolnej mediów lokalnych* [Monitoring of threats to free media in Poland and strengthening the control function of local media] carried out under the Obserwatorium Wolności Mediów w Polsce program of the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw in partnership with the Human Rights Department of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw.

Conferences, scientific seminars, webinars and expert meetings (selected).

I participated in several tens of conferences, seminars, webinars, expert debates, panel discussions in Poland and abroad, expert meetings, and webinars. I took part in them both as a speaker, organizer, co-organizer and moderator. I also participated passively in numerous conferences and expert debates and congresses (I have included the full list of conferences in the list of achievements). In organizing the conferences, I cooperated with both domestic and foreign scientific institutions, as well as with many public institutions, e.g. Provincial Police Headquarters in Lublin, as well as non-governmental organizations, e.g. Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights in Warsaw, Homo Faber, Stowarzyszenie im. Profesora Zbigniewa Hołdy, Iustitia Lublin, Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana, Fundacja im. Profesora Bronisława Geremka and others.

Internships, study trips, scientific patronage, tutoring, scientific contests, cooperation with the social environment and others.

As part of my research work, I have completed several research internships, study trips both in Poland and abroad, I was a tutor under the Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program for students, specialists and experts from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. I also participated in the work of scientific committees of nationwide interdisciplinary conferences in Lublin organized by the TYGIEL Foundation for the promotion of science and development. I coordinated the Knowledge Contest on Human Rights in the Lublin Province. The following types of my activity deserve special attention, i.e.:

- 2020 - I completed a research internship at the Department of Knowledge-Based Economy, and after its organizational change: at the Department of International Economics²³, at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, my supervisor was dr hab. Kinga Machowicz, prof. of KUL;
- 2012 - I went on a study trip to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg in order to conduct a source query;
- 2003 - I went on a study trip financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Hungary, with the objective to learn about innovative solutions in the development

²³Following the changes introduced by the Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science

of digital technologies made available within the operating innovative internet access points in cooperation with the *Hungarian Telecottage Association*²⁴;

- 2002 - I completed a PhD internship at the Office of the Ombudsman in Warsaw during the term of office of prof. dr hab. Andrzej Zoll, as part of the 10th Team for Local Government, Local Policy and Environmental Protection
- 2009-2012 - I chaired the National Contest in the Knowledge of Human Rights in the Lublin Province, organized by the Main Committee of the Contest in Knowledge of Human Rights in cooperation with the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun;
- 2013-2017 - I supervised the scholarship holders of the Lane Kirkland Scholarship Program ;
- 2017-2020 - I participated in the works of the scientific committee of the IX-XII Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference *Interdyscyplinarność kluczem do rozwoju* [Interdisciplinarity as the key to development], organized by the Fundacja rozwoju na rzecz promocji nauki i badań, in cooperation with UMCS; in the same period, I prepared many reviews of chapters for collective monographs for this foundation, as well as in other scientific journals (see copies attached to the application); I also take part in the work of scientific committees in conferences organized by the Tygiel Foundation in cooperation with UMCS (see copies attached to the application);

Membership in scientific societies, non-governmental organizations, expert/ scientific groups/networks

- member of the Homo Faber association since 2018,
- member of the Polish Communication Association since 2018,
- participant in the work of the *NISPAcee network, The Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe* in Bratislava, since 2015,
- member of the Stowarzyszenie im. prof. Zbigniewa Hołdy in Warsaw, since 2013;

Other

- 2018 - I took up the duties of the auxiliary supervisor of the doctoral dissertation of Szczepan Czarnecki, M.Sc., entitled *Polityka etniczna państwa w kontekście polityzacji etniczności w Republice Bułgarii w latach 1989-2017* [Ethnic policy of the state in the context of the politicization of ethnicity in the Republic of Bulgaria in 1989-2017];
- 2017-2020 - I undertook to conduct classes for primary and secondary school students as part of the 4th and 8th Constitutional Week, organized by Stowarzyszenie im. Prof. Zbigniewa Hołdy; in 2019 (June) I co-organized, with the Stowarzyszenie im. Prof. Z. Hołdy i and the Kooperatywa Trenerska the Constitution Week workshops for teachers entitled: *Jak ciekawie uczyć o Konstytucji RP?* [How to teach about the Constitution of the Republic of Poland in an interesting manner?]
- 2013 (March-April) - I prepared an expert project for the Lublin City Hall entitled *Partycypacyjny system zarządzania różnorodnością kulturową* [Participatory system for managing cultural diversity];
- since 2009, I give several lectures a year on *International and constitutional protection of human rights* for interns at the Lublin Medical Chamber in Lublin.

In the years 2002-2020, as part of my scientific and research work, I cooperated with Polish and international non-governmental organizations as well as public institutions in Poland and abroad, including: the Ombudsman, the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Polska Akcja Humanitarna, the European Front, Fundacja im. Roberta Schumana, Iustitia Lublin, the Narodnyj Dim Society in Przemyśl, the Provincial Police Headquarters in Lublin, the Fundacja Wolność in Lublin, the StopFake.org organization established by the Journalism School of Mohylew, the Watchdog Polska

²⁴See: *Regional Telecottages Public Association of South Hungarian Plain*, <https://all-digital.org/dte/> [accessed on: 21/01/2021].

Civic Network Association, Homo Faber, the Lublin Medical Chamber, Amnesty International, the Fundacja im. Profesora Bronisława Geremka, Stowarzyszenie im. Profesora Zbigniewa Hołdy, One World (Czech: Jeden svět).

6. Educational courses delivered

In the years 2002-2020, I conducted teaching activities with students at:

- Faculty of Political Science and Journalism at UMCS in Lublin, specializing in: political science, journalism and social communication, information society, national security, media production, international relations,
- University College of Enterprise and Administration in Lublin,
- Collegium Civitas in Warsaw,
- Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu im. Biskupa Jana Chrapka in Radom,
- UMCS Field Faculty in Puławy,
- UMCS College in Biała Podlaska.

I completed the following classes: human rights protection, international human rights protection, media law, human rights in the information society, legal bases of communication, media law, law protection authorities, propaedeutics of law, international humanitarian law and armed conflicts, humanitarian dimension of international security, protection of intellectual property, copyright and related rights, protection of classified information, post-truth and hate speech in contemporary media, public administration, administrative law.

In my didactic work, I supported students in their source query as part of the undergraduate and graduate theses, and I was also a reviewer of scientific papers of students.