

Summary

The dissertation presents the results of a study of the ideological self-identifications of the young left and young right in Poland in 2015-2020. The main research questions concern what is currently left-wing and what is right-wing for young people in Poland. What does it mean to be a leftist and what does it mean to be a rightist? What senses and meanings do young people attribute to these two categories? What makes these people different? Where are the boundaries of self-identification? What determines belonging to the left and what determines belonging to the right? What relations exist between these social worlds? And what values, behaviors and attitudes are important for these worlds?

The theoretical part of the dissertation presents conceptual and social understanding of the terms left-wing and right-wing in the historical and cultural dimensions. Also, this part presents the main axes of social division in Poland after 1989. It outlines social and historical background of Poland after 2015 as the context for activities and attitudes of the youth. Special attention is paid to social and political phenomena in Poland after 2015. They pertain to changes on the macroeconomic level introduced by the Law and Justice party, but also to the phenomena such as populism, developing digitization and the influence of the mass media (it is worth noting that in the age of the Internet most of the arguments can be verified), migration processes and mobility, social changes and climate changes, which have a marked influence on the mechanisms of self-identification, the definitions of left-wing and right-wing, their understanding and identities, and the axiology related to them.

The empirical part analyzed and showed the qualitative significance of leftism and rightism among young people in Poland after 2015, based on in-depth interviews with 47 opinion leaders of the young left and young right in Poland. These included people aged 21-43. In addition to interviews collected in 2018-2019, an auxiliary research method was the analysis of source texts from 2015-2020, which includes cultural texts in the form of written works, scientific articles on left-wing and right-wing issues, television, radio and press interviews, popular science articles, as well as Internet entries of leaders of the young left and young right in Poland. In this part, in-depth literature studies were also confronted with the results of qualitative research aimed at identifying the discussed research problem in social and cultural contexts.

The main conclusion from this analysis is that the division between the worlds of ideas of the youth today is manifested chiefly through their attitude towards the ongoing cultural modernization. What is different among them, is how they understand the modernization itself.

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