Summary of professional accomplishments

1. Name and surname:

Magdalena Szmytkowska

2. Diplomas and academic degrees:

- 1995: sitting the master's examination and obtaining a five-year geography MSc degree (specialization: socio-economic geography) from the University of Gdansk, Faculty of Oceanography and Geography; dissertation entitled: "Computer geographical database on the Polish coastal zone" (supervisor: prof. dr hab. Ewa Adrjanowska)

- 2006: obtaining a PhD degree in Earth Sciences in the field of geography; University of Gdansk, Faculty of Oceanography and Geography; dissertation entitled: "Creating social space in the cities of political transformation. The case of Gdynia" (supervisor: dr hab. Iwona Sagan, prof. UG)

3. Information on employment in scientific institutions:

- From 1.10.2000 to 31.12.2006 – research assistant at the Department of Economic Geography, Faculty of Oceanography and Geography, University of Gdansk

- Since 1.01.2007 – assistant professor at the Department of Economic Geography, Faculty of Oceanography and Geography, University of Gdansk

- Since 1.10.2012 – assistant professor at the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning, Faculty of Architecture, Gdansk University of Technology

3a. Information on employment in other institutions:

- 1995-1997: Bureau of Regional Development at the Central Planning Office having its registered office in Sopot (the name of the office has been changed to: Governmental Centre of Strategic Studies in Sopot)
- 1997-1999: Gdynia City Hall; Spatial Planning Office

· 1999-2002: Bureau of Regional Development at the Ministry of Regional Development having its registered office in Gdynia

4. Scientific achievement being the basis for the habilitation procedure (in accordance with article 16 paragraph 2 of the Act on Academic Degrees and Academic Titles as well as Degrees and Titles in Art as of 14th March 2003; Journal of Laws 2016, item 882, as amended in Journal of Laws 2016, item 1311):

4.1. Title of the scientific achievement:

· scientific monograph entitled: „**Kreacje współczesnego miasta. Uwarunkowania i trajektorie rozwojowe polskich miast średnich**"
[*eng.* „Creations of a modern city. Conditions and development trajectories of Polish medium-sized cities"]

4.2. Author, title of the publication, year of publication, publisher, reviewers:

· Szmytkowska M., *Kreacje współczesnego miasta. Uwarunkowania i trajektorie rozwojowe polskich miast średnich*, 2017, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego
· Reviewer: prof. dr hab. Grzegorz Węcławowicz, IGiPZ PAN Warszawa
· *The publication was prepared within the scope of the project no. 2011/01/D/HS4/04945 financed by the National Science Centre*

4.3. Scientific objectives, results and applicability of the above-mentioned publication

4.3.1. Scientific objective and research challenges:

From the perspective of contemporary global conditions and taking domination of neoliberal principles of city management under consideration, metropolises are considered to be the biggest players on a global scale. That is why, I undertook research on medium-sized cities with particular interest as they are not under frequent scientific consideration, even small cities are researched more frequently.

Medium-sized cities usually remain in the shadow and they are not present in the international awareness – they are considered only in a national scale. In the scientific literature on medium-sized cities the two main narrations concern either explanation why they are marginalized in comparison with metropolitan areas or their numerous advantages are indicated along with some development strategies allowing the cities to use their advantages as development axes and gain a certain position in the national and international settlement network.

The main subject of the study is Polish medium-sized cities which are relatively the most difficult to define because, as has been proven, the existing size criteria is not defined clearly enough. The selected cities, constituting the middle tier of the settlement network, have been undergoing multi-layered transformations and have been influenced by both internal (national) and external (global) factors since 1989. The objective conditions, systemic changes as well as development trajectories of the medium-sized cities, having population thanks to which they are ranked second in the hierarchy of cities, cause that they constitute a highly differentiated and hard to classify group of settlement units. Cultural traditions, local identity, local anchorage of business, positive balance between anonymity of large cities and civic activeness or good relations with the whole region are examples of features perceived as main advantages of medium-sized cities – the ones that can constitute the foundation of their existence and may be competitive to the features of large metropolitan centres. In order to verify how those potentials can be exploited by medium-sized cities, it is necessary to analyse their development priorities defined by local leaders, urban policies pursued as well as the approach they are settled within: neoliberal city *versus* pro-social city and traditional city *versus* modern one.

Taking the above-mentioned into account, the main objective of my research and analyses was linking this multifaceted specifics of Polish non-metropolitan cities with urban policies they pursue. With regard to domination of neoliberal management principles in local policies and high interest in the idea of creative city in the context of development strategies, an especially essential research objective was to determine whether medium-sized cities can become places where the creative environment is built or this "creativity" is only part of marketing strategies and it is

limited to activities aimed at "creating" only an image of a city attracting investors, tourists and new inhabitants.

Analysing the neoliberal urban policy pursued by Polish medium-sized cities along with determination of the creative environment development possibilities in cities of this size was a great cognitive challenge. On the one hand, creativity is mainly associated with metropolitan areas, on the other, the medium-sized cities vary in scope of development conditions as well as in priority assumptions of the urban policies their authorities purse.

4.3.2. Research outcomes and conclusions

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objective and research assumption I prepared and finalised several general stages of the research work. Each stage involved a different methodological approach:

Stage 1 (30 cities): analysis, comparison and evaluation of socio-economic changes in the selected cities on the basis on gathered and compiled statistic data;

Stage 2: (5 cities) 2a. desk analysis of urban policies on the basis of strategic and diagnostic documents, official reports and municipal budgets;

2b. carrying out an inventory and analysing the selected cities in the context of contemporary processes taking place in central and peripheral areas of the selected cities;

2c. analysing the results of a public opinion poll conducted among the citizens of the selected cities;

Stage 3 (5 cities): social qualitative research in a form of open interviews with leaders of the local authorities in the selected cities;

Stage 4 (5 cities): preparing a synthesis concerning the issue of local identity as seen by the citizens and activities taken by the local authorities aimed at creating a positive image of the city on the basis of own observations, results of the desk analysis; identification of different forms of creativity in the selected medium-sized cities;

Final stage: an attempt to evaluate urban policies pursued by modern medium-sized cities in the context of the idea of urban creativity.

Stage 1

During the first stage of my research I analysed all medium-sized cities, defined as those having a population between 100 thousand and 250 thousand on the verge of the transformation processes. The analyses were based on available statistical data concerning socio-economic situation of the cities. Depending on the selected variables and their availability, they were presented in dynamic terms (since 1995) or they described a certain state/condition as up-to-date as possible. The table below contains all the analysed cities and the main socio-economic categories of city life.

Name of a city	Socio-economic categories of city life

Bielsko-Biała
Bytom
Chorzów
Częstochowa
Dąbrowa Górnicza
Elbląg
Gdynia
Gliwice
Gorzów Wielkopolski
Grudziądz
Kalisz
Kielce
Koszalin
Legnica
Olsztyn
Opole
Płock
Radom
Ruda Śląska
Rybnik
Rzeszów
Słupsk
Sosnowiec
Tarnów
Toruń
Tychy
Wałbrzych
Włocławek
Zabrze
Zielona Góra
	1 Human capital
	   a. Demographic structures and processes
	   b. Migration
	   c. Education level
	2 Labour market
	   a. Level and structure of employment
	   b. Unemployment
	3 Housing
	   a. Housing stock
	   b. New flats
	   c. Housing structures
	   d. Municipal housing stock
	4 Economic structure
	   a. Ownership, size and branch structure of business
	   b. Higher-level services
	   c. Foreign capital
	   d. Remunerations
	5 Local entrepreneurship
	   a. SME sector
	   b. Natural persons conducting economic activity
	   c. NGOs
	6 Creative sector
	   a. Number of entities in the creative sector
	   b. Creative class share

Excluding one important – in the context of my scientific interests – variable which is the creative class share[1], all remaining categories were analysed on the basis of data published by the General Statistic Office.

Social conditions of medium-sized cities development are similar not only to each other, but also to the social development conditions of Polish metropolitan centres. It is clearly visible when analysing data on demographic conditions, especially the ongoing processes of ageing affecting local societies and negative net migration. In the case of an agglomeration it is dominated by suburbanisation processes resulting from the willingness to increase housing and life quality. Nonetheless, in the case of medium-sized cities people move not only to suburbs, but also to larger cities and abroad. Such migration behaviour is triggered by weakness of local labour markets.

The analysis of development conditions of human capital in the context of the education level and accessibility to higher education showed that despite the systematically growing number of people with higher education they significantly differ in the selected cities. Those having the highest levels of higher education are comparable to the large cities, at least in a quantitative dimension. The residents of cities with a poorly developed academic function take advantage of education facilities located in nearby cities or they leave to study in big academic centres and do not usually come back after graduation.

The labour market also varies between the medium-sized cities as the analysis of data on employment and unemployment revealed. The vast bulk of the medium-sized cities have already gained the post-industrial character and importance of the service sector is systematically growing. However, when it comes to remunerations and the vacancies range they cannot compete with metropolitan areas what is also observed in Western Europe. That is why, it seems to be important for medium-sized cities to search and focus on some socio-economic, cultural and historical niches which may constitute a valuable asset and become a development impulse.

Housing quality is a social feature of medium-sized cities which is often indicated as a great advantage when compared to big cities. The human friendly scale of a medium-sized city, its legibility, sort of compactness and accessibility in the context of physical

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[1] Data on the creative class share derived from: Wojnar K., 2016, *Polska klasa kreatywna*, Narodowe Centrum Kultury, Warszawa

distances are perceived important factors shaping the quality of life. Medium-sized cities differ in terms of age and types of development character as well as in terms of the ownership structure and investment activities on the real estate market taken since 1989. The things that they have in common are a relatively high activity level of individual investors and developers buildings apartments for sale of to let as well as disappearance of company housing. The same regularities can be observed in the largest cities. However, the thing that significantly differs the medium-sized cities is the volume of social housing and the way it is managed by the local authorities. In some cities social flats have been systematically sold to private buyers or reprivatized. In areas where there is still a large volume of social housing, most of the flats and building require modernisation and as they are usually located in the city centres they constitute a valuable material asset of the cities. Development of new social and affordable housing projects by local authorities is a vital social issue.

Economic performance is significantly differentiated among the analysed medium-sized cities. The fact that this group of cities – perceived as a middle tier between agglomerations/urban areas and urban units of local importance – is internally differentiated in terms of various features which surely affects their economic performance. Undoubtedly, geographical location is a feature which cannot be underestimated in the context of development of medium-sized cities. It has been confirmed for the selected cities, as those located near metropolitan areas (Gdynia, Toruń, Gliwice, Tychy) have relatively higher indicators of economic development. However, it cannot be claimed that only location affects economic performance and guarantees an economic success as some of the analysed cities, such as Rzeszów, Olsztyn and Zielona Góra, are located in peripheral areas and still they lead in many aspects of economic development and labour market. Thus, development trajectories of those cities shall not be interpreted without taking account of their social fabric, especially the already-mentioned human capital which seems to be the most significant component shaping the cities development potential. There are also several examples of cities whose incredibly high economic performance allows them to compete with the largest Polish cities. Their economic potential is based on strengthening their supra-local and supra-regional functions and strongly affected by policies pursued by their local authorities.

Among the analysed cities there is also a group of "losers" – the cities which were not resilient enough to the shock triggered by the transformation. This group consists mainly of the cities whose economy was dominated by the industrial sector and where most adult residents worked in large industrial companies. There are also cities which were artificially "created" to be regional centres in 1975 (under the provisions of the administrative reform adopted at that time) and lost their status of regional capital cities in 1999 with adoption of the next administrative act. Their economic performance and social conditions are also worse than the average for the selected cities. The argument of losing the status is usually used by both citizens and local authorities when explaining poor economic and social condition of the cities.

The socio-economic analysis of the selected medium-sized cities has led me to the conclusion that they constitute the most complicated group of cities because of their internal differentiation resulting from many geographical (location, environmental advantages or barriers), historical, cultural, economic, social, political and administrative issues. Therefore, it is extremely difficult to establish an explicit typology of medium-sized cities. Undoubtedly, there are some social and economic regularities of their development. Nonetheless, different contexts and narrations make it impossible to clearly classify all the cities – there are always some "misfits". Highly differentiated starting points and varied development trajectories – both spontaneous and forced – only strengthen the elusiveness. When taking their development potential and creative strategies implemented under consideration, some of the analysed cities are able to compete with the largest cities in Poland taking advantage of local economic assets and some socio-cultural advantages they have.

Stage 2

The above-described quantitative analysis allowed me to assess the level of socio-economic development of medium-sized cities. In order to perform an in-depth analysis I finally selected five medium-sized cities which are: Gdynia, Radom, Rzeszów, Słupsk and Toruń. Each of them has its own specificity resulting not only from the highly differentiated level of socio-economic development, but also from their geographical location, vicinity of metropolitan areas, administrative status, size, socio-economic performance, historical and cultural heritage, durability of local

government structures, urban policies and other features. The table below presents a comparison of the features – important in the context of the analyses performed.

City	Historical and cultural heritage	Location within a metropolitan area	Having a large city in the neighbourhood (within the range of 100 kilometres)	Voivodeship capital city	Durability of local government structures
Gdynia	+	+	+		+
Radom			+		
Rzeszów				+	+
Słupsk	+		+		
Toruń	+	+	+	+	+

Sweeping and quite universal strategic objectives determined in the analysed documents do not allow to evaluate actual actions taken by the local authorities and to assess their efficiency in the context of co-management of the city. The cities which have to perform a wide range of endogenous functions, satisfying the basic needs of the citizens, as well as to create functions of the exogenous nature try – at least they intend to try – to balance both groups of functions. Defining such universal development objectives allows to establish a general development vision on one hand and makes it relatively easy to classify any actions taken.

The analysed strategic documents indicate that the local authorities try to balance social and economic development objectives. In older documents the attention was often paid to economic development of the cities through implementation of neoliberal policies aimed at attracting new investors as well as creating a good environment for development of entrepreneurship and business support companies. Such actions were perceived as providing a competitive advance. After the few years of the transformation process, when more or less satisfying economic strategies had been established, local authorities, especially in big cities, turned their attention to the social tissue and started to implement social policies. It shall also be mentioned that nowadays the authorities of the selected cities are aware how important is urban space of high quality, they understand the necessity to enhance its esthetical values and how it affects quality of city life.

The analysis of budgets and the financial situation of the selected medium-sized cities during the period of the transformation has led to several crucial conclusions. Firstly, all the cities have increased their incomes, including the internal ones, what indicates

growing financial independence of the local governments. However, continuously growing budget expenditure has increased the cities' debt. Infrastructural projects are the most expensive ones yet they are implemented as the authorities are convinced that they significantly affect quality of life and economic performance of the cities. When it comes to commercial projects, they assume that they will generate some income in the future. The structure of budgetary expenditure is still dominated by education, but there are some signs of funds diversification – more money is allocated for transportation, communication, public safety and cultural development. It is obvious that the authorities have significantly increased their interest in social policy, what seems to be a good course of action after the already finished or advanced economic and infrastructural transformation. All actions aimed at improving quality of life may result in the increased residential attractiveness for newcomers as well as in preventing the citizens from moving out of the city. In the context of urban space transformation, especially their representative areas, the local authorities take actions and implement projects aimed at increasing their attractiveness. However, such investments are not always economically or socially justified yet they serve other purpose: fancy buildings, other elements of infrastructure and objects-symbols are only image-creating tools and they are controversial not only in the context of expenditures, but also the issue of identity.

The analysis of revitalisation programmes prepared for the selected cities showed that the main objectives set by the medium-sized cities in the context of revitalisation processes are: economic recovery, increasing the number of jobs, increasing attractiveness and quality of public space, increasing the quality of life, improving the level of safety, supporting social integration and preventing social exclusion. When it comes to motives, activities and results of the revitalisation programmes, the medium-sized cities do not differ from the metropolitan areas. They all have to cope with similar heritage and processes taking place in modern urban space. It can be even stated that the non-metropolitan cities like no other shall care for reviving and making the inner-city areas attractive by preserving their key symbolic and identity-creating elements. It may be a meaningful advantage of the medium-sized cities that the biggest ones do not possess as being more blurred and illegible. The issue that all cities, no matter their size, struggle with is suburbanisation. Improving the condition

of housing, better public spaces, attractive jobs and inviting leisure areas may prevent the citizens of moving the city.

The suburbanisation phenomenon is wide-spread in the contemporary Polish space and it affects both large and medium cities. The one thing that differs the cities in the context of suburban areas transformation is their authorities' approach to the problem of urban sprawl. The cities holding land reserves, as a result of the policy of integration rural and urban areas in order to develop some land reserved for the future large blocks of flats, use them as "development areas". Thanks to that it is possible for them to prevent mobile citizens from moving the city. The state policy concerning urban sprawl is also of special meaning as, according to the European Union directives, it shall support the areas that actively cooperate. The argument of establishing functional areas and metropolitan aspirations of the majority of the analysed cities (Gdynia, Radom, Toruń and Rzeszów) may evolve into an effective way of neutralising the negative – as seen by the central cities – aspects of suburbanisation.

Social research conducted in all five selected cities constituted an important part of the second stage of research. In August 2014 I conducted direct interviews with the citizens. I used a survey questionnaire to get to know the citizens' views on the ongoing socio-economic transformation resulting from the priorities set by the local authorities. The sample was statistically representative - 0,1% of population aged 15 and older in each city.

On the basis on collected and elaborated opinions on performance of the medium-sized cities after the political transformation a mosaic of similar and completely different views on the level and directions of the socio-economic changes can be drawn. A significant group of the citizens got stuck in the industrial past of their cities still claiming that the industrial function developed during the socialist period was the main citygenic factor. The fact that those people had difficulties with finding a job and were receiving social support (which occurred to be the most important social need) is also important to stress in the context of the conducted research. However, the strength of sentiment is the thing that differentiate the analysed cities. The most sentimental ones are the citizens of cities whose economic structure was dominated by the industrial function and where large state manufacturing companies were

located. The perceive the decline of industry and all the consequences it brought as the biggest failure of the transformation.

Nonetheless, despite the poor condition of the labour market, associated mainly with the crisis of industrial cities, they still appreciate the ongoing changes they observe, especially in the scope of urban space condition and accessibility of services. Although there were some negative opinions on urban economy and local labour markets, the citizens evaluated positively the changes in their life quality and the city life quality. They are very important factors, mentioned also by foreign researchers involved in studies on medium-sized cities, in in the context of development opportunities and advantages the medium-sized cities have.

The opinions on the 25-year period of multidimensional transformation usually involve evaluation of action taken by the local authorities and aimed at development of the cities. The respondents expressed strongly nuanced opinions on the economic policies pursued in their cities. The citizens of Gdania, Toruń and Rzeszów evaluated their local governments very positively (more than 50% positive opinions) while the actions of the local authorities of Rzeszów were evaluated the most negatively (15% positive opinions and 43% negative ones). It undoubtedly results from economic difficulties the city is facing after the manufacturing companies closed down. It seems that unemployment is the main reason for such negative attitude. The negative evaluation of the local labour market is not entirely justified as, in fact, in cities dominated by the neoliberal management policy local authorities have limited responsibility for local labour market. When labour market is dominated by the private sector, the employment policies of the companies directly affect it. What is more, the public sector also depends on the management principles and the rules set under the adopted employment policy and local authorities have no effect on it.

Health care and social security are two most negatively evaluated branches of the social policies pursued in the analysed cities. However, such a poor condition of those two branches results from the lack of systemic solutions for the Polish health care system. The citizens criticise the local governments for the actions they are simply not authorised to take. Yet, the positive opinions are the result of outstanding involvement of the local authorities in preventive actions, giving financial support of important medical checks, promoting healthy lifestyle, supporting the poor, etc.

Actions aimed at improving the aesthetics of the cities and increasing accessibility of the leisure areas as well as the cultural policies were the most positively evaluated by the respondents. The housing policy raised a number of doubts, which is not surprising as it is hard to say whether Polish cities pursue any housing policy. In official documents we can usually find a short statement on "managing housing assets".

The respondents recognise the key role the local authorities play in development processes yet they also stress the importance of activities taken by private investors and representatives of the SME sector.

The respondents' opinions on the most important functions the city shall perform is affected by their identity and sentimental conditions. In their opinions they usually assigned their cities features thanks to which it experienced significant economic growth and their status in the settlement hierarchy increased. They still ascribe great importance to the industrial function and they are convinced that the unemployment problems the cities face result from lack of this function. This issue can be an important starting point for the debate on the role of industry in *nomen omen* post-industrial cities.

Stage 3

All the information gathered by analysing the statistical data, strategic and planning documents and the citizens' opinions on the socio-economic, functional and spatial changes in the cities needed to be confronted with the local politicians' point of view as they are responsible for establishing development trajectories and manage the cities. That is why, the next stage of my research involved interviewing local political leaders in the five selected cities. The interviews were planned to be open ones however, I paid attention to the following issues:

- post-Soviet heritage, ,
- the role of investors and entrepreneurs,
- investments,
- importance of the academic function,
- emigration and suburbanisation,

–   urban activism.

My interviewees could focus on the themes they selected and elaborate them with adherence to specificity of their own cities.

As both the selected cities and the politicians representing different approaches to urban management considerably differ, it is very difficult to determine some straightforward regularities and model actions which can comprehensively define the urban policy of medium-sized cities. As it comes to the post-Soviet heritage, so widely commented by the interviewed citizens, during the interviews the leaders tried not to take up the theme of restructuring or closing the state companies. Some of them tried to convince me that the decline of state industry was a breakthrough and triggered entrepreneurship and the will to be self-employed.

In the local leaders' opinion development of the SME sector is the most important issue in the majority of the analysed cities. Small entrepreneurs are usually grassroots having emotional ties with the city. On the other hand, small businesses are more resilient to economic shocks and more flexible when economic trends change. It is perfectly natural for a neoliberal city to strive for commercial economic leaders. From the economic point of view, they positively affect local economic structure by paying taxes and meeting other financial obligations. Moreover, they are a key component of image-creating strategies, they improve a city's prestige and help in establishing a competitive advantage. They also create numerous jobs. However, it is worth mentioning that some leaders expressed certain expectations and restrictions concerning the investors' actions. According to them, each investment and the workplaces it generates shall match the city's specificity and its citizens' qualifications as well as satisfy their needs. Moreover, the investment shall not disturb urban landscape or disorganise local functional structure. The interviewed representatives of the local authorities agreed that the most preferable investment directions include development of the so-called innovative sector. Economic modernity and innovativeness are surely the features that contribute to establishing a competitive advantage.

The city mayors who I interviewed unanimously agreed that education is a foundation for development of a modern city and they all declared to allocate a considerable amount of money to programmes aimed at improving the level of

education in their cities. It is becoming more and more usual to support those teaching profiles that match the business profiles of the companies operating in a given city. The analysed cities are highly diverse in terms of development and importance of the academic function although presence of academic environment may be a great advantage of medium-sized cities, as some studies carried out in other countries has shown. Local authorities of the analysed cities recognise the importance of higher education facilities and perceive them incubators for urban creativity and innovativeness. Along with other institutions, organisations and social groups they can generate new ideas invigorating urban economy. Despite this awareness, the mayors raised the issue of their own tools and competences in the scope of higher education and emphasized their indirect involvement in the higher education policy, for instance, by supporting or taking part in scientific projects and by being part of consulting bodies along with academic authorities.

According to the political leaders of the analysed cities, economic migrations which took place just after the transformation as well as the current migration movements are an inevitable process and they are shaped mainly by external factors, not the internal ones. Some of my interviewees recognise some positive aspects of this phenomenon and they hope that some emigrants will finally come back and invest their money in the city where they were born. There are cities from which only certain professional groups emigrated to the countries were they are better paid. The mayors seem to understand their migration motives – they have mortgage loans and are usually literally forced to migrate. At the same time, they perceive suburbanisation as something symptomatic and unavoidable. They state that people who publicize this problem are simply too attached to the symbol of border and that people living in suburbs are still the citizens who "live the city life, earn in the city and live in the city" (in morphological sense).

When asked the question on development of social movements contesting the neoliberal urban policy, the local leaders of the medium-sized cities presented well-considered views. Some of them pointed out the first important symptoms of the continuously strengthening empowerment of the citizens reflected in a growing number of NGOs. As for the urban social movements, they recognise the need of their existence and admit that such movements can be a reviving impulse and have the

ability to break the political rut some politicians got stuck in. The interviewees were actively involved in some important social actions which may contribute to improvement of social space and life quality.

The interviewed leaders claim that the situation when an activist becomes an urban politician is perfectly natural. However, there is still the issue of such person's capability to act under the provisions set by the institutionalised urban structures when there is no place for criticism and contestation and where certain decisions have to be made and implemented. On the one hand, they can mitigate the domination of certain political parties over local governments and bring some creative naivety what may result in some important ideas and approaches. On the other, they may be convinced that they understand the urban policy better and that the authorities are inefficient. As a result of that they may play their own political game. The majority of the interviewed mayors expressed certain doubts that the activity level of urban activists may decrease with time if it does not become clear that it is something more than just a new trend or a way of articulating some ad hoc postulates.

Although the neoliberal urban policy is still the dominating one and the interviewees stressed the importance of private capital for economic development of their cities, a marked increase in revenue and the ongoing social and demographic processes force the local authorities to implement social policies and take time-consuming and costly actions aimed at increasing the quality of life in their cities. It seems to be a positive trend after the years of neglecting the social sphere, being a result of the transformation shock and the necessity to improve the economic situation first.

Stage 4

Studies on creativity in cities have proven that local cultural assets and historical heritage shall be the its important source as they are the foundation of citizens' local identity. Nowadays, in the era of globalisation and urban space unification it is essentially important to create this space in a way which allows to maintain its identity and lets the citizens to preserve their important places.

The importance of urban symbols connected with the historical heritage relates mainly to citizens of the cities in which material presence historical objects of considerable cultural values which are recognisable not only in the region. In cities which developed intensively in the recent past, citizens usually establish their identity on the basis of those elements which they associate with places being symbolical and important to them or they appoint places which have been negatively stigmatised – usually by the media – and have become the negative symbols of the city.

Local authorities of the medium-sized cities create their cities' images using the same principles which are adopted in the largest cities. The level of reference to local assets and identity is differentiated among the analysed cities although their citizens usually referred to the local heritage. This dissonance between the citizens' opinion and the actions taken by urban politicians is quite symptomatic. It seems that the way the citizens "feel" their cities may become a reflection for the authorities. A purposely created image of a city shall articulate processes reflecting its local identity and local bodies shall create suggestive narrations with a strong reference to urban space. However, a well-thought, long-lasting and consequently implemented promotion strategy may create a new brand of a city which may find its foundations in local economy and society. The largest threat to such approach, often identified in big cities, is a tendency and temptation to copy and unthinking implementation of promotion ideas already used in other cities. When doing so, local authorities usually have at least one of the following motives: the necessity of "distinguish" through creation objects aimed at increasing the city's attractiveness which mismatch the local climate or the necessity to "fit in" and meet the expectations of potential receivers what leads to unthinking copying other cities' successful campaigns with no reference to local identity and naive optimism.

Final Stage

Polish medium-sized cities are multidimensionally differentiated and their varied starting points and miscellaneous development trajectories – both stimulated and spontaneous – make this variability even higher. All the conditions and circumstances affecting their operation often forced the local authorities to take firm and decisive

steps and to make brave and sometimes risky decisions in order to bring the city onto a more sustainable trajectory. During the first years of the socio-economic transformation economic performance was a strategic development direction and the neoliberal policy was the right instrument to do so.

Undoubtedly, some symptoms of a well balanced approach to urban development are being observed lately. Under this approach social, economic and spatial spheres of a city are equally important to the authorities. The fact that urban politicians have already focused on social and spatial policies seems to be a next step after the economic transformation and highly advanced infrastructural changes.

Some of the medium-sized cities which have already dealt with consequences of the transformation and are well manager and stimulated by their local authorities have a chance to compete with big cities by taking advantage of their local economic assets and some socio-cultural advantages they have. Others shall still look for their own distinguishing features which make them original as well as economically or/and residentially attractive. Although medium-sized cities are not as economically advanced as metropolitan areas nor they have well-developed labour markets, they have some potential and advantages – often unconscious and dormant – which may determine their development trajectories.

Urban policies pursued in the medium-sized cities are often copies of policies implemented in large cities. It seems that learning from other cities' experiences and using their ideas is not a bad thing to do and it may even be stimulating yet it is a key issue to implement only those actions which match the scale of the city.

There are two main types of dichotomy in modern urban policy: neoliberal policy *versus* pro-social policy and traditional city *versus* modern one. Diversity and multiplicity of approaches is confirmed by the fact that in the case of five analysed medium-sized cities, each of them represents a different one, dependent on their assets, established development trajectories and pursued policies. The cities which have stable and long-term leaders usually have explicit, clear and consequently pursued urban policies.

The authorities of medium-sized cities, just like in the case of big ones, try to create the image of their cities as modern, open and attractive to investors, tourists and citizens. The objectives are more or less the same, what differs them in the way of

implementation. There are two completely different types of strategic and image actions: the ones based on what is known – ours or the ones based on what is new – foreign. The first way of creating a city's image involves using its cultural and historical heritage as well as places and attributes that distinguish and symbolise it. The second one involves creating something new, different and surprising. Such strategy is usually implemented in cities which do not have attractive local attributes or in a situation when such attributes and local narrations are deliberately omitted or negatively evaluated. Sometimes local identity can be turned into a negative stereotype stigmatising a particular place or the whole city.

The policy of urban creativity has two main forms: it may support and encourage representatives of the creative class to move to a city and take actions aimed at creating a desired by the authorities image contributing to social and economic revival of the city. In Polish medium-sized cities, just like in the case of big ones, political activity aimed at increasing creativity is limited to the second form: using the neoliberal tools to enter the competition for investors, tourists and citizens.

4.3.3. Applicability of the research outcomes

The research outcomes and conclusions made on the basis of them allow me to formulate some recommendations for local authorities of non-metropolitan cities concerning directions of urban policies they pursue.

Undoubtedly, it is necessary to strive for balance between liberal economic issues and pro-social policies. Urban politicians shall skilfully combine actions aimed at implementing new development directions with local socio-cultural assets. Such a development strategy will allow to preserve authenticity and uniqueness of particular places in a city what, in fact, is the main assumption of the idea of a truly creative city, voiced so often by local authorities of medium-sized cities.

The desk analysis and fieldwork done under the project agenda have shown that the medium-sized cities have significant development potential which – when efficiently managed – may contribute to creation of high quality of life. The medium-sized cities' residential offer, more economically available real estate market, numerous authentic districts and places which preserved their unique historical aura, still unused post-

industrial areas and other original and niche places which may be key factors attracting creative people for whom such environment is the most tempting.

That is why, it is so important to convince politicians managing medium-sized cities to implement strategies based on the above-mentioned features resulting from local specificity and really existing in urban space. It is possible for medium-sized cities to become places where the creative class and businesses concentrate. Such an authentic image of a creative city may in turn draw attention of other creative groups consisting of people being employed in the high-tech and innovation sector. They may constitute another development impulse and create new workplaces.

Nowadays, images of the medium-sized cities are based on images found elsewhere and then implemented with no respect to local specificity. Such cities, deprived of their locality, which is so important for their citizens, become poor copies of other cities or they are shaped according to ideas of their political leaders. Balancing both approaches and establishing the image of a creative city on a foundation of really existing and well-functioning creative units and groups already blended into the city's identity may result in emergence and harmonic development of the creative urban environment. This is a unique opportunity reserved only for the local authorities of medium-sized cities as those still having cultural capital of an optimal size and scale.

5. Other scientific and research achievements

An original monograph entitled *Przestrzeń społeczna miasta okresu transformacji. Przypadek Gdyni,* published by *Scholar* in 2008 is an important accomplishment after obtaining the PhD degree. It is worth mentioning that after that I was invited to take part in the EUROREG seminar held at the University of Warsaw and deliver a paper[2]. Papers on creation of social space in post-Soviet cities and the analyses of ongoing processes of spatial polarisation and segregation turned out to be very interesting issues which I delivered at international and national scientific conferences[3] and published in scientific journals[4].

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[2] Paper entitled: *Przekształcenia struktury społeczno-przestrzennej Gdyni* delivered on 12th April 2007
[3] Papers delivered at scientific conferences:
Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Socio-spatial structures of Polish Cities,* 1st International Conference of Young Urban Researchers, New University of Lisbon (Portugalia)

During the following years my scientific activity was focused mainly on urban studies, as evidenced by the subject matter of my scientific publications and research activities (all of them are listed in Attachment 3). The city of Gdynia was still the core of my research observations, application works and scientific analyses – almost a half of my scientific publications published in the period of 2006-2016 concerned this city. In comparison with the scope of my PhD research, I have tightened my research interests down to social issues, including identity, culture, public spaces, diversity of urban functions, dimensions of local entrepreneurship, the spatial dimension of social issues reflected by social diversity of districts, etc.

When facing such a wide range of inspiring issues, it was natural to turn to a broad subject of urban policies pursued by local authorities which in fact significantly affects social issues in cities. On the other hand, those policies are implemented under

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2016, *Procesy segregacji w miejskiej przestrzeni*, Międzynarodowa Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Problemy i wyzwania dla kształtowania współczesnej polityki mieszkaniowej, Politechnika Gdańska – Urząd Miasta Gdyni, Gdańsk-Gdynia

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przestrzenny wymiar społecznych zróżnicowań. Przykład Gdyni*, XX Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przekształcenia struktury społeczno-przestrzennej Gdyni*, Cykl seminariów EUROREG, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2008, *Przemiany miejskich struktur funkcjonalno-przestrzennych w kontekście integracji europejskiej. Przykład Gdyni*, Konferencja naukowa ph.: Europa bez granic – nowe wyzwania – nowa jakość przestrzeni, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Wrocław

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Socio-spatial structures of Polish Cities,* 1st International Conference of Young Urban Researchers, New University of Lisbon (Portugalia)

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *The Socio-spatial Fragmentation of Post-socialist Cities. Case of Gdynia*, 2nd International Urban Geographies of Post-communist States workshop: 'Similarity and difference in post-communist urban change', Stockholm School of Economy, Stockholm-Tallinn (Szwecja-Estonia)

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2011, *In or out of the city? Urban and social processes in Polish cities during last 20 years*, 2nd International Conference of Young Urban Researchers, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), Lizbona (Portugalia)

Magdalena Szmytkowska (with: M. Grabkowska), 2013, *Deconstructing privatization – neoliberal practices as substitute for housing policies in post-socialist cities*, 5th International Urban Geographies of Post-Communist States Conference, Tbilisi State University, Tbilisi (Gruzja)

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2016, *Procesy segregacji w miejskiej przestrzeni*, Międzynarodowa Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Problemy i wyzwania dla kształtowania współczesnej polityki mieszkaniowej, Politechnika Gdańska – Urząd Miasta Gdyni, Gdańsk-Gdynia

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przestrzenny wymiar społecznych zróżnicowań. Przykład Gdyni*, XX Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przekształcenia struktury społeczno-przestrzennej Gdyni*, Cykl seminariów EUROREG, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa

[4] Scientific papers: Szmytkowska M., Sagan I., 2006, *Social Well-Being and Multi-Level Governance: the Case of Gdynia* [in:] M. Harland (ed.) Globalization and the Future of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Kentigern Publishing, Glasgow, s. 113-124

Szmytkowska M., 2009, *Społeczna różnorodność gdyńskich podprzestrzeni. Dobre i złe dzielnice w opinii mieszkańców*, Rocznik Gdyński, t. 21, s. 205-211

Szmytkowska M., 2010, *'Miasta w mieście' czy monofunkcyjne dzielnice rezydencjonalne? Współczesne zespoły mieszkaniowe na przykładzie Gdyni Zachód*, [in]: L. Michałowski, D. Rancew-Sikora, A. Bachórz (ed.), Miasto nie-miasto. Refleksje o mieście jako społeczno-kulturowej hybrydzie, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, s. 104:120

the provisions of national and regional social, economic and spatial policies, all having impact on directions of cities development. Among the research issues which I focused on when conducting the socio-spatial analysis of Gdynia there were: local identity, social space, public space, social policy, development of functional and spatial structures, socio-spatial segregation, local entrepreneurship, etc. The results of my research were presented at scientific conferences and seminars[5] as well as published as monographs or scientific papers[6].

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[5] Papers delivered at scientific conferences:

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przestrzenny wymiar społecznych zróżnicowań. Przykład Gdyni*, XX Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2007, *Przekształcenia struktury społeczno-przestrzennej Gdyni*, Cykl seminariów EUROREG, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2008, *Przemiany miejskich struktur funkcjonalno-przestrzennych w kontekście integracji europejskiej. Przykład Gdyni*, Scientific conference entitled: Europa bez granic – nowe wyzwania – nowa jakość przestrzeni, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Wrocław

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2008, *Postawy przedsiębiorcze wśród mieszkańców Gdyni*, Scientific conference entitled: Rola przedsiębiorczości w kształtowaniu społeczeństwa informacyjnego, Akademia Pedagogiczna, Kraków

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2009, *'Miasta w mieście' czy monofunkcyjne dzielnice rezydencjonalne? Współczesne zespoły mieszkaniowe na przykładzie Gdyni Zachód*, Scientific conference entitled: Miasto nie-miasto, czyli o mieście jako społeczno-kulturowej hybrydzie, Wydział Nauk Społecznych, Uniwersytet Gdański, Gdańsk

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2009, *Tożsamość miejsc i ludzi. Gdynia i gdynianie,* Scientific conference entitled: Tożsamość kulturowo-cywilizacyjna Gdyni, Wyższa Szkoła Komunikacji Społecznej, Gdynia

[6] Monographs and scientific papers:

Szmytkowska M., 2006, *Zmiany przestrzenne i przeobrażenia społeczne strefy podmiejskiej Gdyni w ujęciu historycznym*, [in:] M. Czepczyński (ed.) Przestrzenie miast postsocjalistycznych. Studia społecznych przemian przestrzeni zurbanizowanej, Bogucki Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Gdańsk-Poznań, pp. 207-215

Szmytkowska M., Sagan I., 2006, *Social Well-Being and Multi-Level Governance: the Case of Gdynia* [in:] M. Harland (ed.) Globalization and the Future of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Kentigern Publishing, Glasgow, pp. 113-124.

Szmytkowska M., 2008, *Przestrzeń społeczna miasta okresu transformacji. Przypadek Gdyni*, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, Warszawa, pp. 1-210

Szmytkowska M., 2008, *Kształtowanie nowych funkcji centrów czy symptomy kryzysów ulic 'salonów miast'?*, [in:] Jałowiecki B., Łukowski W., (ed.), Szata informacyjna miasta, Wydawnictwo Naukowe Scholar, Warszawa, pp. 126-136

Szmytkowska M., 2008, *Przemiany miejskich struktur funkcjonalno-przestrzennych w kontekście integracji europejskiej. Przykład Gdyni*, [in:] S. Dołzbłasz, A. Raczyk (ed.), Przekształcenia regionalnych struktur funkcjonalno-przestrzennych. Europa bez granic – nowa jakość przestrzeni, Rozprawy Naukowe IGiRR UW 4, Uniwersytet Wrocławski: pp. 243-250

Szmytkowska M., 2009, *Tożsamość miejsc i ludzi. Gdynia i gdynianie*, Zeszyty Gdyńskie Wyższej Szkoły Komunikacji Społecznej w Gdyni, t. 4, pp. 41-54

Szmytkowska M., 2009, *Społeczna różnorodność gdyńskich podprzestrzeni. Dobre i złe dzielnice w opinii mieszkańców*, Rocznik Gdyński, t. 21, pp. 205-211

Szmytkowska M., Sagan I., Masik G., 2009, Postawy przedsiębiorcze mieszkańców Gdyni [in:] Z. Zioło, T. Rachwał (ed.), Rola przedsiębiorczości w kształtowaniu społeczeństwa informacyjnego. Przedsiębiorczość – Edukacja 5, UP w Krakowie, Warszawa – Kraków, pp. 228-243.

Szmytkowska M., 2010, *'Miasta w mieście' czy monofunkcyjne dzielnice rezydencjonalne? Współczesne zespoły mieszkaniowe na przykładzie Gdyni Zachód*, [in:] L. Michałowski, D. Rancew-Sikora, A. Bachórz (ed.), Miasto nie-miasto. Refleksje o mieście jako społeczno-kulturowej hybrydzie, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, pp. 104-120

Szmytkowska M., Czepczyński M., 2014, Współczesny krajobraz kulturowy Gdyni, [in:] T. Stegner (ed.), Gdynia Zachód: z przeszłości w przyszłość, Kosycarz Foto Press, Gdańsk-Gdynia, pp. 268-307

Szmytkowska M., 2015, Gdynia – w poszukiwaniu miejskiej tożsamości i jej edukacyjnych odniesień, [in:] T. Sadoń-Osowiecka (ed.), Miejsce przestrzeń krajobraz. Edukacyjne znaki, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, pp. 153-168.

As the city of Gdynia is part and parcel of the Tricity conurbation in both functional-spatial and socio-economic dimensions, I have also carried out analyses in this spatial scale. The specificity of the geographic location of Tricity, its linear development layout and numerous infrastructural links make many processes taking place in the cities interdependent. What is more, those processes have similar effects in all cities. In my research I referred to two essential issues connected with the Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot urban unit. Due to its highly attractive geographic location and obvious residential and tourist attraction resulting from it, I became interested in public spaces in Tricity, including their development, management, quality and accessibility. Waterfronts constitute a particularly distinguishing group of such spaces and they were the key issue of the papers I delivered at scientific conferences[7] and the articles I published in scientific journals[8]. This particular interest of mine can be justified not only by the fact that waterfronts are urban areas of highly attractive location at the interface between land and sea, having great symbolic value and affecting local identity. It is equally important that there are 100 kilometres of waterfronts within the administrative area of Tricity: approximately 52 kilometres of coast line along the sea bay and 44 kilometres of artificial harbour jetties in Gdynia along with the riverside areas in Gdansk performing port functions. Although the areas performing typically urban functions constitute only 6% of the whole waterfront areas in Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot, the continuously growing interest in revitalization processes of

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Sagan I., Szmytkowska M., Masik G., 2007, *Mieszkańcy Gdyni wobec przedsiębiorczości,* ekspertyza naukowo-badawcza, maszynopis, Urząd Miasta Gdyni, p. 90

[7] Papers delivered at scientific conferences:

Magdalena Szmytkowska (with: K. Nowicka), 2011, *Możliwości rozwoju turystyki w zrewitalizowanych obszarach miast. Na przykładzie Trójmiasta*, 8th International Population Conference entitled Men-City-Nature. New Processes & Structures, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2014, *Neo-liberal reality in post-industrial waterfronts in the post-socialist city. The case of Tri-City*, The ReNewTown Final Conference, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana (Słowenia)

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2011, *Specyfika kreacji przestrzeni publicznych w miastach nadmorskich. Na przykładzie Trójmiasta*, XXIV Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

Magdalena Szmytkowska (with: K. Nowicka), 2012, *Ku komercjalizacji czy upublicznieniu przestrzeni? Dylematy kształtowania obszarów nadwodnych na przykładzie Trójmiasta*, Scientific Conference entitled Przekształcenia regionalnych struktur funkcjonalno-przestrzennych, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Wrocław

[8] Scientific publications:
Nowicka K., Szmytkowska M., 2014, *Concrete and water. Searching for new possibilities of the tourist function development in Tricity*, Часопис соціально-економічної географії, t. 16, pp. 51-55

Szmytkowska M., Nowicka K., 2015, *Neo-Liberal Reality in Post-Industrial Waterfronts of the Post-Socialist Cities: The Polish Tri-City Case*, Economic and Business Review 17(2), pp. 185-202

Szmytkowska M., 2015, Polityka neoliberalna w mieście i jej społeczno-przestrzenne konsekwencje, [in:] J. Bach-Głowińska (ed.), Poszukiwanie modelu inteligentnego miasta. Przykład Gdańska i Glasgow, Wydawnictwo Wolters Kluwer SA, Warszawa, pp. 195-210.

post-shipyard areas as well as planned and ongoing investments may significantly change the functional structure of the whole analysed area (the potential of this areas is estimated to be 25-27 kilometres). Therefore, in the context of public space management, it is vital that waterfront areas were managed by the city with respect to tradition, modernity, maturity, juvenilism, commercialism, general accessibility, etc. They cannot be just a new creation dictated by developers, full of popular slogans on modernity and functionality, with unlimited urban pressure exerted not only on degraded urban areas, but also on environmentally and recreationally valuable areas. The second research issue related to Tricity which I focused on in the period of 2012-2014 was metropolitan processes taking place in the Gdansk-Gdynia-Sopot urban unit and in other urban units surrounding it and being functionally linked to it. Thereby, I joined the scientific discourse on urban development started at the turn of 1st and 2nd decade of the 21st century by the Pomeranian academics. The discourse was very vivid due to activities aimed at delimitation of the Tricity metropolitan area taken up by the local authorities as well as to the ongoing national discussion on the scope of the planned Metropolitan Act. My contribution to this discourse referred mainly to establishment of metropolitan unions in polycentric urban units like Tricity[9][10]. The scope of my research covered metropolitan potential of Tricity. Moreover, I paid much attention to possibilities of establishing cooperation between gminas which is essential for integration and taking common actions aimed at developing the metropolitan area. I was trying to justify purposefulness of such cooperation as the functions that the gminas perform are often complementary and

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[9] Papers delivered at scientific conferences:

Magdalena Szmytkowska (with: K. Nowicka, D. Szymańska), 2013, *Tri-city or three cities? Problems in the metropolitan integration of Tricity*, 9th International Conference entitled Man-City-Nature. Integrated development of cities and regions, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2013, *Potencjał trójmiejskiej przestrzeni metropolitalnej. Pola integracji i dezintegracji*, VIII National Scientific Conference entitled Miasta XXI wieku, Uniwersytet Opolski, Opole

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2013, *Top-down czy bottom up? Dylematy kreowania policentrycznych obszarów metropolitalnych na przykładzie Trójmiasta*, Scientific Conference entitled Polityka Miejska. Wyzwania, Doświadczenia, Inspiracje, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa

[10] Scientific publications:

Szmytkowska M., 2014, *Potencjał trójmiejskiej przestrzeni metropolitalnej - pola integracji i dezintegracji*, Studia Miejskie, t. 13, pp. 27-36

Szmytkowska M., 2014, *Top-down czy bottom-up? Dylematy kształtowania policentrycznych obszarów metropolitalnych na przykładzie Trójmiasta*, Studia Regionalne i Lokalne, t. 3, pp.26-45

Szmytkowska M., 2014, Procesy metropolizacji w Trójmieście - ku obszarowi metropolitalnemu czy spolaryzowanemu duopolowi? [in:] K.Kuć-Czajkowska, M. Sidor (ed.) Miasta aglomeracje metropolie. W nurcie globalnych przemian Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej, Łódź, pp. 77-98

Frankowski J., Szmytkowska M., 2015, *Regionalne zróżnicowanie nowych partnerstw miejskich w Polsce*, Zarządzanie Publiczne 30(2), pp. 131-150

may serve all the metropolitan area. I also joined the discussion on issues connected with the institutional dimension of metropolisation, especially the ways of establishing metropolitan areas (obligatory *versus* voluntary, bottom up *versus* top down) along with arguments put forward by local authorities having different views and opinions on the discussed issues. Difficulties in seeking the metropolitan consensus appear usually in the case of polycentric settlement layouts, what was observed not only in Tricity, but also in Górny Śląsk.

The metropolitan issue became mainly a political, not substantive problem and it was dependent on the central authorities and their priorities concerning the proceeding of the Metropolitan Act and granting the status of metropolitan area. This has particularly negative consequences for those areas which metropolitan potential is unquestionable. Incorporating them within an administrative framework would promote their legitimacy and importance in both Polish and international scales.

Additionally, my research focus was on the continuously increasing suburbanisation processes taking place in Tricity and affecting its social space. The citizens were moving either to neighbouring gminas or to outer suburbs. The second direction of their movement was especially interesting for me as it resulted in rapid development of peripheral districts of Gdansk and Gdynia. Those areas used to be rural in the 1970s. The cities incorporated them as spatial development reserves yet they were not used at that time due to the economic crisis preceding the fall of the socialist system.

Multiple analogies found in processes taking place in suburbs and the above-mentioned peripheral areas make it possible to analyse the changes in the so-called in-between city – an inner area within the city developing in a highly dynamic and chaotic way. All the functional and social changes in such areas located between the city and outer suburbs became part of my research. I tried to find an answer to the question whether such areas are to become multifunctional metropolitan districts, in accordance with the idea of New Urbanism, or they are to transform into regular suburbs[11].

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[11] Conferences and scientific publications:
Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2012, *Konsekwencje społeczne suburbanizacji*, Scientific conference (w ramach Warsztatów Charette) „Jaka przyszłość dla Gdyni Zachód?" Urząd Miasta Gdyni, Gdynia

Taking my future research plans into consideration, two other groups of issues are of key importance and I have already done some pilot work on: economic migration of Poles and the ongoing processes of studentification observed in large cities. As for the migration issue, I undertook studies on Polish migrants in Dublin in the period of 2008-2009 (co-funded by the University of Gdansk). I made an attempt to assess the level of their activity and the extent to which they take part in shaping social space of the city. The results of my research were presented during two international conferences and a lecture I gave during the RECOURSE seminar organised by the Department of Economic Geography at the University of Gdansk[12]. Moreover, they were published in English[13]. The issue of Polish migration movements, not only the current ones, but their historical dimension also, is my key research plan for the upcoming years (I am planning to submit a project proposal to the National Science Centre – Sonata Bis in 2017).

Another scientific study that I was involved in (in cooperation with hab. Monika Murzyn-Kupisz from the Cracow University of Economics) was a pilot project concerning identification of studentification processes in modern polish cities and an attempt to link them with the gentrification phenomenon. The issue of studentification is better described in English-language literature, however along with the growing number of students in Polish cities, especially during the first twenty years after the political transformation, the attention paid to this issue has been increasing. What is more, the presence of students has been recognised by the local authorities too as it is undeniable that young people inflowing to academic cities affect not only their social structure, but also the economic sphere (real estate market, services, culture, leisure industry and others). The main objective of the pilot

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Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2014, (with: K. Nowicka), *Koncepcja in-between city w kontekście obszarów peryferyjnych polskich miast. Na przykładzie Trójmiasta,* XXVI Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

Szmytkowska M., 2014, Ku urbs czy sub-urbs? Przestrzeń i mieszkańcy nowych osiedli mieszkaniowych w obszarach peryferyjnych dużych miast, [in:] M. Madurowicz (ed.) Kształtowanie współczesnej przestrzeni miejskiej, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warszawa, pp. 550-562

[12] Papers delivered at scientific conferences and seminars:

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2009, *Polish Migrants in Urban Space of Dublin*, 7th International Population Conference ph. Men–City–Nature. New Processes Questions and Research Methods, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika,Toruń

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2012, *Polish Migrants and Urban Space of Dublin*, Jubileuszowa Konferencja Wspólnej Polsko-Niemieckiej Komisji Podręcznikowej, Instytut im. Georgia Eckerta, Brunszwik (Niemcy)

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2009, *Polscy imigranci w przestrzeni Dublina*, cykliczne seminarium naukowe RECOURSE, Katedra Geografii Ekonomicznej, Uniwersytet Gdański, Gdańsk

[13] Szmytkowska M., 2011, *Polish Migrants in Urban Space of Dublin*, Bulletin of Geography. Socio-economic Series, nr 16, pp. 139-152

project conducted in cooperation with dr hab. Monika Murzyn-Kupisz was not only to compare two academic cities we represent (Cracow and Tricity), but also to compare them with English and American cities being the case studies described in the foreign literature. Certainly, a large number of students living in a city change its urban space – the Polish cases confirmed findings of American and British researchers (the real estate market, especially prices of apartments, rental patterns, tendency to rent apartments located near the city centre). However, there were some differences observed by us, for instance, there are no new student enclaves in Polish cities and their presence is visible in districts of old block of flats which are strategically located and well connected to the historical parts of the cities. Contrary to the American and English cases, technical conditions of the flats rented by Polish students are relatively good. Moreover, a significant percentage of students rent flats in new districts. The results of our studies, analyses and conclusions were presented at two scientific conferences[14] and published in two scientific papers, including one in English published in a scientific journal with Impact Factor being enlisted on the A list issued by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education[15].

Numerous research conclusions, the cognitive character of the project and a possibility to carry on multidimensional analysis of this phenomenon makes this project open and I am convinced that it shall be continued. I am considering broadening the cooperation and inviting more representatives of other academic cities to join the project. More cases will allow to compare the scale, course and consequences of the studentification processes shaping urban spaces. I am also planning to cooperate with students who may be involved as both research subjects and researchers, e.g. during the fieldwork.

All the research on urban space, I took part in, have turned my attention to urban policies and the ways they were pursued what usually involved the neoliberal

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[14] Papers delivered at conferences:

Magdalena Szmytkowska (z: M. Murzyn-Kupisz), 2012, *Procesy studentyfikacji w przestrzeni polskich miast: na przykładzie Krakowa i Trójmiasta*, XXV Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łodź

Magdalena Szmytkowska (z: M. Murzyn-Kupisz), 2012, *Studentification in the post-socialist context. The case of Kraków and Trójmiasto*, Cities after Transition Thematic Workshop, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź

[15] Scientific papers:
Murzyn-Kupisz M., Szmytkowska M., 2012, *Procesy studentyfikacji w przestrzeni polskich miast: na przykładzie Krakowa i Trójmiasta*, Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź, pp. 199-219
Murzyn-Kupisz M., Szmytkowska M., 2015, *Studentification in the post-socialist context: the case of Cracow and the Tri-City (Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot)*, Geografie, volume 120, issue 2, pp. 188-209

principles of management. The scientific conference entitled "*Miasto w dobie neoliberalnego urbanizmu*" *[The city in the era of neoliberal urbanism]* organised in 2010 during which I acted as a scientific secretary and the monograph co-edited with dr hab. Iwona Sagan, prof. UG[16] influenced significantly my further scientific challenges and activities.

As a result of studying scientific literature on neoliberal issues in modern cities as well as on many other ideas connected with urban management and forms of urban policy I submitted a project proposal to the National Science Centre in 2011 (the first edition of the *Sonata* programme). After an extensive analysis of the case studies as well as the categories of cities being frequently studied, I finally chose the subject of my research which is medium-sized cities. Metropolitan areas and small cities have been studied by many researchers while there is a lack of analyses on the medium-sized ones. The group of cities which I selected for my study consisted of cities having a population between 100 and 250 thousand (at the turn of the 1980s - 1990s) and I intended them to be significantly varied in the context of their administrative status, location, social background, functions they perform and other features. The project involved several research stages aimed at answering the question how the medium-sized cities have been developing since the beginning of the transformation and what kind of urban policy is pursued by their authorities. The first stage was to assess the level of socio-economic, spatial and functional changes taking place in the selected cities while the second one aimed at seeking the views of their citizens on development directions and policies pursued by the local authorities. The third stage of the project involved preparation of detailed inventory documentation of urban space covering morphological and functional changes as well as social space. The last stage was planned to be a detailed analysis of action taken by the local authorities in the context of urban policies they were pursuing and the results of their actions.

An attempt to confront the idea of a creative city, assuming that it is possible only in a metropolitan area, in a scale of the medium-sized cities was an additional research challenge. The above-mentioned stages of research and analyses were planned to give an answer to the question if a non-metropolitan city has the potential to be a truly creative one or if all the "creative" actions are aimed only at creating a positive image

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[16] Szmytkowska M., Sagan I. (ed.), 2012, *Miasto w dobie neoliberalnego urbanizmu*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk

of the city based on single sub-spaces perceived as attractive for newcomers or places which attractiveness can be easily increased by the means of simple marketing strategies. After being awarded the funds[17] in 2012 I started the research activities in accordance with the project schedule. The project finished in 2015. The theoretical issues concerning the creative neoliberal city were presented during scientific conferences and were published in scientific journals[18] while the overall outcomes of the project were presented in June 2016 during the RECOUSE scientific seminar[19]. The original monograph entitled „*Kreacje współczesnego miasta. Uwarunkowania i trajektorie rozwojowe polskich miast średnich"* is a final product of my studies, analyses and research. This monograph is the scientific achievement being the basis for the habilitation procedure.

In the context of my research on the medium-sized cities, it is worth mentioning that I was invited to act as an expert and partner in the COST proposal entitled *Reusing*

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[17] Project (NCN, Sonata 1) entitled: *Miasta kreatywne vs. miasta kreowane. Wielowymiarowe doświadczenia polskich miast i kierunki ich rozwoju w erze postmodernizmu i gospodarki neoliberalnej. Na przykładzie miast średnich (od 100 do 250 tys. mieszkańców)*, agreement no. 2011/01/D/HS4/04945

[18] Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2015, *Neoliberal policy in contemporary cities and its social and spatial consequences*, 10th International Conference ph.: Man-City-Nature. Integrated development of cities and regions: local and regional perspective, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2015, *Przeobrażenia społeczno-gospodarcze i kierunki rozwojowe wybranych miast średnich w świetle wyników badań społecznych*, IX Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Miasta XXI wieku. Spójność i efektywność programowania oraz planowania rozwoju obszarów miejskich w wymiarze terytorialnym, Uniwersytet Opolski, Opole-Kędzierzyn Koźle

Magdalena Szmytkowska 2015, *Społeczne doświadczanie miasta średniego*, Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa ph. Władza i miasto, Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Wrocław

Magdalena Szmytkowska 2015, *Pomiędzy tożsamością a nowo(czesno)ścią – kreowanie wizerunku miasta i jego społeczny odbiór na przykładach wybranych polskich miast*, Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Przemiany współczesnych miast, Uniwersytet Rzeszowski, Rzeszów

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2017, *Uwarunkowania i konsekwencje procesów depopulacji w miastach średniej wielkości na przykładzie Słupska*, Konwersatorium Wiedzy o Mieście, Uniwersytet Łódzki, Łódź-Spała

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2017, *Idea kreatywności i jej miejski kontekst*, Konferencja naukowa ph.: Miasto kreatywnie, Uniwersytet Mikołaja Kopernika, Toruń

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2017, *Wymiary miejskiej kreatywności: kreatywne 'milieu' versus skuteczna polityka miejska*, X Konferencja naukowa ph.: Miasta XXI wieku. Koncepcje oraz idee rozwoju i planowania miast: wyzwania – projekty – możliwości, Uniwersytet Opolski, Opole-Izbicko

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2017 (nadchodząca: 28-29 września), *Dyskurs neoliberalny w/o mieście: pomiędzy wolnym rynkiem a kwestią społeczną*, Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Miasto pod napięciem, Uniwersytet Śląski Katowice

Magdalena Szmytkowska, 2017 (nadchodząca: 24-25 listopada), *Polityka miejskiej kreatywności – pomysł na miasto kreatywne czy kreowanie atrakcyjnego obrazu miasta?*, Ogólnopolska Konferencja Naukowa ph.: Organizowanie współczesnej przestrzeni miejskiej, Uniwersytet Warszawski, Warszawa

Szmytkowska M., 2015, *Polityka neoliberalna w mieście i jej społeczno-przestrzenne konsekwencje*, [in:] J. Bach-Głowińska (ed.), Poszukiwanie modelu inteligentnego miasta. Przykład Gdańska i Glasgow, Wydawnictwo Wolters Kluwer SA, Warszawa, s. 195-210

[19] Wykład pt.: *Czy nie-metropolie mogą być kreatywne?*, Katedra Geografii Ekonomicznej, Instytut Geografii, Uniwersytet Gdański

Intermediate Cities: Innovative Life for Obsolete Urban Spaces[20]. The proposal was submitted for evaluation in February 2014 by the main coordinator, professor Joan Ganau Casas (Lleida University, Spain) yet it was rejected. However, all 18 partners to the project decided to maintain the consortium and try to apply for other funds in the future.

My scientific interest in medium-sized cities was based mainly on French publications and studies carried out in French cities. That is why, I entered the competition organized by the French Embassy in Poland for the French government scholarship in France for Polish PhDs. I was one of fourteen successful candidates selected out of 121 contestants. I spent one month at the Université Paris Sorbonne from 16th October to 14th November 2016. Since my research assumption was to identify French cities comparable to the ones I had selected to my project, I finally chose Rennes and Lille. While staying in France I made two study visits in those cities aimed at identification of key development areas, preparing photographic documentation and procuring any materials that could be useful for the analysis (visiting local institutions: city halls, tourist information boxes, etc.). I was also interested in policies pursued by the local authorities as one of my objectives was to analyse them in the context of creativity – the criteria so often used in official documents. Currently I am working on scientific papers summarising my findings.

During the period of 2012-2016 I was a member of the research team taking part in a scientific project EUBORDERSCAPES *Bordering, Political Landscapes and Social Arenas: Potentials and Challenges of Evolving Border Concepts in a post-Cold War World* financed by the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme. I actively participated in basic research and was involved in organisation of qualitative social research in Polish-German and Polish-Ukrainian borderlands.

Parallel to my scientific and research activity I participated in some projects aimed at practical application (usually as a member of expert teams) through performing expert evaluations ordered by local and regional authorities. I usually was responsible for the analytical part of the projects – based mainly on qualitative or quantitative data as well as on detailed inventory documentation prepared for the

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[20] COST (European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) – program UE wspierający współpracę transnarodową wśród europejskich badaczy, inżynierów i naukowców

analysed areas. I was involved in project covering not only the area of Tricity and Pomeranian Voivodeship, but also other cities and regions[21].

In 2010 and 2014 I took part in *Erasmus Teaching Staff Mobility* programme. During my two two-weeks stays in the Universita Degli Studi di Trieste in Italy I participated in scientific meetings of the teaching staff and students during which we discussed the issues connected with the political transformation in the post-Soviet countries and economic migration of Poles to Italy.

In 2015 the Management of Polish Geographical Society decided to reactivate the Commission for Settlement Geography and Population (KGOiL). The Commission works through its members representing the geographical entities in Poland. I have an honour of representing Tricity and taking part in statutory activities of the Commission from the very beginning. My first and completed in 2016 task was to prepare both paper[22] and electronic[23] versions of documentation concerning all Polish scientific publications on settlement geography and population. Nowadays, especially in the context of the 100th Anniversary of Polish Geographical Society in 2018 and the request to submitted to the Polish Sejm for establishing 2018 the Year of Polish Geography, the Commission for Settlement Geography and Population is taking further steps aimed at popularising geography.

Since 2014 I am a member of the Scientific and Editorial Council (having the authority to reject or approve papers) of the journal published by the Institute of History at the University of Gdansk entitled *Trójmiejskie Teki Turystyczno-Krajoznawcze.* I am an editor of the volume which is to be published in the nearest future. Moreover, in 2015 I peer reviewed articles published in *Acta Universitatis Lodziensis. Folia Geographica*

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[21] The list of expert projects I was involved in:

Sagan I., Szmytkowska M., Masik G., 2007, *Mieszkańcy Gdyni wobec przedsiębiorczości,* ekspertyza naukowo-badawcza, maszynopis, Urząd Miasta Gdyni, pp. 90

Szmytkowska M., Masik G., Czepczyński M., 2010. *Trendy rozwoju oraz ocena rozwoju kapitału ludzkiego w województwie pomorskim*, ekspertyza naukowa, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Pomorskiego, Gdańsk, p.184

Czepczyński M., Szmytkowska M. Tomaszewski G., Lichocki Ł., Perzanowska M., Deska P., 2011, *Studium porównawcze polityki gospodarczej, rynku pracy i struktury zatrudnienia Brandenburgii, Berlina i Województwa Lubuskiego,* ekspertyza naukowa, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Lubuskiego, Gdańsk-Zielona Góra, p. 264

Ledwoń S., Szmytkowska M., 2013, *Analiza uwarunkowań dla lokalizacji i funkcjonowania obiektów handlu w tym wielkopowierzchniowych obiektów handlowych w głównych miastach Polski ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem Łodzi oraz obszaru strefy wielkomiejskiej w Łodzi,* 2013, ekspertyza naukowa, Miejska Pracownia Urbanistyczna, Łódź

Szmytkowska M., 2014, *Potencjał społeczno-gospodarczy powiatów województwa pomorskiego w kontekście rozwoju kluczowych branż regionu, ekspertyza naukowo-badawcza*, Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Pomorskiego, Gdańsk

[22] Sokołowski D. (ed.), 2016, *Bibliografia prac z zakresu geografii osadnictwa i ludności za lata 1999-2015*, Polskie Towarzystwo Geograficzne, Komisja Geografii Osadnictwa i Ludności PTG, Warszawa-Toruń

[23] https://ptgeo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Bibliografia_Osadnictwa_i_Ludnosci_1999-2015.pdf

Socio-Oeconomica. Since 2017 I am a member of the Jury appointed by the Metropolitan Institute in Gdansk to review papers submitted to the competition for "The Prize of the Metropolitan Institute for the best thesis on urban and metropolitan issues".

My scientific experience as well as cooperation and support given to young scientists working at the department I am employed caused that I was offered the post of supporting supervisor of two highly advanced PhD theses[24]. Earlier, in 2009 I was a scientific supervisor of a student from Kyrgyzstan who was staying at Gdansk University after being granted the Polish Government Scholarship for Young Scientists. Since 2010 I have been a supervisor of numerous Bachelor theses in geography and since 2016 also in spatial planning. All in all, I have supervised more than one hundred Bachelor theses and two Master ones. I have also been a supervisor of theses in spatial planning defended at the Faculty of Architecture at the Technical University of Gdansk where I am also employed. My other teaching achievements are enlisted in Attachment 3.

6. Summary

All the scientific and research activities I was involved in during the period 2007-2017, constitute a logical sequence starting with in-depth urban studies focused mainly on a medium-sized city – Gdynia and then broaden to the level of the whole Tricity, as there were and are many crucial and dynamic processes taking place there, like metropolisation, suburbanisation and studentification. At the same time I have been analysing actions taken by local and regional authorities responsible for urban policy in order to enrich my analysis and get a full picture of the ongoing processes. My scientific work, based usually on carefully selected case studies, allowed me to achieve such a level of awareness and knowledge about processes taking place in urban areas that I was able to recognise some socio-spatial regularities on a theoretical level as well as to actively participate in the scientific discourse. I have been continuously expanding my theoretical knowledge and finally I was able to
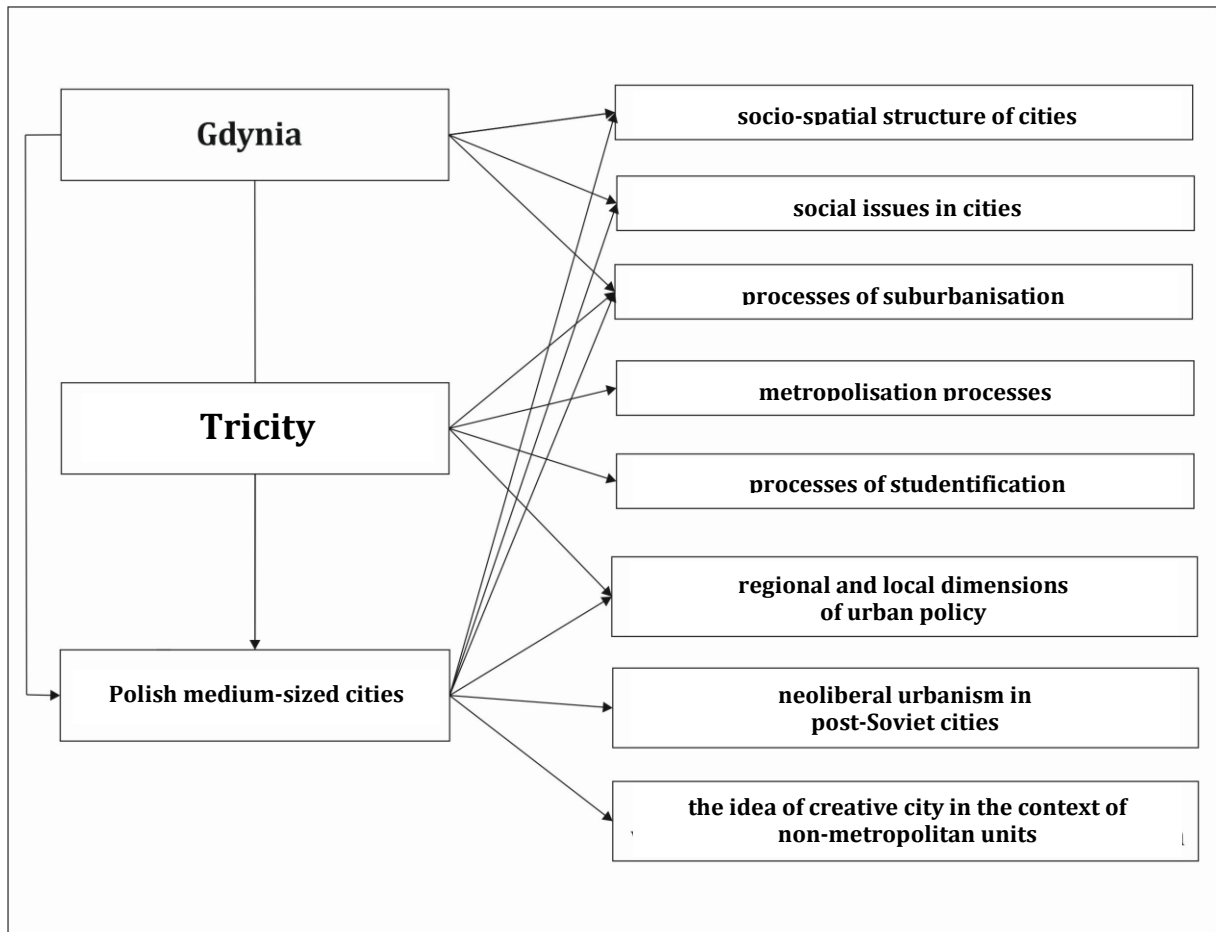
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[24] Iwona Marzejon-Frycz, *Zróżnicowanie wykorzystania potencjału turystycznego strefy nadmorskiej. Przykład wybranych gmin województwa pomorskiego*, Katedra Geografii Ekonomicznej Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego (przewód doktorski otwarty w 2014 roku)

Dominika Studzińska, *Zmiana roli i charakteru granicy polsko-rosyjskiej a uwarunkowania rozwoju polskiej strefy przygranicznej* , Katedra Geografii Ekonomicznej Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego (przewód doktorski otwarty w 2017 roku)

undertake studies on the national level that have become a foundation for the scientific achievement that I am now presenting – the publication entitled *Kreacje współczesnego miasta. Uwarunkowania i trajektorie rozwojowe polskich miast średnich*. The scheme presented below is an attempt to depict my scientific way which has finally led me to this achievement.

The table below contains my all achievements since I was granted the PhD degree. There are scientific, teaching and popularising achievements as well as their quantitative analysis.

TYPE OF ACHIEVEMENT	NUMBER/VALUE
Scientific achievements	
Total impact factor according to the Journal Citation Reports (JCR), as in the year of publishing	**0,451**
Number of citations according to Web of Science (WoS)	**3**
Hirsch Index according to the Web of Science (WoS)	**1**
Number of citations according to Google Scholar	**76**
Scientific publications in journals included in the Journal Citation	**1 (15 points)**

Reports database	
Monographs	**2**
Edited monographs	**1**
Chapters in monographs	**12 (39 points)**
Reviews in scientific journals	**1 (being printed)**
Scientific publications in international or national journals not included in the List A of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education	**11 (64 points)**
Documentation of fieldwork	**1**
Coordination and participation in international and national research projects	**4**
International and national prizes for scientific or artistic activities	**1**
Delivering papers at international thematic conferences	**12**
Delivering papers at national thematic conferences	**25**
International cooperation	
Participation in European programmes or other international programmes	**3**
Internship in foreign research or academic centres	**1**
Participation in foreign consortia and research networks	**1**
Popularising and teaching achievements	
Membership in organizing committees of international and national scientific conferences	**1**
Membership in editorial committees and scientific councils of journals	**1**
Membership in international and national organisations and scientific associations	**2**
Supporting supervisor of PhD theses	**2**
Supervising Master theses	**2**
Supervising Bachelor theses	**approx. 100**
Supervising foreign scholarship holders	**1**
Expert evaluations or other freelance activities	**5**
Participation in expert teams and competition juries	**1**
Peer reviewing publications in international and national journals	**1**