

## REVIEWS

GEORGIY KOROBAYNIKOV<sup>1(BDF)</sup>, PAVOL BARTIK<sup>2(BDF)</sup>, ANTONIO VENCES DE BRITO<sup>3(BDF)</sup>,  
PAWEL SWIDER<sup>4(ABEFG)</sup>

1 ORCID: 0000-0002-1097-4787

National University of Ukraine on Physical Education and Sport, Faculty sport and management, Kyiv (Ukraine)

German Sport University Cologne, Institute of Psychology, Cologne (Germany)

2 ORCID: 0000-0002-2087-7876

Matej Bel University, Faculty of Arts, Banska Bystrica (Slovakia)

3 ORCID: 0000-0001-6964-8559

Escola Superior de Desporto de Rio Maior, Instituto Politecnico de Santarem (Portugal)

4 ORCID: 0000-0003-3376-5176

University of Rzeszow, College of Medical Sciences, Institute of Physical Culture Studies, Rzeszow (Poland)

Corresponding author: Dr Pawel Swider, University of Rzeszow, Institute of Physical Culture Studies, ul. Cicha 2a, 35-959 Rzeszow, Poland;

e-mail: pol1977@op.pl

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## The area of fighting arts studies A.D. 2023: organisational and scientific development

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### Abstract

**Problem.** Science in the area of fighting arts is constantly being developed. How does this process work from the perspective of GTFA (General Theory of Fighting Arts) and institutions co-creating or cooperating in this area? The issue concerns the period from October 2022 to October 2023.

**Method.** The analysis covers the historical and philosophical background, the activities of specialized scientific societies and universities, conferences, workshops, and other meetings, as well as new, more important scientific publications. It is a kind of review, factual and review study (opinions about events and publications). Various categories of sources were taken into account.

**Results.** The activities of several scientific institutions (including IPA and IMACSSS) over the past year were discussed. A review of new publications in the interdisciplinary area of fighting arts was performed. Reference was also made to selected mass culture content (martial arts cinema) and some popularizing publications.

**Conclusions.** The regularity of annual events, such as IPA meetings, seminars and summer camps, IMACSSS conferences, or other regular events, demonstrates an established institutional order. The traditions of given organizations are being built. In turn, new publications prove that the world of science is still interested in the area of fighting arts, as well as new ideas and scientific problems in this very interesting area that go beyond the scope of physical culture.

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1 I.e. International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society, and Idokan Poland Association.

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## Introduction

Science in the area of fighting arts (combat sports, martial arts, self-defense systems) is constantly being developed by scientific institutions (universities, specialized associations) and independent researchers. It is worth monitoring the functioning of these companies, especially the effects of their activities.

The issue undertaken by the authors is to describe the process of research, scientific meetings and publication of new knowledge. The theoretical perspective is provided by GTFA (General Theory of Fighting Arts), and the place of observation is provided by institutions co-creating or cooperating in this area. The study concerns the period from October 2022 to October 2023.

The analysis covers the historical and philosophical background, the activities of specialized scientific societies and universities, conferences, workshops, and other meetings, as well as new, more important scientific publications. It is a kind of review, factual and review study (opinions about events and publications). Various categories of sources were taken into account. This is filmography, internet content, and popularizing publications. Obviously, content analysis and discussion of the literature on the subject – strictly scientific – were also carried out.

The following fragments refer to the historical background with references to several anniversaries and important figures, to philosophical reflection on martial arts (academic philosophy), to the symbolism of mythology and spiritual culture, and to the practice of functioning of selected institutions. Then, more important events and publications were mentioned with a short review, which is also illustrated by photo material.

## Anniversaries of important figures

The year 2013 marks the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth and the 480<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of a famous Pole, **Mikolaj Kopernik** / Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543) – polyhistor: lawyer, official, diplomat, lower Catholic clergyman, doctor of canon law, medic, astronomer, mathematician, also dealing with economics, military strategy, cartography and philology. The Nicolaus Copernicus Academy was established in Poland, the World Copernican Congress was held (Torun, Feb. 19-21, 2023), and the first Copernican Prozesses were established and awarded.

A year earlier was the 570th birthday of another great European genius, an extremely versatile and creative man – **Leonardo da Vinci** (1452-1519), whose designs are still interesting from the perspective of military technology. For example, flying machines (although not very similar to those sketched by master da Vinci) are widely used today both in the economy and in the

military. 490 years ago, **Stefan Batory** (1533-1586), the victorious king of Poland of Hungarian origin, was born. He „was and still is very popular among Poles” [Nabywaniec 2022: 30].

150 years ago, **Eugeniusz Piasecki** (1872-1947), an outstanding figure in the theory of physical education / physical culture sciences in Poland, was born [Toporowicz 1988; Luczak, Wyszowska 2022]. Last year was also the 130th anniversary of the birth and the 50th anniversary of the death of the mutual hero of Poland and the USA. It was General **Merian C. Cooper** (1893-1973). In 1919–1920, he fought as a lieutenant colonel pilot of the Polish Army in the war against Bolshevik Russia. He later worked as a filmmaker, winning an Oscar for his *King Kong* film. He also realized in his life the model of a noble and creative man – *Homo Creator Nobilis* [cf. Cynarski, Szajna 2017].

Three more famous figures are worth mentioning directly from the world of martial arts. These are:

**Kyuzo Mifune** (1883-1965) – 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of this outstanding *judoka*, 10 dan;

**Morihei Ueshiba** (1883-1969) – anniversary of the birth of modern *aikido* founder;

**Bruce Lee** (1940-1973) – 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the premature death of the phenomenal Little Dragon, martial arts cinema star and reformer of traditional martial arts [more: Cynarski 2021].

It was M. Ueshiba and B. Lee in particular who developed not only the technical sphere of martial arts but also contributed to the evolution of fighting arts. They also introduced new ideas into philosophical reflection on this area [cf. Lee 1975; Ueshiba 1997; Bryant 2019; Cynarski 2022].

## Philosophical reflection

**Jan Szymd** [2022] wrote about the crisis of man and Western civilization. His work is of impressive size, but not exaggerated – 552 pages. It refers to the views of such great humanists as Z. Bauman, N. Chomsky, Y.N. Harari, M. Houellebecq, L. Kołakowski, K.Z. Lorenz, M.C. Nussbaum, A. Perez-Reverte, and H.D. Skolimowski. But isn't it the crisis of values (when anti-decalogue and anti-values replace Christian values) that causes the crisis of civilization? Maybe it is worth looking for other diagnoses – John Paul II, Roger Scruton or the late Erich Fromm? [Fromm 1989; John Paul II 2005; Szyszko-Bohusz 2006]. It should be noted, however, that in the index of names in this book we find representatives of very different worldviews [cf. Szymd 2022: 543-551]. However, intellectuals with liberal-left-wing views predominate. It is significant that in this circle we find such an alarm and a cry for help. Interestingly, the same Prof. Szymd considers martial arts as a kind of remedy for the progressive regression of humanity [Szymd 2013].

The same Krakow philosopher and educator also commented on the book “Philosophy of Martial Arts” [Cynarski 2022a], assessing it very positively. Well, this is probably the first, next to the excellent work by **Back and Kim** [2000], a book study of this specific philosophy in its academic understanding but also with an emphasis on its connection with the practice of martial arts. Prof. **Cynarski**, one of three living Grand Masters 10 dan of the *Idokan* organization, presents here issues common to many varieties of traditional and modernized martial arts (ontology, axiology, teleology), as well as the specific philosophy of *Ido* developed by *Idokan* leaders. In his opinion, the warrior’s way is today’s adaptation of philosophical Taoism [cf. van Ess 2021]. This twentieth book by the professor from Rzeszow was published bilingually – in Polish and English, so that its content was also accessible to foreign readers [see: Cynarski 2022a]. It was also highly appreciated by Prof. **Andrzej Pawlucki** [2023], a scientist representing the humanities of physical culture sciences. In turn, a separate work was published showing the specific philosophy of *Idokan karate*, functioning within the *Idokan* educational system (*sogo budo*) [Cynarski, Johnson 2023].

The periodical “Philosophies” published a special issue on the philosophy of martial arts – “The Philosophy and Science of Martial Arts”. It contains, among other things, an article which is an extension of a fragment from the above-mentioned book, with an emphasis on today’s understanding of the meaning of traditionally understood martial arts [Cynarski 2022b; cf. Cynarski 2023b]. It is good that the philosophical thought, currently developed in Europe by people from *Idokan*, IPA and IMACSSS, now reaches a wider audience. The scientific editor of this issue was Dr **Adam M. Croom** from the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

### In defence of Western civilization

50 years after the death of Prof. **John R.R. Tolkien** (1892-1973) and 20 years after the film adaptation of the third part of “The Lord of the Rings” – “The Return of the King” by Peter Jackson, Western civilization must defend itself. In 1920, the proud Polish nation defended Poland and Europe against the aggression of Bolshevik Russia. Now Ukraine, attacked from the east and south, is fighting heroically. Soldiers of the Russian Federation, as the aggressors from Moscow’s Mordor, are called orcs in the virtual space [cf. Gorny 2022; Korobeynikov *et al.* 2022b: 65]. Could Tolkien’s vision come true? Ukrainians are actually fighting for their freedom and indigenous European values. The relationship between national identification and morality and national security, which is the intuition of observers of social life, is justified by the security theory – as in the new book by Piwowarski and Czajkowski [2023: 9-166; cf. Margueritte 2021; Maciejewski 2022].

We find a humorous video on the Internet in which warriors from Tolkien’s novel ask not to call Russians orcs, because it offends them. These are war crimes that are unworthy even for barbarians [cf. YouTube 2022]. And this is all the more meaningful because Tolkien’s fantasy contains the symbolic meaning of the spiritual fight between Good and Evil. Anthropological analyzes of the literary entities of Middle-earth and Tolkien’s theology allow us to find this deeper layer of meaning in the image of the struggle of people, elves, dwarves and hobbits with the forces of Evil, with the temptation of power and violence [cf. Cynarski 2015; Kopec, Matusik, Michalski 2016; Adamiak 2021].

In September 2022, a new series titled *Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* [Amazon Studios & New Line Cinema 2022] was released. It is absurd to show dark-skinned dwarves and thus improve Tolkien’s world. Maybe Tolkien was not politically correct enough? But perhaps it is a kind of complement to the world created by an expert in European mythology, symbolism and linguistics. Young Galadriel, an elven warrior, does not give up in the fight against the forces of evil, shaming her cowardly mates. The elven king also avoids confrontation with the manifestation of evil. Isn’t this similar to what some politicians do today? Prof. David Engels, in an interview with Goran Andrijanic [2022], is very critical of the Amazon Prime series based on the first season (episodes 1-8); namely, he accuses it of a departure from the Christian spirit and values – the world described by Tolkien. However, in the opinion of the authors’ of this study, this spirit has been preserved.

### Functioning of the institution

The study concerns the organization and management in the field of martial arts and scientific institutions related to it. Our organization operates actively on a national scale. The new members of **IPA & IMACSSS** are Mr. Pawel Szabelski, Dariusz Rochowiak, and Mariusz Opala, instructors of *Signum Polonicum* from Bydgoszcz and Warsaw. *Jujutsuka* Leszek Lubas (Master of Economics), *karateka* Mariusz Ozog (Master of Science in Chemistry), *jujutsuka* Dr Grzegorz Nycz (political scientist), Dr *hab.* also joined the IPA. Grzegorz Lech (physical culture sciences, 2<sup>nd</sup> dan *judo*), Dr Katarzyna Szczepanik (1<sup>st</sup> dan *judo*), Dr Renata Grzywacz (sociologist), Lidia Kwiatkowska-Skotnicka, MA (administration), Dr Grzegorz Kuzara (safety sciences, *jujutsu* trainer 6<sup>th</sup> dan). Father Dr Stanislaw Dyndal (educator and theologian, 4<sup>th</sup> dan *judo*) became an ordinary member. Similarly also – Mr. Tadeusz Wasacz, Brazilian *jiu-jitsu* trainer (1<sup>st</sup> dan) from Tarnów and Wiktor Osiadacz, fencing instructor of the Zablocki School from Warsaw. Subsequently, Mr. was granted IPA membership. Pawel Kepczynski

(lawyer) – boxing, horse riding and *wushu* instructor, also representing the Zablocki School. In turn, Kornel Kalka and Kamila Trzcinska, M.A. from the *Signum Polonicum* centre in Wrocław joined both associations.

Obviously, there is some turnover as some members cease to be active within the IPA for a variety of reasons. Others become more active. Prof. Dr Rudolf Jakhel (Slovenia, 10<sup>th</sup> dan *karate*) was a supporting member and also became an ordinary member, which gives passive and active voting rights. Moreover, the *Karatedo* Section of Dan Committee was strengthened by sensei Anatoliy Lozovyy from Ukraine (6<sup>th</sup> dan). He is a trainer, activist, researcher and theoretician of *karate* [cf. Lozovyy 2023].

Dr Waldemar Sikorski (1937-2022), senior of the *Judo* Section of IPA Dan Committee, 8<sup>th</sup> dan *judo*, passed away. He was the president of the Polish Judo Association in 1985-88 [more: Cynarski 2021: 153-154]. He cooperated with IPA and the editorial staff of our Journal. Also in 2022 (March 27), sensei Ichiro Abe, 10<sup>th</sup> dan *Kodokan judo*, died at the age of 99.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IPA, we find individual successes of members of our Association. Dr Pawel Piepiora obtained his post doctoral degree (Wrocław University of Science and Technology, autumn 2022). Artur Krzyzanowski, M.A. (*karate* coach) obtained a PhD in humanities in the field of sociology. Piotr Jaskolski, MSc. obtained the title of *kaiden shihan* at the *Okuyama-ryu aiki-jujutsu* school. By the way, this *budoka* is also a holder of a black belt in *Idokan karate / Zendo karate Tai-te-tao*. Jacek Gajewski, M.A., received the Medal of the National Education Commission as a distinguished teacher. He is, among other things, the co-author of a two-volume edition of *Polish Chess Champions* [Gajewski, Konikowski 2020, 2022] with a total volume of 320+342 pages. On February 8, 2023, J. Gajewski defended his doctoral thesis entitled *Women's Chess in Poland in the years 1945 – 1989* (Institute of History, UR), which was prepared under the supervision of Prof. Cynarski. As a result, he obtained a PhD in humanities in the field of history. In turn, Andrzej Kedra and Lukasz Rydzik, PhD students of Prof. T. Ambrozy, obtained doctorates in physical culture sciences (AWF, Cracow). Dr A. Kedra (7 dan sports *jujutsu*) also joined the IPA.

IPA participated in local events, such as the Independence Day celebration in Strzyzow, where on November 11, 2022, Polish patriotism was represented by numerous institutions, including again the banner group of this Association [Photo 1].

The Rzeszow Institute of Physical Culture Studies, University of Rzeszow (UR) is also an institution where research in the area of fighting arts is carried out. This is facilitated by the full academic rights of this Institute and doctoral studies based on research and dissertations thematically related to fighting arts. Both the research base and the intellectual potential support inter-centre research are carried out here [Photo 2].



**Photo 1.** In front of the monument of Marshal J. Pilsudski – IPA representation: W.J. Cynarski, D. Ziobro, A. Hajduk, D. Materna-Ziobro, J. Kulpinski. Strzyzow 2022 [courtesy of Dr J. Kulpinski].



**Photo 2.** Institute of Physical Culture Studies, UR – research on combat sports competitors. Standing from the left are Professors: Wojciech J. Cynarski and Wojciech Czarny (UR), Tadeusz Ambrozy (AWF Krakow), Pavel Ruzbarsky (University of Presov, Slovakia) [courtesy of Prof. T. Ambrozy].

Recently, the following events took place:

October 13-15, 2022 – **Congress of IMACSSS** in Rzeszow. It was actually the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of IMACSSS & 5<sup>th</sup> World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts. About a hundred people took part. 52 abstracts were submitted for review. Papers were presented in three plenary and five parallel thematic sessions, as well as in a poster session. There was also a Martial Arts Gala with demonstrations [cf. Photo 4], Panel of Grand Masters, and methodical and training workshops in several types of fighting arts. The centuries-old traditions of national martial arts, Polish and Ukrainian, were discussed in the Grand Masters Panel by Zbigniew Sawicki and Volodymyr Pilat, holders of the honorary titles of hetman. The martial arts *Signum Polonicum* and *Boiovyi hopak* were also presented during the Gala. Invited speakers were Prof. Kantaro Matsui (Japan), Prof. Kurt Weis (Germany), and Prof. Zdenko Reguli (Czech Rep.).



**Photo 3.** 1<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session and Prof. Matsui's keynote speech. From the left: Dr Patrycja Zeglen, Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski, Prof. Kantaro Matsui [courtesy of Dr K. Kubala].



**Photo 4.** Sabre fencing shown by the instructor Jakub Pokojski from Katowice (*Signum Polonicum*) during the Martial Arts Gala at the IMACSSS Congress in Rzeszow, Oct. 14, 2022 [courtesy of Dr K. Kubala].

Prof. Matsui (President of International Budo University / IBU in Chiba, Director of Japanese Budo Academy / JAB in Tokyo, 5 dan *tankendo*) is the author of the interesting project “Budo for the disabled”. His paper: “Another invitation to Budo for the disabled – Junction of Western and Eastern philosophy” significantly combined various concepts of European and Japanese thought, approaching man as a whole [Photo 3]. This also translates well into practical, pedagogical application. Similarly, from a general humanistic perspective, the lecture by Prof. Weis – “Martial Arts: New Paths on Old Tracks Toward Perfect Human Being”. Due to his legal, sociological and anthropological-cultural education, the approach to the indicated issue was intertwined with the perspectives of, respectively, a case study, a general social approach and analyzes of the cultural context. In turn, Prof. Reguli (6<sup>th</sup> dan *aikido*) discussed the case of the International Aikido Marathon. It was a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the phenomenon of this event. The speaker pointed out that in *aikido*, instead of competition, typical of various sports, there is cooperation. This is, by the way, very similar

to the idea of training combat in *Zendo karate Tai-te-iao* [cf. Cynarski 2022a: 136-141].

Prof. W. J. Cynarski chaired the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee. He was elected President of IMACSSS for the term 2022-2026. Professors A. Figueiredo, C. Gutierrez-Garcia, K. Matsui, and Z. Reguli were elected vice presidents, and as other members of the Advisory Board – Professors: Zhang Guodong, J. A. Johnson, M. N. M. Shapie, A. Vences de Brito, and M. Vit. The following people were re-elected to the Audit Committee: Prof. Zbigniew Borysiuk, Prof. Wojciech Czarny and Dr Gabriel Szajna.

During the Closing Ceremony, Prof. Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia received the diploma of an honorary member of IPA and the Golden Medal of IMACSSS. The same kind of medal was awarded to Wojciech J. Cynarski, Abel Figueiredo, Zdenek Regula, Mohamad N. M. Shapie and Antonio Vences de Brito. Dr Shapie mentioned here – the leader of Malaysian *silat*, also received the Medal & Expert-Professor of Martial Arts title from EMAC / European Martial Arts Committee. The evaluation committee, chaired by Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia, awarded two people the Young Researcher Award of IMACSSS / YRA 2022. It was awarded to Hazim Samsudin from Malaysia and Phoebe Grandfield from England, UK. It was also announced that the best works will be published in whole in “*Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology*” [cf. Kubala, Pawelec 2022], which has already happened (additional issue no. 5).



**Photo 5.** Certificate for 10 dan *karate* for Prof. J. Piwowarski – Rzeszow, General Assembly of IPA, March 25, 2023 [courtesy of Prof. W.J. Cynarski].

March 25, 2023 – **XXX IPA Symposium** in Rzeszow. Actually: IPA 30<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Commemoration Symposium “Martial Arts and Combat Sports in Scientific Research”. It was opened by Prof. Wojciech Czarny, director of the Institute, and Prof. W. J. Cynarski, pres-

ident of IMACSSS, patron of this Symposium. Nine papers were presented. Perhaps the most interesting one, regarding Dr Andrzej Bryl and the BAS-3 system, was delivered by Dr Tomasz Maczuga, a specialist in self-defence, intervention and combat systems. The others concerned a wide range of issues addressed from the perspective of history, pedagogy, sociology, biomechanics and sports training theory. There was also an interesting discussion, which is the essence of this type of scientific meetings. For various reasons, as in similar situations, not everyone remained to the end to be included in the photo at the end [Photo 6].



**Photo 6.** There is a small group of participants who stayed until the end of the IPA Symposium 2023. Aula of the Institute of Physical Culture Sciences of the University of Rzeszow [courtesy of Prof. W.J. Cynarski].



**Photo 7.** President Cynarski received the Gold Cross of Merit – accompanied by students M. Ozog and P. Pawelec in the Column Hall of the Provincial Office in Rzeszow, March 28, 2023 [courtesy of Mrs. E. Cynarska].

On the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, certificates for higher master levels were awarded. They were awarded to, among others: Zbigniew Sawicki (10 dan) and Marcin Zablocki (9 dan) – in Polish traditional saber fencing; Juliusz Piwowarski (10<sup>th</sup> dan) [Photo 5] and Dariusz Bajkowski (8<sup>th</sup> dan) – *karate*. The president of the IPA awarded Prof. Zbigniew Borysiuk the Warrior of the Noble

Path Medal. In turn, three days later, the president of the IPA received a state distinction from the Podkarpackie Voivode – the Golden Cross of Merit – for many years of social work [Photo 7]. At the same time, the Polish Martial Arts Federation (Warsaw) awarded W. J. Cynarski “Golden Cross of Merit for Martial Arts, Class I”.

Moreover, a special certificate of thanks was given to Mr. Janusz Wlodyka, principal of Primary School No. 2 in Strzyzow, for very good, long-term cooperation with the Strzyzow *karate* and *jujutsu* section, and IPA.



**Photo 8.** Certificates were presented to members of the Dan Committee of the Polish Sports Ju-Jitsu Association. Standing from the left there are: Roman Zielinski (president), Tadeusz Ambrozy (10<sup>th</sup> dan), W.J. Cynarski (10<sup>th</sup> dan), Andrzej Filus (9<sup>th</sup> dan). Silesian Open, Katowice, June 11, 2023 [courtesy of E. Cynarska and W. J. Cynarski].

Within several Polish, German, Japanese and international cooperating martial arts organizations, and as a result of cooperation between some of them, promotions to higher ranks took place. They included:

Antoni Zajkowski (Poland) received 9 dan *judo* (2022); Klaus Haertel (Germany) – 10 dan *jujutsu* (Jan. 2023); Harald Weitmann (Germany) – 10 dan *Okinawa karate* and 10 dan *kobudo* (Feb. 2023);

Wojciech J. Cynarski – 7 dan *iaido* and *kyoshi* title (Feb.-March 2023); and 10 dan *jujutsu* (May 2023) [more: Cynarska 2023];

Tadeusz Ambrozy (Poland) – 9 dan sports *jujutsu* of *Idokan*; and 10 dan *jujutsu* from Polish Sports Ju-Jitsu Association (May 2023), 9 dan *goshin-jutsu* from IPA (June 2023);

Andrzej Filus – 9 dan *jujutsu* from Polish Sports Ju-Jitsu Association (May 2023) [Photo 8];

Stanislaw Cynarski – 10 dan *aiki-jujutsu* from IPA and SWKO (June 2023);

Fuminori Nakiri (Japan) – 8 dan *kendo* (July 2023); Juliusz Piwowarski (Poland) – 9 dan in kickboxing (Sep. 2023); Pawel Piepiora – 8 dan *karate, kyoshi* (Sep. 2023). Significantly, Prof. Dr Nakiri passed an extremely difficult 8<sup>th</sup> dan exam in *kendo* at the age of 76, impressing with his precision and speed.

On May 1, 2023, Prof. Zbigniew Dziubinski (AWF Warsaw) visited Strzyzow. He received the Knight's Order "*Homo Creator Nobilis*" from the president of the IPA [Photo 9]. In turn, this Warsaw sociologist presented Prof. Cynarski Medal of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary "For Merits for Salos RP" – on behalf of the Salesian Sports Organization of the Republic of Poland.



**Photo 9.** Knight's Order "*Homo Creator Nobilis*" for Zbigniew Dziubinski. Strzyzow, May 1, 2023 [courtesy of Prof. W.J. Cynarski].

The former IMAF (International Martial Arts Federation) world champion in *karate* forms (Tokyo, 2000) – Marcus Gutzmer – received the rank of 7<sup>th</sup> dan *karate*. In turn, the European IMAF leaders Hans-Dieter Rauscher and Christine Rauscher were promoted to 8<sup>th</sup> dan *iaido*. They practise the *Eishin-ryu iaido* style under the supervision of *meijin* Kenji Tose (1924-2010) and Hidetoshi Iwasa (9<sup>th</sup> dan, *hanshi*). There are also other martial arts organizations and institutions. The World *Takeda-ryu Marotokan* Federation (WTMF) awarded higher ranks. Among others: 8 dan *aiki-jujutsu* was received by Marc Fourneryon and Michel Hennequin, 6 dan *aiki-jujutsu* – Jean-Paul Sliwinski, 7 dan – Jaques Pou (all from France), and 7 dan – Gattuso Salvatore from Belgium. Nicole Lecompte (France) received 4 dan *iaido* WTMF. The Leader of this Federation was honoured by the *Signum Polonicum* Association with the Slutsk belt – a noble "belt of dignity". This is the result of fruitful Polish-French cooperation in the study of historical martial arts [*Aiki Goshindo Kaishi* 2023: 26-30].

### Other important events

Symposium in Munich and Weichs, Germany (February 12-19, 2023) – **Tradition & Innovation in Teaching Martial Arts, Part 3**: It was another expert meeting with the participation of leaders of several cooperating martial

arts institutions. As part of this, training workshops in Hebertshausen and Munich [Photo 10] were held in the field of *jujutsu-karate*, *Zendo karate Tai-te-tao* and *iaido*, but there were also lectures, analyzes of video recordings and discussions. The teachers were Lothar Sieber, Hannelore Sieber, W.J. Cynarski and Christian Brandt.



**Photo 10.** Self-defence *jujutsu-karate* workshop. From the left – Wolfgang Kroetz (6 dan) and Hannelore Sieber (9 dan). Munich, Feb. 2023 [courtesy of Prof. W.J. Cynarski].

**XXXI Summer Camp Idokan Poland** in Chlapowo and Workshops of *Shibu Kobudo* in Jastarnia, Poland (Jun. 30 – Aug. 12, 2023) – *shihan* Stanislaw Cynarski, *Idokan aiki-jujutsu* 10 dan *hanshi*, *goshin-jutsu* 9 dan, *kodansha Yoshin-ryu jujutsu* and *ido, yudansha judo, karatedo* and *kenjutsu*, who celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 2022, was the co-host of the training. Wojciech J. Cynarski, technical director, was responsible for teaching of *Idokan Yoshin-ryu jujutsu* and *Idokan karate*, and Stanislaw – for advanced forms of *Tenshin-shoden Katorishinto-ryu bojutsu* and *kenjutsu*.



**Photo 11.** *Bojutsu gokyō* forms: *bo* vs. *bo* – S. and W.J. Cynarski, XXXI Summer Camp *Idokan Polska*, Chlapowo, August 2023 [courtesy of Prof. W.J. Cynarski].

A separate study on the **12<sup>th</sup> IMACSSS and JAB Conference** held in Osaka in September 2023 is already being prepared for publication.

We were invited to:

The Symposium on the occasion of awarding an honorary doctorate to Prof. Robert M. Malina (University of Texas at Austin, USA) took place on October 10, 2022 at the University of Physical Education in Poznan, **Poland**. This event was held under the patronage of IASK / International Association of Sport Kinetics and PAN / *Polska Akademia Nauk* (Polish Academy of Sciences).

"World Conference on Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Education (WCAHSSE-2022)" which was scheduled for October 24-25, 2022 in Valencia, **Spain**.

3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress "Quality of Life in Interdisciplinary Approach" in Kochcice, **Poland**, October 26-28, 2022, where a Chairman of Organizing Committee was Prof. UJD Jacek Wasik.

4<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Humanities and Social Sciences – November 14-15, 2022, in Bangkok, **Thailand**.

VI International Conference "Sustainable Development and Legacy in Sports: Challenges and Prospects", on November 16-17, 2022 at the National University of Ukraine for Physical Education and Sports, Kyiv, **Ukraine**.

10<sup>th</sup> Body of Tourism Experts – Dec. 6-8, 2022 in Lodz (**Łódź, Poland**). The main topic was "The Future of Tourism – Tourism of the Future".

Prof. **W. J. Cynarski** was invited as a Speaker to the Physiotherapy Webinar 2022 / 3<sup>rd</sup> "International E-Conference on Physiotherapy, Physical Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine" organised by United Research Forum during December 09-10, 2022 in London, **England / UK**.

15<sup>th</sup> International Rehabilitation Days, on February 16-17, 2023, in Rzeszow (UR), **Poland**.

International Scientific Conference "Integration and education of children of war refugees from Ukraine. Pedagogical, psychological and linguistic aspects", March 9-10, 2023, in Jaroslaw (PWSTE), **Poland**. It was actually a regional conference with foreign guests, very well organized.

Opening ceremony of the first Regional Tug-of-Rope Methodical and Training Centre in Poland – April 14, 2023, in Sichow Duzy, **Poland**. The organizers were Piotr Mazur – director of the School Complex of the Agricultural Education Center and Dariusz Bajkowski – president of the Polish Rope Tug Association.

The Annual International Conference on Sports: Economic, Management, Marketing & Social Aspects – organised by ATINER, Athens (**Greece**), May 8-9, 2023.

Scientific and Professional Conference "Applicable Research in Judo", June 19 – 20, 2023 in Porec, **Croatia**. The Conference was a part of the EJU Judo Festival 2023 and was conceived as an international meeting of Judo experts in different fields (scientific and professional).

2023 AIESEP International Conference – "Emerging Horizons: bridging the borders between Physical

Education Research and Practice", Santiago de Chile, **Chile**, July, 4 – 7, 2023.

European College of Sport Science – Special Interest Group on Comat Sports meeting – 5 July 2023 at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the European College of Sport Science / ECSS, Paris (**France**), under the patronage of "RAMA".

15<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Business and Social Sciences (15<sup>th</sup> GCBSS) in Bangkok, **Thailand**, September 14-15, 2023. There will be discussions about universities, other academic institutions, the best scientific journals, etc.

Prof. Cynarski was also invited by Meghaz Meetings to be invited speaker at International Experts Summit on Traditional and Alternative Medicine (IESTAM2023) – October 4-6, 2023, 2023 held at Dubai, **UAE**. The goal was to deliver an outstanding programme with the right balance of technology relevance on Traditional and Alternative Medicine.

Prof. Jacek Wasik invited to participate in 4<sup>th</sup> World Scientific Congress "Quality of Life in Interdisciplinary Approach", Kochcice near Czestochowa city (**Poland**), on October 25-27, 2023.

## Chronicle of publication events

What new and interesting things has this next year brought, starting from October 2022?

The development of **physical culture** sciences in Central Europe has a longer tradition [cf. Cynarski 2014]. This is thanks to several generations of activists and scientists, in particular Eugeniusz Piasecki, to whom the Poznan University of Physical Education devoted a scientific conference and a multi-authored monograph. In 15 chapters (304 pp.), this book describes in many aspects the achievements of the patron of this Poznan university [Luczak, Wyszowska 2022]. Importantly, Prof. Piasecki also promoted *jujutsu*.

In turn, Andrzej Pawlucki's book [2022] – *Olympic Pedagogy. Homo physicus* (324 pages) was published in Krakow. In this original, **philosophical and pedagogical** approach, we find the author's statement on sport, physical culture, ancient and modern Olympism, as well as ethics and pedagogy in their ideological and ideological entanglements. This work is an important voice in the discussion about the meaning of the Olympic Games, a sports person, values and anti-values, and pedagogy itself [cf. Lipiec 1999; Kosiewicz 2008; Warchol, Cynarski 2012; Cynarski, Blazejewski, Pasterniak 2016]. Prof. Pawlucki also co-creates a new canon on the border between physical culture sciences, on the one hand, and humanities and social sciences, on the other. Prof. Pawlucki refers to ancient, mythical times; discusses the physical preparation of ancient European warriors and knights; and makes references to the pres-



ent. This author puts forward bold theses, not avoiding controversial issues.

Reverend Stanislaw Dyndal, who is a doctor of theology and pedagogy and at the same time a *judo* trainer with a 4<sup>th</sup> dan degree, published an interesting book. It contains a 570-page description of the author's educational practice and many years of research. *Judo* has been successfully used here in work with children and young people to educate them about values (not only physical culture) [Dyndal 2022]. According to UNESCO, “*judo* is the best initial sport for training children and adolescents aged 4 to 21,” which also works for people with autism [Waligora-Wylezek 2023].

The **sociological** discussion on physical culture included a reflection on two contradictory social orientations – communitarianism and liberalism. In a new, interesting book devoted to this [Dziubinski, Firek 2022] we find a chapter by W.J. Cynarski on the principle of *Jita Kyoei*, introduced by master Jigoro Kano. This is quite a clear indication of a pro-social orientation (pp. 237-247). On the other hand, today's mass culture imposes fashion on extreme individualism and selfish consumerism.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Polish Ju-Jitsu Association (PJJA), a monograph was needed on this sports jujutsu, as a variety of modern *jujutsu*. A book was created that presents a historical description. Admittedly, some facts were missing, such as the fact that IPA came into existence in March 1993, i.e. earlier than PJJA. However, this is the first book about the recent history of this sport, and as such it deserves even more attention. Moreover, it takes into account legal aspects and issues of training and management psychology [Kisiel *et al.* 2022]. In turn, there was a division and now a separate Polish Sports Ju-Jitsu Association (*Polski Związek Ju-Jitsu Sportowego* – PZJJS) operates.

A scientific monograph and an academic textbook were published (in Polish and English) – **Sociology of fighting arts** [Cynarski 2023a]. This is the 35<sup>th</sup> volume in The Lykeion Library series. The study concerns traditional martial arts practised on a global scale, combat sports, local traditional sports, martial arts culture and ideological justifications. The editorial review was performed by Prof. Z. Dziubinski, sports sociologist.

Dr George Jennings is the author of the book (222 pages) published in the Sport in East and Southeast Asian Societies series. Geopolitical, Political, Cultural and Social Perspectives. As assessed by Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski (we quote the opinion in full):

“The Author presents the situation of selected martial arts traditions of China and Europe in today's social contexts. At the same time, he shows both social sensitivity and broad erudition. However, the author's theses of G. Jennings are the most interesting (among the descriptions). For example, his research on Mexican traditions brings a fresh perspective to the analysis of cultural influences and theoretical reflection on the heritage of

martial arts. Also, the qualitative methodology used here is most appropriate for an in-depth description of the attitudes of martial artists. It includes, but is not limited to, autoethnography. I highly recommend this book to researchers and enthusiasts of martial arts / fighting arts.”

An American, Richard Marsden, cooperating with the IPA Fencing Commission, has published his new book that is the historical masters' view of bad fencing and a modern interpretation for teachers and students (134 pp.) [Marsden 2021]. He begins his critical reflection on **HEMA** (Historical European Martial Arts) with the remarks of fencing master Johannes Liechtenauer from around 1400. This is an analysis of fencing with swords, rapiers and daggers. This type of reflection is justified by the popularity of HEMA, while the restoration of forgotten martial arts in their technical sphere is associated with the risk of errors and departure from the original form. The technique and methods of training/teaching are recreated [McLean 2022].

A special issue **Martial Arts Revisited** was published in the journal „Theatre, Dance and Performance Training”. Guest co-editors were Professors Paul Allain, Thomas Wilson and Grzegorz Ziolkowski. This edition contains 17 texts by various authors plus an editor. This number includes an article devoted to the topic: *The applicability of historical Japanese and Polish fencing to the development of acting competences* [Cynarski 2022c]. In particular, Prof. Ziolkowski, a long-time practitioner of the *Yang* style of *taijiquan*, demonstrates extensive erudition in both acting and martial arts [Ziolkowski 2022]. Martial arts are a cultural heritage that cannot be reduced to just subsequent sports disciplines or forms of physical recreation. For example, *sumo* is an ancient sport, but also a *Shinto* ritual and a fragment of Japanese cultural heritage [cf. Skwarczynski 2023].

PWN Scientific Publishing House has published a book devoted to the **theory of tourism** [Rozycki 2022]. On 400 pages, we find a scientific arrangement of a number of issues, terminological issues, classifications, and conditions. The novelty is the humanistic approach, with references to *belles-lettres*. In particular, **martial arts tourism** was taken into account here [Rozycki 2022: 310-311], which is important for the GTFA canon – General Theory of Fighting Arts.

Can martial arts tourism concern the victorious leader of the Heavenly Armies – St. Michael the Archangel, who was able to cast fallen angels who rebelled against God into hell? We know from the Bible that he used his fiery sword. It is a **symbolic image** of the eternal fight against evil and individual spiritual struggle. With the sword of the Saint the route from Ireland to Israel was named after Michael the Archangel – a straight line connecting seven sanctuaries dedicated to him [Zak 2022].

The choirs of angels described in the *Old Testament* are still relevant in the *Gospel of the New Testament* [Is

6:2-3; Mt 28:3-4; Ps 91:11; Newman 1999; Carrell 2005], and God’s messengers, as spiritual beings helping people (guardian angels), influence our reality. We gain knowledge about God’s messengers from the Bible and works on angelology, theology and philosophy [Pseudo-Dionysius 6th c.; Barker 2004; Stepien 2009; Borscht 2021]. We know that archangels’ names – in Hebrew *Mika-el* (who is like God), *Gabri-el* (God’s power), *Rafa-el* (God heals and saves) – refer to the command of angelic armies, the transmission of the mysteries of salvation, and divine help, respectively. and payment [Karp 2022]. Mięczysław Gogacz provided logical proof of their existence according to the purposefulness of the reason for the existence of human personality [Andrzejuk 2009]. Angels, as complex symbols of spiritual Good, also co-create the reality of Western symbolic culture [Cynarski 2022a: 82-86]. So it is no coincidence that the saint Michael the Archangel is the patron of Christian knights, IPA and the city of Strzyżów, where the headquarters of our Journal is located.

**Training in combat sports** requires interdisciplinary approaches including “psychophysiological state”. The article by Korobeynikov *et al.* presents this based on the example of elite wrestlers. [2022a]. This approach takes into account the perspectives of sports psychology and exercise physiology. Also, a connection between neurodynamics and cognitive functions among athletes practising different martial arts should be investigated and indeed is already being done [Korobeynikov *et al.* 2021]. In turn, neuromuscular functions and the visual perception strategies in fencing are analyzed in interesting articles by Witkowski *et al.* [2018] and Borysiuk *et al.* [2020]. This is the direction in which today’s training theory in combat sports should go. Just like the training itself – in the concept of holistic training [Ambrozy 2005; Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2005; *cf.* Szyszko-Bohusz 1989] – it requires taking into account the diversity of conditions and methods, exercises and stimuli, training research also requires comprehensive, interdisciplinary approaches. A sports result is important, but also is care for the athlete’s health, which distinguishes an athlete from a gladiator [*cf.* Lenartowicz, Dobrzycki, Jasny 2023].

In addition to strictly empirical research, it is worth reaching for the statements of outstanding martial arts masters who draw their knowledge from their own many years of practical experience and the experience of previous generations. This is done by Emil Farkas [2022], who quotes the statements of famous – especially in the USA – representatives of the world of martial arts. In turn, the actual picture of the emergence of martial arts, organizational development and changes in teaching content is sometimes different than the officially popularized one. Alex Gillis [2023], whose book has just been published in Polish, describes it using the example of *taekwondo*. Political and business interests, participation of intelligence services and the leaders’ own ambitions have influenced the path of sports development and the global popularity of this fighting art.

How are martial arts presented in the area of mass culture (cinema, film, TV)? It is worth highlighting the third season of the series “The Mandalorian” [Favreau, Giancarlo 2023], the action of which takes place in the universe of “Star Wars”. Here there are knights with traditional rules of the code of honour but armed with ultra-modern weapons (space technology of the future). The eternal struggle against the forces of evil is shown, exemplified by people with neo-imperial aspirations. However, in the film “John Wick 4” [Stahelski 2023] we find long-unseen, well-made fight scenes. The main character (Keanu Reeves) is good with firearms, *nunchaku* and hand-to-hand combat.

## Summary

The activities of several scientific institutions (including IPA and IMACSSS) over the past year were discussed. A review of new publications in the interdisciplinary area of fighting arts was performed. Reference was also made to selected mass culture content (martial arts cinema) and some popularization publications. What conclusions can we draw from this?

The regularity of annual events, such as IPA meetings, seminars and summer camps, IMACSSS conferences, or other cyclical events, as well as the publication of specialized scientific journals (such as in particular “Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”) testify to the established institutional order. The traditions of given organizations are being built. In the case of IPA – Idokan Poland Association – it has been over 30 years of regular activity.

In turn, new publications prove that the world of science is still interested in the area of fighting arts, as well as new ideas and scientific problems in this very interesting area that goes beyond the scope of physical culture. Therefore, the context of high culture was taken into account – philosophical, symbolic (cultural archetypes) and the temporal dimension (historical context).

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## Obszar studiów *fighting arts* Anno Domini 2023: rozwój organizacyjny i naukowy

**Słowa kluczowe:** *fighting arts*, studia sztuk walki, publikacje naukowe, turystyka sztuk walki, symbolika, wydarzenia, zarządzanie

### Streszczenie

Problem. Nauka w obszarze *fighting arts* jest stale rozwijana. Jak ten proces przebiega z perspektywy GTFA (*General Theory of Fighting Arts*) i instytucji współkreujących lub współpracujących na tym obszarze? Praca dotyczy okresu od października 2022 do października 2023.

Metoda. Analiza dotyczy tła historycznego i filozoficznego, działalności wyspecjalizowanych towarzystw naukowych i uczelni, odbytych konferencji, warsztatów i innych spotkań, a także nowych, ważniejszych publikacji naukowych. Jest to swego rodzaju opracowanie przeglądowe, faktograficzne i recenzyjne (opinie o wydarzeniach i publikacjach). Uwzględniono przy tym różne kategorie źródeł.

Wyniki. Omówiono aktywność kilku instytucji naukowych (między innymi SIP i IMACSSS) w ciągu minionego roku. Wykonany został przegląd nowych publikacji w interdyscyplinarnym obszarze *fighting arts*. Odniesiono się także do wybranych treści kultury masowej (kino sztuk walki) i niektórych publikacji popularyzatorskich.

Wnioski. Regularność odbywania się corocznych wydarzeń, jako zjazdy, seminaria i obozy letnie IPA, konferencje IMACSSS, lub inne cykliczne imprezy, świadczy o ustalonym porządku instytucjonalnym. Budowane są tradycje danych organizacji. Z kolei nowe publikacje świadczą o żywym wciąż zainteresowaniu świata nauki obszarem *fighting arts*, nowych pomysłach i problemach naukowych w tym jakże interesującym obszarze, który wykracza poza zakres kultury fizycznej.