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## IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ANTONI KUKLIŃSKI,

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Professor Antoni Kukliński – the outstanding Polish geographer and specialist in planning and land management; as well as regional studies in the broadest sense – died on August 8th 2015, and was buried five days later at Powązki Cemetery in Warsaw. His passing was marked with due commemoration, as well as great sadness, by his family, and by a large group of friends and former students, as well as representatives of different academic centres and employees of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Antoni Kukliński was born on June 2nd 1927 in the city of Bydgoszcz, to Rafał Kukliński and Eugenia née Biegaj. He was awarded the degree of Master of Economic and Political Sciences in 1950, gaining a diploma as a Master of Legal Science shortly thereafter. He had the good fortune to be a student of Profs. Edward Taylor, Czesław Znamierowski

and Józef Czekalski, and it was the latter in particular who imbued the young student with a love for economic geography. For the next three years he would serve as Assistant to this very well-known Poznań geographer.

It was during that period that he met up with Maria Mileska and Jerzy Kostrowicki, and through them became acquainted with Stanisław Leszczycki, who would soon have a post to offer him at the Polish Academy of Sciences' Institute of Geography that was just then taking shape. It was thus from 1954 up to the time of his death that Antoni Kukliński first worked at, and then cooperated with, the Institute that now bears Leszczycki's name. And from the outset, he threw himself fully into the different activities of the Institute, becoming one of its most active and effective members of scientific staff. The years 1962-1968 saw him head

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**VARIA: IN MEMORIAM**

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a newly-founded Department of Spatial Organisation, while between 1963 and 1995 he was also a Member of the Scientific Council of what was first the Institute of Geography PAS, and then the Academy's *Instytut Geografii i Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania* (Institute of Geography and Spatial Organisation).

Antoni Kukliński became a participant in the famous *Wunderteam* that led the transformation of Polish socioeconomic geography from the years 1956-7 onwards, on the wave of the so-called 'Polish October'. In collaboration with Stanisław Leszczycki, Kazimierz Dziewoński, Jerzy Kostrowicki, Zbyszko Chojnicki, Andrzej Wróbel and Leszek Kosiński, he managed to reform Polish geography, toppling the pseudo-Marxist model that was encrusting Soviet geography, and installing in its place a modern geography able to draw on the global intellectual output. In 1959, at Nieborów, he proved capable of organising the First Polish-British Seminar, at which he presented the state of – and prospects for – development, of Polish socioeconomic geography<sup>1</sup>.

At the same time, the whole 1954-1967 period saw Antoni Kukliński serve as Scientific Secretary to the Editorial Office of *Przegląd Geograficzny*, which became a high-ranking scientific publication in the process.

A further initiative which he pursued jointly with Stanisław Leszczycki and Stanisław Hejman entailed the establishment of the Polish Academy of Sciences' *Komitet Przestrzennego Zagospodarowania Kraju* (Committee for the Spatial Economy and Regional Planning). Founded in this way was a scientific institution existing through to the present day, and playing a unique role in the development of planning and land management in Poland.

The subject of Antoni Kukliński's Doctoral Thesis had been *Struktura przestrzenna przemysłu cegielnego* (The Spatial Structure

of the Brickmaking Industry), for which the *viva* took place in 1958. This work would go on to serve as the conduit for habilitation in 1962, in line with a published book on "Spatial Issues in the Development of the Cement Industry". The content of these two works offered methodological bases for the development of industrial geography in Poland, all the more so given an innovativeness arising out of stay in the United States in the years 1958-9, and consequent fuller acquaintanceship with the theoretical output of geography, economics and sociology. This was all made possible by a Ford Foundation Scholarship that allowed Kukliński to familiarise himself with the creative output of three famous academic institutions (Clark University, Harvard, and *Resources for the Future*).

It was in the course of his American stay that the young Polish geographers had direct encounters with such great academics as John Kenneth Galbraith, Edgar M. Hoover, Wassily Leontief and Harvey S. Perloff. These and other acquaintanceships allowed for closer cooperation with the best American universities, as well as with different UN agencies.

Indeed, a key moment in the life of Antoni Kukliński came with his 1965 appointment to the post of Consultant to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe based in Geneva, as well as the prestigious subsequent nomination to a position as Director of the Regional Studies Programme at UNRISD – the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development. Still a relatively young researcher, Kukliński continued with the posting in Geneva up until 1971. In that period, he carried out original research into the so-called comparative research model linking up with the dynamics to regional development on the scale of whole states or large administrative regions. The model devised in this way was put to practical use in both African and Asian countries, giving rise to extensive scientific documentation that gained the personal 'branding' of the Polish academic and expert.

On his return to Poland he commenced with an equally intensive period of his life,

<sup>1</sup> The political and social background to this Seminar may be read about in: KOSIŃSKI L., ŚLESZYŃSKI P., 2014. *Geographia Polonica: A window onto the world. An interview with Professor Leszek Antoni Kosiński*. *Geographia Polonica*, vol. 87, no. 2, pp. 277-294.

academic and publishing work. This was in association with his embarking upon activity at the University of Warsaw. It was there that – in 1977 – the overall creative output of Antoni Kukliński ensured his earning of a first professorial title. He rose to Full Professor in 1982. In the course of his University work, Antoni Kukliński also held key posts at the head of leading scientific institutions. For example, from 1977, he headed the Department of Spatial Management. He was also first an advocate and activist for, and then from 1996 the head of, the University of Warsaw's European Institute of Regional and Local Development, which came into existence in 1991 and has been known as the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies since 2002.

As the communist system fell and Poland regained full state sovereignty, Antoni Kukliński finally had a possibility to become more active on the political scene. In fact, Minister (Prof.) Krzysztof Skubiszewski nominated him Under-Secretary-of-State at Poland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He held the key post of Deputy Chair of the Polish Delegation to the United Nations in New York. Such diverse duties were being discharged simultaneously with both academic work and publishing activity.

Indeed, even formal retirement in 1997 did nothing to interrupt the intensive flow of scientific, publications and teaching work. Given the breadth of his knowledge and his interdisciplinary interests, Kukliński delivered lectures at the University of Warsaw entitled "The Issues of European Space", with these enjoying major success among both students and younger academic staff.

From 2005 onwards, Antoni Kukliński cooperated with the newly-established Ministry of Regional Development. He was co-editor of the *Regional Development Forum*

(REDEFO) series, and to the end of his life worked in collaboration with the *Polska 2000+* Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as the Polish Economic Society, at whose initiative he became a 2001 recipient of the Commander's Cross of the *Polonia Restituta* Order. He organised further international conferences devoted to the future of Poland, Europe and the world, with work following on from each of these being crowned by large publications of which he was Editor-in-Chief, as well as the author of inspiring articles and essays.

In his personal life, Antoni Kukliński was a direct and exceptionally open person of considerable charm, to whom opportunism was an entirely alien concept. It was at times with considerable personal courage that he presented his own views, notwithstanding what was – at times – a far-from-welcoming attitude on the part of the communist authorities. Throughout his life, he manifested an enlightened patriotism, and never covered up his strong links with Catholicism. He was particularly friendly to the young; and was involved in the upbringing of a large group of students who are invariably moved by their fond remembrances of friendly meetings with the Professor, at which he would willingly share the fruits of his erudition and experience.

There is no doubt that Prof. Antoni Kukliński was one of the outstanding Polish geographers of the second half of the 20th century, as well as the beginning of the new millennium. During his long life, he was forever introducing pioneering and original research concepts and paradigms that have together come to constitute the basis for the new scientific discipline that spatial planning and land management represent, as well as for modern regional studies.