

EDITORIAL

The presented collection of articles includes texts on the research and theoretical diversity concerning women and men, which are important for designing and implementing these issues in the educational systems. These articles are the result of the Women and Men: Differences, Similarities conference organized by the Department of Psychology of the Institute of Pedagogy of the University of Rzeszów in May 2019. the anniversary of the Psychology Department. It should be added that the conference Women and Men: Differences and Similarities was the continuation of the topic undertaken at an earlier conference in May 2016, which resulted in a monograph edited by the undersigned and Krystyna Węgrzyn-Białogłowicz, PhD and Anna Englert-Bator, MA. The topic of differences and similarities between men and women has become a permanent feature of the conference tradition of the Department of Psychology at the University of Rzeszów.

The problem of gender is one of the elementary and universal at the same time, it is present both in the everyday life of people from different cultures and communities, as well as in scientific research. The perception of the human gender influences mutual human communication, activates specific knowledge associated with it, influences widely understood social behaviour and shapes the identity of an individual. Gender is also an extremely important category accompanying the creation of romantic relationships. Unfortunately, in public space it often becomes the basis for ideologically created divisions of people and mutual hostility.

The category “gender” is one of the main variables that researchers take into account when looking for similarities between women and men on this issue, but also differences. In Stanley Milgram’s famous and well-known experiment, it has been shown that people are influenced by authorities. Under their persuasion they are obedient in dosing electrical shocks of the life threatening voltage of the so-called “free energy” so they are then prone to inflict physical suffering. However, in the Polish research conducted under the direction of Prof. Dariusz Doliński and published in 2017 in ‘Social Psychological and Personality Science’ it has been shown that this relationship modifies the sex of the ‘student’. In similar experimental conditions, the number of people refusing to give electric shocks to a “pupil” – and thus escaping from inflicting suffering – increases when the role of “pupil” is played by a woman. This is one of many examples of how the perception of the other person’s gender influences human behaviour.

Gender is defined differently in science: either in social terms or purely biological or psychological. This definition of the gender category diversity also opens up a wide range of research opportunities and the clash of different theoretical and research perspectives. It is therefore extremely inspiring and therefore always worthy of a discussion that rejects ideological stagnation and requires intellectual openness and attention.

Dear Readers, I'm very happy to hand over this collection of articles to you. I hope that they will meet with your interest and be useful in your scientific and didactic work. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the creation of this collection, including the reviewers and editors of the magazine "Education – Technology – Computer Science". You're welcome to read it.

We cordially invite you to read the collection of these articles.

Andrzej Łukasik