

IN MEMORY OF JANINA

Towards the end of the 1980s a young Polish researcher arrived in Rome for a study and work period at the IRP (Population Research Institute) directed by Professor Antonio Golini. Her name was Janina Józwiak, a “mathematical demographer” (as she liked to refer to herself at the time) from the Szkoła Główna Handlowa in Warsaw (which was already known in the international research community as the Warsaw School of Economics). And so it was in my own city that I came to know Janina in the late 1980s, and, from the start, our relations were marked by profound admiration and a deep friendship, which never flagged over the years.

Janina was an enthusiastic supporter of the changes taking place in her country in that period, and was keen to stand at the window that was opening onto Europe, with a view to entering the international research community as quickly as possible. Her expectations were met, and, in a few years, European demography was able to benefit from her research ability and her capacity as an organiser of international events. Already in the early 1990s, Janina was intensely involved in EAPS (European Association for Population Studies) activities, not only as a member of its Council (1995–1999), Vice-President (1999–2003) and President (2003–2008), but also in organising conferences and other meetings.

Our collaboration began on the Scientific Council of EAPS in 1995, and we at once established a warm rapport. When, as a General Secretary, I proposed that the Council organise the European Conference every two years rather than every four as had been the case until then, Janina was the only one to accept the challenge. But, having to respect the Council’s negative decision, she suggested a thematic conference at Cracow, bearing in mind particularly the young European demographers who, in that period, felt a certain shyness at large international events. A conference entitled *Variation on Common Themes* was held in 1997, two years after the previous European conference, and two years before the next. The Cracow Conference was a great success, and, thanks to Janina, led to the first intermediate conference of EAPS.

This shared work in organisation bound us even closer together. In 1999, when I was nominated the President of EAPS and Janina the Vice-President, I suggested the organisation of the 2003 European Conference at Warsaw. Janina accepted with her usual out-and-out enthusiasm, making available financial resources, an excellent staff, as well as her scientific and organizational capacities, and her energy. It was

in Warsaw that the presidency of EAPS was transferred to Janina. The choice was unanimous, and, from then on, the Council decided that the European Population Conferences (EPC) would be held every two years.

Obviously, organising two large European events brought us together constantly. The days spent together and the shared dinners have left me with an indelible memory of Janina – a great professional and, above all, a sensitive, intelligent, kind and generous woman.

The shared experiences did not end there. They continued in the work of the EDSD (European Doctoral School of Demography), both of us involved in organizing the School's biennial doctoral courses, first in Warsaw and then in Rome. In Warsaw, we met when Janina already seemed worn down by the first signs of her illness but nothing was ever said. Only during the EAPS Budapest Conference (2014) did Janina tell me about her health problems, but, as always, using a few simple words, in a calm, reassuring manner. She seemed very optimistic and I wanted to believe that her courage, combined with the therapy, would overcome her illness.

Janina was an extremely private person, who did not like talking about herself, whether of her professional or her private life. And so, any institutional recognition or success in her research was heard of only much later from third parties. Equally, her health problems were never mentioned in our rarer and rarer meetings.

Those, like me, who had the pleasure of enjoying her friendship and the benefiting from sharing scientific work and from her professional commitment, remember her with great affection upon her decease.

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