

In this Issue

The 16th issue of Warsaw Forum of Economic Sociology is rich and diverse in its content. However, there is a topic which seems to be forming a backbone of the current edition. It is a story of societies coming out of dark realities of authoritarian rule and heading towards democracy. Two tales – coming from Poland and Taiwan – while obviously different, surprisingly share many common features.

Witold Morawski tells us about democratic transformation in Poland, highlighting all its peculiarities, of which the most striking is the reversed sequence of events: usually the institutions of political democracy emerge first and define boundaries for industrial democracy but in Poland the process went exactly into opposite direction. Industrial democracy – incarnated in the 1st Solidarity – preceded political democracy but once the political transition was completed fell into obscurity.

Chia-Ming Chang and Artur Kościański sketch a picture on genesis and development of civil society in Taiwan. In the paper the authors include a detailed historical context to show that Taiwanese socio-political transformation from authoritarian rule into democracy, emergence of civil society and its current role in shaping of institutional order, co-governance, intermediation and representation of individual (also group) interest as well as the public interest have all been driven and formed in large part by legacy of Confucianism and country-specific factors.

Jun-deh Wu and Yi-bin Chang seek answer to the question whether socio-economic status (SES) has impact on citizens' propensity to participate in protest in Taiwan. Referring to the World Values Survey 2010–2012, the authors first come up with SES indicator, and then conduct structural equation modeling to test the mechanisms through which SES exerts influences. The findings are that people with higher SES are more likely to protest.

Łukasz Drozda turns to the phenomenon of uberisation process, at which he looks from the perspective of Neil Smith's rent gap theory using examples of Airbnb and Uber internet platforms and assessing their impact on Polish urban areas.

Elżbieta Czarny and Katarzyna Śledziwska compare the material structure of Poland's exports of goods to the European Union and to the United States using descriptive statistics. The authors study Poland's exports of goods to the EU and the U.S. based on the HS6 classification and analyse the leading producers of the most important goods in sales to both partners.

There is, finally, the second and final part of Aliaksandr Popko's paper on small and medium enterprise (SME) sector in Belarus. It is difficult to resist impression that every-day struggles of Belarussian businesspeople closely reflect the hardships Polish 'prywaciarze' (to find out more on who they were one needs to get acquainted with the book review which follows the paper directly) once suffered.

The volume concludes with a review of *No Country for Workers* by R. Woś, written by Magdalena Andrejczuk. The choice of the book may seem a bit unusual at first glance, as it is not an academic publication, whose author is a popular Polish journalist of young generation. However, due to the author's high media profile, the book drew considerable attention. Despite its shortcomings – which are discussed in the review – the book helped move issues long unfashionable such as labour and social failures of transformation in Poland into the spotlight, earning the right to be recognised by the academic community.

We sincerely hope that our readers will find the current edition of WFES not only interesting enough to read but also to address criticism and, most importantly, to submit their works to our journal.