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Report from e-Conference “Wybory parlamentarne i prezydenckie 2019–2020 w państwach europejskich. Nacjonalizmy – echo przeszłości czy nieuchronna przyszłość?”.

During subsequent restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic that are slowly alleviating all over the world, there is still a long way to completely eliminate the crisis. The new situation must also include scientists whose work is not limited to writing and conducting research at home. Research work also includes research trips, numerous conferences and seminars. All the more pleasing is the fact that in this difficult period, steps are taken to allow scientists to exchange thoughts, experiences and present the results of research to a wider audience.

On May 14, 2020, an online conference took place entitled „Wybory parlamentarne i prezydenckie 2019–2020 w państwach europejskich. Nacjonalizmy – echo przeszłości czy nieuchronna przyszłość?” It was organized by the Scientific Club of Political Consulting of the University of Silesia, under the auspices of the Scientific Publisher ArchaeGraph. The main organizers of the event were Anna Robak, MA, Barbara Krzewińska, MA and Zuzanna Sielska, MA. The conference was addressed to students, PhD students and academics. The organizers’ intention, as they themselves defined, was the synthesis of conclusions resulting from the analysis of political scenes and election fights taking place in Europe in the years 2019-2020. Their observations prompted them to organize conferences on this subject, which show that the now-radical right-wing nationalist movements are trying to influence political narrative in most European countries.

During the conference, parallel panels were held, which lasted from early morning until evening. Participants represented many different scientific centers from all over Poland, and panels could be attended by up to five people due to the online form of the meeting.

It is also a great help for the moderator and participants, because it allows to deliberate in comfortable conditions, without unnecessary confusion and interrupting each other. The pandemic situation requires us to adapt to more or less complicated tools of communication in the Internet.

The panel in which I took part was moderated by Anna Robak, MA, and I was given the opportunity to be the first speaker. My presentation was entitled „Czy Polska w 2019 roku jest już demokracją opancerzoną?” During the presentation, I explained how to understand the concept of militant democracy, I presented the indicators that enable the study of this category and I tried to answer the research question formulated in the title of the speech. The second speaker was a representative of the Jagiellonian University and his presentation was entitled „Widmo nacjonalizmu społeczeństwa polskiego w odniesieniu do idei widmontologii Jaques’a Derridy w kontekście sytuacji politycznej w Polsce”. First of all, Józef Legierski explained the concept of spectrum and described how it is constructed and how it manifests itself in Poland. During his speech, he referred to interesting examples that were supposed to bring us closer to the subject he undertook. He recalled, for example, events that took place in Białystok during the equality march. He also made the point that the spectrum applies not only to societies but also to individuals, and that there is now a noticeable change at the level of open societies towards shutting down and xenophobia. Unfortunately, the last of the participants did not appear, so after fruitful deliberations and asking questions, the panel ended.

Every time I am extremely happy that scientists in the pursuit of knowledge can find themselves in a difficult situation so quickly. The conference took place on May 14, 2020 is undoubtedly evidence of this. The organizers are to be congratulated for efficient organization, easy contact and quick resolution of difficulties related to the use of modern technologies by participants who are not yet fully advanced in this matter/area. In the future, it will certainly be easier, and conferences of this type should be organized as often as possible.