

KAMIL ZEIDLER*

JOANNA KAMIENÍ**

CENTRE FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK (2007–2022)¹

History of the creation of the Centre for East Asian Studies UG

Interest in the countries of East Asia more frequently stems not only from a fascination with a very distant, mysterious, and little-known area, as it was in the nineteenth century, but from the dynamic changes in the global balance of power and international relations, from technological development and the increasingly important role of East Asia in the global economy. This is reflected in international, political, and economic spheres, and this trend is accompanied by the growing involvement of academics and scholars in research on this region. The interdependence of politics, the global economy, culture, and science means that knowledge about the most dynamically developing regions of the world is essential for academics and students. Cooperation at the university level is an important supplement to activities undertaken at the state level but pertains mainly academic and cultural spheres. Universities that educate students in the languages, cultures, or politics of Asian countries are preparing specialists who will develop international cooperation and become links that strengthen good relations among countries. First, graduates of faculties related to the countries of East Asia have a very wide range of choice in the field in which they will engage in their professional lives. During their studies, students not only learn languages, but they also acquire knowledge of the history, culture, politics, and economics of countries they study, and during internships abroad they develop skills and gain invaluable experience.

However, not all students who are fascinated by East Asia and who would like to develop their interests and engage in academic projects or organizational activities choose majors related to the countries of this region. Very often, in the course of

DOI: 10.4467/23538724GS.22.036.17008

* ORCID: 0000-0002-8396-3608

** ORCID: 0000-0003-2163-9754

¹ This article was updated from and written based on K. Zeidler, J. Kamień, *Centrum Studiów Azji Wschodniej Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego (2007–2021)*, “Rocznik Gdański” 2021, vol. LXXXI, pp. 157–172.

their studies, students are inspired and influenced by university faculty members who have undertaken various projects. Many academics who include topics other than those related to East Asia in their basic teaching and research endeavors, also willingly take up issues related to the countries of this region. Therefore, it is advisable, and even necessary, to create a university organization in which both academics and students who want to learn about the history, culture, economy, and law of Asian countries will be able to develop and share their passions.

The need to create a platform for organizational and substantive cooperation with the countries of East Asia was also noted at the University of Gdańsk. Measures were undertaken to strengthen contacts with universities and diplomatic missions of countries in this region that inspired establishing a center that would focus on maintaining and deepening mutual relations. The idea of establishing the Centre for East Asian Studies of the University of Gdańsk met with the support of both the Rector, Professor Andrzej Ceynowa, and the Senate of the University of Gdańsk, which, by the resolution of February 22, 2007, accepted the Rector's motion to establish a new organizational unit of the University. It was established pursuant to the order of the Rector of the University of Gdańsk No. 15/R/07 of February 22, 2007, on the establishment of the Centre for East Asian Studies of the University of Gdańsk (CSAW UG). Pursuant to § 1 of this ordinance, CSAW UG is a general university non-faculty entity of the University of Gdańsk, and the rules of its functioning are set out in the regulations that are an appendix to the ordinance.

An important stimulus for further activities aimed at developing Polish-Chinese cooperation was the award of an honorary doctorate by the University of Gdańsk to Professor Yi Lijun, an outstanding representative of Chinese Polish studies in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The reviewers of Professor Yi Lijun's academic achievements and life's work were unanimous in their praise as were her laudator and the authors of congratulatory letters.² The doyenne of Chinese Polish studies received her honorary doctorate during a ceremony held on December 19, 2007. An academic conference entitled *Początki wiedzy o Chinach w Polsce* (The Beginnings of Knowledge about China in Poland) was held on December 18 with scholars from the University of Gdańsk and Professors Yi Lijun, Zhao Gang, and Wu Lan of the Beijing Foreign Languages University in attendance. Conference proceedings were published under the title *Początki wiedzy o Chinach in Poland* (The Beginnings of Knowledge about China in Poland),³ which included articles that had not been presented during the conference itself.

These two events were the first ones organized within the framework of the newly established center. They confirmed that CSAW UG, as a center focusing on

² *Nadanie Yi Lijun tytułu doktora honoris causa Uniwersytetu Gdańskiego, Gdańsk, dnia 19 grudnia 2007 roku*, eds. J. Włodarski, K. Zeidler, Gdańsk 2010, pp. 25–73.

³ *Początki wiedzy o Chinach w Polsce*, eds. I. Kadulska, J. Włodarski, Gdańsk 2008, pp. 168.

activities connected to the countries of East Asia, would have much to accomplish. This article, which is both a review and a summary, should provide encouragement and inspiration for academics from East Asian countries and for the individuals or organizations they work for, to undertake joint initiatives, exchange ideas and experiences, and cooperate on academic and research projects, including submitting academic articles, organizing study trips and lectures, promoting publications – in a word, to facilitate authentic, active cooperation between CSAW UG and other universities on the Asian continent.

Organizational structure

The Rector of the University of Gdańsk supervised the Centre for East Asian Studies UG from the moment of its inception, and in subsequent years this function was then entrusted to Professor Józef Włodarski, Vice-Rector for Student Affairs, followed by Professor Piotr Stepnowski, Vice-Rector for Research and International Cooperation, in September 2016, and then to Professor Wiesław Laskowski, Vice-Rector for Research, from November 2020.

According to its regulations, the Centre's director is appointed by the Rector from among faculty engaged in subjects related to East Asia. In the 2007–2011 period, Professor Ewa Oziewicz of the Faculty of Economics, was the director, while from October 2011 the director was Professor Kamil Zeidler of the Faculty of Law and Administration. The Centre's Research Council replaced the Program Council in 2011, and its members are appointed and dismissed by the Vice-Rector who supervises the activities of the CSAW UG.

The Research Council consults and advises and provides substantive support for the CSAW UG, and consists of academics from Poland and abroad who are specialists on the countries of East Asia. The composition of the Council has changed over the years, as more members have been invited to sit on it, especially professors from abroad who cooperate with CSAW UG. Currently, the members from Poland are: Professor Bogdan Góralczyk, Professor Joanna Grzybek, Professor Marcin Jacoby, Professor Sylwia Pangsy-Kania, Professor Jan Rowiński, Professor Mateusz Stępień, Dr. Yuki Horie, Dr. Anna Król, and Dr. Jacek Splisgart; from China: Professor Wu Lan, Professor Zhao Gang, Professor Mao Yin-hui; from Japan: Professor Emiko Kakiuchi, Professor Toshiyuki Kono, Professor Koji Morita, Professor Ren Yatsunami; from Korea Professor Sungeun Choi. Former members of the Research Council have included Professor Father Antoni Kość, SVD (died December 7, 2011), Professor Krzysztof Gawlikowski (died March 2, 2021), Professor Yi Lijun (died February 7, 2022), Professor Tadeusz Dmochowski (died March 16, 2022). Professor Oziewicz has been the Chairperson of the Research Council since November 2011. Dr. Marceł Burdelski was the Vice-Chairman of the Research

Council until October 31, 2014, and from November 1, 2014, this post was held by Edward Kajdański, who died in September 2020.

In addition, the activities of the Centre in various periods have been supported by the regular participation of members of various UG faculties who have volunteered on individual projects and current tasks.

In December 2011, the East Asia Inter-Faculty Student Research Group was established at CSAW UG, and the director of CSAW UG provided academic supervision. During its most active period, the research group consisted of over one hundred students from various faculties of the University of Gdańsk, mainly from economics, social sciences, and law. The students in the research group were involved in organizational, academic, and cultural activities, and gained knowledge about the economies, laws, cultures, and philosophies of East Asian countries with particular emphasis on China, Japan, Korea, and others.

The aim of CSAW UG is to coordinate activities related to East Asia at the University of Gdańsk. The Centre maintains contacts with educational and research institutions in East Asia and promotes the countries of this region in Poland. The countries of East Asia (the People's Republic of China, Japan, South Korea, and North Korea, Mongolia, Taiwan) are the Centre's primary area of interest, while the countries of Southeast Asia (Burma, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, East Timor, Vietnam), South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka), and Northeast Asia (the eastern areas of Russia) are also included within the Centre's scope of activities.

While the CSAW UG undertakes organizational, academic, and cultural activities, sometimes it is difficult to clearly demarcate these fields of activity. It conducts its activities independently or in cooperation with other institutions from Poland and abroad, primarily universities, diplomatic missions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, publishing houses, and enterprises that include East Asian countries within their sphere of activity.

Academic and organizational activities

CSAW UG organizes and co-organizes conferences and academic seminars and supports cooperation with specialists from Poland and abroad who give lectures and publish at the University of Gdańsk. The Centre's director and Research Council members represent CSAW UG at Polish and international conferences and academic seminars where they deliver papers. They are also invited by other universities for academic residencies and guest lectures and belong to other academic organizations that focus on East Asia. These activities are an important aspect of disseminating academic research conducted under the auspices of the Centre.

The director of CSAW UG is Professor Zeidler, who is a member of the Program Council of the Polish nationwide academic yearbook *Azja – Pacyfik. Społeczeństwo – Polityka – Gospodarka* (Asia – Pacific. Society – Politics – Economy). He has presented papers at Polish and international conferences and delivered many guest lectures at Chinese and Japanese universities. In November 2014, during his stay at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong, he presented a guest lecture entitled “The System of Legal Protection of Cultural Heritage” and participated in a seminar and a discussion. In January 2016, during a short research stay at the Tokyo Metropolitan University, he gave a lecture and conducted a seminar on the “Legal Protection of Cultural Heritage in International, European and Polish Law – System Approach.” During his subsequent study visit to Tokyo in June 2016, he gave a guest lecture at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. In 2019 and 2021, he gave a series of lectures as a visiting professor for law students at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, Japan. In 2022, as part of a cooperation agreement with Kyushu University, two series of lectures on cultural heritage law were organized, which Professor Zeidler conducted for students of the Faculty of Law in Fukuoka. In February 2022, he delivered lectures online, while in July 2022, he delivered the lectures in person during a three-week research trip to Japan.

Professor Zeidler represented CSAW UG in October 2014 as an expert on the Constitutional Tribunal at a debate involving judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and members of the Chinese delegation from the Legal Affairs Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) and the NPC Standing Committee on legislative affairs.

In November 2014, together with Joanna Kamień, MA, the director of the University of Gdańsk Press, Professor Zeidler participated in an academic seminar entitled “Between Science and Art: The Treasures of Asia in the Eyes of the Polish Jesuit Michal Piotr Boym,” which was held at the Sir Robert Ho Tung Library in Macau. During the seminar organized by the Macau Ricci Institute, the Macau Central Library, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Hong Kong, books on East Asia published by CSAW UG and the University of Gdańsk Press and volumes of *Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej* (*The Gdańsk Journal of East Asian Studies*) were presented.

Professor Zeidler and Ms. Kamień twice represented CSAW UG at the cyclical conference “Meeting of Polish Scholars from Three Countries” held in November 2016 at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies, and in November 2018 at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

Professor K. Zeidler, together with Luiza Kliczkowska, MA, delivered a paper during the academic conference “Practicing Japan. Thirty-five Years of Japanese Studies in Poznań and Kraków,” held on March 24–26, 2022, in commemoration of the 35th anniversary of Japanese Studies in Poznań and Kraków. Additionally, to broaden knowledge about Japan, Professor Zeidler gave three lectures on Japan

during subsequent staff training sessions of the District Association of Traditional Karate in 2021 and 2022.

The annual International Asian Congress in Toruń is one of the cyclical academic events that members of the Research Council of CSAW UG attend, in particular Professor Oziewicz and Professor Zeidler. At the last Congress, on May 18–20, 2022, Professor Zeidler participated together with Professor Cenuk Sayekti from Airlangga University in Indonesia who was visiting the University of Gdańsk as part of the Erasmus program.

Professors Oziewicz and Zeidler and Dr. Burdelski, have delivered many lectures at the University of Gdańsk on topics related to the countries of East Asia at the invitation of various student organizations, including the East Asia Inter-Faculty Research Group and the University of Gdańsk's University of the Third Age.

The Centre organizes meetings and lectures at the University of Gdańsk, inviting authors, scientists, travelers, diplomats, and representatives of governments of Asian countries. The purpose of these meetings is to broaden knowledge about East Asia and Southeast Asia among students and university faculty, and also to anyone who is interested and wants to participate in these events that are open to the public. CSAW UG has organized many events that have allowed the University of Gdańsk to welcome, among many others, Her Excellency Dr. Penelope Ridings, Ambassador of New Zealand to Poland (April 2009); His Excellency Yuichi Kusumoto, Ambassador of Japan to Poland (May 2010), Rafał Król, a traveler, presented his account of a trip to Mongolia (December 2011); Wan Azhamuddin Yusoh, Trade Commissioner, Embassy of Malaysia to Poland (March 2012); His Excellency Makoto Yamanaka, Ambassador of Japan to Poland (open lecture in English on Japanese foreign policy, March 2013); Professor Guoyong Zou of Wuhan University (lecture entitled "The latest developments of China's conflict law for torts," June 2013); His Excellency Paek Young-sun, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Poland (lecture in English on the political situation on the Korean Peninsula and bilateral relations between Korea and Poland, December 2013); Professor Euikon Kim, Dean, College of Social Sciences, Inha University, Incheon, South Korea (lecture entitled "Rising China and East Asia: Problems and Prospects," May 2014); Passang Dorji, plenipotentiary for Gross National Happiness, Kingdom of Bhutan (as part of a visit organized by the Polish Information and Foreign Investment Agency at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, December 2015); and Professors Toshiyuki Kono and Ren Yatsunami, Faculty of Law, Kyushu University, Fukuoka (the lectures were part of a seminar on Japanese law organized by CSAW UG and the Faculty of Law and Administration UG in June 2019).

Additionally, CSAW UG and the University of Gdańsk's University of the Third Age organized jointly a series of lectures open to the public entitled "China at the University of the Third Age in Gdańsk" and "Japan at the University of the Third Age in Gdańsk." Among others, Professor Włodarski, Professor Zeidler,

Dr. Burdelski, Dr. Splisgart and Tomomi Splisgart, Dr. Tomasz Bieliński, Edward Kajdański, Yan Wei, and many other speakers presented lectures.

Another significant area of work at the Centre is organizing academic conferences and seminars at the University of Gdańsk. Among these, the following are noteworthy: the conference to commemorate sixty years of Polish-Chinese relations was held at the Hotel Pekin in Władysławowo in November 2009 and was jointly organized by CSAW UG and the Pomeranian Branch of the Polish-Chinese Friendship Association; an academic session entitled “The Role and Importance of Far Eastern Martial Arts in Human Psychophysical Development” was held at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk in June 2011 organized jointly with the Polish Traditional Karate Association; a panel discussion entitled “Human Rights in the Middle and Far East: Between Universalism and Regionalism” was organized as part of ELSA Day at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk in March 2014, and the Gdańsk academic-expert seminar “Pomerania Open to China” organized jointly with the Chinese-Pomeranian Cooperation Centre sp. z o.o. at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk. An important event that brought together speakers from around the world was the 2nd International Scientific Budo Conference “Educational Value of Traditional Karate-do” organized by CSAW UG in cooperation with the World Traditional Karate-do Federation on October 13, 2016, at the Japanese Martial Arts and Sports Centre – Dojo Stara Wieś. The conference was held to commemorate the Traditional Karate World Championships, Krakow Orlen 2016, held on October 14–15, 2016, in Kraków, and a book entitled *Educational Value of Traditional Karate-do*⁴ was published. On May 26, 2022, CSAW UG, in cooperation with the Stowarzyszenie Pomorskie w Chinach (Pomerania in China Association), the Pomeranian Voivodeship, and the cities of Gdańsk, Sopot, and Gdynia, organized an academic-economic seminar entitled “Understanding China.” With a focus on the geopolitical situation of China and its consequences for Poland and Polish business, the seminar provided a forum for experts and speakers including, among others, members of the Research Council of CSAW UG, Professors Oziewicz, Góralczyk, and Jacoby, and it was the first in a series of three events.

CSAW UG has also assumed patronage of and supported many conferences and seminars focusing on countries in East Asia that have been organized by partner institutions.

⁴ *Educational value of traditional karate-do*, eds. W. Kweciński, K. Zeidler, J. Kamień, Gdańsk 2017, pp. 130.

Publishing

The publications of CSAW UG and the University of Gdańsk Press serve to broaden knowledge on topics pertaining to the countries of East Asia and to provide an arena for discussion and the exchange of ideas and experiences among academics, including those who are experienced and esteemed nationally and internationally and young researchers. While academic books and journals disseminate knowledge about Asian countries in Poland, they also facilitate establishing international contacts and strengthening international cooperation among countries.

Since the foundation of the Centre, twenty books⁵ have been published by CSAW UG, and six books have been published with the Centre's patronage and support.⁶ In association with this, the series *Biblioteka Studiów Azji Wschodniej* (Library of East Asia Studies) was created, and Professor Zeidler is the editor. Independently of the books published, 22 volumes of *Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej* have been published biannually since 2012. Another interesting initiative is the publication of

⁵ *Początki wiedzy o Chinach...; Japonia w oczach Polaków. Państwo – społeczeństwo – kultura*, vol. 1, ed. J. Włodarski, Gdańsk 2008, pp. 276; *Japonia w oczach Polaków. Państwo – społeczeństwo – kultura*, vol. 2, eds. J. Włodarski, K. Zeidler, Gdańsk 2009, pp. 328; *Chiny w oczach Polaków. Państwo – społeczeństwo – kultura. Księga jubileuszowa z okazji 60-lecia nawiązania stosunków dyplomatycznych między Polską a Chińską Republiką Ludową*, eds. J. Włodarski, K. Zeidler, M. Burdelski, Gdańsk 2010, pp. 632; *Nadanie Yi Lijun tytułu...; Korea w oczach Polaków. Państwo – społeczeństwo – kultura*, eds. J. Włodarski, K. Zeidler, M. Burdelski, Gdańsk 2012, pp. 560; *Konstytucja Chińskiej Republiki Ludowej*, trans. Wu Lan, M. Dargas, Gdańsk 2012, pp. 63; *Edward Kajdański. Katalog wystawy*, I Forum Regionalne Polska-Chiny, Filharmonia Bałtycka, 21–22 kwietnia 2013, eds. M. Marcinkowska, J. Kamień, Gdańsk 2013, pp. 76; E. Kajdański, *The Ambassador of The Middle Kingdom*, trans. D. Malcolm, Gdańsk 2014, pp. 534; *Konstytucja Republiki Korei*, trans. A. Diniejko, introduction and editing M.M. Wiszowaty, Gdańsk 2015, pp. 74; Huang Lihai, *Kto biega jeszcze szybciej niż błyskawica*, trans. Wu Lan, forward A. Zagajewski, photo. P. Rybiński, Gdańsk – Guangzhou 2015, pp. 222; *Azja Wschodnia w oczach Polaków. Wybór tekstów Józefa Włodarskiego z lat 2001–2015*, eds. K. Zeidler, J. Kamień, Gdańsk 2015, pp. 314; E. Kajdański, *Rediscovered Michael's Boym Medical Manuscripts. A Part of Medicus Sinicus Found in Craow*, Gdańsk 2016, pp. 48; *Edward Kajdański. Malarstwo*, eds. K. Zeidler, J. Kamień, Gdańsk 2017, pp. 204; *Educational value of traditional karate-do...*; Sun Min, *Papier, tusz i piędzel, czyli Traktat o chińskiej kaligrafii*, trans. Wu Lan et al., Gdańsk 2017, pp. 238; *25 lat studiów nad ekonomią i handlem zagranicznym krajów Azji Wschodniej. Wybór artykułów Enry Oziewicz z lat 1995–2020*, eds. K. Zeidler, J. Kamień, Gdańsk 2020, pp. 504; K. Zeidler, *Mądrość chińskich aforyzmów. O państwie, prawie, polityce i władzy*, preface E. Kajdański, Gdańsk 2020, pp. 222; L. Kliczkowska, *Seppuku jako przykład procesu normatywizacji zrywania w prawie japońskim*, Gdańsk 2021, pp. 166.

⁶ T. Widlak, *Wspólnota międzynarodowa*, Gdańsk 2012, pp. 470; P. Boski, J. Rózycka-Tran, P. Sorokowski, *Podróżę psychologiczne przez kulturę świata*, Warszawa 2015, pp. 256; E. Kajdański, *Jak odkrywałem Michała Boyma – polskiego Marco Polo*, Warszawa 2018, pp. 424; Wu Lan, *Z notatnika tłumacza literatury polskiej i chińskiej*, Gdańsk 2018, pp. 264; *Ziemia (nie)znana. O współczesnym odkrywaniu kultury japońskiej*, eds. J. Splisgart, A. Ozga, Gdańsk 2019, pp. 346; T. Biełliński, T. Michałowski, E. Oziewicz, *Inicjatywa Pasa i Szlaku. Polska perspektywa*, Gdańsk 2020, pp. 214.

a commemorative trilingual album-calendar in 2013 featuring photographs by Sylwester Ciszek of students from Harbin who studied at the University of Gdańsk.⁷

The numbers of these publications and the authors who submitted articles to them are indicative of the wide response in Poland and from abroad to the Centre's scholarly activities and initiatives. In all the books published in the series, contributors describe China, Japan, and Korea from the perspectives of the organization of states and politics, economics, societies, and the cultures of the region in their broadest sense. While these publications certainly are not exhaustive on these topics, they are important contributions that demonstrate to our friends from Asian countries how their homelands and they themselves are perceived in distant Poland, and this can only strengthen amicable relations.

Something worthy of emphasis is that *Korea w oczach Polaków* (Korea in the Eyes of Poles) was published with funding from a research grant to co-finance academic projects and publications that CSAW UG obtained from the Korea Foundation in 2012. Additionally, the research project "Korea w oczach Polaków" (Korea in the Eyes of Poles) was co-funded with a grant from Samsung Electronics Polska sp. z o.o. CSAW UG also published the first Polish translation of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea, and the project concluded in 2015.

The Centre's most important, continuous publishing endeavor is *Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej* (GSAW, The Gdańsk Journal of East Asian Studies), which has been published twice annually since 2012, and December 2022 marks the publication of volume 22. The journal is multidisciplinary and includes articles regarding primarily the countries of East Asia – China, Japan, and Korea – but other countries of the region. The CSAW UG Research Council also functions as the GSAW Research Council. The editor-in-chief of GSAW is Professor Zeidler and the editorial secretary is Ms. Kamiień. GSAW is indexed on eight electronic academic journal bases: 1) ERIH PLUS – European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences; 2) EBSCO – Elton Bryson Stephens Company; 3) CEJSH – The Central European Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities; 4) CEEOL – Central and Eastern European Online Library; 5) Index Copernicus; 6) Google Scholar; 7) PBN / POL-Index; 8) WorldCat; and it is also included on Scientific Journals Online run by the Jagiellonian University Press.⁸ The journal is ranked on the list of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which has awarded it 40 points. In addition to experienced and recognized scholars, students can also publish their articles in the GSAW in the special section *Próby studenckie* (Student Endeavors). In the ten plus years of the journal's publication, the 22 issues published contain

⁷ *Studenci z Harbinu na Uniwersytecie Gdańskim* (album-calendar 2013), photo. S. Ciszek, Gdańsk 2013, pp. 14.

⁸ The website of the journal is on the Portal Czasopism Naukowych: <http://www.ejournals.eu/GSAW>, and also on the website of the Centre for East Asian Studies UG: <https://csaw.ug.edu.pl/en/gjeas/> (accessed: 6.10.2022).

a total of 273 academic articles, 18 articles by students, 34 reviews of books on East Asia, 53 reports on various events concerning East Asia, and five in memorial notices. To commemorate the fifth anniversary of the journal's publication, an e-book containing all ten issues of GSAW was published. In 2015, volume 8 was published as a special issue dedicated to Edward Kajdański, Vice-Chairman of the Research Council of CSAW UG, to commemorate his ninetieth birthday. This volume included a DVD of the film entitled *The Storyteller of Michał Boym*, made by Guangdong Radio and Television (GRT) journalists with the support of CSAW UG during their visit to the University of Gdańsk on May 12, 2014. A special volume that also included a film was issued following the death of Edward Kajdański; volume 18 included reflections on the life of the late vice-chairman of the Research Council of GSAW and the film made by GRT in December 2018 at the University of Gdańsk in cooperation with CSAW UG. In October 2022, the journal received a grant from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education under the program *Rozwój czasopism naukowych* (Development of Academic Journals).

Cultural and organizational activities

Since its inception and throughout its history, CSAW UG has inaugurated, organized, and co-organized cultural events. One of the cyclical events the Centre organized for many years was Chinese New Year at the University of Gdańsk, but since the founding of the Confucius Institute at the University of Gdańsk, this new entity has organized this event.

Every May from 2012 to 2015 the UG “Made in Asia” Asian Culture Festival was organized jointly by the “Alternator” Academic Culture Center, “Miłość Blondynki” Film Club, and CSAW UG. Four of the annual “Made in Asia” festivals were dedicated to different Asian countries: “Made in China” in 2012; “Made in India” in 2013; “Made in Japan” in 2014; “Made in Korea” in 2015. All of the festivals met with great interest, and they were an excellent way to popularize Asian culture and to broaden knowledge about the countries they focused on.

CSAW UG has also organized special days dedicated to selected countries of the Asian continent, which were in a similar vein to the Asian Culture Festival. Although organized on a smaller scale, these events also proved attractive and were aimed at encouraging University of Gdańsk students and faculty to learn about the cultures and realities of these countries. As part of this initiative, Japanese Culture Days was held at the University of Gdańsk in May 2008 with the participation of many distinguished guests, including His Excellency Ryuichi Tanabe, Ambassador of Japan to Poland. In December 2009, Malaysian Day was organized, which Her Excellency Rosmidah Binte Zahid, Ambassador of Malaysia to Poland, attended. The event included a display of traditional Malaysian costumes and an exhibition

dedicated to the heritage of Malaysia. In November 2010, the Day of the Republic of Korea was organized, and the ceremony was honored by the attendance of His Excellency Joon-jae Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Poland. In November 2015, the East Asia Inter-Faculty Student Research Group of the University of Gdańsk, together with CSAW UG, celebrated the Japanese Emperor's birthday by organizing Japanese Day, which featured lectures, talks, and discussions, and offered opportunities for attendees to learn basic Japanese, watch a kendo demonstration, and try sushi.

CSAW UG engages in cultural activities by organizing art exhibitions independently or in cooperation with other cultural institutions, and it also lends patronage for selected cultural events. In 2013, CSAW UG cooperated with the National Museum in Gdańsk, the Baltic Philharmonic, and the Marshal's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship to organize an exhibition of paintings by Edward Kajdański on the occasion of the I Regional Forum Poland – China. The exhibition opened on April 21, 2013, and an exhibition catalog was published jointly by CSAW UG and the University of Gdańsk Press. The main patron of the exhibition was Chipolbrok – Chinese-Polish Joint Stock Shipping Company. CSAW UG later transferred the exhibition from the Baltic Philharmonic to the Library of the University of Gdańsk, where the finissage was held on June 26, 2013. However, because of the public's great interest in the exhibition, the paintings remained on view until September 2013. One of the results of this event was an auction of the Kajdański's works that the Centre organized in April 2015 at the Gdańsk Science and Technology Park to mark the inauguration of the Chinese-Pomeranian Cooperation Centre sp. z o.o.

The most recent exhibition that CSAW UG co-organized was entitled *Wajda. Człowiek z Gdańska* (Wajda: Man from Gdańsk), which exhibited over 150 original drawings and watercolors by Andrzej Wajda and approximately 50 posters from his films. The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology in Kraków, and the opening was held on October 3, 2021, as part of the inauguration of the academic year. The collection of Wajda's works inspired by Japan was particularly attractive. Dr. Anna Król of the Manggha Museum and Professor Zeidler of UG were the exhibition's curators.

The Centre organizes promotions of books it has published in cooperation with the University of Gdańsk Press and with other presses. Many of these have been devoted to books by Edward Kajdański, Vice-Chairman of the Research Council of CSAW UG, including the following: *Medycyna chińska dla każdego* (Chinese Medicine for Everyone)⁹ (Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk, November 2011, in cooperation with Wydawnictwo Literackie); *Wspomnienia z mojej*

⁹ E. Kajdański, *Medycyna chińska dla każdego*, Warszawa 2011.

*Atlantydy*¹⁰ (Memories of my Atlantis) (Library of the University of Gdańsk, November 2013, in cooperation with Wydawnictwo Literackie); *The Ambassador of The Middle Kingdom* (Gabinet Szanghajski Wojewódzka i Miejska Biblioteka Publiczna in Gdańsk, December 2014); *Odkrywca czy blagier? Maurycy Beniowski na Pacyfiku*¹¹ (Discoverer or con artist? Maurycy Beniowski in the Pacific) (Library of the University of Gdańsk, November 2015); *Jak odkrywałem Michała Boyma – polskiego Marco Polo* (How I Discovered Michał Boym – The Polish Marco Polo) (Library of the University of Gdańsk, February 2019, in cooperation with the National Centre for Culture Poland); two books by Edward Kajdański and Aleksandra Kajdańska – *Jedwab. Szlakami dżonek i karawan* (Silk. The Routes of Junks and Caravans) and *Edward Kajdański. Malarstwo* (Edward Kajdański. Painting) (Department of Ethnography, National Museum in Gdańsk, May 2017, in cooperation with the Spółdzielnia Wydawniczo-Handlowa “Książka i Wiedza” and the University of Gdańsk Press). Among other promotional events held in recent years for special works include the publication of Huang Lihai’s book of poetry entitled *Kto biega jeszcze szybciej niż błyskawica* (Who Runs Even Faster Than Lightning) in a translation by Wu Lan (Library of the University of Gdańsk, May 2015) and a translation of Sun Min’s book entitled *Papier, tusz i pędzeł, czyli traktat o chińskiej kaligrafii* (Paper, Ink and a Brush, or a Treatise on Chinese Calligraphy) (Confucius Institute, December 2017). Promotional events were also organized for the following books: Wu Lan’s *Z notatnika tłumacza literatury polskiej i chińskiej* (From the Notebook of a Translator of Polish and Chinese Literature) (Library of the University of Gdańsk, February 2019); Kamil Zeidler’s *Mądrość chińskich aforyzmów. O państwie, prawie, polityce i władzy* (The Wisdom of Chinese Aphorisms. On the State, the Law, Politics, and Power) (Hel, July 2021, in cooperation with “Alternator” Academic Culture Center); and most recently Luiza Kliczkowska’s *Seppuku jako przykład procesu normatywizacji zwyczajów w prawie japońskim* (Seppuku as an Example of the Process of the Normativization of Custom in Japanese Law) (Library of the University of Gdańsk, October 2021).

Since 2013, CSAW UG has been a patron of the *Otwarte Turnieje Tradycyjnego Wushu* (Open Tournaments of Traditional Wushu) that are organized in Gdynia by Dr. Krzysztof Brzozowski, who has been cooperating with the Centre for many years. As part of the patronage and support of this sporting event, CSAW UG provides Chinese books, CDs, calendars, and publications from the Centre as additional tournament prizes. As an expression of gratitude for this support, Professors Włodarski and Zeidler were honored with commemorative statuettes for their contributions to the development of traditional wushu at the 5th Open Tournaments of Traditional Wushu held on March 20, 2014.

¹⁰ E. Kajdański, *Wspomnienia z mojej Atlantydy*, Kraków 2013.

¹¹ E. Kajdański, *Odkrywca czy blagier? Maurycy Beniowski na Pacyfiku*, Gdańsk 2015.

Organizational activities

CSAW UG has participated in organizing visits from representatives of Asian countries to the University of Gdańsk. Students from Harbin were at the University of Gdańsk improving their knowledge of Polish until 2012, and the Centre engaged actively in ensuring that the students would have the best of memories of their time spent at the University. The center organized a windsurfing course for them at the Sopot Surf Windsurfing School and a climbing course with Czesław “Kuba” Jakubczyk, the well-known Polish traveler and mountaineer. All of the students from China also received a souvenir calendar documenting their stay in Gdańsku that was produced by CSAW UG and the University of Gdańsk Press.

In December 2012, CSAW UG helped to organize a visit from a Chinese delegation chaired by the Vice Minister of Education, PRC. Professors Oziewicz and Zeidler represented the Centre at a meeting of the University of Gdańsk authorities and the Chinese delegation.

The Centre has also undertaken cooperation with Chinese media during their visits to Gdańsk, supporting their activities, as well as familiarizing them with information about projects undertaken at the University of Gdańsk to expand Polish-Chinese contacts. These meetings not only enriched our knowledge about China, but sometimes also left measurable marks in the form of joint projects, as was the case of two visits by journalists from Guangdong Radio and Television (GRT) to the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Gdańsk, which were coordinated by Professor Zeidler. During the first, in May 2014, GRT journalists from China recorded an extensive interview with Edward Kajdański regarding preparations for the making of a documentary film about the Polish Jesuit Michał Boym in eighteenth-century China entitled *The Storyteller of Michał Boym*. During the second visit, in December 2018, a group of GRT journalists interviewed Edward Kajdański, and this material would become the basis for the film *40 Years, 40 Witnesses: Edward Kajdański*. These journalists also became acquainted with the activities of the University of Gdańsk in the field of Polish-Chinese cooperation, and in particular with the studies of Chinese students at the University. The films were broadcast on GRT's World Channel, and CSAW UG, with the consent of GRT, included DVDs of each film with *Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej*; the film *The Storyteller of Michał Boym* was included with jubilee issue 8 of 2015 in commemoration of Kajdański's ninetieth birthday, while *40 Years, 40 Witnesses: Edward Kajdański* was included with volume 18 of 2020, which also included reflections on the late Edward Kajdański.

A wonderful opportunity to socialize and exchange knowledge about our countries and cooperation undertaken by various entities was presented by a gala dinner with a group of Chinese journalists held at *Restauracja Gdańska* in December 2015. Professors Oziewicz and Zeidler and Ms. Kamiń met with a group of 15 representatives of the most important Chinese media, whose trip was organized by

Dr. Zuzanna Burska, counselor to European Union Representation in China and Mongolia. The study visit of journalists was initiated by His Excellency Hans Dietmar Schweisgut, Ambassador of the EU to the PRC, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations being established between the European Union and the People's Republic of China. The journalists had previously visited only Brussels and Warsaw.

Representative activities

One of the Centre's more important tasks is to represent the University of Gdańsk at ceremonies and events concerning Asian countries in Poland and abroad. The director of CSAW UG and the chairperson of the Research Council usually perform these duties at representative functions. Ceremonies at which CSAW UG represents the University of Gdańsk include annual diplomatic receptions to commemorate the founding of the People's Republic of China that are hosted by the PRC Ambassador at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Warsaw and by the PRC Consul General in Gdańsk. Cultural and state events provide opportunities to express interest in the affairs of our partners from Asian countries and a willingness to develop friendly cooperation in academia and teaching. These events also facilitate further developing contacts, and, in the longer term, the implementation of joint ventures and projects.

The activities of CSAW UG are appreciated and supported by diplomatic representatives of Asian countries, who often invite the director and the chairperson of the Research Council to attend ceremonies, and these diplomatic representatives, in turn, often participate in initiatives undertaken by CSAW UG. These meetings never fail to confirm the belief that this cooperation is not only necessary and valuable, but also full of mutual respect and admiration.

Among the many events that CSAW UG personnel attended as representatives of the University of Gdańsk, it is important to mention at least a few: Professor Zeidler participated in a ceremony to bestow upon Włodzimierz Kwieciński, president of the Polish Traditional Karate Association, the state decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun – Golden Rays with Rosette, which was held at the residence of the Japanese ambassador in Warsaw in June 2012; Grzegorz Schetyna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, attended the ceremony to bestow upon Edward Kajdański the *Bene merito* Badge of Honor, which Joanna Skoczek, the Consul General of the Republic of Poland in Guangzhou, requested in recognition of Kajdański's merits in building Polish-Chinese relations, specifically for facilitating mutual knowledge of cultures and research on historical contacts; in meetings with Chinese warship captains and naval officers and representatives of the Polish Navy at two receptions to commemorate the first visit to Gdynia of a group of warships

of the Chinese People's Liberation Army hosted by His Excellency Xu Jian, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Poland and the commander of the group of warships in October 2015; at the invitation of Andrzej Duda, President of the Republic of Poland, Professor Zeidler also participated in a gala dinner given on June 20, 2016, at the Royal Castle in Warsaw in honor of His Excellency Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, and his wife.

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This review and presentation of selected activities of the Centre for East Asian Studies UG shows not only the multitude of projects that have been but also that can be implemented by this organizational unit of the University of Gdańsk. The aim of this synthesis was to present the wide field for cooperation that CSAW UG offers, thanks to which it allows scholars and students, diplomats, journalists, artists, and people working for culture, both in East Asia and in Poland or Europe, to undertake activities within the scope specified in the Regulations of the Centre. Everything CSAW UG undertakes is aimed at mutual understanding and cooperation for multilateral benefit.

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STRESZCZENIE

CENTRUM STUDIÓW AZJI WSCHODNIEJ UNIwersytetu Gdańskiego (2007–2022)

W artykule zaprezentowano działalność Centrum Studiów Azji Wschodniej, które zostało założone na Uniwersytecie Gdańskim w 2007 r. CSAW UG od momentu powołania, najpierw pod kierownictwem prof. Ewy Oziewicz (2007–2011), a następnie prof. Kamila Zeidlera (od października 2011 r.), prowadzi działalność naukową, wydawniczą i kulturalną,

która jest poświęcona krajom Azji Wschodniej. Celem CSAW UG jest koordynowanie zadań skupionych wokół tych państw na Uniwersytecie Gdańskim. Centrum utrzymuje kontakt z instytucjami edukacyjnymi i badawczymi w Azji Wschodniej oraz promuje kraje tego regionu w Polsce. Swoją działalność podejmuje samodzielnie lub we współpracy z innymi instytucjami z Polski i zagranicy, głównie uczelniami, ambasadami i organizacjami rządowymi, wydawnictwami i przedsiębiorstwami związanymi z krajami Azji Wschodniej. W artykule przedstawiono również, jak szerokie pole współpracy Centrum zapewnia naukowcom, studentom, ale także dyplomatom, dziennikarzom, artystom i osobom zajmującym się kulturą, zarówno w Azji Wschodniej, jak i w Polsce.