

Time of deceit (or how to lose reputation)¹

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Translated from the Polish by Voy Le Vitzki

‘The man who lies to himself and listens to his own lie comes to a point that he cannot distinguish the truth within him, or around him, and so loses all respect for himself and for others.’ (F. Dostoyevski). And others lose all respect for him. And this is what happened to a former Vice-Chancellor of a prestigious Polish university after this eminent historian, previously highly regarded for his tough stance on academic misconduct, made a turn-around and vigorously defended the right to borrow without referencing from other authors when such unreferenced borrowings came to light in the book ... he himself had ‘authored’.³

“In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.” - George Orwell⁴

On 10 October 2014, a disturbing note appeared on a reputable American social networking website for academics, *academia.edu*. The posting caused a huge consternation among scholars around Poland. The notice was especially hard to accept for the academics from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Thorn (NCU)⁵ due to the fact that the mortifying news

¹ Title by translator

² This is an English translation, predominantly dynamically equivalent, of an article published originally in the Polish language in a monthly magazine for Poland’s academics, *Academic Forum*, in June 2015. (Jak stracić prestiż, Marek Wroński FA 06/2015 Forum Akademickie, Lublin: Akademicka Oficyna Wydawnicza, ISBN:1233-0930. Retrieved on 11 March 2016 from <https://forumakademickie.pl/fa/2015/06/jak-stracic-prestiz/>). The publication is from a series of articles that has been appearing since 2002 each month in the magazine’s section called ‘From the Archives of Research Misconduct’ [Z archiwum nieuczciwości naukowej] <http://forumakademickie.pl/publicystyka/nauka/z-archiwumnieuczciwosci-naukowej/>

³ Introduction by translator

⁴ Motto by translator

⁵ Translator’s comment: The Nicolaus Copernicus University (NCU) in Thorn – in Polish: Toruń – is a leading Polish academic and research institution, named in honour of the famous astronomer, who was born in this medieval town more than 500 years ago. It must be noted that the first higher education institution in Thorn was founded already in 1568 and was one of the first universities in northern Poland, attracting meritorious scholars from a wide range of disciplines. However, the Nicolaus Copernicus University in its modern form was only opened after World War II, in 1945. Presently NCU has 16 Faculties, among them: History; Humanities; Languages; Law and Administration; Mathematics and Computer Science; Political Science and International Studies;

threatened to erode the already substantially damaged reputation⁶ of their famous academic and research institution. The strong reaction was not surprising – the internet message revealed a secret that nobody could have anticipated. It exposed a shocking, dark side of a revered historian, Prof. Andrzej Radzimiński, a former a Vice-Chancellor of NCU who presently holds an important position of Head of the Department of History of the Baltic States, and who for years was considered one of the most stellar representatives of the prestigious Thorn research and academic institution.

The note⁷, describing Prof. Radzimiński's misdeeds, was posted on the internet forum by a young medievalist from Warsaw, Dr Antoni T. Grabowski. Dr Grabowski is a graduate of the Department of History at the University of Warsaw (UW)⁸. In June 2014, he earned his PhD for the English-language dissertation 'Liudprand of Cremona's Mythology of the Liudolfings. Creating a dynasty's history in the 10th century' written under the supervision of Prof. Jacek Banaszkiwicz from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (MCSU)⁹ in Lublin. The thesis was refereed by Prof. Tomasz Jasiński from the Adam Mickiewicz University¹⁰ in Poznań and

Physics, Astronomy and Applied Informatics; Theology.

⁶ Translator's comment: The Nicolaus Copernicus University is not new to academic scandals. The author described one of them in the 2013 Academic Forum article 'Accusations against a Dean' (<http://www.bmartin.cc/dissent/documents/Wronski/Wronski1307.pdf>). But while that affair concerned Dr Tomasz Justyński, an up and coming, ambitious Thorn lawyer, striving to establish himself at any cost among the highest eschelon of Polish academics, this time the scandal ruined the crystal image of a seasoned and widely admired scholar, Prof. Andrzej Radzimiński.

⁷ Translator's comment: The note 'The style of research of Andrzej Radzimiński' was posted at http://www.academia.edu/8618437/Metoda_pracy_Andrzeja_Radzimińskiego

⁸ Translator's comment: The University of Warsaw (UW) is a public research and academic institution. It was established in 1816 and is the best and largest university in Poland with over 3,000 academics, and 60,000 students, 10,000 of which are postgraduate and PhD students. It comprises 18 faculties, including: Journalism and Political Science; Philosophy and Sociology; History; Applied Linguistics and Slavic Philology; Law and Public Administration; Applied Social Sciences. UW is ranked in the top 100 European and the top 400 world universities.

⁹ Translator's comment: Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (MCSU) is one of the major public universities in Poland. It opened in October 1944 in the city of Lublin in the South-Eastern Poland. It is named in honour of Marie Curie-Skłodowska. The university has almost 36,000 students and 1829 academic teachers including 302 professors, 157 of them being full professors.

¹⁰ Translator's comment: Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań is one of the most important Polish universities and it is located in the city of Poznań in the western part of Poland and well known for its Faculty of Modern Languages. It opened on May 7, 1919, and since 1955 has carried the name of the Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz. The most famous graduates were the mathematicians who broke the German coding machine 'Enigma': Marian Rejewski, Henryk Zygalski, and Jerzy Różycki. This achievement was a major contribution to the Allies effort to defeat Nazi Germany in WW2. Presently, the student body numbers 50,000, and academic staff 3,000. The university has the following Faculties: English; Biology; Chemistry; Educational Studies; Geographical and Geological Science;

Dr Andrzej Pleszczyński from the MCSU.

In his internet posting Dr Grabowski, a “rookie” medievalist, unapologetically accused Prof. Radzimiński of violating copyright law in his book *The woman in medieval Europe*. He alleged that the esteemed professor had appropriated parts of other authors’ works, and used them, without referencing, in his own monograph, published by the Nicolaus Copernicus University.

According to Dr Grabowski, Prof. Radzimiński’s most extensive appropriations originated from the following books: *Sexuality in medieval Poland*, Poznań 2000, authored by Dr Adam Krawiec from AMU, *Fourth Estate: A History of Women in the Middle Ages*, London 1983, written by Prof. Shulamith Shahar from Israel, and *The concepts of womanhood and sainthood in the lives of Polish princesses in the thirteenth century*, Poznań 2004, by Dr Maciej Michalski from AMU. Dr Grabowski’s two-page internet posting was accompanied by a concordance that detailed the borrowings. Attached were photocopies of the original texts as they appeared in the books from which Prof. Radzimiński appropriated his borrowings. Dr Grabowski’s comprehensive analysis enabled readers to reach their own conclusions as to the seriousness and extent of misconduct committed by Prof. Radzimiński in his publication. The young historian repeatedly stressed that he discovered the unreferenced borrowings in the Thorn professor’s book by accident. Disturbed by the huge scale of the appropriations, he decided to make his findings public. Dr Grabowski finished his note with the poignant question: ‘Is it justifiable to appropriate text from another author’s publication with no reference other than listing it in the bibliography?’

Storm on the web

The news about the allegations of infringement of copyright by Prof. Radzimiński spread among historians and scholars like wildfire. Answering the claims, the accused placed his own messages on *academia.edu*. His four separate statements were posted in the period from 10th to 16th October 2014, that is within six days after Dr Grabowski’s allegations appeared on the internet forum. Prof. Radzimiński’s first and the most extensive proclamation, dated

History; Law and Administration; Mathematics and Computer Science; Modern Languages and Literature; Physics; Polish and Classical Philology; Political Science and Journalism; Social Sciences and Philosophy; Theology; Pedagogy and Fine Arts.

10th October 2014, was accompanied by a PDF file that contained the contested book. Over six pages, he explained how he wrote and edited his publication. He was convinced that his work was not tainted by any dishonesty. He said that, as this was a popular scholarly book, he was not required to place references in its text. The accused stressed that '[his] borrowings [were] not fragments of text which were simply copied in extenso from other books, but they mostly reflect[ed] certain thoughts of their authors (...)'. Finally, Prof. Radzimiński unequivocally stated that in his view, once another scholar's publication is listed in the bibliography, any part of this publication can be appropriated without a need for further referencing!

Three days later, on 13th October 2014, the above notice was removed, and replaced by a new one, much more categorical and definite. It proclaimed that the said book was a popular scholarly publication, hence the 'review' on the portal *academia.edu* 'contains clearly false suggestions in regards to the methods of my research, and damages my reputation as a scholar. Therefore, I publicly declare that if, within 14 days, the author does not withdraw his statement which is derogatory to my dignity and integrity, I will file a defamation lawsuit against him'.

Prof. Radzimiński's next statement, dated 14 October 2014, was addressed directly to Dr Grabowski. It referred to 'his "review" of my popular scholarly book'. The tone of this notice was still very categorical. The professor wrote that the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University had tested his book using its anti-plagiarism software and it emerged that similarities constituted only 5% of the whole text. Thus, in comparison with other works issued by this publisher, his book had one of the lowest similarity levels. Further, Prof. Radzimiński stated, 'I would like to make Antoni T. Grabowski aware that even if I had used approximately 10 pages from the books he mentioned - which, contrary to his false proclamation, I had not - the borrowings would still constitute only 3.5% of the whole content of my book. These are the facts. If Antoni T. Grabowski does not retract his allegations and does not apologise for the damage he has done to my reputation, I will add the above information to the already vast body of evidence that I intend to use in the civil proceedings against him. I would also like to inform all the concerned that at today's meeting of the Council of the Faculty of History, I issued a statement announcing that I am filing a case with a court of law to defend my good name. My lawyers are already preparing a lawsuit in regards to this matter and it will go to court unless Antoni T. Grabowski withdraws his slanderous

allegations’.

Meanwhile, on 12th October 2014, Prof. Radziwiński wrote a letter to Prof. Jacek Banaszekiewicz, the scholar who was Dr Grabowski’s PhD supervisor. The note questioned Dr Grabowski’s motives and suggested Prof. Banaszekiewicz talk to his former doctoral student. Especially that this case may end up in court.

Reaction of young scholars

Prof. Radziwiński’s public threats against Dr Grabowski alarmed Dr Adam Krawiec and Dr Maciej Michalski, the two young scholars from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, whose copyrights had been violated in Prof. Radziwiński’s book. On 14 October 2014, together with another academic, Dr Przemysław Wiszewski from the University of Wrocław¹¹, they posted the following, short statement on Facebook: ‘We, the undersigned, are distressed by the nature of the discussion that has developed as a result of the tactics employed by Prof. A. Radziwiński. As soon as practically possible, we will present the outcome of our own investigation regarding paraphrases and word-for-word acquisitions from our works which are present in the book by Prof. Radziwiński. We hope that until that time, those involved in the discussion will not undertake any steps that may even further damage the good name of Polish medievalists’.

Confession of guilt and its denial

On 16 October 2014, Prof. Radziwiński withdrew from *academia.edu* his threats of legal action against Dr Grabowski and posted a new statement in which he announced the following:

‘After carefully comparing the texts and analysing my materials, it is with deep regret that I admit that in my book I used, in a manner that is improper and contrary to good academic

¹¹ Translator’s comment: The University of Wrocław (UWr) is a public research university located in the city of Wrocław, Poland. With 10 faculties and the student body of over 30,000, it is the largest university in the region of Lower Silesia. Since its founding in 1702 and until after World War II, it was an important academic centre for German-speaking countries. Due to postwar border shifts Wrocław became part of Poland, with the German population fleeing or being expelled. As at the same time, the city of Lviv fell within the Soviet Ukrainian SSR, the Polish Jan Kazimierz University of Lviv, complete with library and thousands of staff, was moved to Wrocław. Some of the professors came from pre-war Polish Stefan Batory University of Vilnius, as in turn this city fell within the Soviet Lithuanian SSR after WW2.

practices, works of third parties, thereby violating their copyrights. Having recognised that I am guilty, I have decided to approach the Vice-Chancellor of NCU, Prof. Andrzej Tretyn, as well as the Director of the Publishing House of NCU and ask them to withdraw unsold copies of my book from distribution, on the understanding of covering all the costs and financial losses arising from this action. I apologise to all of those who have suffered damage in connection with this matter. In particular, I would like to extend my apologies to Dr Antoni T. Grabowski, whom, having lost self-control, I baselessly threatened with legal action. I fully accept the arguments of Dr Grabowski who stated that the aim of his review was not to question the entire body of my scholarly achievements, and that he only referred to my book about the woman in medieval Europe’.

However, only two days after his admission of guilt, in an interview with journalist Paulina Błaszczewicz from *The News*¹², Prof. Radziwiński said, ‘I do not know whether publishing my apology was the right thing to do. I need a proper legal opinion to assess the situation. Thus I left this entire matter to my lawyer. I know that I acted according to law. If the book was a scholarly work, I would have definitely used footnotes to reference the material borrowed from other authors. However, the book in question, which conceptual framework was entirely of my own authorship, is a popular scholarly publication. Thus, it does not require such level of referencing.’

The following week, on 22 October 2014 Prof. Radziwiński expressed his views in the Thorn issue of the *Electoral Gazette*¹³ in the following way: ‘No one has brought any charges against me. My apology was only a result of my fragile emotional state. Thus I have admitted to having done something that I have actually never done. I firmly believe that I have not violated law’. He also said that he reported the matter to the Vice-Chancellor of NCU, Prof.

¹² Translator’s comment: *The News*, founded in 1967, is the largest daily newspaper in Thorn and is read by more than 66% of its population.

¹³ Translator’s comment: The *Electoral Gazette* is a daily Polish liberal newspaper with the largest circulation in Poland. It was first published on 8 May 1989, under the motto, “There's no freedom without Solidarity”. Its founding was an outcome of the agreement between the Polish communist government and political opponents centred around the Solidarity movement. The paper was to serve as the voice of Solidarity during the run-up to semi-free elections held on 4 June 1989 (hence the newspaper’s title). It was the first legal newspaper not controlled by the communists. The paper’s editor-in-chief since its founding has been a famous Polish anti-communist dissident, Adam Michnik. The paper’s headquarters are located in Warsaw but it publishes daily local editions in over 20 Polish cities, including Thorn.

Tretyn who, on 21 October 2014, handed the matter over to the Disciplinary Officer to conduct a formal disciplinary investigation.

Disciplinary investigation

The NCU Disciplinary Officer is Prof. Bogusław Sygit. He is a full professor of law and Director of the Department of Foundations of Medical Law at the Bydgoszcz Medical Collage, as well as Head of the Department of Criminology at the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Łódź. Prof. Sygit commenced the investigation on 24 October 2014, asking Prof. Radziwiński to comment on the allegations. On 17 November 2014, Prof. Radziwiński sent him a letter, in which he stated that he withdraws his ‘admission of guilt’ of 16 October 2014. He also submitted a legal opinion prepared by Dr Jan Piszczek, a lawyer from Thorn who for long has been an assistant professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn¹⁴. Dr Piszczek pronounced that the book does not constitute plagiarism, and its author had not violated copyright law.

A week later, on 24 November 2014, Prof. Sygit questioned Dr Grabowski¹⁵. The young medievalist brought with him a new concordance of borrowings. It was more detailed than the one he had first published on 10 October 2014 as part of his allegations against Prof. Radziwiński and it listed two new appropriations from other authors. The first one was copied from the publication by Prof. Urszula Sowina from Institute of Archeology and Ethnology of the Polish Academy of Sciences¹⁶, ‘Widows and orphans in law of the towns of the Crown of the Kingdom of Poland in the late Middle Ages and early modern period’. The second borrowing originated from the book by Prof. Maria Bogucka *The inferior gender. The woman in the history of Europe from antiquity to the twenty-first century*. Furthermore, these two

¹⁴ Translator’s comment: The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) is a public university, established on 1 September 1999. It is located in the city of Olsztyn, in Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship, Poland. The core structure of the University was based upon three institutions of higher learning already established in the city: the Academy of Agriculture and Technology, the Pedagogical Institute, and the Warmia Institute of Theology. The University has 16 faculties. The student body numbers 45,000, including 3,000 of postgraduate and 400 doctoral students.

¹⁵ Translator’s comment: A detailed report from this hearing session is available from *academia.edu*

¹⁶ Translator’s comment: The Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS) is a Polish state learned institution and a major scientific advisory body, with headquarters in Warsaw. It was established in 1952 and operates through an elected body of leading scholars and research institutions and through its committees. Among its aims is coordination and overseeing of numerous research institutes, which employ over 2,000 people. PAS receives one third of the Polish government’s total budget for science.

items were not even mentioned by Prof. Radziwiński in his book's bibliography.

Next Prof. Sygit questioned the Director of the Publishing House of NCU, Prof. Mirosław Strzyżewski, a literary studies scholar from the NCU's Institute of Polish Literature. The latter presented the publishing contract No. 39/11, signed by Prof. Radziwiński. Paragraph 3 clearly stated that the book was original, did not include any borrowings from other authors' works, and did not violate third parties' rights. Furthermore, the Publishing House seconded one of their employees to carry out the editorial work together with Prof. Radziwiński who, at the time, was the Vice-Chancellor of NCU. Prof. Strzyżewski concluded that, given the above facts, it was Prof. Radziwiński's and not the Publishing House's fault that the book violated copyright law.

In early December 2014, the Disciplinary Officer approached Prof. Krystyna Szczepanowska-Kozłowska from the Department of Intellectual Property Law and Intangible Goods at the University of Warsaw. He requested her to prepare an expert opinion on whether the popular character of the work justified the use of fragments of works by other authors without referencing. Prof. Krystyna Szczepanowska-Kozłowska furnished her two-page statement on 11 March 2015. She unequivocally asserted that it did not matter if the publication was scholarly or popular - in any situation where writers use fragments of works produced by others, they must quote names of authors and source of the fragment. It is not sufficient to include the source in the bibliography, without specifying how and to what degree it was used.

After reading the above legal report, on 26 March 2015 Prof. Radziwiński sent another letter to the Disciplinary Officer. He stated that he agreed with the expert's opinion. Therefore, he asks the Officer to withdraw from the file of this case the letter of 17 November 2014 (in which the professor withdrew his letter from 16 October 2014, where he admitted his guilt and apologised to Dr Grabowski). He said that once again he regarded as valid his statement of 16 October 2014 which is in his case's file and which appeared for few days on *academia.edu*.

Offense less serious

After that, the Disciplinary Officer, without producing a formal proposal for a further disciplinary action, closed his investigation. Meanwhile, on 4 May 2015 Vice-Chancellor Prof. Tretyn issued an admonition against Prof. Radzimiński for unprofessional conduct, inconsistent with what is expected of an academic teacher. In the explanatory statement the Vice-Chancellor wrote: ‘In the course of the investigation, it was established that you had committed a disciplinary offence, which is contrary to the duties and ethics of an academic teacher. Specifically, in your book *Womanhood in medieval Europe*, published by the Nicolaus Copernicus University Publishing House, Thorn 2012, you borrowed, without referencing, excerpts from three works and only listed them in the so-called bibliography. You also appropriated fragments from two other publications and failed to give their sources at all. Taking into account the conclusions from this investigation, and in particular the experts’ opinions, the popular nature of the book, different views on referencing that is required in such works, the statements that you supplied in which you explained your position, your cooperative conduct and the positive actions you undertook in this matter, I consider your misdeed to be a less serious disciplinary offence. Therefore, I issue the penalty of admonition against you.’

As the accused did not appeal, this sentence is final.

Commentary

From the factual and legal position Prof. Radzimiński violated copyright law and thus his case should have been referred to the University Disciplinary Commission who should have punished him, at the very least, with a reprimand. He has not expressed genuine remorse, but publicly, from day to day, kept changing his mind on the issue of whether he considered himself guilty or not. At the same time, it was completely obvious, if only from examining Dr Grabowski’s concordance, that Prof. Radzimiński committed an act of intellectual fraud. I am truly appalled and shocked by the above described developments, especially as I recall Prof. Radzimiński’s outstanding integrity during his 2008-2012 term as the NCU’s Vice-Chancellor. In this period, he always made the right decisions in relation to cases connected with disciplinary misconduct. It was during this period that, on 3 October 2008, in an

interview with the *Electoral Gazette* he said: ‘It is important to make everyone aware that intellectual fraud is a crime equivalent to theft’¹⁷.

Society of Shoddy Scholars

The shameful violation of copyrights of several authors by Prof. Radzimiński became public knowledge. However, neither this nor his ongoing disciplinary investigation, prevented him from putting his name forward as a candidate for the position of President of the Thorn Academic Society. He was selected to this eminent post on 2 March 2015. It is appalling that *nobody* among dozens of university professors, who had voting rights in this election, pointed out that the candidate had committed intellectual fraud.

At the other end of the scale is the fact that when Prof. Radzimiński became the President of the Thorn Academic Society, Prof. Krzysztof Obremski and Prof. Mirosław Strzyżewski resigned from it.

It is worth noting that as many as twenty-four history professors from around Poland, whose names have not been disclosed, signed a statement in which they proclaimed that ‘[when other authors’ works are used] in a popular scholarly publication, it is entirely sufficient and satisfactory from the point view of scholarly referencing, to include these works in the bibliography list [at the end of the book]’. It would be interesting to learn the names of the unethical scholars who signed this statement. Meanwhile, the rest of Polish historians are impatiently awaiting the already publicly announced critical review of Prof. Radzimiński’s infamous book by Prof. Adam Krawiec.

It must be stressed that Prof. Radzimiński misled the Council of the Faculty of History when he stated at the meeting on 14 October 2014 that the accusation of infringement of copyright in his book was made out of spite! By now the Council members should have realised that Prof. Radzimiński simply lied to them. Moreover, contrary to the disciplinary action procedures, Prof. Radzimiński’s case was not dealt with by the Senate of the Nicolaus Copernicus University. Such non-adherence to the prescribed protocols is a clear sign for the

¹⁷ Translator’s comment: Under the Polish Copyright Act, intellectual fraud is subject to prosecution *ex officio*, without the necessity of the victim to file a complaint.

NCU's scholars that 'all [academics] are equal, but some [academics] are more equal than others'¹⁸.

The final insult to injury

In 2012 *The woman in the Middle Ages* received the famous KLIO Award¹⁹ for its graphic design. The shining splendour of this prize fell upon the Publishing House of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Thorn. Shouldn't KLIO Award Committee, chaired by Prof. Tomasz Szarota, consider retracting this prestigious award which presently allows the Nicolaus Copernicus University to bask in the undeserved glory? It must be mentioned here that the electronic version of the book containing all the unlawful borrowings and appropriations is widely available for purchase from the internet as only the print copies have been (reportedly) withdrawn from distribution.



Righteousness is withering away

In another case of misconduct at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Thorn, Poland, Dr Agnieszka Szpak was found guilty of having borrowed without referencing from 2003 publication by Prof. Lindsay Moir from the University of Hull, UK. Surprisingly, the Polish offender remained active on the Disciplinary Committee for Academic Teachers at the Nicolaus Copernicus University.

Dr Agnieszka Szpak is an assistant professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences and International Studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Thorn. When in 2013 Dr Szpak submitted a publication to the annual *Contemporary Issues of International, European and Comparative Law*, the journal's reviewer noticed numerous borrowings in her manuscript. These were found to originate from a 2003 publication authored by Prof. Lindsay Moir from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom. Comparison of both works revealed that Dr Szpak had appropriated, without referencing, creative elements from Prof. Moir's paper.

¹⁸ Translator's comment: This widely known quote from George Orwell's book *Animal Farm* was paraphrased by the translator by replacing the original word 'animals' with the word 'academics'.

¹⁹ Translator's comment: KLIO Award is the prestigious prize awarded since 1995 to publications for outstanding contributions to historical research.

Because she had failed to reference the borrowings and published the material under her own name, in October 2013 the journal's Editor-in-Chief, Dr Paweł Czubik from the Institute of European Studies of the Jagiellonian University²⁰ in Cracow informed the NCU's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Andrzej Tretyn that Dr Szpak might have committed academic plagiarism. The NCU's Disciplinary Officer, Prof. Andrzej Adamski confirmed the allegations and recommended imposing a penalty on the offender. At the disciplinary hearing Dr Szpak did not admit to having committed the offence, claiming that the similarities between the two publications were due to the fact that the topics of her and Prof. Moir's papers were closely related and that they both used the same bibliography. Despite her denial of guilt, on 12 June 2014 the Arbitration Panel of the NCU's Disciplinary Committee for Academic Teachers, chaired by Prof. Marek Kalinowski and whose members were academic Dr Małgorzata Świdorska and student Justyna Mordzak, imposed on Dr Szpak a penalty of reprimand.

What I found appalling was that, despite the confirmed allegations and despite the fact that the disciplinary sentence issued in June 2014 was unappealable, up until May 2015 Dr Szpak remained a member of the same University Disciplinary Committee for Academic Teachers that previously convicted her, chaired by the same Prof. Kalinowski who had chaired the disciplinary proceedings against her! The only reason she was finally terminated from that post was my personal intervention with the Nicolaus Copernicus University authorities.

The above cases that concern the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Thorn, and the other ones that I described recently²¹ e.g. those referring to the esteemed Cracow University of

²⁰ Translator's comment: The Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364 in the medieval city of Cracow in the South of Poland, is the oldest and best Polish university, as well as one of the oldest universities in the world. It flourished after Poland gained independence in 1918. The most important in the post WWI period was the creation of the Jagiellonian Library, which includes a world-renowned collection of medieval manuscripts, e.g. Copernicus' 'De Revolutionibus', as well as a recently established, extensive collection of underground political literature from Poland's period of Communist rule between 1945 and 1989. Following the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, 184 professors were arrested and the university was closed. Reopened in 1945, its revival was suppressed by the Communists. Poland's entry into the European Union in 2004 resulted in huge increase in funding from both the Polish government and European authorities, permitting a rapid rejuvenation of most of the departments, despite the issues that are the legacy of the Communist period.

²¹ Translator's comment: The articles, 'Pirated from Cambridge into Cracow' (<http://www.bmartin.cc/dissent/documents/Wronski/Wronski1502.pdf>) and the section 'Pirated from Cambridge into Cracow by Prof. Sanetra' in 'The unholy priest (or the plagiarisms of Father Tymosz)' (<http://www.bmartin.cc/dissent/documents/Wronski/Wronski1507.pdf>) describe how a prominent physics professor from Cracow plagiarised from a Cambridge PhD student.

Technology²² and the famous AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow²³, show how ‘(...) righteousness withers away, and evil rules (...)’ at Poland’s most prestigious universities²⁴.

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²² Translator’s comment: Cracow University of Technology is a public university located in Cracow. It was established in 1946. The student body numbers 17,000 and staff 1200. It has seven Faculties: Architecture; Electrical and Computer Engineering; Civil Engineering; Environmental Engineering; Chemical Engineering and Technology; Mechanical Engineering; Physics, Mathematics and Computer Science. It is one of the best technical universities in Poland.

²³ Translator’s comment: AGH University of Science and Technology is one of the best technical research universities institutes and the largest technical university in Poland. It was established in 1919 in Cracow. It has 16 Faculties: Mining and Geoengineering; Metals Engineering and Industrial Computer Science; Electrical Engineering, Automatics, Computer Science and Engineering in Biomedicine; Mechanical Engineering and Robotics; Geology, Geophysics and Environmental Protection; Mining Surveying and Environmental Engineering; Materials Science and Ceramics; Foundry Engineering; Non-Ferrous Metals; Drilling, Oil and Gas; Management; Fuels and Energy; Physics and Applied Computer Science; Applied Mathematics; Humanities; Computer Science, Electronics and Telecommunications. The student body numbers 36,000 and academic staff 1,000.

²⁴ Translator’s comment: From the Bhagavad-Gita.