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A report from the International Academic Conference "Ustrój terytorialny państwa a decentralizacja systemu władzy publicznej" [Territorial System and Decentralization of the Central Government] (Toruń, 14th May 2012)

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

funeral marches and epitaphs. Only the last presentation included an innovative approach; the preceding presentations were just a reconstruction or adaptation of well-established and commonly used methods. This session also presented serviceable propositions for research procedures that may be used to examine problems related to cultural memory.

Recapitulating, the Third Trialog Conference in Kaliningrad was a fruitful meeting of academics from Germany, Poland, and Russia. The conference facilitated an open debate between research from these states (and from Austria). The Immanuel Kant University plans to publish the contributions of participants as a Russian-language book in 2012. It is safe to say that the book will be an important source for Russian academic society and may be the beginning of an important discussion or a contribution to the development of local studies on cultural memory. It is proper to congratulate organizers on a successful and productive meeting.

Judyta Węglowska

**A REPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC
CONFERENCE *USTRÓJ TERYTORIALNY PAŃSTWA*
A DECENTRALIZACJA SYSTEMU WŁADZY PUBLICZNEJ
[TERRITORIAL SYSTEM AND DECENTRALIZATION
OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT] (TORUŃ, 14th MAY 2012)**

On the 14th of May 2012 an international academic conference *Ustrój terytorialny państwa a decentralizacja systemu władzy publicznej* [Territorial System and Decentralization of the Central Government] was held in Toruń. In Collegium Maxium, a fine building of the Nicolaus Copernicus University, eminent scholars gathered to discuss the issues connected primarily with the Polish territorial system. The conference was held on the fifteenth anniversary of passing the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

The main organizer of the event was the Centre for Eastern Studies and the Department of Polish Political System of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the Nicolaus Copernicus University.

The conference was opened by Alfred Lutrzykowski PhD, who was the academic supervisor of the event. In the first part of the meeting took part Adam Marszałek, PhD – chairman of Adam Marszałek Publishing House, Prof. Andrzej Radziński, PhD – Rector of Nicolaus Copernicus University. The conference was also graced by the presence of the Deputy Senate Marshal – Senator Jan Wyrowiński, who spoke about the priorities that local governments should establish for themselves. The next speakers were Marian Fręckiewicz, Chairman of the City Council of Toruń, Mirosław Graczyk, Starost of the Toruń District, and Prof. Roman Bäcker, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies. After those initial speeches, the floor was given to the academics who presented their papers.

The first session was moderated by Michał Strzelecki, PhD (NCU Toruń). The opening lecture was given by the academic supervisor of the conference, Alfred Lutrzykowski, PhD, who spoke about *Ustrój terytorialny a decentralizacja systemu władzy; konstytucyjny imperatyw* [Territorial System and Decentralization of Government; the Constitutional Imperative]. The next lecture was given by Prof. Olga Artemowa from the Institute of Public Affairs in Chelyabinsk on *Właściwości ustroju terytorialnego Rosji* [The Characteristics of the Russian Territorial System]. Afterwards, to the great interest of the audience, Prof. Hans Jörg Hennecke from Dusseldorf presented his paper on *Decentralization as a Model in Europe? Order Theoretical Demands and German Experiences with Regional and Economic Administration*. In the first session there were three very interesting lectures given. The first one was by Prof. Jacek Sobczak, who spoke about *Decentralizacja administracji publicznej a zadania samorządu terytorialnego* [Decentralization of Public Administration and the Tasks of the Local Government], followed by Prof. Ludwik Habuda, who discussed *Zasadniczy podział terytorialny państwa podstawą do wyboru w kwestii centralizacji i decentralizacji* [The Basic Territorial Division of a State as a Basis of Making Choices between Centralization and Decentralization]. After Prof. Habuda, Prof. Tomasz Kaczmarek spoke about *Podział terytorialny Polski z perspektywy przemian przestrzenno-funkcyjnych w kraju* [Territorial Division of Poland from the Perspective of Spatial and Functional Transformations in the Country]. It was the last lecture during the first session of the conference. Afterwards, there was an interesting follow-up discussion between the lectures and the other participants of the conference gathered in Collegium Maximum.

The second session was moderated by Mariusz Popławski, PhD (NCU Toruń). As the first speaker Jacek Pokładecki, PhD presented his paper on *Samorząd terytorialny jako forma decentralizacji władzy lokalnej. Doświadczenia europejskie i polskie* [Territorial Self-government as a Form of Decentralization of Local Government. European and Polish Experiences]. Subsequently, lectures were given by Łukasz Mikuła, PhD on *Ustrój terytorialny Polski a problemy polityki przestrzennej* [Polish Territorial System and the Problems of Spatial Planning Policy]; Agnieszka Lipska-Sondecka, PhD and Mirosław Sondecki, MSc Eng. discussed *Ustrój terytorialny państwa a zadania administracji niespolonej na przykładzie Straży Granicznej* [Polish Territorial System and the Tasks of Non-combined Administration on the Example of the Border Guard]. The last lecture during the conference was given by Marek Zjawiony, MA of the University of East Anglia on *Big Society czyli totalna decentralizacja. Nowa jakość rządzenia w Wielkiej Brytanii i Irlandii Północnej w obliczu wyzwań XXI wieku* [Big Society, or a Total Devolution. A New Quality of Governing in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland].

It is worth to mention a novelty that was introduced by the organizers of the conference. Due to a large numbers of papers, not all of them were presented as lectures (the conference was planned as a one day event); they were available, however, as tabled papers. In this form presented were the papers by: Beata Słobodzian, PhD *Założenia i realizacja decentralizacji administracji publicznej z 1998 roku* [The Principles and

Realization of Public Administration Decentralization of 1998]; Konrad Koc, PhD *Mapa powiatowa a proces decentralizacji władzy publicznej w Polsce po 1999 r.* [The Poviats Map and the Public Administration Decentralization after 1999]; Marek Brylew, PhD *Decentralizacja Iraku. Problemy i wyzwania* [Decentralization of Iraq. Problems and Challenges]; Jacek Lewicki, MA *Powiat wobec polityki miejskiej* [Poviat and the Urban Policy]; Ksenia Kakareko, MA *Zadania zlecone jako forma decentralizacji administracji rządowej* [Delegated Tasks as a Form of Decentralization of the Central Government], Adam Jarosz, MA *Od państwa unitarnego do krajów związkowych w ramach federacji. Rozwój samorządu terytorialnego i procesy decentralizacji w byłej NRD* [From the Unitarian State to the Federated States. The Development of Local Government and Devolution in the Former German Democratic Republic]; Paweł Machalski, MA *Współpraca międzynarodowa jednostek polskiego samorządu terytorialnego – od górne standardy czy swoboda decyzji?* [International Cooperation of Local Government Units – Top-down Standards or Freedom of Choice?]; Agata Kleczkowska, MA *Uprawnienia województw w zakresie współpracy zagranicznej w kontekście prawnoporównawczym* [The Rights of Regions in the Area of International Cooperation in View of Comparative Law]. The importance of these issues is evidenced by the state's growing interest in using narratives about the past as a substantiation of current decisions and programs. Initially, the German debate expanded to include the entirety of Europe and has joined.