

Maciek Sekerdej

Institute of Psychology, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Report of the Teaching Workshops

We (Kinga Sekerdej & I) have organised an integrating meeting, where PhD students of psychology and sociology had an opportunity to exchange their experience concerning both teaching and research methods. It was a really fruitful encounter, because although our disciplines belong to the field which is generally called social sciences, we operate in almost completely different paradigms and apply distinct perspectives e.g. as for collecting data, analysing outcomes etc. In the course of discussions it turned out that in many points our subjects are not so much opposite, but complementary. Despite the fact that our debates did not yield any definite conclusions concerning concrete teaching techniques, I think we acquired some kind of new viewpoints on the issues we are dealing with in our academic work. And this is, in my opinion, the most important benefit of our reunion.

I co-organised a meeting, within my Department, focused on the debate concerning the structure of the introductory course of social psychology. The main purposes were to discuss (a) the possible changes in the relevant literature (compulsory and additional), (b) implementation of new methods aimed at stimulation of students' activity, (c) implementation of new methods of testing students academic progress.

Similar issues are also under discussion during our regular departmental reunions. Among other things various student assignments were introduced, for example, conducting experiments in teams; preparing mini-experiments (in pairs) for each seminar, which are supposed to serve as an illustration of the issues in question; preparing presentation of the examples taken from a daily life, which can be explained by means of psychological concepts etc.

Apart from the first and the second teaching workshops, which were of more conventional character I had a few encounters with my colleagues, where we discussed some technical issues concerning the social psychology workshops we run last year. We debated some concrete methods of teaching and testing the knowledge of our students. These issues are crucial to our work, but, at the same time, remarkably difficult due to the lack of the specialist

literature and professional training. Thus, unfortunately, we are limited to rely on our experiences so we tried to make profitable use of the meetings, exchanging our opinions and views. I have received also a truly beneficial feedback from the students, who were involved in ReSet project, thanks to less formal character of our relations.