

## REPORTS & REVIEWS

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# Scientific and martial arts' tourism. The case study of the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMACSSS International Conference and Congress<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

Aim is a description of the World Congress of specialists in the field of martial arts and combat sports, belonging to the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS). It is both a review of scientific events and its analysis as an important event for martial arts tourism. What sub-form of the martial arts tourism was this 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts?

Method. This is a case study. Sources are analysed and the authors also advance the method of participant observation. It includes standard methodological "humanistic coefficient" of Florian Znaniecki's and content analysis of subject literature.

Results. In Rzeszow there was a meeting of the leaders of scientific societies, editors of specialized journals, the main masters of martial arts schools, theoreticians, experts and empiric researchers. For some participants of the Congress it was martial arts tourism in its colloquial meaning, i.e. a situation when martial arts are a tourist attraction of the place. However, most of the participants of this Congress participated in it mainly for research purposes. A particular kind of travel for studying martial arts is a trip in connection with a scientific congress or conference which is devoted to "martial arts sciences" (sub-form no. 7).

Conclusion. The community of martial arts' researchers focused on martial arts IMACSSS thrives. Changing roles of hosts and guests in this type of scientific and cultural tourism is a result of organizational development and the increasing level (knowledge and skills). The described Congress was successful both for participants and organizers; it was an event that formed part of the martial arts history and the history of specialities: martial arts science/sciences.

### 1. Introduction

Perspectives for the study include: the Humanistic Theory of Martial Arts, Anthropology of Martial Arts, Systemic-Anthropological Theory of Tourism and sociology of martial arts [cf. Tokarski 1989; Cynarski 2010, 2011a, 2012b, 2014; Cynarski, Obodyński 2010; Sieber, Cynarski 2010; Sanchez-Garcia, Spencer 2013]. They are related to three areas of human activity strictly: martial arts, science and tourism, which is why an interdisciplinary perspective appears as a necessity here.

Regarding of the new-paradigm theory of tourism – "the scientific theory of tourism becomes increasingly coherent if it is based on the systemic paradigm. This paradigm consists of different research lines providing the complementary areas for a multilevel, interpretive, humanistic-oriented theory built on a new, holistic anthropology that combines spiritual and physical dimensions, as well as cultural and ecological aspects (...). The new theory centres on the psychophysical aspects of the individual human against the backdrop of the spatial, temporal and socio-cultural contextual factors. It may be useful for researchers in the field of economics, geography, sociology, cultural anthropology, psychology, philosophy, theology and history who contribute to the development

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of tourism research as an autonomous science. In light of the systemic-anthropological approach to the field of tourism, researchers have the opportunity to discuss a myriad of travel types, motives and human needs. Numerous aspects and dimensions can be analysed, but always and primarily from the perspective of man, the central subject of tourist activities" [Cynarski 2014: 12].

As Wojciech J. Cynarski [2012a: 11] wrote: "The idea of 'martial arts tourism', which appeared in the 7<sup>th</sup> volume, is a domain resulting straight from the new humanistic and anthropologically integral (i.e. in accordance with the paradigm of systemic expressions and a holistic theory of a human being, culture and society) theory of tourism and a humanistic theory of martial arts". This 7<sup>th</sup> volume of the "Ido – Ruch dla Kultury / Movement for Culture" contained the article *Coming into being of the martial arts tourism* [Sieber, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2007]. This was indeed one of the first publications on this subject. However, the most extensive so far expression of these concepts can be found in the books: *Encounters, Conflicts, Dialogues. Analysis of the Selected Areas of Physical Culture and Cultural Tourism*, and *Anthropology as a Driver for Tourism Research* [cf. Cynarski 2010, 2012a, 2014; Raimondo 2011].

For the purposes of this study the following definition is accepted: **Martial arts tourism** is a realisation of the travel and visit directly connected with the studies of martial arts. A specific and distinguishing feature of martial arts tourism is connecting tourists, places of visits, the context of the travel or the main destination (value and aim) with martial arts or their particular kind. In 'martial arts tourism' the way of self-knowledge and self-realisation is bound up with the educational tourism. It is a phenomenon of the travel with a motivation to get to know martial arts, studying, practising and teaching them [Cynarski 2012a: 13].

## 2. Problem and Method

The problem here is the scientific description and explanation - a case study [cf. Raimondo 2011]. The World Congress of specialists in the field of martial arts and combat sports has grown into the IMACSSS (International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society). It is both a review of scientific events and its analysis as an important event for martial arts tourism. What was the sub-form of the Congress of martial arts tourism?

In order to solve the given problem some sources are analysed and the authors also advance the method of participant observation. It includes

Znanięcki's standard methodological "humanistic" factor [Thomas, Znanięcki 1918-1920; Znanięcki 1934] and the content analysis of literature of the subject [Krippendorff 2004; Mayring 2004]. They are important events for all participants. Direct conversations with participants allow to make reviews of such findings. Moreover, the authors of the study themselves were participants of the described Congress, acting in it in different roles (hosts and guests, speakers and listeners, presenters and followers) [cf. Philimore, Goodson 2004; Richards, Munsters 2010].

Description of the event is preceded by information about the creation of IMACSSS. Then the Congress as a scientific event is described and reviewed. The content is illustrated by photographs taken from the recording of the Congress (photo factual material as a source).

## 3. The Origin of IMACSSS

As it is announced on the web page of the congress, "The foundation of IMACSS (International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society) was preceded by a long-term activity of IPA (Idokan Poland Association), cooperation of researchers assembled in 'Ido Movement for Culture' and international scientific conferences organised in Poland and Portugal. In 2006 the first World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts was organized in Rzeszów on the initiative of Prof. Roman Maciej Kalina supported by Professors Kazimierz Obodyński and Wojciech J. Cynarski. As a result, an international scientific association was created a few years later. The Second World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszów took place in September 2010. It established the international IMACSSS Board." [http://wf.univ.rzeszow.pl/...]

The idea of creating a scientific society of a global range, which would bring together martial arts researchers matured mainly in the discussions of the Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education UR at that time, Prof. Obodyński with the president of IPA, Wojciech J. Cynarski<sup>2</sup>. The decision was made during a stay in Rhodes at an interesting conference [cf. Obodyński, Cynarski 2009]. In February 2010, a temporary board was set up, whose president became Wojciech J. Cynarski, and members of the newly registered company in the first place

<sup>2</sup> IPA – Idokan Poland Association, a scientific society of education and sports (focused on the study of martial arts), a non-profit organization. It has been operating since March 1993, with headquarters in Rzeszow (Poland).

were the staff of the Faculty of Physical Education and members of IPA. Standing Board and a number of foreign members were adopted at the Congress in September 2010.

Martial arts researchers already organized conferences and individually published different publications, in different institutions and in different countries. Therefore it was necessary to set up an organization that would focus and help to gather specialists representing the interests of that environment. These were, among others, regular scientific meetings to promote understanding of terminology, promote cooperation as far research and publication of work were concerned [cf. Pérez-Gutiérrez, Gutiérrez-García, Escobar-Molina 2011; Słopecki, Obodyński 2011; Cynarski, Reguli 2014; Cynarski, Skowron 2014].

IMACSSS is strictly a scientific society with headquarters in Rzeszow. It is based partially on IPA's organization and scientific works<sup>3</sup> develops research activities on an international scale. It is still closely cooperating with IPA (for example as patrons of "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology" - the quarterly published by IPA), and also with the Japanese Academy of Budo (JAB) and other specialized organizations.

#### **4. Programme of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts and the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMACSSS International Conference in Rzeszow**

As part of the Congress on 15-17 2014 October, the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMACSSS International Conference was held along with elections of the IMACSSS board (the General Assembly), 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Arts' Gala, 4<sup>th</sup> Workshops of Martial Arts (in co-operation with IPA), and 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the Rzeszow School "Man – Martial Arts – Humanism".

The main idea of this year's Congress was holistic openness to a wide range of thematic studies of martial arts and scientific debates, methodology of teaching (workshops) and the acquisition of new knowledge inspiring for researchers, educators, trainers and practitioners [Cynarski, Nizioł 2014: 12; cf. Bobko 2014]. Many academic institutions and organizations supported this initiative.

This time the following committees were set up: organizational, scientific, expert honourable and in addition – a team of external reviewers. Reported works were classified as: keynote lectures, plenary

and section oral presentations as well as poster presentations. There were separate sections for young scientists competing for of the IMACSSS Young Researcher Award and for the other participants. Division into sections concerned work in the field of "humanistic philosophical socio-cultural issues, psychological pedagogical historical" - within: the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium "Man - Martial Arts - Humanism". Other issues, especially with the theme: "coaching, training and fighting skills and biomedical problems of combat sports and martial arts" were qualified in the interdisciplinary section.

#### **4.1. General Assembly**

The General Assembly of delegates was the first event for organization of which Dr Krzysztof Kubala (General Secretary of the IMACSSS) was responsible. This took place on the first day before noon. The Board presented the technical reports and financial statements for the period 2010-2014, and received a discharge. The board elected by secret ballot for a period from 2014 to 2018 included:

President: Prof. Dr Wojciech J. Cynarski;

Vice-Presidents: Prof. Dr Fuminori Nakiri (Japan), Prof. Dr Abel A. Figueiredo (Portugal), Prof. Dr Zdenko Reguli (Czech Rep.), Prof. Dr Jong-HoonYu (USA), Prof. Dr Chuchchai Gomaratut (Thailand);

General Secretary: Dr Krzysztof Kubala; Treasurer: *Mgr* Agnieszka Pałys;

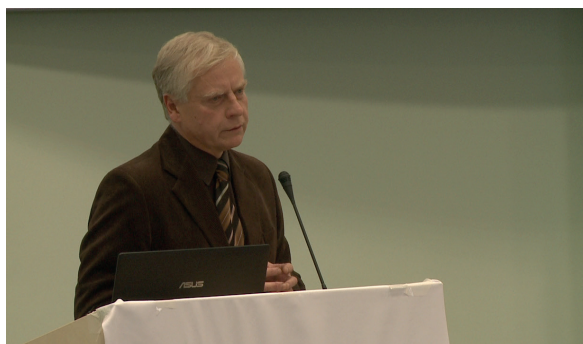
Board members: Prof. Dr Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia (Spain), Prof. Dr Fatih Hazar (Turkey), Prof. Dr Keith R. Kernspecht (Germany), Prof. Dr Kazimierz Obodyński (Poland), Prof. Dr Sergio Raimondo (Italy), Prof. Dr Antonio Vences Brito (Portugal), Dr Michal Vit (Czech Rep.);

Audit Committee: Prof. Dr Wojciech Czarny, Prof. Dr Zbigniew Borysiuk, Dr Gabriel Szajna.

#### **4.2. Conference**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 2 p.m. the participants gathered in the Assembly Hall of the University Congress Centre were welcomed by the concert of Polish-Japanese duo (flute and piano). There has been an official welcome. The Rector of the University of Rzeszow, *Prof. Dr hab.* Alexander Bobko and President of IMACSSS – Wojciech J. Cynarski officially and ceremonially began the Congress (photos 1-2), and occasional speeches were delivered by leaders of the scientific societies: Prof. Fuminori Nakiri (the Japanese Academy of Budo, JAB) and Prof. Vladimir Starosta (International Association of Sport Kinetics, IASK).

<sup>3</sup> Incidentally, Rzeszow martial arts researchers school, whose leader is Professor Cynarski, has been working here for many years.



**Photo 1.** Prof. Bobko, Rector UR

In the first Plenary Session, which was chaired by Cynarski, there were two key lectures. Prof. Fuminori Nakiri – the first invited speaker – presented his paper: “Concept of Budo and the history and activities of the Japanese Academy of Budo”. Then Prof. Stanisław Sterkowicz (AWF Kraków, Poland) presented the results of the research team on “Energy system contribution to Special Judo Fitness Test: Effects of throwing method”. A substantive discussion took place, confirming interest of the participants of the problems discussed.

After the break, there were two parallel sessions: interdisciplinary P-1, conducted by Prof. Dr Antonio Vences Brito, and humanistic P-2 (within 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium “Man – Martial Arts – Humanism”), conducted by Prof. Dr Sergio Raimondo. The study focused on antropomotrics (Starosta, the Czech team), inuristics (Pocecco *et al.*), or, for example, tactics in karate (Australian team) in P-1 session, and the general theory (Brizin, Kernspecht), history, social and cultural studies from China, through Europe to Venezuela (Ryan, UK), in P-2 [Kubala 2014].

In the Special Session P-3 only candidates for IMACSSS Young Researcher Awards participated. This session was conducted by Prof. Dr Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia (Spain), Prof. Dr Jong-Hoon Yu (USA) and Prof. Dr Willy Pieter (Czech Rep.), followed by the Poster Session I. At that time an interdisciplinary Poster Session II also took place, which was conducted by Prof. Dr Jacek Wasik (Częstochowa, Poland) and Prof. Dr Thomas A. Green (USA).

Oct. 16 at 9 a.m. – the 2<sup>nd</sup> Interdisciplinary Plenary Session. The chairman was Prof. Dr Rudolf Jakhel (Slovenia and Germany). The key lecture was delivered by Prof. Willy Pieter, “The Oregon Taekwondo Research Project: A review and re-analysis”. Next, after two consecutive papers (A. Figueiredo *et al.*; J. Simenko) and a coffee break Prof. Dr Zdenko Reguli conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Session (also within 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium “Man – Martial Arts – Humanism”). During that session Prof. Dr



**Photo 2.** From the left – Prof. Sterkowicz, Prof. Nakiri, Prof. Cynarski

Thomas Green presented the results of anthropological and cultural studies of Chinese-American research. Participants learned about the not falsified history of *taekwondo* (Udo Möning) and history of Polish martial arts (Z. Sawicki [2014]). There were also interesting presentations of Michal Vit (Czech Rep., on self-defence Scenario Training) and Fumiaki Shishida (Japan, Kano's principles in judo).

#### 4.3. 4<sup>th</sup> Workshops of Martial Arts in Rzeszów

After lunch participants were taken to the Workshops and Gala. The Idokan Poland Association was the co-organiser of this event. Some people actively participated in workshops, others - only watched from the stands.

Dr Mohamad Nizam Mahamed Shapie 8 dan (Malaysia) demonstrated how to teach some techniques of *silat*. Mr Sergio Mor-Stabilini 8 dan (Italy) taught *Katori Shinto-ryukobudo* forms, in particular *kenjutsu* and *naginata* (photo 3). At the same time Dr Jan Slopecki 10 dan (Poland) taught techniques of *Mukashi-to Kindai jujutsu* and using them in self-defence. Prof. Dr Zdenko Reguli 5 dan and Dr Michal Vit 3 dan (Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Rep.) showed how to use *aikido Aikikai* and *aikibudo* CERA techniques (photo 4). It turn, GM Vladimir Pilat (Ukraine) and his team presented the combat *hopak / Boyovyi Hopak*.

#### 4.4. 3<sup>rd</sup> Martial Arts' Gala in Rzeszów

The stands were seated by distinguished guests, like Prof. Dr Rudolf Jakhel – *karate*, 9 dan, Prof. Dr Fuminori Nakiri – *kendo*, 7 dan; Prof. Dr Hatsuyuki Hamada – *judo kodokan*, 8 dan; Prof. Dr Fumiaki Shishida (which recently conducted an *aikido* seminar in Canada) – *aikido tomiki*, 8 dan, Prof. Dr Abel Figueiredo – *goju-ryu karate*, 6 dan, *dai-sifu* Dr Oliver König – WingTsun, 8 master degree and *sifu* Dominique Brizin 6 degree, and many other



Photo 3. Sensei Sergio Mor-Stabilini during workshop



Photo 5. European historical fencing



Photo 4. Sensei Zdenko Reguli and Michal Vit with participants of the workshop



Photo 6. Kendo demonstration

scientists, coaches and martial arts practitioners, as well as VIP representatives for the Podkarpackie voivodeshp (e.g. Mr Bogdan Romaniuk), and from the University of Rzeszów (Prof. Dr Wojciech Czarny, Dean of the Faculty of PE)

The Slovak team (photo 5), organised by Dr Gabriel Szajna, gave a dynamic show about historic European fencing. Next, GM Zbigniew Sawicki (Poland) and his team demonstrated the *Signum Polonicum* fencing – the Polish historical martial art [photos 7-8; cf. Sawicki 2012]. Hussar robes and armour knights and fencing skills (whips, hussar sabre) *Signum Polonicum* could appeal to an international audience.

Mr Michał Szczesny (Poland) together with a group of students represented UR section of Filipino *Cacoy Doce Pareseskrima* school in the transmission of GM Anton St' James and GM John John Mac. They demonstrated the use of batons in combat, in attack and defence. Mr Maciej Murzyniec 4 dan (Poland) with a team from Krakow showed advanced forms of *kendo* performed with sharp *uchigatana*, and elements of sparring (photo 6). Sensei Nakiri highly rated skills of this Polish group.

Rzeszow *Chow Gar kung-fu* group, students of *sifu* Tomasz Płaza (Poland), demonstrated the dragon dance (photo 9). Then Prof. Dr Sergio Rai-



Photos 7-8. *Signum Polonicum* – Polish martial arts demonstration

mondo 5 duan (Italy) presented *taiji jian* sword form.

Practitioners of *taekwondo* ITF, under the



Photo 9. Chinese dragon dance



Photo 11. Hopak: fight on sticks



Photo 10. Malaysian silat



Photo 12. Wushu – long fist

direction of Prof. Dr Jacek Wąsik 4 dan (Poland), showed that Korean martial art. Olympic judo was demonstrated by Dr Jaroslaw Maslinski and Maciej Kostrzewa from Wrocław (Poland).

A lot of interest was caused by multicoloured costumes and original Malaysian *silat* techniques, performed by the holders of the highest degrees of master GM Aminuddin Anuar 10 dan, Dr Mohamad Nizam Mahamed Shapie 8<sup>th</sup> dan and Mohd Shahiid Elias 8<sup>th</sup> dan (Malaysia). *Silat* is seen as similar to the Chinese martial art art *pakua* (*bagua zhang*): low positions, circular movements *etc.* [cf. photo 10; Rut 2014].

GM Sergio Mor-Stabilini 8 dan (Italy) demonstrated some forms of *kobudo Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto-ryu* and one advanced *kata* of *Sankido karate* [Mor-Stabilini 2013]. In demonstration of *kenjutsu* and *naginatajutsu* forms his assistant was Dr Michal Vit.

Ukrainian combat *hopak* (*Boyovyi hopak*) was demonstrated in such a Gala for the first time. GM Vladimir Pilat's team presented combat techniques and wielding several weapons [cf. photo 11; Pilat 2010].

*Sifu* Donald Hyun Kiolbassa (USA), the world champion in *wushu*, who trained at the Shaolin Temple, and is currently working with Hollywood movie studios, confirmed his arrival, but eventu-

ally he did not show up. So Chinese *wushu kung-fu* was demonstrated by Chinese martial art student, Mr Liu Chang (photo 12), who is currently studying at Waseda University in Tokyo.

The last person to perform at the Gala was Dr Jan Slopecki *hanshi*, 10 dan (Poland, European Martial Arts Committee<sup>4</sup>), with an improvised show of *modern jujutsu* techniques. Adam Hajduk (1 dan, IPA) and Grzegorz Jakóbowicz (4 kyu) accompanied him as *uke*.

Then the team leaders present were given commemorative cups and diplomas, funded by the Podkarpackie voivodeship. Gala, prepared jointly with IPA, was conducted personally by Prof. Cynarski, the leader of IPA and IMACSSS, Grand Master of the *Idokan Yoshin-ryu*. After the Gala there was dinner.

#### 4.5. Conference – continuation

Oct. 17 at 9 a.m. – the 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session started. The Chairs of the meeting included: Dr Michal Vit, Prof. Dr Fumiaki Shishida and Prof. Dr Pavol Bartik (Slovakia). Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski delivered the key lecture: “Moral values of the noble way of martial arts”. It was an interesting reference to nor-

<sup>4</sup> Before 2013: European Jujutsu and Kobudo Committee (EJKC).



Photo 13. Dr J. Slopecki – *jujutsu*



Photo 15. Participants of the Gala



Photo 14. Presenting cups and diplomas

mative ethics of European knights and comparison to other canons of ethics.

Chilean-Spanish research – a bibliometric analysis was presented by Prof. Gutierrez-Garcia. Prof. Reguli and Prof. Bartik analysed the problem of teaching of martial arts. Prof. Yu and Prof. Raimondo analysed the symbolic dimension of the martial arts. Prof. Vences Brito discussed the results of injuries in karate<sup>5</sup>.

At 11:20 the Closing Ceremony ended. Chairman of the parallel sessions gave a report of the debates to summarize them. Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski, Prof. Kazimierz Obodyński and Prof. Sergio Raimondo were asked to close the meeting. Prof. Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia, the leader of the IMACSSS Young Researcher Awards Committee, and President of IMACSSS concluded that:

**Javier Courel Ibanez** made the best oral presentations in the area of biological and experimental sciences;

**Chang Liu** – had the best oral presentations in the field of social sciences & humanities;

**Matteo Cuchelli** – had the best poster presentations in the field of social sciences & humanities.

That were the 3<sup>rd</sup> IMACSSS Young Researcher Awards A.D. 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Extended abstracts of works have been published in: Cynarski, Nizioł 2014.

Then honourable credits and awards were given. Prof. **Fuminori Nakiri** received the diploma for an Honorary Member of IPA. Prof. **Keith R. Kernspecht** and Dr **Jan Slopecki** – Chivalrous Orders *Homo Creator Nobilis*, the highest award of the IPA and the European Nobility Club, NBC [photo 16; Cynarski 2011b]. Professors **Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia**, **Willy Pieter** and **Sergio Raimondo** – 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IPA Medals. In turn Prof. Obodyński, Senior Dean of the Faculty, gave **Wojciech J. Cynarski** a commemorative plate, with words of thanks for organizing two successive Congresses in Rzeszow<sup>6</sup> [Pawelec 2014b].

Prof. Fatih Hazar and Prof. Antonio Vences Brito presented their proposals for the next IMACSSS International Conferences, which are planned in Kusadasi (Turkey, 2015) and Rio Maior (Portugal, 2016). After that the Congress was officially closed [cf. Pawelec 2014a; Góra, Wasik 2014].

## 5. A short epilogue

On Friday, October 17 in the evening in GM Cynarski's *dojo* (10 dan *judo-to / ido*, 8 dan *jujutsu*, 7 dan *karate*) in Strzyzow three Asians from Waseda University turned up: Japanese, Assistant Professor and students from China and Korea [Pawelec 2014b]. Already in 2000, during his first stay in Japan *sensei* Cynarski studied with Japanese Grand Masters. This time, he was the host of the Congress and the teacher of martial arts.

As a host, he organized on next day (Oct. 18) a trip to the museum Auschwitz-Birkenau and to Krakow. This small group included Vice-President, Prof. Dr Fuminori Nakiri and General Secretary

<sup>6</sup> Incidentally, already in 2006, during the First World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts Wojciach J. Cynarski was Secretary of the Organizing Committee, while in 2010 and 2014 - Chairman of the Scientific and Organizing Committees.



**Photo 16.** Chivalrous Order *Homo Creator Nobilis* for Dr Jan Slopecki

and Dr Krzysztof Kubala. In Auschwitz Cynarski and Nakiri visited the death camp and prayed for the victims of German Nazism. In Krakow, they visited the Old Town. This element *par excellence* of cultural tourism cannot be separated from its other forms.

Before, during and after the Congress, there were meetings of participants. The importance of these meetings and dialogues cannot be overstated. They are important for research careers and human fates, for individual ways of studying martial arts and for all institutions, not only academic.

## 6. Discussion

The sub-forms of the martial arts' tourism are:

- 1) Trips of masters, teachers and coaches in order to teach and promote certain kinds of martial arts;
- 2) Educational, self-realizational, recreational trips of students, instructors, enthusiasts of martial arts for studies or examinations to obtain next levels or a licence etc.;
- 3) Travels of athletes and coaches of martial arts / combat sports strictly related to sport e.g. to participate in competitions;
- 4) Travels of fans interested in martial art to see galas, demonstrations, meetings with masters and other performances;
- 5) Self-realizational trips for practising and getting to know psychophysical practices other than martial arts;
- 6) Travels of contemporary enthusiasts, fascinated in traditions of the European knighthood, for tournaments and other "knightly-related" events.
- 7) A particular kind of travel for studying martial arts is a trip in connection with a scientific

congress or conference which is devoted to "martial arts sciences". The traveller is usually both a researcher or theoretician and a participant of scientific debates. Travels of such kind are a sort of congress tourism and contain the usual elements of the cultural tourism [cf. Cynarski 2009, 2012a: 14].

Congress in Rzeszow described below meets, but to various degrees, all of these demands or characteristic / distinctive elements. As the conference is mainly a variation of 7, but because of the practical part (Gala, workshops), also meets the other features. Improving the spiritual (sub-form 5) could take place at the scientific debates accompanying cultural programme (Japanese music concert) or, for example, visiting churches in the city after the Congress. Chivalric traditions were presented at the Gala in two appearances by Poles and Slovaks. Persons wishing to practise with high-ranking masters came because of the workshops, and some were only either passive or active participants of Martial Arts Gala.

These passive participants were able to look at masters "in action": *meijin* Lothar Sieber 10 dan, GM Hannelore Sieber 9 dan, GM Chuchchai Gomaratur, Rafal Kubacki 7 dan, *sifu* Don Hyun Kiolbassa (who for various reasons did not come<sup>7</sup>), or such masters as GM John Slopecki 10 dan, Sergio Mor-Stabilini 8 dan, GM Zbigniew Sawicki, GM Wołodimir Pilat, Mohamad Nizam Mohamed Shapie 8 dan, etc., who proved to be dependable. Representatives of *hopak* and *silat* were the most active participants of the Congress. They presented papers, conducted workshops and performed at the Gala; probably for the promotion of their national martial arts.

It would be here a manifestation of tourism in the martial arts colloquial meaning, i.e. a situation where martial arts are a tourist attraction of the place [cf. Green, Svinth 2003; Cohen 2004; Raimondo 2011]. Probably, however, most of the participants of this Congress participated in it mainly for scientific purposes [cf. Cynarski, Ďuriček 2014; Kosiewicz 2014].

"Tourist geography" of martial arts has a global character; the world centres of martial arts are placed not only in East Asia, now. Rzeszów became the centre, headquarters of IMACSSS, the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society. The Third World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts took place here. Here, the authorities of IMACSSS were selected for the next four years, too.

"Tourism of martial arts has its significant places – destinations of tourist travels, and icons –

<sup>7</sup> Don Hyun Kiolbassa, the World Champion in *wushu*, had to remain on the set of the new "Mortal Combat" sequel.



extraordinary figures" [Cynarski 2012a: 14]. Many of these figures met in Rzeszow: leaders of scientific societies, editors of specialized periodicals, the main masters of martial arts schools, theoreticians, experts and empiric researchers.

In comparison to the previous, 2nd Congress, there was an increase in the number of participants (from about 100 to 120). Then, it was attended by 30 professors and associate professors from 20 countries (24, counting the Scientific Committee members and reviewers), now the number was 27. At that time there were 44 members of IMACSSS, this time there were more than a hundred [cf. Słopecki, Obodyński 2011]. Of course, this progress is the result of the work of many people with the IMACSSS Board and organizers of the subsequent conferences (Viseu, Genoa, Tsukuba, Rzeszów).

## 7. Summation and Conclusions

### 7.1. A short factography of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Scientific Congress of CS & MA / 3<sup>rd</sup> IMACSSS International Conference in Rzeszów

It was attended by a total of 120 participants, and guests, reviewers and associated persons. Over 100 works were submitted. Scientific Committee accepted 83 works as oral or poster presentations. Abstracts were published in the *Abstract Book* [Cynarski, Nizioł 2014]. The authors of 90 selected works came from 26 countries from 5 continents. The largest group consisted of representatives of research centres from Poland (26 persons), Japan (10), Czech Republic (9) and China (5). Only a few people from Saudi Arabia, China and Iran did not come to the Congress due to failure to obtain a visa.

The President of the Scientific Committee and Organisational Committee of the Congress was Prof. Dr Wojciech J. Cynarski, President of IMACSSS. The Secretary of the Organisational Committee was Dr Anna Nizioł. In this Committee there were 8 people from the Faculty (besides the mentioned ones, there were Dr Krzysztof Kubala, Dr Robert Bąk, *Mgr* Agnieszka Huzarska, *Mgr* Jerzy Kulasa, *Mgr* Piotr Matłosz, *Mgr* Ewelina Niemiec), and two from IMACSSS and IPA – editors of the "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology" (*Mgr* Przemysław Pawelec and *Mgr* Adrian Piórko-Pawliński).

In the Scientific Committee 25 professors from 16 countries were working, and the reviewers included 29 people, from 16 countries too. The Committee of Experts had 15 people from seven countries, all Grand Masters or people with master degrees (7-10).

Key lecturers were delivered by Prof. Fuminori Nakiri, Prof. Stanisław Sterkowicz, Prof. Willy Pieter, and Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski. In total there were: 4 plenary sessions, 3 parallel sessions, 2 poster sessions, workshops and gala. During the Congress the 7<sup>th</sup> Symposium "Man – martial arts – humanism" was held. There were 4 keynote speeches, 26 oral and 36 poster presentations. In addition, there were 6 workshops and 13 performances during the show of Martial Arts Gala.

During the General Assembly of IMACSSS a new Board was elected. The new Board has set new directions for further action. It announced subsequent conferences that are going to be held in Kusadasi (2015) and Rio Maior (2016). Meanwhile, the full texts are to be published in the Proceedings Book, and some in "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology".

### 7.2. Substantive assessment

Detailed review (double blind review) and a selection of extended abstracts submitted also led to quite a high scientific level of the presented works. Also the best specialists of key papers were invited to deliver, and competent professors to conduct plenary, oral, and poster sessions. Also, only indisputable experts in their fields or high-ranking masters' gifted students were invited to conduct workshops and performances at the Gala of Martial Arts. The level of demonstration was good or very good.

The organization of the conference can be a reason of pride. The organizers have ensured a comfortable hotel at a good price (Hotel Rzeszów\*\*\*\*), large arenas ("Podpromie"), promotion in the media. The agenda enabled the selection of the most interesting sessions. However, it may be good to give up parallel sessions so that participants do not lose opportunities to engage into discussions on various topics.

This Congress was a success of participants and organizers; it was an event that formed part of the history of martial arts and the history of specialties: martial arts science. Changing roles of hosts and guests in this type of scientific and cultural tourism are a result of organizational development and the increasing level of event attendees (their knowledge and skills).

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## **Turystyka naukowa i sztuk walki. Studium przypadku III Międzynarodowej Konferencji i Kongresu IMACSSS**

**Słowa kluczowe:** sztuki walki, turystyka sztuk walki, turystyka naukowa, kongres, IMACSSS

### **Abstrakt**

Celem jest opis światowego kongresu specjalistów w dziedzinie sztuk walki i sportów walki, skupionych w organizacji IMACSSS. Jest to zarówno recenzja imprezy naukowej i jej analiza, jako wydarzenia ważnego dla turystyki sztuk walki. Jaką formą turystyki sztuk walki był ten III Światowy Kongres Naukowy Sportów i Sztuk Walki? Metoda. Jest to stadium przypadku. Analizowane są źródła, a autorzy realizowali również metodę obserwacji uczestniczącej. Uwzględniono normę metodologiczną "współczynnika humanistycznego" F. Znanieckiego i analizę treści literatury przedmiotu. Wyniki. W Rzeszowie spotkali się: liderzy towarzystw naukowych, redaktorzy wyspecjalizowanych periodyków, główni mistrzowie szkół sztuk walki, teoretycy, eksperci i badacze-empirycy z wielu krajów. Dla niektórych uczestników Kongresu było to turystyka sztuk walki w jej rozumieniu potocznym, czyli sytuacja, gdy sztuki walki stanowią atrakcję turystyczną danego miejsca. Jednak większość uczestników omawianego Kongresu uczestniczyła w nim głównie dla celów naukowych. Szczególnym rodzajem podróży dla studiów sztuk walki jest podróż związana z kongresem naukowym lub konferencją poświęconą „*martial arts sciences*” (kategoria VII). Wnioski. Środowisko badaczy sztuk walki skupione w IMACSSS dobrze się rozwija. Zmieniają się role gospodarzy i gości w tego rodzaju turystyce naukowej i kulturowej, co wynika z rozwoju organizacyjnego i wzrastającego poziomu (wiedzy i umiejętności). Opisany Kongres był sukcesem uczestników i organizatorów; był wydarzeniem, które wpisało się do historii sztuk walk i do historii specjalności naukowej *martial arts science/sciences*.