

TOURISM OF MARTIAL ARTS. SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY OF TOURISM

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A cyclical meeting of experts as a special case of martial arts tourism

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Abstract

Background and Problem. Within the scientific concept of *Non-entertaining Tourism* the problem of similarities and differences between some cases of martial arts' tourism was studied. This study serves as a contribution to the state of knowledge on martial arts tourism.

Method. The method is a single case study research, both descriptive and evaluative, with participant observation and photographic documentation.

Results. It was found that the meeting and seminar being described served both martial arts practice and scientific research, the assessment of the situation and the planning of further activities. Several people were honoured and further stages of cooperation were established. It is a certain *novum* in reflecting on this kind of tourism that one of its stated goals may be the coordination of activities in the field of the institutionalisation of martial arts.

Conclusions. It is important to know that meetings of experts and leaders of martial arts organisations are special cases of martial arts tourism. Such meetings influence the direction of the institutionalisation of this area and developmental tendencies (the preservation of tradition or change).

Introduction

Various forms of martial arts tourism have been identified. The directions and objectives of this type of tourism, the typology and the participants in martial arts tourism events have been described. Because of the predominant purpose of self-realisation, education or missionary work, we are talking about different variants of *non-entertaining tourism* [Cynarski 2012]. In this multiformity, the dominant variety is the trip for the practical study of martial arts.

For instance, Mr Gillespie left Los Angeles for the Aikikai headquarters to study *aikido*. He resigned – as he wrote – from a developing professional career as a trial attorney in Los Angeles. He also gave up his position as an assistant instructor in his home *aikido dojo* (training place), and “cast aside all the enviable benefits and considerable comforts of life in Southern California to move to Tokyo for a year of intensive study of martial arts at the Aikikai World Headquarters. Set against the calendar of annual events at the Aikikai World Headquarters Honbu Dojo in Tokyo, *Aikido in Japan and The Way Less Travelled* is a martial arts adventure in

Japan and beyond to South East Asia, Korea and even The People's Republic of China. It is a fantastic journey of self-discovery and personal development that continues to unfold – a path that is open and accessible to anyone who merely chooses The Way less travelled. (...) Find your Way! With the right mind, the whole world can become your *dojo*, all things are learning and every moment an adventure”. [Gillespie 2014].

In martial arts the tourist route is not the only direction. In June 2016, a resident of Tunis (Tunisia) flew to Rzeszow to study sociology and *karate* practice under the direction of a Polish *hanshi* – Grand Master [cf. Zatorska 2016]. *Nota bene* Rzeszow is the seat of the Idokan Poland Association (IPA) and the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society (IMACSSS). In July this year a group of a dozen people from Podkarpacie Province and Cracow went to Wladyslawowo for a week of martial arts training on a sandy beach. at the 24th Summer Camp In November 2015 Dr John Johnson flew specially from South Korea to Brno to attend the 5th IMACSSS International Conference. He has joined both specialist scientific societies – IMACSSS and IPA.

What does this all have in common? The motivation of most participants in this and other similar events was similar, the bringing together of martial arts researchers [Cynarski, Kubala 2015; Cynarski, Sieber, Mytskan 2015]. However, many trainers and students of various martial arts including Gillespie and IPA *budokas* travel to study martial arts in practice. This may be the Europe – China direction [Albrecht, Rudolph 2011; Raimondo 2011], Europe – Brazil [Griffith 2016], or also, for example, to one of the European countries [Cynarski 2016c].

Due to the reasons for the trips, different categories of cultural tourists, including the typology of tourists, have been established, and in this case they are identified generally as "martial arts tourist" [Buczowska 2014: 183]. In particular they are:

A1. "Master-teacher", coming by invitation, teaching and promoting the next degrees, confirming the competences acquired. This is usually the leader of a particular school or organisation.

A2. "Master's assistant". Typically a master-teacher is accompanied by one or more assistants, on whom the master demonstrates techniques, or they help him to conduct classes (warm-ups, parts of technical classes).

A3. "Instructor", a person entitled to teach in his own *dojo*. He usually already has a master degree, i.e. he is an advanced student of a master. He often tries to advance in the hierarchy, which motivates him to attend seminars, workshops, camps, etc.

A4. "Student" – an advanced or beginner but ambitious student. In the case of *aikido* practitioners, it is a necessity for them to advance to the next technical level.

A5. "Accompanying person", audience – a passive participant.

A6. "Special guest", such as a master from another organisation, who has been invited to practice or just watch.

In turn, among the participants at tourist events there are:

"B1. Main organiser, host of the event.

B2. Special guest, honorary – e.g. invited master-teacher or main sponsor.

B3. Members of the organising team of this event.

B4. Active participants – 'tourists' and local participants.

B5. Accompanying persons (e.g. families of participants at a given tourist event).

B6. Persons appearing 'intermittently' – reporters, journalists" [Cynarski 2016a].

There are "more categories of martial arts tourists – an occasional tourist, that is, a person who is practising martial arts as a part of the package offered by a given tour or hotel, and a guide" [Cynarski 2016a]. This applies especially to museums and places of great renown, such as Shaolin Monastery [Cynarski, Swider 2017].

Unlike "the Jewels in the Crown" of martial arts tourism, which embrace objects in the birthplaces of individual styles [Cynarski 2000, 2016b], we can distin-

guish the "Lesser Jewels" of important places, at least in Europe. Such "Lesser Jewels" would be based on the map of the martial arts tourism which has already developed in the Old Continent, namely:

1. Amsterdam (world centre of kick boxing) [Cynarski, Zieminski 2010],
2. Munich (several world headquarters, e.g. Lothar Sieber's martial arts school),
3. Paris (martial arts galas, FIAB - International Aiki-Budo Federation, other),
4. Rzeszow (IMACSSS – International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society, IPA – Idokan Poland Association, scientific congresses),
5. Vienna (Academy of Idokan Europa, ITF – International Taekwon-do Federation, other) [cf. Obodyski, Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2005].

It is worth noting that the author has already visited all these places. However, are these descriptions, comparisons and typologies exhaustive? How should we determine meetings of experts and leaders of organisations that agree both on cooperation between their organisations but also train and make arrangements for technical and educational programmes? They essentially act in mixed roles.

The method used here is a single case study research, both descriptive and evaluative, with participant observation and photographic documentation [Sztompka 2004; Wagner 2006; Cynarski 2015; Skinner, Edwards, Corbett 2015: 116-133].

Munich case – another training seminar

Meetings in Munich have been held regularly for 24 years in a biennial cycle [cf. Cynarski 2006; Blumentritt, Cynarski 2008; Cynarski, Sieber, Mytskan 2015]. These gatherings form in particular, the link between martial arts studies and their high level of practice.

The 2017 visit was a study trip. In other circumstances it may concern universities [Rzeszutko-Polak, Matlosz 2015] or conferences [Cynarski, Kubala 2015; Cynarski, Grzywacz 2016; Sawicki 2016], but in this case it refers to the activities of martial arts associations. Once again representatives of several Polish, German and international cooperating organizations met together:

DDBV/Deutscher Dan-Traeger und Budo-Lehrer Verband e.V. – co-organiser,

IPA/Idokan Poland Association – co-organiser,
DFKB (formerly DFK) – Dan-Federation of Zen-do-Karate Tai-Te-Tao and Budo,

DJJR – Deutscher Jiu-Jitsu Ring „Erich Rahn" e.V.,
EMAC – European Martial Arts Committee

(formerly EJKC – the European Jujutsu & Kobudo Committee),

IMACSSS – International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society,



Photo 1. Laudation, title and medal for Prof. Hannelore Sieber

SWKO – Shinshinkan World Karate Organization, and two leading schools – Jiu-Jjitsu & Karate Schule L. Sieber, Munich, and Karate Schule H. Weitmann, Neuffen (co-organisers).

Programme and description of major events

Day 1. Landing in Munich. Travelling to meet Lothar Sieber, the IPA Honour President and Senior of the Dan College Final signing of documents (which the Board had already signed) and the establishment of a new IPA medal (and its Chapter): Medal of the “Warrior of the Noble Way”. The final version of the programme for the sem-

inar “Martial arts in the context of cultural exchanges” was completed.

Day 2. Lectures by Prof. Lothar Sieber on:

1. History of the Zendo karate Tai-Te-Tao, DFK and DFKB [cf. Sieber H. 1997, Lind 1999; Sieber 2011; Cynarski, Sieber 2016].
2. Medicine and natural medicine, and *bujutsu ido* (the medicine of martial arts).

The workshop (in the *Honbu* of Jiu-Jitsu und Karate Schule L. Sieber) included:

1. Prof. Wojciech. Cynarski (6 dan *kenjutsu* & *kobudo*) – Comparison of different schools’ sabre techniques *Tenshinshoden Katorishinto-ryu* and *Takeda-ryu Nakamura-ha*;
2. Hannelore Sieber (9 dan) – Specialised gymnastics and exercises designed for *jujutsu* and *karate*;
3. Lothar Sieber (10 dan) and W. Krenz (5 dan, assistant) – teaching *jujutsu* techniques for self-defence and Zendo karate Tai-Te-Tao.

After the classes (photo 2), there was a laudation and presentation to Mrs. Hannelore Sieber of the Medal for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts and the title Professor of Martial Arts (photo 1). This was performed by the chairman, Wojciech Cynarski on behalf of EMAC (former EJKC). It is worth mentioning that Prof. Hannelore Sieber is one of the world’s leading experts in *jujutsu*, *karate* and self-defence for women.

Day 3. The day started with individual classes: analysing judo Kodokan techniques for teaching technical-tactical skills and improving martial arts skills [cf. Arziutov *et al.* 2016; Belushka 2016]. This was followed by an open discussion in which the problems of martial arts (the current challenges, cultural dialogues, prospects for organisational activities) were discussed. For example Lothar Sieber said that Werner Lind, who died recently (1950-2014), deserved a doctorate for his



Photo 2. Group in *Honbu* after workshop classes



Photo 3. V. Reich (in *hakama* trousers) got the right to black belt in *iaido*. Next to him – members of the examination committee.



Photo 4. From the left – L. Sieber, H. Weitmann, W.J. Cynarski

Lexicon as the leader of the karate school and martial arts organisation *Budo Studien Kreis*.

The practical part was a workshop:

1. L. Sieber (7 dan *iaido* and *kenjutsu*) – Demonstration of forms of *iaido*, with the presentation of *ido* – fluency and continuity of movement;
2. H. Sieber and B. Blumentritt (5 dan, assistant) – Optimising the teaching of *karate* techniques (basic and special);
3. L. Sieber (10 dan *jujutsu*, 10 dan *karate*) – Teaching *jujutsu/karate* self-defence; free exercises as a form of response automation.

Day 4. Query I: archives and literature – elaboration (critical analysis of sources, analysis of content). This was a rare occasion to look at source materials, such as documents from 1906-2016. It has been 110 years since the founding of Erich Rahn's School in Berlin and 42 years since the opening of the school of GM Lothar Sieber. Thus the access to historical letters and certificates was very inspiring.

Shihan L. Sieber (10 dan *bujutsu ido*) delivered an interesting lecture: *Practical medical knowledge and healthy longevity*. He quoted the example of the Hunz people (these are the R1a Y-DNA carriers, the genetic brothers of the Poles), who are known for their longevity. He discussed natural methods of controlling cancer (homeopathy, natural therapies). The relationship between maintaining high body efficiency and ageing in martial arts was discussed [cf. Vences de Brito *et al.* 2015; Mytskan *et al.* 2017], and building the power to self-heal the body [cf. Weil 1997]. While the IPA Method is used primarily for healthy people to improve their health potential, the Sieber's Method is used to treat sick peo-

ple [Cynarski 2009: 168-175; Cynarski, Sieber 2015].

Day 5. It started with a discussion about the political situation in Europe, with so many people living in the world, with the very real problem of the clash of cultures. Interestingly, participants from both various European (France, Germany, Poland, Russia, Ukraine) and non-European countries (Afghanistan, Turkey) participated in the Seminar.

An important point, as in the previous years, was Query II – the university and city libraries. It was an opportunity to recognise the new literature on the subject.

During the workshops Prof. Cynarski was asked to lead the classes of technical *iaido*: the Classical forms of *iai-goshi* – Saken and Happo-ken. He then led a specialist warm up with stretching. *Meijin* Lothar Sieber taught the methodology of teaching *jujutsu* leverage techniques combined into a combination and the application of these techniques to self-defence. Later, consultations and exchanges of experience on strategies, tactics and techniques of self-defence and fighting were also held.

Day 6. A journey of 180 km to Neuffen, a small town in Baden-Württemberg, lying in the shadow of a medieval castle. Harald Weitmann's Karate School which is a good school thanks to its practitioners and their *sen-sei* is based here.

There was a discussion about martial arts literature. *Shihan* Harald Weitmann highly rated the quarterly “*Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology*”, and also emphasised the quality of two publications recently released in Germany. These are practical handbooks for the organization and teaching of *karate* to children by T. Dietl (7 dan) [cf. Dietl 2012; Joachim, Dietl 2014].



Photo 5. Participants of the training in Neuffen

Commissions including those by Lothar Sieber (7 dan *iaido*), Wojciech J. Cynarski (6 dan), and Harald Weitmann (4 dan) conducted the 1 dan test in *iaido*, which Volker Reich passed with a positive result. Then the Polish *shihan* led a one-hour technical training session: *Manifestation of the Ido idea in technical combinations*.

After classes, *meijin* Sieber presented Harald Weitmann, on behalf of the IPA, with his certificate of 9 dan in *karate*. *Hanshi* Weitmann is a professional and has been practising martial arts since childhood. He practices modified *Okinawa karate*. In addition, Wojciech Cynarski was honoured with the Erich Rahn Memorial Medal – in recognition of his long-standing cooperation with *Honbu* (photos 3-5). This year he celebrates 40 years of practising and 30 years of teaching martial arts. Then *meijin* Sieber gave a lecture on *judo-do ido*, *jujutsu* and self-defence.

Day 7. In the morning, after breakfast, there was a panel discussion about correct technique regardless of style. It was attended by four *hanshi* – L. Sieber, H. Sieber, W. J. Cynarski and H. Weitmann. *Meijin* Sieber led the discussion.

From Neuffen the author went to Weichs, where he met Bodo Blumentritt, DDBV president, and Walter Hoch from another association. There was a discussion on “Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology” and the content of recent volumes. The periodical has found great recognition here. Particular interest was aroused by the results of the genetic research on the Lekhs [Cynarski, Maciejewska 2016], articles on martial arts history, the character of Witold Pilecki, and comments on recent events [Sieber, Cynarska 2016]. In discussing the functioning of the martial arts organisation Lothar Sieber pointed out the disturbing fact that

some leaders are trying to “buy” and “bribe” instructors from other organisations with higher degrees. In turn, people with low skills are leaving and setting up their “own systems”, where they obviously get the highest degrees and titles.

On the last day there was only the farewell of the organisers and guests, and the return from the city of Izara home, to daily duties.

Symbolic dimension

In symbolic terms it was a meeting of a Bavarian lion, a Polish white eagle and three black panthers of Baden-Württemberg, where the descendants of the Swabians live. Meetings of martial arts experts and leaders of several organisations also have their particular patrons. These are Saint Michael the Archangel, patron of the IPA [Cynarski 2009: 68-76], GM Erich Rahn, 10 dan *jujutsu* and *judo* – maybe not holy but a very decent man [Preiss 2012], and Pater Jahnke (also a humanist, thinker), who established *Honbu* in Munich on January 21, 1978 [Jahnke, Froetschl 1978]. The long-term, close cooperation established by these meetings is particularly important, and has been successfully implemented for 25 years. Its symbolic dimension is the fact that *meijin* Lothar Sieber is the honorary president of IPA and Polish-German methodical-scientific meetings regularly take place. Prof. Sieber is a recognised expert and highly deserving person for this collaboration. At this meeting of around 70 participants there was a group of people from a number of countries, giving an international dimension as a result of the attitude of openness to dialogue and cooperation. Scientific institutions represented members of scientific societies (IMACSSS, IPA), expert

councils (EMAC), universities (University of Rzeszow, LMU) and independent scientists (Dr N. Ettlin, Dr U. Diekoetter).

Lothar Sieber was the host of the meeting and seminar, and at the same time its master of ceremonies and principal teacher (functions A1, B1). Prof. Cynarski was B2 and a couple of times A1, but also a participant – A3. Two people were honoured with medals, or in a symbolic way for their long-standing work. In turn, 9 dan for Harald Weitmann is already a high degree of honours for a master teacher *hanshi*.

Conclusions

It was found that the meeting and seminar as described served both the practice of martial arts and scientific research, the assessment of the situation and the planning of further activities. Several people were honoured and further stages of cooperation were established. It is a certain *novum* in the reflection on this kind of tourism that one of its stated objectives may be the coordination of activities in the field of institutionalisation.

It is important to know that the meeting of experts and leaders of martial arts organisations is a special case of martial arts tourism. It influences the direction of the institutionalisation of this area and development tendencies (the preservation of traditions or changes – the creation of new institutions and traditions).

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Cykliczne spotkanie ekspertów, jako szczególny przypadek turystyki sztuk walki

Słowa kluczowe: sztuki walki, turystyka, seminarium, instytucjonalizacja

Abstrakt

Perspektywa teoretyczna i problem. W naukowej koncepcji „turystyki nierozrywkowej” podjęto problem podobieństwa i różnic między niektórymi przypadkami turystyki „sztuk walki”. Ma to być przyczynkiem do stanu wiedzy na temat turystyki sztuk walki.

Metodologia. Zastosowana metoda polega na studium pojedynczego przypadku, zarówno w sensie opisowym, jak i ewaluacyjnym, z obserwacją uczestniczącą jawną i dokumentacją fotograficzną.

Wyniki. Stwierdzono, że opisane spotkanie i seminarium służyło zarówno praktyce sztuk walki, jak i badaniom naukowym, ocenie sytuacji i planowaniu dalszych działań. Uhonorowano kilka osób oraz ustalono dalsze etapy współpracy. Jest to pewnym *novum* w refleksji o tego rodzaju turystyce, że jednym z jej stwierdzonych celów może być koordynacja działań w zakresie instytucjonalizacji sztuk walki.

Wnioski. Istotnym stwierdzonym faktem jest, iż spotkanie ekspertów i liderów organizacji sztuk walki jest szczególnym przypadkiem turystyki sztuk walki. Ma ono wpływ na kierunki instytucjonalizacji tego obszaru oraz na tendencje rozwojowe (zachowanie tradycji lub wprowadzanie zmian).