

KRYSTYNA WOJTCZAK

**The title of Professor in Poland in the years 1920-1990.
Part 1: Conditions for the award of the title of professor under the law on
schools of higher education**

Summary

The Polish law on schools of higher education of the past years did not provide a uniformed definition of the institution of the title of professor. Differences in its treatment generally corresponded to the legal and factual conditions in which the institutions of higher education were operating in interwar Poland in the first years of the Polish People's Republic. This was not a period of simple change. The first establishments of higher education operating after 1918, and also after the end of World War II, were struggling not only with the acquisition of professors. Later years, despite the opening of new schools of higher education, did not manage to solve the problem of professorship shortages. What was more, a new threat emerged that was ideologisation of universities and scientific research. Gradually ideological assumptions had become the criteria of professorship selection. This state of affairs changed only as a result of the political transformation after 1989.

In the interwar Poland and the first years of the Polish People's Republic, the law provided for two titles of professor: extraordinary and ordinary. A special position was also given to honorary professors, and the award of other professorships was not an isolated act. The shortage of professorship staff was compensated by awarding titles of titular professor, contract professor and deputy professor. This solution continued to prevail in the early years of the Polish People's Republic and changed only in 1952 when the Act of 1951 came into force. It provided for two scientific titles: the extraordinary professor and the ordinary professor. The Act of 1958 Act extended their number by including the titles of contract professor and deputy professor and specified other conditions for awarding these titles.

The article presents legal solutions of the past years not only in the scope in which they served the selection of professors' staff and the conditions of scientific advancement set for them in particular years, as well as the conditions in which these advancements were possible.

Keywords: award of the scientific title of professor – appointment to the position of professor – framework for the freedom of scientific research