

## Summary in English

### 1. Research project objectives/Research hypothesis

On 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1937, Priest Professor Aleksander Wójcicki, Rector of SBU, enters a decree on “the order of occupying seats in lecture halls” customarily called ‘ghetto benches’. As a consequence, places for Jewish students are institutionally assigned. Implementation of this decree was preceded by long-term negotiations between Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Education, university authorities, student organizations, unions and corporations, and non-unionised students. This research project explores the historically changing SBU’s policies with respect to participation of Jewish students in academic life, students’ unions and organisations, their ability to choose a seat in an auditorium and possibility to study at all.

I intend to both analyse the legal changes on state level enabling introduction of relevant decrees in universities, and study the debate that preceded and followed them on university and ministry level. The main research aim of my project is to answer the following research questions: why and how were the policies allowing for the ethnic segregation among the students in Stefan Batory University in Vilnius introduced between two World Wars? What institutional and non-institutional actors took part in shaping, negotiating and contesting these policies? What attitudes were adopted by non-majority groups other than Jewish? What was the influence of state and church policy on the shaping of the university's policies?

In the course of preliminary research, I adopted a research hypothesis that the introduction of the decree on “order of occupying seats in lecture halls” was actually the sanctioning of many years of student practice of ethnic segregation. This particular practice on the level of state legal regulations could be expressed in the Rector's decree, thus introducing an ethnic segregation system according to which Jewish students need to take separate seats in auditoriums.

### 2. Research project methodology

The theoretical apparatus of this project consists of basic research methods and the most important analytical categories. Due to the variety of research material, I will use different methods in individual parts of the project. In the first two parts of my project, devoted to “grassroots practices of exclusion” and “institutionalisation of exclusion,” I will work on archival documents and analyse the development of university policies. Looking for answers to the research questions I will refer to the way of understanding **policies** proposed by Chris Shore and Susan Wright. I will consider policies, after authors of *Policy Worlds*, as the main rule which organises society - in this particular case, the student community - and especially real impact of introduced policies on the functioning of particular groups of students within the community.

In my project I will also analyse discourse on introduction of new policies in the university. I will focus on analysing both the discourses employed shortly after the introduction of a law (ex. press articles, correspondence) and the ones used to discuss these issues now (scientific articles and monographs).

Due to the research material and locating my project in a field of minority studies, a few analytical categories will be particularly important for all three parts of my project: **stigma**, **symbolic violence** and **subtenancy**.

### 3. Expected impact of the research project on the development of science

I consider my project innovative due to the fact that I locate the process of introducing the decree itself (and its aftermath) in the center of my analysis. The perspective of anthropology of politics has so far not been used in studies on the past in Poland. Thus, in my opinion, the focus on the process opens up a completely new approach. I am sure that this work can be inspiring for researchers and scholars, Holocaust and minority-studies researchers, seeking both new perspectives and new categories of description and analysis. I also think that the reconstruction of the exclusion system itself could be applied by researchers of modern forms of exclusion, such as for example migration policies.