

= Florian Znaniecki =

Florian Witold Znaniecki ( 15 January 1882 ? 23 March 1958 ) was a Polish philosopher and sociologist who taught and wrote in Poland and in the United States . Over the course of his work he shifted his focus from philosophy to sociology . He remains a major figure in the history of Polish and American sociology ; the founder of Polish academic sociology , and of an entire school of thought in sociology . He won international renown as co @-@ author , with William I. Thomas , of the study , *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* ( 1918 ? 20 ) , which is considered the foundation of modern empirical sociology . He also made major contributions to sociological theory , introducing terms such as humanistic coefficient and culturalism .

In Poland , he established the first Polish department of sociology at Adam Mickiewicz University where he worked from 1920 to 1939 . His career in the US begun at the University of Chicago ( 1917 to 1919 ) and continued at Columbia University ( 1932 to 1934 and 1939 to 1940 ) and at the University of Illinois at Urbana @-@ Champaign ( 1942 to 1950 ) . He was the 44th President of the American Sociological Association ( for the year 1954 ) .

= = Life = =

= = = Childhood and education = = =

Florian Znaniecki was born on 15 January 1882 at ?wi?tniki , Congress Poland , a state controlled by the Russian Empire to Leon Znaniecki and Amelia , née Holtz . He received early schooling from tutors , then attended secondary schools at Warsaw and Cz?stochowa . While in secondary school , he was a member of an underground study group , specializing in history , literature and philosophy . His secondary @-@ school grades were average at best , and he had to repeat a year of school ; this was largely due to his extracurricular interest in Polish @-@ language study , which was banned under the Russified school program . As a youth , he wrote some poetry , including a drama , *Cheops* ( 1903 ) . A poem of his , " *Do Prometeusza* " ( " *To Prometheus* " ) , was included in a 1900 anthology ; however , neither he in later life , nor literary critics , judged his poetry outstanding .

He entered the Imperial University of Warsaw in 1902 , but was soon expelled after taking part in protests against the Russian administration 's curtailment of student rights . Threatened with conscription into the Imperial Russian Army , he chose to emigrate and in early 1904 left Warsaw for Switzerland .

During that period , he was briefly an editor at a French @-@ language literary magazine , *Nice Illustrée* ( late 1904 ? early 1905 ) ; faked his own death ; briefly served in the French Foreign Legion in Algeria ; and worked at a flea market , on a farm , in a traveling circus , and as a librarian at the Polish Museum in Rapperswil , Switzerland .

In Switzerland he soon resumed his university studies , first at the University of Geneva ( 1905 ? 07 ) , then at the University of Zurich ( 1907 ? 08 ) , eventually transferring to the Sorbonne in Paris , France ( 1908 ? 09 ) , where he attended lectures by sociologist Émile Durkheim . In 1909 , after the death of his supervisor Frédéric Rauh , he returned to Poland , where in 1910 he obtained his Ph.D. degree at Jagiellonian University , in Kraków , under a new supervisor , Maurycy Straszewski .

= = = Early Polish career = = =

That year he also joined the Polish Psychological Society ( *Polskie Towarzystwo Psychologiczne* ) , in which he would be highly active over the next few years , becoming its vice president in 1913 ? 14 . Much of his early academic work at that time could be classified as philosophy . In 1909 , aged 27 , he published his first academic paper , *Etyka filozoficzna i nauka o warto?ciach moralnych* ( " *Philosophical Ethics and the Science of Moral Values* " ) ; a year later he published *Zagadnienie warto?ci w filozofii* ( *The Question of Values in Philosophy* ) , based on his doctoral dissertation ,

and a paper , *Myśl i rzeczywistość* ( " Mind and Reality " ) . In 1912 he published a new book , *Humanizm i Poznanie* ( Humanism and Knowledge ) , and a paper , *Elementy rzeczywistości praktycznej* ( " Elements of Practical Reality " ) . A year later , he published an annotated translation of Henri Bergson 's *Creative Evolution* and a paper , *Znaczenie rozwoju świata i człowieka* ( " The Meaning of World and Human Development " ) . The year 1914 saw the publication of his papers , *Formy i zasady twórczości moralnej* ( " Forms and Principles of Moral Creativity " ) and *Zasada względności jako podstawa filozofii* ( " The Principle of Relativity as a Foundation of Philosophy " ) . His works , published in Polish , were well received by the Polish scholarly community and intelligentsia .

Due to his past political activism , he was unable to secure a post at a major university . From 1912 to 1914 he lectured at a novel women 's institution of higher education , the Advanced Pedagogical Courses for Women ( *Wyższe Kursy Pedagogiczne dla Kobiet* ) . During his studies , he had worked at several European institutions dealing with Polish immigrants ; he would build on his experiences by becoming involved with the Warsaw @-@ based Society for the Welfare of Émigrés ( *Towarzystwo Opieki nad Wychodźcami* ) , where he worked in 1910 ? 14 . By 1911 he was the Society 's director and ( 1911 ? 12 ) editor of its journal , *Wychodec Polski* ( The Polish Émigré ) . Znaniecki became an expert on Polish migration , in 1914 authoring for the government a 500 @-@ page report , *Wychodec Sezonowe* ( Seasonal Migration ) .

== Work with Thomas ==

A year earlier , in 1913 , Znaniecki had met William I. Thomas , an American sociologist who had come to Poland in connection with his research on Polish immigrants in the United States . Thomas and Znaniecki had begun to collaborate , and soon Thomas invited Znaniecki to come to Chicago to continue work with him in the United States . In July 1914 , just on the eve of World War I , Znaniecki left Poland to work with Thomas as a research assistant . From 1917 to 1919 Znaniecki also lectured in sociology at the University of Chicago .

Their work culminated in co @-@ authoring of *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* ( 1918 ? 20 ) , considered a sociology classic . It was his collaboration with Thomas that marked the transition in Znaniecki 's career from philosopher to sociologist . Znaniecki stayed with Thomas in Chicago until mid @-@ 1919 , when he moved to New York , following Thomas , who had lost his job at Chicago due to a spurious scandal .

That year Znaniecki published a new book , still mostly philosophical rather than sociological , *Cultural Reality* . Published in English , it was a synthesis of his philosophical thought . In New York , Thomas and Znaniecki carried on research for the Carnegie Corporation on the process of immigrant Americanization . Znaniecki contributed to Thomas ' book , *Old World Traits Transplanted* , and published an anonymous solicited article on that topic to the February 1920 *Atlantic Monthly* .

== Founding Polish sociology ==

Poland had regained independence following World War I , in 1918 . In 1919 Znaniecki contacted the newly founded Ministry of Religion and Education , offering to return to Poland if the Ministry could help him secure a chair at a Polish university . He proposed creating a novel Institute of Sociology , but bureaucracy and communication delays resulted in that idea being shelved , and he was offered a philosophy professorship at the newly organized Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań .

In 1920 Znaniecki returned to the newly established Second Polish Republic , where at Poznań University he soon became Poland 's first chair in sociology . He accomplished this by renaming the department , originally " Third Philosophical Department " , to " Department of Sociology and Cultural Philosophy " , doing the same for his chair , and establishing a Sociological Seminary . That same year he also founded the Polish Institute of Sociology ( *Polski Instytut Socjologiczny* ) , the fifth @-@ oldest sociological institute in Europe .

In 1927 his department was officially renamed to " department of sociology " , and in 1930 the

department gained authorization to issue degrees in sociology . In 1930 the Polish Institute of Sociology began publishing the first Polish sociological journal , *Przegląd Socjologiczny* ( The Sociological Review ) , with Znaniecki its chief editor from 1930 to 1939 . That year the Institute organized Poland 's first academic sociologists ' conference . Due to his role as founder of so many of its building blocks , Znaniecki is considered the father of sociology in Poland .

= = = Late U.S. career = = =

Keeping in touch with American sociologists , Znaniecki lectured as a visiting professor at Columbia University in New York in 1932 ? 34 and during the summer of 1939 . That summer ended the Polish stage of his career , as the German invasion on Poland and the start of World War II prevented his return to Poland . He was already aboard a ship bound for Poland when his travel was cut short in the United Kingdom . He still briefly considered returning to Poland , where his wife and daughter remained ; however , faced with the occupation of Poland , he returned to the United States , where his family eventually joined him in 1940 .

With help from American colleagues , Znaniecki obtained an extension of his appointment at Columbia University through mid @-@ 1940 . He then moved to the University of Illinois at Urbana @-@ Champaign and in 1942 obtained American citizenship , allowing him to transition from a visiting to a regular professorship . He taught at the University of Illinois until his retirement , deciding not to return to the communist People 's Republic of Poland , established in the aftermath of World War II ( despite the offer of a chair at Pozna? University ) . In 1950 he retired , becoming a professor emeritus .

He was 44th President of the American Sociological Association ( for 1954 ) . His presidential address , " Basic Problems of Contemporary Sociology , " was delivered on 8 September 1954 at the Association 's annual meeting and was later published in the *American Sociological Review* .

He died on 23 March 1958 in Champaign , Illinois . The cause of death was arteriosclerosis . His funeral took place on 26 March , and he was buried at Roselawn Champaign Cemetery .

= = Family = =

In 1906 Znaniecki married a fellow Polish student at the University of Geneva , Emilia Szwejkowska . They had a son , poet and writer Juliusz Znaniecki , born 1908 . Znaniecki 's wife Emilia died in 1915 .

Next year Znaniecki married Eileen Markley ( 1886 ? 1976 ) . They had one daughter , sociologist Helena Znaniecki Lopata , born 1925 .

= = Importance = =

Polish sociologist and historian of ideas Jerzy Szacki writes that Znaniecki 's major contributions include : the founding of sociology in Poland ; his work in empirical sociology ; and his work in sociological theory . Szacki notes that Znaniecki sought to bridge a number of gaps : between empirical sociology and more theoretical approaches ; between objectivity and subjectivity ; between humanistic and naturalistic methodologies and viewpoints ; and between American and European intellectual traditions .

Szacki writes that , while Znaniecki 's theoretical contributions were subsequently pushed into the background by Talcott Parsons ' " functionalism " , Znaniecki offered the most ambitious sociological theory known to America before Parsons .

Znaniecki 's most famous work remains *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* ( 1918 ? 20 ) , co @-@ authored with William I. Thomas . His other major works include *Wst?p do socjologii* ( An Introduction to Sociology , 1922 ) , *The Method of Sociology* ( 1934 ) , *Social Actions* ( 1936 ) , *The Social Role of the Man of Knowledge* ( 1940 ) and *Cultural Sciences* ( 1952 ) .

= = Themes = =

= = = Empirical sociology = = =

Znaniecki 's contributions to empirical sociology began after , and were influenced by , his collaboration with William I. Thomas . The Polish Peasant in Europe and America ( 1918 ? 20 ) , a five @-@ volume work which he wrote with Thomas , is considered a classic of empirical sociology . It is a study of Polish immigrants to America , based on personal documents . The work became a landmark study of Americanization ? of how new immigrants to the United States " become Americans " .

This work represents Znaniecki 's most valued contribution to empirical sociology . Most of his other works focused on theory , the only other notable exception being *Miasto w ?wiadomo?ci jego obywateli* ( The City in the Consciousness of its Citizens , 1931 ) .

= = = Sociology : theory and definition = = =

A key element of Znaniecki 's sociological theory is his view of sociology in particular , and of the social sciences in general , as a scientific field uniquely different from the natural sciences . Znaniecki defines sociology as a study of social actions . His recommended methodology was analytic induction : analysis of typical case studies , and generalization from them .

Znaniecki 's theories form a major part of sociology 's action theory , and his work is a major part of the foundation of humanistic sociology . Another term connected with Znaniecki 's theories is " systematic sociology " ( " socjologia systematyczna " ) . He sought to create a grand sociological theory , one that would bridge the gap between empirical sociology and more theoretical approaches .

Znaniecki criticized the widespread definition of sociology as the study of society . In Znaniecki 's culturalist perspective , sociology is a study of culture ( though it is not the study of culture , as Znaniecki recognized that other social sciences also study culture ) . His definition of sociology has been described as that of " a cultural science whose function is to study systems of social interaction based upon patterns of values and norms of behaviour , through the use of the humanistic coefficient " , or more simply , " the investigation of organized , interdependent interaction among human beings . " The part of the culture that sociology focused on was that of social relation or interaction .

Znaniecki saw culture as a field separate from nature , but also from individuals ' perceptions . The essence of culture is socially constructed objects . He was one of the first sociologists to begin analyzing personal documents such as letters , autobiographies , diaries , and the like . He considered the analysis of such documents an important part of the humanistic @-@ coefficient method .

Znaniecki saw sociology as an objective , inductive and generalizing science . According to Szacki , Znaniecki viewed sociology as a nomothetic science that should be able to use a methodology similar to that of the natural sciences ( however , Znaniecki 's daughter Helena Znaniecki Lopata , in her introduction to *Social Relations and Social Roles* , contradicts Szacki , writing that , for Znaniecki , sociology was a science " whose subject matter calls for a method different from that of the natural sciences . " ) . In 1934 he formulated the principle of analytic induction , designed to identify universal propositions and causal laws . He contrasted it with enumerative research , which provided mere correlations and could not account for exceptions in statistical relationships . He was also critical of the statistical method , which he did not see as very useful .

In addition to the science of sociology , Znaniecki was also deeply interested in the larger field of the sociology of science . He analyzed the social roles of scientists , and the concept of a school of thought .

= = = Four social systems = = =

According to Znaniecki , sociology can be divided into the study of four dynamic social systems : social action theory , social relation theory , social actors theory , and social groups theory . Znaniecki saw social actions as the foundation of a society , as they give rise to more complex social relations , and he saw this theory as the foundation of all the others . Unlike Max Weber , he did not believe that everything can be reduced to social actions ; he was also quite skeptical of any insights coming from the science of psychology , which he held in low esteem .

The four major forms of cooperative interaction , or four social systems , in growing complexity , were :

social actions ( in Polish , " czyny spo?eczne " or " czynno?ci spo?eczne " ) : the most basic type of social fact ;

social relations ( in Polish , " stosunki spo?eczne " ) : these require at least two persons and a mutual obligation ; the study of social relations is the study of norms regulating social actions ;

social personalities ( in Polish , " osoby spo?eczne " or " osobowo?ci spo?eczne " ) : the combined picture that emerges from a number of different social roles that an individual has ;

social group ( in Polish , " grupa spo?eczna " ) : any group which is recognized by some as a separate entity ; Znaniecki saw a society as a group of groups , but denied it primacy as an area that the sociologist should focus on ( while at the same time recognizing that most sociologists differed on this ) .

The four @-@ category division described above appeared in his 1934 book , The Method of Sociology . By 1958 he had reformulated the division , and was speaking instead of social relations , social roles , social groups , and societies .

== Sociology of culture ==

Znaniecki coined the term " humanistic coefficient " for a method of social research by way of data analysis that emphasizes participants ' perceptions of the experience being analyzed . The humanistic coefficient sees all social facts as being created by social actors and as being understandable only from their perspective . Thus the sociologist ought to study reality by trying to understand how others see the world , not ( objectively ) as an independent observer ; in other words , the scientist needs to understand the subject 's world . While some have criticized this approach as being too close to subjectivism , Znaniecki himself saw it as anti @-@ subjectivist ; he observed that social facts such as cultural systems can exist even if no one perceives their existence . He was also skeptical of any value coming from personal , subjective observations , arguing that such observations have value only if they can be objectively described . He argued that the difference between the natural and social sciences lies not in the difference between objective and subjective experiences , but in the subject being studied : for Znaniecki , the natural sciences studied things , and the social sciences studied cultural values .

Znaniecki characterized the world as being caught within two contrary modes of reflection ; idealism and realism . He proposed a third way , which he called " culturalism " . His culturalism was one of the founding ideas of modern antipositivist and antinaturalist sociology . The term " culturalism " was introduced into English in his book , Cultural Reality ( 1919 ) , and was translated into Polish as " kulturalizm " ; previously Znaniecki had discussed the concept in Polish as " humanism " ( " humanizm " ) .

== Other themes ==

Znaniecki 's work also touched on many other areas of sociology , such as intergroup conflict , urban sociology , and rural sociology .

== Works ==

Znaniecki 's first academic works , of the 1910s , were more philosophical than sociological in nature ; beginning in the 1920s , his works were primarily sociological . His Cultural Reality ( 1919 )

was a synthesis of his philosophical thought , but the simultaneous publication of his much more popular *The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* ( 1918 ? 20 ) associated his name in academic circles primarily with sociology rather than with philosophy . His early works focused on analysis of culture and strongly criticized the principles of sociological naturalism . Szacki notes a puzzling gap in Znaniecki 's research : while he was well @-@ read in , and engaged with , most previous and current theories , he largely ignored the works of some notable sociologists of his time such as Max Weber , Vilfredo Pareto and Talcott Parsons . On the other hand , his works engaged closely with those of William I. Thomas , Georg Simmel , Robert E. Park , and Émile Durkheim .

His *The Method of Sociology* first introduced his concept of divisions within subfields of sociology . His most notable works included two books published in the same year ( 1952 ) : *Modern Nationalities* , and *Cultural Sciences* . The former is an analysis of the evolution of national @-@ culture societies , and the latter presents a theoretical study of the relation between sociology and other sciences . Znaniecki never finished his magnum opus , *Systematic Sociology* , which would eventually be collected and published posthumously in its unfinished but final form as *Social Relations and Social Roles : The Unfinished Systematic Sociology* ( 1965 ) .

= = = List of works = = =

Roughly half of Znaniecki 's published works are in English ; the rest , in Polish .

In English :

*The Polish Peasant in Europe and America* ( with William I. Thomas , 5 vols . , 1918 @-@ 20 ) .

" *The Principle of Relativity and Philosophical Absolutism* " , *The Philosophical Review* , vol . 24 , no . 2 ( March 1915 ) , pp. 150 ? 64 .

*Cultural Reality* , Chicago , 1919 .

" *The Subject Matter and Tasks of the Science of Knowledge* " , translated by Christopher Kasperek ( first published in Polish as " *Przedmiot i zadania nauki o wiedzy* " , 1923 ) , *Polish Contributions to the Science of Science* , edited by Bohdan Walentynowicz , Dordrecht , D. Reidel Publishing Company , 1982 , ISBN 83 @-@ 01 @-@ 03607 @-@ 9 , pp. 1 ? 81 . ( Znaniecki proposes the founding of a new empirically based science which would study science itself , and which he terms " the science of knowledge " ; Znaniecki 's proposed meta @-@ science has since been called by various other names , including " the science of science " , " the sociology of science " , and " *logology* " . )

*The Laws of Social Psychology* , Warsaw , 1926 .

*The Method of Sociology* , New York , 1934 .

*Social Actions* , New York 1936 .

*The Social Role of the Man of Knowledge* , New York , 1940 .

*Cultural Sciences : Their Origin and Development* , Urbana , 1952 .

*Modern Nationalities* , Urbana , 1952 .

*Social Relations and Social Roles : The Unfinished Systematic Sociology* , San Francisco , 1965

*On Humanistic Sociology* ( a selection of works edited by R. Bierstedt ) , Chicago , 1969 .

*The Social Role of the University Student* , Pozna? , 1994 .

In Polish :

*Zagadnienie warto?ci w filozofii* ( *The Question of Value in Philosophy* ) , Warsaw , 1910 .

*Humanizm i poznanie* ( *Humanism and Knowledge* ) , Warsaw , 1912 .

*Upadek cywilizacji zachodniej : Szkic z pogranicza filozofii kultury i socjologii* ( *The Decline of Western Civilization : A Sketch from the Interface of Cultural Philosophy and Sociology* ) , Pozna? , 1921 .

*Wst?p do socjologii* ( *An Introduction to Sociology* ) , Pozna? , 1922 .

" *Przedmiot i zadania nauki o wiedzy* " ( " *The Subject Matter and Tasks of the Science of Knowledge* " ) , *Nauka Polska* ( *Polish Science* ) , vol . IV ( 1923 ) , no . 1 . ( English translation : " *The Subject Matter and Tasks of the Science of Knowledge* " , translated by Christopher Kasperek , *Polish Contributions to the Science of Science* , edited by Bohdan Walentynowicz , Dordrecht , D. Reidel Publishing Company , 1982 , ISBN 83 @-@ 01 @-@ 03607 @-@ 9 , pp. 1 ? 81 . )

Socjologia wychowania ( The Sociology of Education ) , Warsaw ( vol . I : 1928 ; vol . II : 1930 ) .

Miasto w ?wiadomo?ci jego obywateli ( The City in the Consciousness of Its Citizens ) , Pozna? , 1931 .

Ludzie tera?niejsi a cywilizacja przysz?o?ci ( Contemporary People and the Civilization of the Future ) , Lwów , 1934 .