

About the Author

Darko Polšek is a tenured professor, currently teaching at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia.

He graduated Philosophy and Sociology at the same university, had master exam in epistemology and got a PhD in the sociology of science. As a university teacher of various courses for thirty years, he taught at various Croatian universities and faculties. He started as a sociology teacher at University of Zadar, Croatia. In 1990 he was appointed at the Institute of Social Sciences, and in 1997 he received tenure and a full professorship at the School of Law, Dept. of Sociology.

In 1997 he was awarded a Fulbright scholarship at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. From 2000—2002 he was an appointed Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, heading the Higher Education Dept. During his governmental appointment Croatia accessed the Bologna process. He helped designing several versions of the Higher Education Act to enable the accession, but the basic institutional accountability proposals were never accepted.

For ten years as a senior researcher at the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb he was leading the governmental project “Public assessment of science and education“.

In 2002 he was awarded a scholarship at the University of Oxford. Two years later, in 2004, he was appointed to the High Level Expert Group of the European Commission in Brussels — on public assessment of converging technologies (http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2004/ntw/index_en.html).

During his career he was an invited speaker at London School of Economics, at the conference on Karl Popper; to the Central European University, where he organized a conference on Popper and Hayek, to the Salzburg Seminar (to the conference on public assessment of genetics); he delivered papers at the University of Uppsala (Sweden) in 1990. In 2004 during the Anniversary of the Double Helix in Cambridge he participated in various discussions. In 2001 he was invited by the New America Foundation (Washington) to deliver a paper on globalization. A year later he was appointed coordinator of the Indiana State University, Kelley Business

School project, while designing the MBA program in Zagreb. In 1995 he was leading the Croatian branch of the German liberal — Friedrich Naumann Foundation. During that time he participated at or managed various programs and conferences — in Sofia (Bulgaria), in Koenigswinter (Germany), in Sintra (Portugal) and elsewhere. He used to be the head of Matrix Croatica Department of Sociology for over 12 years and was the member of the Presidency of Croatian Philosophical Association, and Croatian Sociological Association. He used to be a joint-editor of various Croatian sociological and educational journals. For fifteen years he was a course-director of the Sociology of Science seminar at Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik. He received an OEAD grant for research at Karl Franzens University in Graz (Austria) in 1991 and a DAAD grant for the Summer School in Heidelberg (Germany) in 1982.

He used to teach at the School of Law and Croatian Studies at University of Zagreb for almost ten years. In early '90s, at the same University, he used to teach at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering (Sociology) and Academy of Music (Sociology of Culture). He was an adjunct teacher at the private University Libertas (Zagreb) and BAK Polytechnic (Zaprešić).

He published nine books and jointly or personally edited another eight. He translated eight books (by Oliver Sacks, Terry Eagleton, Thomas Friedman, Desmond Morris, Karl Popper, Gerd Gigerenzer, Daniel Gilbert and Viktor Zaslavsky) and a number of articles from English and German. His main expertise and academic interests are philosophical and sociological issues concerning biology (sociobiology, evolutionary psychology, Darwinism, social issues in genetics), behavioural economics, and public assessment of science.