

## From the Editors

### A shortcut

Recent months have seen an ongoing public discussion about the evaluation of individual scientific units in Poland, as well as the academic growth of university staff or doctors wishing to acquire degrees and titles, based on doctoral schools and promotion procedures. The need to change the current system has been discussed for a while as the system is based mainly on the need to score points in journals from the lists published by Ministry of Science and Higher Education, especially as publication of an article in a listed journal is the basis for initiating a procedure to award a degree.

For some time now, as the Editorial Board of *Health Problems of Civilization*, we have seen a remarkable upturn in submissions to HPC of papers referred to as 'Letters to the Editor'. It is regrettable that the quality of these papers leaves a lot to be desired, both in terms of content and technical aspects, and the Editors do not fully understand the purpose for which such papers are being submitted; coincidentally, this happens in parallel to the ongoing evaluation of Doctoral Schools in Poland. Such a letter to the Editor usually takes the form of a study by several authors, often four or more, is frequently no more than two pages long and sometimes even one typed page. The content of the letter itself often resembles a fragment of a larger study taken out of its broader context, including the citation of the content of works from several years ago. What is missing from the submissions is the primary purpose of such papers, i.e. to reflect on the issue in question and, above all, to refer to the content of the articles published in our journal with a view to one's own scientific achievements or the latest developments noticed in the public space, which may constitute an important polemic against the content published in HPC.

We also note with regret the phenomenon whereby a paper, once rejected, returns to the Editorial Board virtually unchanged, and individual Authors pressuring to speed up the editorial process and to urge Reviewers to hurry up. The phenomena described above worry us greatly, as they are evidence of the disappearing higher values associated with the dissemination of knowledge and the shaping of attitudes of a responsible scientist and researcher. One can assume that we will soon be able to add the term 'predatory authors' to the term 'predatory journals', which is currently popular in the public sphere. We take the liberty of publishing this message with a primary concern for our readers and the quality of the work that reaches the ever-expanding audience of HPC, as well as to maintain high ethical and scientific standards. Science is our common good; if we all don't ensure its quality who will then? Counting on your understanding and support, we encourage you to share the results of your scientific work in HPC.

With our best regards to HPC readers,

prof. Marcin Weiner, PhD – Editor-in-Chief

associate prof. Małgorzata Tokarska-Rodak, PhD – Deputy Editor-in-Chief