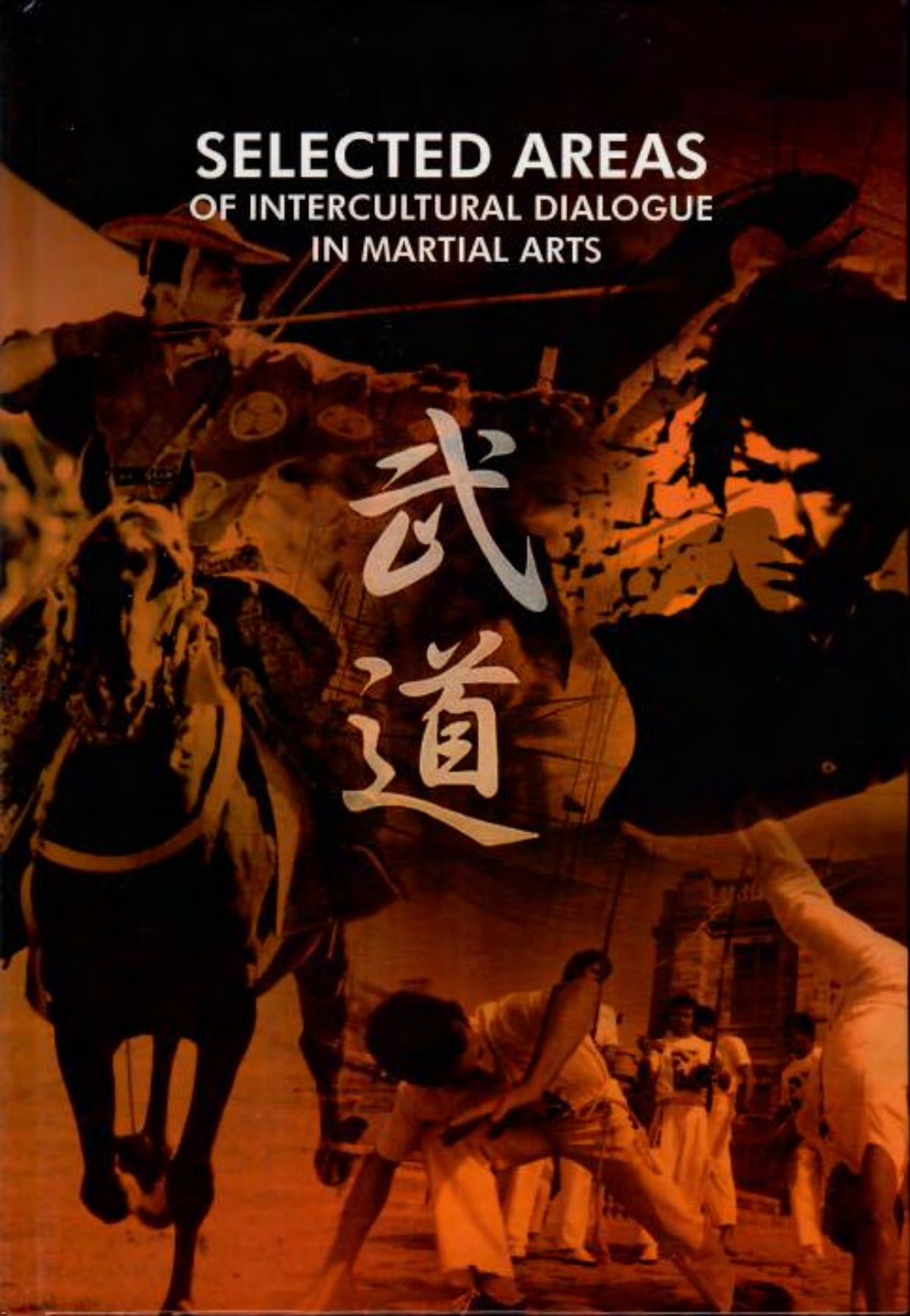


**SELECTED AREAS
OF INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE
IN MARTIAL ARTS**

武道



Selected Areas of Intercultural Dialogue in Martial Arts

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Wojciech J. Cynarski



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Chapter 6

A REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT NO. 1 BY THE IDŌKAN POLAND ASSOCIATION (2003–2010)

Introduction

The Idōkan Poland Association¹ (IPA), established in March 1993, is the organizer or co-organizer of numerous training seminars, methodological scientific conferences, scientific and research internships, workshops as well as two world congresses. For example, between the 30th April and 2nd May 1994 in Cracow, the Polish Union of the Takeda-ryū (IPA's unit) and the board of the IPA organised the first classical seminar of *aikijutsu*. The seminar was conducted by Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (7 dan, now 9 dan) from France, while the host of the whole event was Mieczysław Drogosz, the head of TKKF 'Promień' (Sports Promotion Society) in Cracow. In August 1997 an international methodological and training internship entitled 'Summer School of Jūjutsu – Karate' took place in Rzeszów, conducted by Lothar Sieber (10 dan) and Hannelore Sieber (8 dan) from Germany. The IPA also organised, together with DDBV, a series of seminars, methodological workshops and symposiums, which took place in Munich (between the years 1993 and 2009). Specialist and interdisciplinary studies of the regional and international range were conducted there, in particular Polish-German-Slovakian, Polish-Belarusian and Polish-French, the results of which were published in various publications (periodicals, collective papers).

¹ This is a scientific, educational and sports society; a non-governmental, a public benefit organization.

The Association participated in the First International Scientific Conference, called '*Humanistic theory of martial arts-concepts and problems*', organised by PTNKF (Subcarpathian Scientific Society of Physical Education) and the University of Rzeszów. It took place from the 30th May to 1st June 2003 in Rzeszów. The committee was headed then by K. Obodyński and W. J. Cynarski and the IPA lent its logo and prepared presentations of martial arts, which (due to objective reasons) did not take place. It is worth mentioning the participation of the honorary president of the IPA Lothar Sieber and Dr S. R. de Hooge and direct participation of numerous researchers from Poland, Belarus, Slovakia or the letters sent by Prof. E. Jaskólski i Dr R. J. Maroteaux. Subsequent publications [Cynarski, Obodyński 2003a, b] were the outcomes of this interesting and important conference for the creation of the theory of martial arts.

After the first year of studies the first report was published [Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2004]. The participants of the research included amongst others Wojciech J. Cynarski, Kazimierz Obodyński and Artur Litwiniuk from Poland, Milan Ďuriček from Slovakia, Sven R. de Hooge, Michael Buchhold and Lothar Sieber from Germany. The outcomes of the studies were scientific works and papers presented at scientific conferences. The works were published mainly in "*Ido Movement for Culture*" and in a monograph '*Humanistic theory of martial arts-concepts and problems*'. [Cynarski, Obodyński 2003b] as well as in other works.

The Year's Scientific Issue "*Ido – Ruch dla Kultury / Movement for Culture*"² was the patron of the First World Scientific Congress of Martial Arts and Combat Sports (Rzeszów 22–24 September 2006), and a representation of the IPA participated in a *jūjutsu* show during the Budo Gala (23.09.2006). K. Obodyński, W. J. Cynarski and W. Sikorski as well as members of Kolegium Dan and other IPA committees amongst others took part in the preparations of the Organizational Committee, the Scientific Congress Committee and the Programme Board of Budo Gala.

The abovementioned periodical was also a patron of other scientific conferences devoted to martial arts such as:

- 1) 5.04.2008, Rzeszów, SIP – a Jubilee Symposium '15 years of the Idōkan Poland Association';
- 2) 25–26.04.2008, Targowiska – Krosno, UR and PWSZ – The 2nd International Scientific Conference of experts – researchers of martial arts and humanists "Martial arts, combat sports, humanism- *budō, kakugi, jindō*";

² Published by the IPA periodical is now called "*Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology*".

- 3) 16–17.05.2009, Viseu, Portugal – The 2nd Scientific Congress on Martial Arts and Combat Sports;
- 4) 17–19.09.2010, Rzeszów, UR, The 2nd World Scientific Congress of Martial Arts and Combat Sports.

The Scientific Research Committee has been formally functioning since 2006 but the researchers and the IPA experts have been realizing the statute tasks of various kinds, such as the scientific and research tasks, as well as training and publishing ones since the beginning of the Association's activity (March 1993). This committee has substituted the *Shibu Kobudō* in the matter of being the patron and supervising publishing the scientific periodical. Apart from the present members of the IPA especially created Committee was joined by a group of people interested in scientific cooperation and the issues raised in the journal. Initially the Committee had only 4 independent research fellows (including one professor), 4 PhDs and 5 MAs. Now the Committee is composed of 20 independent research fellows i.e. professors and habilitated doctors as well as 20 doctors. These are people from many countries such as Korea, Japan and the USA [www.idokan.pl].

The IPA in particular currently gathers a majority of Polish scientists interested in research on martial arts and combat sports together with a group of foreign experts. The international circle around the scientific journal "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology" looks even more impressive.

Researchers and the directions of research

Started on 1 October 2003 and completed on 1 October 2010 Project No.1, entitled '*Interdisciplinary, multi-aspectual research on phenomenon of martial art.*' is composed of 5 sub-subjects – the areas of scientific penetration. They include:

- 1.1. *Theoretical & methodological studies on Asian martial arts*
- 1.2. *System research on the multi-dimensional phenomenon of Far Eastern martial arts*
- 1.3. *Sociology of Far Eastern martial arts – European comparative research*
- 1.4. *Theory of martial arts training – methodical and methodological indications*
- 1.5. *History and evolution of Japanese Budo.*

The authors of the majority of the papers are Wojciech J. Cynarski, Kazimierz Obodyński and Artur Litwniuk from Poland and an expert on martial arts Lothar Sieber from Germany. Several members of the IPA's

Scientific Research Committee, who have been undertaking issues from particular thematic areas, participated in the studies.

Ad. 1. The authors of papers devoted to methodology of research on martial arts, terminology and theoretical constructions are Dr Zdenko Reguli (4 dan), Dr Abel Figueiredo (6 dan) and Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski. They have created categorical grids, suggested definitions and a theoretical framework for research. This concerns the arrangement of categories of combat forms [Reguli 2009]; multi-disciplinary reflexion (hermeneutics, theory of human motor skills, historical studies) on Abel Figueiredo's martial arts [2009, 2009a]; humanistic theory of martial arts and (integral) anthropology of martial arts [Cynarski 2004, 2009; Obodyński 2009].

Ad. 2. System studies are conducted in a few aspects. They refer to the epistemological and methodological side of research [Cynarski 2006a], a system approach of the phenomenon of martial arts [Cynarski 2004; Figueiredo 2009; Sasaki 2009] and holistic treatment of practice (training and practising martial arts [Cynarski, Sieber 2006; Cynarski 2009]).

Ad. 3. European, sociological comparative studies are conducted by a team of researchers from several countries, in cooperation with the scientists from outside Europe. A theoretical framework [Cynarski, Obodyński 2007] was constituted and studies concerning social reception of martial arts were conducted [Obodyński, Cynarski, Witkowski 2008; Cynarski *et al.* 2009]. There is ongoing work connected with the process of institutionalisation of martial arts [Cynarski 2006b] and several other detailed issues.

Ad. 4. The theory of martial arts practice requires knowledge of sports practice theory and traditional methods of teaching martial arts. It also requires a great practical experience. Long, solo observation, the opinions of the experts of the highest rank (8–10 dan) and consultations during training seminars helped to work out a certain, general concept. This concept was presented in the book '*Martial Arts – Idō and Idōkan*', which is both a monograph and a textbook [Cynarski 2009]. The book has an introduction by *meijin* L. Sieber. There is also an interesting concept of holistic practice connected with practising martial arts [Ambroży 2004; Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2005; Cynarski, Sieber 2006].

The educational programmes of *jūjutsu* in Polish organizations were examined, compared and evaluated by Dr Jan Słopecki [2009]. The ethical content brought in by the systems of martial arts are also the object of studies of other researchers gathered around the IPA [see/cf.: Szyszko-Bohusz 2008; Sasaki 2009; Czajkowski W., Piwowarski 2010]. Teaching authentic martial

arts is connected with the way of personal improvement of the practitioners. Thus, training, as psycho-physical practice, is inseparable from upbringing and self-creation.

Ad. 5. The supervisor of this topic was Lothar Sieber, a long-time head and associate professor at DDBV³. It was possible, mainly thanks to the documents he owned, to prepare a monographic compilation of the evolution of *idō* and *Idokan* [Cynarski 2009].

What is more, other written works were devoted to the history of other martial arts and combat sports [Błach W., Cynarski, Błach Ł. 2006; Błach *et al.* 2006; Cynarski 2006; Cynarski, Obodyński, Litwiniuk, Cynarska 2006; Cynarski, Sieber 2007; Cynarski, Ziemiński 2010]; classical and sports fencing⁴ [Cynarski 2004a; Zabłocki 2005; Czajkowski Z. 2007; Szajna 2007]; traditions of the Gymnastics Society 'Sokół' [Bielec 2009; Reguli 2009] and, in cooperation with Faculty of Physical Training of UR, the history of combat sports (regional research, historical-sociological research) [Szajna 2008]; the literature on self-defence of People's Polish Republic of Poland [Cynarski 2008] etc.

Contributory studies resulting from a specific specialization of the researchers are also being realised. Prof. Carlos Gutiérrez García carries out such humanistic research concerning judo [Gutiérrez García, Pérez Gutiérrez, Cynarski 2010]. Piotr Ziemiński is chiefly interested in *kick-boxing* [Cynarski, Ziemiński 2010]; Kunysz-Rozborska – women's boxing; J. Walczak – *taekwon-do* [Walczak 2007]; Adrian Piórko-Pawliński – *karate-dō* [Piórko-Pawliński 2009]; Jan Słopecki – *jūjutsu* [Cynarski, Słopecki 2006; Słopecki 2007, 2009]; Piotr Kurek – American hopology [Cynarski, Kurek 2009] and Marcin Kudłacz – injuries in in martial arts and combat sports [Cynarski, Kudłacz 2008]. An interesting subject, undertaken by the IPA's researchers, is the tourism of martial arts [Cynarski, Sieber 2007a].

It is worth mentioning the participants of the strictly empirical part of the research. They included amongst others: Dr Krzysztof Warchoń, Wiesław Gwizd, H. Sieber, P. Ziemiński, who collected the data, Dr Paweł Król, who helped to describe them statistically. There are also a few other PhD students

³ „Deutscher Dan-Traeger und Budo-Lehrer Verband e.V.” – a superior, elite German organization gathering the best specialists in the domain of martial arts.

⁴ There is a considerable participation of Fencing Committee, operating within the IPA's framework, with such scholars as – Dr Gabriel Szajna (the head), Dr Zbigniew Czajkowski, Associate Professor Zbigniew Borysiuk, Prof. Wojciech Zabłocki and Prof. Mirosław Ponczek. Czajkowski and Zabłocki had their work affiliated by the Scientific Research Committee of the IPA.

such as Jarosław Walczak and Magda Kunysz-Rozborska, who are still describing the results.

In addition, other persons not mentioned here, also from outside Europe, participated in or supported the studies. Prof. Helmut Kogel [2006] also participated in comparative studies concerning medicine of martial arts and cultural comparative studies – Dr Dorota Pawlik; in pedagogical and sociological – Prof. H. Ebishima, Dr Jong-Hoon Yu, Prof. K. R. Kernspecht, Dr S. Raimondo and K. Winiszewski (for a short time).

Summary

The Idōkan Poland Association is a scientific, educational and sports society, a non-governmental, organization for public benefit. The undertaken studies are carried out without any ministerial support, solely within their own modest means and in cooperation with other institutions. Although the journal does not have any grants it carries out a scientific-research and publishing activity. There are some meaningful effects of ten volumes of the indexed periodical *"Ido Movement for Culture"* and a series of publications scattered across other publications.

The research, so far, has enabled us to solve some theoretical problem of a general and detailed nature as well as signalling others. It is essential to continue the studies and summarize their results at conferences and in a form of a monograph. Some organizational and financial support was declared by Prof. A. Bobko, a vice-rector of UR for the science and foreign cooperation. Undoubtedly, the studies will be continued but as the IPA's Project Number 2.

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