



THE POLISH
CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY
IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Stanisław Kamiński

Edited by
Rev. Kazimierz Marek Wolsza

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I.

STANISŁAW KAMIŃSKI:
PERSON AND WORK

STANISLAW KAMIŃSKI: BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

BIOGRAPHY

Stanisław Kamiński was born on October 24, 1919 in the manor of Gubernia (now Radzyń Podlaski) in Poland, to Helena *née* Gmur and Jan Kamiński, a car mechanic by profession. In 1938 he passed his *matura*, a secondary education final exam in grammar school (Gimnazjum Biskupie) in Siedlce and entered the higher theological seminary in Janów Podlaski, which was later moved to Siedlce in 1940. He was ordained as a Roman Catholic priest in 1946 and worked for a short time as a curate in The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary parish in Kosowo Lackie. In the same year he started studying philosophy at the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), which he completed in 1948. He did not serve in any army or partisan units, nor did he belong to any organizations during World War II. One of his brothers was shot by the Gestapo in 1940 for belonging to the Polish Scouting Association.¹ His second brother, Marian, lived with his family in Lublin after the war.

Kamiński died on March 21, 1986 in Freiburg in Breisgau (Germany), in the Catholic Loretto Krankenhaus hospital, and was buried in Lublin.

The major themes of his work are formal logic, history of logic, general methodology of sciences, philosophy of science, methodology of philosophy, science studies, methodology of theology. He worked

¹ S. Kamiński, "Ankieta personalna" (1954) in the Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin.

in the tradition of the Lvov-Warsaw school, and continued the work of the Krakow Circle. He was one of the founders, together with Mieczysław A. Krąpiec, O.P. (1921–2008), Stefan Swieżawski (1907–2004) and Marian Kurdziałek (1920–1997), of the Lublin Philosophical School.

He said about himself that he was a type of an encyclopedist, he had a gift for synthetic views and noticing connections between distant fields.² A good, wise, well-liked man, although a strict examiner. Known for his sense of humor, the life and soul of the party, a winner of the Order of the Smile of “Eutraperia” (student cabaret at KUL). “Stanisław Kamiński Memorial Lectures”, during which famous philosophers from abroad have lectured, have been held since May 2002. His most famous students are: Andrzej Bronk, Anna Buczek, Józef Herbut, Jerzy Kopania, Tadeusz Kwiatkowski, Stanisław Majdański, Witold Marciszewski, Mikołaj Poletyło, Jan Przybyłowski, Antoni B. Stępień, Tadeusz Szubka, Kazimierz Trzęsicki, Czesław Wojtkiewicz, Urszula Żegleń. Kamiński was the author of two books, the co-author of another, and he also wrote many articles, reviews, short announcements, and encyclopedia entries.

DEGREES AND ACADEMICS TITLES

Kamiński defended his master thesis “Pojęcie i podział supozycji terminów u Piotra Hiszpana, jego komentatorów, nominalistów XIV w. i eklektyków późnego średniowiecza” [*The Concept and Division of Supposition of Terms by Petrus Hispanus, his Commentators, 14th-Century Nominalists and Eclectists of the Late Middle Ages*] at the Catholic University of Lublin in 1948, supervised by Fr. Prof. Antoni Korcik. A year later at the same university, the young Kamiński defended his doctoral dissertation “Fregego dwuwartościowy system aksjomatyczny zmiennych zdaniowych w świetle współczesnej metodologii nauk dedukcyjnych” [*Frege’s Two-Valued Axiomatic System of Propositional Variables in the Light of Modern Methodology of Deductive Science*], under Fr. Dr. Józef Pastuszka (1897–1989) supervision. There is a review written by prof. Narcyz Łubnicki (1904–1988) and a draft copy

² A.I. Buczek, “Świadectwo kresu,” *Roczniki Filozoficzne* 35, no. 1 (1987), pp. 384–388.

review by Fr. Prof. Antoni Korcik (1892–1969) in the Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin. Kamiński maintained that his reviewers had also been prof. Jerzy Słupecki (1904–1987), however, the review remains undiscovered.³ Currently, Kamiński's PhD thesis is considered one of the first works in the world devoted to Frege's logic.

Kamiński's attempt to obtain the academic title of *docent* lasted almost 5 years, from February 19, 1954 to November 27, 1958. It was started and completed on the basis of the government act "Ustawa z 15 grudnia 1951 r. o szkolnictwie wyższym i o pracownikach nauki,"⁴ and on a document which stated that academics with PhD titles (of the old style) could apply for the title of *docent* only until June 30, 1954.⁵ After that date, the title was to be awarded only to academics with a degree of a candidate of sciences,⁶ something which Kamiński did not have since he was a doctor. The requirements regarding academic accomplishments and didactic work were accompanied by a requirement to demonstrate knowledge of the leading Soviet academic scholars, the principles of dialectical and historical materialism and an ability to apply them in their own work. Kamiński did not meet these last conditions.

It is likely that Kamiński was encouraged by his university to apply for the title of *docent* on the basis of the so-called old type PhD degree. He started the procedure on the basis of unpublished papers, reviews and a script from logic.

The application was sent to the Ministry of Higher Education five days before the end of the transitional period. Kamiński received positive reviews written by: Fr. Prof. Korcik, Prof. Jerzy Kalinowski (1916–2000), Prof. Piotr Chojnacki (1897–1969).⁷ Three and a half

³ S. Kamiński, "Autobiogram," *Ruch Filozoficzny* 42, no. 1–2 (1985), pp. 106–112.

⁴ In the wording of "Obwieszczenie Ministra Szkolnictwa Wyższego z 10 października 1956 roku w sprawie ogłoszenia jednolitego tekstu uchwały z 15 grudnia 1956 roku o szkolnictwie wyższym i o pracownikach nauki".

⁵ The government act "Uchwała nr 1 Centralnej Komisji Kwalifikacyjnej dla Pracowników Nauki z 29 kwietnia 1953 roku w sprawie zasad postępowania przy nadawaniu stopnia kandydata nauk".

⁶ Between 1951 and 1958 the degree of "doctor" was replaced in Poland by "a candidate of sciences" to follow the Soviet model.

⁷ A. Korcik, "Opinia o pracach naukowych Ks. dra Stanisława Kamińskiego" (Lublin 1954) in Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin; J. Kalinowski, "Opinia o całokształcie działalności naukowej ks. dr Stanisława Kamińskiego, uzasadniająca wniosek o nadanie mu tytułu naukowego docenta" (Lublin 1954),

years later, on December 12, 1957, the Social Sciences Section of the Central Qualification Commission decided that the award of the title would be possible after the publication of two works by Kamiński in *Studia Logica*. Those two expected papers⁸ and three additional ones⁹ were sent less than a year later, on October 10, 1958. Then the procedure speeded up noticeably, with reviews of the updated work written by: Prof. Kazimierz Ajdukiewicz (1890–1963), Prof. Tadeusz Czeżowski (1889–1981) and Dr. Andrzej Grzegorzczak (1922–2014),¹⁰ although these reviews are not currently extant. The 39-year old Kamiński was awarded the title of *docent* on November 27, 1958.

Kamiński never started the necessary procedure for habilitation but whilst he formally never received the degree, he is described as having one in the ordinary professor's application form.¹¹

Both professorial titles, extraordinary and ordinary, were given to Kamiński on the basis of a governmental act which started with the following sentence: "Universities are actively involved in the construction and consolidation of socialism in Polish People's Republic."¹²

His procedure of extraordinary professorship started in January 1964. All university units of philosophy were told to evaluate Kamiński's achievements. Positive assessments were presented by: Prof. Narcyz Łubnicki from the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Prof. Maria Kokoszyńska-Lutmanowa (1905–1981) from the University of Wrocław, Prof. Piotr Chojnacki from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, Fr. Prof. Józef Iwanicki (1902–1995) from the Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw, Prof. Janina Kotarbińska

ibidem; P. Chojnacki, "Opinia o dorobku naukowym Ks. Dra Stanisława Kamińskiego przedstawionego do nadania mu tytułu docenta naukowego" (Lublin 1954), *ibidem*.

⁸ S. Kamiński, "O początkach indukcji matematycznej," *Studia Logica* 7 (1958), pp. 221–241; S. Kamiński, "Hobbesa teoria definicji," *Studia Logica* 7 (1958), pp. 43–69.

⁹ S. Kamiński, "Fregego logika zdań," *Roczniki Filozoficzne* 5, no. 1 (1955–1957), pp. 31–64; S. Kamiński, "Rola Locke'a i Condillaca w dziejach teorii definicji," *Roczniki Filozoficzne* 5, no. 4 (1955–1957), pp. 67–101; S. Kamiński, "Nauka o indukcji w logice XVI-ego wieku," *Collectanea Theologica* 28 (1957), pp. 235–258.

¹⁰ S. Kamiński, "Autobiogram," p. 107.

¹¹ M.A. Krąpiec, "Wniosek o nadanie przez Radę Państwa tytułu profesora zwyczajnego w zakresie metodologii nauk dr. hab. Stanisławowi Kamińskiemu" (Lublin 1970) in Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin.

¹² "Ustawa z 5 listopada 1958 roku o szkołach wyższych".

(1901–1997) from the University of Warsaw, Prof. Izydora Dąmbska (1904–1983) from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.¹³ Some of the units did not answer but there were no negative assessments.

On November 29, 1965, the Ministry of Higher Education awarded the 46-year-old Kamiński the title of extraordinary professor and appointed him to the position of extraordinary professor at the Department of Methodology of Sciences at the Catholic University of Lublin.

In 1970 Kamiński started the procedure of applying for the academic title and position of ordinary professor.¹⁴ Reviews were written by: Prof. Czeżowski, Prof. Iwanicki,¹⁵ and Prof. Dąmbska. Below is an extract from Prof. Dąmbska's conclusion:

Stanisław Kamiński is uncompromising in the pursuit of objectivity, versatility and formal precision of the results. Due to his scientific and ethical attitude he is a teacher creating the best atmosphere for the development of young adepts of knowledge around him. Both the briefly described activities of professor Kamiński as well as this scholar and teacher's LOGOS and ETHOS expressed therein fully justify the application for granting him the title of ordinary professor.¹⁶

On January 4, 1971 Kamiński was awarded "the ordinary professor title being in force at the Catholic University of Lublin and was appointed to the position of ordinary professor at the Department

¹³ Dąmbska wrote an opinion for Kamiński in the last days of her work at the Jagiellonian University. At the turn of June and July 1964, by a decision of the state authorities and against her will, she was moved from the Jagiellonian University to the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences for the position of extraordinary professor. J. Perzanowski, ed., *Izydora Dąmbska 1904–1983* (Kraków: Polska Akademia Umiejętności, 2001), pp. 62, 72; *Encyklopedia filozofii polskiej*, vol. 1, s.v. "Dąmbska Izydora," pp. 277–280.

¹⁴ The following governmental documents were then in force: "Ustawa z 31 marca 1965 roku o stopniach naukowych i tytułach naukowych"; "Zarządzenie Ministra Szkolnictwa Wyższego i Sekretarza Naukowego PAN z 13 grudnia 1965 roku w sprawie trybu składania przez rady wydziału i rady naukowe wniosków o przedstawienie kandydatów do tytułu naukowego".

¹⁵ T. Czeżowski, "Ocena dorobku naukowego profesora nadzwyczajnego dr hab. Stanisława Kamińskiego jako podstawa do wniosku o przyznanie mu tytułu naukowego profesora zwyczajnego" (Toruń 1970) in Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin; J. Iwanicki, *Recenzja działalności piśmienniczej profesora nadzw. dr. Stanisława Kamińskiego* (Warszawa 1970), *ibidem*.

¹⁶ I. Dąmbska, *Referat dotyczący dorobku naukowego Ks. prof. dr Stanisława Kamińskiego* (Kraków 1970), p. 5, in Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin.

of Methodology of Sciences at the Faculty of Christian Philosophy.”¹⁷ The 51-year-old Kamiński held this position for the next 16 years, until his death.

UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT

In the years 1947–1949, Kamiński conducted logic and Roman law classes at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Lublin, initially as a volunteer assistant. Kamiński, as a Senior Research Assistant, had lectures for the first time on general methodology in the academic year 1949/50. As an adjunct/assistant professor, from September 1950 to August 1956, he conducted the following activities for philosophy students: (1) lectures: theory of knowledge (also for the Faculty of Humanities), elements of logic (also for the Faculty of Theology), general methodology of sciences; (2) classes: logic, general methodology of sciences; (3) seminar: logic; (4) monographic lectures: selected issues in general methodology of sciences, selected issues in modern logic, selected issues in logic.

From September 1956 Kamiński was a substitute professor of methodology for two years and lectured the following to philosophy students: (1) lecture: logic (also for the Faculty of Theology), general methodology of sciences, theory of knowledge, logic with theory of knowledge (for the Faculty of Theology); (2) classes: general methodology of sciences, logic, formal logic; (3) seminars: logic and methodology; (4) monographic lectures: selected issues in logic, selected issues in general methodology of sciences.

Kamiński was in the position of *docent* from 1959 to 1964 and conducted the following activities: (1) lectures: logic (also for the Faculty of Humanities), general methodology of sciences, methodology of history (for the Faculty of Theology); (2) classes: general methodology of sciences; (3) seminar: general methodology of sciences; (4) monographic lectures: selected issues in formal logic, selected issues in general methodology of science, selected issues in logic, elements of methodology of philosophical sciences.

¹⁷ “Dokument wystawiony przez Ministerstwo Oświaty i Szkolnictwa Wyższego do Obywatela Rektora KUL” (Warszawa 1971) in Archive of the Catholic University of Lublin.

Between the academic year 1965/66 and January 1971 he worked as an extraordinary professor and conducted the following activities: (1) lectures: logic (also for the Faculty of Humanities), general methodology of sciences, elements of methodology of history (the Faculty of Humanities), methodology of historical sciences (the Faculty of Theology); (2) classes: logic (the Faculty of Humanities); (3) seminar: general methodology of sciences; (4) monographic lectures: elements of methodology of philosophy, selected issues in methodology of sciences, selected issues in formal logic, selected issues in general methodology of sciences and theory of knowledge, philosophy of mathematics; (5) discussion sessions: methodology of humanities (together with Prof. Czesław Zgorzelski for workers of the Faculty of Christian Philosophy), methodology of humanities (the Faculty of Humanities).

In the last period of his university work, from January 1971 until his death in 1986, he worked as an ordinary professor and conducted the following activities: (1) lectures: logic (also for the Faculty of Humanities), general methodology of sciences, methodology (the Faculty of Canon Law), elements of historical methodology (the Faculty of Theology), didactics of philosophy, introduction to philosophy, methodology of canon law (the Faculty of Canon Law), logic with elements of methodology of humanities (the Faculty of Humanities), methodology of history (the Faculty of Theology), methodology of legal sciences (the Faculty of Canon Law), history of science; (2) classes: logic (the Faculty of Humanities); (3) seminar: methodology of sciences; (4) monographic lectures: Monism or pluralism in philosophy of science, elements of methodology of philosophy, methodology of history, philosophy of mathematics, selected issues in general methodology of sciences, history of science and science studies methods, theory of science; (5) discussion sessions: methodology, methodology of canon law (the Faculty of Canon Law).

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER POSITIONS, ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Kamiński held several temporary university positions at the Catholic University of Lublin. From 1957 to his death he was the head of the first Department of Methodology of Sciences in Poland, established earlier by Fr. Prof. Iwanicki in 1952.

He worked on a systematic catalogue of the university library from 1969.¹⁸ He was a warden of the Department of Logic from 1969, the dean of the Faculty of Christian Philosophy in the years 1970–1975, 1977–1979, 1981–1986, the vice-dean in the academic year 1979/80, the head of the section of theoretical philosophy at the Faculty of Christian Philosophy between 1957 and 1970.

Kamiński belonged to the Faculty of Scientific Society of the Catholic University of Lublin from 1949, first as a member-co-worker, thereafter as a member-correspondent and finally as an active member.¹⁹ Initially he was secretary, then treasurer and finally chair from 1985 until his death.²⁰

Moreover, he was vice-chair of the Faculty of Humanities at Lublin Scientific Society, the head of Inter-Faculty Seminar of Methodology of Humanity/Arts, a member of the Classification of Sciences Team at the Centre for Documentation and Scientific Information PAN [Polish Academy of Sciences], a member of the Philosophical Sciences Committee PAN in the years 1981–1984.

Kamiński was responsible for the section of theoretical philosophy in the editorial staff of *Encyklopedia katolicka*, vol. 1–5 and belonged to the team of chief editors of volume five. He was also a co-editor of the journal *Roczniki Filozoficzne*, the head of the Senate Housing Committee and the Senate Financial and Economic Committee. He was a member of the Senate Committee for Science Issue, the Scientific Council of John Paul II Institute, the Committee for Academic Leave, and the Senate Committee for Scientific and Didactic Staff.

¹⁸ G. Wilczyńska, “Nauka i metanauka a katalog systematyczny Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej KUL,” *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* 79 (2003), pp. 207, 208, 211.

¹⁹ A.B. Stępień, “Działalność naukowa i organizacyjna ks. prof. Stanisława Kamińskiego 1919–1986,” *Zeszyty Naukowe KUL* 29, no. 1 (1986), p. 18.

²⁰ Z.E. Roskał, “Wydział Filozoficzny Towarzystwa Naukowego KUL,” in *Polskie Towarzystwo Filozoficzne czyli z dziejów filozofii jako nauki instytucjonalnej*, ed. B. Markiewicz, J.J. Jadacki and R. Jadczał (Warszawa: Polskie Towarzystwo Filozoficzne, 1999), p. 214.

PARTICIPATION IN ACADEMIC LIFE

Kamiński took an active part in both Polish and—as far as it was possible in those times—foreign academic life.

In 1958, awaiting the verdict of the Central Qualifying Commission regarding his application for the title of *docent*, he applied for a two-year trip to Germany, to the universities of Bonn and Cologne and to the Albertus-Magnus-Institut in Münster, where he wanted to broaden his knowledge of the history of medieval logic. Unfortunately, that trip fell through but in 1964 he participated in the third international congress of medieval philosophy in Milan and in the congress of Renaissance researchers in Venice. In 1973 he gave two lectures at the Johannes Gutrnberg-Universität in Mainz: “Wissenschaftstheoretische Aspekte: Rationale Faktoren in der modernen Wissenschaft und Theologie” [*Scientific Aspects: Rational Factors in Modern Science and Theology*] and “Typen von Ethik” [*Types of Ethics*].

From 1950 to 1952 Kamiński participated in a seminar on the foundations of mathematics conducted by Prof. Andrzej Mostowski (1913–1975) in the State Institute of Mathematics in Warsaw.

He was active in the Philosophical Weeks organized annually at the Catholic University of Lublin from 1958.

From 1953 Kamiński was a member of the history of logic group at the Institute of Philosophy (the University of Warsaw), thereafter at the Philosophical Committee PAN, next at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology PAN (at least until 1964). He participated in the Science Studies Seminar at the Department of the History of Science and Technology PAN, conducted by prof. Tadeusz Kotarbiński (1886–1981).

In a special way, Kamiński was scientifically connected with Ajdukiewicz, Czeżowski, Dąbmska, Swieżawski and Krąpiec. Apart from Lublin, he worked mainly with two centers: Warsaw and Krakow.