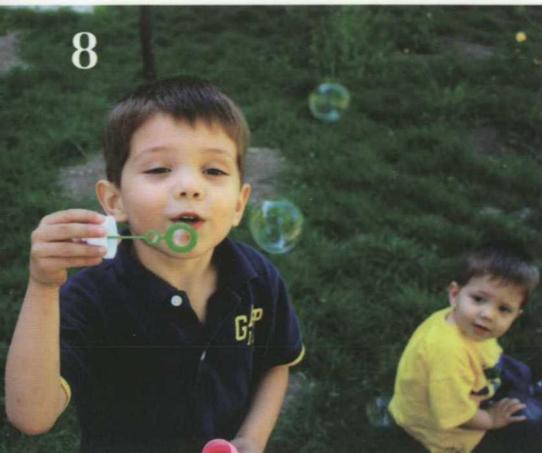


# ACADEMIA

No. 1 (37) 2013 The Magazine of the Polish Academy of Sciences



8

## Focus on

### Freedom to Choose

Making an informed decision to have a severely disabled child is a beautiful choice many people will regard as heroic. But we mustn't demand heroism from everyone – Prof. Jacek Zaremba points out

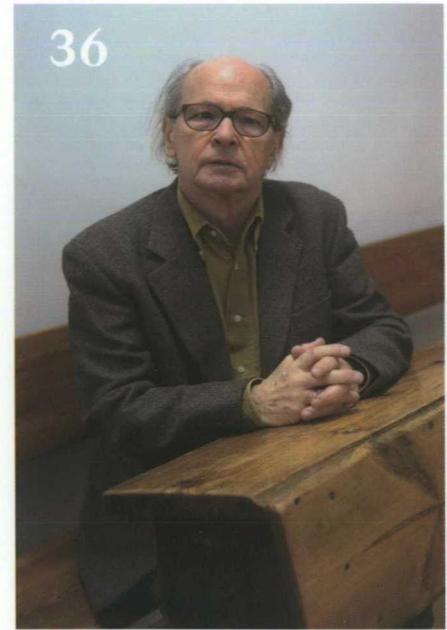


12

## Focus on

### No Simple Story

We may not learn much from history, but there are also many positive phenomena to counterbalance the nastiness, brutality, the lack of scruples and responsibility – Dr. Dariusz Libionka feels



36

## Briefly Speaking

### Wearing Two Hats

As long as there are clear-cut borders, things might be OK. But attitudes hostile to a given group take shape as soon as it gets elevated to a higher status – argues Prof. Marcin Kula

Editorial..... 3

## Focus on

Michał P. Garapich..... 4  
Social Anthropology Destination: World

Jacek Zaremba..... 8  
Medicine Freedom of Choice

Dariusz Libionka..... 12  
History History: Far From Straightforward

Agata Ročko..... 16  
Literary History Eighteenth-Century Peregrinations

Jacek Hennig..... 20  
Plant Biotechnology Green Aid for a Hungry World

Maria Pawłowska..... 22  
Biology of Gender The Myth of "Natural" Behavior

## Research in Progress

Anna Sobieska..... 26  
Literature The Gypsy Dream

Izabela Krzemińska/Jerzy Tys..... 30  
Agrophysics Algae Under Stress

Agnieszka Gromkowska-Melosik..... 32  
Sociology Paradoxes of Emancipation

## Briefly Speaking

Marcin Kula..... 36  
Wearing Two Hats

## Insight

Remigjusz Worch..... 41  
Biophysics Watching Microscopic Basketball

Piotr Perkowski..... 44  
Geology The Metamorphic Earth

Kazimierz Kochman..... 46  
Portrait of a Scientist: Louis Pasteur Revolutionary Microbes

Highlights..... 48

## Short Circuit

Zbigniew Kwieciński..... 50  
Education –Time for Change!

Gallery..... 51

Cover photo by: Jakub Ostalowski, Gallery: Polish National Library,  
Page 2 photos by: www.sxc.hu, Jakub Ostalowski