



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW



JANUSZ KORCZAK'S CONCEPTS OF children's rights

- transdisciplinary access
to contemporary challenges
and approaches for Practitioners
and Researchers

Blended Intensive Programme ERASMUS+



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Faculty of Education
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BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME (BIP) ERASMUS+

Janusz Korczak's concepts of children's rights

- multidisciplinary access to contemporary challenges and approaches for
Practitioners and Researchers

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

WARSAW, SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2023

JANUSZ KORCZAK'S CONCEPTS OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

One must not leave the world the way it is, repairing the world has to start with repairing matters that concern children.

Janusz Korczak

Janusz Korczak (Henryk Goldszmit) was and is one of the key child-rights pedagogues and activists. He is a key figure both for children and the development of their rights in various contexts, and for adults (parents, educators, pedagogues, and teachers). Korczak's pedagogical and child-oriented work experience is still central to the understanding of children's worlds and their right to human rights, because "there is no education without the child's participation" (Korczak 2012, p. 22).

His notes, publications addressed to children and adults, and diary entries testify to this. As an indirect indication of the diversity of Korczak's pedagogical and educational strategies and approaches in his path of giving children the space to be who they are, come the testimonies of those who knew the Old Doctor, those who survived the gehenna of war and the ghetto, as well as reinterpretations and analyses of those who work on Korczak's legacy to show its power and practical value for the pedagogy of children's rights.

Today, children's rights pedagogy (Markowska-Manista 2020) and transformative-oriented pedagogy inspired by Janusz Korczak (Tsyrlina-Spady, Renn 2020) are becoming an impetus for the initiation and implementation of new activities enhancing children's participation in the contemporary world shedding a new light on children's human rights.

The Old Doctor's way of observing, thinking, listening, engaging, and his diverse methods of working with children have contributed to strengthening international child protection practices and the recognition of these rights as human rights with a focus on children's voices and perspectives.

This is why during the international event BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM (BIP) ERASMUS+ in Warsaw we decided to focus our activity on Korczak's pedagogy oriented towards practice, respect for the child, understanding the child, dialogue, resilience, and co-participation with children, which allows them to practice agency and children's rights approach connected to key challenges of the contemporary world through social, cultural, and political perspectives and praxis.

Contact with literature and places where Korczak and his practice are still present allowed us to understand what it means today to practice agency and children's rights approaches connected to key challenges of the contemporary world through social, cultural, and political perspectives.

With regard to the complex political and social situation in Europe, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the migration crisis, of which children are a part, Korczak's activities implemented at the Orphans' Home and his pedagogical legacy are very important.

Through these activities, Korczak tried to provide a child-centered approach (Hanson Nieuwenhuys 2020), a “safe space” for children, with a certain level of interaction, creative and intellectual challenges, impulses arousing curiosity about the world, and encouragement to search for answers to questions about children’s daily lives (also existential questions).

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Marek Smulczyk
Warsaw University
Warsaw, 2023

At the end of the summer, at the Faculty of Education at Warsaw University the Erasmus+ BIP program dedicated to Janusz Korczak pedagogy was organized. The topic brought to life the legacy of Korczak in a way that promises to transform the understanding of children's rights, pedagogy, and resilience in the modern world.

Janusz Korczak, a luminary in the realms of child advocacy and education, has long been a source of inspiration for practitioners and researchers alike. His commitment to children's rights and his visionary approach to pedagogy have left an indelible mark on the field. Now, within the framework of the BIP program, his teachings were reimagined and reinvigorated to address the contemporary challenges faced by children in our rapidly changing world.

Through transdisciplinary exploration, practitioners and researchers from diverse backgrounds from 4 European Universities were coming together to delve into the multifaceted dimensions of children's rights and resilience. One of the main topics during the course was the resilience and academic resilience of children as participants in education. Resilience is a crucial quality for both children and educators because it equips them to navigate the complexities and uncertainties of life effectively. First of all, resilience helps children adapt to changing circumstances, whether it's a personal setback, a family crisis, or societal upheaval. It empowers them to bounce back from adversity and continue their development. Secondly, resilience fosters emotional well-being and helps children form healthy relationships. For educators, resilience helps to adapt to changes in educational environments, and it is essential for professional development.

We hope that during the BIP week, we were able together explore the interplay of theory and practice, forging a path toward a brighter future where children's rights are upheld, Korczak's pedagogy is revitalized, and resilience becomes a cornerstone of their lives. We hope that the BIP program at the University of Warsaw was successful and the pedagogical legacy of Janusz Korczak meets the challenges of our time.

Daniela Popa

Transilvania University of Brasov

Warsaw, 2023

I participated with a lot of interest in this BIP but also with a lot of emotions. The theme was captivating, the location extremely well chosen. The wonderful colleagues and students who accompanied us on this spirited and knowledgeable journey were ideal companions.

How much we need people like Janusz Korczak today. Resilience in action, a model of awareness of the need for these skills in an extremely diverse world, Janusz Korczak was and remains a formidable teacher.

In today's interconnected and diverse world, the ability to understand and navigate different cultures is an invaluable skill. Intercultural competence, which encompasses an individual's capacity to effectively interact and communicate with people from various cultural backgrounds, is essential for fostering harmony, cooperation, and mutual understanding. The development of intercultural competence in children is a multifaceted endeavor that requires a collaborative effort between practitioners (such as educators and parents) and researchers.

Resilience includes emotional regulation and stress management. It involves problem-solving and adaptability. Not only have we taught and learned about resilience at different times, but we have also experienced situations where we have put skills into action. We also had at least moments to reflect on our level of intercultural competence development.

Congratulations to the organizers who managed to make this a great experience! Congratulations to the teachers for their professionalism! Congratulations to the students for their involvement and enthusiasm!

BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAM (BIP) ERASMUS+

FACULTY OF EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2023

The Faculty of Pedagogy of the UW, in cooperation with three partner universities from Germany, Spain and Romania, organized a short Blended Intensive Program (BIP) Erasmus+ entitled: "Janusz Korczak's concepts of children's rights - multidisciplinary access to contemporary challenges and approaches for Practitioners and Researchers".

In the last week of September 2023, activities were held to acquire knowledge and competencies in the areas of civic education in a world of mobility and migration, as well as education for children's rights. The leading theme is the adaptation of the pedagogical legacy of Janusz Korczak to contemporary educational challenges. Among the topics discussed during the program were: intercultural, inclusive and non-discriminatory approaches in child rights pedagogy, resilience in child rights education, and humanizing methodology of working with inclusive and reflective approaches.

Students had the opportunity to take a walk tracing the footsteps of Janusz Korczak, visit intercultural departments in Warsaw elementary schools, and learn about the historical and cultural heritage of the City of Warsaw. In addition to the educational program, cultural and integration activities were planned: a visit to museums, walks around Warsaw, and a concert.

This publication is the outcome of the student's walk in the footsteps of Janusz Korczak guided by Dr. Dominika Zakrzewska-Oleędzka.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS:

University of Warsaw, Faculty of Education, Warsaw, Poland

Complutense University of Madrid, Faculty of Education, Spain

Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany

Transilvania University, Faculty of Psychology and Science of Education, Romania

LECTURERS:

Dr. Marek Smulczyk, Dr. Urszula Markowska-Manista, Faculty of Education, University of Warsaw

Dr. Juan Luis Fuentes, Facultad de Educación - Centro de Formación del Profesorado, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

Prof. Dr. Christian Oswald, Prof. Dr. Claudia Maier-Höfer, Evangelische Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany

Prof. Daniela Popa, Faculty of Psychology and Science of Education, Transilvania University of Brasov, Romania

Dr. Dominika Zakrzewska-Olędzka, The Maria Grzegorzewska University, Warsaw, Poland

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Prof. Nektarios Stellakis "Discussing Korczak's pedagogical ideas: Enhancing critical literacy in schools today", University of Patras, Greece

JANUSZ KORCZAK'S PATHS

Janusz Korczak, also known as Dr. Henryk Goldszmit, was born in 1878 in Warsaw. He was a physician, writer, educator, and social activist, but above all, he was passionate about working with children. His approach to education was based on respecting the rights of each child. This approach formed the basis of his unique pedagogical method. His contributions to the development of education and children's rights are invaluable, and his life story is one of the most crucial and tragic.

Born in Warsaw, the capital of Poland, Korczak felt a strong bond with this city rich in history and culture, once being called the "Paris of the North". Here, a number of sites commemorate his experiences and those of his alumni and associates. During the walk in the footsteps of Janusz Korczak we had the opportunity to traverse the streets of Warsaw and discover the city's corners and places associated with him, directing our attention not only to his pedagogical achievements but also to his tragic fate. Together with the "Old Doctor", we embark on a journey through the city to uncover the places that bore witness to his life and work.

Our journey started at the building of the former Orphans' Home at 6 Jaktorowska Street (formerly Sw. Krochmalna 6) in Warsaw. After learning about the history of the building and the architecture of its spaces, we followed the way which Korczak with his children walked while being relocated to the Warsaw Ghetto. On the way, discussing the disturbing absence of historical buildings in this area, we reached one of the markers acknowledging the borders of the Warsaw Ghetto and the place where used to stand The State School of Commerce named after J. and M. Roesler, the first location where they came to live in the ghetto. An art installation located a piece away commemorating the bridge connecting the small and large ghetto inspired a conversation about the realities of life in the Warsaw ghetto and the situation of its inhabitants.

Admiring the beautifully restored historical tenements, we then reached Grzybowski Square, where the tour participants had the opportunity to learn more about its history and the contemporary Jewish community of Warsaw. Our tour concluded next to the Palace of Science and Culture, a controversial building that is one of the most distinctive landmarks of present-day Warsaw, and at the same time the most recognizable building in Poland. In its shadow stands a statue of Korczak surrounded by a group of children, unveiled in 2006 at the site where the second location of the orphanage was during the occupation. From here, in 1942, Korczak set off with children to Umschlagplatz, from where they were deported to the Treblinka death camp.

Janusz Korczak's legacy covers many areas, but he is best known for his social and didactic activities. His work as an educator is known worldwide, and his books, such as "How to Love a Child" and "The Child's Right to Respect," have become classics in the field of educational literature. However, what set him apart was not only his theoretical work but also his personal dedication to children and his unwavering belief in respecting their voices and dignity.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE TRIP

JANUSZ KORCZAK'S PATHS – STUDENTS IMPRESSIONS

During the Monday walk along the trail of Janusz Korczak in Warsaw the students were able to learn the history of the Great Doctor and the places where he lived, stayed, and worked. The student's task was to photograph a selected place or object or building and describe their reflections, and impressions from the walk in a few sentences.

The results of this walk, in the form of photographs and reflections, can be found below.

We invite you to analyse and follow in the footsteps of Janusz Korczak's pedagogy of children's rights.

Julia (Germany)

I really liked this statue of Janusz Korczak. It describes his work and life best since he isn't shown alone but together with the children, he took care of. Additionally, he was like a sprout on a dead tree for them. To me he is a very brave and selfless man in such a hard time. He was there for the children when they had nobody. He is a role model for any pedagogic person working with children.



Anamaria Ivan

My thoughts...

I've choose this photo because this is the most beautiful from what I've take during this expedition. (Also I'm a photographer and this is the correct one in order with the photography rules). Moreover I think this photo express sadness. This picture reminds me of the buildings from Romania, built during communism era, they also seems to have a sober atmosphere. What I've seen these days, I could easily compare to Romania's capital, Bucharest, but what made the difference is the Old Town, which is exceptional. I was quite moved by the darker side of Poland where the traces of Germany's totalitarian regime could be found. I greatly appreciated the fact that, despite all the unpleasant events that have occurred throughout history, Poland has modernised quickly. .

Alba Clara de Castro

One of the places I liked the most on the walk was the sculpture by Janusz Korczak, next to the Palace of Science and Culture. The current Lalka Theatre (next to the mentioned Palace) functioned as an orphanage during a time when the borders of the Warsaw ghetto changed and the building was included in it. In this sculpture, we can see the pedagogue Korczak surrounded by children. The seven branches of the tree symbolise the menorah (the seven-branched candelabrum, one of the oldest liturgical elements in Judaism). This symbol refers to the important work that this pedagogue carried out with Jewish children who were orphaned by the war. He ran orphanages according to his principles, based on the rights and dignity of children. In my view, it is important that there are traces of a city's past. They help to raise awareness of the mistakes that have been made in the past so that they are not repeated.



Cristina Bermejo

The activity was very interesting and enriching as it allowed us to learn about relevant aspects of Janusz Korczak's life, as well as the history of the ghettos and Warsaw. It was amazing to see Korczak's dedication to education and children's rights throughout the tour, especially when we entered the orphanage and learned how hundreds of children were sheltered and educated there. On the other hand, regarding the history of Warsaw it is interesting to see that after the desolation brought by the Second World War the city is completely rebuilt. That is why I have chosen this image, being this a ghetto building that survived the war. Finally, we had the opportunity to meet and talk with our colleagues from the program and exchange ideas, opinions and experiences, which I think is key in this experience

Ariadna Coria Gomez



The image I selected compares two buildings that were already built on the ghetto during the holocaust period. Due to the war, both buildings were destroyed and almost nothing was left. Nowadays, one of the buildings have been repaired and the other one has been left destroyed for people to see the difference. I think this was a really important part of the trail, not just because we could see how amazing were the buildings made by Jews, but because the image can make a lot of people realize how far we can get and how you shouldn't

Natalia Augustyńska

My impressions from the Monday walk along the trail of Janusz Korczak were very positive. I found it especially interesting seeing the dining area inside Korczak's Dom Sierot at Jaktorowska Street because it helped to paint a picture in my head of how the day-to-day life could have looked like for the children who lived there. The picture on the wall in the former dining room was very moving to me and seeing the faces of kids educated by The Old Doctor, reading their names and the quotes attached to the wall really transported me back in time. The quotes sparked my interest by being full of wisdom about children's rights and educators' roles - aspects still, in my opinion, relevant today. Another one of my favorite parts was seeing the old buildings that survived the war and how the infrastructure looked like back then - the whole experience was very thought-provoking.



Nina Ziemiecka



I think that this one really resonated with me, especially when we are talking about XXI century. Some people forget that kids have opinions and can share them as well as adults. It excludes them from public debate causing lack of perspective from their point of view. Korczak had some great teaching models and I wish that some public schools would recognize and adapt them.

Lena Malecka

Janusz Korczak's Paths

My impressions from the walking tour may differ from others because I was born and raised in Warsaw, which is also why I have a great knowledge of Janusz Korczak's history and life, gained throughout school years and museum tours. Nonetheless, I was astonished when I realized how every day I walk past the monuments and places representing the history of the Warsaw Ghetto, perhaps because I walked past them all the time I simply stopped paying attention. That is why for me, as a Polish person, seeing the plan of where the walls of the Ghetto stood in real life was the most interesting and most important aspect of



the tour, because even though I had the knowledge in the theoretical sense I never fully comprehended that it was real.

That is why I ended the tour with one thought:

“no matter how close you are to history, even if you walk past it every day, you may not even notice it.”

Alicia Hernández García

I found the walk very interesting, since we could learn more about the history behind Korczak's actions, as well as about the history of Warsaw during the Second World War. The fact that we were able to see the real places where this took place made it easier to understand Korczak's intentions. Also, I really appreciated that there were so many sculptures depicting Korczak and the orphans so that the population remembers everything that the Great Doctor did for children and their rights.



I was highly touched when I saw this sculpture because the way of representing the orphans depicts the different paths that they followed. On the one hand, the ones who are hugging Korczak shared with him a tragic final in Treblinka. And, on the other hand, the ones who are looking ahead are those who left the orphanage before they were transferred to the Ghetto, and who, luckily, could survive and live their lives despite the adversities.



Aleksandra Więch

The place that impressed me the most during the trip was the wall in the Korczakianum, on which there was a picture of the Children's Home residents along with colorful cards that had the Old Dotor's quotes and thoughts on them. During our stay there I tried my best to read all of them (and maybe if some of them weren't hanging so high, I would have managed to do so :)), and among them, one caught my attention. On this yellow card, I read "There are no children - there are people (...)", which in my opinion was one of the brightest thoughts of Korczak. We often forget that these little rascals we raise, take care of, and teach are in fact people, just like us (the only difference being their height and lack of experience in life). Adults often treat children as "Others", potentially worse and weaker, forgetting that before their golden days, they themselves were the same weak little "Other".



Isaac Baringou

Herrero

Today's trip was very interesting and inspiring. I found it really interesting to see the orphanate where Janusz students lived and studied. I also liked to learn things about Jewish lives during the Second World War in Warsaw and see how they were separated in the ghetto. Finally we arrived near to Janusz's statue next to the business distrito, and it was quite shocking to think how cities can change during a short period of time and how it affects everybody's daily life

Lucía González Cañas

The tour through the key locations of Janusz Korczak in Warsaw was an enriching experience, as it helped me see in first hand the orphanage, the key points and statues remembering him and the children. Being able to link the theoretical content during the expositions from the different teachers and observing the actual places where things took place was interesting and unique. I found the statue representing Korczak hugging the children from his orphanage very touching, because sadly, children who do not have families do not usually get enough human touch and love. I am sure that having this adult figure who supported them made children feel happy and safe at home. It is hard to imagine how hard it is to lose your whole family, but I am sure that knowing that you matter to other people is highly comforting, especially at such a young age.



Lastly, I thought that having similar monuments and the orphanage throughout the city of Warsaw is very interesting and necessary, because it is a way to remember Korczak, his labor and his children. This type of acts of love and humanity should not be forgotten and we should learn from them.



María Cristina Masa

On September 25, 2023, I walked through Warsaw, walking through the places that Janusz Korczak once walked. I walked where he walked; where 200 boys and girls followed Korczak, their teacher, father, doctor, with devotion but with fear. I don't really know, I think that's how I would have walked. I could not stop thinking about them. I imagined their marked faces, their weak bodies, their small hands, their deep feelings. I imagined them, but when I got to the orphanage I saw them. I stared at the little girl in the photo. I thought that this girl walked, just as I did until I reached her, but that she stopped walking because of the decision of other people. Evil and machiavellian people. Blimka,

Cesia, Chaimek, Chajcia, Doba, I don't know who you were, but I look into your eyes and I ask myself: who had the courage to make you stop even walking?



Miriam González Ganga



The walk to see Warsaw has been a pleasure because I have learned about the history of Poland through its monuments and I have been to the same places where that history has taken place, which is exciting. The most notable thing for me has been the tree and children monument in honor of Janusz Korczak located in Warsaw, near the site of his orphanage. This monument is a symbol of his dedication to children and his sacrifice. It represents a tree with branches that resemble children's hands. It is a poignant reminder of his legacy as a defender of children's rights and his steadfast commitment to protecting the most vulnerable, even in the darkest moments of Polish and human history.

Sofía Tejero Fernández

The ride for me was very interesting. I had not had the opportunity to visit Poland and I really enjoyed learning about the history and culture. One of the things that impacted me the most is the selected photo because it shows the mix that this city has between very old buildings of the ghetto and the modern buildings. I was especially curious about the building that on the outside had a very modern facade but inside still maintained the old structure. Overall I really enjoyed the walk and was very impressed to be in a place where so many things happened.



Julia Osiak

The walk in the footsteps of Korczak was the thoughtful time spent in the lovely atmosphere. Not only could we get to know each other better, but also extend the knowledge about Polish history. The thing which for sure will be printed in my memory is the size of the ghetto. Even though I live in Warsaw I never realized that the ghetto was that big. Only when have I had the opportunity to go past the part of it, I vision the enormous size. On a daily basis I never have time to wonder about the fact that the streets I walk have such a tragic history. I appreciate that I could stop for a moment and think that almost a hundred years ago this place looked so different and people had suffered such harm and pain here.



Rui Román Plaza

The walk that Janusz Korczak did with the children was very interesting for me since I learnt about the ghetto and the situation Poland lived through. I was especially interested about the fact that the ghetto had lasted three years and disappeared 2 years before the end of the Second World War. It was very shocking to think how fast they exterminated all of the jews and closed down the ghetto. I was also surprised by the fact that the Polish people rised up against the Nazi's despite the lack of resources and the probability of failure. I liked the walk since it made us reflect and discuss these topics with our fellow classmates while we walked and learnt about the history of the different places.



Rocío Pérez Rico

This picture was taken in one of the orphanages created by Janusz Korczak. His figure was not only important in the fields of medicine, education, and pedagogy but also crucial for the Jewish community. Through this path, we took the same steps from this building to the ghetto, learning about how he committed to his task of taking care of children until the very end of his life when they were forced to move to Treblinka. His story is such an inspiration for me as a future teacher.

Paula Porras Ballesteros

During the walk through part of Warsaw's history, we saw several important sites in its history and what the city of Warsaw suffered during World War II. I have chosen this photo because this commemorative plaque was something that struck me as it represents the separation between the ghetto and the rest of the city. What impressed me was the fact that if you can read the letters you are inside what the ghetto was and if you read them backwards you are outside the ghetto.



Liljana Nakas

I chose this photo because Janusz Korczak influenced the lives of these children. He sees children as people with different needs. It was important to him to acknowledge and respect their needs. It is important to mention that Korczak never worked alone. I also like that the older children helped the youngest children in their daily lives.



Johanna Prenzer



I really like this statue of Janusz Korczak with the children. It looks like a family that is together in good and hard or bad times. They look like they trust each other and take care of each other. I also see in this statue the many generations like Korczak stand for the oldest and the doll in the hand of the girl in the front stands for the youngest. In the background the tree trunk shows also that from the old thing can come something new, like the green branch over the big tree trunk.

Sandra Brzozowska

Janusz Korczak was an incredible pedagogue. It is amazing that we had been able to walk in the same streets he used to walk those many years ago when he was actively working towards improving children's lives. This picture was taken at the Children's home dining hall. There we can see an archive picture of the children taken in the same hall. It still looks like it looked those many years ago, it is incredible that Korczak's legacy still lives on.





Milena Przybylik

Walking along Janusz Korczak's path was an incredible experience. Korczakianum made the biggest impression on me. The fact that the building survived World War II is unbelievable to me. Moreover, being in the same room where Korczak and his children were more than 80 years ago was extraordinary. Looking at their photograph from 1940, I felt deep sadness, knowing what happened to them. I think everyone who is interested in Korczak's life should visit this place.

Helene Eilers

Going to the area of the ghetto made me think of Korczak and the orphans. It gave me an oppressive feeling to go there. The circumstances under which the children, Korczak, and other people lived there and the march inside the ghetto to the trains and everything that happened after that must have been unimaginably horrible. I have great respect for what Korczak has done for children until the end of his life. He saw children as persons with their own rights and supported an education that supports the development of children, their individuality, and their curiosity about the world. It was the opposite of an education that forces the child to see reality through the adult perspective.





Rocío Pérez

This picture was taken in one of the orphanages created by Janusz Korczak. His figure was not only important in the fields of medicine, education, and pedagogy but also crucial for the Jewish community. Through this path, we took the same steps from this building to the ghetto, learning about how he committed to his task of taking care of children until the very end of his life when they were forced to move to Treblinka. His story is such an inspiration for me as a future teacher.

Cristina Bermejo González

The activity was very interesting and enriching as it allowed us to learn about relevant aspects of Janusz Korczak's life, as well as the history of the ghettos and Warsaw. It was amazing to see Korczak's dedication to education and children's rights throughout the tour, especially when we entered the orphanage and learned how hundreds of children were sheltered and educated there. On the other hand, regarding the history of Warsaw it is interesting to see that after the desolation brought by the Second World War the city is completely rebuilt. That is why I have chosen this image, being this a ghetto building that survived the war. Finally, we had the opportunity to meet and talk with our colleagues from the program and exchange ideas, opinions and experiences, which I think is key in this experience.



Leia Werner

I was really impressed by the two buildings we passed on our Korczak walking tour. The one on the right side was really nicely renovated and brought back to its old glory by the Jewish community while the one on the left side was utterly destroyed and even secured by a security net.

I really enjoyed the contrast and it almost felt like you travelled through time facing the right side of the street. By turning to the left side, you were confronted with the nowadays reality. The building is currently abandoned but even from the outside you could almost feel what times the building has faced through the past years. Our tour guide told us that there is currently a discussion about whether there should remove the left building or not. I, personally, think that it would take away the nostalgia of the whole street since you can witness the now as well as the past so close by.



Hannah Maria Amann



I was very fascinated by the orphanage 's dining room. The stories brought the room back to life. The picture you could see on the wall gave you even clearer insights. While looking at the picture, I noticed that the chairs we were sitting on (not the folding chairs) were the same as in the photo. I wondered during our stay how the children must have felt there at that time. The thought is impressive that today we are visiting a place where people lived whose actions went down in history and they were not aware of its significance.

Aleksandra Godek

In this picture you can see what was left from the bridge that used to connect both parts of the ghetto. I really respect that Korczak took care of the kids outside of the orphanage and that his work, his mission continued even though the circumstances changed so much. I can't also imagine how it was when they were taken to Treblinka, especially that things that he believed in, were taken away. Korczak who wanted to give voice and empathetic independence to others was in the situation where he couldn't change much, but the change he made in those kids and kids that made the change in him - it will stay significant.



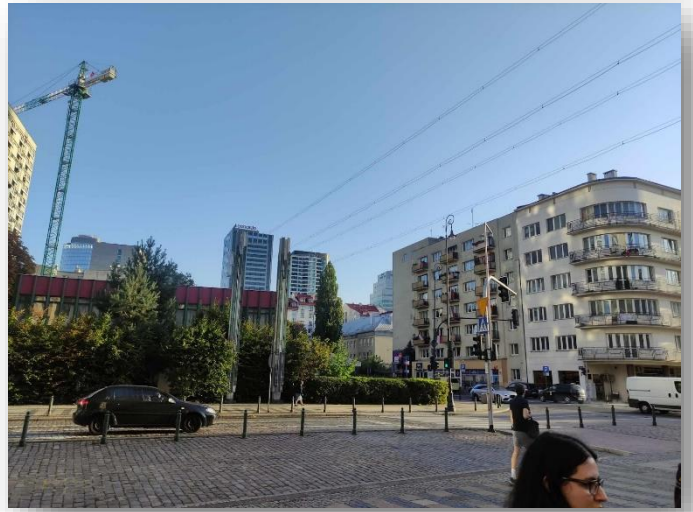
Anna Spychała



One of the things that appealed to me the most was the wall in the orphanage with photo of children in the dining room. It shows a small part of the people who were helped by Korczak, and I find it very inspiring. We can feel a bit like we are there and try to imagine what conditions they lived in. I think it's great to have the children's names written on the sides of the photo because it helps us realize how real they are. Of course, we cannot forget about the notes attached to the wall, which contain a lot of information. This thing was special to me because it made me feel love for children and a family atmosphere.

Kinga Wichniewicz

This is the place, where was a bridge, between two Ghetto pieces. For me it is very iconic, because this the place, where all Jewish people were imprisoned. When you can see, how big it was, we can think how hard was this situation and how dangerous.



Sonja Ostje

I decided to choose the picture of the 3 children working together pulling an onion out of the earth that is modeled into the wall above one of the doors. It already caught my attention when we entered the hall and i find it kind of heart-warming. The children seem to be of different age and work together reaching for one common goal. I know it was built retrospectively as a part of a renovation, but when i look at it, it will remember me that Janusz Korczak with his visions and his work made it possible for children to live in an empowering place where they could be kids, live, laugh, dream and as well help each other.



Bianca König

Impressions on the Walk of Korczaks Life:



The monument that represents the wall that cut the Warsaw society in half, the „ghetto“ and citizen part, really moved me. It seems impossible for me how someone can separate people in categories like „worthy of life“ and „unworthy of life“. The symbol motivates me to use this time at Erasmus to build more intercultural understanding to prevent something like that happening ever again.

Alba del Pino Cascón

Through the visit, it was evident Janusz Korczak cared deeply about the rights and well-being of children, creating an atmosphere of love and support that the children still call home to this day. A fascinating aspect of the visit is observing remnants of the historical repression of Jewish people in Poland, such as the marked ghetto line on the floor and the bridge connecting the big and small ghettos. It is a reminder of their culture and history, where the suffering of many was juxtaposed with the happiness of others. In spite of everything, it was the image that left the most profound impression on me. It vividly illustrates how, despite facing adversity, Jewish people have made significant progress over time, driven by the strength of their cultural unity and shared experiences as a community.



Ioana Braşoveanu

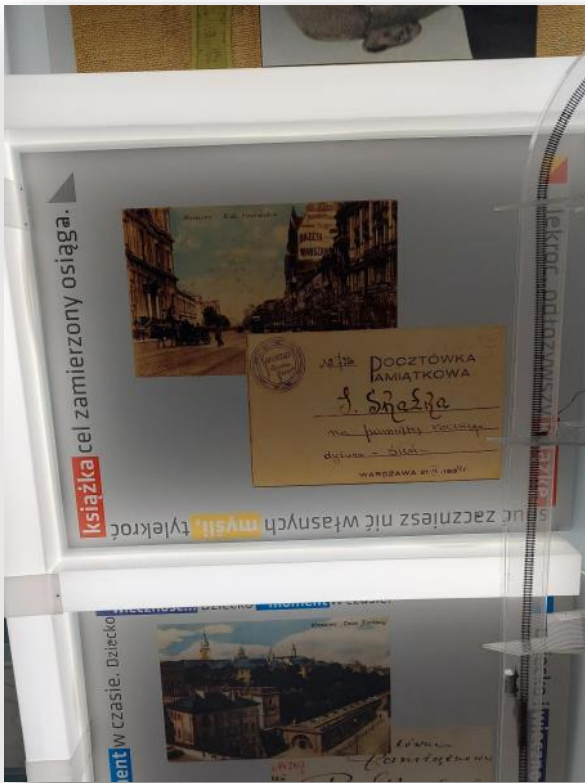
1. I was most impressed by the letters that were represented on a ceiling in the Orphan House, because they took you very easily into the past, feeling that you could see those children writing the letters.

2. I love everything related to the past, but especially children. Thus, these letters attached to the ceiling represented for me an excellent anchor towards the past of the children of a country that I do not know, but towards which I feel a strong empathy.

3. The children loved Janusz Korczak, and it shows in these letters. As he ran the orphanage for 30 years, the children became very attached to him. Thus these letters evoke two spirits: those of the children and that of Korczak.

4. At the same time, I think it is very important for children to be aware of their rights, but especially of the fact that they have not always had these rights. This is a very sad but true thing, and we as young adults need to be aware of it.

5. In conclusion, I can say that these images shook me for many reasons, the most important of which seems to be the fact that the letters represent an anchor to the past. They manage to bring the past into the present and thus make us aware that children have not always had the rights they have today. They have not always had the freedom to express themselves or to learn, or even the right to live. I believe that all children from Polish schools (and not only) should visit this Orphanage.



Ana Ecija

During Janus Korczak's walk last Tuesday, we visited the places where he lived, stayed and worked. Among the places we visited, the most impressive was the war commemorative plaque. In my opinion, I was very impressed, as before coming to Warsaw I knew nothing about its history and how the war destroyed the country. As we can see in the photo, this plaque commemorates the 700 people shot by the Nazis in the first days of August 1944. Although it does not represent all the war dead and their respective ethnicities and cultures, it represents the great repression of Polish society during the Second World War period, especially of ethnic Jews.

Ioana Oprea

I was particularly impressed by this part with the 3 heads carved inside the statue of Janusz Korczak, because it made me think of an Orthodox icon in which Jesus was represented hugging the children and saying: "Let the children come to me!". It seems that Janusz Korczak was a children's God in Poland. They found their peace by leaning on his shoulders. The image conveys deep feelings such as: trust, love and purity. In addition, it can lead us to think about equal opportunities.



Raluca Mircea

For me, the walk on Monday afternoon was a reconnection with history, a source of knowledge about what it was, and how people lived and felt in those times. I felt a sense of familiarity regarding these buildings, which were very similar to those surrounding Bucharest, the capital of Romania. However, despite the mixed feelings about everything that happened during the communist period, the architecture is full of authenticity, bearing the scars of all tragic events, but also the normalcy of another time. Coming to Poland and listening to a small part of their past, the feeling of familiarity was ubiquitous, in a strange but at the same time beautiful way. The silence between the blocks, the strategically placed crows, and the cats twisting by the window are the details that can steal a slightly forced smile, covered with amazement.

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JANUSZ KORCZAK'S CONCEPTS OF children's rights

- transdisciplinary access to contemporary challenges and approaches for Practitioners and Researchers

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