



ADAM MICKIEWICZ
UNIVERSITY
POZNAŃ



**ENGAGED
UNIVERSITY
2022**

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Prof. Bogumiła Kaniewska

RECTOR OF THE ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY IN POZNAŃ

“ *I participate, therefore I am* ”
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The idea of an engaged university that builds partnerships with the community around it, acts with concern for the natural environment and the improvement of society, promotes sensitivity and mindfulness to others, and teaches social responsibility has guided our university since its inception. We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized internationally: in May this year, Adam Mickiewicz University became the first Polish university to be accredited as an engaged university by the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU).

The past academic year has presented us with new challenges, the tackling of which demanded quite a lot of effort. We had not yet managed to return to pre-pandemic operations when a terrible war broke out in Ukraine, severely affecting our neighbours and confronting us with the need to help thousands of refugees. The academic community of Adam Mickiewicz University did not disappoint, quickly reacting to this historic challenge and supporting the refugees in numerous ways.

Our researchers, staff and students have been constantly working towards sustainable development and social well-being, seeking answers to the greatest contemporary challenges, and maintaining the quality of teaching and research.

This report presents only some of the many initiatives undertaken at AMU as an engaged university. I would like to cordially invite you to read it. I hope that the report will inspire further projects, new partnerships and cooperation.

Bogumiła Kaniewska

AMU in numbers

20

Faculties

1168

Doctoral students

242

Specialisations

860

Research projects worth over PLN 1.305 billion

4

Branches

764

Participants in postgraduate courses

36

Postgraduate courses

772

International students

13567

Newly enrolled students

125

Degree programmes

241

Science clubs

32100

Students in traditional and extramural programmes

3006

Academic staff

2282

Administrative staff

4624

Publications

AMU IN NUMBERS

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ

AMU Rankings

Perspektywy Ranking (2022)

Polish University Rankings
Perspektywy (2022)

3rd University in Poland
4th Academic Institution in Poland

Times Higher Education

World University Rankings (2022)
1001-1200

World University Rankings by Subject

LIFE SCIENCES	501-600
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	801-1000
PSYCHOLOGY	501+
EDUCATION	301-400
SOCIAL SCIENCES	501-600
ARTS AND HUMANITIES	301-400

IMPACT Ranking

801-1000

QUALITY EDUCATION (SDG 4)	401-600
REDUCED INEQUALITIES (SDG 10)	301-400
CLIMATE ACTION (SDG 13)	401-600
PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS (SDG 17)	301-400

QS

World University Rankings (2022)
801-1000

World University Rankings by Subject

LINGUISTICS	201-250
ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE	201-250
MODERN LANGUAGES	301-330
ARTS & HUMANITIES	=323
CHEMISTRY	501-550
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	451-500
ARCHAEOLOGY	151-200

Shanghai Ranking

Academic Ranking of
World Universities (2021)
901-1000

Global Ranking of Academic Subjects

NATURAL SCIENCES	
..... ECOLOGY	201-300
SOCIAL SCIENCES	
..... HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT	201-300

Green Metric (2021)

250

US Best News

Best Global Universities
(2022)
817

Best Global Universities by Subject

ARTS AND HUMANITIES	210
ENVIRONMENT/ECOLOGY	361
GEOSCIENCES	316
MATERIALS SCIENCE	537
PLANT AND ANIMAL SCIENCE	385
CHEMISTRY	566
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY	454
PHYSICS	664
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC HEALTH	497

AMU RANKINGS

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ



AMU Vice-Rector Prof. Tadeusz Wallas, Rector Prof. Bogumiła Kaniewska, Anna Schmidt-Fiedler – accreditation coordinator

Accreditation

Adam Mickiewicz University is the first Polish university to receive the title of an engaged university awarded by the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU).

> It is currently the only accreditation which comprehensively addresses the social impact of a university on its environment, its cooperation with partners outside of academia, and the implementation of the principles of social responsibility, including the sustainable development goals.

The assessment was based on fifteen standards in five areas:

- **strategy and orientation;**
- **people and organizational potential;**
- **motivators;**
- **education, research and the third mission;**
- **innovation and impact.**

For our university, the assessment procedure was an excellent opportunity to identify and develop strengths, but also to diagnose areas for improvement and issues that require special attention. We need to pay particular attention to networking with partners outside of academia and our university's influence on its social and economic environment. For the people involved, the accreditation process was an opportunity for learning, reflection, and becoming familiar with trends.

The status of an engaged university is a clear signal to current and future students, our faculty, staff, and partners that social responsibility and engagement are important for us. The accreditation paints a comprehensive picture of what has already been done in this area and what needs improvement.

AMU authorities would like to thank the researchers, administrative staff, students, and doctoral students who patiently answered questions, provided data, and searched for examples that were used for the evaluation. The accreditation process and its successful results have definitely been a team effort. We also owe thanks to our partners: Poznań City Hall, CK Zamek, the Marshal's Office of the Wielkopolska Region, Barka Mutual Aid Foundation, the Metropolia Poznań Association, Lech Poznań and the GTF Company, all of whom met with the evaluation committee to talk about their cooperation with our university.

The project was co-financed by the Operational Program Knowledge, Education, Development 2014-2020, Measure 3.3 Internationalization of Polish Higher Education, Foreign Accreditation project, Contract No. MEiN/2021/5/DIR/AZ in the amount of PLN 69,680.63.

Ukraine

Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań reacted to the outbreak of war across our eastern borders immediately by launching comprehensive assistance for students, doctoral students and employees, as well as support for the refugees from Ukraine.



> On the day the war broke out, AMU Rector Professor Bogumiła Kaniewska pledged support for the citizens and nationals of Ukraine in a letter addressed to the academic community. Four days later, the AMU Senate adopted the Resolution on Solidarity with the Ukrainian People, in which it condemned the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine and promised support for the Ukrainian citizens who are part of the AMU academic community, as well as their loved ones. The entire AMU community provided unwavering support that took various forms. Examples of initiatives include:

UKRAINE

Assistance for students

AMU offered its Ukrainian students partial or full waiver of tuition fees, as well as deferment of payment deadlines. Individual modes of studying, leaves of absence, and transfers from Ukrainian universities to AMU were also offered.

Special tab 'Solidarni z Ukrainą' (Solidarity with Ukraine)

appeared on the AMU website and the intranet. Here, volunteers could register to help refugees by providing housing, translation services, donating, offering legal advice or helping with transportation. The same tab could be used by people looking for a specific type of support.

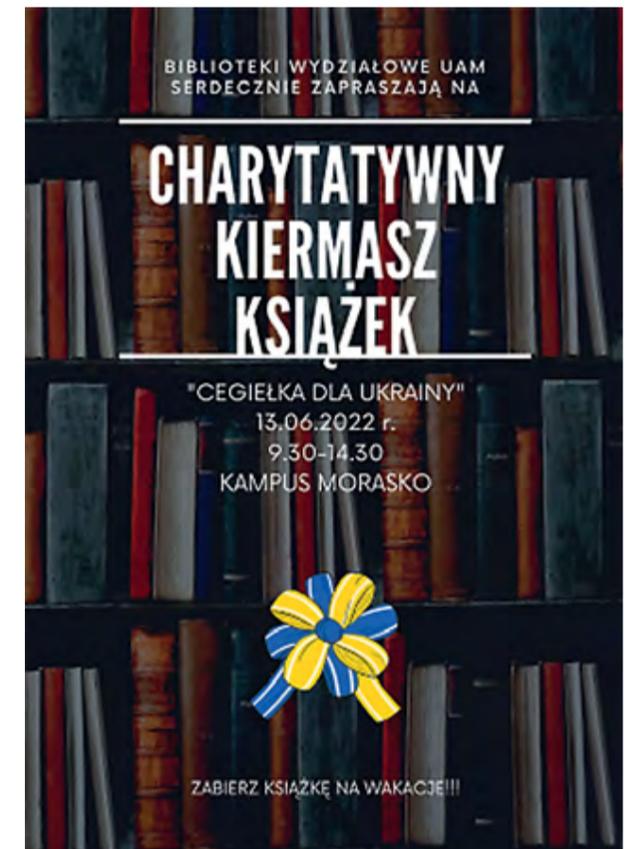
Legal and psychological assistance

AMU Psychological Development and Support Office offered psychological assistance to Ukrainians studying at our university. Students were able to meet with a therapist, and receive assistance in Ukrainian or English. The Faculty of Psychology and Cognitive Sciences also offered therapy, while the AMU Legal Office provided legal assistance.

Fundraising

– By the end of February, AMU faculties and branches, as well as Student Councils and the Doctoral Students' Government, organized fundraisers and donations. First shipments of donated goods were sent to Ukraine within a week of the beginning of this initiative. The University also launched a fundraising campaign.

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ



The proceeds were used to purchase necessities requested by organizations supporting refugees and people receiving direct assistance from our university. Faculty libraries organized charity book fairs under the motto: Cegiełka dla Ukrainy (Donations for Ukraine).

Several AMU units offered assistance in learning Polish

Responding to the challenges faced by Ukrainian schoolchildren attending Polish schools, the Bilingualism Matters@Poznan Centre at the Faculty of English offered free lectures and workshops for teachers of all subjects and levels, from kindergarten to secondary school. The goal is to provide effective psychological and educational support to Ukrainian students. Additionally, the AMU Centre of Polish Language and Culture for International Students and Collegium Polonicum Ślubice organized courses for teachers working with students whose first language is not Polish and offered free workshops to people with little experience in teaching Polish as a foreign language. The lecturers suggested where to begin language teaching, where to find materials, and which issues required special attention. Additionally, Polish as foreign language courses were made available for people from Ukraine.



Accommodation

To meet the needs of families with children arriving in the city, AMU added the sports hall on Młyńska Street in Poznań, the dormitories and facilities in Poznań, Kalisz and Gniezno to the list of available accommodations managed by the offices of the Voivode of the Wielkopolska Region.

Charity Concert

On 7 June, the AMU Auditorium hosted a Charity Concert 'Jednym głosem z wolną Ukrainą' (One voice with free Ukraine). Performers included: Czesław Śpiewa, Małgorzata Ostrowska, Katarzyna Groniec, SWIERNALIS, Blanka Szalaty, Połosa Choir conducted by Joanna Sykulska, and the Adam Mickiewicz Chamber Orchestra conducted by Aleksander Gref and the employees of Adam Mickiewicz University. The event was organized by the Student Club for Economic and Social Policy of the AMU Faculty of Political Science and Journalism in cooperation with the 'Warto Razem' Association. The event was accompanied by fundraisers and auctions, raising a total of PLN 60,332 for sick and orphaned children in Ukraine.



Volunteers

Following a request by the Voivode of the Wielkopolska Region, AMU recruited volunteers from among students that went on to support various organizational bodies. Our previous experience with foreign nationals suggested that assistance from pedagogy, psychology and social work majors can be particularly useful. Other institutions, including the Poznań City Hall, also benefited from the help of AMU student volunteers.



Day care centre for Ukrainian children

In March 2022, the AMU Faculty of Educational Studies opened a day care for children from war-affected Ukraine who entered Poland after February 24, 2022. AMU staff, undergraduates, and PhD students prepared games and entertainment for children aged 3-10 and their caregivers. Moms were offered a moment to relax and chat over coffee or tea.



Special courses of the AMU Open University

Although geographically Ukraine is a nearby country, and Ukrainians are a nation close to Poles, the culture and traditions of the area are relatively unknown. This is why AMU Open University created opportunities to expand this knowledge by offering courses and lectures on Ukrainian history and Polish-Ukrainian relations. We also offered classes for teachers to strengthen their skills in teaching Polish as a foreign language, and free basic Polish courses addressed directly to Ukrainians.



A book with power

A book addressed to Ukrainian children was created as part of the competition 'W zwykłych słowach wielka MOC' (Great POWER in ordinary words), organized by the AMU Faculty of Educational Studies. The publication contains stories and poems by students awarded in the competition, as well as art by Ukrainian children. The following works were awarded: 'Wartość małego człowieka' (The Value of a Little Human) by Julita Maćkowiak from the Faculty of Sociology (first place), 'Kołysanka dla pluszowego misia' (A Lullaby for a Teddy Bear) by Julia Jezierska from the Faculty of Educational Studies (second place), and 'Przygoda bocianiej rodziny' (The Adventure of the Stork Family) by Sandra Piaskowska, Weronika Szłapka, Wiktoria Przybylska and Oliwia Dardas with illustrations by Katarzyna Kirylczuk from the Faculty of Educational Studies (third place).



PEOPLE

A photograph of a modern university courtyard. In the foreground, a man in a light blue shirt and dark pants is jumping joyfully with his arms outstretched. To his right, a group of five young adults (three women and two men) are walking together, smiling and talking. The courtyard is paved with light-colored stone tiles and has several rectangular beds of dark gravel. In the background, there are large, modern buildings with extensive glass facades and balconies. The lighting suggests it's either early morning or late afternoon, with a warm, golden glow.

Universities are, first and foremost, people: those who make up the academic community and those to whom the university's activities are addressed. The work of our university: discovering, understanding, and interpreting various phenomena, as well as teaching about them, depends on engaged, interconnected, inclusive communities.



AMU Prof. Iwetta Andruszkiewicz,
Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Director of the AMU Centre for Research on Women's Participation in Public Spaces.

AMU Centre for Research on Women's Participation in Public Spaces

A thorough diagnosis of the situation of women requires an interdisciplinary approach. The AMU Centre for Research on Women's Participation in Public Spaces was established in May 2021 to meet these expectations.



The Centre was established following consultations with the academic and business communities, NGOs, and women's organizations. It will conduct research and support projects on women's participation in the professional, familial, social, economic, political and cultural spheres. It is also a meeting space for the exchange of knowledge and experience. Over the past academic year, the Centre has been involved in the following initiatives:

- a scientific conference on women's participation in public spaces was held as part of the inauguration of the Centre (co-organized by the Rector's Representative for Equal Treatment)
- a seminar on how to promote scientific achievements: 'How to talk out loud about what we study quietly' was co-organized by the Rector's Representative for Equal Treatment and the AMU Marketing Centre
- a scientific conference on women in sports, accompanied by the women's futsal tournament Babskie Granie UAM (AMU Women's Play) was co-organized by the Physical Education and Sports Centre and the Faculty of Political Sciences and Journalism.

The Centre's Programme Board consists of seven people. President: Prof. Robert Kmiecik, Director of the Centre: AMU Prof. Iwetta Andruszkiewicz, Prof. Andrzej Stelmach, AMU Prof. Katarzyna Waszyńska, ŁUT Prof. Edyta Pietrzak, mgr Anna Rutz (Rector's Representative for Equal Treatment), Katarzyna Bekasiak, MA (President of Business & Professional Women Poland).

The Centre was also actively involved in the preparation of the AMU equality and anti-discrimination policy adopted by our university. A publication on women's participation in public life is in preparation.

The equality and anti-discrimination policy

was adopted in May of this year by the AMU Senate. The drafting of the document sparked a vigorous discussion in the academic community.

The AMU equality and anti-discrimination policy streamlines measures that are currently in practice by defining and expanding the competencies of the bodies and individuals involved in anti-discrimination actions, and defining the duties of the ombudsman for academic rights and values. In other words, our aim is to build a comprehensive system for preventing discrimination at AMU. Both the work of the Anti-Discrimination Committee and the results of the university-wide survey demonstrate that the implementation of this document is fully justified. The document marks the completion of the first stage of our efforts, and paves the way for the implementation of measures outlined in the Strategy and Statute of Adam Mickiewicz University. Our initiatives improve the organizational culture of our university, ensuring that each and every person at AMU is treated with dignity. The equality and anti-discrimination policy has been in place since October 1, 2022.



PEOPLE

ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ





Dr. Dorota Łuczak

Making visual arts available to people with visual impairments

The project was based on the assumption that academic teaching is not only about transferring knowledge. It is also about shaping critical and responsible attitudes to participation in society using ideas of equality and community, and working against social exclusion.

PEOPLE

> The project seeks to establish dialogue with blind and partially-sighted people. It has become clear that making art accessible to people with disabilities can also expand the appreciation of art by non-disabled people.

The aim of the project, conducted under the direction of Dr. Dorota Łuczak from the Faculty of Art Sciences, was to familiarize students of art history with the methods for making visual arts accessible to blind and partially-sighted people. The results went beyond the initial purpose. By participating in the initiative, students learned to perceive art in an entirely new way.

Tactile graphics and audio description are popular ways of making art accessible to blind and partially-sighted people. Both are increasingly used in museums and galleries. Tactile graphics, also known as **typhlographics**, allow the audience to experience the visual composition of the image through touch. **Audio description** uses audio recordings to share a description of an art piece with the audience. Many art institutions make audio descriptions available on site or on their websites; some have established special 'audio museums'.

Throughout the workshops, the participants have gained appreciation of the limitations of these methods. The tactile graphics turned out to be completely unreadable for sighted people. For blind and partially-sighted people, tactile graphics provide vague information about the formal features of the image. Audio description seems to be the best out of the available tools, but the strategy for making accessible descriptions of art needed an update. Students had

to decide whether the descriptions should focus on the historical background and formal description of the piece, or if they should evocatively present the work to give the visitor an aesthetic experience. The participants by far preferred to focus on creating favourable conditions for experiencing art.

The students have completed the workshops and acquired new competences. Now, they will be asked to translate what they learned into action. The next stage of the project is meetings where students will present their implementation ideas to be evaluated by potential audiences.

The project is implemented in cooperation with the Warsaw-based Fundacja Wielozmysły and Dr. Bartek Lis from the CK Zamek Culture Centre.



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AMU Prof. Tomasz Wicherkiewicz

Revitalizing and saving endangered languages

AMU is a member of the COLING project (Minority Languages, Major Opportunities. Collaborative Research, Community Engagement and Innovative Educational Tools), implemented by an international consortium of European and American universities and non-governmental organizations. Our university coordinator is AMU Prof. Tomasz Wicherkiewicz.

> The project is a collaboration between researchers and language communities who develop the tools and resources to revitalize and maintain languages that are less well documented, less popular or in danger of becoming extinct. Such languages include Frisian in the Netherlands, Latgalian in Latvia, Grecanic in Italy and Wilamowski in Poland.

PEOPLE

The span of the project also covers many of the indigenous and minority languages of North America. As part of his work, Prof. Wicherkiewicz took part in workshops promoting the knowledge and linguistic information gathered from items exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute Museum of Natural History in Washington.

Members of indigenous communities were invited to participate in several days of thematic sessions in which they had access to various artifacts, such as collections of woven baskets. They recalled facts related to the craftsmen and women who made them, the techniques, materials etc. This invited considerations of the environmental context of the items. For example, some of the baskets had been made from species of trees and shrubs that have since disappeared or are threatened with extinction, making them priceless artifacts. By telling stories about baskets, participants activated dormant lexical fields and the language structures associated with them. This method of knowledge exchange with local communities can be a starting point for the decolonization of museum collections through efforts to find the artifacts of threatened languages and cultures. It also supports the promotion of museum resources that are important for non-mainstream communities.

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In July 2022, the Language(s) in Museum(s) workshop was held in Puebla, Mexico, paving the way for research on the direct role of museology in preserving linguistic diversity.

The COLING project involves other language-related activities. For example, in 2019-2021, AMU researchers took part in summer schools for Latgalian language teachers in eastern Latvia and summer courses in Grecanic in Italian Calabria.





From left to right: AMU Prof. Błażej Osowski, Michalina Surma, MA, Prof. Jerzy Sierociuk, Katarzyna Zagłoba, MA, Dr. Justyna Kobus

Word Collectors

The aim of the project, planned for 2018-2023, is to collect lexical data from Central (Gniezno) and Eastern Wielkopolska (Konin), and then use that data to compile dictionaries. The project is implemented in cooperation with local communities, including schools from the Wielkopolska region.

> Those interested in collecting regional dialects and vocabulary are invited to participate in the project.

For many of us, local dialects offer a sentimental journey to our childhoods, the world of our grandmothers and grandfathers. Interestingly, the dialects of the Wielkopolska region are among the least documented by lexicography. The 'Wielkopolskie Słowniki Regionalne' (Regional Dictionaries of Wielkopolska) series proposed by AMU Prof. Błażej Osowski and his team from the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology is an attempt to fill this gap by capturing the full picture of the rural and local language.

Under the guidance of their teachers, students collect lexical data by conducting interviews in their local communities and writing down the vocabulary used by their oldest family members. By participating in the research, students get a sense of accomplishment, while raising awareness of the diversity of Polish dialects and the need to nurture them. This, in turn, helps protect the gradually-disappearing regionalisms. The study relies on a questionnaire on selected topics, with 600-800 questions carefully constructed to elicit longer responses from the interviewees. Photographs of some of the discussed items are a welcome addition to the study.

The dictionaries will be published as popular science publications meant for general audiences. Authors: Bartosz Cemborowski, Justyna Kobus, Paulina Michalska-Górecka, Agnieszka Piotrowska-Wojaczyk, Jerzy Sierociuk.



PEOPLE

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Maksymilian Dyśko

“Logged out” – a story about depression among young people

Depression must be talked about openly and shown to a wider audience in order to fight the stigma around those affected by the disease.

> **Maksymilian Dyśko, AMU student, has created a short film about depression among young people. The aim is to change how we view both the people diagnosed with depression and the experts on the topic.**

Depression is a disease, not a symptom of weak character or a temporary sadness. About 350 million people in the world suffer from depression, including 1.5 million Poles. It can affect anyone, regardless of gender. Unfortunately, depression is increasingly common in teenagers, regardless of their wealth or social status. Prompt diagnosis, appropriate medication and psychotherapy offer a good chance of a full recovery.

The film ‘Wylogowani’ (Logged Out) is about young people diagnosed with depression and the specialists who help them. Fiction and animation are interspersed with statements from people diagnosed with depression and comments from experts and therapists. Representatives of the Itaka and Słonie na Balkonie Foundations speak out on situations happening in therapy centres on a daily basis.

The film aims to de-stigmatize people who have been diagnosed with depression and draws particular attention to the types of help offered by many institutions and organizations. ‘Wylogowani’ has already been submitted to a number of film festivals. There are plans for further film productions that would address problems faced by young people.

Maksymilian Dyśko a student of a second-year Special Education major at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, finalist of the 9th edition of the Maciej Frankiewicz Award, winner of the 10th edition of the Maciej Frankiewicz Award, member of the Strzeszyn Housing District Council. In 2021, Maksymilian produced a documentary on child grooming under the title ‘Cicho!’ (Be quiet!).





From left to right: Dr. Michał Taube, Karolina Rucińska, Joanna Maksim, Prof. Maciej Kozak, Dr. Daria Wojciechowska

Alzheimer's vs. pollution

Professor Maciej Kozak from the Faculty of Physics has just started working on his project on the 'Molecular basis of neurodegenerative disease formation – influence of selected metallic nanoparticles', funded by the OPUS grant from the Polish National Science Centre NCN.

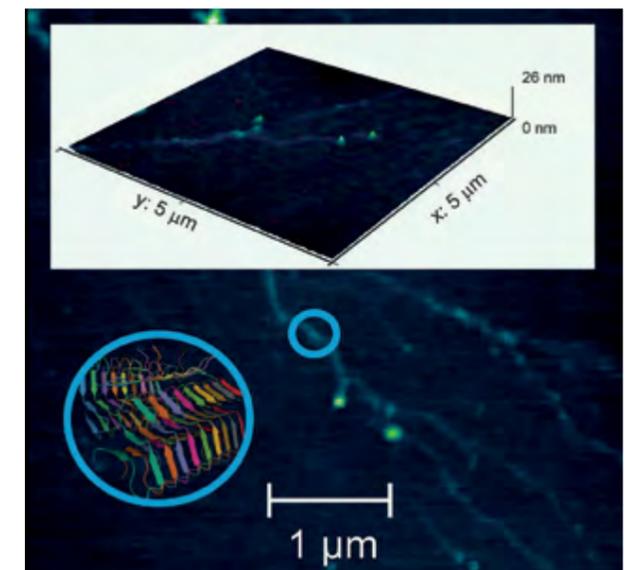
> The team of scientists led by Prof. Kozak tries to understand the impact that metallic nanoparticles of different shapes and sizes have on the ability to induce aggregation of amyloidogenic proteins.

The researcher will conduct a molecular-level analysis of the direct relationships between copper and zinc nanoparticles and their oxides in the environment, and the incidence of neurodegenerative diseases.

So far, it has been determined that the development of Alzheimer's disease is accompanied by amyloid deposits (plaques) accumulating in the brain. The plaques are largely formed by aggregates of amyloid beta peptides.

An interesting aspect of this research is that the literature on the topic reports conflicting findings. Some researchers lean toward the hypothesis that nanoparticles can accelerate peptide aggregation; others say that the nanoparticles in question do not appear to affect amyloid formation. There are also voices saying that nanoparticles observed in vitro inhibit the development of the plaques associated with disease progression. As part of the project, Prof. Kozak's team wants to analyse these phenomena at the molecular level to find out whether metallic nanoparticles can indeed trigger aggregation of amyloid beta peptides. In the subsequent stages of the project, the researchers plan to test nanotoxicity on selected neural cell lines grown under laboratory conditions. It is standard practice to test drugs and toxic substances on such samples. The researchers want to learn how toxic these nanoparticles are at the cellular level.

Researchers from all over Poland were invited to participate in the project. In addition to a group of researchers from the AMU Department of Biomedical Physics, the research team includes researchers from the Institute of Biochemistry and Biophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, the Institute of Nuclear Physics of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and the SOLARIS National Centre for Synchrotron Radiation at Jagiellonian University. In addition to physicists, biologists and chemists, the team will also include medical scientists.



PEOPLE

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Prof. Krzysztof Jassem

Artificial Intelligence Centre

“We want to harness the potential of AMU faculties, but our scope of activity needs to progress in small increments. We started from where we already have some experience,” says Prof. Jassem.

> **Professor Krzysztof Jassem, Director of the Centre, predicts the results of his research will soon find applications in the economy and have a significant impact on improving the quality of life in society.**

Earlier this year, our university launched the AMU Artificial Intelligence Centre that specialises in the field of AI. The Centre aims to integrate research from various AMU faculties to create a synergy of scientific disciplines. It provides young researchers with development opportunities, offering them attractive working conditions. It also collaborates with business entities, implementing research results in the industry. There are plans to commercialize research results through the creation of spin-off companies in the near future.

So far, the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science has established partnerships with companies such as Samsung, Allegro, the PWN publishing house and DomData, all of which use artificial intelligence for data analysis. Samsung conducts research to build systems capable of dialogue with humans; Allegro is working with us on machine translation; the PWN publishing house plans to apply artificial intelligence algorithms to construct a novel electronic knowledge access system; and DomData intends to use AI solutions for banking.

According to Prof. Jassem, the Centre will be considered successful if it manages to convince graduates of the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science to work as AMU researchers after they have graduated. “Young people are our Centre’s strength: they have proved this by winning the world competition in machine translation. Our team, led by FMCS doctoral student Artur Nowakowski, outperformed the solutions offered by Google Translate and Microsoft Translator,” says Prof. Jassem.



PEOPLE

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New hosts of the Rocket Women podcasts and their guests

Radio collaboration from the outer space

Since December 2021, a team AMU student Radio Meteor has collaborated with the Julia Woykowska Foundation on a podcast called, *Kobiety jak Rakiety* (Rocket Women) – a play on words that is truly ‘out of this world’.

➤ “Working with organisations outside of the university is an excellent opportunity to see how academic knowledge can be applied in a different environment,” contends Julia Kalka.

PEOPLE

Two women who established the foundation, Paulina Kirschke and Agata Kominiak, launched a podcast series showcasing „women who have the courage to fulfil their dreams, women who are encouraging and inspiring.” However, they needed support to record more episodes. Young radio reporters and Adam Mickiewicz University students Julia Kalka, Olga Kasperek, Luiza Zbiciak and Paulina Zinger find women who can be featured in the podcast, conduct interviews, and edit them in cooperation with the production department of Radio Meteor.

–“Cooperation with the foundation has benefited the radio itself, but also each of us presenters. Talking to inspiring women gives us power. Around us, women are struggling, being discriminated against and undermined. We want to talk about it and show that we don’t accept it. Every woman is a rocket, but not all of them know it yet. What did I get from this podcast? Above all, it gave me a voice that people can hear, be inspired by, a voice that pushes them to take action,” concludes Olga Kasperek.

– “Working on the podcast allows me not only to brush up on my skills as a reporter, but also to develop a number of other skills. Making appointments with our guests helped me get better at time management. Preparing questions was a great opportunity to expand my knowledge on a variety of topics, from motocross to geology. Working with organizations outside of academia is an opportunity to put the knowledge I learned at the university to a practical use.”

– “Hosting and preparing the episodes gave me the opportunity to meet inspiring women with fascinating passions. We don’t usually notice the interests of the people around us and the wonderful stories they tell about them. I improved my workshop as a journalist, which included learning how to ask good questions,” comments Luiza Zbiciak.



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Dawid Szulc, MA, Marta Rozmystowicz, Szymon Siuda, Katarzyna Kafarska – SLC coordinators

AMU Student Legal Clinic

The Student Legal Clinic operates as part of the framework of the Foundation for University Legal Clinics and in close cooperation with the AMU Faculty of Law and Administration.

> In the past academic year, the clinic prepared nearly 50 legal opinions, the vast majority of which concerned everyday issues, such as renting an apartment or remuneration for work. In addition, the Clinic supports students in university matters.

PEOPLE

The mission of the clinic is to provide legal assistance to natural persons and non-governmental organizations who, for various reasons, cannot afford paid legal assistance.

Legal advice is provided by students only in the form of written opinions and drafts of documents that the clients can submit on their own. The work of the students running the Clinic is supervised by Section Coordinators, while the accuracy of the legal advice is supervised by Section Supervisors, who are active law practitioners and research and teaching staff of the AMU Faculty of Law and Administration.

Clients are welcomed by volunteers, who take turns working at the Clinic headquarters located in Collegium Martineum in Poznań (Kościuszki Street, 80A).

The AMU Student Legal Clinic includes the following sections:

- Public Law Section,
- Civil Law Section,
- Criminal Law Section,
- Labour Law Section,
- Section for Agricultural and Food Law.



ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ





From left to right: Emeline Bergel, Dr. Katarzyna Macedulska, Michael Zacherle, Judith Borel, Anna Schmidt-Fiedler, Funda Kerbriand Vignon, Dr. Samira Khemkhem, Dr. Joanna Morawska, Nadine Berends, Dr. Adam Przystacki

The secrets of remote and hybrid internships and apprenticeships

The COVID-19 pandemic has permanently changed the way we learn and work. This also applies to internships and apprenticeships. Many activities still take place online – we are becoming increasingly aware of the advantages and disadvantages of working remotely.

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> The EPIDI project consists of three members of the EPICUR consortium: Université de Strasbourg (France), Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany) and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland).

The EPIDI (European Partnership for Innovation in Distant Internships) project, planned for 2021-2023, is a response to the challenges posed by the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of remote internships and apprenticeships. It is an initiative co-financed by the ERASMUS+ programme, which promotes remote internships and supports the cooperation between private and public entities on a European scale. To achieve this goal, the EPIDI team has prepared a Best Practice Guide: "How to succeed in a remote internship," which is available at <https://epidi.unistra.fr/en/best-practice-guide>. Currently, we are in the second stage of the project, which involves the preparation and development of e-learning modules that provide practical guidance on remote and hybrid internships and apprenticeships.

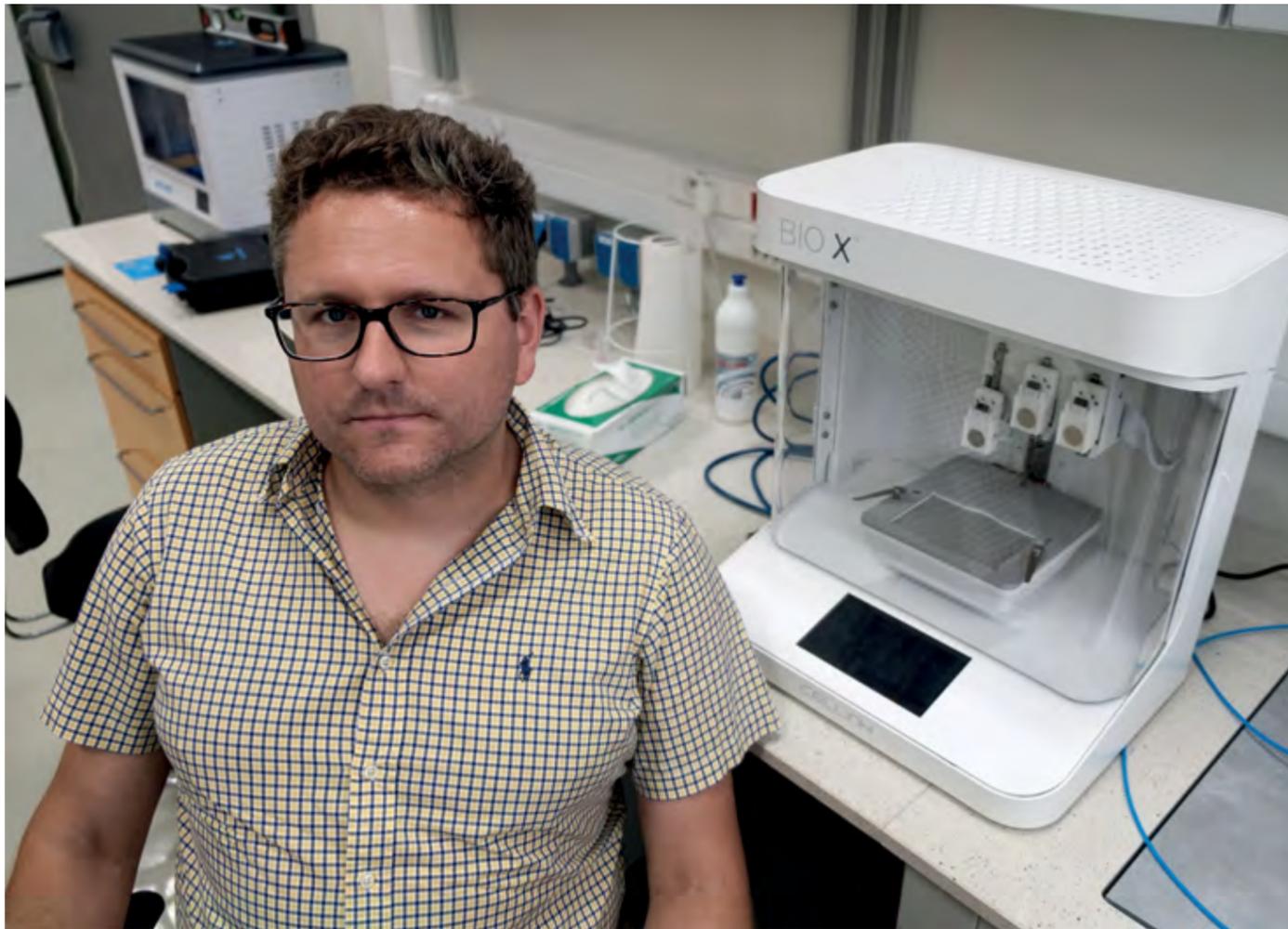
The challenges and advantages of remote or hybrid internships and apprenticeships have been identified in cooperation with employers and students who shared their experiences and proposed solutions in a number of surveys, interviews, and virtual and in-person meetings.

At AMU, the project is carried out by an interdisciplinary team: Prof. Rafał Witkowski (AMU Project Leader), Anna Schmidt-Fiedler (coordinator), AMU Prof. Małgorzata Rosalska (Faculty of Educational Studies), AMU Prof. Natalia Walter (Faculty of Educational Studies), Dr. Katarzyna Macedulska (Faculty of English), Dr. Joanna Morawska (Faculty of Human Geography and Planning), Dr. Adam Przystacki (Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science), Dorota Pisula (Head of the Career Office), and Prof. Krzysztof Molenda (graphic design of the textbook).



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AMU Prof. Jakub Rybka

The future within ‘an arm’s reach’

– this metaphor perfectly describes the innovative work carried out in the Applied Biotechnology Laboratory Complex at the AMU Centre for Advanced Technologies. The lab used breakthrough technology to design, create and operate an invaluable tool: the first robotic arm in AMU history.

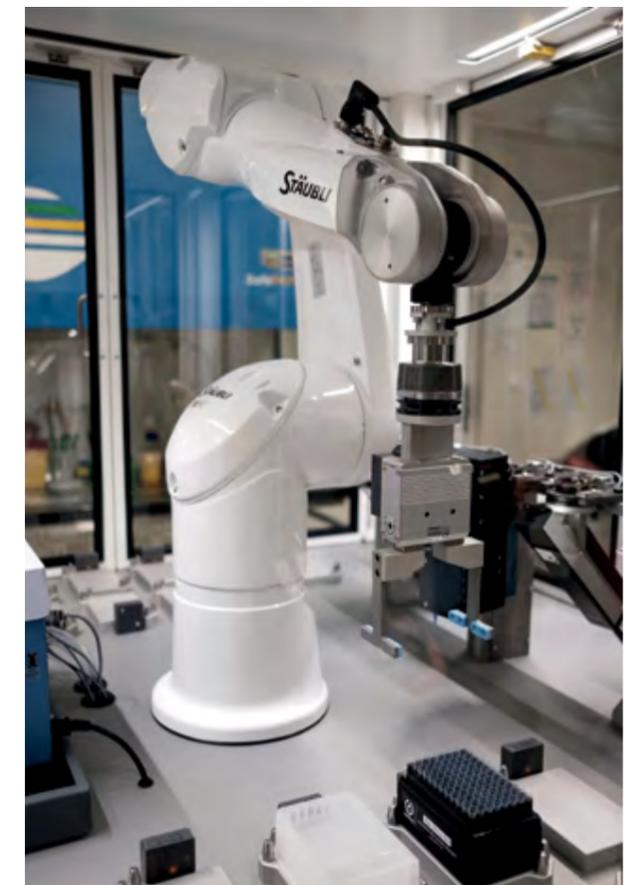
> **This robotic arm offers a unique opportunity to circumvent the human factor and eliminate potential errors.**

“This robotic arm offers a unique opportunity to circumvent the human factor and eliminate potential errors,” says Prof. Jakub Rybka. The arm can be used in both immunodiagnostics and 3D printing.

For over a year now, the arm has been used to perform diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies, and as a printing tool in tissue engineering research. This multifunctional and ultra-precise equipment actively supports the work of AMU researchers.

The creator and driving force behind the idea to create a multifunctional robot for laboratory use is the head of the Laboratory for Applied Biotechnology, deputy director of the AMU Centre for Advanced Technologies, AMU Professor Jakub Rybka, who spearheaded the cooperation between AMU researchers and companies that develop innovative robotic solutions. The professor also promotes the team’s achievements, consults the current results of their work with world-renowned researchers, and seeks out new opportunities for development through active participation in international conferences and meetings in Poland and abroad. In the meantime, Jakub Rybka finds time for hiking trips with his family, playing chess and weightlifting. His personal hobbies revolve around the automotive industry, particularly Youngtimer cars. Nevertheless, he insists that science remains his greatest passion.

Prof. Rybka’s team cooperates with Poznań-based companies Cellivia S.A. and RobTech Sp. z o.o., which worked on the robotic arm project. The team is also working on a bio-printed artificial knee meniscus in close cooperation with doctors from the Mandala Beauty Clinic and the Rehasport Clinic Sp. z o.o.



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Winners of the Audience's Choice Award

Cinema is Chemistry

The competition is organized by a team of employees of the AMU Faculty of Chemistry from the Laboratory for Chemistry Teaching and Outreach, and the Department of Coordination Chemistry.

> The overarching goal of the Polish Chemistry Film Festival Cinema to Chemia (Cinema is Chemistry), the second edition of which was held at the AMU Faculty of Chemistry, is to promote chemistry among children and teenagers.

The quality of submissions was extremely high, both in terms of content and form. For this reason, the organizers decided to present five main prizes and five distinctions. The prizes were funded by the Dean of the Faculty of Chemistry and the Poznań Science and Technology Park as part of the FUND_Akcja grant.

The overarching goal of the Polish Chemistry Film Festival Cinema to Chemia (Cinema is Chemistry), the second edition of which was held at the AMU Faculty of Chemistry, is to promote chemistry among children and teenagers, enticing the audience to expand their knowledge and deepen their interests. The faculty also offers internships, which gives the winners opportunities to learn more about the experiments conducted in classes and research labs.

During the festival, the organizers and participants demonstrated that chemists can also experiment with film, and that both chemistry and cinematography can be great fun! As many as 76 films were submitted to this year's festival. Prizes were awarded in three categories:

- **Experiment**
 - film an interesting and impressive experiment,
- **Interesting fact**
 - explain an intriguing phenomenon,
- **Fun chemistry**
 - show that chemistry is great fun.

The Cinema is Chemistry Film Festival Gala was held at the AMU Faculty of Chemistry on June 3, 2022. The Gala brought together many honourable guests, including AMU Rector Prof. Bogumiła Kaniewska and Prof. Michał Banaszak, the Vice-Rector for Digitalization and Business Cooperation. Film-makers taking part in the competition also attended in large numbers. AMU Rector highlighted that the Chemistry Film Festival sends a visual message that is not just about entertainment but education, one that is in-line with contemporary visual culture while encouraging young people to pursue their scientific passions.



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AMU Prof. Bartłomiej Graczykowski

Nanomembranes' unusual properties

Researchers from AMU and the Max Planck Institute have discovered that polydopamine nanomembranes shrink when exposed to light, temperature and humidity changes. These properties will find applications in automation and robotics, in the development of remotely-controlled nanomanipulators, as well as light and moisture sensors.

- > - “Polydopamine membranes can shrink and return to their previous form an infinite number of times. Interestingly, we have discovered this entirely by accident when testing the mechanical and filtration properties of the membranes,”
- reports AMU Prof. Graczykowski.

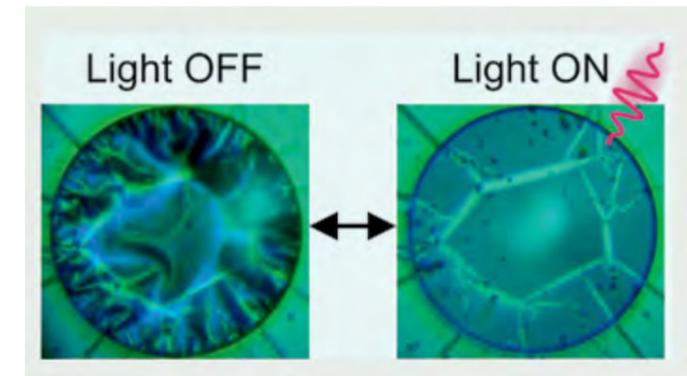
PEOPLE

The discovery was made by the teams of AMU Prof. Bartłomiej Graczykowski from the AMU Faculty of Physics and Prof. Tanja Weil from the Max Planck Institute in Mainz. The researchers noted that membranes that are several nanometres thick exhibit the ability to contract in less than a fraction of a millisecond if exposed to light.

This is due to the properties of polydopamine, the material from which the membranes are made. This polymer, inspired by a natural substance produced by molluscs, is the subject of intensive research.

The material behaves like artificial muscles, and in addition to light, it can be stimulated by changes of temperature and humidity. When a dark membrane with a porous, layered structure is exposed to light, the material heats up, water molecules are rapidly ejected and the membrane shrinks. Once we turn off the light, the material absorbs water from the air and returns to its original form. Interestingly, we can cause this effect to happen locally and remotely by using an ordinary lamp.

An article describing the researchers' findings, titled 'Fast Light-Driven Motion of Polydopamine Nanomembranes,' was published in the prestigious journal Nano Letters.



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Julia Gąsiorek

‘Ballads and romances anew’ reading competition

On May 18, 2022, a poetry reading competition was held in Mickiewicz’s Salon in Collegium Maius under the title ‘Ballads and romances anew’. The event was planned as part of the celebration of the Mickiewicz Year in connection with the 200th anniversary of the publication of Adam Mickiewicz’s first volume of poetry.

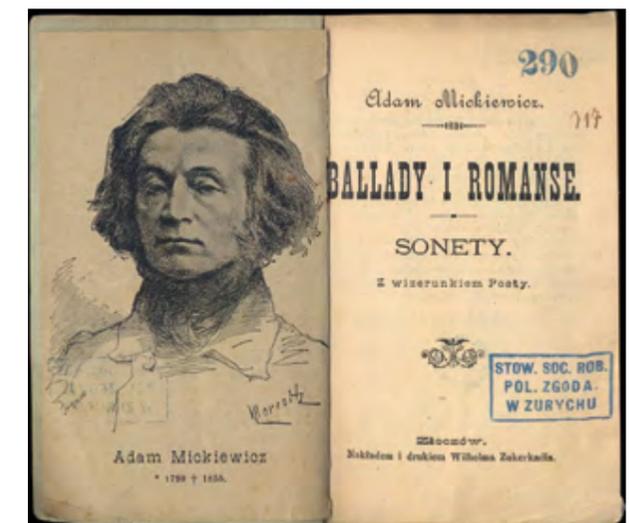
> – “I first came into contact with Mickiewicz thanks to ‘Dziady’, which enamoured me with its fairy-tales, mystery and horror. I am quite the romantic, and I have found this romanticism in Mickiewicz,” – says Julia Gąsiorek, the winner of the competition.

50 candidates applied for the competition, from which the committee selected 16 finalists. Ultimately, 14 people performed in the Mickiewicz Room. Each of them presented their interpretation of a selected work by Adam Mickiewicz from the ‘Ballads and Romances’ volume; each performance was scheduled for 5 minutes.

The guests were welcomed by Prof. Elżbieta Winięcka, director of the Institute of Polish Philology and head of the jury. Next, Prof. Krzysztof Trybuś briefly described the circumstances around the publication of the first volume of Adam Mickiewicz’s ‘Poezye’ (Poems) and Prof. Krzysztof Skibski gave the young performers some last-minute tips. Participants in the competition were divided into two groups. Their performances were evaluated by a jury consisting of Prof. E. Winięcka, Prof. K. Trybuś, and Prof. K. Skibski, as well as Anna Szpytko, Director of the AMU Marketing Centre, and AMU Press Officer Małgorzata Rybczyńska.

First place in the competition went to Julia Gąsiorek from Ostrzeszów High School. Second and third prizes went to high school graduate Karolina Klemczak and AMU film studies major Paulina Zinger, respectively. The winner received an e-book reader with a three-month e-book subscription from legimi.pl.

The competition was organized by the AMU Marketing Centre.



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Dr. Tomasz Skirecki and AMU Prof. Radosław Dylewski

Polish your English!

Between November 2021 and April 2022, as part of the Digital School Wielkopolska@2020 project of the Government of the Wielkopolska Region that was implemented by the Teacher Training Centre in Poznań, lecturers from the AMU Faculty of English co-organized and conducted two competitions. The competitions: English League and the Wielkopolska High School Super League, featured questions about English grammar and vocabulary, literature, history and the geography of English-speaking countries.

> **As many as 40 teams from secondary schools across Poznań and the Wielkopolska region participate in the English League and the Wielkopolska High School Super League.**

Both competitions combine the advantages of traditional teaching, based on direct teacher-student contact, and modern digital education using methods that are both remote and highly interactive. Participation in the competition involves learning, fun and rivalry. Before each competition, teams prepare for the competition using provided materials that often go beyond the high school curriculum. The format of the competition is loosely based on the Polish TV quiz show Jeden z Dziesięciu. Each team answers short questions; the hosts often expand the answers with with additional information relevant to the subject. Teams are eliminated after three wrong answers, but they can stay online and watch others compete.

The goal of the competitions is to support gifted students and ensure equal access to educational opportunities for young people living outside of the Poznań metropolitan area. Both projects empower students and teachers, expand the educational opportunities of schools, support teachers in developing students' interests and talents, develop key competencies in the humanities and improve digital literacy.

The Wielkopolska High School Super League and English League competitions are organized by the Faculty of English and coordinated by Prof. Radosław Dylewski and Dr. Tomasz Skirecki.



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CITY

An aerial photograph of the Adam Mickiewicz University campus in Poznań, Poland, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The image shows a mix of modern university buildings with large glass facades and traditional multi-story residential blocks. A large, dense green forest occupies the left side of the frame. In the background, a tall telecommunications tower stands against the sky. The overall scene is bathed in warm, golden light, with long shadows cast across the landscape.

Adam Mickiewicz University is rooted in the local and regional communities, globally aware, and involved in cooperation with partners from its social and economic environment to drive development and improve social welfare.



AMU Prof. Aleksandra Lis-Plesińska

Electric vehicles for everyone

The study will analyse the development of electromobility in four European cities: Poznań, Utrecht, Oslo and Bristol.

> **Fairness is an important factor in these projects. Projects are analysed in terms of the distribution of risks and benefits, the development of a transport policy, and who is considered a beneficiary (or who is even taken into consideration) when discussing the projects.**

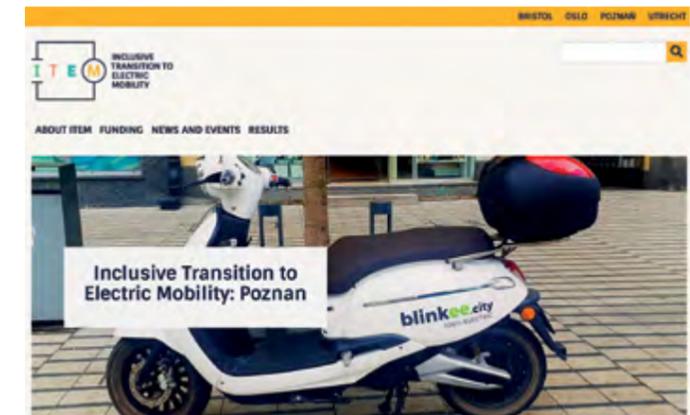
CITY

Sociologist and anthropologist AMU Prof. Aleksandra Lis-Plesińska is among the winners of the second edition of the competition Excellence in Science - Utility in Practice, conducted by the Poznań Science and Technology Park. Professor Lis-Plesińska works in the field of social studies, studying the topic of energy and climate change.

She is currently collaborating with the City of Poznań on the implementation of her project Inclusive Transition to Electric Mobility (ITEM). The study will analyse the development of electromobility in four European cities: Poznań, Utrecht, Oslo and Bristol.

– “We analyse the strategies implemented in these cities and look at the general policies regarding electromobility at the national level. We want to see how these strategies work in different contexts; how the city is embedded in the various financing streams that flow from domestic and European Union funds. We expect these differences to be significant. This type of context influences the development of electromobility in a given city.

In Poznań, for instance, electric buses are part of the public transport system, but few people can afford an electric car. Meanwhile, government policy assumes that owners of electric vehicles will have certain privileges in the future, such as access to bus lanes or free city parking. As a result, there is some that some areas would be accessible only to the rich. The city is keen to ensure that all social groups will benefit from electromobility,” explains Prof. Lis-Plesińska.



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Michał Kępski and Prof. Ewa Domańska

Warta – river and heritage

Professor Ewa Domańska and PhD student Michał Kępski from the Faculty of History are implementing the project 'Heritage of Water. A case study of the Warta River in Poznań in the 19th-20th century' which received NCN funding under the PRELUDIUM BIS program.

> **The project is rooted in understanding the importance of water in the modern world, especially in the context of climate change and the transformations taking place in the city.**

The researchers are interested in steering their research towards understanding of the relationship between the city and the river. They were inspired by the contemporary humanities' focus on the cultural and natural heritage and environmental research, as well as their own shared interest in local history and the social utility of historical knowledge.

The project tackles a period in Poznań's history during which the Warta River bed underwent major transformations, i.e., the 19th and 20th centuries. These changes were related to, among other things, the construction of the Poznań Fortress and the work of Count Edward Raczyński, to whom the city owes its first water supply system. Nevertheless, recent history will also be studied through oral history and accounts of local residents.

– “An important part of this project is rethinking the concept of heritage through the lens of environmental issues: hence the name ‘Heritage of Water,’” – adds Michał Kępski. This term is more often used within the natural sciences than in the humanities. Here, it is treated as a bridging concept that establishes the space for interdisciplinary research within and outside of the humanities. In addition, our project aspires to support preventive and protective measures by combining scientific research with social activity,

establishing cooperation between the university and cultural institutions involved in the promotion of scientific knowledge, education and community-building activity,” says Prof. Domańska.

The project will be carried out in cooperation with the Poznań Heritage Centre, a local cultural institution that manages both the Porta Posnania and the Enigma Cipher Centre.





Filip Karol Leszczyński

Street philosophy

A series of editorials published monthly in the IKS magazine promotes philosophical thought in the context of Poznań. The articles are published in cooperation with the City Publishing House Posnania.

> The cooperation, which started at the beginning of 2021, is coordinated by Filip Karol Leszczyński from the AMU Faculty of Philosophy, and Sylwia Klimek from the editorial team of IKS magazine.

With its architecture, culture and history, Poznań provides many good excuses for exploring contemporary philosophical themes. Editorials on the topic are written by researchers, doctoral students and students of the AMU Faculty of Philosophy who believe in it.

The authors uncover a new dimension of the reality around us. The Fountain of Hygieia in the Freedom Square reminds us that studying nature is vital for the development of science; the deserted Edmund Szybczyński Stadium in the Wilda district draws our attention to the importance of wild plants and animals for the city; the sculpture of the Golem that used to stand in Aleje Marcinkowskiego encourages reflection on the nature of humanity and asks us to which extent human creations are able to match the works of nature.

Articles in the 'Philosophy of the Streets' series do not overlook social issues. Social transformations, such as the twilight of industrial societies, provoke an analysis of prominent figures associated with Poznań, including Hipolit Cegielski and Zygmunt Bauman.

The writers like to highlight the character of certain locations, such as Freedom Square or Mickiewicz Square, both of which witnessed numerous civic protests.

The series of articles was launched by the AMU Faculty of Philosophy Stakeholder Council, where the City Publishing House Posnania is represented by Joanna Gaca-Wyczółkowska, secretary and deputy director for publishing.

Past articles can be found at <https://kultura.poznan.pl/>. Each editorial is archived on the website one month after its publication in the IKS magazine.





Dr. Karolina Ruta-Korytowska and AMU Prof. Jarosław Liberek

Straightforward, period

Linguists from the AMU Institute of Polish Philology are trying to simplify the language of official communication in more than a dozen offices of the Kalisz-Ostrów Agglomeration Association (SAKO). Correct use of language, a friendly tone and informative content are the hallmarks of effective communication.

> There are plans to prepare a guidebook for communication, similar to what is already used by institutions in Poznań. SAKO member offices submit official documents for linguistic analysis, and their staff has access to trainings.

With this project, AMU embarks on an important mission to implement the principles of straightforward, correct and informative communication in public institutions and offices. Straightforward language is a style of writing official and commercial texts that are aimed at the general public. This style of writing is recommended by experts all over the world. Straightforward language makes the text quicker to read, as well as easier to understand and remember. The use of straightforward Polish improves the quality and accessibility of public services. This benefits both officials and citizens: it eliminates interference and noise in communication and facilitates fast and efficient service. Straightforward language is a communicative standard. With support from linguists, it can be easily introduced into public spaces.

Classes on the concept of straightforward communication and its principles have been organised as part of the project. Under the guidance of AMU linguists, officials worked to simplify communication with residents by drafting official letters, documents and website text. For this purpose, the public offices of the Kalisz-Ostrów agglomeration have elected a group of leaders in straightforward communication.

The team implementing the project within the framework of the Ministry of Investment and Development program 'Straightforward, period' includes AMU Prof. Jarosław Liberek (coordinator), Dr. Karolina Ruta-Korytowska, AMU Prof. Marta Wrześniewska-Pietrzak, and AMU Prof. Przemysław Wiatrowski.



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Dr Zofia Boni

Experiencing climate change. Transdisciplinary study of urban overheating

EmCliC (Embodying Climate Change. Transdisciplinary Research on Urban Overheating) is a three-year research project led by Dr. Zofia Boni. It combines new technologies with methods used in social anthropology, sociology, climatology, epidemiology and atmospheric physics.

> **Rising temperatures are one of the main problems caused by the changing climate. Warmer, longer and increasingly frequent heat waves are affecting people around the world. Between 2000 and 2016, the number of people at risk for heat exposure increased to 125 million compared to 1998-2008 (WMO, 2019).**

CITY

The climate crisis is one of today's most important global issues. However, climate science is often abstract and does not translate easily into our daily experiences. The goal of this research project is, therefore, to bring climate science to a human scale, linking climate change and everyday life.

The research focuses on urban overheating. The project examines how elderly people living in Warsaw and Madrid experience urban overheating.

The research uses interdisciplinary methods. The project team analysed the impact of population dynamics on predicting climate risks to develop a framework for quantifying the vulnerability of particular groups to heat stress. Ethnographic research using participant observation and interviews was carried out among the older residents of both cities. Study results were enhanced by data from temperature and humidity sensors placed in the studied locations. Existing urban adaptation strategies were also analysed, doctors and architects were consulted, and surveys of the elderly in both cities were conducted.

The project is financed by the National Science Centre NCN under the EEA Financial Mechanism for the years 2014-2021 (2019/35/J/HS6/03992), and is based on the cooperation of Polish (AMU and WU) and Norwegian (CICERO, NILU) research institutions. Principal researcher: Dr. Zofia Boni, research team: Zosia Bienkowska, M.A., Nuria Castell, M.A., Franciszek Chwałczyk, M.A., Dr. Amirhossein Hassani, Dr. Barbara Jancewicz, Iulia Marginean, Małgorzata Wrotek, and Paloma Yáñez Serrano.



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From left to right: Dr. Michał Czepkiewicz, Dr. Marta Skowrońska, Dr. Filip Schmidt, Marianna Kostecka, Dr. Dawid Krysiński, Marta Olejniczak, MA.

Travel and climate

Research indicates that residents of central and highly developed districts of cities are less likely to use private cars and would travel shorter distances compared to people who live in the suburbs. Some studies also show that city inhabitants are more likely to travel abroad and fly by plane than residents of rural areas, small towns and suburbs.



Transportation is important for everyday life, urban planning and environmental protection. It is responsible for 23% of global greenhouse gas emissions; reducing these emissions is one of the main ways to mitigate climate change.

The project 'Transportation behaviour of residents of Polish cities: causality, behavioural changes and climate impact' investigates how location and other factors affect the movement of people, and how modes of transportation change over time and follow changes in the environment. Poland is a country with both: one of the fastest-growing number of cars per 1,000 residents, and rising popularity of international travel. Studying changes in transportation habits can have an impact on the residents' everyday life, urban planning and efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

The results of the project will be widely promoted in academia, and among professionals, policy makers and the general public. The authors of the project hope to encourage public debate and shape thinking about transport and its impact on climate change, as well as provide a knowledge base for political decision-making at the local and government level. The head of the project is Dr. Michał Czepkiewicz, while the research team includes Dr. Filip Schmidt and Dr. Marta Skowrońska.

The authors of the project will survey adult residents of Poznań and the Tricity (Gdańsk, Sopot, Gdynia), focusing on the following:

- travel habits of residents of Polish cities;
- factors that affect modes of transportation and the choice to use them;
- changes in traveling modes over time, and how they are affected by changes in the environment and situation;
- greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel;
- how people's transportation evolve over time, and reflect the changes in their environment and family situation, for example after they move, have children, change jobs;
- what factors affect transport exclusion - and what is its social impact;
- how social norms affect mobility.



ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY - POZNAŃ





AMU Prof. Damian Łowicki

Adapting the city to climate change

There needs to be a connection between the scientific research that leads to diagnosing the problem and the actions undertaken to fix it. Assessing which parts of the city are affected by climate phenomena and to what extent is a very elaborate process; part of it is making residents aware of local problems.

> **The main objective of the project is to provide information on the current state of the natural environment and identify necessary action.**

Adam Mickiewicz University professor Damian Łowicki and his team, mainly from the Faculty of Human Geography and Planning, have prepared plans for the climate adaptation of the Poznań metropolitan area and the Kalisz-Ostrów agglomeration.

– “These plans are vital in the context of AMU’s contribution to counteracting and limiting the impact of climate change. Our adaptation plans are quite detailed. Similar plans have been commissioned for Poland’s main cities by the Ministry. We have developed adaptation plans for the Poznań metropolitan area and the Kalisz-Ostrów agglomeration. The plan for the Poznań metropolitan area is the first to offer guidelines at a more general, supra-municipal level, although the diagnosis includes guidelines for individual municipalities,” explains Prof. Łowicki.

The team tried to map local problems, such as the potential for river or rain flooding, issues caused by high temperatures, or drought outside urban areas. Emphasis was placed on win-win and low-regrets activities, i.e., those which bring social and economic benefits in addition to reducing vulnerability to the effects of climate change, and highly efficient adaptations that require relatively small financial investments.

One such activity is urban planning. Many municipalities have spatial development plans that merely cover 30 percent of their area. Very few plans exempt certain areas from development. At the same time, such plans need to address environmental concerns, including climate change particularly in vulnerable areas such as floodplains. This is an absolute minimum. Another issue is the risk of rain flooding which is, for instance, currently being tackled in Poznań by an attempt to install extra drainage on certain hard surfaces. Cities are beginning to recognize the problem, and the results can already be seen.





Dr. Bartłomiej Kołsut

Development strategy of the city of Chojnice

Under the supervision of Dr. Bartłomiej Kołsut, students seized an excellent opportunity to use the theoretical knowledge they learned at university.

> **AMU students helped to empower the local community, rekindle the spirit of participation, and involve local residents and non-governmental organizations in key public decision-making processes in Chojnice.**

As part of this project, they carried out extensive consultations with 400 residents, conducted field research by filling in over 300 questionnaires through direct interviews, and collected a list of the problems and opportunities of the city of Chojnice as articulated by residents. In addition, they prepared and conducted three consultation workshops in which representatives of the local community got involved in the process of city planning. Inhabitants of Chojnice reflected on the strengths and weaknesses of their city, determined the key factors impacting the growth of the municipality, ordered them according to importance, and proposed solutions.

The results of the students' work were published in a diagnostic report which was extensively quoted in the local media. The social, environmental and cultural organizations from the city of Chojnice often cited the results of the study conducted by AMU students in public debates and at Municipal Council meetings.

The project involved: Weronika Andrzejewska, Zuzanna Cieślak, Jakub Domagalski, Adrian Fojud, Dominik Heydrych, Kamil Januszewski, Natalia Kalinowska, Agnieszka Kuchta, Joachim Łyskawka, Jakub Matusiak, Magdalena Przewoźna, Natalia Rawdanowicz, Marta Simińska, Zuzanna Skibińska, Katarzyna Smul, Wiktoria Solecka, Oliwia Suchowiak and Jakub Zastrow.

Wizja rozwoju miasta Chojnice 2030
– współpracujący z otoczeniem silny ośrodek subregionalny, zapewniający dobrą jakość życia

Wysoka jakość środowiska przyrodniczego	Uzupełniony i zmodernizowany układ drogowy	Szerefalicjonowana przestrzeń, szczególnie Dzielnicy Dworzecowej
Współpraca z otoczeniem miasta dla rozwoju subregionu	Aktywność obywatelska powiązana m.in. z działalnością na rzecz kultury, sportu i środowiska	Silny, subregionalny ośrodek gospodarczy i mieszkaniowy
Oferta dla seniorów wraz z integracją międzypokoleniową	Sprawni transport niski- i zeroemisyjny	Rozwinięta oferta wsparcia procdzinowego (w tym infrastrukturalność)

CITY

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ENVIRON- MENT

Nature and the environment are vitally important areas of research and outreach activity at AMU. Our researchers are not indifferent to the crises of global warming, loss of biodiversity, pollution and poisoning of ecosystems.





Water harvester collecting biomass from the surface of a lake

Water harvester

“We assume that after the first use, the water harvester will improve water quality by up to 50%,” says AMU Prof. Messyasz.

> A group of scientists from the AMU Faculties of Biology and Chemistry, the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences developed a prototype of a water harvester that will collect cyanobacteria and algae accumulated on the water surface.



AMU Prof. Beata Messyasz

As a result of human activity, aquatic ecosystems are exposed to more and more nitrogen and phosphorus compounds. Eutrophication causes water blooms, formed by cyanobacteria and the extensive growth of macroscopic algae.

The objective of the project was to create a prototype ‘water harvester’ (named as such due to the similarity of the cleaning process to grain harvesting), which will collect biomass accumulated on the surface of lakes and rivers. The equipment is eco-friendly, powered by solar panels and rechargeable motors. The harvester has a biomass tank, as well as sieves and conveyor belts that collect both the microscopic

cyanobacteria and the much larger chlorophyte algae. According to AMU Prof. Beata Messyasz, by collecting biomass from the surface of the lake, we can alleviate the main causes of eutrophication by reducing the content of nitrogen and phosphorus compounds in water. This will also improve water quality in rivers and ultimately help the beaches around the sea.

Researchers also have a plan for using the harvested biomass. Macroalgae and cyanobacteria are a rich source of biologically-active compounds that can be used in medicine, cosmetics and agriculture. They can find applications in the production of fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides. Products of cyanobacteria metabolism act as immunosuppressants, antibacterial and anti-cancer drugs. Studies are currently testing whether synthetic analogues of the peptides produced by cyanobacteria can be used as blood anticoagulants.

The project ‘Algae – Economy Based Ecological Service of Aquatic Ecosystems’ is planned for 5 years (2018-2023). The head of the project is Dr. Judita Korevienė of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences; in Poland, it is implemented by three bodies: the Institute of Environmental Protection of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow with PAS Prof. Elżbieta Wilk-Woźniak, and the AMU Faculties of Biology and Chemistry with Prof. Bogusława Łęska and AMU Prof. Radosław Pankiewicz, under the supervision of AMU Prof. Beata Messyasz.





Dr. Jakub Małecky

Glaciers vs. current climate

Dr. Jakub Małecky is a glaciologist at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. As an assistant professor at the AMU Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences, he studies glaciers, their 'health' and the processes that occur in them and on them as a result of climate change. His field work is carried out mainly on Spitsbergen, an island located between Norway and the North Pole, in the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

> **Some glaciers melt with the speed of 40-50 meters per year. Unfortunately, it is an irreversible process because the climate now is definitely too warm for glaciers. Even if the warming stops, the vast majority of our glaciers will disappear.**

Glaciers are large, moving masses of mountain ice that fulfil many important roles in the environment and are subject to constant changes. There are no glaciers in Poland, which is why our knowledge about them is relatively modest. For this reason, Dr. Jakub Małecky founded the popular science website "GlacjoBLOGia", which draws attention to these amazing natural phenomena and highlights the role of ice in the Earth's ecosystem. The blog features popular science articles, the Glaciopedia knowledge compendium, and an atlas of glacier changes around the world.

The target audience of the compendium is media representatives, NGOs and anyone interested in glaciology. Its goal is to clean up the conceptual clutter around the impact of climate change on the melting of the world's ice reserves. It is also a dictionary of glaciological terms found in popular and scientific studies, with brief explanations. Many of these terms are used incorrectly, for instance by journalists and translators of popular science literature, making it difficult to reliably communicate scientific findings to the public. On the other hand, the Atlas of Glacier Change shows how glaciers have changed over the years, using satellite photography.

Dr. Małecky is not trying to scare anyone and his writing is not sensationalised. On his blog <https://glacjoblogia.wordpress.com/> and in his books, he explains that we are facing a profound change, but not necessarily a global disaster. We can still work to stop the degradation of the environment.



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From left to right: Zofia Paetz, Aleksandra Pietrzykowska, Andżelika Wojtkiewicz, Natalia Szejter

ANIMALIA – words and actions that respect nature

“If we want future participants in the social and cultural life to become aware of the ongoing climate crisis, we need to disseminate knowledge and help the environment. We would also like to emphasize the role of the university in shaping social attitudes.”

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> By adopting an ecocritical approach, emphasizing a departure from exploitation of nature and towards the cooperation between humans and their environment, the authors of the project set out to disseminate knowledge in the field of environmental humanities and raise the ecological awareness of young people.

The people behind the initiative to raise awareness of the problematic relationship between humans and their environment are Polish philology majors specialising in curating literature: Kamila Berthold, Agata Knopik, Wiktoria Kranz, Zofia Paetz, Aleksandra Pietrzykowska, Natalia Szejter, Andżelika Wojtkiewicz and Julia Wróblewska.

The main topic of the meeting was the presence of animal welfare issues in academic, artistic and social work.

Another part of the initiative is a series of podcasts devoted to environmental humanities; episodes can be found on Youtube and on the Czas Kultury website.

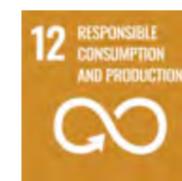
As part of the project, in May, Collegium Maius hosted an educational workshop for high school students from St. Mary Magdalene High School in Poznań. Workshop organizers included:

The academic supervisor of the project is Prof. Przemysław Czapliński. The project was created in partnership with the Czas Kultury Association, with Dr. Joanna Bednarek as supervisor.

- Adriana Molenda – climate activist, President of the 'Jeden Świat' Association;
- Dr. Patryk Szaj – literary scholar, editor, author of the book “Diary from the End of the World (as we know it)”
- Jul Walkowiak – artist creating works on inter-species relations.



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From left to right: Katarzyna Malinowska, Karolina Wakulewicz, Mateusz Lisiecki (on the ladder), Michał Wawrzynowicz

No more transparent traps

AMU decided to improve the safety of the local bird population by covering transparent glass on the Morasko Campus in an effort to prevent animals from smashing into the glass windows.

> **Birds are most likely to get hurt on the windows of campus buildings located near the forest. Trees reflected in the glass surfaces cause an optical illusion that makes large windows become a death trap for birds.**

The mind behind the initiative is Mateusz Lisiecki, former head of the Ornithological Section of the Natural Sciences Club, who is active in the 'Szklane Pułapki' Foundation. He is supported by AMU Prof. Lechosław Kuczyński, head of the Population Ecology Research Unit. Observations carried out by students on the Morasko campus showed how many birds smash into the window panes. This happens both to common and rare species, such as the black woodpecker, kingfisher, or hawk.

Birds are most likely to get hurt on the windows of campus buildings located near the forest. Trees reflected in the glass surfaces cause an optical illusion that makes large windows become a death trap for birds.

– “Windows can become two-way mirrors,” explains Michał Wawrzynowicz, a third-year student of biology, the current head of the Ornithological Section of the Natural Sciences Club. “By reflecting the tree, they create an illusion of space. Any bird that wants to fly through, unfortunately, ends up smashing into the glass.”

The 'Szklane Pułapki' Foundation designed stickers with a pattern of dots that prevents light reflections on the glass. The birds see them and know that they are unable to fly through. On the other hand, the stickers with silhouettes of birds of prey that are frequently used on highway noise screens do not work well. Birds are smart. Even if they initially associate the silhouettes with predators, they start to ignore them after several weeks, once they realise that they do not pose a threat. The silhouettes are also spaced too far apart to prevent attempts at flying. The project was funded by AMU funds.



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Dr. Łukasz Grewling

Looking for Ambrosia

Updated information for doctors and patients is published weekly on www.paero.home.amu.edu.pl.
The Poznań Allergy Guide is available on the Laboratory of Aerobiology website.

> **AMU Biologists are trying to prevent the spread of Ambrosia (ragweed), a highly allergenic plant that came to Poland from the south of Europe.**

The Laboratory of Aerobiology of the AMU Faculty of Biology is the first aerobiology research unit in Poland. Dr. Luke Grewling, head of the lab, monitors the biological particles that cause respiratory allergies. The researchers study the air inhaled by the inhabitants of Poznań. They report the results to the public through pollen calendars and forecasts that include concentrations of pollen in the air and peak pollen times.

The largest distribution of Ambrosia was found in the Umultowo housing district. The spread of these plants would be disastrous for both the residents and local plant life. Researchers are keeping an eye on ragweed; they have also prepared a report for the City of Poznań that consists of records and recommendations for action.

Together, the Laboratory of Aerobiology, the Department of Systematic and Environmental Botany (Prof. Bogdan Jackowiak) and the Biological Spatial Information Laboratory (Dr. Maciej Nowak) carried out an information campaign under the motto 'Nieboska ambrozja' (Ungodly Ambrosia). They invited residents to track these highly-allergenic ragweed plants and create a map of their distribution using the AMUNatColl app. This is an attempt to control the invasive ragweed species in and around Poznań.



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AMU Prof. Michał Bogdziewicz

Trees vs. climate change

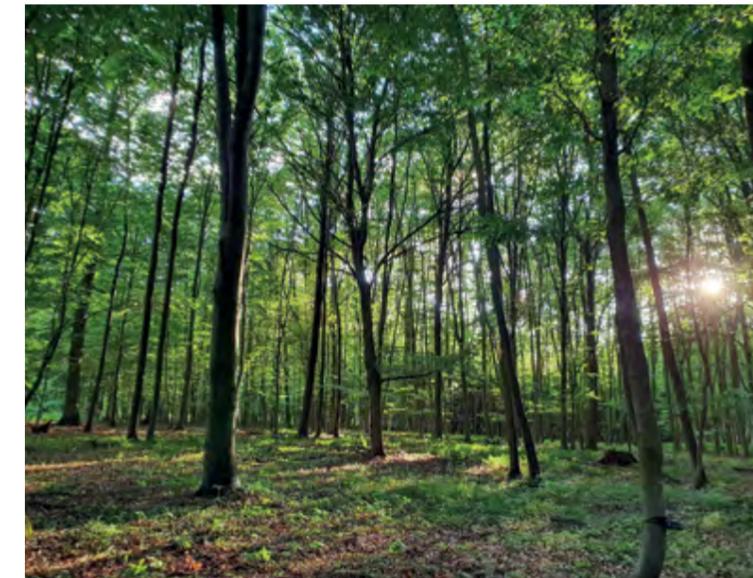
Global warming has upset the reproductive strategy of many plants, which may cause problems for forest regeneration. These conclusions have been drawn in a paper published in the PNAS journal by a team of AMU biologists.

> **Climate change is putting tremendous pressure on forests around the world. Intense droughts are increasing the vulnerability of trees to other adverse factors, causing massive tree mortality.**

The papers in questions studied the reproductive strategy of trees that rely on synchronized and mass seed production. This strategy ensures that when trees produce fewer seeds, populations of seed-eating animals are kept in check, while in the years where seeds are abundant, animals are unable to eat all of them.

Researchers have found that this strategy works better in areas that are distant from the equator, and where plant diversity is lower; it is also more effective as a defence against invertebrates (insects) than vertebrates (birds and mammals). The results also showed a worrying trend: in recent decades, the effectiveness of saturation strategies has declined, likely due to changes in seed production caused by global warming. This is worrisome for several reasons. Firstly, it indicates that seed-rich years are no longer able to saturate seed consumers, probably because climate warming reduces variability of seed production between seed-rich and seed-poor years. Insects eat most of the seeds, which will negatively affect the populations of other animals that rely on seeds as a food source.

The team, which consists of AMU Prof. Rafał Zwolak, AMU Prof. Michał Bogdziewicz and PhD student Paulina Celebias from the Faculty of Biology, conducted a meta-analysis of 48 studies from around the world published over the last 40 years.



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AMU Prof. Piotr Ziółkowski

Plant growth and stress

Research by AMU Prof. Ziółkowski's team may help modify plants to achieve a balance between growth and stress responses. This is especially important in the context of global warming, because prolonged droughts cause significant damage to crops.

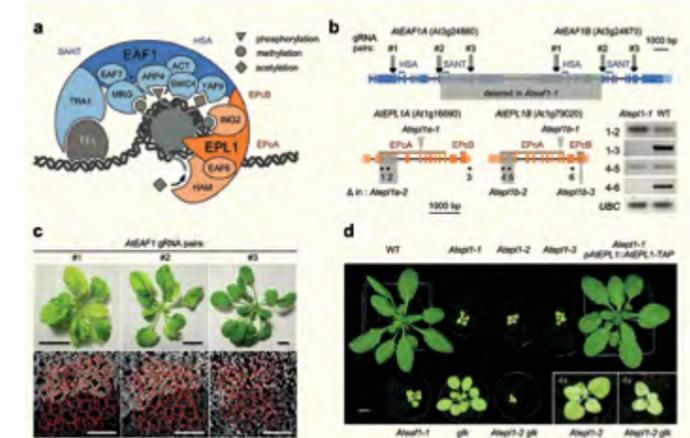
> **Plants can inhibit growth and shift their metabolism to survive difficult environmental conditions, such as prolonged drought or pathogen attacks.**

A team of AMU biologists explained the epigenetic mechanism that allows plants to quickly switch their metabolism from photosynthesis and growth to handling stress, for example, during drought. The results of the study were published in the Nature Communications journal.

Together with his team, AMU Prof. Piotr Ziółkowski investigated one of the epigenetic mechanisms driving this process.

The researchers produced plant mutations in which they inhibited the acetylation of histone H2A.Z by disabling the NuA4 complex, thus preventing its deposition into chromatin. In plants, large amounts of histone H2A.Z are found in genes associated with response to environmental stress. The researchers assumed that the expression of these genes is inhibited by the presence of unacetylated histone H2A.Z. In mutants, the decrease in H2A.Z deposition enabled the expression of stress genes. At the same time, photosynthesis and growth genes that require the presence of acetylated H2A.Z have been suppressed. Therefore, NuA4-dependent histone acetylation plays the role of a specific metabolic switch between the expression of growth and photosynthesis genes, and genes associated with responding to stress.

The main authors of the research were three young scientists: Dr. Tomasz Bieluszewski, Dr. Weronika Sura and PhD student Wojciech Dzięgielewski. The study was carried out with the support of the Polish National Science Centre NCN and the Polish Science Foundation FNP (grant POIR.04.04.00-00-5C0F/17-00).



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Kaleidoscope: promotion of science, integration, engagement

In addition to research and education, AMU conducts a range of initiatives as part of the so-called third mission.

We promote science, organise debates, bring people together, engage local communities, and promote a healthy lifestyle.



The Poznań Festival of Arts and Sciences

coordinated by AMU, features some 400 live events prepared by 9 partners. In addition to promoting science and art, the festival increases awareness of the interaction between the worlds of art and science and how they influence our everyday life and improve our wellbeing. The festival is, literally and figuratively, an explosion of excitement, experience and fun with science and art prepared by more than 1,000 people for more than 10,000 guests.



Researchers' Night

takes place in September all around Europe, including here at AMU. Researchers from 18 AMU faculties and units prepared dozens of thematic events. There were lectures, workshops, presentations, excursions, demonstrations, etc. This year, the common theme linking the events was summed up by the motto 'Zielony Ład' (The Green Deal).



Colourful University

is an initiative that promotes science among elementary school students, who are invited to AMU university halls for lectures, workshops and demonstrations specially prepared for children.



AMU Open University

is an educational space open to any interested person over the age of 16, regardless of their previous education. Those who want to take university-level courses offered as convenient, regular meetings will be able to choose from a wide range of courses and trainings.



Socially-Responsible University

is a series of lectures on the role of universities in shaping social attitudes, providing opportunities to discuss values such as academic freedom, diversity, and acceptance in higher education, but also to shine a spotlight on potential threats to these values.



Well-spatial development (Zaplanowani)

– a weekly radio broadcast of the student radio AFERA, where students who are members of the Spatial Management Student Club discuss important aspects of spatial development and planning. The aim of the project is to promote knowledge in the field of spatial management and urban planning.



Academic Debates

Many developments in Poland, Europe and the world are cause for both hope and concern. It is the university's responsibility to create spaces for critical and intellectual engagement with the reality around us. This is the purpose of the Academic Debates organised under the patronage of the rectors of Adam Mickiewicz University and the Poznań University of Economics and Business.



Nordic herstory calendar

prepared by students from the „Norden” Student Club (AMU Chair of Scandinavian Studies). Each month has a matron, or a woman from the North who represents different time periods and fields, from politics and education to activism, art, travel and science. The project involves: Agata Michnowska, Agnieszka Święs, Maksymilian Rębisz, Filip Fijałkowski and Michał Mariański, and is coordinated by AMU Professor Sylwia Izabela Schab.



Areopagus of Universities

is a series of debates tackling the challenges of the modern world. It involves the rectors and experts from the Polish universities that launched the meeting series in 2021: Catholic University of Lublin, Warsaw University, Jagiellonian University and Adam Mickiewicz University. The idea behind the project is to hold a debate on contemporary challenges in academic spaces.



Poznań Literary Award

– awarded in partnership with the City of Poznań and the Zamek Culture Centre, this initiative honours mature artists with the Mickiewicz award for lifetime achievement, as well as young authors with the Barańczak award for developing writers. The Chairman of the Poznań Literary Award Jury is Prof. Piotr Śliwiński.



Scientific District

is a series of AMU podcasts that feature commentary, interviews with scientists, lectures and university debates promoting science. Available on the following streaming platforms: Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google Podcasts.



Activist of the Year

is a scholarship granted to students and doctoral students for special achievements in social work and work for the benefit of the academic community, financed by Santander Bank.



Night of the Museums

AMU actively participates in the organization of this event, offering exhibitions, guided tours, walks, lectures and workshops, and making its collections available to visitors. The year 2022 was declared the Year of Polish Romanticism, so many initiatives revolved around the figure of Adam Mickiewicz, the patron of our university.



Sports Day

is a day during which AMU faculties compete, promoting physical activity, health, the outdoors and rivalry in the spirit of fair play. Participants were able to participate in fitness marathons, step, spinning and yoga, volleyball tournaments and football matches and other disciplines.



The Great AMU Barbecue

has returned to the Morasko Campus after three years. In addition to concerts and barbecues with friends, the Student Club Area is popular with visitors. Here, young researchers from student clubs encouraged interest in science through quizzes, games and competitions.



AMU Green Walk

was organized along the Warta river valley by members of the TERRIFICA team. During the walk, participants discussed the relationship between the history of the city of Poznań and the importance of rivers for the city ecosystem, as well as how to preserve biodiversity and introduce green challenges into urban spaces. Prof. Andrzej Mizgajski and AMU Prof. Małgorzata Stępniewska were tour guides.



Mural

– the main hall of the historic building of the Opatówek train station was decorated with a mural designed and painted by students of art education from the AMU Faculty of Pedagogy and Fine Arts in Kalisz: Ariel Zaremba (Ukraine), Zoriana Volianska (Ukraine) and Nadzeya Minzer (Belarus). The project was coordinated by Prof. Maciej Guźniczak.



The AMU Welcome Centre

which opened in May this year, supports foreign visitors to our university. Visitors to the Centre learn about AMU (rules in place at the university, information on studying, types of aid available), formal and legal issues and necessary formalities for foreigners intending to stay in the country. They can learn about the city, the region and the country, and have the opportunity to take part in WC-organized integration events.



The first Polish Long Night of Anglicists

– an evening full of lectures, presentations, workshops and debates (80 events) prepared by 14 academic institutions from all over Poland. The main organizer of the event is the AMU Faculty of English. The events were open to the public and held live or online on YouTube, in Polish and/or English. The aim of the project is to show the research and scientific potential of English Studies in Poland, to dispel the myth that English philology is only about language learning, to emphasize interdisciplinary research and to create a platform for cooperation.



Help for people experiencing homelessness

– AMU students from the Faculties of Theology, English, and Political Science and Journalism who are active in the Academic Missionary Club volunteer at St. Elizabeth's Food Pantry, run by the Sisters of Saint Elizabeth. Once a week, they prepare about 1,000 sandwiches and help serve them.



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