

## **Abstract of the doctoral dissertation**

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Subject of the doctoral dissertation:

***Order of the Smile as a Socio-Cultural Phenomenon of the World of Children and Adults***

Key words (max. 10):

**Order of the Smile, Janusz Korczak, child-adult relations, social world, Knight of the Order of the Smile, phenomenon, child's rights, child, child's citizenship, pedagogy of dialogue**

The dissertation of *The Order of the Smile as a Socio-Cultural Phenomenon of the World of Children and Adults* shows the phenomenon, institutions and a distinctive socio-cultural and pedagogical sign, which 50 years ago became the Order of the Smile given to adults by children. Over the years, the Order of the Smile has been awarded by children to more than 1000 of the most prominent people known and admired in the world, active in various religious, cultural, political, sporting, pedagogical, medical, etc. spheres.

The analyses presented in the dissertation focus on the thesis that the Order of the Smile is a distinctive socio-cultural phenomenon of the world of children and adults. The research shows its Polish and international rank, and above all, the child's promotion of people nominated by children for the Order of the Smile.

The subject matter of the dissertation covers two areas. The first one presents the 50-year history of the Order of the Smile, its institutional development, the excellent group of Knights of the Order, the spread of the idea of the Order of the Smile into various forms of expression in the physical sphere, literature, art and so on. In the other, pedagogical perspective, it was emphasized that the relationship between children and adults is unique, which was pointed out by Janusz Korczak. The research undertaken answers questions concerning the origins and formation of the Order of the Smile, the socio-historical determinants of the process, the circumstances that particularly determined the direction and dynamics of the development

of the Order of the Smile. The focus, however, is on the pedagogical problems of childhood relations between the child and the adult.

An important, inalienable supplement to this dissertation is the study of biographies of selected Knights of the Order of the Smile. The thesis was written in Korczak's theoretical frame, where the main emphasis was placed on the child's social world. The Order of the Smile is treated in this dissertation as an exemplification of children's rights and the realization of Janusz Korczak's will.

The dissertation consists of seven chapters. The first two are theoretical and concern the relationship and bond between the child and the adult, as well as Korczak's models of the child-adult relationship.

The third chapter contains a description of the applied research methodology and it presents the unique sources and documents on the basis of which this dissertation is based. The fourth and fifth chapters characterize the process of institutionalization of the Order of the Smile and the dynamics of its development.

The sixth chapter contains the typology and characteristics of the honourable group of Knights of the Order of the Smile. The seventh and final chapter presents an analysis of the biography of the selected Knights of the Order of the Smile from the perspective of the theory of cognitive structures by Fritz Schütze.

The dissertation of *The Order of the Smile as a Socio-Cultural Phenomenon of the World of Children and Adults* has been treated as a monograph of a special social institution, the Order of the Smile, as well as a case study - the only recognized and admired distinction in the world that children award to adults.