

Piotr Gil, MA

WSB University in Dąbrowie Górniczej

e-mail: pgil@wsb.edu.pl

ORCID: 0000-0002-7761-7741

DOI: 10.26410/SF_2/22/14

CONFERENCE REPORT FROM THE 2ND CONFERENCE OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS ON THE TOPIC OF “SELECTED PROBLEMS OF SECURITY RESEARCH”

The beginning of the second decade of the XXI century has made it evident that the security dynamics has increased substantially in the global, regional, and national scale. Over the last two years the world, Poland being no exception, has been struggling with the SARS-CoV-2 pandemics. It has demonstrated the importance of an array of challenges associated with provision of security, particularly the quality and efficacy of public services that are responsible for ensuring citizens' security. Seemingly approaching decline of the pandemics does not unfortunately mean that the security prospects for the year 2022 appear to be any more optimistic than in the preceding years. Another Russian

invasion of Ukraine, commenced on 24 February 2022, has turned into a full-scale war the stake of which is not only the very survival of our eastern neighbour, but also the security of Poland and whole Europe. What is more, this war has had a significant impact on the global security architecture. For it is beyond doubt that it has been intricately connected with the ongoing hegemonic competition between the U.S. and the PRC, the symbolic beginning of which was the article by the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, which was published in October¹ 2011 in „Foreign Policy”. In this article she announced the U.S. Pivot to Asia. That process became the trigger of numerous conflicts taking place

¹ <https://foreignpolicy.com/2011/10/11/americas-pacific-century/>, accessed on 30.07.2022 r.

in the regions of Maghreb, Middle East and recently also the Eastern Europe. The aforementioned conflicts, particularly the war in Ukraine, represent a source of challenges and threats that are not only military, but also social and societal in their nature. An example of such a challenge is the tremendous scale of evacuation of refugees from the territory of war engulfed Ukraine. To ensure their security as well as to provide them with essential aid and decent living conditions poses a great and multidimensional challenge for Poland and for other countries of our region. It falls into one of the security megatrends, namely the phenomenon of migration that has been overwhelmingly strong in the recent years and decades, induced by military conflicts, famine, economic crises, and climate changes. In light of this and a number of other challenges and threats we are becoming the witnesses of the pervasive need to ensure security of constantly growing number of people.

Given the awareness of the aforementioned challenges and threats the students of the doctoral seminary in security studies decided to continue the endeavour started last year as they organised the second conference dedicated to selected problems of security research². The conference, organised owing to the efforts of the seminary students who formed the organising committee, took place on 15 June within the premises of WSB Academy, thus giving the seminary students, the department staff, and the invited guests more opportunities to exchange ideas and establish

contacts with one another. The conference was held under the Honorary Patronage of Her Magnificence Rector of the University of Banking in Dąbrowa Górnicza, WSB Prof. Zdzisława Dacko-Pikiewicz, PhD.

The aim of the conference was to enable young scientists to develop their scientific interests and knowledge in the field of security studies. The conference also aimed at creation of space for integration of doctoral communities to encourage establishment of contacts, facilitate cooperation, stimulate exchange of thoughts and experiences and, last but not least, permit presentation of the results of research conducted by the doctoral students within field of security studies.

The conference was inaugurated by the head of doctoral seminary in the discipline of security studies WSB University Prof. Ryszard Szyński, PhD, who also happened to act as the chairperson of the conference's scientific committee. In his speech he emphasised the significance of realisation of this initiative for the purpose of expanding knowledge of national security in its numerous aspects, enabling doctoral students' scientific growth as well as integration and deepening cooperation within the scientific community, representing the discipline of security studies. The conference was honoured by the presence and lectures delivered by distinguished guests and prominent specialists in their respective fields of study. Their lectures provided the participants with a wider theoretical perspective,

² See: R. Szyński, *Conference report from the 1st National Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students on the topic of "Selected problems of security research"*, "Security Forum" 2021, Volume 5, No 1, p. 119-124.

constituting essential background and reference point for the addresses of the doctoral students and the presentations of their own research. Prof. Ryszard Jakubczak, PhD delivered a lecture entitled "National security in light of its contemporary determinants. Directions of research" in which he introduced to the participants the problematique of national security, revealing its internal complexity and discussing numerous factors affecting the level of national security against the present shifts of the domestic and international dimensions of the security environment. This matter was complemented and expanded in the lecture delivered by Prof Miroslaw Sułek, PhD, entitled "Assessment of states' security with the use of power metrics methods", in which he expounded for the students the field of power metrics, the methodology of studying state power as well as their importance for national security.

In accordance with the decisions made in liaison with the chairperson of the conference's scientific committee WSB University Prof. Ryszard Szynowski, PhD the organising committee decided to divide the conference into four discussion panels. The first of them, conducted by WSB University Prof. Adrian Siadkowski, PhD and Łukasz Szymankiewicz, PhD was dedicated to the problematique of international and national security. The second, led by WSB University Prof. Ryszarda Szynowskiego, PhD and Paulina Polko, PhD pertained to non-military aspects of security. During the third panel, moderated by WSB University Prof. Robert Socha, PhD and Cezary Tomiczek, PhD,

the issues of internal security were reflected upon. Finally, the fourth panel, supervised by WSB University Prof. Ryszard Szynowski, PhD and Paulina Polko, PhD, was devoted to challenges associated with transport security and emergency systems.

The first discussion panel was initiated by Wiktor Możgin, M.A., representing the Jagiellonian University and the University of Business and Entrepreneurship in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, who dedicated his paper to geopolitical competition between the U.S. and Russia as well as the war between Russian and Ukraine against the wider context of the said competition. He also analysed the geostrategic weigh of Ukraine as a state located in the buffer zone between competing great powers and discussed scenarios of further development of this situation. The next address, delivered by Monika Banach-Kokoszka, M. A. representing WSB University, pertained to relations between the Russian Federation and selected member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the eve of the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Based on her research that was focused i.a. on analysis of diplomatic documentation, she analysed matters such as diplomatic collaboration between the aforementioned states, the stance adopted by Uzbekistan, the events taking place in Kazakhstan at the beginning of this year and finally the participation of the Russian Federation in the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Afterwards, Edyta Zbyrowska, M. A. from WSB University dedicated her attention to the notions of selfisation

and ourfisation of security, connected with social perception of threats. The notions were considered against a wider context of political power, international conflicts and with regard to actions taken by the authorities of the Russian Federation as well as the Russian media aimed at perception management, treated as one of the stages of preparation for the invasion of Ukraine. Subsequently, the focus shifted onto the problematique of cybersecurity, undertaken by Katarzyna Furman, M. A. from WSB University, who based on her research elaborated on matters such as transborder information exchange in cyberspace, legal and organisational determinants of information exchange and entities offering services in security provision in cyberspace. The panel was concluded by Łukasz Bińczycki, M. A. representing the Jagiellonian University, who explained the phenomenon of geopolitical risk, considered to be one of the elements of national security. He pointed to the importance of the relations between global security architecture along with its impact on economy and the level of national security as co-constituted by geopolitically determined conditions of conducting business.

The second panel began with a paper dedicated by Marcin Rydzek, M. A. from Jan Kochanowski University to the problematique of development of modern technologies and science, emergence of new fields of economy and finally the impact of those processes upon the quality, conditions, and level of security of human life. Those matters were elaborated on in the global scale and with reference to the future.

Then Grzegorz Data, M. A. from WSB University presented in his address the results of research on cyber-attacks and frauds, conducted during Covid-19 pandemics, being a period of increased vulnerability in cyberspace. Among those threats he also discussed the phenomenon of disinformation action associated with the pandemics, corresponding to the state of threat, uncertainty, and disorientation in the society. The issue of the influence of the Covid-19 pandemics upon security was also raised in the presentation delivered by Izabela Ligenza, M. A. representing WSB University, who focused on the phenomenon of utilisation of the pandemics and its negative social consequences by terrorist groups in their activity. The aspects of the latter that were examined included propaganda, forms, and types of terrorist attacks, and finally the methods of conducting them. The aforementioned impact of Covid-19 was also noticed by Michał Wnuk representing WSB University, who in his address raised the problem of the influence of the pandemics upon efficacy of rescue operations conducted by the units of State Fire Service of Poland. He examined not only the actions taken by firefighters for the purpose of combating the legal changes aimed at ensuring due protection of firefighters whilst performing their tasks. At the end of this part of the conference Ewa Wójcik, M. A. from WSB University delivered a paper on the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemics and the restrictions enforced in the wake of it for passenger transport in the EU countries as exemplified by rail transport. Among the matters discussed were those

connected with the influence of the changes in functioning of societies upon the decline in the number of people using public collective transport.

The third part of the conference was initiated by Łukasz Żmijewski, M. A. representing the War Studies University. His address was devoted to the matter of protection of VIPs as well as particular forms, methods and specific actions aimed at their protection. He also analysed the matter of changing determinants of VIPs' protection and the role of the State Protection Service in this field. Then the floor was taken by Mariola Myrta-Magdziak, M. A. from WSB University, who dedicated her paper to cooperation between the Border Guard and the Military Police with reference to protection of the borders of the Republic of Poland. The said cooperation was discussed against new threats to state security. Subsequently, Wiktoria Kolano, M. A. from WSB University examined the phenomenon of migration with regard to the internal security of Portugal. This phenomenon was considered in a multifaceted manner and in the context of the country's unfavourable economic situation as well as in light of its regional ethnic conflicts. The next to speak was Alina Wołoch, M. A. representing WSB University, who elucidated the significance of the institution of whistle-blower for ensuring security of facilities that are of high importance to the state from the perspective of national security and economic interests. She elaborated on determinants of the security environment that increase the importance of this institution and the benefits of using the *Whistleblowing*

Management System. The last presentation was delivered by considered the problem of threats to critical infrastructure that arise from illegal use of unmanned aerial vehicles. The presentation included matters such as introduction to the Polish National Critical Infrastructure Protection Programme, threats to critical infrastructure and its functioning as well as examples of illegal use of drones, as exemplified by the events taking place in Ukraine that are aimed at destruction of critical infrastructure of that state by pro-Russian extremist groups.

The final panel started with the address by Kalina Lubas, M. A. from WSB University, who examined the phenomenon of illegal air migration within the EU. She pointed to the influence of low-budget air links and legal determinants of the EU air traffic upon the intensification of migration to the Western Europe countries. The case study of illegal air migration from Greece to Poland was presented as a threat to the internal security of Poland. After that Paweł Jabłoński, M. A. representing WSB University delivered a paper on the importance of the new penalty scheme for improvement of road safety. The topic was discussed based on the statistical data regarding road incidents from selected administrative districts, gathered by Traffic Departments of City and District Police Headquarters in the studied areas. The next presentation by Andrzej Pogorzelski, M. A. from the Police Academy in Szczytno pertained to traffic safety with regard to road infrastructure. Based on the results of conducted research, he elaborated on issues

such as security relation triad, road infrastructure and road incidents in the context of amendments of the said infrastructure. After that Tomasz Michalski, M. A. representing WSB University delivered a paper dedicated to first aid trainings for police officers in the context of increasing efficacy of this uniformed service. He accentuated the role of police officers in ensuring citizens' and public security as well as the determinants of performing duties on site. The last one to speak was Marcin Kazior, M. A. from WSB University, whose presentation was dedicated to the problem of threats and individual safety of firefighters working for National and Voluntary Fire Service of Poland during rescue and fire extinguishing operations. Based on the conducted research he analysed both the current solutions and the propositions of original ones, aimed at increasing the level of firefighters' individual safety.

The presentations delivered by the participants constituted an important contribution to shedding light and therefore better understanding of the nature of security in variety of its fields, the latter being marked by a high level of complexity, multidimensionality, and constant volatility. Significant impact of the Covid-19 pandemics upon numerous fields and levels of social life, including the individual, regional, national, and international scale, was confirmed. The importance of development of science and technology for the shape and changes in social life as well as resulting

numerous challenges and threats to the security of citizens, institutions, and the state along with its critical infrastructure were emphasised. In the context of volatility of the security environment attention was paid to various social processes and phenomena that exert influence upon the level of security in its many aspects, particularly regarding the transnational character of the former. Last but not least, the focus was put on the current threats associated with the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which undermine the international security in our part of the world.

The addresses delivered by the participants represented high quality with regard to their merits. They included a broad range of issues connected with diverse types, aspects, and levels of security. The speakers displayed outstanding theoretical background and extensive factual knowledge, whilst their presentations were strongly rooted in source data, the results of their own research and their professional experience gathered in fields that are directly associated with security provision. What is also vital regarding growth and further scientific career of the speakers, their addresses were distinctly grounded in their profound interests and passions connected with the topics considered by the speakers. This is undoubtedly an important merit of the addresses as well as the conference itself, being an opportunity not only to exchange knowledge, but also the said passions.