

From the Editor

The current year's issue is dedicated to the problem of compatibility of work and family life. It is quite a challenge to reconcile these two fundamental areas of life – the compatibility of work and family in everyday life. Therefore, it is not surprising that the scientific texts presented in this volume analyse the problems and dilemmas arising in this area from different perspectives and with different emphasis. In some cases, it is essentially a question of time management and the right balance of emphasis, in others the complexity of the task becomes a dilemma when the two quantities are seen as separate and there is no possibility of reconciling them, in others the final decision is based on a reflective hierarchy of values that allows for the choices faced by working family members. It is valuable that the topic was approached from the perspective of different sciences, research methods and conceptual approaches, from the position of researchers, from the position of sceptics of the possible reconciliation of these realities and from the position of realistic optimists who did not ask the question “if” but “how” it is possible to achieve it. This “how”, in my opinion, is the added value of the year's issue, which we recommend to the attention of the Readers.

A significant factor that is undoubtedly redefining the family remains the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has left an indelible mark on the family. The phrase “nothing will ever be the same again” takes on a new meaning in times of pandemic that is not fully understood. Among the articles of the current issue we welcome the first attempts at a scientific analysis of the “(post)covid family”. After nearly two years of difficult pandemic experiences, one can only hope that the future has more than a covid face, but will certainly present us with many new and often “old” challenges to deal with.

One of them is the transformation of the family taking place in our modern times. It is symptomatic that in the first issue of the journal, the text “Evolution of the concept of the family” was published as the first one, and the research subject matter of the majority of articles oscillated around the understanding, diagnostics, dynamics and attempts to value the reality, whose name is the family. After a decade, it seems not only legitimate, but even necessary to pose anew

the question about the transdisciplinary understanding of the family, about its various – sometimes radically different, and perhaps consciously antagonized – versions, concepts and models. The thematic landscape, after all, stretches from the concept of family defined in the constitution as “the union of a man and a woman”, from an indissoluble relationship throughout life, through its multi-form patchwork realizations, through variously positioned goals of the family, to gender and LGBTQ+ approaches, to the above-mentioned “post-Covidian family”. As we can see, the topic of the next publication will deal with the fundamental issue of *the subject of research* published in the journal. Methodologically speaking, a thorough scientific discussion is only possible if one defines an understanding of basic terms and reality at the starting point. This is the task we set ourselves in the twelfth volume of the annual, believing in an optimistic future for the family, however it may be understood.

Today, as Editors, we invite you to take up this complex of issues in your research and share the results of your scientific explorations with the Readers. We also invite you to publish your personal thoughts and experiences in the thematic area of the year’s issue, in the Reports section. In this edition, they concern the challenges of unplanned and unwanted childlessness. It has also become a good tradition of the journal to continue the research on topics and to put new emphasis on issues that appeared on our pages in earlier years, to which we also encourage you to do.

The graphic design of the magazine cover is a yearly harbinger of the year’s theme. The ‘content-related square’, which changes in each volume, is also this year’s attempt to illustrate the research problem by means of an arrangement of coloured strings, whose variation and arrangement symbolically convey the complexity of the reality of the family and the problems it faces. The meaning of the symbolic illustration in the current issue refers first to the fact that professional work is like the watch cogs. Each cog has a specific function, a task to perform. Similarly does the employee who is subject to a certain work ethos and to the legislation in force (the law governing the duties of a particular professional branch, the labour code, etc.). Also very creative professions, despite the fact that they enjoy a kind of autonomy in action, however, like cogs are included in a number of socio-economic dependencies. The combination of family life, depicted by strings, and work becomes a difficult challenge, and sometimes a specific form of suffering and tragedy, a collision of basic values, which is symbolised by a string entangled in cogs of work.

The scientific, content-related and linguistic quality of the journal is the result of the efforts of many people, to whom I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the Editorial Staff of “Family Forum”. My thanks go to the authors

of the texts, to the reliable and competent reviewers, translators, proofreaders and the technical editor. This year I would like to welcome on the editorial board new proofreaders: Dr Kornelia Czogalik (Polish language texts) and MA Michalina Trybuś (English language articles). The quality of the yearbook is also ensured by the members of the Scientific Council of the “Family Forum”, which includes outstanding scientists from various scientific disciplines and from different European countries, whom I thank for their constructive cooperation. We wish all those who reach for this issue and the previous ones, both in print and online, a fruitful and engaging reading.

Piotr Morciniec
„Family Forum” Editor-in-Chief

