



Conference Celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary
of the Whitehead Metaphysical Society

**Whitehead for Education, the Humanities, and the Social Sciences.
In Pursuit of a Metamorphosis of Pedagogy**

19–20 November 2025 | Katowice, Poland

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Venue: Katowice, spinPLACE | University of Silesia in Katowice, ul. Bankowa 5

Organizers: The Alfred North Whitehead Metaphysical Society; the Institute of Philosophy and the Institute of Pedagogy at the University of Silesia in Katowice; and the Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology at the Pomeranian University in Słupsk

Motto:

“There is only one subject matter for education, and that is Life in all its manifestations.” ANW *The Aims of Education: & Other Essays* (1917), 41

Introduction and Proposed Topics

In times of a global polycrisis, the current direction of the Society’s activities focuses on “interweaving” contemporary processualism into the most vital contexts of the present—especially those most sensitive to the destructive impact of a civilization founded on an outdated vision of the world. One such area is the construction of a social environment that supports the developmental and educational processes of children, adolescents, and young adults.

Education, however, does not take place in a vacuum—it is part of culture, whose original function was to creatively support the human process of adaptation to Nature. Nature accessible both “from the outside” through the senses, and “from within” in inner experience. Whitehead’s process philosophy offers a way to re-integrate education and culture into the broadest cosmological context of understanding reality. It also sets new standards for culture—including pedagogical culture. Are we capable of meeting these standards in an age when the primary function of both education and culture has become adaptation to... culture (and technology)?

The main inspiration behind this anniversary conference is the book published last year by Professor Lech Witkowski, titled *Whitehead. Naddania i (w)zrosty dla humanistyki i edukacji* [*Whitehead. Superjects and Concrescences for the Humanities and Education*] (Adam Marszałek Publishing House, 2024, 496 pages). This ambitious work “interweaves” Alfred North Whitehead’s process philosophy into various currents of contemporary humanities and social sciences. In engaging critically with existing interpretations of Whitehead’s thought, the author demonstrates how slow its reception has been, and how prone it remains to overly hasty readings. The book introduces several key processual concepts into pedagogical discourse, showing how Whitehead’s philosophy of organism provides robust, rational, and at the same time flexible interpretative frameworks for both pedagogy and the humanities more broadly. At the same time, the book stands as an example of scholarly work conducted *within the processual paradigm*, offering insight into the inner dynamics of the event that is the writing of a book—an event which ultimately becomes a transformative experience for the author himself. The theses presented in the book will be discussed by invited panelists during a special session of the conference.

In the conference presentations, we encourage contributors to share the results of transdisciplinary research on the foundations of education (and, more broadly, the humanities), utilizing the interpretive framework offered by Whiteheadian process philosophy.

We also warmly invite reflections on Whitehead's educational ideas from the standpoint of one's own disciplinary practice, whether it be:

- the natural sciences (including neuroscience),
- humanities or social sciences—such as philosophy, psychology, sociology, or pedagogy,
- or spiritual disciplines (understood here as those concerned with the highest level of human development, described in Whiteheadian terms such as *fulfillment* and *peace*).

We also hope to host presentations of concrete applications developed through transdisciplinary collaboration and inspired by processual thinking.

The time remaining to discover and implement such transformative approaches is, unfortunately, short, especially if we wish to protect the most vulnerable members of society: children, adolescents, and young adults, along with the environments in which they grow, develop, receive education, and seek self-realization. **For this reason, we must focus on what is essential.**

Organizational Information

The conference will be held in a **hybrid format**, allowing for both in-person participation and online attendance via Microsoft Teams. Detailed information will be provided via email correspondence from the conference secretariat.

Proposals for presentations should be submitted by **15 October 2025** to the conference secretariat at: processpedagogy2025@gmail.com

Submissions should include a proposal of approximately **1,800 characters** (including spaces), with a **title** and **three keywords**.

Each presenter will be allotted **up to 20 minutes including discussion**.

Conference papers will be considered for publication in a special issue (section) of *Folia Philosophica*—a journal indexed in SCOPUS, published by the Institute of Philosophy in Katowice.

Program Committee

Prof. Dariusz Kubok – Director of the Institute of Philosophy, University of Silesia in Katowice

Prof. Krzysztof Maliszewski, Associate Professor at the Institute of Pedagogy, University of Silesia in Katowice

Bogdan Ogrodnik, PhD – President of The Whitehead Metaphysical Society, Katowice

Prof. Andrzej Wierciński – Faculty of *Artes Liberales*, Warsaw University, President of International Institute for Hermeneutics

Prof. Lech Witkowski – Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology, Pomeranian University in Słupsk

Organizational Committee:

Grzegorz Piekarski, PhD - Institute of Pedagogy and Psychology, Pomeranian University in Słupsk

Przemysław Starowicz, MA - Institute of Philosophy, University of Silesia in Katowice

About the Alfred North Whitehead Metaphysical Society

For many years, the Society has served as an international community—not only of philosophers but also of scholars from diverse disciplines. Its members have valued the possibility of crossing disciplinary boundaries in a manner that is both rational and attentive to the core of the issues they explore, while engaging with others in a shared transdisciplinary search for meaning. Process philosophy has served as the meeting ground for this intellectual exchange.

Among the Society's key initiatives to date are:

- the organization of the 9th International Whitehead Conference,
- the founding of the European Summer School of Process Philosophy,
- the founding of a Summer School of Process Philosophy for Polish students of philosophy,
- participation in the International Process Network,
- coordination of numerous seminar series,
- and the hosting of annual international conferences dedicated to the study of process thought.

In collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy at the Pontifical University of John Paul II, the Society has also published multiple issues of the journal *Studia Whiteheadiana*. For the past two years, the Alfred North Whitehead Metaphysical Society has operated in affiliation with the Institute of Philosophy at the University of Silesia.