



UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW
Faculty of Economic Sciences

Oded Stark appointed professor

It is my pleasure to announce that the President of the Republic of Poland nominated Dr. Oded Stark a Professor of Economic Sciences. An excellent economist, perhaps best known for his contributions to the theory of human capital, Prof. Stark has served on the faculty of the University of Warsaw since 2005. Even though he was hired as "The Distinguished Professor of Economics", he was lacking the official professorship title that – in Poland – is conferred by the President only. The nomination procedure was launched some time ago by our University, it included a careful refereeing process, and has been just completed. Congratulations! Here is the response of Prof. Stark to an inquiry from the Warsaw University Press Office.

"On the occasion of being nominated a Professor of Economic Sciences by the President of Poland, the Press Office at the University of Warsaw asked me to respond to two questions: what does the Presidential Professorship mean to me, and how long do I intend to retain my academic affiliation with Poland. These questions pertain, respectively, to the present, and to the future. As is often the case with involved questions, here too the responses need to be anchored in the past.

My parents were born and educated in Poland. They migrated from Poland prior to WWII. Each of them was the only survivor of a large family. The human capital and the physical wealth acquired and owned by the families were annihilated. The material and intellectual losses were large: the company of my father's father was thriving; the father of my mother was the Head of a school. By an initially random, and subsequently remarkable sequence of events, I re-linked with Poland and with Polish academia a mere few years ago. In 2005, exactly 60 years after the dreadful WWII came to an end, I was invited to join the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw. This has meant that, once again, my family is engaged in the production of human capital in Poland, which I consider a mission, a duty, and a privilege. It goes then without saying that the receipt of a Presidential endorsement is thrilling.

As to how long will I want to be a member of Polish academia: now that I have unearthed the past somewhat, it should not be all that surprising that I will want the link to be sustained for as long as I can, meaning for as long as I am intellectually alert and professionally productive. Not for one day beyond that, but not to be severed a day earlier either. The research collaboration with colleagues, and especially with my talented doctoral students, is too rewarding to be given up lightly."

Tomasz Żylicz
Dean