

Summary of the Ph.D. Thesis

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The title of the thesis: **Surname and the fluid identity of women. The patrilinear tradition of taking a husband's family name at marriage and societal changes**

Key words phrases: **women, identity, fluid identity, surname, social change, equity, tradition, critical pedagogy, social education**

Abstract:

The aim of the exploratory, interdisciplinary research project presented in this dissertation was to explore the legal, cultural, social, and educational determinants of women's surname choices after marriage in the context of identity encoded in their first and last names. The project was inspired by the need to fill a research and theoretical gap in the area of the connection between surname and woman's identity at the time of marriage, and to broaden feminist and gender perspectives to include the experiences of contemporary Polish women.

The dissertation is divided into two parts: theoretical and empirical. It consists of a total of six chapters and a conclusion. The first part presents the theoretical foundations of the author's research. The first chapter provides insight into the current directions of research on surname choices by women after marriage, primarily abroad, demonstrating the dynamics of publication development, the identified research areas, and the methodology of the research, along with the motivation for conducting the research. The second chapter, concerning the relationship between surname and identity, begins with a discussion of the concept of identity from the perspective of key social sciences: psychology, sociology, and the leading discipline, pedagogy. This is preceded by a brief presentation of selected terminological convergences and distinctions. Then, in relation to the presented concepts of identity, considerations were made on the possibility of searching for a fluid identity for women. This chapter also focuses

on gender and gender identity as important dimensions of identity in the context of this project. After presenting surname as a potentially important element of identity, the patrilineal tradition of adopting the husband's surname is presented, including the concept of surname, the history of surname-giving in Poland, and legislative solutions regarding the choice of surname after marriage. The chapter argues that the practice of adopting the husband's surname is an element of patriarchal power structures, requiring the use of appropriate research perspectives for their analysis. The third chapter, concluding the theoretical part of the dissertation, demonstrates that social pedagogy and critical pedagogy possess adequate theoretical foundations for exploring the subject matter, which are complemented by a resonant feminist perspective.

The empirical section of the dissertation begins with chapter four, which presents the methodological perspective of the research, outlines the general and specific objectives, and presents the research problems and questions. The latter concerned: the motives for women choosing surnames after marriage, the associated individual and external factors, the social reception of these choices, the meaning of surnames in shaping women's identities, the scope of social change, and the possibility of capturing the phenomenon of symbolic violence in the research participants narratives. This chapter then discusses the method, techniques, research tools, organization and conduct of the research, and the characteristics of the study samples. The research was methodologically anchored by the author's concept of a socio-psycho-pedagogical case study, a research method that allows for an interdisciplinary approach to exploring the phenomenon of identity/fluid identity in the context of women changing their surnames after marriage. This method utilizes a triangulation of qualitative and quantitative research techniques. The qualitative section, based on semi-structured interviews, included 50 married women: 15 who retained their maiden name, 15 who combined it with their husband's surname, and 20 women with similar sociodemographic characteristics who adopted their husband's surname after marriage. Nearly 500 women participated in the quantitative section, which aimed to identify factors determining individual surname choices. This study utilized a set of purposefully selected questionnaires, including an authorial tool – the Declarative Emancipation Scale, whose validation process is described in detail. The ethical aspects of the study and the positioning of the researcher are also discussed. The next, fifth chapter presents the results of the project's research, divided into qualitative and quantitative sections. First, the results of the qualitative study are presented, structured as answers to the research questions. Next, the results of the quantitative analyses are discussed, including a description of the results by group of women compared, as well as a model identifying factors relevant to the decision