

FROM THE EDITORS

FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

The theme of this issue of *Academia* magazine is “pollution.” It is examined in myriad ways, from a surprising multiplicity of perspectives: genetics and philosophy, engineering and ecology, biology and medicine, linguistics and Bible studies, archaeology and library science.

The largest share of articles deals with environmental pollution. We all know that it affects our health and well-being, that better care needs to be taken of the environment. But do we know how to translate this into concrete language that appeals to the imagination? Wojciech Pol and Katarzyna Mierzyńska certainly do: “By some estimates, humans consume about 5 grams of micro- and nanoplastics per week, equivalent in weight to a credit card or a plastic shopping bag.”

Perhaps the overly abstract way we often discuss the environment is what allows us to exploit it to such extreme degrees. Last year’s environmental disaster on the Oder River is an example. In their article about the catastrophe, Lukasz Slugocki and Robert Czerniawski aptly note that society has “failed to find ways to force those who excessively exploit the environment to compensate” for the damage they cause. Sure, there are various “green taxes,” such as the fuel surcharge included in the price of gasoline – but since they are not listed on every invoice, many people may not even know they are paying such costs.

We do not like paying taxes, and we certainly do not like to limit ourselves. And yet, Magdalena Płonka argues in an interview with Justyna Orłowska that for environmental reasons “we should immediately impose certain limits on consumer purchases.” Is society ready for that?

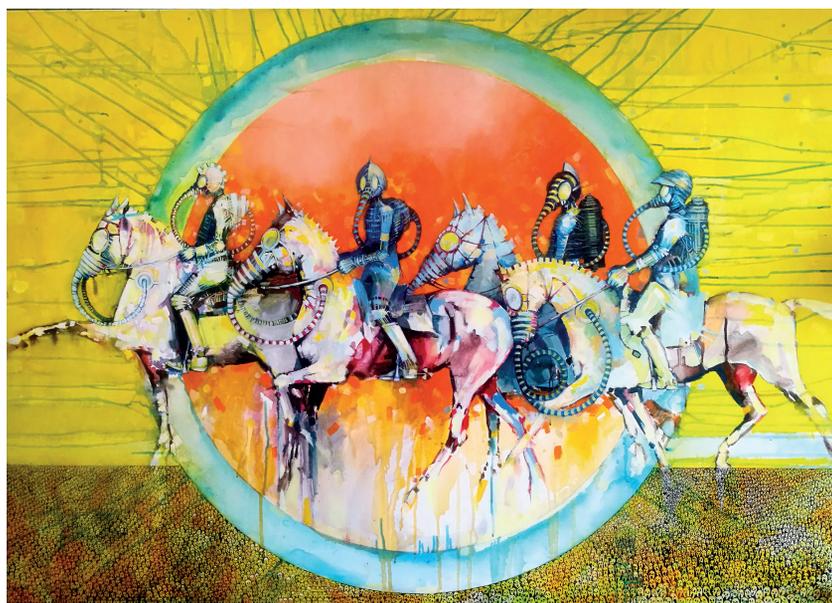
This issue also considers man-made debris accumulating up in space, and also the contamination of DNA recovered from the remains of our ancient ancestors. Other kinds of “pollution” are also discussed – such as religiously or politically motivated interventions in the books of the Old Testament. All the different perspectives taken on this issue’s main theme cannot be listed here – what’s the table of contents for, after all?

That was a rhetorical question, but I will still nevertheless answer it: in *Academia* magazine, the table of contents is the part of the publication where you can start reading, but which then you cannot stop.

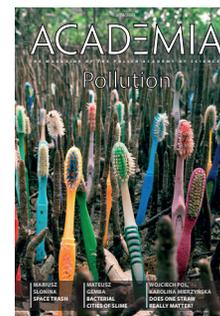
PROF. MIROSLAW BAŃKO
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**Wojciech Luka,
Four Horsemen
of the Apocalypse,
2020,
acrylic, oil, canvas**

A painter, visual/graphic artist, and illustrator, Wojciech Luka studied at the University of Silesia (Faculty of Arts and Educational Science) and at the Nicolaus Copernicus University (Faculty of Fine Arts). From 1991 to 2010, he worked as a city artist at the Department of Architecture of Tychy City Hall. Since 1994 he has been a co-founder, editorial board member, and graphics department head of the monthly magazine *Śląsk*.



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