

FOREWORD

“Space” and “place” are familiar words denoting common experiences. (...) Place is security, space is freedom: we are attached to the one and long for the other. (...) Geographers study places. Planners would like to evoke “a sense of place.” (...) Space and place are basic components of the lived world; we take them for granted. When we think about them, however, they may assume unexpected meanings and raise questions we have not thought to ask” [Yi-Fu Tuan, 1977, *Space and place: The perspective of experience*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, p. 3].

In the words cited above, Yi-Fu Tuan describes the essence of geography and urban planning from a humanistic perspective, which aimed to give scientific geography a human face in the 1970s. This book addresses the state and challenges of contemporary social and economic geography and spatial management in Poland, posing questions and seeking answers concerning its development. Although its content is filled with scientific analyses and discussions, it has, above all, a human face. On the one hand, are the faces of the Authors, who present their research results as well as views and positions concerning the new discipline, sharing their experience and emotions. On the other hand, it is the face of an eminent geographer, Professor Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, whose work and commitment greatly influenced the development of the whole discipline. We want to dedicate this book to Professor Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, celebrating his 70th birthday and 45 years of academic work in 2024. Professor actively shaped social and economic geography and spatial management as a scientific discipline in Poland’s new classification of science. By dedicating this book to Professor Stryjakiewicz, we wish to express our gratitude for his contribution to the theoretical, methodological and empirical development of social and economic geography and spatial management and its institutional development.

Krzysztof Stachowiak
Robert Kudlak