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Professors of martial arts : Holders of this title in martial arts science

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MARTIAL ARTS SCIENCE

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Abstract

Background. The following text is a reflection on martial arts masters holding the title Professor and written from the point of view of the Humanistic Theory of Martial Arts and the Anthropology of Martial Arts.

Objectives and Aims. This paper is concerned with the area of “martial arts science” or the “science of martial arts” and of being an expert in this field, particularly when the expert is styled “Professor”. The following questions were considered and analysed: How should the experts be evaluated and chosen, and how should the highest titles be awarded? According to what criteria? Who are the specialists, the holders of the title Professor currently operating in the field of science and martial arts?

Method. Content analysis and an analysis of discourse were used. The sources of knowledge included: subject literature, popular publications and observation of participants in scientific and martial arts circles by the authors of this paper.

To be considered a martial arts expert, the following evaluation criteria were adopted: 1) speciality/specialisation and achievements (both scientific and in popularising martial arts); 2) academic degrees and titles; 3) martial arts degrees and titles; 4) scientific position (organising regular events, having a role in international organizations, editing specialist magazines); and 5) awards and decorations. The analysis was restricted to people currently active in both environments.

Results. The paper analyses the cases of contemporary, active experts who have been honoured with the title of Professor, as outstanding practitioner-masters of martial arts. In this group there are only a few people who hold both the position, and academic title Professor. Most academic martial arts researchers work in the field of sport science.

Conclusions. Only two Europeans meet the criteria of holding both the highest degrees of a master while at the same time being Professors of sports science. Seven Europeans have been awarded the title Professor of martial arts and they are all working to develop the institutional side of the science and history of martial arts.

Introduction

Undoubtedly, the most important proof of recognition for a scientist is to be a Professor, the highest academic honour. There are also honorary titles, customarily granted by different institutions. These, however, are not widely accepted in the scientific community. Finally, there are courtesy titles used for example when a Lieutenant Colonel is addressed as “Colonel”. Distinctions awarded by expert groups are sometimes of great value. In martial arts circles these are:

1. The Medal for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts, originally awarded by the European Jujutsu and Kobudo Committee and since 2001 by the European Martial Arts Committee (EMAC). This is one of the most important distinctions. It is awarded at the same time as the title Professor – Expert in Martial Arts;

2. The Order of Knight of Fujiyama which was, from 1998, the Idokan’s highest honorary title. However the highest distinction, since 2010 is now;
3. The Knightly Order of “Homo Creator Nobilis”, awarded by the Idokan Poland Association and the European Nobility Club [Cynarski 2011a].

There are examples of role models in the world of martial arts that serve both holistic pedagogy and the theory of physical education. The ways of martial arts provide excellent, comprehensive physical development, character development (through self-discipline, personal effort and models of conduct), psychological and physical recreation (relaxation and recovery) and personal fulfilment.

In martial arts the piece of art is the master, who should not be confused with a sports champion. Someone becomes a martial arts master as a result of their own long-term self-creation and the transfer of knowl-

edge, experience and skills from previous generations of experts. They are role models, as the highest degrees are awarded for moral values in the “art of humanity” and for outstanding and long term achievement. Three outstanding representatives of the martial arts community are presented here as examples. They are European experts, and both teachers and educators within their individual educational systems. They are: *Shihan* Roland J. Habersetzer (9 dan), *Meijin* Lothar Sieber (10 dan) and Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (9 dan) [Cynarski 2011b]. All three of them hold the title Professor – Expert in Martial Arts and have received the Medal of Honour for Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts.

A wide perspective for a simultaneous reflection on both masters of martial arts and Professors, who are the specialists in the field of martial arts, is provided by the Humanistic Theory of Martial Arts and the Anthropology of Martial Arts [Cynarski 2002, 2004, 2012; Obodynski 2003]. The research applies to practitioners and masters of martial arts who are not the same as athletes and coaches.

Wojciech J. Cynarski has suggested that degrees and titles should be awarded to martial arts masters on similar terms as are degrees and titles in the arts. “Shouldn’t the title of Professor be granted in martial arts on a similar basis as they are awarded in the arts? Perhaps this should also apply to the greatest coaches in other sports, the masters of physical education and psycho-physical activities. In particular, the spiritual or archetypal dimensions of championship (both as a leader and guru) to the way of martial arts seems to attest to the adequacy of the assessment of such a person as a creator of culture. The holder of a high degree (7-8 dan) can be compared to a recognized painter or director, or on the other hand, a respected educator, a teacher of ancient forms or modified techniques, an expert in their field. A master of martial arts is both the creator and creation of this art. High master’s degrees are symbolic, confirming both their knowledge and the level of spiritual development they have achieved” [Cynarski, Obodynski 2004; cf. Cynarski 2002-2003a].

Apart from the highest technical degrees (HTD)¹, honorary degrees and titles are also awarded. For these, all the achievements of the person teaching martial arts are taken into account: their achievements in training and education, and the success of their students in achieving master’s degrees, their activity in popularising martial arts (by publication), the prestige of the school, and their irreproachable moral demeanour and reputation in the martial arts community. These are criteria related to those used in science and the arts. The system within the arts, of exhibitions and presence in catalogues of works of art, is represented in martial arts by attend-

ance at elite meetings, presence at international *budo* (*budō*) events and a certain level of popularity (recognition and fame). The recipient of a high level master’s degree is often asked to present a master-class, which is related to areas of expression such as conducting, ballet or other forms of dance. Grand-mastery here is not merely the result of technical virtuosity, nor an aesthetic evaluation of someone’s work. Mastery of the moral way of martial arts refers to a less tangible level of mastery and spiritual perfection, including intellectual aspects, manners and morals.

Cynarski also wrote: “The specific ontogeny of a martial arts adept is more like a career in science than in sport. Masters are unquestioned authorities in the environment of martial artists, as well as prominent scholars in the world of science. Eminent scholars, academics and Nobel laureates perform the same role as the masters from the top of the hierarchy, the holders of 9-12th dan, the names *dai-hanshi*, *meijin* and *soke* of reputable schools. The title of Ordinary Professor (in the Polish system) corresponds to the *hanshi* title and license *menkyo kaiden*, extraordinary – *shihan* and grade 8 dan. Holders of above-technical degrees (e.g. 6-7 dan, black and white belt) can be compared to a dependent research worker (assistant professor), or doctorate level student; the highest level of technical (*renshi*, 4-5 dan), to a Masters degree with the title of *sensei* (teacher) and 3 dan who are students. After passing the examination for the highest technical degree, successive degrees are obtained as honours on the basis of an assessment of achievements, which resembles the process occurring between someone obtaining their Doctorate and achieving the title “professor” in the Polish academic structure. Educational achievements can be compared to the number of *yudansha* (black belt holders) and instructors (*shidojin*) the individual has trained and developed. Achievements in several methods and martial arts schools would meet the additional educational criteria. Good mastery of several types of conventional weapon would correspond for example to knowledge of several foreign languages. Evidence of recognition (e.g. in the form of the granting of degrees and honorary titles by the various schools of martial arts) can be compared with honorary doctorates (*honoris causa*)” [Cynarski 2002: 98-99].

And the concept of masters and school-related research is the meaning and function of the *budo* master school (*dōjō*) of martial arts. And indeed, in the past the title Professor has sometimes been awarded to experts in martial arts. The example is Prof. **Franz Rautek**, who was awarded the title in 1978 by the president of Austria for his long-term teaching of *jujutsu* (*jūjutsu*).

Martial arts research has already become a tradition. One of the first researchers was the German scholar and anthropologist Prof. Dr **Ervin Otto Eduard von Baelz** (1849-1913). For twenty-nine years he lived and worked in Japan. He perhaps was the person who inspired the

¹ HTD – Highest Technical Degree – the highest master degree, which requires passing a practical exam. Higher degrees are awarded as **honorary** [Cynarski, Skowron 2014].

young Jigoro Kano to undertake his studies of *jujutsu* [Velte, Matschke 2007: 126-127].

In Poland, martial arts have also been studied and described since about 1904. For example, Major **Kazimierz Laskowski** (1899-1961 and a descendent of the Korab nobility) from the Warsaw Academy of Physical Education was an Olympic bronze medallist in the sabre. Subsequently as both a practitioner and an instructor he taught fencing, boxing, *savate*, *jujutsu* and fighting with bayonets [Bak 2015]. He was the author of books about boxing, fencing, hand to hand combat and self-defence. He was undoubtedly an expert in his field.

The late Prof. Dr *hab.* **Ewaryst Jaskolski** (1932-2007) was the first Full-Professor of the science of physical culture in Poland, specializing in *judo*, combat sports and *budo*. He was the holder of 5 dan in *judo*, awarded by the IPA. He was a co-founder of the concept of *budo* pedagogy [cf. Cynarski 2011c; Migasiewicz 2011]. However, he did not meet the current requirement to be a university professor.

The same applies to *sensei* Dr **Krzysztof Kondratowicz** (1928-2010), a highly-regarded supporter of *jujutsu* and other styles of martial arts (10 dan). As the creator (*soke*) of the “goshin-ryu jiu-jitsu” *jujutsu* school he also received 11 and 12 dan in *jiu-jitsu* from his students and friends in the Polish martial arts community. However, these degrees are not universally recognized, and are seen as something of an exaggeration of his skills. For his achievements in teaching and popularising martial arts (numerous publications, mainly popular) Dr Kondratowicz also received the title of Professor *honoris causa*, awarded to him by the Department of Combat Sports at the Physical Education Academy in Kraków (S. Sterkowicz) and confirmed at UR (W.J. Cynarski).

Who is an expert in martial arts? An expert (Jap. *tatsujin* or *tatsushi*) [Cynarski, Skowron 2014] should hold the degree of HTD or above. Ideally experts should know more than one martial art or combat sport at master level. Experts should also demonstrate their knowledge through publications, both the strictly scientific or those popularising martial arts.

Problem

Increasingly, institutions in the socio-cultural martial arts movement grant scientific degrees and titles in ‘martial arts’, the ‘science of fighting’, the ‘military arts’, and ‘the science of weapons’ etc. to experts. It may be as a result of vanity or the desire to be appreciated (and to promote one’s school) or also from the growth of scientific interest (often from outside the academic mainstream) in the study of martial arts. In an era of globalization, knowledge at its various levels, is spreading widely among martial arts researchers, who are also long-standing practitioners of

martial arts and martial ways. Miscellaneous (also private) institutions also confer Doctorate degrees in “martial arts” [Cynarski, Obodynski 2004]. This therefore becomes a social issue and a problem for scientific institutions.

Martial arts science is currently a specialisation within sports science (physical culture sciences). There are therefore questions about how to assess the achievements of people working to develop and popularise martial arts: How should the experts be evaluated and chosen, and how should the highest titles be granted? According to what criteria? Who are the specialists – the holders of the title “professor” currently active in the field of science and martial arts?

The authors intend only to start the discussion on the questions raised above. They are trying to compare current, working professors and experts, according to the knowledge available from a variety of sources, including participant observation in the martial arts environment. This paper is meant simply to be an outline of the most significant scientist-experts in martial arts.

Method

A content analysis and the analysis of discourse method [Krippendorff 2004] were adopted. The following criteria for becoming an expert in martial arts were taken into account:

1. Specialities / specialisations and achievements (scientific, popularising)
2. Scientific degrees and titles
3. Degrees and titles in martial arts
4. Scientific position (organisation of regular events, holding functions in international organisations, editing specialist magazines)
5. Distinctions and awards.

As sources of knowledge, subject literature, popular publications, and participant observation in scientific and martial arts circles by the authors were used [cf. Cynarska 2011, 2013].

The first criterion concerns scientific competence and achievements, and the organisation of scientific events and publications; the second, academic degrees; the third, a position in martial arts organisations: functions, degrees and titles; the fourth concerns the individual’s position, especially their international standing, in the scientific community. Being an editor of specialised scientific journals is what counts here; and finally, awards and distinctions, especially holding the highest honours in the circles of martial art experts, for example the Medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts” and the title Prof. EMAC.

A necessary condition but which is not enough on its own is the presence of university Professors who are independent academics, in the group.



Photo 1. Prof. Dr Keith R. Kernspecht and Dr Oliver Koenig

Results

1. Professors of physical culture science (sports science)

Dr **Patric McCarthy** (of the International Budo Academy, Israel), from Australia, a 9 dan *karate*, *hanshi*, and also a 3 dan *iaido*, is the creator of the HAPV: *Habitual Acts and Physical Violence Theory* (one example of forms of *karate*). He really is an expert and specialist in the anthropology of martial arts. However, he does not hold the position of Professor.

Perhaps the first Europeans to have obtained academic degrees in sports science for their work on martial arts are Prof. Keith R. Kernspecht from Germany and Prof. Wojciech J. Cynarski from Poland [cf. Borowiec 1998; *WT goes University*, 2014].

Prof. Dr *habil.* **Keith R. Kernspecht** (photo 1) is a student of the Great GM Leung Ting. In the 1970s he introduced Chinese and Philippine martial arts to Germany. He was also the first to introduce Bruce Lee's style of *jeet kune do* to Germany. In 1996 Kernspecht became visiting Professor at Paisii Hilendarski State University in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. In 1999 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate there. In 2006 he was awarded an honorary Professorship by the National Sports Academy in Sofia. After that, he obtained his full Doctorate (*habilitation*) in 2009. In 2011 he was awarded the title of "Professor Emeritus" [Kernspecht 2014: 305-315]. He promoted Dr Siegfried Wolf (7 dan karate) from Germany and Dr Oliver Koenig (GM, 9 toan WingTsun kung-fu, photo 1) from Austria.

Kernspecht is a leader of the Logic of Combat Division in the IMACSSS, and a creator of the multi-disciplinary discipline "combatology" [Kernspecht 2011, 2012]. He is also a Grand Master in the greatest European commercial martial arts organisation, the European WingTsun Organisation (the EWTO). Prof. Kernspecht received the Knightly Order of "Homo Creator Nobilis" at the 3rd IMACSSS Congress in Rzeszow in 2014. At present Prof. Kernspecht conducts lectures and classes at universities in Bulgaria, Germany and the UK, as well as practical classes in many countries worldwide, under an EWTO programme.

Prof. Dr *hab.* **Roman Maciej Kalina** is the creator of the "theory of combat sports" [Kalina 2000] and editor-in-chief of "Archives of Budo" (AB), indexed in Thomson Reuters. It is a renowned journal devoted to combat sports and martial arts. However, according to the criteria adopted in this paper, the Impact Factor (IF), according to the number of citations, is not an adequate measure [Seglen 1997; Tsigilis *et al.* 2010; Cynarski, Reguli 2014]. Moreover, they are not entirely adequate for assessing his scientific level in the humanities and sciences of culture.

Prof. Kalina was awarded an honorary 4 dan from Idokan² and from the Polish Judo Association for his achievements in *judo*, as a coach, referee, organiser, theoretician and researcher. However 6 dan is the lowest degree recognized in judo as HTD. Kalina has also obtained an instructor's licence in the North Korean sys-

² In February 2015 his degree was annulled and was also excluded from IPA's Dan Committee.

Tab. 1. Professors according to the following criteria:

No.	Name	Literary /scientific output	Scientific title, degrees	Degrees in martial arts	Int-al position / status	Distinctions, awards
1	Keith R. Graf von Rothenburg Kernspecht	Combato-logy; and many books	Dr <i>habil.</i> (sport science), Prof. h.c.	10 th master degree, GM*, 6 th in <i>escrima</i> , 6 dan <i>hapkido</i> etc.	leader EWTO and the Body Mind Balance Institute	HCN, nominated for title of Prof. (EMAC, 2016)
2	Roman M. Kalina	Theory of combat sports	Prof. Dr <i>hab.</i>	4 dan <i>judo</i>	Editor 'AB'	
3	Stanislaw Sterkowicz	Many original, empiric works	Prof. Dr <i>hab.</i>	10 dan <i>jujutsu</i> ** 5 dan <i>hapkido</i>	Invitations (plenary speaker)	
4	Wojciech J. Cynarski	HTMA; many works	Prof. Dr <i>hab.</i>	10 dan <i>ido</i> , 9 dan <i>jujutsu</i> , 8 dan <i>karate</i> , etc.	Pres. IMACSSS, and IPA	Prof. EMAC
5	Fuminori Nakiri	Physiology, active scientist	Prof. Dr	7 dan <i>kendo</i>	Pres. JAB, vice-pres. IMACSSS	Hon. Member of IPA
6	Chuchchai Gomaratur	Sports science, history	Prof. Dr	GM of <i>krabi krabong</i>	Vice-pres. IMACSSS	
7	Wojciech Zablocki	Architecture, hoplology	Prof. Dr <i>hab.</i>	GM of Polish fencing	Committee of Fencing IPA	Hon. Member of IPA
8	Stanislaw Tokarski	Philosophy, indology	Prof. Dr <i>hab.</i>	5 dan <i>judo</i>	Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences	
9	Tadeusz Ambrozy	Sport sciences	Dr <i>hab.</i>	10 dan PZJJ, 8 dan <i>goshinjutsu</i>		
10	Roland J. Maroteaux	Philosophy, history	Dr, Prof. h.c.	9 dan <i>aiki-jujutsu</i>	Pres. WTMF	Prof. EMAC

* In WingTsun kung-fu (awarded by master Leung Ting, from Hongkong)

** 26 Nov. 2012 he was absent from the conference “Physical activity in the prevention and treatment of the diseases of civilization” (with a symposium on martial arts and combat sports) in Warsaw [cf. Cynarski 2013], but he provided information that he has, among others, 10 dan in *jujutsu*. This is probably a degree awarded to him by K. Kondratowicz (10 dan on a 12-degree scale).

[Source: own research]

tem of *kyoksul*, without having a master degree Therefore Kalina has relatively low qualifications in martial arts. He did contribute (albeit briefly) to the teaching of the theory of martial arts at the Academy of Physical Education in Warsaw, and then, along with the humanistic theory of martial arts at the Faculty of Physical Education at UR, [Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2010].

Prof. Dr *hab.* **Stanislaw Sterkowicz** was awarded the title of Professor of physical education (Full-Professor) earlier than Professors Kalina and Cynarski (Table. 1). He is also one of the most cited authors in the area of sports science (Web of Science), who specialises in the study of martial arts. However, the Impact Factor of journals should not be used for evaluating research [Seglen 1997]. Prof. Dr *hab.* W. J. Cynarski is also one of the most frequently cited authors of works devoted to the martial arts (cf. indexes of volumes I-X “Ido – Ruch dla Kultury / Movement for Culture”, and volumes XI-XV “Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”). The Web of Science is dominated by Prof. Dr **Emerson Franchini** (2 dan *judo*, Brazil) and Prof. Dr **Willy Pieter** (1 dan *taekwondo*, Nether-

lands). However, their degrees in martial arts are well below the HTD.

Prof. Sterkowicz is one of the pioneers of the institutionalised academic teaching of martial arts and combat sports. Quite early (in the early 1990s), he was conducting research and organising specialised conferences [Cynarski, Litwiniuk 2010]. He is a *hapkido* Moo Hak Kwon instructor (5 dan), who has contributed greatly to the popularisation of this school and of sports *jujutsu* in Poland.

There are other specialists in *jujutsu* self-defence in Poland with post-doctoral degrees as well as coaches including: **Tadeusz Ambrozy** (8 dan *goshinjutsu*, 10 dan *ju-jitsu*³) in Cracow, and **Kazimierz Witkowski** (6 dan *judo*) in Wroclaw; **Marek Adam** (4 dan *judo*) who studies Olympic *judo*; **Wladyslaw Jagiello** (2 dan *judo*) – concerned at present primarily with wrestling; **Jacek Wasik** (4 dan *taekwondo*) – *taekwondo* according to ITF, and **Cezary Kusnierz** (1 dan *Kyokushin karate*) – *karate*.

Among people more active in the field of martial arts research, a few Doctors of physical culture are worth men-

³ The Polish Ju-Jitsu Association, Katowice (Poland).

tioning. These are: **Wiesław Blach** (7 dan *judo*); **Zbigniew Bujak** (7 dan *taekwondo*); **Waldemar Sikorski** (8 dan *judo*); **Rafał Kubacki** (6 dan *judo*); **Jan Slopecki** (10 dan *jujutsu* & *goshinjutsu*) and, in the field of humanistic studies, Dr **Juliusz Piwowarski** (8 dan *all-style karate*).

Professor Jerzy Kosiewicz (3 dan modern *jujutsu*), Marian Kowalewski (1 dan modern *jujutsu*), Kazimierz Obodyński (3 dan modern *jujutsu*) [Cynarski 2008], and Henryk Sozanski (1 dan *taekwondo* ITF) have all received honorary degrees from the community of martial arts practitioners as a token of appreciation for their knowledge.

In Japan among the people representing sports sciences is Prof. Emeritus Dr **Taketo Sasaki** (8 dan *goshinjutsu*, 7 dan *judo*, 4 dan *judo-do/ido*) who has also participated in the IMACSSS. Prof. Sasaki was still active until recently, but has now retired.

Muai Thai and *krabi krabong* (martial arts included in the cultural heritage of the Kingdom of Thailand) are nurtured in Thailand by GM, Prof. Dr **Chuchchai Gomaratut**. He is both an instructor and a researcher into Thai martial arts.

IMACSSS brings together probably the most active martial arts and combat sports researchers. For example Prof. Dr **Abel Figueiredo** (7 dan *karate Goju-ryu*, Portugal) is active both in the community of *karate* and as an activist in the IMACSSS, and also as the organiser of a conference in Viseu. Prof. Dr **Carlos Gutierrez-Garcia** (4 dan *judo*, Spain) is the editor-in-chief of the “Revista de Arte Marciale Asiatica”. Prof. Dr **Antonio Vences de Brito** (2 dan *karate*, Portugal) conducts international biomechanical research. Prof. Dr **Zdenko Reguli** (5 dan *aikido*, 4 dan *goshinjutsu*) is Head of the Department of Gymnastics and Martial Arts at Masaryk University in Brno. Prof. Dr **Marc Theeboom** (*wushu* coach) is one of the most important empirical martial arts researchers from the perspective of the sociology of sport.

2. Professors from other scientific fields

The late Dr **Hanho Rhi** (7 dan *judo*), from Korea, worked in Switzerland, while Dr med. **Heribert Czerwenka-Wenkstetten** (9 dan *jujutsu*) worked at the University of Vienna. They both taught the practice of martial arts, but also studied and promoted the culture of *budo* [cf. Czerwenka-Wenkstetten, Cynarski 2008]. Prof. Dr *habil. med.* **Helmut Kogel**, 8 dan *kobudo*, is a specialist in *kyushojutsu*. He is a student of Dr **Tetsuhiro Hokama**, 10 dan (Okinawa).

Natural Sciences are represented, by among others, Prof. Dr **Fuminori Nakiri**, 7 dan *kendo*,

3 dan *judo-do/ido* and leader of JAB. Prof. Nakiri is still active.

Many humanists take an active part in the study of martial arts. One of the principal ones is Prof. Dr *hab.* **Stanisław Tokarski** (5 dan *judo*), a philosopher, Orientalist and Indologist. He was a keynote speaker at the First

World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts. He is the author of one of the best books on martial arts, which shows martial arts as ways of expressing Eastern philosophy in movement [see: Tokarski 1989].

Prof. Dr *hab.* **Andrzej Szyszko-Bohusz** (2 dan *karate*) is a very versatile humanist, an educator, psychologist and philosopher [Cynarski, Obodyński 2001] engaged in the study of the humanistic aspects of martial arts. Prof. Dr *hab. arch.* **Wojciech Zablocki** (GM of the Zablocki Fencing School) is a pioneer, and reviver of the old Polish martial arts of sword and sabre fencing [Cynarski 2002-2003b].

Prof. Dr *habil.* **Matthias von Saldern** (7 dan *karate*) is an educator who studies the history and axiology of *karatedo* and *budo*. He is an editor of the German book series “Spirit – Technique – Body”.

Prof. Dr **Fumiaki Shishida** (8 dan *aikido*, 3 dan *judo-do/ido*) is still actively practising martial arts. Before the Congress of IMACSSS in 2014 he was teaching *aikido* in Canada. Prof. Dr Sergio Raimondo is a historian, political scientist, sociologist and specialist in library science, as well as the holder of 5 toan in *wushu*, researcher into the *Chen taiji quan* tradition, organiser of the 1st IMACSSS International Conference, and author of a number of interesting publications [Raimondo 2011; Raimondo, Coccia, Ceccarelli 2013], etc.

3. Experts on the European Martial Arts Committee

The European Martial Arts Committee (EMAC) is a board of experts and an opinion-forming institution in martial arts circles. Between 2010 and 2013 it was known as the European Jujutsu & Kobudo Committee (EJKC). The organization awards the honorary title of Professor - Expert in martial arts and the Medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts”.

3.1. Prof. Habersetzer



Photo 2. Shihan Roland J. Habersetzer (9 dan)
[source: Centre of Budo Research, and Prof. Habersetzer’s Institut Tengu]

Roland J. Habersetzer (9 dan *karatedo*) from France (photo 2), Professor – Expert of the EJKC/EMAC, member of the Dan Committee Idokan Poland Association, has been practising martial arts since 1957. He obtained his first dan in karate in 1961, 9th dan and *hanshi* title in 2006. He is also the *soke* of the “tengu-no michi” system, which includes *Tengu-ryu karatedo*, *kobudo* and *hojutsu*. He has been a student of *hanshi* Tadahiko Otsuka for many years.

Shihan Habersetzer is a martial arts teacher, historian and writer, and the author of eighty books about martial arts. He has written particularly about *karate*, but also on *jujutsu*, *kobudo* and *kung-fu*. His book *Decouvrir le Ju-Jitsu* (Amphora S.A., Paris 1989) is one of the best European publications devoted to *jujutsu*.

Habersetzer works in the Saint Nabor Centre for Budo Research and at the Institut Tengu. He also cooperates with the Scientific Journal “Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology”. As *sensei* he has educated generations of *karatekas*. He is both an excellent practitioner and theoretician. He was awarded the medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts”, First-Class.

3.2. Prof. Sieber



Photo 3. *Meijin* Lothar Sieber (10 dan)

[courtesy of IPA and “Jiu-Jitsu u. Karate Schule L. Sieber” in Munich]

Meijin Lothar Sieber from Germany (born 1946, photo 3) is honorary president of the Idokan Poland Association and the DDBV e.V. – the German Association of Budo Teachers; holder of the highest master degrees in *karate*, *jujutsu* and *judo-do / ido* – 10 dan. He also holds 8 dan in *judo*, 8th master degree in kick-boxing, 7 dan w *iaido* (*kyoshi*) and *kenjutsu*, 5 dan in *taekwondo*, and 2 dan in American *TAI-karate*. He is *dai-soke*, the world leader of the *Zendo Karate Tai-Te-Tao* [Sieber, Grzywacz 2015; Cynarski, Sieber 2016]. He was the founder and long-term leader of the DDBV e.V. [www.ddbv.de; cf. Lind 1999: 564; Cynarski 2009: 19-23]. He belongs to the

DJJR “Erich Rahn” e.V., the oldest German martial arts organization where he is in the inner circle of highest ranking masters. He is also a senior member of the Dan Committee Idokan Poland Association and an honorary member of the *Shibu Kobudo* IPA [www.idokan.pl]. Lothar Sieber was a student of such outstanding Grand Masters as: Peter K. Jahnke, the creator/founder of *Zendo Karate Tai-Te-Tao*; Hubert Baron Klinger von Klingerstorff 10 dan; Carl Wiedmeier 8 dan and Virgil D. Kimmey 10 dan, from the USA. *Meijin* Sieber holds the highest titles in *jujutsu* and *karate* and supervises the *Honbu Dojo* in Munich [www.sieber-kampfsport.de]. He has trained many experts, for example, Wojciech J. Cynarski who has been his *uchi-deshi* since January 1993.

Meijin Sieber is a retired officer of the Bundeswehr, a specialist in natural medicine and a martial arts teacher. He is the author or co-author of forty-seven scientific studies and numerous publications popularising martial arts and natural medicine. He has been awarded, among others, the Order of Knight of Fujiyama (*der Fudschijama Ritterorden*, from Idokan Europe Academy, Vienna), the Erich Rahn Commemorative Medal (*die Erich Rahn Gadenkmedaille*, from the German Jujutsu Circle E. Rahn Ass.) [Sieber, Cynarski 2008], the Medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts” (EJKC/EMAC), the Chivalrous Order “Homo Creator Nobilis” (European Nobility Club, and IPA), and the Golden Badge “For Merits for Sport” (Polish Ministry of Sport and Tourism, Warsaw). During the Second World Scientific Congress of Combat Sports and Martial Arts in Rzeszow he received the Medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts”, no. 2, and the title Professor-Expert.

3.3. Prof. Cynarski



Photo 4. *Kaiden Shihan* Wojciech J. Cynarski (10 dan)

[courtesy of W.J. Cynarski]

Prof. Dr *hab.* Wojciech J. Cynarski is a representative of physical culture sciences and a sociologist. He works at the

Faculty of Physical Education UR, where he is the Head of Department. He has prepared five PhD students. He is the creator of the ‘humanistic theory of martial arts’, the author of over six hundred scientific publications (including 12 books – monographs) devoted in large part to martial arts, and the editor or co-editor of forty volumes of non-serial publications [Kubala 2015]. Since March 1993 he has been the president and technical director of the Idokan Poland Association, IPA (www.idokan.pl). He is the leader of a complete system of martial arts Idokan Yoshin-ryu budo and Shibu Kobudo in Poland [Sieber, Grzywacz 2015], which is a representation of the ancient Japanese martial arts schools such as Katorishinto-ryu and Takeda-ryu. What is more, since 2010 he has been the President of IMACSSS (*cf.* www.imacsss.com) – the International Martial Arts and Combat Sports Scientific Society. He was the main organiser of (e.g.) the 2nd and 3rd World Scientific Congresses of Combat Sports and Martial Arts (Rzeszow, 2010 and 2014).

He has been practising martial arts and combat sports since 1977 and has studied under the direction of outstanding *budo* Grand Masters, such as Y. Sugino 10 dan, H. Nakamura 10 dan, L. Sieber 10 dan, A. Floquet 9 dan, and R.J. Maroteaux 9 dan. As a representative of *kenjutsu* (the first *yudansha Katorishinto-ryu* in Central and Eastern Europe) he fought two demonstration fights against the hussar sabre of Prof. Wojciech Zablocki (Warsaw 1992). He represented Poland at the IMAF World Cup taking 2nd and 3rd place in *karate* and *kobudo* (Tokyo 2000). He has an instructor licence and is an international referee in *jujutsu* and *karate* (A class), as well as holding A category international instructor licences in *iaido* and kick-boxing. In the *Idokan Yoshin-ryu* system he has obtained the highest licence of *menkyo kaiden*. He has also obtained the following master’s degrees:

- 10 dan *judo-do / ido*
- 9 dan *jujutsu (Idokan Yoshin-ryu), hanshi*
- 8 dan *Idokan karate / Zendo karate Tai-te-tao, and karatedo, hanshi*
- 7 dan *aikijutsu / aiki-jujutsu*
- 6 dan *kobudo and kenjutsu,*
- 6 dan *iaido, renshi*
- 3 dan *judo* [www.idokan.pl]
- 2 dan/master’s degree in kick-boxing and 2nd level instructor degree in *WingTsun kung-fu*.

For his contributions to martial arts he has received, among others, the Gold Medal of Honour of the *Idokan Europe International Confederation* (Vienna 1998), the Golden Badge “For Merits for Sport” awarded by the Polish Ministry of Sport and Tourism, and the Medal of Honour WTMF – *World Takeda-ryu Marotokan Federation* (Avignon 2010). Cynarski has also received the Medal “For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts”, no. 3, and the title Professor-Expert. He is also a distinguished scientist, and a winner of the Laurel of the University of Rzeszow [*Forum Akademickie* 2014: 5].

3.4. Prof. Strauss



Photo 5. Shihan Franz Strauss (10 dan)
[website of the IFMJ], <http://jujutsu-kobudo.eu>

Franz Strauss (1934–2014, photo 5) followed the way of *budo* for 63 years by practising martial arts and by taking an active part in numerous international training sessions. “He held the titles of *soke*, 10 dan in *jujutsu* and 10 dan in *judo-do*. He was the vice-president of the Austrian Ju-Jitsu Association and vice-chairman of the European Jujutsu & Kobudo Committee (EJKC). In 2011 Franz Strauss was awarded the medal for, and title of, martial arts Expert-Professor by the EJKC/EMAC” [Strauss, Slopecki 2013; *cf.* Cynarski 2009: 18].

He was a member of the EMAC, and one of the leaders of martial arts both in Austria and internationally [Sieber, Cynarski 2013].

3.5. Prof. Maroteaux



Photo 6. Dr Roland J. Maroteaux (9 dan)
[from the website of WTMF]

Dr Roland J. Maroteaux from France (photo 6) is the president of the World Takeda-ryu Marotokan Federation (WTMF), holder of the title *hanshi* in *aiki-jujutsu* and the first European *shihan* in traditional Japanese *jujutsu*. He has an HTD in *aikido*, *jujutsu*, *iaido* and *jodo*, and other technical degrees in *judo*, *karate* and *ido*. He is *dai-shihan*, which is similar to a general in the Takeda clan army in ancient Japan [Maroteaux 1993: 37], and is the creator of his own method of *aiki-jujutsu* (*Takeda-ryu Maroto-ha*).

He is a philosopher and writer. He holds a PhD in social psychology, and the title Doctor of Martial Arts, for his high level of academic attainment in the philosophy of *budo*. He is the author of many books about martial culture and history for example the treatise *The Mobile Stability of the Body (Traditional Martial Arts and Combat Sports)* [Maroteaux 2012].

As a master of martial arts he has trained many *sen-sei*. The European Chapter of the Club of Nobility of the Idokan Poland Association awarded Dr Maroteaux an honorary Knightly Order of "Homo Creator Nobilis", no. 4. He has also received the Medal "For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts", and the title Professor-Expert of Martial Arts.

3.6. Prof. Slopecki

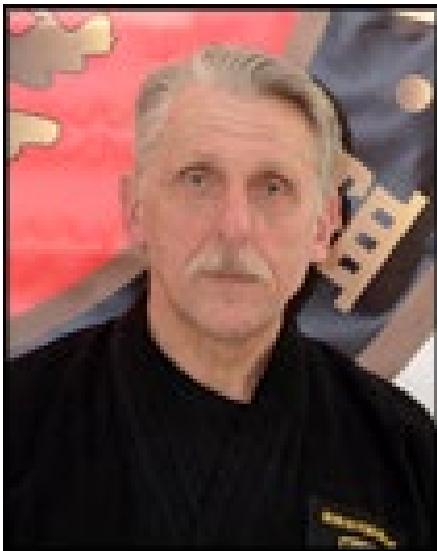


Photo 7. Dr Jan Slopecki (10 dan) [courtesy of J. Slopecki]

Jan Slopecki, *hanshi* (photo 7), is a GM in modern *jujutsu* and *goshinjutsu* (10 dan), is the holder of master degrees in *judo-do/ido*, *judo*, *ATK (Anti-Terror-Kampf)*, and *kobudo*. He has been practising *judo*, *jujutsu* and other martial arts since 1963. He is *soke* of the *Mukashi-to Kindai jujutsu* school. He is a leader of the EMAC and the Central District Association of Jujutsu in Warsaw. He is also vice-president of the IPA and a member of IMACSSS.

Dr Slopecki is a Master of Sports, a *judo* (3 dan) and *jujutsu* coach, and a sports manager and has a PhD in

the science of physical culture. He has studied and published papers on martial arts and martial arts tourism. He is the author of an interesting book [Slopecki 2012], of articles published for example in "Ido Movement for Culture. Journal of Martial Arts Anthropology", and is an active participant at many scientific conferences. He was awarded the Medal "For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts", and the title Professor-Expert, and the Knightly Order of "Homo Creator Nobilis" in 2014.

Prof. Dr *habil.* **Keith R. Kernspecht** (photo 1) has also been nominated for the title Professor-Expert, "For Extraordinary Achievements in Martial Arts". This will be officially awarded to him in May 2016 in Hockenheim.

4. Other important personalities: Professors at various institutions of martial arts

The Paisii Hilendarski State University in Plovdiv (Bulgaria) awarded the title Professor *honoris causa* to two more outstanding masters of martial arts, **William Newman** (10 master degree in *escrima*), and **Jon Bluming** (10 dan *karate*, 9 dan *judo*). Both of them are still active martial arts instructors.

Dr **Zbigniew Czajkowski**, an outstanding theoretician and fencing coach, was awarded the title Professor from the British Academy of Fencing. He is also a PhD in the science of physical culture and Doctor *honoris causa* at the Academy of Physical Education in Katowice.

Dr **James Lee-Barron** is Professor at the IMAS (the Institute of Martial Arts and Science, UK), the leader of this international Institute and a 9 dan *jujutsu*. It is worth mentioning that Cynarski and Kernspecht are also professors at this institution.

Dr **Sven R. de Hooge** 10 dan, *soke tekatanado* (*karate* plus *iaido*), is an academic and the creator of an interesting theory on rhythm, who works in Germany. He is an expert recognised by the IPA and the DDBV. A German organisation, the International Budo-Do Federation e.V. (IBDF) awards "scientific degrees" in *budo* (Prof. Dr of Budo). Among those who have received these are **Karl Wagner** (D) and **Vlado Schmidt** (U), 10 dan. Both of them are better known as practitioners than academics.

In the USA, the group of acclaimed personalities in the world of martial arts includes: Dr **Shin Lin**, a *kung-fu* teacher at the Universities of California and Irvine & John Hopkins University; Dr **Georg Ivan Petrotta** (8 dan *taekwondo*), doctor of philosophy, theology and "martial arts science"; and some others. However, only Dr **Thomas Green**, Dr **Jong-Hoon Yu**, Dr **John Johnson** (7 dan *hapkido* and 6 dan *taekwondo* ITF), and Dr **Howard Z. Zeng** cooperate with the IMACSSS.

The leader of the International Budo Academy (Israel) is Dr **Ronald Kluger**, 7 dan *karate*. The famous *hanshi* **Patric McCarthy** is probably a PhD in this school.

The community of people involved in martial arts in France, in China and in Korea work separately. One can hope or expect that the IMACSSS organisation will manage to succeed in uniting these groups.

Discussion

The mere possession of a degree, even the highest, does not prove mastery. For example in 2012 the Japanese Slavacist Prof. Kazuo Morohoshi received the degree of 10 dan in *Tsunami karate* (sic!) and the South African politician Nelson Mandela received an honorary 8 dan in *Kyokushin karate*. So there may sometimes be some political, commercial or other reason for an award [cf. Cynarski 2004; Slopecki 2013; Pawelec 2015].

Let us, however, turn to people who deserve to be called Professor - Expert in martial arts. Probably the first master-teacher, who became a university professor, was Dr **Jigoro Kano**, the founder of Kodokan. He was a trained educator and philologist, but also a *jujutsu* instructor [Rzany, Cynarski 2001; Shimizu 2008].

But let us focus on current experts, who have been honoured by being awarded the title Professor, as outstanding practitioner – masters of martial arts. Developing this kind of mastery requires many years of practice [Cynarski *et al.* 2015]. The organisation granting this specialised academic title in martial arts is the EJKC/EMAC.

Many martial arts experts have earned academic degrees, but few have achieved the title Professor (Full-Professor). On the other hand, some Professors (scholars) have only received low technical degrees, or merely honorary degrees. But only Prof. Cynarski is a Full-Professor, and as a long-term practitioner *kaiden shihan (menkyo kaiden)* with high degrees of 8, 9 and 10 dan, *hanshi* both in *jujutsu* and *karate*; he is both a scholar and a master of martial arts [Rzeszutko-Polak, Zaborniak 2015: 94-95, 126-127; Kubala 2015]. The same is true of Sterkowicz – in the field of *hapkido* and *jujutsu*. However, there are more outstanding expert-practitioners such as Kernspecht, McCarthy, and Sasaki.

Recognition of the problem from the perspective of Central Europe means that only a partial diagnosis of the problem was at the authors' disposal. The descriptions presented above and the attempts at clarification are in this situation just an initial approach – a contribution to the issues to be addressed.

Conclusions

Only two Europeans meet the criteria of having the highest master's degree in martial arts and at the same time the title Professor of Sports Science. A question may

thus be posed as to whether it is a good idea to grant the title Professor of Martial Arts on similar terms as is the case in the arts? Seven people from Europe have already been granted such a title. However, these are non-academic titles.

People mentioned in this study have co-created the institutional side of martial arts science and the history of martial arts. So one can hope that their professional standing and personal authority (both scientific and sports) will contribute to the strengthening of existing research structures within martial arts, at least under the aegis of the IMACSSS. It would undoubtedly be beneficial to both younger scientists, as well as to martial arts practitioners who not directly involved in martial arts science.

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Profesorowie sztuk walki. Posiadacze tego tytułu w nauce o sztukach walki

Słowa kluczowe: sztuki walki, sporty walki, stopień naukowy, ekspert

Abstrakt

Perspektywa teoretyczna. Szeroką perspektywę dla refleksji o mistrzach sztuk walk i jednocześnie profesorach, specjalistach w dziedzinie sztuk walki, daje Humanistyczna Teoria Sztuk Walki oraz antropologia sztuk walki. Podjęte kwestie mogą być interesujące także dla socjologii nauki.

Problem i cel. Rzecz dotyczy obszaru zwanego „martial arts science” lub „science of martial arts”, bycia ekspertem w tej dziedzinie, a zwłaszcza tytułarnym profesorem. Próbowano udzielić odpowiedzi na następujące pytania: Jak oceniać i ustalać ekspertów, i jak przyznawać najwyższe tytuły? Według jakich kryteriów? Kim są specjaliści - posiadacze tytułu profesora aktualnie funkcjonujący w nauce i w środowisku sztuk walki? Metoda. Zastosowano analizę treści wypowiedzi i szeroką analizę dyskursu. Źródłem wiedzy były: literatura przedmiotu, publikacje popularyzatorskie i obserwacja uczestnicząca autorów w środowiskach naukowym i sztuk walki. Przyjęto następujące kryteria oceny potencjalnego kandydata na eksperta sztuk walki: 1) specjalności/specjalizacje i dorobek (naukowy, popularyzatorski); 2) stopnie i tytuły naukowe; 3) stopnie i tytuły w sztukach walki; 4) pozycja naukowa (organizacja cyklicznych imprez, funkcje w międzynarodowych organizacjach, redagowanie specjalistycznego czasopisma); 5) wyróżnienia, odznaczenia. Analizę ograniczono do osób obecnie działających w obydwu środowiskach.

Wyniki. Opisano przypadki aktywnych dziś ekspertów, którzy zostali uhonorowani przez środowisko tytułem profesora, jako wybitni praktycy – mistrzowie sztuk walki. Są w tym gronie nieliczne osoby posiadające akademicki tytuł profesora. Większość akademickich badaczy sztuk walki działa w zakresie nauk o kulturze fizycznej / nauk o sporcie.

Wnioski. Jedynie dwie osoby z Europy spełniły kryterium posiadania najwyższych stopni mistrzowskich i jednocześnie tytułu profesorskiego z nauk o sporcie. Siedmiu osobom z Europy został przyznany tytuł profesora sztuk walki na zasadach podobnych jak w sztuce. Wymienione w studium osoby współtworzą instytucjonalną stronę nauki o sztukach walki i historii sztuk walki.