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Abstract

The presented thesis entitled “Biopolitical Thought in Poland in 1989-2015” is an analysis of biopolitical ideals that underlie any kind of reasoning regarding the regulation of biopolitical issues. This reasoning may include a social behavior, arguments in biopolitical debates as well as a process of making political decisions. In order to conduct such an analysis a set of prerequisites had to be met. First of all, the whole thesis was based on the assumption that biopolitics entails the political institutionalization of moral values. That assumption alone caused the selection of the main theoretical category of the thesis which is a political thought.

The aim of the thesis was to solve the main research problem – in which place of the *continuum* bioliberalism – bioconservatism was a biopolitical thought in Poland in 1989-2015 and how did it move between these types in the given period? In order to do that, few things had to be done. First, biopolitics, bioliberalism and bioconservatism had to be defined and explained. Then, there was a necessity to relate these terms to properties typical to the category of political thought. Having that done it was possible to elaborate the sub-types of two main ideal-types of biopolitical thought. A research tool (a categorization key) was built based on the recreated categorial grid. Eventually, the analysis of primary sources was conducted. The sources used in the study were drafts of bills on biopolitical issues. The analysis consisted of seven major steps which included the verification of six secondary hypotheses and one main hypothesis. Methods used for that purpose were content analysis (used as a primary method) and the category of ideal-types (used as an assisting concept).

In result of the conducted analysis the main hypothesis – a biopolitical thought in Poland in 1989-2015, after considering its movements between the ideal-types of bioliberalism and bioconservatism, was closer to the ideal-type of bioconservatism – was verified positively. Reaching the point that allowed for the verification entailed also the drawing of few conclusions important for the state of current biopolitical affairs in Poland. The most important one is that nearly the whole biopolitical reasoning in Poland is based on the categories typical to the abortion discourse. That fact alone makes Polish biopolitics limited and ineffective in regard to biopolitical issues other than abortion and poses a requirement of further studies on biopolitical thought so it could be developed adequately to the needs of these other issues (e.g. human enhancement, euthanasia) and practically applied.

Keywords

biopolitics, biopolitical thought, bioliberalism, bioconservatism, bioethics