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## FORENSIC TECHNIQUES AT THE POLICE ACADEMY IN SZCZYTNO AFTER 1990

The Police Academy in Szczytno is an educational institution that mainly offers training courses for future commissioned police officers, first introduced in 1954<sup>2</sup>. Forensic techniques have always been an important component of various trainings offered to police officers dealing with crime investigations. In police education, being one of the forensic science disciplines, forensic techniques have always been considered a vocational subject offered to all police officers, regardless of which department the academy's graduates will work for in the future. This subject has always been offered at higher education studies and various training courses, including those of lower level.

In 2020, it has been thirty years since the Police Academy in Szczytno was established. The anniversary is a good time for some thoughts and reflections to be expressed, including those referring to the area of teaching vocational subjects. Thirty years is a long period of time, especially in view of the latest developments in technology, which forensic techniques take advantage of so much. The last three decades are also a time of transformations in social life, which undoubtedly affects the evolution of crime, with forensic techniques remaining an even more sensitive barometer of all of these changes.

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<sup>2</sup> Babiński A, et al. (Ed.), 60 lat szkolnictwa policyjnego w Szczytnie (1954–2014). Szczytno, 2014.

The forensic techniques offered at the Police Academy in Szczytno, with their ups and downs over those 30 years, belong to a history which today is seen through the prism of people, types of courses, number of teaching hours, conferences, symposia, publications, and research projects. The article has been prepared based on an analysis of the available printed and online publications, and interviews with former and current employees of the Police Academy in Szczytno<sup>3</sup>. The research question to be answered is whether the process of teaching forensic techniques has changed over the last 30 years, and if it has, in which elements it is seen most.

Education constitutes a set of various interdependent elements, including students, teachers and their knowledge, which are affected by many factors such as educational management, infrastructure, methods and many others, which are sometimes considered less significant. It is difficult to objectively determine the effectiveness of education, however, it seems that its positive outcomes can be supported by both updating and increasing the knowledge of teachers as well as by stabilising at least some elements of the teaching processes. Continuous changes, especially organisational ones, distract police students, and make them focus not on the knowledge and how it can be deepened and shared, but on serious concerns about their living and working conditions.

After 1990, forensic techniques classes were conducted at the Police Academy by the academics of the Forensic Techniques Department, which was an organisational unit of the former Institute of Forensic Science. Until 1992, the head of the department was dr. Stanisław Czerw<sup>4</sup>, who was also an acting director of the institute. The names of the organisational units reflected exactly what they were responsible for – the whole Institute of Forensic Science for teaching forensics, and its departments for teaching specific forensic science disciplines. Therefore, the Forensic Techniques Department, as its name suggested, was responsible for teaching forensic techniques.

In October 1997<sup>5</sup>, the names of the organisational units of the Police Academy in Szczytno were changed and, consequently, forensic

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<sup>3</sup> From 20 to 30 August 2020, the interviews were delivered by: Henryk Filipiak, Anita Szajowska-Zgoła, Marcin Kobylas, Jolanta Zimoń (Police Academy graduate), Andrzej Rogalski, Magdalena Zubańska, Marek Betlejewski, and Paweł Rybicki.

<sup>4</sup> The article does not include the police ranks of the teachers in question. The text covers a large period of time and is primarily based on the information from the interviews with former and current forensic techniques teachers, and their ranks were not remembered well by the author. Moreover, during such a long period of time, police officers were promoted to higher ranks or positions as part of their professional career development.

<sup>5</sup> From October 1997 until the end of September 2003, the Institute of Criminal Service included a Forensic Science Department, Criminology and Social Pathology Department, Criminal Investigation Tactics Department, Economic

techniques became incorporated into the Forensic Science Department of the Institute of Criminal Service. The department was headed by Włodzimierz Kędzierski, who occupied the position from 1993 until March 2001. Then, until September 2003, the department was headed by dr. Mirosław Lisiecki. That year, the academy was reorganised again and the institutes were replaced by new departments with no managerial positions. In October 2003, the team for forensic techniques was incorporated into Criminal Service Department, headed by dr. Janusz Bryk. The team of forensic techniques trainers had their own leader, first Marek Betlejewski, then dr. Renata Włodarczyk<sup>6</sup>, next Sławomir Zubański, and finally Andrzej Rogalski from 2009 until 2019.

In 2011, the Forensic Science Department was reactivated within the structure of the Institute for Research on Organised Crime and Terrorism, and was headed by Magdalena Zubańska. The Forensic Science Department consisted of five teams for: forensic techniques, covert surveillance tactics, combatting crime, combatting organised crime, and investigative techniques. The following year, Magdalena Zubańska defended her doctoral dissertation and was awarded the degree of doctor, and she was appointed the director of the Institute of Criminal Service<sup>7</sup>. In 2017, dr. Agnieszka Choromańska was appointed the head of the Forensic Science Department.

Given the present structure of the Police Academy in Szczytno, it is difficult to clearly specify which level of the structure the team for teaching forensic techniques belongs to<sup>8</sup>. Teaching is the main issue to be considered here, because undoubtedly, for such a higher education institution, teaching still remains its primary and most important objective, apart from research works, which cannot be downgraded whatsoever.

After 1990, the three forensic techniques teachers were awarded their doctoral degrees: Magdalena Zubańska in 2012<sup>9</sup>, Sławomir Zubański in 2012, and earlier, in 1995, Grażyna Kędzierska.

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Crime Tactics Department, and Organised Crime Tactics Department. Zajder M, Instytut Służby Kryminalnej WSPol. *Policyjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy*, 1998, No. 3–4, p. 12. On 19 July 1997, fundamental legal acts on the functioning of the Police Academy in Szczytno were introduced: on granting the statute of the Police Academy in Szczytno, and on the study rules and regulations at the Police Academy in Szczytno. See: Róg M, Zmiany legislacyjne aktów prawnych umożliwiających działalność WSPol., *Policyjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy* 1998, No. 3–4, p. 9.

<sup>6</sup> In 2017, dr. Renata Włodarczyk was awarded the degree of habilitated doctor in legal science.

<sup>7</sup> The new name of the Institute for Research on Crime and Terrorism.

<sup>8</sup> Biuletyn Informacyjny Wyższej Szkoły Policji w Szczytnie, Struktura organizacyjna. Electronic source: <http://bip.szczytno.wsp.policja.gov.pl/WSP/struktura-organizacyjn/3850,Struktura-WSPol.html>, accessed: 8 September, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> In 2019, dr. Magdalena Zubańska was awarded the degree of habilitated doctor in legal science.

For many years, as part of police education, forensic techniques included classes conducted by teachers who introduced some elements of group work. In 1992, considering various local units' opinions and comments, new course specialisations were offered: for CID, Fraud Squad, Road Traffic, and Uniformed Branch officers. They were first introduced into the curriculum of the full-time ten-month postgraduate studies and, then, into the curriculum of the first cycle studies. The forensic techniques programme had to consider different specialisations, which resulted in the need to increase or decrease the number of teaching hours as well as to prioritise or neglect some forensic issues. For instance, a postgraduate specialist course for CID officers included 90 teaching hours of forensic techniques, whereas that for traffic officers included 30 hours less, at the same time being more focused on 'Crime scene investigation', with particular emphasis on investigations of road traffic accident scenes.

In the academic year of 1992/1993, the Forensic Techniques Department decided to introduce a radical change to the system of teaching forensic techniques involving so-called group teaching<sup>10</sup>. An integral part of forensic techniques was forensic photography, offered within 30 teaching hours. At that time, forensic techniques were basically offered in the number of 159 teaching hours within three semesters in full-time first cycle studies. The second semester of the first year included only lectures and seminars, which constituted a kind of theoretical introduction to the classes conducted in the following two semesters of the second year. Doing practical exercises during classes was a prevailing form of teaching in full-time postgraduate studies. In the classrooms, students performed practical tasks assigned by their teachers in groups of two, which was a very activating form of organising classes, and encouraged the police students to study on their own and to be independent when in action. During such classes, the teacher acted as an advisor, controller and, occasionally, as an observer and, finally, assessed the progress his or her students made. This method of teaching generally contributes to intellectual and manual skills being better acquired as well as to group work skills being developed. At the same time, it complies with the principle of linking theory with practice to a large extent.

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<sup>10</sup> Detailed information about teaching forensic techniques can be found in: Kędzierska G, *Nauczanie techniki kryminalistycznej w Wyższej Szkole Policji. Policyjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy*, 1996, No. 3–4, p. 91.

Photograph 1

Henryk Filipiak when discussing a task to be performed by police students



Source: Author's archive

Photograph 2

Włodzimierz Kędziński when discussing the results of an assignment on *Physicochemical evidence examination*



Source: Author's archive



Training course for future Uniformed Branch commissioned officers	1997	892	20	2.24%
Part-time training course for future commissioned officers – police psychologists	1997	275	10	3.63%
Training course for future commissioned officers – police lawyers	1997	568	60	10.56%
Training course for forensic experts	1997	665	218 + 52 FK***	40.60%
Part-time higher vocational studies for officers of Government Protection Bureau, Border Guard, State Protection Office	September 1998	no information	20	–
Higher vocational studies	January 1999	no information	50	–
Training course for future Uniformed Branch commissioned officers	January 1999	no information	20	–
Higher vocational studies for CID officers	2002**	4441	110	2.48%
Higher vocational studies for Uniformed Branch officers	2000	4320	46	1.06%
Basic police training, profile: prevention	August 2004	1134	37	3.26%
Basic police training, profile: crime investigation	August 2004	1056	61	5.77%
Basic police training, profile: combatting economic crime	August 2004	1194	61	5.10%
Full-time first cycle course in internal security	2019/2020 recruitment	2286	65 TK**** 25 KS*****	2.84 %
Full-time first cycle course in police studies	2020/2021 recruitment	4839	100	2.06 %

\* Zarządzenie Nr 21 komendanta głównego Policji z dnia 19 lipca 1997 r. w sprawie ramowego programu studiów w Wyższej Szkole Policji w Szczytnie

\*\* Zarządzenie Nr 5 komendanta głównego Policji z dnia 24 kwietnia 2002 r. w sprawie zmiany ramowego programu studiów w Wyższej Szkole Policji w Szczytnie (Dz. Urz. KGP z 2002, Nr 7, poz. 36)

\*\*\* FK — forensic photography

\*\*\*\* TK — forensic techniques

\*\*\*\*\* KS — forensic cynology. As a rule, the subject was included in forensic techniques, but never in the number of 25 teaching hours

Source: Author's archive, and Biuletyn Informacyjny Wyższej Szkoły Policji w Szczytnie, Programy studiów, *Electronic source*: <<http://bip.szczytno.wsp.policja.gov.pl/WSP/programy-studiow/30318,Studia-I-i-II-stopnia.html>>, accessed: 30 August 2020

Table 2

**Trainings on forensic techniques offered to police officers in 2008**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of training</b>	<b>Number of teaching hours</b>
1.	Basic police training	26
2.	Training course for future commissioned officers	22
3.	Specialist training for scene of crime officers	540
4.	Specialist training on forensic techniques – advanced level	31
5.	Specialist training for candidates for forensic experts	278
6.	Specialist training on road traffic	32
7.	Specialist training for police officers in charge of crime scene investigation teams	43
8.	Specialist training on scent identification for dog handlers	181
9.	Specialist training on after-explosion investigation	59
10.	Specialist training to develop skills needed for conducting after-explosion investigations	29
11.	Specialist training for police officers conducting initial investigations	71
12.	Specialist training for CID officers performing covert surveillance activities	58

*Source:* Marek Betlejewski's archive

Within 30 years, forensic techniques were conducted by numerous teachers, usually the team consisted of 10–12 persons. Some of them retired, some joined other services, and others were promoted in the hierarchy of command within the academy or other police units. They were replaced by new police officers, for some of whom it was their first job, and others were sufficiently experienced as they had worked for different police departments before. And among the trainers there were, or still are, as follows in alphabetical order: Banaś Ryszard, Betlejewski Marek, Bielski Krzysztof, Błaszczuk Arkadiusz, Błędowski Marek, Budzowski Czesław, Czaplicka Dorota, Czerw Stanisław, Dąbrowski Zbigniew, Domański Wiesław, Drożdż Ryszard, Filipiak Henryk, Kędzierska Grażyna, Kędzierski Włodzimierz, Kobylas Marcin, Rafał Kotapka, Łachacz Marek, Łuczyński Bernard, Makulec Wojciech, Maliński Rajmund, Napieralska-Ozga Elżbieta, Nawotka Radosław, Rogalski Andrzej, Rumińska Izabela, Rybicki Paweł<sup>11</sup>, Szajowska-Zgoła Anita, Włodarczyk Renata, Zubańska Magdalena, Zubański Sławomir, and Zygmuntowicz Mirosław. The teachers were supported by technical assistants such as: Kowalczyk Alfred, Muraszko Tomasz, and Rzepkowski Zbigniew.

<sup>11</sup> Paweł Rybicki, by profession a medical doctor, apart from forensic medicine, conducted classes on biological evidence, as part of forensic techniques.

Photograph 3

**Dr. Marek Zajder, dr. Mirosław Lisiecki (from left to right) and the teachers of forensic techniques in 2003–2004**



*Source: Anita Szajowska-Zgoła's archive*

Photograph 4

**Marek Betlejewski while entering final exam results in students' books**



*Source: Marek Betlejewski's archive*

Many of the department trainers were granted the licence to carry out examinations and to act as expert witnesses in court in different forensic science disciplines, and those were as follows: R. Banaś — fingerprint identification, M. Betlejewski — toolmark examination, K. Bielski — document examination, W. Kędzierski — physicochemical examination, R. Maliński — photograph examination, W. Makulec — fingerprint identification, E. Napieralska-Ozga — document examination, M. Zubańska — physicochemical examination and polygraph examination, S. Zubański

— fingerprint identification and AFIS, A. Rogalski – audiovisual techniques and photograph examination, I. Rumińska — document examination, and A. Szajowska-Zgoła — document examination.

At the time that the Police Academy in Szczytno offered its modular system of trainings, both Border Guard and Government Protection Bureau officers could attend the courses. Additionally, border guards attended courses on forensic expertise. The academy's forensic techniques trainers had regular contact with the Border Guard Training Centre in Kętrzyn, where they conducted classes in document examination and, moreover, attended conferences organised by the centre, for example, Anita Szajowska-Zgoła participated in a crime prevention seminar.

Forensic techniques were also offered at a few unusual trainings. Those involved classes conducted as part of the Erasmus programme with 30 teaching hours in English, and courses for Iranian police officers. Training courses for judges and prosecutors enjoyed enormous popularity at that time. Courses were also organised for particular police departments, e.g. for CID officers.

Some forensic techniques-related issues were covered by other universities' academics. Regular classes were conducted by prof. hab. dr. Mariusz Kulicki, the head of the Forensic Science Department at Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń, expert witness in polygraph examination, forensic ballistics and document examination. Mariusz Kulicki is the author of the book entitled *Kryminalistyczne problemy użycia broni palnej* (Forensic aspects of the use of firearms), coursebooks and numerous articles about forensics-related issues. At the Police Academy in Szczytno, he delivered lectures on forensic ballistics, forensic crime reconstruction and forensic polygraphy. Moreover, he managed research projects. The project which Włodzimierz Kędzierski<sup>12</sup> was also involved in resulted in publications on various aspects of the use of ammunition and firearms. Another important project, entitled *Przestępczość porachunkowa jako przejaw przestępczości zorganizowanej* (Gangster revenge crime as a symptom of organised crime)<sup>13</sup>, was carried out by M. Kulicki at the Police Academy in Szczytno in 1998–2000. What is more, he supervised many bachelor's degree theses of the academy's graduates.

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<sup>12</sup> Two articles: *Kryminalistyczne badania nowych typów amunicji do broni krótkiej*, Materiały Sympozjum Kryminalistycznego w Centrum Szkolenia Policji w Legionowie, *'Biuletyn Informacyjny Centralnego Laboratorium Kryminalistycznego Komendy Głównej Policji'* 1996, No. 100 (special issue); *Kryminalistyczne, wybrane aspekty użycia nowoczesnych karabinków pneumatycznych*, *'Problemy Kryminalistyki'* 1997, No. 218.

<sup>13</sup> Collective publication entitled *Przestępczość porachunkowa jako przejaw przestępczości zorganizowanej* (Eds. Kulicki M, Pływaczewski W, Zajder M, Szczytno 2000) included two articles based on research carried out by Grażyna Kędzierska and Anita Szajowska-Zgoła — *Poziom wykonawstwa czynności techniczno-kryminalistycznych* and *Wykorzystanie śladów kryminalistycznych w sprawach o przestępstwa porachunkowe*.

Another person who supported the process of teaching forensic techniques was prof. hab. dr. Mirosław Owoc, the head of the Forensic Science Department at Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznań. A chemist and lawyer, an expert witness in document examination and fingerprint identification, author of at least several dozen of publications on forensic science, and coursebooks and books as well. He delivered lectures on forensic identification and physicochemical examination. Mirosław Owoc conducted bachelor's and doctoral seminars.

At the Police Academy in Szczytno, lectures were also delivered by hab. dr. Jerzy Konieczny, a chemistry graduate from the University of Silesia, and a law graduate from Jagiellonian University in Cracow. He was an expert witness in document examination and author of numerous publications about the history of the Polish public order protection services and methodological aspects of forensic examinations<sup>14</sup>.

Photograph 5

**Prof. Mariusz Kulicki and Izabela Rumińska when conducting classes for forensic experts and teaching how to play the role of expert witness in court**



Source: Anita Szajowska-Zgoła's archive

The Police Academy in Szczytno was regularly visited by prof. hab. dr. Jerzy Kasprzak from the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warmia and Masuria in Olsztyn, who first introduced the issues of lip and ear prints into Polish forensics. Of particular interest were classes conducted by J. Kasprzak, as part of the course for police forensic experts, which involved playing the role of an expert witness in court. The

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<sup>14</sup> Konieczny J, Justycjariusze, hutmani, policjanci. Z dziejów służb ochrony porządku w Polsce. Katowice, 1988.; Konieczny J, Metodologiczna charakterystyka kryminalistyki. Katowice, 1984.

classes where police students played the roles of different courtroom participants enjoyed great popularity and interest.

Lectures for forensic experts were also delivered by other high-profile persons. Court aspects of forensic techniques were presented by judge Barbara Piwnik, and the most interesting and difficult cases of forensic examinations were presented by some Central Forensic Laboratory experts.

Forensic techniques teachers always had regular contact with the Central Forensic Laboratory in Warsaw and other forensic laboratories from provincial police headquarters. Forensic laboratories' experts visited the Police Academy in Szczytno to give lectures and broaden students' knowledge, and in turn the academy's trainers had their work placements in different laboratories. Depending on their area of professional interest, the teachers were invited to attend relevant seminars organised by central or local forensic units<sup>15</sup>.

Photograph 6

Attendees of a seminar for police toolmark experts (Szczytno 2000)



Source: Marek Betlejewski's archive

Within the entire 30-year-long history of the Police Academy in Szczytno, its police students attended many national and international symposia, conferences and congresses organised by other universities, for example: regular meetings as part of the symposium on handwriting examination initiated by the University of Wrocław, and symposia on forensic evidence organised by Prof. dr. Jan Sehn's Institute of Judicial Expert Opinions in Cracow. The Police Academy in Szczytno also organised various scientific events, e.g. the seminar on *Skuteczność procesu*

<sup>15</sup> The Police Academy in Szczytno organised, among others, a seminar for police toolmark experts in 2000, and the 7th national symposium for forensic experts in the examination of road traffic accidents in 2002.

*wykrywczo-dowodowego a obowiązki i uprawnienia organów ścigania* (Effectiveness of evidentiary procedures and the powers of law enforcement agencies) (2002), the symposium — *Badania wariograficzne w postępowaniu karnym* (Polygraph examination in criminal procedures) (2004) and a seminar for police and judicial representatives — *Wybrane zagadnienia taktyki i techniki kryminalistycznej* (Selected issues of forensic tactics and techniques) (2004).

Photograph 7

Attendees of the 2nd National Scientific Symposium on ‘Polygraph examination in criminal procedures’, Szczytno, 22–24 September 2004



Source: Author's archive

Forensic techniques teachers supervised students' diploma dissertations and final works prepared by candidates for forensic experts. The diploma dissertations varied in their contents and, in fact, included all possible aspects of forensic knowledge. There were no limits for police students to decide on the subject matter, whereas candidates for forensic experts were obliged to choose the area of their future specialisation. The future experts' works were based on fragmentary examinations carried out in their local forensic laboratories when undergoing regular student in-service trainings. Among the issues examined by students include the following: identification of fingerprints left on different surfaces with the use of numerous forensic pieces of equipment; assessment of the distance at which a shot was fired based on the victim's injuries; infrared spectrometry and computer image analysis system for fibre testing; retrieval, storage and identification of scent evidence; forensic crime scene investigation and how it contributes to investigating various crimes; forgery of excise duty stamps; forensic examination of alcohol products; examination of intoxicants<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> Author's archive and interview information.

Photograph 8

**Jolanta Zimoń with a colleague, author of the diploma thesis on *Expert opinion on addictive substances*, after the ceremony of being promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant (1995)**



Source: Author's archive

In 1996, the Forensic Techniques Department suggested that one issue of 'Policyjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy' ('Police Training Bulletin') should include publications on forensic techniques. As it goes without saying that the knowledge of forensic techniques is indispensable for every police officer, the intention by the bulletin's authors was to present forensic techniques in as many aspects as possible. Consequently, the police bulletin included articles written by the department's teachers, some of whose co-authors were police students, and those were as follows:

- Kędzierska G, Walczak T, *Ujawnianie śladów dermatoskopijnych złotym proszkiem daktyloskopijnym na różnych podłożach* (Lifting skin prints with gold powder on different surfaces), pp. 2–11;
- Maliński R, Kühnel J, *Zastosowanie wideoprintera do utrwalania cech charakterystycznych śladów* (Use of videoprinter to preserve the characteristics of evidence), pp. 17–26;
- Kędzierski W, *Procesowe zabezpieczanie śladów kryminalistycznych (w pracach słuchaczy wykonujących ćwiczenia z tematów „Fizykochemiczne badania śladów” i „Mikroślady”)* (Securing forensic evidence for purposes of court proceedings, included in students' works on 'Physicochemical evidence examination' and 'Microtraces'), pp. 55–58;
- Betlejewski M, *Szkolenie policjantów kursu podstawowego w Zakładzie Techniki Kryminalistycznej* (Basic police training offered to police officers by the Forensic Techniques Department), pp. 97–102;
- Łuczynski B, *Ogólna charakterystyka przebiegu i wyników zajęć laboratoryjnych dotyczących śladów biologicznych* (Brief description of laboratory classes on biological evidence), pp. 115–117;
- Łachacz M, *Ślady zapachowe* (Scent evidence), pp. 119–123;
- Szajowska-Zgoła A, *Kryminalistyczne badania dokumentów — uwagi na temat ćwiczeń* (Forensic document examination – comments on selected exercises), pp. 124–127.

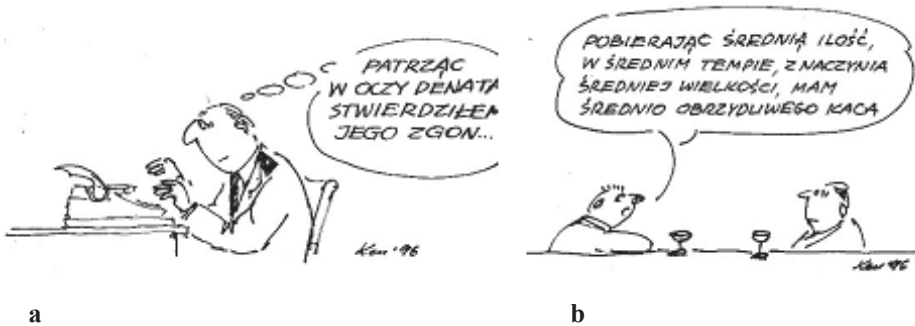
Extremely appealing to the bulletin's readers were the portraits of the department teachers and numerous cartoon jokes, whose author was Krzysztof Bielski, about the content of the presented articles.

Figure 2  
Portraits of the Forensic techniques Department teachers showing forensic issues they were involved in, made by Krzysztof Bielski



Source: 'Policyjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy' 1996, No. 3-4/96

Figure 3  
 Cartoon jokes. (a) One of a series of 'Crime scene investigation report records', (b) the other from an article on securing the evidence for the examination of alcohol products



Source: Policynjny Biuletyn Szkoleniowy, 1996, No. 3–4

For many years, the police bulletin regularly included a list of terms from the *Dictionary of Forensics* to promote forensic techniques-related issues. Of considerable interest among police students were two other publications in the form of academic books: Kędzierska G, *Technika kryminalistyczna w pytaniach i odpowiedziach* (Forensic techniques. Questions and answers) (Szczytno 1999) and *Technika kryminalistyczna. Zarys wykładu dla słuchaczy specjalizacji 'Logistyka'* (Forensic techniques. Selected lectures for police students specialised in police administration) (Szczytno 1997). The first book included possible exam questions with correct answers, the latter included issues to be covered at a brief forensic techniques training course.

In 1995, the academy's forensic techniques teachers published a book entitled *Technika Kryminalistyczna* (Forensic Techniques)<sup>17</sup>. The book entered the market in the form of three volumes. Volume 1 included: basic forensic techniques-related issues; forensic science and other disciplines; description of forensic evidence; forensic identification-related issues; forensic photography; forensic traps; basic forensic investigation activities including forensic crime scene investigation, forensic crime scene reconstruction, forensic expert opinions, and developmental trends in forensic science. Volume 2 included personal identification-related issues, *i.e.*: identification of a person based on physical appearance, fingerprints, lip prints, biological evidence, handwriting, speech evidence, unidentified dead bodies. Volume 3 included item identification-related issues, *i.e.*: forensic procedures for securing footprints, animal and vehicle movement traces, glove marks, tool marks, use of firearms and incapacitating-weapons evidence, fire and explosion scene investigation, microtraces and traces undergoing physicochemical tests.

<sup>17</sup> Kędzierski W (Ed.), *Technika kryminalistyczna*, Vol. 1, Vol. 2, Vol. 3. Szczytno, 1995 (authors: Elżbieta Napieralska-Ozga, Grażyna Kędzierska, Stanisław Czerw, Rajmund Maliński, Ryszard Banaś, Henryk Filipiak, Marek Betlejwski, and Włodzimierz Kędzierski).

The book included many drawings and, what is more, its contents reflected the methods of teaching forensic techniques at that time. It still confirms that forensic knowledge and skills are fundamental components of the job of contemporary police officers<sup>18</sup>.

The book supported the process of teaching forensic techniques for many years. For the Police Academy's students, it was a very popular course-book. The book was called 'three colours' because the cover of each volume had its prevailing colour: Volume 1 – orange, Volume 2 – blue, Volume 3 – yellow. The book was republished and updated a few times<sup>19</sup>, taking into account the changes in forensic techniques, however none of the sequels ever achieved such great popularity as the 'three colours' did before.

Figure 4

Covers of the three volumes of *Technika kryminalistyczna* edited by W. Kędzierski in 1995



Source: Author's library

The academy's teachers of forensic techniques attended their first international training course in March 1993 at Harperley Hall Police Training Centre in Great Britain<sup>20</sup>. Apart from other police colleges' representatives, the training course was attended by: Anita Szajowska-Zgoła, Mariola Bil, Grażyna Kędzierska, Marek Betlejewski and Włodzimierz Kędzierski. Marek Betlejewski and Włodzimierz Kędzierski also visited Essen, and Anita Szajowska-Zgoła and Marcin Kobylas visited Saxony. After 2000, Anita Szajowska-Zgoła was a member of a European Union working group and often visited Brussels, and Marcin Kobylas attended a training course in Bautzen.

<sup>18</sup> See: Przedmowa, [in:] Kędzierski W (Ed.), *Technika...*, Vol. 1, *op. cit.*, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> Kędzierski W (Ed.), *Technika kryminalistyczna*, Vol. 1. Szczytno, 2007; Kędzierska G (Ed.), *Technika kryminalistyczna*, Vol. 2. Szczytno, 2006 and Kędzierska G, Kędzierski W (Eds), *Kryminalistyka. Wybrane zagadnienia techniki*. Szczytno, 2011.

<sup>20</sup> Kędzierska G (Ed.), *85 lat polskiej policji*. Szczytno, 2004, p. 201.

**Training course participants, Great Britain, 1993**

Source: Anita Szajowska-Zgoła's archive

**Mariola Bil and Anita Szajowska-Zgoła in Great Britain, 1993**

Source: Anita Szajowska-Zgoła's archive

Within the last five years, the Forensic Science Department has carried out a few research projects<sup>21</sup> which are important to the development of forensic techniques. Among others, they are as follows:

- *Specjalistyczny zestaw folii niskoadhezyjnych do zabezpieczania śladów biologicznych* (Specialist kit with low-adhesive tapes for securing biological evidence), project manager: dr. Magdalena Zubańska;
- *Podciśnieniowa komora do ujawniania śladów linii papilarnych związkami organicznymi w fazie gazowej* (Vacuum chamber for lifting fingerprints using gaseous organic solutions), project manager: dr. Sławomir Zubański;
- *Identyfikacja genetyczna osób na podstawie szczątków i śladów biologicznych poddanych wysokim temperaturom w miejscach zamachów terrorystycznych, katastrof, działalności przestępczej* (Genetic identification of persons based on human remains and biological evidence subject to high temperatures at the scenes of crimes, disasters and terrorist attacks), project manager: dr. Renata Włodarczyk.

Since the 1990s, the forensic techniques team has cooperated with the Lithuanian Police Academy (*Lietuvos policijos akademija*), which, in 2004, was renamed the Mykolo Romerio University (*Mykolo Romerio universitetas*). The forensic techniques trainers from the Police Academy in Szczytno attended international forensic conferences organised by dr. Henryk Malewski<sup>22</sup> in Vilnius, who conducted classes for police students at the Police Academy in Szczytno in the academic year of 2008/2009.

Photograph 11

**Prof. dr. Henryk Malewski, initiator and organiser of a series of scientific conferences held in Vilnius on ‘Forensic science and expert opinions: education, studies and practice’**



Source: Author's archive

<sup>21</sup> List of projects by the Police Academy in Szczytno financed by national contributions. *Electronic source:* <http://www.wspol.edu.pl/ibir/index.php/projekty-wspol-2/18-projekty-ze-srodkow-krajowych>, accessed: 1 September 2020.

<sup>22</sup> Henryk Malewski, lawyer, forensic scientist. Graduated from the University of Vilnius, worked in a forensic laboratory at the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Lithuania. In 1997–2008, he was the head of the Forensic Science Department of the Faculty of Law at the Mykolo Romerio University, then he worked at the Šiauliai University (*Šiaulių universitetas*). In 1997, he defended his doctoral dissertation on *Crime scene investigation – a new model of a forensic concept*. In 2001, the Senate of the Lithuanian Law University awarded him the title of professor. *Electronic source:* <http://www.snpl.lt/~hema/>, accessed: 8 September 2020.

Students have been actively involved in a scientific movement as part of the Student Forensic Science Club at the Police Academy in Szczytno. In 2014, the club was coordinated by Arkadiusz Błaszczuk, Sławomir Zubański, and Marek Błędowski<sup>23</sup>. Since 2013, the club has been successfully organising national forensics workshops for students and has been maintaining constant cooperation with the University of Warmia and Masuria, Nicolaus Copernicus University, and Jagiellonian University.

Photograph 12

**Participants of the 4th National Student Forensic Workshops — 23–25.05.2016**



Source: <<http://sknk.e-wspol.edu.pl/sknk/index.php/galeria/category/63-iv-ogolnopolskie-studenckie-warsztaty-kryminalistyczne-2016-r>>, accessed: 1 September 2020

For many years, the forensic science classrooms of the Police Academy in Szczytno were situated on the first floor in block 2. The entrance to the corridor was separated from the staircase by iron bars, owing to which everyone knew that it was the forensics area where teachers worked ‘behind bars’. On the first floor, there were five classrooms marked with the following symbols: K 1 – fingerprint identification, K 2 – toolmarks and ballistics examination, K 3 – crime scene investigation, K 4 – document and voice examination, K 5 – biological evidence, shoe and tyre prints. Photography classes were conducted on the third floor, under the roof where it was really hot in the summertime and quite cold in the winter. Over the years, however, some changes took place. Newly designed and equipped classrooms were opened in block 9, for instance, and a photography room, and genetics laboratory and amphetamine laboratory were located in another building. The forensic techniques classrooms have

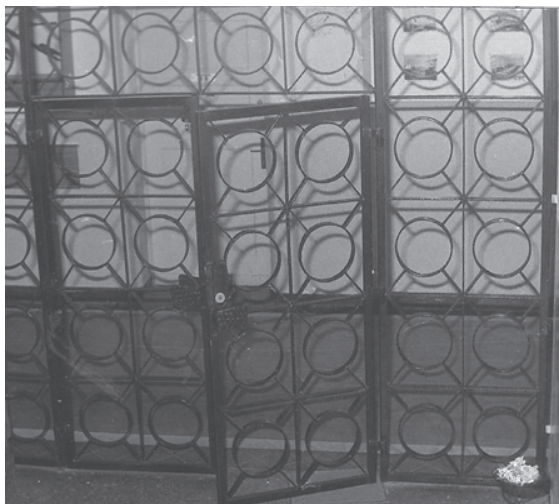
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<sup>23</sup> Declaration of establishing the Forensic Science Club of 1 October 2014. *Electronic source:* <http://sknk.e-wspol.edu.pl/sknk/index.php/2014-10-20-11-02-54/deklaracja>, accessed: 30 August 2020.

always been an attraction to the numerous delegations visiting the Police Academy in Szczytno.

Photograph 13

**Bars separating the corridor with forensic science classrooms from the stairway**



*Source:* Author's archive

Photograph 14

**Visitors to forensics classrooms**



*Source:* Author's and Marek Betlejewski's archives

For thirty years of the existence of the Police Academy in Szczytno, forensic techniques have been taught by different people. However, regardless of personnel changes, it must be admitted that the achievements of the team of forensics teachers are really significant.

Training police officers in forensic techniques in the 1990s was characterised by a very high number of teaching hours, especially in the form of classes, as a great deal of importance was attached to practical training. It was then that Polish forensic science gained the opportunity to openly use the world literature and forensic practice of western countries, which

resulted in occasional trips, practical trainings and conferences attended by teachers of the Police Academy in Szczytno, giving them many opportunities to confront their knowledge and confirm that that of the teachers from the Police Academy in Szczytno did not differ from the world level.

Numerous research projects have been launched, especially since 2000, which have made it possible for the academics not only to deepen their theoretical forensic knowledge and combine it with practical achievements, but also to obtain scientific degrees. And today, no one doubts that forensics science, including the afore frequently mentioned forensic techniques, is a science.

In the 1990s, the entire Police Academy in Szczytno also faced a new challenge, *i.e.* the admission of women to a full-time training course for future commissioned officers. The former male school became a coeducational one and, it must be admitted that women did very well in forensic techniques. They were diligent and thorough when performing their tasks, and they usually received good grades for so-called entrance tests.

The number of teaching hours for forensic techniques offered at different types of training courses varied. This can be most clearly seen by comparing the percentage share of classes in forensic techniques with the total number of teaching hours offered in three-year studies. For many years, forensic science was a separate subject with a precise and logical sequence of topics. Forensic techniques teachers were organised in a separate organisational structure, which facilitated cooperation in every possible element of teaching. They were able to cooperate in all circumstances, support themselves and rely on one another, which greatly contributed to their work and resulted in pretty good teaching effectiveness. Since it was published in 1995, the relevant forensic science coursebook for former and present students at all training courses has been the abovementioned 'three colours' and its subsequent version entitled *Kryminalistyka. Wybrane zagadnienia techniki* (Forensics. Selected issues) of 2011 (Eds.: Kędzierska G, Kędzierski W).

Teaching forensic techniques at the Police Academy has changed over the past 30 years. The academy is no longer the same organisational unit. There is a greater rotation of academics. Now, civilian students can study at the Police Academy, and after graduating from which, not all of them will join the police. Poland's membership of the European Union provides great opportunities for contacts with foreign forensic specialists. However, the following questions still remain unanswered: Have these changes made the students better educated in forensic techniques? Are they more knowledgeable? Are they more effective in combatting crime using the knowledge they have acquired at the academy?

The current year provides another opportunity to spread the knowledge of forensics to students who may join the Polish police in the future. A constant need to update information and get acquainted with European forensics has resulted in a new approach to the subject in question to be finally concentrated in a new field of study, which was first offered in 2019 and eloquently named *Police Studies*.

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**Keywords:** forensic techniques, education, Police Academy in Szczytno

**Summary:** In 2020, it has been thirty years since the Police Academy in Szczytno was established. The article discusses how, over these years, forensic techniques have been taught through the prism of individuals, types of training courses, number of teaching hours, conferences, symposia, publications, research projects and coursebooks. The text has been prepared based on an analysis of the available printed and online publications as well as on interviews with former and current employees of the Police Academy in Szczytno. The research question to be answered is whether the process of teaching forensic techniques has changed over the last 30 years.