

Zielińska, Maria, Dorota Szaban. 2011. „Metodologiczne problemy w badaniach pokoleń.” *Rocznik Lubuski* 37(2):33-47.

Translated Title:

Methodological Problems in the Study of Generations

Abstract:

The main goal of this article is to present basic ontological and theoretical difficulties and methodological problems occurring in the study of generations based on specific examples of empirical research conducted in Poland. The attempt was made to determine empirically so called empirical generation from longitudinal studies. The article also made the attempt to answer the following questions: (1) whether and if yes, to what extent the results of panel research differ from the results of longitudinal studies in the study of generations (the differences between the results of PGSS and POLPAN), (2) what means the divergence of results, (3) which method is more effective in the effect study of cohort, history and generation. The analysis of available empirical data (on chosen examples) showed that panel research allows insight into the mechanisms of opinion, attitudes and orientation changes, therefore it is better in explaining generational changes than longitudinal studies. Observed differences in results between panel and longitudinal research may not have significance in the study of trends, but they may be important in the process of explaining causes of ongoing changes. The proposal of determining generations from empirical data may be the starting point to take up discussion of determinants of generational identity.