

# SIAC

Società Italiana di Antropologia Culturale

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## IL PRESIDENTE

Dr Jarosław Gowin  
Minister of Science and  
Higher Education  
ul. Hoża 20 00-528  
Warszawa Poland

30-11-2018

Dear Mr. Deputy Prime Minister,

The Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology - SIAC, is following with the deepest concern the reform of disciplinary scheme that Polish Government has promulgated for the entire University and Academic field. According to the draft of academic disciplines produced by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education Social, worldly known and accredited disciplines, such as those that are convergent into the global definition of Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology, Folklore, Social or Political Anthropology), have been so far hidden and misrepresented into a new and incoherent category of "Studies of Culture and Religion".

The proposed reshuffle sounds unacceptable for many theoretical, historical and even administrative reasons. Under the theoretical point of view, the Cultural studies area came to the fore, on the international scene, as an addition to the social disciplines, in a mutual dialogical relationship that can't be evoked to explain or justify the suppression of the anthropological area; historically, our disciplines have been playing a crucial role in the creation of every single European nation, their engagement with totalitarian political regimes has been thoroughly criticized and are nowadays carrying out an important role in the critical analysis of our contemporary societies and cultural dynamics. Lastly, the presence of Poland within plenty of scientific and academic networks would be jeopardized by the lack of reciprocity in the academic recognition of university courses, research areas, doctoral programs, that the impending reform will inevitably produce.

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The Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology restates the conviction that academic fields governance shall respect the autonomy of knowledge and sciences; that the international, free and open confrontation is by itself producing newer paradigms and theoretical advancing moves; that scientific community is not restricted to any national boundaries so that any event in the higher education or science governance is concerning the international relationship and global collaborative networks and that any governmental restriction to the free expression of scientific research is to be rejected: erasing the disciplinary name and label of anthropological field would be a flagrant example of unjustified imposition.

For all these reasons, the Italian Society of Cultural Anthropology adds its voice to the many other, from the Polish as well as from the International scientific societies, undersigns the claim to the withdrawal of the reform as it has been presented, and hopes that Polish Authorities will be receptive and restore the Anthropological disciplinary area in the list of Academic or University disciplines: the respect of Science and University freedom is amongst the basic principles of democracy, on which all the European peoples have rely.



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Prof. Ferdinando F. Mirizzi  
President of SIAC