

Summary

The Doctorate Academic and Socio-Cultural Contexts

The monograph *The Doctorate. Academic and Socio-Cultural Contexts* addresses an issue that is both interesting and of present significance – the growing number of applicants for doctoral studies. This phenomenon is a clear confirmation that as the years pass, studies leading to a doctoral degree enjoy increasing popularity among university graduates. For this reason, the author has decided to devote special attention to this stage of education.

This book presents the issues relating to doctorates and doctoral studies in multiple contexts. It describes their social significance, takes into account their social value and explains their continuing popularity. The publication has an orderly structure, consisting of seven chapters. The first and second chapters reconstruct the concept of the doctorate, starting with its history and then moving on to possible understandings and perceptions. The types of doctorate and different approaches to it are considered here. The third chapter is devoted to the rituals associated with the awarding of doctorates. It focuses on matriculation understood as an academic ritual, and the social significance of academic rituals and symbols, as well as the nature and procedure of a PhD thesis defence. Chapter Four describes the role of the doctorate, which is often a conscious and considered turning point in both academic and non-academic careers and/or in the strictly private dimension. The fifth chapter is a synthetic analysis of the transformations of the contemporary university. It addresses the issue of commercialisation of the process of knowledge acquisition, which can be observed today. Moreover, it presents current approaches to research and academic careers, as well as referring to the issue of diploma inflation (e.g. in the context of the theory of credentials). Chapter Six outlines selected contexts of access to doctorates. It analyses the participation of women in doctoral studies, as well as the possibilities for foreigners to realise their scientific ambitions.

The final chapter presents the psychosocial aspects of writing a doctorate, starting with the ways of selecting candidates for doctoral studies. It addresses a variety of issues, from the choice of the topic for the doctoral dissertation, through doctoral seminars, the issue of tutoring and mentoring in doctoral studies, the place and importance of the supervisor in the process of writing the dissertation and conducting research (also in the context of indexing and the ubiquitous fight for points), and ends with problems and difficult situations encountered in the course of creating the dissertation, such as isolation in the academic sphere.

Translated by Rob Pagett