Tortured Logic

It wasn't just students who exploited the situation. In a section titled "Professors vs. Professors," Connelly describes what was perhaps "the most demoralizing experience" for faculty in those early years: the personal and professional attacks by some professors on their colleagues, leading to involuntary leave, early retirement, or dismissal. University administrations "voided the teaching qualifications of professors who had demonstrated a 'hostile attitude toward the People's Democratic regime'" and "voted to exclude fellow members who had been identified as politically untrustworthy." Others used this new political climate to "settle old scores." In East Germany the "practice of voting against one's colleagues was also widespread"; sometimes professors voted to send a colleague to the state security services for ideologically incorrect remarks, in one case for remarks critical of "distinguished leaders of the working class." The communist system depended on its ability to find examples of thoughtcrime, punish the offenders (whether guilty or not), and thus maintain a modicum of compliance and ideological consensus enforced by terror.

Flash forward to today, seventy years after Łobaczewski's experience of political indoctrination and the dawn of the politicization of higher education in Poland. Since at least 2016 an analogous process has been at work in universities across the Western world, though its seeds have been germinating for decades. The tortured logic of postmodernism and critical theory, "safe spaces," "microaggressions," "no-platforming," "trigger warnings," and the "cancellation" of dissident voices are ubiquitous on college campuses. (Jagiellonian University itself has not escaped the new indoctrination.) Unfortunately, it's not just the universities. The current ideological virus—"social justice"—has since escaped the lab of the universities to mainstream culture: business, politics, church, education. Only this time, there was no government coercion necessary.

The fact is, social justice ideology, with roots in "gender theory," "critical race theory," and the ever-growing list of academically questionable "studies" departments, is a Trojan horse. On the surface level it promotes "diversity, equity, and inclusion" but enforces strict ideological conformity, inequality, and exclusion of those who disagree. If you have the temerity to dissent, you will be found guilty of "discrimination" (i.e., thoughtcrime) and of endangering the "safety" (i.e., hurting the feelings) of "historically marginalized groups" (regardless of what individuals from those groups might actually think). You will have proven yourself not diverse enough to be included, all in the name of equality. Its logic is Kafkaesque and its morality is Orwellian.

(Political Ponerology: The Science of Evil, Psychopathy, and the Origins of Totalitarianism by Andrew M. Lobaczewski, Otto, North Carolina: Red Pill Press, Kindle, 2022, Pages 18 & 19 of 649; from Editor's Introduction by Harrison Koehli, Editor, Red Pill Press)