

# Omnivorousness *alla Polacca* - musical tastes and the stratification of culture in post-transformational Poland

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## Introduction

- The main aim of this presentation is to show the **structure of the omnivorousness of musical tastes in Poland**. As one of the elements of lifestyle, it relies on simultaneous practice and liking various genres of music, particularly the ones encountered as so-called „high” and „low” culture. It does not imply liking everything with no exception, but rather an openness to various forms of cultural consumption.
- We will focus on omnivorousness of musical tastes related to class stratification, and its constituent factors, such as educational level, but taking also into account other kinds of omnivorousness, especially related to age.

# Research problems

- From the side of social stratification, **omnivorousness**, which implies openness and variety, was **at first** (in 1990s) **interpreted as a sign of blurring class barriers**.
- However, according to most of findings, **it rather tends to reinforce class divisions**. It shows, the greatest omnivorists are persons of higher social status, and univorists recruit mostly from lower classes.
- During the last several years the effect of omnivorousness on the field of class stratification occurred to be more complicated, as it was proved that the **tendency to omnivorousness comes in various forms**. Research show, that omnivorousness reveals in other way among representatives of upper-middle class than among representatives of lower class. As for now, there are several kinds of omnivorousness related to class position, taking into account local and national contexts (see Bellavance 2008; Olliver 2008; Coulangenon i Lemel 2010).

# Research problems for Poland

The aim of our analysis is the answer to 4 questions:

1. **Are the forms of omnivorousness found in some countries present in Poland as well?**
2. **To what extent the omnivorousness of musical tastes maintains class divisions?**  
In such case it would be overrepresented among higher upper classes and underrepresented among the categories placed themselves on the lower positions. This pattern revealed in most of research.

# Research problems for Poland

- 3. Does omnivorousness display mostly in the musical tastes or rather in a range of activities such as attending concerts or listening to the music?** One may assume that it seems easier to be „engaged” in omnivorism by undertaking activities (such as attending philharmonic concerts as well as going to dancing parties) than by liking of various musical genres. At the same time, although omnivorousness reflected in undertaking certain activities may be „easier” in comparison with omnivorousness in liking musical pieces, it seems to be applied more occasionally, hence shaping class hierarchy weaker.
- 4. What is the impact of age?** The issue to be solved is whether the omnivorousness should be overrepresented among young people, as a consequence of their greater mobility and needs to learn something new, or such association does not exist (Alvarez et al. 2007), and – as shown in Canada and England – the impact of age is curvilinear, meaning the greater omnivorists are the youngest and the oldest persons (Warde & Gayo-Cal 2009; Veenstra 2015).

# Data

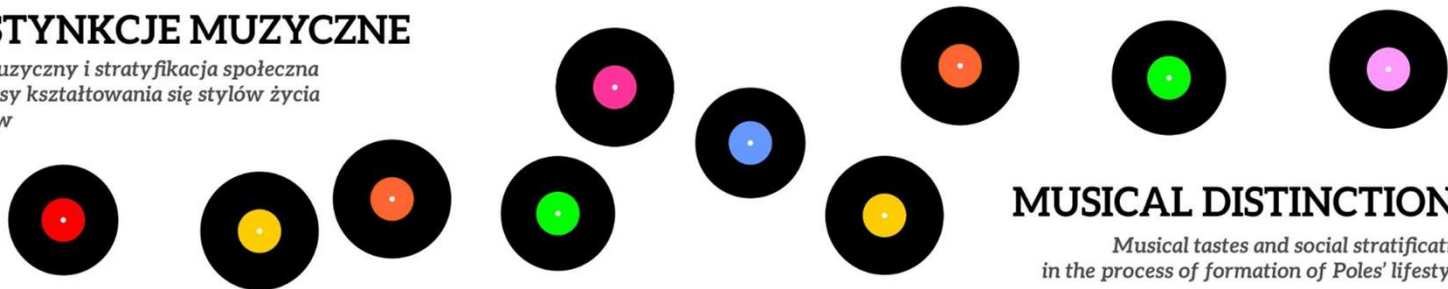
The presentation is based on data from quantitative research, which was a part of the project “**Musical distinctions. Musical tastes and social stratification in the proces of formation of Poles’ lifestyles**”.

<http://www.md.ifispan.pl/>

The Project is conducted by the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research grant funded by National Center of Science (No. UMO-2017/25/B/HS6/01929).

## DYSTYNKCJE MUZYCZNE

*Gust muzyczny i stratyfikacja społeczna  
a procesy kształtowania się stylów życia  
Polaków*



## MUSICAL DISTINCTIONS

*Musical tastes and social stratification  
in the process of formation of Poles' lifestyles*

# Methodology

- The research was pursued from February to June 2019 by the consortium of DANAE/REALIZACJA.
- Nation-wide probabilistic sample of population aged 15+
- 2007 interviews were completed.
- Overall response rate: 50.4% (calculated according ESS standards).
- Variables:
  - **Dependent variables** - declarations about liking various genres of music and attending concerts of various types.
  - **Independent variables** - Sex, age, place of residence, respondent's level of education, respondent's, parents' and partner's class position (6 categories of EGP class scheme), variables, variables describing social capital.

## Percentages of people who like various types of music simultaneously

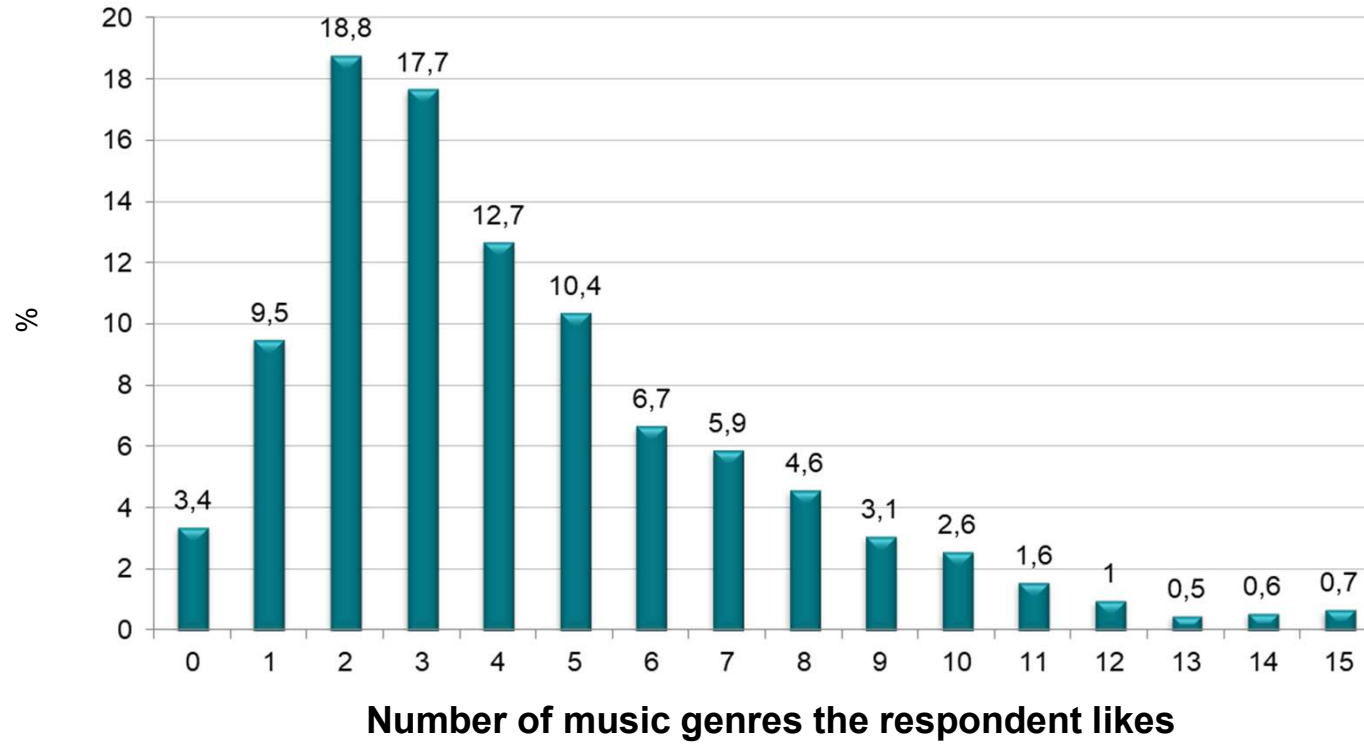
<b>Musical genres, that respondent likes simultaneously</b>	<b>%</b>
Classical music and disco polo	10,8
Classical music and folk	15,6
Classical music, pop music and disco polo	9,1
Classical music, rock and pop music	15,1
Rock, pop music and hip-hop	11,6
Rock, pop music i disco polo	15,4
Pop music, folk and disco polo	22,3
Folk and disco polo	30,0



## Percentages of respondents attending various concerts

Types of concerts	%
Classical music and disco polo	8,0
Classical music, disco polo and other popular music	6,3
Classical music and other popular music	14,9
Classical music, rock (or metal music) and other popular music	5,2
Classical music and folk	8,2
Disco polo and other popular music	17,9
Disco polo, open-air events and other popular music	15,2
Disco polo and folk	7,7
Rock (or metal music), open-air events and other popular music	9,3

## Overall index of omnivorousness (liking)



## Relationships between liking various music genres

Does the respondent like?	Classical music		Odds ratio
	Yes(%)	No <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Jazz	43,4	6,1	11,92
Rock	56,8	34,7	2,47
Country	41,3	19,0	2,99
Pop music	76,1	71,3	1,28
Heavy metal and other types of metal music	19,4	8,3	2,66
Rap, Hip-hop	23,6	19,1	1,31
Techno, dance	24,9	18,2	1,50
Reggae	38,7	17,3	3,02
R&B, soul	33,7	16,6	2,55
Disco polo	40,7	55,4	0,55
Traditional folk music	58,8	37,9	2,34

<sup>a</sup>This category also includes people who have a neutral attitude towards the genre or answered "hard to say".

## Relationships between liking various music genres

Does the respondent like?	Disco polo		Odds ratio
	Yes(%)	No <sup>a</sup> (%)	
Classical music	21,0	32,5	0,55
Jazz	11,6	20,6	0,51
Rock	31,3	50,4	0,45
Country	30,8	18,7	1,93
Pop music	79,1	65,7	1,97
Heavy metal and other types of metal music	7,2	15,6	0,42
Rap, Hip-hop	19,3	21,3	0,89
Techno, dance	21,6	18,2	1,25
Reggae	25,3	20,5	1,31
R&B, soul	18,9	23,6	0,75
Traditional folk music	58,4	27,7	3,67

<sup>a</sup>This category also includes people who have a neutral attitude towards the genre or answered "hard to say".

## Liking various music genres by respondent's class position

Respondent's class position (EGP)	Liking:				Index of omnivorousness (liking) 0-15
	classical music and disco polo %	classical music, rock and pop %	disco polo, rock and pop %	rock, pop and hip-hop %	
Professionals and managers	6,6	25,1	7,8	8,8	4,95
Routine non-manual	9,8	17,6	14,3	10,2	4,34
Petty bourgeoisie	21,8	28,5	30,9	18,8	5,72
Skilled manual	10,6	14,8	16,1	10,9	4,33
Non-skilled manual	9,0	9,2	18,4	10,6	3,85
Farmers	6,7	6,6	14,9	8,0	3,64
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,9</b>	<b>15,9</b>	<b>15,8</b>	<b>10,5</b>	<b>4,33</b>
<b>Eta-square</b>	<b>0,014</b>	<b>0,030</b>	<b>0,018</b>	<b>0,006</b>	<b>0,030</b>

## Attending concerts of various types by age

Age categories	Attending various concerts					Index of omnivorousness (concerts) 0-9
	classical music, disco polo and other popular music	classical music, rock (or metal music) and other popular music	disco polo and other popular music	disco polo, open-air events and other popular music	rock (or metal music), open-air events and other popular music	
	%	%	%	%	%	
15-24	8,8	8,9	30,3	26,4	17,1	2,94
26-35	6,5	6,7	21,3	16,3	16,9	2,54
36-45	6,9	8,6	18,1	17,3	14,8	2,46
46-55	8,4	6,1	21,3	19,0	8,3	1,94
56-65	5,7	2,3	15,6	12,4	2,5	1,69
66-75	4,9	1,4	10,8	9,0	1,4	1,40
75 or more	1,2	0,0	3,0	1,3	0,0	0,66
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,3</b>	<b>5,2</b>	<b>17,9</b>	<b>15,2</b>	<b>9,3</b>	<b>2,03</b>
<b>Eta-square</b>	<b>0,007</b>	<b>0,020</b>	<b>0,034</b>	<b>0,033</b>	<b>0,055</b>	<b>0,104</b>

### Linear regression parameters. Dependent variable: index of omnivorousness

Dependent variable	Liking (0-15)	Concerts (0-9)
Constant	3,81**	1,45**
Gender (0-male; 1-female)	-0,13	-0,08
Age (ref. category: preceding)		
25-34	-0,36	-0,36
35-44	-0,31	0,03
45-54	-0,21	-0,26
55-64	-0,06	-0,18
65-74	-0,20	-0,31*
75 or more	-0,96**	-0,57**
Place of residence (ref. category: village)		
Towns below 20,000 inhabitants	0,57**	0,1
Towns 20,000 to 99,999 inhabitants	0,62**	0,26*
Towns 100,000 to 499,999 inhabitants	0,65**	0,38**
Towns 500,000 or more inhabitants	0,51*	0,24

\*p<0,05

\*\*p<0,01

### Linear regression parameters. Dependent variable: index of omnivorousness (cont.)

Dependent variable	Liking (0-15)	Concerts (0-9)
Education level (ref. category: elementary)		
Incomplete secondary and basic vocational	-0,4	0,12
secondary	0,15	0,26
Post-secondary and incomplete higher education	0,52	0,86**
Higher	0,49	0,63**
Respondent's class categories (ref. category: farmers)		
Professionals and managers	-0,65	0,17
Routine non-manual	-0,9**	-0,06
Petty bourgeoisie	0,52	0,63**
Skilled manual	-0,23	0,03
Non-skilled manual	-0,65*	-0,07
Index of social capital	0,12**	0,09**
Number of recordings at respondent's family home	0,01**	0,01**

\*p<0,05

\*\*p<0,01



### Linear regression parameters. Dependent variable: index of omnivorousness (cont.)

Dependent variable	Liking (0-15)	Concerts (0-9)
Mother's class categories (ref. category: farmers)		
Professionals and managers	-0,26	0,11
Routine non-manual	0	-0,17
Petty bourgeoisie	1,31**	0,85**
Skilled manual	0,35	-0,26
Non-skilled manual	0,21	-0,52**
Partner's class categories (ref. category: farmers)		
Professionals and managers	0,75	0,22
Routine non-manual	0,35	-0,08
Petty bourgeoisie	0,57	-0,3
Skilled manual	0,17	0,2
Non-skilled manual	0,27	-0,09
<b>Adjusted R-sqaure</b>	<b>0,165</b>	<b>0,221</b>

\*p<0,05

\*\*p<0,01

# Conclusions

- The dominant trait of omnivorousness of musical tastes in Poland is **simultaneous liking of disco polo, pop and folk music** (30%), in the second place is a combination of **liking disco-polo, outdoor music and pop** (22.3%). Taking into account that the percentage of persons declaring liking classical music in combination with other musical genres implies that **omnivorousness concentrates** rather around **classical music**. It is mainly semi-omnivorousness.
- Tendencies to omnivorousness **do not develop in one dimension only**, with managers and professionals on the top, and members of lower classes on the bottom. There are various kinds of omnivorousness in Polish society wherein in contrast to other societies, it **shapes** particularly intensive among **owners** apart from farming. Owners outpace managers and professionals in terms of liking various musical pieces and attending concerts of various types.

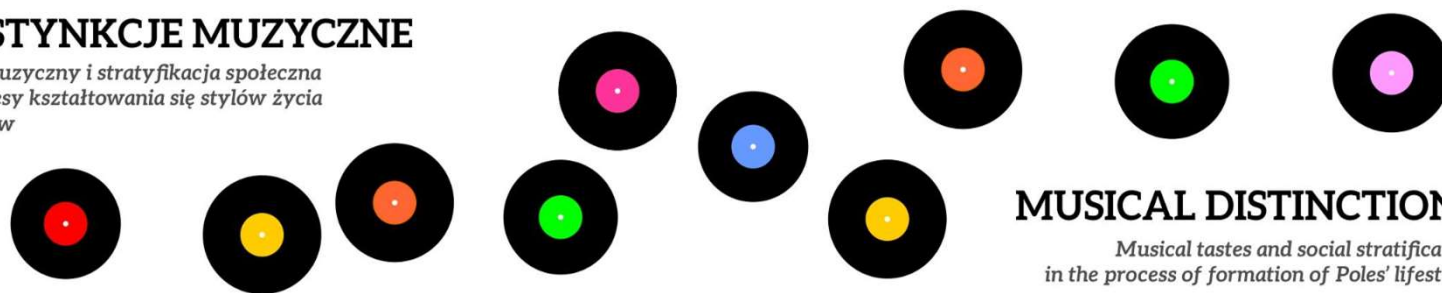
# Conclusions

- **Omnivorousness in the sense of liking various genres of music and omnivorousness in the sense of various forms of activity differentiate the class position and other characteristics of individuals with a similar impact.** One cannot claim that one of them has stronger (or weaker) reflection in class hierarchy.
- We can confirm that relatively **highest omnivorousness** occurs among the **youngest** persons. In the category up to 25 years old the average value of the summary indicator of omnivorousness in terms of going to concerts and liking music is the highest and systematically decreases in older groups of age. The youngest persons are also the greatest semi-omnivorists in the sense of most frequent going out to disco-polo concerts in combination with popular music (30.3%) and combining disco-polo with outdoor events (26,4%). It occurs also (though weaker) in the case of other omni- and semi-omnivorousness.

# Thank you

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