Summary

Portuguese anthropology
– past and present. The study of cases, narrations and dialogues.

Doctoral dissertation Portuguese anthropology – past and present. The study of cases, narrations and dialogues is a result of my fascination with the Portuguese culture, as well as of my passion about anthropology.

The present study is based on contemporary anthropology premises, which refers to its narration structures, especially those proposed by reflexive anthropologists. It is the first attempt to outline the history of the Portuguese anthropology in the Polish academic literature. The study presents the development of that field in chronological perspective, from the beginning of the professionalization of the discipline in the mid-19th century through presentation of its main representatives until the year 2013, when I finalized my research in Portugal. I have attempted to show a complete image of the Portuguese anthropology. I have assumed that the detailed study of Portuguese anthropologists is crucial: I am convinced that exemplification of particular researchers best demonstrates the image of the discipline as a whole.

Moreover, I have chosen to present two anthropologists of the eldest generation - Brian O’Neill and João de Pino Cabral. I have also analyzed one of their works: Social Inequality in a Portuguese Hamlet and also Between China and Europe: Person, Culture and Emotion in Macao. I have based my conclusion on the methodological scheme inspired by theories of James Clifford, Clifford Geertz, Mary Louise-Pratt, Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, as well as these of Vincent Crapanzano. I have also used the thought of Wojciech Kruszelnicki.

Since I have been inspired by ideas of reflexive anthropologists, it was necessary to adopt my own, subjective perspective to select certain events and figures which I have personally encountered. Therefore, it is a somewhat “my own travel through the world of the Portuguese anthropology”, which most surely influenced the manner of the narration. In the dissertation I have included longer fragments or whole interviews with anthropologists like Francisco Freira, Catarina Costa, João Leal, João de Pina Cabral, Antónia Lima and Brian O’Neill.
In the dissertation I have explored – among others – the question of autonomy of the Portuguese anthropology in the dominant or mainstream currents. I have reflected on authorial anthropology, and I have diagnosed the question of identity and its timelessness. I have also attempted to find a particular feature of the analyzed discipline.

I have concluded the dissertation with a reflection on the original character of the Portuguese anthropology.