

An interview with Assoc. Prof. PhD. DSc. Eng. Bożena Gajdzik

Recent Progress in Sciences Editorial Office

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1. Could you please briefly introduce yourself and your research field? Also, attach a photo, either a portrait or one from your research environment (e.g., laboratory).



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I am an expert of the industrial transformation. As a researcher from Poland, I am strongly committed to sustainable sector development strategies. Recently, I have been dealing with the deep decarbonisation of industry and the industrial technological. I cooperate with many journals and publishing houses. I am the member of Scientific and Editorial Boards in Poland and abroad. I am a reviewer of scientific publications for recognized publishing houses (reviewer for a

number of prestigious journals like Elsevier, MDPI, Springer and others). I have been dealing with the issues of industrial transformation, including Industry 4.0, and organization and engineering. I have received multiple awards from the Rector of the Silesian University of Technology. I am employed at the Industrial Informatics Department at this University. I am the researcher of the steel market in Poland (industry analysis, industry trends, industry forecasts and scenarios are important for the market). I cooperate with many universities both in the country and abroad. I am the author and co-author 700 scientific publications, including 32 books or monographs. I am ranked: Stanford's Top 2% Scientists (the last three years, year by year).

2. What initially sparked your interest in your research field?

As an industry expert, I have always been fascinated by the connection between academia and practice. My interest grew from observing how science must align with the needs of enterprises, particularly in preparing employees for rapidly evolving workplaces. I believe that the bond between universities and businesses must become increasingly strong and flexible—especially in today's age of artificial intelligence (AI).

3. Could you please briefly share your career story with us? And what impressed you most in your research life?

I have been a researcher at a technical university for more than 20 years. My scientific journey has been closely tied to organizational transformations in dynamic environments. Growing up and working in Poland, I had the opportunity to witness and study the profound shift of organizations as the country transitioned to a market economy during the final decades of the 20th century. What impressed me most in my research life was observing how resilient organizations and people can be when faced with systemic change, and how science can guide and support such transformations.

4. In your opinion, what could be the hot topics in your research field in the coming years?

In the coming years, I see two major hot topics: first, the integration of AI into organizational processes across many functions, and second, the evolving nature of collaboration between humans and AI in the workplace.

5. What valuable suggestions would you like to share with young scholars regarding how to be a professional researcher?

To be a professional researcher, one must truly love science in all its dimensions. I encourage young scholars to explore widely—sometimes areas that may seem unrelated to their primary focus can provide surprising insights and help create new, interdisciplinary knowledge. Curiosity, openness, and perseverance are key to building a meaningful research career.

6. As a scholar, what recent research trends would you suggest are important for keeping up with *Recent Progress in Sciences*?

Recent trends in education and science highlight the transformative role of AI and interactive technologies such as virtual and augmented reality (VR/AR). These tools are reshaping the personalization of learning and supporting hybrid education models that combine online and in-person experiences. Additionally, lifelong learning and the development of independent competencies remain crucial for preparing individuals for an ever-changing labor market.

7. What attracts you to join the editorial board of *Recent Progress in Sciences*?

Joining the Editorial Board offers me the opportunity to contribute to the development of science while engaging in meaningful cooperation with industry. I am excited to exchange knowledge, inspire innovation, and help shape the direction of research in collaboration with scholars and practitioners worldwide.

8. What are your thoughts on the future of *Recent Progress in Sciences*, an open-access journal?

I believe this journal has tremendous potential for growth, particularly as AI becomes one of the most debated topics in both science and industry. Open-access publishing ensures wide visibility and accessibility, and I am curious to see how AI will further transform not only research itself but also how scientific knowledge is shared globally.