

MJ Kazmierski

## ***A Quarter of Century In Teaching***

A Review

### **PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- 2006 SOUTHBANK UNIVERSITY / Certificate in Adult Literacy Education  
1999 CELTA, CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH Certificate in English L. Teaching to Adults  
1995 UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX / BA Hons in English Lit. and Comparative Religion

### **TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS**

Online Tutor for Institute of Linguistics PL	2023 – NOW
Private Tutor in Schools in Gora Kalwaria, Mazovia, Poland	2020 – 2001
Give The World .org founding editor	2018 – NOW
Trustee of the Griffin International Poetry Prize	2016 – 2021
L2 Language Consulting, Warsaw, Poland	2015 – 2018
Visegrad Literary Grant recipient	2013 – 2014
eMigrating Landscapes Project (UCL) coordinator	2012 – 2014
Not Shut Up Magazine : Managing Editor & Trainer	2012 – 2015
Polish Arts Festival coordinator	2011 – 2013
OFF_PRESS Founding Editor	2009 – 2013
English PEN Readers & Writers committee member	2009 – 2015
HMP Feltham: Head of Diversity and trainer	2009 – 2011
HMP Feltham: Race Equality Coordinator	2008 - 2009
HMP Feltham: Foreign Nationals Coordinator	2007 – 2008
HMP Feltham: ESOL Creative Writing Project Leader	2005 – 2007
HMP Feltham: Lead ESOL Tutor	2003 – 2005
Westminster Adult Education Service: ESOL Tutor	2001 – 2003
English FIRST: ESOL Tutor	2000 – 2002

**What 25 years of language and literature teaching to children and adults from Africa, both Americas, Asia, Australasia and Europe – in a range of individual and group settings – have taught me about communication and learning:**

I have been alive for 50 years – for 25 of those years, I have been a teacher employed in schools, universities, prisons, ministries and many other professional settings... I actually come from a long line of pedagogues – my ancestors were named Engelhardt, Ernst, Orlow, Morgenstern, Nikkel, Nienatkiewicz, Sachajski and of course Kazmierski – my great grandmother Emilia-Anna Barcinn Morgenstern taught German in Slupca, a small town in western Poland, and my great grandfather Aleksy Orlow was a teacher of art in Piotrkow Trybunalski – a city in central Poland. My great grandfather Edwin Ernst (born in 1882) wrote a training manual on military strategies which is stored in the National Library of Poland. In 1905, he was involved in the Kazan Cadet Conspiracy – a rebellion against Tsarist authorities in a military school in Kazan, Russia. My grandfather Sergiusz Orlow, following his return from a Nazi prisoner of war camp in

1945, became a book importer based at The House of Books in Warsaw, Poland – his only child, my mother Barbara Orłow Kazmierska, taught economics at the University of Warsaw during her doctoral studies in the 1960s and '70s.

My father Jan is a retired steelworker who as far as I know has never read a single book in his life – I, however, decided to follow in my mother's footsteps...

I was born in the middle of the Cold War in the most central part of Europe – Warsaw, Mazovia, Poland. At age 12 I was exiled to London, England where my family were given political asylum (my mother was a Solidarity movement activist, my godfather Henryk Goryszewski a Solidarity leader and cabinet minister) – in 1991, I completed my high school education at Gunnersbury Catholic and Gumley House Convent Schools in West London. In 1995, I graduated from the University of Surrey with a BA in English and Religious Studies, then in 2000 I secured my CELTA Teaching English To Speakers of Other Languages certificate, qualifying me to teach English as a foreign language.

My first teaching posts were in Warsaw, Poland and London, England working for English First – the largest chain of private language schools in the world. In 2001, I started teaching English to refugees based in London's Borough of Westminster. Between 2003-2005, I was lead ESOL tutor at Her Majesty's Prison Feltham in West London, where I delivered and coordinated language teaching programs for 1200 prisoners aged 15-21 based at this maximum security jail. In 2006, I graduated from Southbank University in London with a Certificate in Adult Literacy Education, a post-graduate diploma allowing me to teach at higher education and degree level.

Between 2005-2007, I worked for the Paul Hamlyn Trust in delivering an award-winning creative writing programme for prisoners whose first language was not English at HMP Feltham. In 2007, I was appointed Foreign Nationals Coordinator, then Head of Equalities at this same prison where I delivered the **Challenge It, Change It** staff diversity & equality training package to 144,000 Ministry Of Justice employees. In 2011, I became the chief editor of Not Shut Up, a prison arts magazine responsible for publishing and promoting stories and art created by persons with experience of incarceration – refugees, psychiatric unit inmates and prisoners – from all over the world (<https://issuu.com/notshutup>).

In 2015, I moved back to my place of birth – Warsaw, Poland, where I continued teaching English as a foreign language and became a professional translator of Polish literature. Since 2015, I have taught at the Ministry Of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Digitalisation in Warsaw and various other public and private sector organisations and companies operating in Poland. I have worked with theatres, schools and publishers in Gdansk, Krakow, Lublin, Warsaw and Wroclaw – in this time, I have translated into English more than 20 books of fiction and non-fiction, including some of Poland's best selling authors and the works of all five Polish language winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Since 2015, I have taught at several private language schools in Warsaw and Gora Kalwaria, as well as a range of private students between the ages of 5 and 55. I have delivered lectures and training courses at libraries in Warsaw and Gora Kalwaria, as well as presentations on literature, translations and education at colleges in Cambridge, Lublin, Oxford, Warsaw and University College London.

So now I can say with great certainty:

Our brains have evolved over millions of years to be able to cope with a range of essential challenges – processing information about the world we find ourselves which tell us where we can find shelter, nutrition and other living beings capable of providing us with the means and meaning needed for us to live in healthy, happy harmony with our surroundings.

Our skins, our noses, ears, eyes and mouths are constantly providing us with information our brains have evolved to be able to process not just to survive, but to learn and evolve as the only species of sentient beings we know of in the observable universe capable of creating a whole host of languages needed for us to perform some truly extraordinary feats:

**Describe the world we find ourselves in,**

**Define how we feel about all the things which happen to us**

**Discuss, Debate & Decide how to act** in ways which benefit the greatest number of living beings which share with us this most extraordinary of homes – Planet Earth, the only place in the observable universe capable of hosting and nurturing life – the most precious, powerful phenomenon imaginable – as millions of different species of flora and fauna, all of them extraordinarily diverse and fascinating – including us, Homo Sapiens, as the smartest and most powerful of them all.

Our brains have allowed us to develop robots to perform manual labours and computers capable of learning (Artificial Intelligence) which can manage the production of all the things we need to be able live in safe, sustainable and satisfying harmony while our home planet flies through our apparently limitless, ever-expanding cosmos on the way to meeting a whole host of opportunities and threats we can't yet foresee with our intelligent instruments, but we certainly can enjoy predicting and meeting using our imaginations... We are programmed by nature to oppose dying – our cells, our minds are all designed to endure, to evolve, to enterprise as hard and as long as we can to derive as much satisfaction as we can from all the bounty our home planet and the cosmos all around it provide us Homo Sapiens – the most powerful beings in the observable universe – with.

All human tongues begin with sound – with the noises our voices make when we want to communicate with other human beings and share with them the most complex thoughts and feelings imaginable.

Being able to speak and sing and smile and so on – are essential to our survival as a species in a world which is becoming more and more complex with every second the universe exists.

If you want to know more about my mind and method – get in touch!