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Jan Czekanowski – antropolog i statystyk

Jan Czekanowski was born into a landowning family, on 6 October 1882 in Głuchów, near Grójec. In spring 1902 he was accepted into the mathematics and natural science section of the Philosophy Faculty at the Cantonal University of Zurich.

While still a student in Zurich he wrote a paper, which appeared in 1904 as introduction to Rudolf Martin's anthropology textbook *Lehrbuch der Anthropologie*, which is still widely known among anthropologist today, and in 1907 was published in Czekanowski's doctoral dissertation. In it he gives a short description of the statistical methods which had been introduced to anthropology by English biometricians.

He completed his studies in July 1906, obtaining the degree of doctor of philosophy. As a fresh graduate from Zurich, starting from 1 November 1906 he took up the position of assistant at the Royal Anthropological Museum in Berlin.

In 1913 the Warsaw Scientific Society published a book by Jan Czekanowski titled *Zarys metod statystycznych w zastosowaniu do antropologii* (*Outline of statistical methods in application to anthropology*). This was the first statistical textbook written in Polish.

From 1 October 1913, he was appointed assistant professor of anthropology and ethnology in the Philosophy Faculty of Lvov University. In the years 1934–1936 Czekanowski held the post of rector of University in Lvov.