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The Space that Speaks. Parents' Spots in School

The way schools work may be grasped with various methods and frames of reflection. In my paper I am focusing on the analysis of school space, in which the “parents’ spots” are discovered in the context of democratisation of school life and the lack of physically and mentally understood basis of fostering the parental culture in Polish school space. The mostly semiotic and critical analysis is grounded in Edward Hall’s conception of cultural meaning of space.

Most parts of the text refer to the questions such as: What kind of place exists for the parents at the school of their children ? Is it a friendly place for them? If it is, why, if it is not friendly – why is it so? Are the places that are visited by parents in school under control? Are there any power relations in school possible to be seen on the basis of the analysis of the distribution and monitoring of a school space? What are they, if there are any? Etc.

In the conclusions, I am appealing to consolidate efforts and to create a new shape of school reality, in which parents as school-community partners would have an opportunity to develop their own culture – a condition *sine qua non* of democratisation of school life. It would be achieved if parents did not have merely the spots in school but real partner place in its space.