

Acknowledgements

The book is based on my doctoral thesis, *The Human Being in Social and Cosmic Orders. Categories of Traditional Culture and the Problems of Contemporary Buryat Identity*, which I defended in 2017 at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences at the University of Warsaw. Some fragments of this work were created, or later published, as separate papers. Nevertheless, only being brought together, within one work, they could make more sense.

This book would not be possible without the help of many. I would like to express my deep gratitude to Stanisław Zapaśnik and Ewa Nowicka, my research supervisors, for their patient guidance, encouragement and critique of this research work.

My grateful thanks are also extended to all my teachers: Polina Dashinimaeva, Oyuna Dorzhigushaeva, Tuyana Dugarova, Krzysztof Gawlikowski, Hieronim Grala, Albert Jawłowski, Krzysztof Kiciński, Jan Kieniewicz, Zoya Morokhoeva, Wojciech Pawlik, Wojciech Połec, Oyungerel Tangad, Andrzej Tymowski, Grażyna Woroniecka, and the reviewers of my work – Sławoj Szynekiewicz, Marcin Lubaś and Łukasz Smyrski.

I would also like to thank the Faculty of Applied Social Sciences and Resocialisation, the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”, the Centre for East European Studies of the University of Warsaw for their valuable support. I owe a huge part of my inspirations to the seminars, workshops and other events organized by the project “Searching Identity: Global Challenges, Local Traditions” held by Jan Kieniewicz at the Faculty of “Artes Liberales”. I am particularly grateful for the constructive feedback given by Karénina Kollmar-Paulenz and Ewa Domańska on some parts of this work, as well as for the first lectures of the Polish language given

by Agnieszka Fijałkowska in the already non-existing Centre of Polish Language, History and Culture at the Buryat State University.

I wish to thank the Chair of Mongolian and Tibetan Studies of the University of Warsaw, namely: Agata Bareja-Starzyńska, Jerzy Tulisow and Stanisław Godziński, for consultations and the possibility to attend their classes and conferences; Ewa Dziurzyńska from the Archives of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences and of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cracow for helping me with the work in Władysław Kotwicz's archives; Justyna Olko, John Sullivan, Aleksandra Sekuła for giving me the opportunity to take part in the field school, workshops and seminars of the Engaged Humanities project; the Foundation for the Promotion of Mongolian Studies for the possibility of attending the Mongolian Government Summer School for Young Mongolists; interlocutors in Buryatia, Aga Okrug and Mongolia; and many others whom I do not mention here.

Finally, I wish to thank my parents, relatives and friends for their support and encouragement throughout my study.