**ABSTRACT**

**Objective:** The primary aim of this article is to understand how contemporary scientists from the Polish academic community perceive the scientific ethos in the context of ostracism within the scientific community, which emerged following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The article focuses on analyzing the epistemological and ethical implications of this ostracism in the academic context, considering Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

**Methodology:** For this purpose, in-depth interviews were conducted within the Polish scientific community (11 participants), with respondents with degrees (full professors, Ph. D’s, associate professors, assistant professors, and professor emeritus), and literature review was carried out.

**Findings:** Based on the discussion, the research findings illuminate diverse approaches within the Polish academic community regarding the ostracism of Russian scientists following Ukraine’s invasion, shedding light on the intricate interplay between personal beliefs, scientific ethos, and educational values while also highlighting the multifaceted ethical challenges faced by scientific research, especially within military and political contexts.

**Value Added:** The study suggests the necessity for academic institutions to establish clear protocols for knowledge dissemination and crisis management that respect the ethos of scientific work while being adaptable to the shifting geopolitical landscape. It is also recommended that there should be a concerted effort to create forums for international scholarly dialogue to ensure that ostracism does not stifle academic collaboration and knowledge advancement.

**Recommendations:** This article contributes to the existing literature by providing empirical insights into how the academic community navigates the ethical dilemmas posed by geopolitical conflicts. Moreover, it underscores the importance of maintaining the integrity of the scientific discourse amidst external pressures, offering a nuanced understanding of the interplay between political events and academic practices.

**Key words:** ostracism, academic ethos, scientists, post-academicism, military science

**JEL codes:** M14, I23, Z13, P48