

Summary

The book *Modernizations of Vision* examines phenomena at the intersection of science, ideas, technology, and literature, concerning ways in which vision was conceptualized at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Experimental psychology, in particular, positioned the individual gaze as the key to unlocking the mysteries of consciousness and as a means of overcoming the uncertainties inherent in human cognition. Consequently, it emerged not merely as the most promising branch of science – widely expected to resolve longstanding epistemological anxieties – but also as a site of experimentation aimed at expanding both individual and institutional control over sensory perception.

The author reconstructs one of several pathways through which new psychological concepts of vision were transferred into Polish philosophical discourse at the turn of the twentieth century, and subsequently into literature. The story of this transfer begins in Leipzig, where Wilhelm Wundt established his research centre (1879). It then leads to the first Polish laboratory of experimental psychology, founded at the Jagiellonian University on the initiative of Władysław Heinrich (1903/1904). The final stage of the described transfer is marked by the long-standing intellectual exchange between Heinrich and Waław Berent, traces of which may be identified in several texts: the Polish translation of Nietzsche's essay *On the Psychology of Art*, Heinrich's *Psychology of Emotions* (1907), and Berent's novel *Ozimina* (1911).