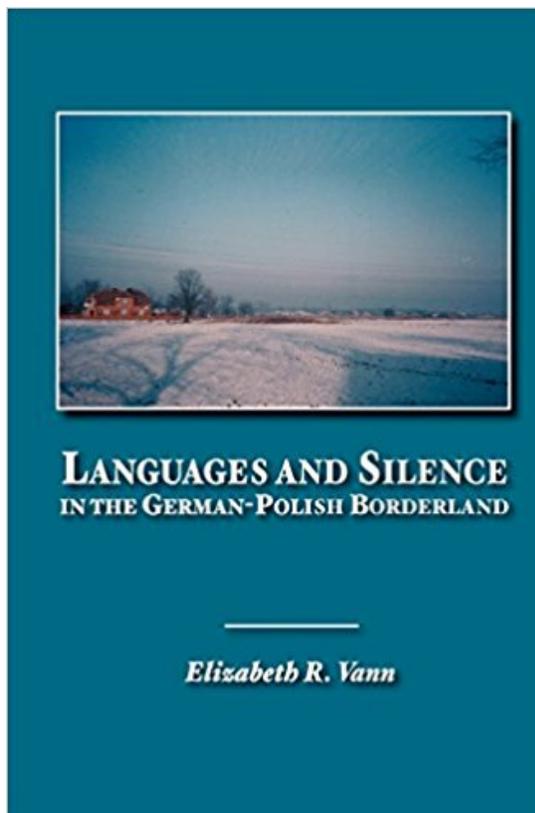


## A New Publication Is Now Available

### Greetings!

PIASA Books is proud to announce the publication of its latest book, ***Languages and Silence in the German Polish Borderland***, by Elizabeth R. Vann.

An ethnography that focuses on a region of Silesia near Opole where the inhabitants speak three languages, Polish, German, and Silesian, ***Languages and Silence*** analyzes the different ways that the inhabitants use the three languages and the situational, associational, political, and historical reasons they choose to speak whatever language they are speaking at any given moment or not speak about certain topics at all. The author also argues that the analysis of this linguistic complexity can tell us a lot both about how individuals construct their ethnic and national identities, and how that construction is interwoven with psychology, politics, and history.



### Advance Praise

*"Languages and Silence* contains important insights into the nature of national and ethnic affiliation, especially under conditions where state boundaries change—and how these dynamic relationships can be charted through language. Silesia is a fascinating case because of the intersection of three languages. The author's characterization of the region as a kind of blank space between clearly bounded places forces us to rethink conventional understandings of nation-states and associated national identities divided by clear lines."

—Marysia Galbraith, University of Alabama

"Languages and Silence is a beautifully crafted text, which deals with politically, ideologically, and theoretically complex issues of identity in the borderlands where language and practices of language use both reflect and perform identities the negotiation of which in Silesia has never been a neutral choice. The text is ethnographically rich, theoretically solid, and a pleasure to read."

Josina Escobedo, Northern Arizona University

—Janina Fenigsen, Northern Arizona University

### **About the Author**

**Elizabeth R. Vann** is a writer, researcher, and international educator. She holds a Ph.D. degree in linguistic anthropology from the University of Chicago and has taught students from over fifteen countries. In addition to her sojourns in Silesia chronicled in the book, she has lived in the United States, England, Germany, Gaza, and Egypt.

***Languages and Silence in the German-Polish Borderland*** by Elizabeth R. Vann

**ISBN 978-0-940962-74-3**  
**\$19.95**

**List price**

**PIASA members' price \$15.95**

---

PIASA members may order ***Languages and Silence in the German-Polish Borderland*** directly from PIASA by email [piasany@verizon.net](mailto:piasany@verizon.net) or by calling (212) 686-4164. Copies may also be ordered online from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Bookstores may order through Ingram. Libraries may order through Baker & Taylor.

**Sincerely,**

Kathleen Cioffi, Series Editor  
PIASA Books, an imprint of the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Contact information:  
Tel. 609-258-5716  
E-mail: [piasabooks@thepolishreview.org](mailto:piasabooks@thepolishreview.org)

Books ordered directly from PIASA may be shipped via media mail or priority mail and a shipping fee of either \$3.50 or \$7.50 for the first copy will be charged. Overseas customers should contact PIASA about shipping costs.