



Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 4, No. 4

October 2024

A Word From the President

Warmest greetings to all our readers from balmy Michigan.

Earlier today, I read a message from a friend on Facebook that reminded me of my childhood in Poland: *The summer is ending, and fall begins*. The accompanying image shows dried mushrooms and jars of fruits and vegetables covering kitchen counters. This time of year, the rhythm of the day shifts from wandering paths to hearthside plans. Yet, the focus on community and planning remains as important as ever.



With the arrival of fall, PIASA also transitions into a new rhythm. What better symbolizes this than this newsletter generously edited by Jim Pula, who regularly reaches out to many of us, asking for updates, reminding us of deadlines, and holding us accountable for the projects and plans we've undertaken. At the same time, Jim gives us the space to celebrate our accomplishments and reflect on where we've been and where we are going. Similarly to him, Renata Vickrey, our institutional historian, makes sure our meetings are recorded.

We return to some of our long-standing commitments, most notably our annual conference, which is set to thrive under the outstanding leadership of Patrice Dabrowski, Neal Pease, and Bożena Leven. The conference will be held at Columbia University in New York City from June 6–8, 2025. Anna Frajlich, Eve Krzyzanowski, and Alicja Brzyska are working to ensure that all participants feel welcomed to the city with a rich history of Polish involvement. This year's theme, *Democracy and Its Discontents*, keeps us grounded in the past while signaling the potential changes that the fundamental right of democracy—elections—will bring, both in the United States and in Poland, within the coming year.

Since research is at the heart of our work, we remain committed to several core initiatives that highlight excellence in Polish studies across disciplines. One of these is the PIASA awards, which bring outstanding scholarship to the attention of our members, affiliates, and friends—a task Bob Blobaum continues to lead with dedication and the help of the Board members. Another key commitment is *The Polish Review*, which, under the stellar leadership of Halina Filipowicz, continues to grow. Thanks to the wonderful contributions of the PIASA community and scholars from around the world, the journal thrives, reflecting the collective dedication and intellectual strength of our network. Bob Blobaum, Włodek Mandrecki, and I are also working on widening the spaces of involvement by planning new webinars, including a series on PIASA scientists, which we hope to inaugurate this fall.

We continue publishing books that highlight the voices of distinguished scholars, offer new perspectives on Polish culture, and present important translations. Most recently, PIASA published *The Short Story in a Polish Context: Classic Short Fiction from the Seventeenth to Twentieth Centuries*, edited by Oscar E. Swan. This anthology contains selections from the Polish short-story canon, showcasing how the genre evolved in Poland throughout the ages.

Steady work continues at our PIASA headquarters in New York, where Bożena Leven (with the help of Krzysztof Blendowski), and a dedicated team—including Mariusz Bargielski, Joanna Mróz, and archivists from Poland—carry out a wide range of tasks. They care for, preserve, and organize the building and the treasures it holds, handling both the most mundane and the most important duties. From addressing the roof that needs repair, to ensuring we receive communication from PIASA, to restoring documents and artwork, and organizing events that bring many of us together for lectures and gatherings. They ensure that the place that for decades has represented for many their home remains stable, protected, and loved. This is where we return, regardless of the seasons.

— Anna Müller, PIASA President

Call for Papers for 2025 PIASA Conference

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for its annual conference, which will be hosted by Columbia University's Harri-man Institute from June 6-8, 2025. Proposals are solicited for complete *in-person* sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, or business/economics. The general theme of the conference is "Democracy and Its Discontents." New York City is a fitting site for this conference as it is also the seat of PIASA, an institution that became an important site where ideas of freedom of expression and scientific inquiry for Poles in emigration thrived while standing in contrast to the limitations of democracy and the rule of law that post-World War II Poland experienced. Because it has long been a destination for immigrants, New York City has likewise been a breeding ground for both radical and progressive movements. The constant tensions between the two make it a powerful symbol of discontent and distrust in institutions.

Therefore, we particularly welcome panel and paper proposals which address these issues. Since we value comparative sessions that place the Polish and East Central European experience in context, papers need not focus specifically on Poland or Polish themes. Finally, papers do not necessarily have to address the main conference theme and are welcome for consideration in separate and cohesive panels.

Each session is scheduled for 90 minutes to accommodate three papers or about 20 minutes per paper, with suitable time left for discussion. As the conference language is English, all panel and paper submissions are expected to be in that language. All conference rooms will be equipped with AV for Power-Point presentations. Presenters are invited to submit their final conference papers to be considered for possible publication in *The Polish Review* after the conference.

To submit a paper or complete session, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to program organizers Patrice Dabrowski at pmd639@g.harvard.edu and Neal Pease at pease@uwm.edu. The deadline for proposals is February 1, 2025, although earlier submissions are welcome since capacity is limited. All participants are encouraged to pay the conference pre-registration fee of \$100, discounted to \$50 for students, by May 10, 2025, as the conference fees will increase after that date. Pre-conference tours, lodging options, keynote

plenary and banquet speakers, and locations for the Friday evening reception and the Saturday evening awards banquet will be announced later.

— Patrice Dabrowski

Call for Award Nominations

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America invites nominations for its annual awards program. Nominations should be directed to the chair of the appropriate committee as indicated below. The **deadline for nominations is November 1, 2024**.

Oskar Halecki Polish and East-Central European History Award: Recognizes a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience or including the Polish experience within a larger East-Central European context. The book should represent exemplary historical research and writing written in the English language and must have been published during the 2023 calendar year. Edited collections and self-publications are not eligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as "Oskar Halecki Award Nomination," a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the nominated book (one for each member of the award committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to rblobau@wvu.edu.

Casimir Funk Natural Sciences Award: Recognizes excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of Natural Sciences. Exceptional Polish American scientists, or scientists of Polish ancestry who live and work in the United States, are eligible for the Award. Natural Sciences include biology, physics, chemistry, earth science, astronomy, mathematics, and related disciplines. Nominators must provide a letter stating the achievements on which the nomination is based and a curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes a bibliography of significant publications. Additional letters of support may be provided. Questions and nomination should be directed to Dr. Włoddek Mandrecki at wlodek@mandeck.com.

Bronisław Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences: Recognizes a book or seminal publication of particular value and significance to the Polish experience. The publication should represent exemplary scholarly research

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Call for Award Nominations

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published in the fields encompassed by the social sciences including anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology according to standards recognized by those disciplines. The book or publication must be written in the English language and must have appeared in 2023. Edited collections and self-published books are ineligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as a “Bronisław Malinowski Award Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the nominated publication (one for each member of the committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Wacław Lednicki Award in the Humanities: Recognizes the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields encompassed within the Humanities including fine arts, history, languages, literature, philosophy, religion, etc. Because Polish history has its own award, works in this field are ineligible. If the nomination is based on a book, film, play or literary translation, it must be written or rendered in the English language and must have been published or appeared in 2023. Edited collections and self-publications are not eligible. Nominations should include a cover letter marking the submission as “Wacław Lednicki Award Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and four copies of the nominated book (one for each member of the award committee). Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Tadeusz Sendzimir Applied Sciences Award: Recognizes excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of applied sciences including branches of science and technology in which existing scientific knowledge is applied to develop practical applications, inventions or other technological advancements. Examples of disciplines within applied sciences include (broadly understood) computer sciences, engineering, environmental science, health science, and many others. Exceptional Polish American scientists or engineers who live and work in the United States are eligible for the award. Nominations must include a nomination letter and a curriculum vitae of the nominee that includes a bibliography of significant publications or a list of accomplishments. Additional letters of support may be provided. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Wladek Minor at wladek@minorlab.org.

Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish-Jewish Studies: Recognizes the best English-language book on the history and/or culture of Polish Jews published during the 2023 calendar year. Edited collections and self-published books are not eligible. Nominations must include a cover letter marking the submission as “Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and three copies of the published book, one for each member of the award committee. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Anna M. Cienciala Award: Recognizes the best edited multi-author scholarly volume focused on Polish studies. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award: Recognizes an individual with a long-standing record of exemplary scholarly publications related to Poland and/or significant professional achievements, as well as a record of distinguished service to the profession and public advocacy for Polish studies or Polish culture. Candidates from the previous year who were not selected are eligible to be considered again. However, their nominations need to be resubmitted to ensure they are included in the current year's review process. Nominations, including self-nominations, must include a cover letter marking the submission as “Susanne M. Lotarski Award Nomination” and a curriculum vitae of the nominee. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Ludwik Krzyżanowski Award: Recognizes the best article appearing in *The Polish Review*. Publications eligible this year are those that appeared in the 2023 issues. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Halina Filipowicz at hfilipow@wisc.edu.

Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award to Promote Democracy and the Rule of Law: The Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award furthers democracy and the rule of law by funding Polish and non-Polish citizens working in the areas of Polish studies and culture who seek to facilitate these broad goals. It is intended to support individual academics, journalists, writers, researchers, scientists, and artists by recognizing and publicizing the recipient's accomplishments and/or promoting their future endeavors as relevant to the award's general purpose through scholarship and creative work. Nominations must be based on a book, article, film, play, literary work, or project promoting democracy and the rule of law. The nominee's

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Call For Award Nominations

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accomplishments or future project must be related to Poland or, if not directly related to Poland, must be authored, created, or proposed by a person of Polish heritage, broadly understood. Nominations must include a cover letter marking the submission as “The Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Nomination,” a curriculum vitae of the nominee, and a description of the nominee’s accomplishments or future project for which an award is sought and its contribution to democracy and the rule of law. Questions and nominations should be directed to Dr. Robert Blobaum at rblobau@wvu.edu.

Commemorating the Fall of the Berlin Wall by Bicycle

November 9 will mark the 35th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, an event symbolizing one of the most significant historical events in recent history. For 28 years, the 155 kilometer (96 mile) wall served as part of the almost 7,000 kilometer (4,350 mile) “Iron Curtain” dividing the Eastern and Western blocs. Its elimination led to the reunification of Germany and, eventually, the end of the Cold War. This dramatic event was the culmination of a process that began with the birth of the Solidarność trade union movement led by Lech Wałęsa in the Gdańsk Shipyard, the origins of which stretched back to the historic workers’ strike of 1970. The momentous August Agreements of 1980 which recognized NSZZ “Solidarność” as the first independent trade union in the Eastern Bloc led to the development of similar movements across other East European countries in the following decade.

In 1985 U.S. President Ronald Reagan met with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva to discuss arms limitations, talks that quickly stretched to other issues. These expanding discussions eventually led to Reagan’s trip to the Berlin Wall on June 12, 1987, when he famously challenged the General Secretary to “Tear down this wall!” The impact of this simple yet powerful plea led *Time* magazine to list it as one of the ten greatest speeches in history. Thus, the symbolism of the elimination of the Berlin Wall as a public event bringing “closure” to the era of the Iron Curtain.

To recognize this formative event, and pay tribute to those who made the end of the Cold War possible, **Adam Koniuszewski**, an accountant, financial analyst, and fraud

examiner who lives in Montréal, will embark next month on a bicycle journey along the former Iron Curtain from the Baltic sea coast through Germany and Berlin, then along the borders of the Czech Republic and Slovakia to Bratislava (Slovakia). The route will also take him to significant historical landmarks including Geneva (1985 Geneva Summit), Prague (Prague Declaration), Gdańsk (Solidarność Strikes), Warsaw, and Berlin with its Brandenburg Gate.



He plans to document the journey in images and video, including stories and discussions with people, events and places with particular significance along the way. For further information, contact him at

Adamkoniuszewski@mac.com.

Polish Studies Program to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

Founded in 1974 by prominent historian Stanislaus Blejwas, the Polish and Polish American Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University connects the university community with the broader population of Connecticut Polonia and beyond. Offering academic courses in Polish history, language, and culture, the program also provides scholarship awards and unique experiences, including study abroad opportunities in Poland, guest lectures by prominent scholars, Polish films, and concerts. The Polish archives and special collections invite students for classroom study and researchers in-

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Polish Studies Program to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

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volved in professional publication. The Program has earned a reputation for fostering a deeper understanding of Poland's rich heritage and its ongoing contributions to global culture.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary the Program will host on October 9 “A Symposium on Polish American History and its Implications for Our Times” featuring prominent Polonia researchers. Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann, James S. Pula, Adam Walaszek, and Joanna Wojdon and will also honor its retiring director, Prof. M. B. B. Biskupski. For further information contact Renata Vickrey at vickreyr@ccsu.edu.

Mandel Center Annual Fellowships

The Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies is offering fellowships to support research and writing about the Holocaust and related topics for projects that will benefit from residence at the Museum and access to its resources. Proposals are welcome from all relevant academic disciplines. Fellowships are designed for scholars at all levels of their career from PhD candidates (ABD) on. Faculty between appointments and scholars currently not affiliated with a university will also be considered.

Fellows receive a monthly stipend of \$5,000, which may be subject to taxes, as well as a one-time travel stipend to support roundtrip, economy transportation to Washington, DC from their home institution. Individual awards are for two, four, or eight consecutive months of residency. A minimum of two consecutive months is required. Fellows may not hold a Mandel Center fellowship concurrently with other funded fellowships.

The Mandel Center provides visa assistance to fellows and their dependents, if necessary, but there is no further financial allowance for accompanying family members. Fellows are responsible for securing their own housing accommodations and health insurance.

Applications for the 2025-2026 academic year must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on November 15, 2024. Proposals should specify the resources available at the Museum to which a scholar needs access for their research. Applicants may attach an addendum listing these resources (in addition to the 1,000-word project proposal) or otherwise reference important resources in the body of

their project proposal. Applications must be submitted in English via our online application and consist of the following:

- An online application form
- A project proposal (in PDF format, not to exceed 1,000 words)
- A curriculum vitae summary (in PDF format, not to exceed four single-spaced pages)

For further information contact vscholars@ushmm.org or visit <https://www.ushmm.org/research/opportunities-for-academics/fellowships/annual> `utm_source=mkto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20240806MCHNEWA&utm_term=em1&utm_content=button`

Editor Search—*Polish American Studies*

The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) invites applications for the position of Editor-In-Chief for its peer-reviewed journal *Polish American Studies (PAS)*, an interdisciplinary double-blind refereed scholarly journal (ISSN 0032-2806; eISSN 2330-0833). It has been published continuously since 1944. It appears biannually. *PAS* is available world-wide through JSTOR, a database of full-text research journals. Electronic content and archive can be found at: <https://www.jstor.org/journal/poliamerstud>. For more information see: <https://polishamericanstudies.org/text/13/polish-american-studies.html>.

Qualified candidates should submit a CV and a letter of application explaining relevant experience to Dr. Marta Cieslak at mxcieslak@ualr.edu.

Upcoming Conferences

October 17-19, 2024—“**The Future of Central and East European Studies in the Light of Russia’s War of Aggression Against Ukraine**” will convene in Warsaw, Poland, featuring presentations in the fields of East European Studies, Diplomacy, International Relations, Legal or Political History, or Cultural Studies. For further information contact conference2024@instytutpileckiego.pl or visit <https://instytutpileckiego.pl/en/badania/fall-conference>,

November 21-24, 2024—The **56th annual Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Conference** will be held at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, MA. For information, visit <https://www.aseees.org/convention>.

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Upcoming Conferences

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January 3-6, 2025—The **Polish American Historical Association** will hold its annual meeting in New York City, NY, in conjunction with the American Historical Association. For further information, contact Prof. Marta Cieslak at mxcieslak@ualr.edu.

May 2, 2025—**Kościuszko Conference**, West Point, NY. The Conference theme will be announced in the next newsletter. For information, contact Anthony Bajdek at a.j.bajdek@comcast.net.

June 6-8, 2025—**PIASA Annual Conference** will convene at Columbia University in New York City. See page 2 for the call for papers.

Warsaw Uprising Commemoration

Angela Pienkos served as the moderator of a panel discussion on the tragic Warsaw Uprising of 1944 at a memorial event at St. Josaphat Basilica of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 1, 2024 — the 80th Anniversary of the start of the Uprising. She knew a number of the participants in the Uprising thanks to her many visits to Poland. Speakers at the program were Ewa Barczyk, Neal Pease and Donald Pienkos. Barczyk spoke about her mother's involvement in the Uprising while Pease and Donald Pienkos contributed their observations about the Uprising. Community members joined in the singing of patriotic songs performed by a group of young people, all attired as citizen-soldiers would have been in Warsaw on August 1, 1944. The Commemoration was co-sponsored by the Basilica and the Wisconsin Polish American Congress.

Tatra Folklore Donation

Prof. Thaddeus V. Gromada has announced the donation of the rich archives of the *Tatrzański Orzeł/The Tatra Eagle*, a bilingual quarterly dedicated to Tatra folklore. It was founded and edited by Dr. Gromada, Professor at New Jersey City University, from 1947 to 2018, assisted by his sister, Jane Gromada Kedroń. The archives of the publication will be donated to the new archives established in Ludźmierz, Poland, through the arrangements of Prof. Anna Mlekodaj, Professor at the Podhalańska Uczelnia in Nowy Targ. The archives are

highly regarded by both Polish and American scholars and researchers who will now have access to important documents, letters, books, etc., on Tatra regionalism. For further information, contact Dr. Gromada at 908 Scottish Rite Road, Unit 322, Greensboro, NC 27407.

New Member

Tomasz Grusiecki is associate professor in the Department of Art, Design, and Visual Studies, at Boise State University in Boise, Idaho, USA. He received BA and MA degree in the History of Art from University College London in the UK, a MRes from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy, and a PhD in Art History from McGill University, Montréal, Canada.



Prof. Grusiecki's research interests include Central and Eastern European art and material culture from 1500 to 1700, Germanic and Slavic Europe, global and trans-cultural art histories, cultural entanglement, European perceptions of the wider world, and Europe's heterogeneity. He is the author of *Transcultural Things and the Spectre of Orientalism in Early Modern Poland-Lithuania* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2023) along with nine articles and five book chapters. Among his recognitions are the Emerging Scholars Prize from the Society of Historians of Eastern European, Eurasian, and Russian Art and Architecture (2021) and the Arthur Kingsley Porter Prize from the College Art Association (2023).

He is currently working on his second book which promises to be the first ecocritical examination of art and material culture in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Lithuania, Poland, Prussia, and Rus'.

New Books on Polish Studies

Katarzyna Bojarska, Ewa Domańska, Piotr Filipkowski, Jacek Malczyński, Luiza Nader, eds., *Knowledge in the Shadow of Catastrophe. Key Thinkers of Polish Humanities in the Post-War Era* (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill/Schöningh, 2024), ISBN: 978-3657793952.

Agnieszka Dauksza, *Affective Modernism: Modern Polish Literature in Relational Interpretation* (Oxford, UK: Peter Lang, 2024), ISBN: 978-3631923443.

Annika Elisabet Frieberg, *Peace at All Costs: Catholic Intellectuals, Journalists, and Media in Postwar Polish-German Reconciliation* (Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books, 2024), ISBN: 978-1805393122.

Jutta Günther, Dagmara Jajeśniak-Quast, Udo Ludwig, Hans-Jürgen Wagoner, eds., *Roadblocks to the Socialist Modernization Path and Transition: Evidence from East Germany and Poland* (London, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), ISBN: 978-3031370502.

Andrea Honorati, *Aristocrazia italiana e re di Polonia: i titoli nobiliari conferiti dai sovrani polacchi* (Ancona, Italy: Affinità elettive, 2024), ISBN: 978-8873267157.

Krzysztof Jaskulowski, Piotr Majewski, *The Memory Politics of the Cursed Soldiers in Poland: Authoritarian Nationalism, Hegemony and Emotions* (Abington, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN: 978-1040106907.

Ewa Kobylecka-Piwońska, *Under Latin American Eyes: Witold Gombrowicz in Argentinian Literature* (Berlin: Peter Lang GmbH, 2024), ISBN: 978-3631918555.

Evelina Kristanova, Rafał Habielski, Małgorzata Such-Pyrgiel, *Politics and the Media in Poland from the 19th to the 21st Centuries: Selected Issues* (Boston: Brill, 2024), ISBN: 978-9004687998.

Paweł Marcinkiewicz, *Literature, Translation, and the Politics of Meaning: Polish, American, and German Literary Traditions* (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2024), ISBN: 978-3847016441.

Evan McGilvray, *General Władysław Sikorski, 1881-1943: The Life and Controversial Death of Poland's Leader in Exile* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2024), ISBN: 978-1526795144.

Andrzej Nowak, Markus Krzoska, *Das Vergessene Appearances Von 1920 Lloyd George, Lenin und Polen* (Basel/Berlin/Boston: Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2024), ISBN: 978-3111331881.

Wojciech Paszyński, *Remarkable Poles: Pioneers, Inventors, Explorers* (Olszanica, Poland: Wydawnictwo Bosz, 2024), ISBN: 978-8375767797.

Leonard A. Polakiewicz, *Interpreting Chekhov's Prose* (Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2024), ISBN: 979-8887195667.

Jan Pomorski, *Polish Theory of History and Metahistory in Topolski, Pomian, and Tokarczuk: From Hayden White and Beyond* (New York: Routledge, 2024), ISBN: 978-1003393955.

Robert F. Reiss, *Elizabeth Munk Clark (Elizabeth Clark Reiss): Daughter of America, Émigré Student, Polish Scholar-patriot, and Celebrated International Humanitarian Aid Executive: Her Life and Her Poetry* (Przemyśl: Wydawnictwo naukowe Towarzystwa Przyjaciół Nauk w Przemyślu, 2024), ISBN: 978-8361329282.

Michelle Share, Alicja Bobek, eds., *Polish Families in Ireland: A Life Course Perspective* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), ISBN: 978-3031546341.

Władysław Smoleński, *Konfederacja Targowicka: wojna polsko-rosyjska 1792 w obronie Konstytucji 3 maja* (Kraków: Biały Kruk, 2024), ISBN: 978-8375534047.

Michał Sokolnicki, *Dziennik ankarcki: wybór z lat 1939-1945* (Warsaw: Ośrodek Karta, 2024), ISBN: 978-8367820028.

Ewa Stańczyk, *Cartoons and Antisemitism: Visual Politics of Interwar Poland* (Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2024), ISBN: 978-1496851543.

Wolfgang Templin, Marek Zybur, *Józef Piłsudski: od rewolucjonisty do marszałka* (Warsaw: Bellona, 2024), ISBN: 978-8311173439.

Paweł Waszkiewicz, *Social Media and Law Enforcement Practice in Poland: Insights into Practice Outside Anglophone Countries* (New York: Routledge, 2024), ISBN: 978-1032680217.

Elizabeth B. White, Joanna Sliwa, *The Counterfeit Countess: The Jewish Woman Who Rescued Thousands of Poles During the Holocaust* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2024), ISBN: 978-1982189129.

Peter Zablocki, *Death of General Sikorski the Polish Leader's Last Flight in 1943 and the Tangled Web of Poland, the Allies, and the Soviets* (Barnsley: Frontline Books, 2024), ISBN: 978-1399039246.

Members' Forum

Rethinking the Polish Sixties: A New Perspective on Polish History

Malgorzata Fidelis is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Chicago. Her research interests include social and cultural issues related to everyday life and the relationship between individuals and state power in post-1945 Poland. Her book *Imagining the World from Behind the Iron Curtain: Youth and the Global Sixties in Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2022) was recently named the recipient of PIASA's **Oskar Halecki Polish History Award**. In the following article she explains her work and its place in modern Polish historiography.



The global sixties or the “long sixties” are well known as a transformative period of political, social, and cultural upheavals. While this era has been extensively studied in the West and increasingly researched for the Global South, the so-called “Second World” has not been well integrated into the broader narrative of the global sixties. *Imagining the World from Behind the Iron Curtain: Youth and the Global Sixties in Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2022) argues that young people in communist Poland too were active participants and agents in the movements of the sixties. The Iron Curtain was hardly a barrier to external influences. Young individuals, from students and hippies to mainstream youth in miniskirts and blue jeans, viewed themselves as part of the global community of like-minded people, while also addressing myriad local concerns.

As I argue in my book, the global sixties in Poland primarily revolve around young people’s desires and struggles to engage with the world on their own terms. However, my aim in writing this book was not solely to provide a history of youth during the sixties in Poland. Rather, I propose a new framework for understanding Polish postwar history beyond the national or regional context, through the lens of transnational connections, exchanges, and imaginations.

During the long sixties, across the globe, new generations grappled with similar issues, seeking political and ideological frameworks they considered more humane for their societies. In Poland, the Thaw of the mid-1950s was an important turning point. Disillusioned by Stalinism, many young people threw themselves into new kinds of activism on behalf of anti-Stalinist democratic socialism. Student clubs, avant-garde theater, jazz, and critical journalism all became part of the youth carnival that engulfed the country between 1954 and 1956. The unprecedented meeting of cultures at the World Youth and Student Festi-

val that took place in Warsaw in the summer of 1955 generated demands for more meaningful participation in the global community of youth, including personal mobility across borders. Tragically, the enthusiasm for transnational engagements was curbed by the Soviet invasion of Hungary in November 1956. The suppression of the Hungari-

an Revolution delineated the limits of the youth “internationalism” permitted in post-Stalinist Eastern Europe, but it did not extinguish the diverse ways in which the world continued to be imagined.

As Poland became more open to outside influences after 1956, the political elites embraced a new vision of modernity that allowed young people to participate in aspects of global youth culture, including new forms of sociability, consumer culture, fashion, music, and dance, while retaining state socialist political and economic structures. In doing so, the state became complicit in facilitating new expressions of young selfhood. For example, a new genre of colorful youth magazines emerged, providing models for modern socialist behavior while also serving as an important source of transnational imagination. These magazines, although produced by party-state publishing houses, projected the West as the vibrant “core” of youth culture while also featuring content from other socialist countries and the Global South.

The outside world was not accessible to every young person in Poland in the same way. The exposure differed from the city to the countryside, and from one social group to another. University students, for example, had greater access to transnational cultures in urban spaces where they could frequent student clubs and participate in the artistic initiatives of the official Student Culture. Some formed discussion circles that tackled domestic and international politics. The student and youth protests of March 1968 exposed cracks and tensions among the transnational community of young leftists. After 1968, the transnational imagination of young people in Poland took a predominantly cultural turn and became most visible among hippies, who sought “authenticity” beyond the confines of national or Cold War geopolitics. Hippies made themselves visible on Polish streets with long hair, colorful dress, and communal gatherings. Despite harassment from the state and fellow citizens, they took pride in their status as social outcasts, and their style appealed to other young people.

The quest for a liberated young subjectivity also took hold in the Polish countryside, albeit in different ways.

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Members' Forum

Rethinking the Polish Sixties

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More isolated from broader society, young rural people adopted modernity as an all-encompassing search for self-expression that no longer bowed to the family, the village community, or the local priest. The world that came to the Polish village in the sixties took many forms, from technological improvements, television, and the motorcycle to changing notions of gender relations and perceptions of the female body, as evidenced in autobiographies of rural residents.

The Polish sixties culminated in two upheavals: the student and youth protest of March 1968 and the workers' uprising on the Baltic coast in December 1970. Both movements were led by the young and both were met with state violence. By the early 1970s, the Polish regime recognized a need for a different strategy to engage the younger generation. The new leader, Edward Gierek, who came to power in December 1970, sought to integrate

young people into his new vision of building a "Second Poland." This included promoting a revised version of socialist modernity aiming to "domesticate" many of the desires and aspirations that characterized the global sixties.

Ultimately, examining the sixties prompts us to rethink the trajectory of postwar Polish history often formed around the contrast between isolationist communism and the democratic opening after 1989. From the perspective of youth, the post-1989 transition in Poland from communism to liberal democracy, often dubbed as "the return to Europe," was less of a breakthrough and more of a continuation and intensification of existing trends. Indeed, young people had already established new modes of self-expression and cultural spaces where alternative ideas of social and political organization became imaginable. These ideas have continued to inspire aspirations and tensions that persisted beyond the systemic change.

— Malgorzata Fidelis

The Paradoxical Shift in Polish Humanities and Social Sciences: From Future to Past

Tomasz Zarycki is Professor and Deputy Director of the Institute for Social Studies at Warsaw University. A sociologist and social geographer, he specializes in the sociology of politics, culture, knowledge, critical sociology, and discourse analysis with particular focus on Polish and Eastern European societies. His book *The Polish Elite and the Language Sciences: A Perspective of Global Historical Sociology* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022) was honored by PIASA with its **Bronislaw Malinowski Social Sciences Award** for the best book published in English in the social science fields of anthropology, economics, political science, and sociology in that year. In the following contribution he explains briefly the paradox his research has uncovered.



were remarkably forward-looking and innovative. In contrast, today's era, typically characterized by rapid technological advancement, has seen Polish academia turn increasingly toward the past. This shift raises intriguing questions about the nature of intellectual progress and the impact of sociopolitical changes on

academic discourse.

The 1960s in Poland witnessed what I refer to as the "golden era" of Polish humanities and social sciences. This period was marked by a surge in theoretical innovations and a strong focus on modernization. Scholars were actively engaged in developing new paradigms and contributing to global academic debates. The field of linguistics, for instance, saw significant advancements in structural and formal approaches. Similarly, innovative and world-renowned research was carried out in economics, urban planning or historiography. Polish researchers often produced unique theoretical innovations, combining socialist ideals with an openness to new Western paradigms.

Several factors contributed to this future-oriented per-

In my recent book *"The Polish Elite and Language Sciences A Perspective of Global Historical Sociology,"* I have observed a curious paradox. In the period between 1956 and 1968, Polish humanities and social sciences

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Members' Forum

Paradoxical Shift in Polish Humanities and Social Sciences

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spective. The political climate, characterized by a delicate balance between liberal and hardline communist factions, created a unique space for intellectual exploration. Poland's position as an interface between East and West facilitated intellectual exchange and fostered creative tensions. Moreover, the East-West rivalry encouraged investment in scientific progress as a means of demonstrating the superiority of competing modernization models.

Today, the landscape of Polish academia presents a starkly different picture. Despite living in an age of unprecedented technological advancement and in conditions of unrestricted freedom of academic inquiry, the focus has shifted dramatically toward the past. On the political right, there is a pronounced emphasis on exploring Poland's historical suffering and resilience. On the left, the focus has shifted to examining Poland's historical guilt, particularly in relation to its treatment of minorities. Both approaches share a common thread of looking backward rather than forward.

This paradoxical shift prompts us to consider Francis Fukuyama's controversial "end of history" thesis. While widely criticized, the case of Polish academia suggests that, in some ways, history did "end" in the 1990s — at least in terms of forward-looking intellectual ambition. The fall of communism and the subsequent transition to a market economy seem to have redirected academic focus from building new theories to reexamining the past.

Reflecting on the sources of this paradox, it is crucial to consider the role of the geopolitical contest of the 1960s. The Soviet system at that time had a strong ambition to be modern, and Polish academics were influenced by this broader trend which was manifested in considerable prestige that they enjoyed at that time. This moderniza-

tion drive encompassed a desire to create new social and cultural forms. The communist ideology, and Marxism in particular, even if at that time it was already perceived rather critically by many Polish scholars, provided a stimulating point of reference for imagining a radically different future.

Today, this modernizing impulse seems largely absent. The collapse of the Soviet system and the subsequent disillusionment with grand narratives of progress may have contributed to this shift. Moreover, the triumph of liberal democracy and market economics in the 1990s, as well as Poland's integration into NATO and EU a bit later, perhaps created a sense that the "end point" of social and political evolution had been reached, leading to a retreat into historical analysis.

The structure of the Polish academic field itself also plays a role. As I have argued in my work, the dominant position of the intelligentsia in the Polish field of power creates a unique dynamic. Their role as guardians of national culture may contribute to a focus on historical themes rather than forward-looking innovations.

Additionally, the globalization of academia and the pressure to engage with international trends may have paradoxically led to a retreat into national themes as a way of asserting uniqueness. The post-1989 period saw a reevaluation of national identity and historical narratives that had been suppressed under communist rule, naturally leading to an increased focus on historical research.

As we reflect on this paradox, it is clear that the trajectory of academic fields is intimately tied to broader sociopolitical contexts. The challenge for Polish humanities and social sciences moving forward may be to find a balance — one that honors the past while rekindling the forward-looking spirit that characterized its post-war "golden era" and other periods of dynamism in Polish culture.

— Tomasz Zarycki

PAHA BOOKS

The Polish American Historical Association announces the publication of John Guzłowski's *Who I Am: Lives Told in Kitchen Polish*, the first volume in its new series dedicated to the publication of materials on the Polish diaspora. The inaugural book presents columns related to Polish American history and culture originally published by Prof. Guzłowski as part of his column in the Chicago-based newspaper *Dziennik Zwiqzkowy*.

As an interdisciplinary society, PAHA welcomes submissions of scholarly materials across the disciplines including works of non-fiction or fiction, graduate theses, memoirs, poetry or other material exploring the history and cultures of the various Polish diasporas. For further information, contact Neal Pease at pease@uwm.edu.

Members' Forum

Communism's Public Square: Culture as Politics

Kyryll Kunakhovich is a historian specializing in central and eastern Europe at the University of Virginia. His book *Communism's Public Sphere: Culture as Politics in Cold War Poland and East Germany* (Cornell University Press, 2022) received honorable mention for PI-ASA's **Oskar Halecki Polish History Award**. In the following article he explains his work and its place in modern Polish scholarship.

This theater season, a new director took the reins at Kraków's Stary Teatr. Dorota Ignatjew succeeds two PiS appointees whose tenures were embroiled in controversy. For many in the Polish theater world, Ignatjew's hire portends a new and hopeful start. And yet so far her focus has been squarely on the past — specifically, on the communist past. The poster for the Stary's upcoming season features a photo of the actor Jerzy Trela in a 1973 production of *Dziady*, or *Forefathers' Eve*. Another celebrated actor, Jerzy Stuhr — who also appeared in that production — will be the focus of an exhibition and a series of talks. So, too, will Stanisław Radwan, who led the Stary Teatr in the 1980s. Ignatjew has told journalists that she intends to restore the Stary to glory. Her early choices leave no doubt what she views as the theater's golden age.

During the 1970s, a visit to the Stary Teatr was a charged, extraordinary event. "Some tingle of emotion crisscrossed both the audience and the actors," the actor Leszek Piskorz raved. "It sounds incredible today, but that's how it was!" Other cultural venues often produced a similar effect. A few blocks from the Stary, the Basement under the Rams — *Piwnica pod baranami* — was equally packed, and equally beloved. But it was not only in Poland that crowds flocked to artistic institutions. Across the border in East Germany, Leipzig teenagers camped out in front of music clubs to catch their favorite rock band, the Butlers. "It was a euphoria that you can't even imagine," the band's frontman recalled. "It was almost mass hysteria." When the Butlers were banned from performing, thousands of fans protested in the streets.

In my book *Communism's Public Sphere*, I ask why cultural events had such significance in Cold War Poland and East Germany. I show that these events were outlets for political debate, enabling conversations that were banned elsewhere: about state policy, national identity, and the common good. State officials treated concert halls, theaters, galleries, and music clubs as tools for shaping public attitudes and values. But various publics also used these spaces for their own ends. On stage, on



paper, and onscreen, artists critiqued government policy and offered alternatives. Audiences, too, made themselves heard by clapping, booing, or simply not showing up. Since communist officials treated art as a political matter, its reception became a political act. Under regimes that banned free speech, cultural spaces functioned as a public sphere: a site for debating, contesting, and negotiating current affairs.

That was what the Stary Teatr aspired to be, especially after 1968. "I felt ... intellectual and moral unrest rise up all around," director Jan Paweł Gawlik remembered. "I wanted to use it, and even, if possible, to stimulate it." Gawlik invited *auteurs* like Andrzej Wajda and Konrad Swinarski to put on plays that probed Polish identity: Romantic classics such as *Forefathers' Eve*, *November Night*, and *Liberation*. As meditations on the possibility of freedom — from foreign rule, the weight of history, self-doubt — these plays were just as relevant in the 1970s as when they premiered. In 1974, Gawlik, Swinarski, and Wajda received the Yeast award from *Polityka* magazine "for innovative theatrical work that aroused a broad social response [and] leavened thought."

Ignatjew clearly hopes to make a similar impact. "We want to comment boldly on what's happening in Poland," she wrote in her submission to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. "We want to treat theater as a site of dialogue, asking even the most difficult questions and creating debate in public space." This involves organizing regular discussion evenings in which theatergoers can speak for themselves. "Let the National Stary Teatr become a place where every person can take the floor freely and openly," Ignatjew insists. In other words, let it again become a public sphere.

It is easy to imagine why Ignatjew aspires to this goal. In the 1970s, the Stary Teatr was the hottest ticket in town. It was endlessly discussed, admired, criticized, and picked apart; in short, it mattered. After 1989, as other public spheres emerged, attendance at the Stary and so many cultural institutions plummeted. "Today," a literary critic wrote in 1993, "the only people who still care about art are groups of lovers, no different from philatelists, beekeepers, and ornithologists." As Ignatjew realizes, restoring the Stary Teatr to glory involves more than just improving its artistic profile. It also requires recapturing the social role it played during the communist era, when cultural spaces formed a public sphere.

— Kyryll Kunakhovich

NOTE: Quotations are taken from the book.

Mieczysław B. Biskupski published *Prezydent Woodrow Wilson a Odrodzenie Państwa Polskiego (1914-1918)* (Warsaw: Neriton, 2024). He was also accorded *Emeritus* status on his retirement from Central Connecticut State University.

Alice-Catherine Carls published *Calligraphy of Days*, a book of poetry by Krzysztof Siwczyk (Seagull Press, 2024), and an essay about Zuzanna Ginczanka that appeared in English in *World Literature Today* in 2022 and in French in *Poesibao* in 2024. She is currently in Warsaw at the invitation of the Kolegium Tłumaczy of the Polish Book Institute and is researching the life and papers of Zofia Romanowicz which she is translating into French and English.

Geraldine Balut Coleman was honored by the American Council of Polish Culture in August with its Distinguished Service Award for her many years of dedication to the organization and its goals.

Anna Frajlich-Zajac published a poetry book, *Odrastamy od drzewa* (Szczecin, Poland: Wydawnictwo FORMA, 2024). In September she visited Warsaw, Szczecin, Kraków and Lublin to promote this book and her *Szyborska poeta poetów* (2023).

John Grondelski concluded a one-year Pearson Fellowship on September 27 during which he worked on the National Security staff of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz.

Joanna Trzeciak Huss published a short essay on Wisława Szymborska in the October 2024 issue of *The Polish Review* along with a selection of translations of poems spanning Szymborska's career. Her translation of Zuzanna Ginczanka's poem "Joyful Mythology" was chosen by Jane Hirschfield for *Best Literary Translations Anthology 2024* and her translation of Szymborska's "Onion" was selected by Cristina Rivera Garza for *Best Literary Translations Anthology 2025*. Her article on Ginczanka, "Smak chwili: deklaracja Zuzanny Ginczanki," (A Taste of the Moment: Zuzanna Ginczanka's 'Declaration') appeared in *Idę słowem jak chlebem się sycić* (I go off to feed on a word as if feeding on bread; Universitas, 2024), edited by Izolda Kiec. Over the course of the past year, she has spoken to audiences at the University of Szczecin, Johns Hopkins University, the Kosciuszko Foundation Ohio Chapter, the PIASA Annual Conference in Warsaw, the Pan Tadeusz Museum on Wrocław, and the University of Bielsko-Biała.

Elżbieta Korolczuk and **Agnieszka Graff** published "'The West Is Trying Too Hard': Gender and the Right-Wing Critique of Globalization," in *Critical Sociology*

(June 2024), <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/08969205241260001>.

John J. Kulczycki taught a course entitled "Inventing Nations in Eastern Europe: Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine" in the Adult Education Program at the Newberry Library in the summer term, 2024.

Maria Makowiecka published the biographical article "Those Who Plant Trees Build Themselves Monuments, or the Life and Work of Stefan Leon Makowiecki," in *Landowners-Scientists* (Siedlce: Muzeum Regionalne, 2024). She also presented "Florianka 1928-28 in *From Wielick to Wola Suchożebrska, or the Story of One Question*" at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the National Roztocze Forest Park, Florianka, in August 2024.

Dominic A. Pacyga published a chapter titled "Chicago, Public History, and Historical Discourse," in Joanna Wojdon and Dorota Wiśniewska, eds., *History in Public Space* (New York and London: Routledge, 2024). On August 30 he lectured at the Packingtown Museum in Chicago, where he is curator, on the historical development of the meat packing industry to a group of Brazilian farmers on a tour to learn about the marketing of agricultural products in the United States.

Angela Pienkos served as the moderator of a panel discussion on the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 at a memorial event at St. Josaphat Basilica of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on August 1. Speakers at the event included **Ewa Barczyk**, **Neal Pease**, and **Donald E. Pienkos**.

Leonard A. Polakiewicz published *Interpreting Chekhov's Prose* (Brookline, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2024), a collection of essays on the originality and significance of Chekhov's prose.

James S. Pula published "Polish Immigrants in Civil War Louisiana," *Polish American Studies*, Vol. 82, no. 2 (Autumn 2024), 7-29.

Jarosław Ryszard Romaniuk published *Leczenie uzależnień: Materiały na zamówienie* (Odwroćni, 2024). *Odwroćni* is a clinic specializing in trauma-oriented addiction treatment. The book is a collection of his previously published articles in Polish-language professional journals on the topic of substance use disorders treatment and was presented on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Alcoholics Anonymous fellowship in Poland, held in Poznań in August 2024.

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About the Institute

Kudos

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Magda Romanska and **Kasia Lech** received the 2024 ATHE-ASTR Award for Excellence in Digital Scholarship from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education and the American Society for Theatre Research for their global theatre portal, *TheTheatreTimes.com*. The award is given each year to an individual or team that demonstrates innovation and rigor in the use of electronic/digital media for the purpose of producing and disseminating knowledge about theatre and performance.

Dariusz Stola has been appointed chair of the International Auschwitz Council which advises the Polish government on matters related to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and other memorials of the Holocaust in Poland.

Ewa Thompson did a podcast on Polish history as a hope for the West that was recorded for the Spe Salvi Institute at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4cU7B26WcY>. A second podcast, “Matryoshka of Lies,” which she did with Oksana Zabuzhko” was on the topic of Russian colonialism at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wq9iJxQb_y4&list=PL4NlAdQT6yqrUcfdIkLXbwdbdBxXBwoT&index=4&t=139s. She also did an interview with the Forum for Ukrainian Studies in which she argued “The field isn’t ‘Slavic Studies’ at all—it should be called ‘Russian propaganda studies.’”

Maja Trochimczyk presented her poetry in Polish with music by Hanna Kulenty at Klub Ksiegarza in Warsaw, Poland, on September 15 and her war poems from *The Rainy Bread* at the conference “Generations Remember” at the Muzeum Pamięci Sybiru in Białystok, Poland, on September 20. She published a selection of war poems in Polish in *Deszczowy Chleb* (Moonrise Press, 2024) and California poems in a chapbook *Jasne Niebo* (2024). Recently she published several of books by others, including two volumes of collected plays by Kazimierz Braun and three other books by others.

Zbigniew J. Witczak, emeritus professor of pharmaceutical sciences at Wilkes University, was honored by the University of Łódź with the prestigious *Universitatis Lodzianensis Amico* medal. The award recognizes his nearly 35-year collaboration with the Chemistry Department at the University of Łódź including his dedicated review of master’s theses.

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