

# Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Vol. 5, No. 1

January 2025

## A Word From the President

It's almost 6 PM in Dearborn, Michigan, in December 2024, as I begin writing this letter. Poland has already entered 2025.

In the final days of December, the lingering flavors of various holidays stay with us, evoking some of the most cherished memories. Growing up, it was Christmas—or Wigilia—a celebration that has always anchored me to my Polish roots. This year, for the first time in years, I had the joy of enjoying a traditional Polish Wigilia dinner, complete with barszcz, pierogi, and an array of poppy seed treats. These poppy seed delicacies, with their ancient origins as offerings to the dead, symbolize a bridge between pagan traditions and Christianity, between wakefulness and eternal rest. Celebrated just after the winter solstice, Wigilia reflects this fusion of traditions, intertwining Poland's diverse pasts and connecting the living with those who have passed away. In essence, it is another day of remembrance for those who left us.



One of the most important lessons of Wigilia I learned growing up was to leave an empty plate for the wandering guest. I live by this lesson every day. My great-grandmother also believed in leaving the table uncleared after Wigilia ended, with an empty plate and drops of drink set aside as offerings for the returning souls, who were believed to visit during the night. In this act of sharing, we extend the bonds of community across time, embracing those no longer with us.

This reflection, which connects the past and present, is especially meaningful at this time of year. As we part with what was, we welcome the New Year. It is natural to reflect on what has passed—to make a kind of *rachunek sumienia*, or self-assessment. It is a bittersweet day, filled

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## PIASA Annual Meeting

The Polish The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America invites proposals for its annual conference to be held at Columbia University's Harriman Institute in New York City, June 6-7, 2025. Proposals are invited for complete in-person sessions or individual papers in any of the disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, or business/economics. The general conference theme is "Democracy and Its Discontents." New York City is a fitting site for this conference, as it is 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 in contrast to the limitations on democracy and the rule of law that post-World War II Poland.

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. 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 proposal, please send the name, e-mail address, institutional affiliation, tentative paper title and brief one-paragraph abstract for each presenter to Patrice Dabrowski at [pmd639@g.harvard.edu](mailto:pmd639@g.harvard.edu) and Neal Pease at [pease@uwm.edu](mailto:pease@uwm.edu). The **deadline for proposals is February 1, 2025**. All participants are expected to pay the conference 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.

## President's Message

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with recollections, reflections, resolutions, and, for the fortunate, new or old hopes. Earlier today, I heard on the radio that the coming year will bring major breakthroughs in artificial intelligence and medicine. I also hope that 2025 will bring peace.

As PIASA President, I feel a responsibility to evaluate our successes and identify areas for improvement. This has been a strong year for our organization, marked by a very successful annual conference in Warsaw, new initiatives, and ongoing efforts to ensure that PIASA continues to operate smoothly and effectively. It has also been a year of recognition, as one of our sister organizations, the Polish American Historical Association, honored us with the Skalny Civic Achievement Award. This prestigious award recognizes individuals or institutions that advance PAHA's mission of promoting research and awareness of the Polish American experience through community initiatives related to Polonia. As noted in the award announcement: The members of the award committee are "very impressed by PIASA's dedication to the advancement of knowledge about Poland and Polish Americans through lectures, symposia, conferences, and publication." This recognition underscores the impact of our collective efforts and inspires us to continue building bridges between communities and fostering an understanding of Polish and Polish American heritage. Thank you for being part of this meaningful journey.

One area where we can and should grow is in fostering stronger connections with both our academic and non-academic communities. This could be achieved through webinars and community events designed to make everyone feel valued and appreciated.

Looking ahead, the coming year promises to be eventful. Our biggest event will be the annual conference in New York, titled "Democracy and Its Discontents," which will be hosted by Columbia University's Harriman Institute from June 6-8, 2025. With a new U.S. president taking office and presidential elections in Poland, 2025 will undoubtedly bring its share of challenges and opportunities. Democracy, much like life itself, is a constant flow of change, offering lessons to learn and chances to grow. I look forward to facing these moments together with all of you as we continue to strengthen our organization and its mission.

As we step into 2025, may we carry with us the spirit of Wigilia—a spirit of reflection, remembrance, and renewal. Let us leave an empty plate at the table, both literally and metaphorically, as a gesture of hospitality and hope. Thank you for your continued dedication and for being part of this journey. Together, let us create new

memories, embrace the lessons of the past, and build a future that honors our shared history and aspirations.

Wishing you a joyous New Year filled with peace, health, and success.

## PIASA Announces its 2024 Awards

**Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award to Promote Democracy and the Rule of Law.** The 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. Recipient: **The Team of Journalists at OKO Press**, Warsaw.

**Casimir Funk Award in the Natural Sciences.** The award honors an outstanding scientist of Polish origin (Polish born or of Polish ancestry) living and working in the United States or Canada. It is given to Dr. **Piotr Chomeczyński**, Founder and Director of the Molecular Research Center, Cincinnati.

**Tadeusz Sendzimir Award in the Applied Sciences.** Established to recognize excellence, individual achievement and innovative contributions in the field of applied sciences by a Polish-American scientist or engineer in the United States, the award is presented to Dr. **Wojciech Zarremba**, Co-founder and Robotics Research Manager, OpenAI.

**Anna M. Cienciala Award for Best-Edited Multi-Authored Scholarly Volume.** Given for the best edited book on Polish studies, the recognition goes to **Halina Goldberg**, Indiana University, and **Nancy Sinkoff**, Rutgers University, eds., for *Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery* (Rutgers University Press, 2023). Honorable Mention: **Stanley Bill**, Cambridge University, and **Simon Lewis**, University of Bremen, eds., for *Multicultural Commonwealth: Poland-Lithuania and Its Afterlives* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023).

**Bronisław Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences.** Recognizing a scholar in one of the fields of the social sciences who has written a book or seminal publication of particular value and significance dealing with an aspect of the Polish experience, the award goes to **Magdalena Waligórska**, Humboldt University, Berlin for *Cross Purposes: Catholicism and the Political Imagination in Poland* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). Honorable Mention: Jack Palmer, University of Leeds, for *Zygmunt Bau-*

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*man and the West: A Sociology of Intellectual Exile* (McGill Queens University Press, 2023).

**Waclaw Lednicki Award in the Humanities.** This award is given for the most outstanding book or creative work published, produced or presented in any of the fields encompassed within the Humanities as defined by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The recipient is **Agata Luksza**, Warsaw University, for *Polish Theatre Revisited: Theatre Fans in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Iowa Press, 2023). Honorable Mention: **Slawomir Dobrzański**, Kansas State University for *Complete Piano Works of Feliks Labuński* (CD album and YouTube video performance, 2023).

**Oskar Halecki Award in Polish and East-Central European History.** Recognizing a book of particular value and significance dealing with the Polish experience, the award goes to **Tomasz Grusiecki**, Boise State University, for *Transcultural Things and the Spectre of Orientalism in Early Modern Poland* (Manchester University Press, 2023).

**Ludwik Krzyżanowski TPR Best Article Award.** The award recognizes the best article published in *The Polish Review* in 2023. The awardee is **Dariusz Libionka**, Polish Academy of Sciences, for “On Military Assistance to the Fighters of the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw – 80 Years Later,” translated by **Philip Earl Steele** and published in *The Polish Review*, Vol. 68, no. 4 (December 2023).

**Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish Jewish Studies.** Recognizing the best book in Polish-Jewish studies, the committee selected **Janine Holc**, Loyola University of Maryland for *The Weavers of Trautenau: Female Labor in the Holocaust* (Brandeis University Press 2023).

**Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award.** The award recognizes significantly distinguished accomplishment over time and is presented to **Joanna Rostropowicz Clark**, Princeton Research Forum, and **Krzysztof Jasiewicz**, Washington and Lee University.

## Connecticut Polish Studies Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Established fifty years ago through the efforts of Prof. Stanislaus Blejwas and the supportive Connecticut Polonia, the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut

State University celebrated its 50th anniversary with a symposium on October 9. The event was organized by CCSU Librarian and Polish Studies Archivist Renata Vickrey. Master of Ceremonies Waldemar Kostrzewa, head of the program’s community advisory board, officiated at the event with the guests being welcomed by CCSU President Zulma Toro and the Honorable Mateusz Sakowicz, Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York City. The program consisted of presentations by four scholars describing their recent books on Polish American history published as a trilogy by Routledge — Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann (Eastern Connecticut State University), James S. Pula (Purdue University), Adam Walaszek (Jagiellonian University), and Joanna Wojdon (Wrocław University). Following the presentations, the program’s founder and its recently retired director, Prof. M. B. B. Biskupski, were recognized after which attendees adjourned to a reception.

## Polish American Congress Celebrates 80th Anniversary

On Sunday October 13 the Polish American Congress (PAC) celebrated its 80th Anniversary in service to the twin causes of Poland’s freedom and independence and America’s national security. The celebration was in Schiller Park, Illinois, northwest of Chicago. Organized by PAC President Frank J. Spula, a host of dignitaries spoke including leading representatives from the governments of Poland and the United States. A key speaker was the U.S. Ambassador to Poland, the Hon. Mark Brzezinski. Spokespersons for the two U.S. Presidential candidates also addressed those present and affirmed their commitment to Poland’s freedom and security.

Professor Emeritus Zbigniew Kruszewski, who as a teenager took part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, joined the Congress in 1952, went on to publish extensively on Poland’s borders, and served as the Polish American Congress’ Vice President for Polish Affairs when it was working for Poland’s admission into the NATO alliance, was honored with the Congress’s Distinguished Leadership Award. Also receiving the recognition were Dean Emeritus Anthony Bajdek of Northeastern University in Boston, and Professor Emeritus Donald Pienkos of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Bajdek, a past Polish American Congress Vice President for American Affairs, is an author and lecturer on Polish American matters and promoter of knowledge of General Thaddeus Kościuszko’s service to our country, especially at West Point, New York. Pienkos is the author of the official history of the

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# News

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Polish American Congress (*For Your Freedom Through Ours*), and a past National Director of the Polish American Congress who was involved in working for Poland's admission into the NATO Alliance in 1999.

## Summer Polish Language Study

Indiana University's Summer 2025 Language Workshop is now accepting applications for its intensive summer Polish programs to be offered May 19 to August 8, 2025. Options include one year of instruction in two months with 18 hours of instruction per week plus cultural activities or a four-week Kraków immersion program with daily classes at the intermediate level. For funding information see <https://languageworkshop.iu.edu/funding>. Additional information and to apply see <https://languageworkshop.indiana.edu/polish>. The **application deadline is January 31, 2025**. The contact person is Kathleen Evans, Director, at [kel@iu.edu](mailto:kel@iu.edu).

## Summer Holocaust Graduate Research Fellowship

The Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies is pleased to offer annual Summer Graduate Student Research Fellowships designed for students accepted to or currently enrolled in a master's degree program or in the first year of a PhD program at a college or university in North America. Students who have completed more than one year of doctoral work will not be considered. The fellowships are for research in the Washington, DC, area from June 2 to August 29, 2025. Summer Graduate Student Research Fellowships support early-career graduate students in three-month residencies, from early June through late August, at the Mandel Center to provide them the opportunity to test ideas, share research findings, explore methodological processes, and develop frameworks for their projects. Each fellow works with a staff mentor who advises them on their project goals and helps guide their research in the Museum's collections. Fellows take part in training seminars that introduce key subjects, essential tools, and useful methods and approaches in Holocaust research. They also attend the Museum's scholarly and publicly-available educational programs.

The Mandel Center will provide a stipend of \$5,000 per month, as well as an allowance to offset the cost of direct, economy-class travel to and from Washington, DC. Local awardees will not receive a travel allowance. The funds provided through this award may be subject to US federal and/or state tax. For the 2025 Summer Fellow-

ships the **submission deadline is January 15, 2025** and applicants will be notified of the outcome by March 2025. Application information may be found here: <https://ushmmfellowships.smapply.io/>. Questions should be addressed to [vscholars@ushmm.org](mailto:vscholars@ushmm.org).

## Graduate Scholarships in History, Central European University

The Central European University (CEU) in Vienna offers an array of graduate programs dedicated to the multidisciplinary study of the past. Our research and teaching are recognized for their innovative approach to graduate education. CEU is an English-language, student-focused research university located in Vienna and accredited in both Austria and the United States. CEU attracts talented students and scholars from around the world. Our student/faculty ratio (7:1) allows for small research-driven and discussion-based seminars and close guidance from faculty members. Subject fields include Cultural History / Studies, Early Modern History and Period Studies, Intellectual History, Medieval and Byzantine History / Studies, Political History / Studies. Students can apply for CEU merit-based financial aid regardless of nationality. We also offer a fully-funded merit scholarship in our one-year MA in Historical Studies, the Gerd Bucorius History Scholarship, and the Bak Award for students working on medieval Central Europe. Doctoral students receive tuition and a living stipend for four years, with opportunities to apply for additional research funds. The **deadline to apply for admission and financial aid** for the 2025-26 academic year is **February 4, 2025 (23:59 CET)**. For further information, visit the website at <https://historicalstudies.ceu.edu/> or contact Jessica Knowles at [historicalstudies@ceu.edu](mailto:historicalstudies@ceu.edu).

## University of Warsaw Graduate Scholarships

The Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw announces its 25th annual recruitment of candidates from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. There will be 25 scholarships available for the two-year Master's Program from October 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. **Application deadline is April 10, 2025**. For additional information, see <https://english.studium.uw.edu.pl/event/recruitment-for-the-xxvth-annual-eastern-scholarships/> or contact [stypendia@uw.edu.pl](mailto:stypendia@uw.edu.pl).

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## Polish Studies Association Announces Awards

The Polish Studies Association announces the recipients of its annual Dissertation Award and Syllabus Award as follows.

The 2024 Syllabus Award goes to **Agnieszka Jeżyk**, Maria Kott Endowed Assistant Professor of Polish Studies, University of Washington, for “The Other in Other Europe: Poland’s Racial and Ethnic Other.”

The 2024 PSA Dissertation Award goes to **Ewelina Sikora**, Central European University, Vienna/Budapest, for “Table set for diplomats: food, drink, and politics in Poland-Lithuania’s diplomatic relations, 1674–1696” which combined the study of food history with diplomatic history to create a cultural narrative of Polish-Lithuanian foreign relations, analyzing how culinary exchanges influenced political negotiations.

There were also two honorable mentions.

**Leah Valtin-Erwin**, Indiana University, “The Shop Across the Border: Western European Retail and the Making of Post-Communist (Super-)Market Societies in Eastern Europe, 1989-1999.”

**Aleksandra Jakubczak**, Columbia University, “(Sex) Worker, Migrant, Daughter: The Jewish Economics of Sex and Mobility, 1870-1939”.

For information on this program contact Prof. Jan Musekamp at [jan.musekamp@dhi.waw.pl](mailto:jan.musekamp@dhi.waw.pl).

## Call for Papers

**Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies:** The ASEES Virtual Convention will convene October 23-24, 2025 and its 57th Annual Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Convention in person will meet in Washington, DC, on November 20-23. Each will be constructed around the theme of “Memory,” both personal and collective. The interdisciplinary conference will explore how shared ways of remembering help to define human communities. In Eastern Europe and Eurasia, individual and “unofficial” memories have often been seen as more trustworthy than the history recounted in official sources. Yet individual memory is inevitably affected and shaped by public memory, which some states and political elites try to manipulate for their own gain. Further information and Calls for Proposals can be accessed here: <https://aseees.org/convention/2025-convention/call-for-proposals/>. **Deadline for proposals for each: March 1, 2025.** Inquiries should see: <https://aseees.org/contact/>.

## Polish National Catholic Church

Proposals related to the Polish National Catholic Church or other independent movements are solicited for its 24th Scholarly Conference to convene in Scranton, Pennsylvania, on April 26, 2025. **Deadline for proposals is March 1, 2025.** Selected papers may subsequently be published in the *PNCC Studies* journal. In addition to formal paper presentations, we are pleased to introduce an option for poster presentations, offering a flexible alternative for sharing scholarly work. Graduate student presenters are eligible for a \$500 stipend/scholarship. Please email proposals or direct inquiries to Rev. Jim Ploskonka at [jploskonka@valley.edu](mailto:jploskonka@valley.edu).

## Upcoming Conferences

April 24-26, 2025—The **16th Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe**, “Converging Paths: The Baltic Between East and West,” will meet at the University of Cambridge, UK. For further information, contact [ucam-cbse2025@lists.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ucam-cbse2025@lists.cam.ac.uk).

April 25-26, 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](mailto:a.j.bajdek@comcast.net).

April 26, 2025—**Conference of the Polish National Catholic Church** will meet in Scranton, Pennsylvania. For information, see above Call for Papers or contact Rev. Jim Ploskonka at [jploskonka@valley.edu](mailto:jploskonka@valley.edu).

June 6-8, 2025—**PIASA Annual Conference** will convene at Columbia University in New York City. See page 1 for the Call for Papers.

October 23-24, 2025—**Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Virtual Convention.** The convention will be constructed around the theme of “Memory.” See the Call for Papers above or [convention/2025-convention/call-for-proposals/](https://convention/2025-convention/call-for-proposals/).

November 20-23, 2025—The **57th Annual Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies Convention** will convene at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. Constructed around the theme of “Memory.” See the Call for Proposals above or [convention/2025-convention/call-for-proposals/](https://convention/2025-convention/call-for-proposals/).

January 8-11, 2026—**Polish American Historical Association** annual meeting in conjunction with the American Historical Association in Chicago, IL.

# New Books on Polish Studies

**Amanda Barratt**, *The Warsaw Sisters: A Novel of WWII Poland* (Farmington Hills, MI: Thorndike Press, 2024), ISBN 979-8885792400.

**Katarzyna Bojarska** and **Ewa Domańska**, eds., *Knowledge in the Shadow of Catastrophe: Key Thinkers of Polish Humanities in the Post-war Era* (Schönningh, Paderborn: Brill, 2024), ISBN 978-3657793952.

**Natalie Cornett**, *The Politics of Love: Gender and Nation in Nineteenth-century Poland* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2024), ISBN 978-1501776663.

**Piotr Godzisz**, *State Responses to Anti-LGBT Violence: Poland in a European Context* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), ISBN 978-3031538018.

**Aleksandra Grzemska** and **Tul'si Bhambry**, *Family and Artistic Relations in Polish Women's Autobiographical Literature* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1040031841.

**Rajendra Kumar Jain**, *Poland and South Asia: Deepening Engagement* (Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), ISBN 978-9819710218.

**Anna D. Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann** and **James S. Pula**, eds., *Polish American Voices: A Documentary History, 1608-2020* (New York: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003802082.

**Krzysztof Jaskułowski** and **Piotr Majewski**, *The Memory Politics of the Cursed Soldiers in Poland: Authoritarian Nationalism, Hegemony and Emotions* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2024), ISBN 978-1040106907.

**Aleksandra Komornicka**, *Poland and European East-West Cooperation in the 1970s: The Opening Up* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003348856.

**Stanisław Krajewski**, *Small Numbers, Big Presence: Jews in Poland After World War II* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2024), ISBN 978-3631921876.

**Helena Krasowska**, *Polish Highlanders in Carpathian Bukovina: A Sociolinguistic and Lexical Study* (Oxford, UK: Peter Lang, 2024), ISBN 978-3631923252.

**Anna E. Kubiak**, **Anna Długozima**, **Agnieszka Wedel-Domaradzka**, *Death and Funeral Practices in Poland* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003207634.

**Alexej Lochmatov**, *Public Knowledge in Cold War Poland: Scholarly Battles and the Clash of Virtues, 1945-1956* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003428251.

**Anna Nasilowska** and **Anna Zaranko**, *A History of Polish Literature* (Boston, MA: Academic Studies Press, 2024), ISBN 979-8887192796.

**John G. Peters**, *Joseph Conrad and the Narration of Silence* (Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh University Press, 2024), ISBN 978-1399535878.

**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.

**Kazimierz M. Słomczyński**, **Michał Kotnarowski**, **Irina Tomescu-Dubrow**, **Joshua Kjerulf Dubrow**, eds., *Poland: Thirty Years of Radical Social Change* (Leiden: Brill, 2024), ISBN 978-9004678675.

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

**Jakub Tyszkiewicz**, *The Open Window Into the Soviet Bloc: US Policy Toward Poland, 1956-1968* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1000963380.

**Adam Walaszek**, *Polish American History Before 1939* (New York: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003321651.

**Michał Wenderski**, *Art and Politics During the Cold War: Poland and the Netherlands* (New York: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003856115.

**Joanna Wojdon**, *Polish American History After 1939* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1003321743.

**Peter Zablocki**, *The Death of General Sikorski: The Polish Leader's Last Flight in 1943 and the Tangled Web of Poland, the Allies, and the Soviets* (Havertown, UK: Pen & Sword Books Ltd., 2024), ISBN 978-1399039246.

**Marek Ziółkowski**, **Rafał Drozdowski**, and **Mariusz Baranowski**, *A Sociological Approach to Commodification: the Case of Transforming the Post-socialist Society in Poland* (London: Routledge, 2024), ISBN 978-1040049426.

# Kudos

**M. B. B. Biskupski** published “Explaining Poland’s Reappearance, 1918-1921: Induction or Deduction?” in *The Polish Review*, Vol. 69, no. 4 (2024), 78-82.

**Anthony Bajdek** was honored with the Polish American Congress’s Distinguished Service Award at its 80th anniversary celebration held in Schiller Park, Illinois, on October 13.

**Peter Burzyński** has been named the ALTA (American Literary Translator’s Association) Mid-Career Translator Fellow at Vermont Studio Center. He also continues his translations of Polish poets Grzegorz Wróblewski, Joanna Guzik, and Anna Matysiak.

**Alice-Catherine Carls** and **Piotr Florczyk** published a translation of Krzysztof Siwczyk’s *Calligraphy of Days: Selected Poems* (Kolkata, India: Seagull Books, 2024).

**Silvia G. Dapia** made a presentation on “Resentment or How to Change the Real: The Uses of Resentment in Gombrowicz’s “A Premeditated Crime” (“Zbrodnia z premedytacją”) at the annual conference of the Polish American Historical Association in New York City.

**John M. Grondelski** retired as a Foreign Service Officer from the U.S. State Department November 29. His 26+ year career included overseas postings in London, Warsaw, Bern, Taipei, Shanghai and domestic assignments on the Russia and Poland desks, as deputy director of the Central Europe Office, as an analyst on European issues for the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, a wargaming fellow at National Defense University, and a Pearson Fellow on the national security staff of U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX).

**Beth Holmgren** delivered a paper on “Rapid Current, Hidden Reefs: Writing the Postwar American Life of a Polish Jewish Immigrant” at the annual meeting of the Polish American Historical Association in New York City.

**Paul Knoll** served as editor and provided the introduction for Paweł Włodkovic’s *Writings (1416-1432) The Struggle for the Self-Determination of Central Europe* published by the Angelicum University Press and the St. John Paul II Institute of Culture in Rome and the Fundacja Świętego Mikołaja in Warsaw. It is distributed in the United States by the Catholic University of America Press. The translations were done by **Charles Krauszewski**. This volume was the basis for a subsequent conference in Rome on October 22, 2024, under the title “Religious Freedom, Just War and Sovereignty of Nations. Learning from Paweł Włodkovic” at which Prof. Knoll offered the opening keynote lecture “Paweł Włod-

kowic: Life, Context, Accomplishments, and Discovery.”

**Steven R. Majewski** was appointed to an endowed chair professorship, the W. H. Vanderbilt Professor of Astronomy, at the University of Virginia in August 2024. He was also recently named as the Chair of the University’s Department of Astronomy.

**John G. Peters** published *Joseph Conrad and the Narration of Silence* (Edinburgh, Scotland: Edinburgh University Press, 2024). He also gave the Keynote Address, “Conrad and Experiential Narration,” at the Conrad’s Legacy A. D. 2024 Conference (the 100-year anniversary of Joseph Conrad’s death) at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.

**Donald E. Pienkos** was honored with the Polish American Congress’s Distinguished Leadership Award at its 80th anniversary celebration held in Schiller Park, Illinois, on October 13. In connection with the 245th Anniversary of the death of General Casimir Pulaski, Mayor Cavalier Johnson proclaimed October 20, 2024 as “Donald Pienkos Day” in the City of Milwaukee in recognition of his long research on and promotion of Polonia. He also spoke about Pulaski’s contributions to the American Revolution at the annual Pulaski Day Dinner sponsored by the Polish National Alliance.

**James S. Pula** gave a presentation on “America’s Forgotten Ally: Poland in the Second World War” for the Polish Heritage Center in Panna Maria, Texas, in November. He also participated in “A Symposium on Polish American History and its Implications for Our Times” celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Polish Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University in October. The symposium focused on the publication of a trilogy of books on American Polonia by Routledge—*Polish American History before 1939* by **Adam Walaszek**, *Polish American History after 1939* by **Joanna Wojdon**, and *Polish American Voices: A Documentary History, 1608–2020* by **Anna Jaroszyńska-Kirchmann** and **James S. Pula**.

**Richard I. Suchenski** premiered his new major Film Secession exhibition on Andrzej Wajda including a long-  
portrait film with his closest collaborator Krystyna Zachwatowicz-Wajda and sections on all aspects of his films. The following links provide access to important portions of the exhibit.

Main Exhibition link:

<https://www.filmsecession.com/exhibition/andrzej-wajda>

Preview video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pDDjmH-nvo>

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# About the Institute

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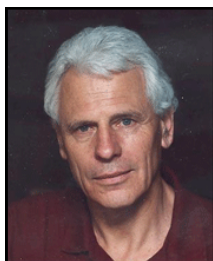
Extensive film program:  
[https://www.filmsecession.com/cinema/overview?  
program=andrzej-wajdas-polish-chronicle](https://www.filmsecession.com/cinema/overview?program=andrzej-wajdas-polish-chronicle)

**Ewa Thompson** published “Prophecies of Civilizational Collapse 2.0: Michel Houellebecq’s *Submission*,” in *Porównania* (2025).

## In Memoriam

### Peter J. Chelkowski

Born in Lubliniec, Poland on July 10, 1933, Prof. Chelkowski studied Oriental Philology at the Jagiellonian University and received a Ph.D. degree in Persian literature from the University of Tehran. A scholar of Islam in the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University, he was a recognized authority on Shia passion plays and the author or editor of twelve books and dozens of articles and essays. A founder of the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, his 1975 book *Mirror of the Invisible World: Tales from the Khamseh of Nizami* (Metropolitan Museum of Art) received the First Place Award from the American Association of University Presses. His co-authored 1999 *Staging a Revolution: The Art of Persuasion in the Islamic Republic of Iran* also met with wide acclaim.



A frequent guest expert on BBC, CBS, NBC, NPR, and Voice of America, he hosted 46 episodes of *Sunrise Semester* on CBS, one of the first examples of distance learning through electronic media. His work earned him awards and fellowships from the Smithsonian Institute; the Hoover Institute on War, Revolution, and Peace Fellowship; and the Social Science Research Council. In 1997 he received the Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation Award for Cross-Cultural Understanding and in 2011 the Commander’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. In 2023, the Jagiellonian University honored him the *Plus ratio quam vis* commemorative Medal for outstanding service in scholarship. He passed away in Turin, Italy, on October 21, 2024.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America  
208 East 30th Street  
New York, NY 10016

[piasany@gmail.com](mailto:piasany@gmail.com)  
<http://www.piasa.org/>

Tel: 212.686.4164  
Fax: 212.545.1130

Prof. Anna Müller, President  
[anmuller@umich.edu](mailto:anmuller@umich.edu)

## INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

should be sent to its editor,  
Prof. James S. Pula, at [jpula@pnw.edu](mailto:jpula@pnw.edu)