

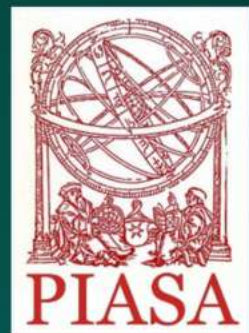


DEMOCRACY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

PIASA CONFERENCE ON
POLISH STUDIES

JUNE 6-7, 2025
NEW YORK

 COLUMBIA | HARRIMAN INSTITUTE
Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies





**POLISH ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
DISTRICT 2**

STOWARZYSZENIE WETERANÓW ARMII POLSKIEJ W AMERYCE, OKRĘG 2.

Składamy najlepsze życzenia
z okazji Konferencji Naukowej
POLSKIEGO INSTYTUTU NAUKOWEGO W AMERYCE

Best wishes to the
POLISH INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF AMERICA
on its Annual Conference



**80. ROCZNICA WYZWOLENIA BOLONII
PRZEZ ŻOŁNIERZY 2 KORPUSU POLSKIEGO**

POLISH ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA · DISTRICT 2
17 IRVING PLACE | NEW YORK, NY 10003 | ADMIN@PAVA-SWAP.ORG

Welcome to the



2025 PIASA Conference on Polish Studies



held at the

Harriman Institute

Columbia University

 COLUMBIA | HARRIMAN INSTITUTE
Russian, Eurasian, and East European Studies
 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
East Central European Center

Conference Organizing Committee

Anna Müller, President

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Program Co-Chairs

Patrice M. Dabrowski

Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute

Neal Pease

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

Committee Members

Robert Blobaum

West Virginia University

Bożena Leven

The College of New Jersey



The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America welcomes all participants and guests to its 2025 Annual Conference. As we gather, we recall our mission “to assist scholars and artists in their independent scientific, educational and artistic activities connected with Poland and/or American Polonia.” This pursuit requires the upholding of academic freedom in its fullest sense, and recognition of rights closely connected with it, including freedom of speech and the rights of petition and assembly. PIASA asserts its respect for the dignity of all peoples and deplores any contrary spirit of hatred or discrimination. In a particular way, PIASA stresses its commitment to honoring the heritage of Jewry and Judaism, which has played so great a role in the history and culture of Poland, and its rejection of the evil of antisemitism. We submit that these values accord with what is best in the traditions of the United States and Poland alike, and that the historical moment in which we find ourselves requires a renewal of our common obligation to protect them.

Gaining entrance to Columbia University

The name and e-mail address of each participant in the conference will be submitted to Public Security, which will send you an e-mail with a **QR code, one for each day of the conference**. At the entry point (see below), the Public Safety guard will scan your QR code for that day.

Important: you will need to have access to your e-mail on your cell phone to gain entrance. Another acceptable option is to print out the two emails with the QR codes and bring them with you to be scanned. Please keep them in your possession; they may need to be scanned more than once.

On the conference venue

The conference venue at Columbia University is the **Harriman Institute**, 420 West 118th Street - on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 118th Street. The Harriman Institute is in the **International Affairs Building (IAB)**. The entrance to the building is on 118th Street (at 4th floor level, which is ground level). The Harriman Institute is on the 12th floor. Registration will take place in Room 1202 (12th floor). Panels will be held on the 7th floor (Room 707) and 13th floor (Room 1302) as well as on the 12th floor (Rooms 1219 and 1201). The opening and plenary session will be held in Altschul Auditorium, Room 417 (4th floor, IAB).

Getting to the conference venue

Exit the #1 subway at the 116th Street—Columbia University stop. Enter campus by scanning your QR code with the Public Safety guards at the 116th & Broadway entrance to Columbia. Walk straight across campus, you will exit the gates at 116th & Amsterdam Avenue. Walk north (turn left) 2 blocks to 118th Street. Turn right (head east towards Morningside Drive) onto 118th Street. You will find the International Affairs Building (IAB) on your right-hand side. The address is 420 West 118th Street.

The location of plenary session and panels

Altschul Auditorium (417 IAB, 4th floor) – plenary session

Conference rooms:

1219 (12 th floor)	Panels 1, 4, 7, 10, 14, 18, 22
1201 (12 th floor)	Panels 2, 5, 8, 11, 15, 19, 23
1302 (13 th floor)	Panels 3, 6, 9, 12, 16, 20, 24
707 (7 th floor)	Panels 13, 21, 25

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The main conference venue is
The Harriman Institute, Columbia University
International Affairs Building (**IAB**), 12th floor
420 West 118th Street, New York NY

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

5:00-6:00 PM
Pre-conference reception
PIASA Headquarters
208 East 30th Street

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Registration
Room 1202, 12th floor IAB

9:00 – 10:30 AM
Opening and Plenary Session
Altschul Auditorium Room 417 IAB

10:30 – 11:00 AM
Coffee Break
Room 1202, 12th floor IAB

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Concurrent Panels

12:30 – 2:00 PM
Lunch (on your own)

2:00 – 3:30 PM
Concurrent Panels

3:45 – 5:15 PM
Concurrent Panels

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Registration
Room 1202, 12th floor IAB

9:00 – 10:30 AM
Concurrent Panels

10:30 – 11:00 AM
Coffee Break
Room 1202, 12th floor IAB

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Concurrent Panels

12:30 – 2:00 PM
Lunch (on your own)

2:00 – 3:30 PM
Concurrent Panels

3:45 – 5:15 PM
Concurrent Panels

6:30
Awards Ceremony & Banquet*
Polish Consulate
233 Madison Avenue

* Tickets required

THE CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

9:00-10:30 a.m.: Opening and Plenary Session -- Altschul Auditorium, Room 417

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Lotarski Award Panel
(1) – Room 1219 | 2. Theatrical
Interpretations – Room
1201 | 3. Polish Professional
Women – Room 1302 |
|--|---|---|

2:00 -3:30 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 4. Malinowski Award
Panel – Room 121 | 5. Witkacy in Context –
Room 1201 | 6. International History –
Room 1302 |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|

3:45-5:15 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------------|
| 7. Lotarski Award Panel
(2) – Room 1219 | 8. Cieniala Award
Panel – Room 1201 | 9. United Nations –
Room 1302 |
|--|--|----------------------------------|

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

9:00-10:30 a.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 10. Lednicki Award
Panel – Room 1219 | 11. Remembering,
Witnessing – Room
1201 | 12. Commoning and
Enclosures – Room
1302 | 13. Polish-Americans –
Room 707 |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 14. Halecki Award Panel
– Room 1219 | 15. Topics in Film –
Room 1201 | 16. Ukrainian Refugees
– Room 1302 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

2:00 -3:30 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 18. Pilarczyk
Foundation Award –
Room 1219 | 19. Literary Themes –
Room 1201 | 20. Migrant Adjustments
– Room 1302 | 21. Twentieth-Century
Politics – Room 707 |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|

3:45-5:15 p.m.: Concurrent Panels

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 22. Brenner Award
Panel – Room 1219 | 23. Meditations on
Literature – Room 1201 | 24. International
Themes – Room 1302 | 25. Polish Historical
Trauma – Room 707 |
|--|--|---|--|

The 2025 PIASA Conference in New York City Program

Plenary Session

Is there a Future for Polish Studies in the United States?

Friday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.
International Affairs Building
Altshul Auditorium
Room 407 (4th /Ground Floor)

Speaker: Brian Porter-Szűcs



Brian Porter-Szűcs is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. His current work focuses on the history of economic thought in post-WWII Poland, and his newest book (forthcoming in 2025) is *Commodified Communism: Socialist Values and Capitalist Prices in the Polish People's Republic*. Prior to that, he published *Wiara i Ojczyzna: Katolicyzm, Nowoczesność, i Polska* (Wydawnictwo Filtry, 2022), which is a updated and translated version of *Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2011). He is also the author of *Całkiem zwyczajny kraj: Historia Polski bez martyrologii* (Wydawnictwo Filtry, 2021), a revised and expanded edition of *Poland and the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014), as well as *When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in 19th Century Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2000), which was translated into Polish as *Gdy nacjonalizm zaczął nienawidzić: Wyobrażenia nowoczesnej polityki w dziewiętnastowiecznej Polsce* (Pogranicze, 2011). Together with Bruce Berglund, he co-edited *Christianity and Modernity in East-Central Europe* (Central European University Press, 2010). Porter-Szűcs has been a professor at the University of Michigan since 1994, where he teaches classes on the history of the economy, the intellectual history of capitalism and socialism, the history of Roman Catholicism, and the history of Poland. He maintains a blog called "Polish Polemics" (<https://porterszucs.substack.com>) which features weekly essays in both Polish and English.

THE 2025 PIASA CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The conference venue at Columbia University is the **Harriman Institute**, 420 West 118th Street - on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 118th Street. The Harriman Institute is in the **International Affairs Building** (IAB). The entrance to the building is on 118th Street (4th floor = street level). The Harriman Institute is on the 12th floor. That said, panels will be held on the 7th floor (Room 707) and 13th floor (Room 1302) as well as on the 12th floor (Rooms 1219 and 1201) of the International Affairs Building. The conference opening and plenary session will be held in Altschul Auditorium, Room 417 (4th floor).

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Pre-conference reception at PIASA headquarters, 208 East 30th Street. All participants are cordially invited.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Registration (Room 1202, 12th floor IAB)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Conference Opening and Plenary Session

Altschul Auditorium Room 417, 4th floor (= ground floor)

Conference opening: **Patrice M. Dabrowski** and **Neal Pease** (Program Co-Chairs)

Welcome: **Anna Müller** (President, the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America)

Plenary speaker: **Brian Porter-Szűcs** (University of Michigan)

“Is there a Future for Polish Studies in the United States?”

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee break (Room 1202, 12th floor)

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Panels (#1-3)

1. **Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award Panel (1)** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Robert Blobaum, *West Virginia University*, chair

Krzysztof Jasiewicz, *Washington and Lee University*, recipient

Michael Bernhard, *University of Florida*, participant

Ben Stanley, *SWPS University*, participant

Stanley Bill, *Cambridge University*, participant

2. **Theatrical Interpretations** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Diana Sacilowski, *The Ohio State University*, chair

Silvia Dapía, *John Jay College and Graduate Center, CUNY*, Tadeusz Kantor's Performing Objects in Argentine Theater: Mariana Obersztern, Rubén Szuchmacher, and the Periférico de Objetos (The Periphery of Objects)

Marcelina Obarska, *University of Warsaw*, Democracy and Its Disappointments: Performing Arts' Resistance in the Context of Reproductive Rights in Poland After 2020

Karolina Prykowska-Michalak, *University of Łódź*, Today's Theater of Polish Migrants: Questions About Plural Democracy

3. **Polish Professional Women in Libraries and Archives in the United States during the 20th Century** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Ewa Barczyk, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*, chair

Iwona Flis, *University of Gdańsk*, From a Warsaw Bookstore to the Library of Congress: Lucia Merecka-Borski, PIASA's First Librarian and Archivist

Iwona Dąg Korga, *Pilsudski Institute of America*, Women at the Pilsudski Institute Archive and Administration: Anna Mars, Zarema Bau and Halina Janiszewska

Barbara Krupa, *Stanford University Libraries*, Janina Wójcicka-Hoskins (1912-1996): A Creator of the Polish Collection at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Concurrent Panels (#4-6)**

4. **Bronisław Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences Panel** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Michael Bernhard, *University of Florida*, chair

Magdalena Waligórska, *Humboldt University*, recipient; author of *Cross Purposes: Catholicism and the Political Imagination in Poland* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Jan Kubik, *Rutgers University*, participant

Neal Pease, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*, participant

Piotr Kosicki, *University of Maryland*, participant

5. **Witkacy in Context: Colors, Influence, and Legacy** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Jozef Figa, *Southern New Hampshire University*, chair

Gertrude Gibbons, *University of York*, A Painterly Stage: Mapping the Colors of Witkacy's Theater

Elzbieta Grzyb, *University of Warsaw*, Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro as a sequel to Gyubal Wahazar by Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz: The Narratives of Decline

Mark Rudnicki, *George Mason University*, Witkacy and Verne

Jarosław Tuszyński, *Independent Scholar*, List of Artworks by Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz

6. **International History** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Nancy Sinkoff, *Rutgers University*, chair

Ziqian Zheng, *Columbia University*, Pragmatic State and “Socialist Globalization”: A History of the Sino-Polish Joint Stock Shipping Company, 1949-1961

Elzbieta Skłodowska, *Washington University in Saint Louis*, Distant/Significant Others: From Poland to Cuba and Back During the Cold War

Piotr Puchalski, *University of the National Education Commission, Kraków*, Communist Poland's Global Conflict with West Germany: The Question of German Nazis in 1960s Ghana

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Panels (#7-9)

7. **Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award Panel (2)** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Anna Müller, *University of Michigan Dearborn and President of PIASA*, chair

Joanna Rostropowicz Clark, *Princeton Research Forum*, recipient

Anna Frajlich-Zajac, *Columbia University*, participant

Czeslaw Karkowski, *Hunter College*, participant

Grażyna Kozaczka, *Cazenovia College*, participant

Grazyna Drabik, *City University of New York*, participant

8. **Anna M. Cienciala Award Panel for Best-Edited Book: *Polish-Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery*, ed. Halina Goldberg and Nancy Sinkoff (Rutgers University Press, 2023)** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Neal Pease, *University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee*, chair

Halina Goldberg, *Indiana University*, recipient

Nancy Sinkoff, *Rutgers University*, recipient

Katharina Friedla, *Stanford University*, discussant

Robert Blobaum, *West Virginia University*, discussant

Glenn Dynner, *University of Virginia*, discussant

9. **The United Nations: National Perspectives and Priorities** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Stephen Olejasz, *American Association of the Friends of Kosciuszko at West Point*, chair

Ewa Arciszewska, *Military Adviser, Republic of Poland Mission to the U.N.*, panelist

Glenn Sadowski, *Military Adviser, U.S. Mission to the U.N.*, panelist

Stanislas de Magnienville, *Military Adviser, French Mission to the U.N.*, panelist

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration (Room 1202, 12th floor)

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Concurrent Panels (#10-13)

10. **Waclaw Lednicki Award in the Humanities Panel** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Joanna Trzeciak Huss, *Kent State University*, chair

Agata Łuksza, *University of Warsaw*, recipient; author of *Polish Theatre Revisited: Theatre Fans in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Iowa Press, 2023)

Kathleen Cioffi, *Princeton University Press*, participant

Beth Holmgren, *Duke University*, participant

Kris Salata, *Florida State University*, participant

11. **Remembering, Witnessing, Decoding the Past** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Elizabeth Morrow Clark, *West Texas A&M University*, chair

Aleksej Tikhonov, *University of Zurich*, Unlocking the Handwritten Legacy of the Polish Museum of Switzerland through Scientific AI-Technologies

Wieslaw Rentowski, *National Association of Composers USA*, and **Monica Rentowski**, *Holistic Wellness & Psychological Sciences Entrepreneur*, The Power of Poetry and Creative Mind: Poems of Stanislaw Rentowski Created in the Nazi Concentration Camps

12. The (Un)democratization of the Everyday: Commoning and Enclosures in (Post)Socialist Poland – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Piotr Puchalski, *University of the National Education Commission, Kraków*, chair

Justyna Szklarczyk, *University of Warsaw*, Commoning the Palace: A Contribution to the Cultural History of State Farms in Socialist Poland

Katarzyna Łatała, *University of Warsaw*, Co-creation of the Commons: The Cosmoeconomy of the Eldest Allotment Gardeners in Nowa Huta

Katarzyna Wodniak, *Trinity College Dublin*, Co-producing Sports: Orlik Facilities as Urban Commons

13. Polish-Americans in Chicago and Detroit – Room 707 (7th floor)

John Bukowczyk, *Wayne State University*, chair

David Chambers, *Independent Historian*, Leo Krzycki and Stanley Nowak: Polish-American Leftist Leaders in the CIO Strikes of Chicago and Detroit, 1936-1940

Martin J. Hershock, *University of Michigan Dearborn*, "We Want Our Girls to Walk on the Street Not Raped": Poles, "Disorderly People," and the Preservation of Female Virtue in the Conflict at Detroit's Sojourner Truth Housing Complex, 1942

Anna Sosnowska-Jordanowska, *University of Warsaw*, Why Are Polish Americans in Chicago Less into Politics Than Other White Ethnicities?

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee break (Room 1202, 12th floor)

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Panels (#14-16)

14. Oskar Halecki Award in Polish and East-Central European History – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Nathaniel D. Wood, *University of Kansas*, chair

Tomasz Grusiecki, *Boise State University*, recipient; author of *Transcultural Things and the Spectre of Orientalism in Early Modern Poland* (Manchester University Press, 2023)

Stanley Bill, *Cambridge University*, participant

Paul Knoll, *University of Southern California*, participant

Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, *Princeton University*, participant

15. Topics in Film – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Barbara Krupa, *Stanford University Libraries*, chair

Marek Haltof, *Northern Michigan University*, *Volhynia (Wołyń, 2016)* by Wojciech Smarzowski: Cine-monument (*kinopomnik*) to Those Killed Twice

Ewelina Boczkowska, *University of Memphis*, Kieślowski's Vision of a Unified Europe in *Three Colors: Blue*

Jakub Kazecki, *Bates College*, Borders and Breakdowns: Personal Crises and Journeys to Poland in Contemporary German Cinema

16. **Ukrainian Refugees** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Jerome Krase, *Brooklyn College*, chair

Katarzyna Celinska, *John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY*, Ukrainian Refugees in Poland: How Do Older Refugees Adjust to Life Away From Home?

Nicole Butkovich Kraus, *West Texas A&M University*, Place and Purpose: the Ukrainian Exodus to Poland in 2014 and 2022

Elizabeth Morrow Clark, *West Texas A&M University*, “For Your Freedom and Ours”: Ukrainian Refugee Cultural Integration in Poland

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Panels (#18-21)

18. **Karol Pilarczyk Foundation Award to Promote Democracy and the Rule of Law** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Anna Müller, *University of Michigan-Dearborn and President of PIASA*, chair

OKO Press, Warsaw, recipient

Magdalena Chrzczonowicz, *Editor-in-Chief, OKO Press*, participant

Piotr Pacewicz, *Chairman of the Board, OKO Press*, participant

Dominika Michalak, *Head of Institutional Fundraising, OKO Press*, participant

19. **Literary Themes** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Marek Haltof, *Northern Michigan University*, chair

Michelle Kawaletz, *University of Tübingen*, Polish Post-Exile Literature in Brazil

Marta Lasota, *Northwestern University*, Trans Embodiment and the Polish Body Politic in Julia Holewińska’s *Ciała Obce/Foreign Bodies*

Klaudia Cierluk, *Northwestern University*, “We Are All Mad Here”: Memory as a Tool and Humor as Resistance in Olga Hund’s *Dogs of Smaller Breeds*

20. **Migrant Adjustments** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Tomasz Wegner, *University of Warsaw*, chair

Joanna Kulpińska, *Jagiellonian University*, Migration as a Family Intergenerational Project: A Case Study of Polish Migrants in Washington State

Paulina Potasińska, *University of Warsaw*, Ukrainian Refugees at the University of Warsaw: Settling into Polish Language and Culture

Jerome Krase, *Brooklyn College*, Seeing Polish-American Neighborhoods Change into Ethnic Theme Parks?

21. **Twentieth-Century Politics** – Room 707 (7th floor)

Piotr Podemski, *University of Warsaw*, chair

Jakub Tyszkiewicz, *University of Wrocław*, U.S. Public Diplomacy toward Poland in 1956-1980

Krzysztof Brzechczyn, *Adam Mickiewicz University*, The Evolution of the Political Thought of Solidarność in the Years 1980-1981: An Attempt at a Model

Mateusz Drozdowski, *University of the National Education Commission, Kraków*, The Political Myth of Margaret Thatcher and the Impact of Thatcherism in Central-Eastern Europe

3:45 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Panels (#22-25)

22. **Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award Panel in Polish-Jewish Studies** – Room 1219 (12th floor)

Katharina Friedla, *Stanford University*, chair

Janine Holc, *Loyola University of Maryland*, recipient; author of *The Weavers of Trautenau: Jewish Female Forced Labor in the Holocaust* (Brandeis University Press, 2023)

Anna Müller, *University of Michigan-Dearborn and President of PIASA*, participant

Joanna Sliwa, *Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany*, participant

Irena Grudzinska Gross, *Polish Academy of Sciences*, participant

23. **Meditations on Literature** – Room 1201 (12th floor)

Michelle Kawaletz, *University of Tübingen*, chair

Sylvia Borowska-Kazimiruk, *University of Warsaw*, Władysław Heinrich and Jan Michał Rozwadowski: On the Psychological Origins of Polish and Central European Literary Studies

Jozef Figa, *Southern New Hampshire University*, Boldyn: Jerzy Putrament's Meditations on Power and Authority

Diana Sacilowski, *The Ohio State University*, Voicing Potentialities: Bergson and Late 20th-Century Polish Literature

24. **International Themes** – Room 1302 (13th floor)

Elzbieta Sklodowska, *Washington University in Saint Louis*, chair

Timothy F. Kearney, *Centenary University*, Post War Economics: Poland vs. the UK

Piotr Podemski, *University of Warsaw*, Populism, Sovereignism, and the Rome-Warsaw Axis: How Likely an Alliance?

Damian Bębnowski, *University of Łódź*, Outside the Iron Curtainland: Polish Economic Historiography in the USA, 1945-1989

25. **Polish Historical Trauma** – Room 707 (7th floor)

Monica Rentowski, *Holistic Wellness & Psychological Sciences Entrepreneur*, chair

Julia Moore, *University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*, A Polish, Communist Woman: The Case of Wanda Wasilewska

Alexandra Rush, *SUNY Empire State University*, Intergenerational Trauma: Vulnerabilities and Strengths

Marcin Urynowicz, *IPN*, "Polish Two-Fold Silence and Deprivation": Poland and Poles in the Shadows of WWII

Saturday, June 7, 6:30 p.m. Awards Ceremony and Banquet*

Consulate of the Republic of Poland, 233 Madison Avenue (at the corner of East 37th Street = Jan Karski Corner)

Chair: **Anna Müller** (President, Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America)

Featured speaker: Beth Holmgren (Duke University)

“Warsaw before the Apocalypse: The City as Set and Changing Storyline in 1930s Polish Films”

* Tickets required

How to get to the Polish Consulate from Columbia University by MTA subway

Take #1 train from **116th St.—Columbia University** downtown (10 stops) to **Times Square--42nd Street**. Change to the S train, travel crosstown (two stops) to **Grand Central--42nd Street**. Exit the subway and walk downtown five blocks to 37th Street. The Consulate is on the corner of Madison Avenue and 37th Street.

One of our sponsors:



Awards Ceremony & Banquet*

The Consulate of the Republic of Poland
233 Madison Avenue
Saturday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

Chair: **Anna Müller**
President, Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

Featured Speaker: **Beth Holmgren**

**Warsaw before the Apocalypse:
The City as Set and Changing Storyline in 1930s Polish Films**



Beth Holmgren, Professor *Emerita* of Slavic and Eurasian Studies, Duke University, has published widely on Polish literature, theater, popular culture, and film, as well as Polish immigrants in the North American diaspora. Her books include *Rewriting Capitalism: Literature and the Market in Late Tsarist Russia and the Kingdom of Poland* (1998); *Starring Madame Modjeska: On Tour in Poland and America* (2011); *Warsaw Is My Country: The Story of Krystyna Bierzyńska, 1928-1945* (2018); and, with co-author Helena Goscilo, *Polish Cinema Today: A Bold New Era in Film* (2021). Over the last decade, she has produced a series of articles exploring the Polish Jewish foundations of popular culture in the interwar period and the wartime and postwar diaspora. Holmgren's scholarship in Polish Studies has been awarded PIASA's Waclaw Lednicki Humanities Prize (1998); PAHA's Oscar Halecki Prize (2014); and the Waclaw Jędrzejewicz Award in Polish History from the Piłsudski Institute (2017). Her publications and work in the field of Slavic and East European Studies won grants and awards from ACLS, ASEES, AATSEEL, AWSS, and ASTR.

* *Tickets required*

Over the course of her career, from her initial appointment at UC-San Diego through subsequent years at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University, Holmgren developed and taught courses on Polish literature and film in historical context and included Polish content in comparative Slavic offerings. At Duke she was able to set up a series of lectures by scholars who specialized in Polish and Polish Jewish studies. In addition to serving as department chair at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke for 17 years, she was president of the Association for Women in Slavic Studies from 2003-2005, an organization that has developed into a major resource for female scholars, providing information about career development, funding opportunities, and jobs. Holmgren served as president of the Association of Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies in 2008, during which period she helped oversee the Association's move to a new, financially less exorbitant location and the hiring of several new staff members.

From 2020 through post-retirement in June 2023, Holmgren's research has concentrated on Polish film from the 1930s to the present day. Recently published articles analyze Polish-language film musicals from the 1930s and the extraordinary celebrity and career of Eugeniusz Bodo (1899-1943), a major cabaret/revue performer, movie star, and ambitious film producer whose life was cut short in the Soviet gulag during World War II. In the March 2025 issue of *The Polish Review*, her examination of Hanna Polak's (1967--) documentaries on homelessness in Putin's Russia is included in a cluster on Polish film that she co-edited with Goscilo. Holmgren's next major project will explore a select group of Polish films made in the 1930s, a decade when the technology of talkies was almost fully implemented; a handful of production companies at last stabilized; a growing cohort of bankable, well-advertised stars fluent in film attracted loyal audiences; and "film fever" spread throughout Poland, regardless of class, ethnicity, or political allegiance.

Tickets are required for the Awards Ceremony and Banquet

How to get to the Polish Consulate from Columbia University by MTA subway

Take #1 train from **116th St.—Columbia University** downtown (10 stops) to **Times Square--42nd Street**. Change to the S train, travel crosstown (two stops) to **Grand Central--42nd Street**. Exit the subway and walk downtown five blocks to 37th Street. The Consulate is on the corner of Madison Avenue and 37th Street. Its exact address is 233 Madison Avenue.

Name Index

The numbers after the names refer to the panel numbers in the program.
Names are alphabetized without reference to diacritical marks.

Arciszewska, Ewa -- 9	Kawaletz, Michelle -- 19, 23
Barczyk, Ewa -- 3	Kazecki, Jakub -- 15
Bębnowski, Damian -- 24	Kearney, Timothy F. -- 24
Bernhard, Michael -- 1, 4	Knoll, Paul -- 14
Bill, Stanley -- 1, 14	Korga, Iwona Drag -- 3
Blobaum, Robert -- 1, 8	Kosicki, Piotr -- 4
Boczkowska, Ewelina -- 15	Kozaczka, Grażyna -- 7
Borowska-Kazimiruk, Sylwia -- 23	Krase, Jerome -- 16, 20
Brzeheczyn, Krzysztof -- 21	Kraus, Nicole Butkovich -- 16
Bukowczyk, John -- 13	Krupa, Barbara -- 3, 15
Celinska, Katarzyna -- 16	Kubik, Jan -- 4
Chambers, David -- 13	Kulpińska, Joanna -- 20
Chrzczonowicz, Magdalena -- 18	Lasota, Marta -- 19
Cierluk, Klaudia -- 19	Łatała, Katarzyna -- 12
Cioffi, Kathleen -- 10	Łuksza, Agata -- 10
Clark, Joanna Rostropowicz -- 7	Magnienville, Stanislas de -- 9
Clark, Elizabeth Morrow -- 11, 16	Michalak, Dominika -- 18
Dabrowski, Patrice M. -- opening	Moore, Julia -- 25
Dapia, Silvia -- 2	Müller, Anna -- 7, 18, 22
Drabik, Grazyna -- 7	Obarska, Marcelina -- 2
Drozdowski, Mateusz -- 21	OKO Press -- 18
Dynner, Glenn -- 8	Olejasz, Stephen -- 9
Figa, Jozef -- 5, 23	Pacewicz, Piotr -- 18
Flis, Iwona -- 3	Pease, Neal -- 4, 8
Frajlich-Zajac, Anna -- 7	Podemski, Piotr -- 21, 24
Friedla, Katharina -- 8, 22	Porter-Szücs, Brian -- plenary
Gibbons, Gertrude -- 5	Potasińska, Paulina -- 20
Goldberg, Halina -- 8	Prykowska-Michalak, Karolina -- 2
Gross, Irena Grudzinska -- 22	Puchalski, Piotr -- 6, 12
Grusiecki, Tomasz -- 14	Rentowski, Wieslaw -- 11
Grzyb, Elzbieta -- 5	Rentowski, Monica -- 11, 25
Haltof, Marek -- 15, 19	Rudnicki, Mark -- 5
Hershock, Martin J. -- 13	Rush, Alexandra -- 25
Holc, Janine -- 22	Sacilowski, Diana -- 2, 23
Holmgren, Beth -- 10, banquet	Sadowski, Glenn -- 9
Huss, Joanna Trzeciak -- 10	Salata, Kris -- 10
Jasiewicz, Krzysztof -- 1	Sinkoff, Nancy -- 6, 8
Karkowski, Czeslaw -- 7	Sklodowska, Elzbieta -- 6, 24
Kaufmann, Thomas DaCosta -- 14	Sliwa, Joanna -- 22

Sosnowska-Jordanovska, Anna -- 13
Stanley, Ben -- 1
Szklarczyk, Justyna -- 12
Tikhonov, Aleksej -- 11
Tuszyński, Jarosław -- 5
Tyszkiewicz, Jakub -- 21
Urynowicz, Marcin -- 25

Waligórska, Magdalena -- 4
Wegner, Tomasz -- 20
Wodniak, Katarzyna -- 12
Wood, Nathaniel D. -- 14
Zheng, Ziqian -- 6

2024 PIASA AWARDS

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

Casimir Funk Award in the Natural Sciences. Recipient: Dr. Piotr Chomeczyński, Founder and Director of the Molecular Research Center, Cincinnati.

Tadeusz Sendzimir Award in the Applied Sciences. Recipient: Dr. Wojciech Zaremba, Co-founder and Robotics Research Manager, OpenAI.

Anna M. Cienciala Award for Best-Edited Multi-Authored Scholarly Volume: Recipient: 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: Recipient: 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 Bauman and the West: A Sociology of Intellectual Exile* (McGill Queens University Press, 2023).

Wacław Lednicki Award in the Humanities: Recipient: Agata Łuksza, Warsaw University, for *Polish Theatre Revisited: Theatre Fans in the Nineteenth Century* (University of Iowa Press, 2023). Honorable Mention: Sławomir Dobrzański, Kansas State University, for *Complete Piano Works of Feliks Łabuński* (CD album and YouTube video performance, 2023).

Oskar Halecki Award in Polish and East-Central European History: Recipient: 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: Recipient: 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). Recipient: 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. Recipients: Joanna Rostropowicz Clark, Princeton Research Forum, and Krzysztof Jasiewicz, Washington and Lee University.

THE POLISH REVIEW

Launched in 1956, *The Polish Review* has established itself as one of the most distinguished journals in the various fields of Polish studies, a publication that encourages lively scholarly exchange and cutting-edge innovation. The *Review* authors have included Vitalii Borymskyi, Rachel Feldhay Brenner, Anna Cienciała, Anna Frajlich, Irena Grudzińska-

The *Review* is a peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal, published by the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in New York in cooperation with the Polska Akademia Umiejętności in Kraków and the University of Illinois Press in Urbana-Champaign. It aims to disseminate new scholarly research in Polish studies broadly understood. To accomplish this goal, the *Review* publishes original research articles, review essays, book reviews, and annotated translations of documents and literary works.

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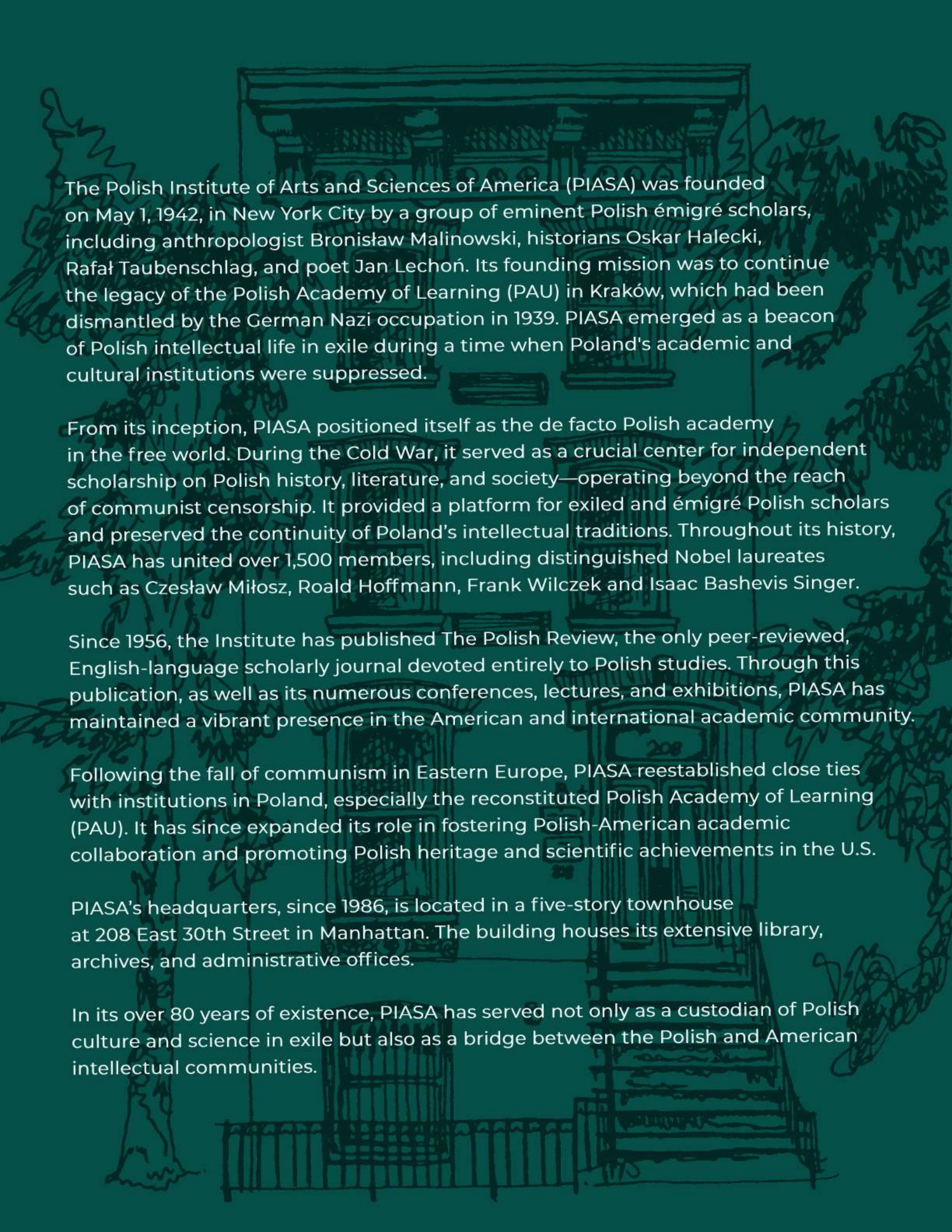
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"The Polish Review" (Our fiscal year is January 1 through December 31.)



The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America (PIASA) was founded on May 1, 1942, in New York City by a group of eminent Polish émigré scholars, including anthropologist Bronisław Malinowski, historians Oskar Halecki, Rafał Taubenschlag, and poet Jan Lechoń. Its founding mission was to continue the legacy of the Polish Academy of Learning (PAU) in Kraków, which had been dismantled by the German Nazi occupation in 1939. PIASA emerged as a beacon of Polish intellectual life in exile during a time when Poland's academic and cultural institutions were suppressed.

From its inception, PIASA positioned itself as the de facto Polish academy in the free world. During the Cold War, it served as a crucial center for independent scholarship on Polish history, literature, and society—operating beyond the reach of communist censorship. It provided a platform for exiled and émigré Polish scholars and preserved the continuity of Poland's intellectual traditions. Throughout its history, PIASA has united over 1,500 members, including distinguished Nobel laureates such as Czesław Miłosz, Roald Hoffmann, Frank Wilczek and Isaac Bashevis Singer.

Since 1956, the Institute has published *The Polish Review*, the only peer-reviewed, English-language scholarly journal devoted entirely to Polish studies. Through this publication, as well as its numerous conferences, lectures, and exhibitions, PIASA has maintained a vibrant presence in the American and international academic community.

Following the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, PIASA reestablished close ties with institutions in Poland, especially the reconstituted Polish Academy of Learning (PAU). It has since expanded its role in fostering Polish-American academic collaboration and promoting Polish heritage and scientific achievements in the U.S.

PIASA's headquarters, since 1986, is located in a five-story townhouse at 208 East 30th Street in Manhattan. The building houses its extensive library, archives, and administrative offices.

In its over 80 years of existence, PIASA has served not only as a custodian of Polish culture and science in exile but also as a bridge between the Polish and American intellectual communities.