

# Newsletter

Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America

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January 2026

## A Word From the President

It is December again—and with it comes the moment to extend holiday wishes and pause, if only briefly, to reflect. For the first time in fifteen years, I was able to spend the end of December in Poland with my parents. I arrived on December 14—the first day of Hanukkah—and the following evening I was invited to friends’ home for the lighting of the second Hanukkah candle. This is what December should be about: the warmth of holidays shared with family and friends; lights that soften long, dark evenings; and food—because nowhere are latkes/placki ziemniaczane and barszcz z uszkami better than in Poland.

The first days I spent in Gdańsk were marked by the Christmas market, a tradition that appears to be joyfully returning to Poland. With great delight, I learned that my hometown won first place in the *Best Christmas Markets in Europe 2025* competition. It is a lovely recognition and one that acknowledges the warm atmosphere created here.

The tradition of Christmas markets dates back to the Middle Ages. It was in the German-speaking lands that the first such fairs emerged, organized in both large and small towns. One of the most famous examples is the Striezelmarkt in Dresden, first held in 1434. As a historic trading city, Gdańsk has a long and well-documented market tradition. From the seventeenth century onward, stalls were set up around St. Mary’s Basilica, and later trade also took place in the Artus Court. Commerce has long been woven into the city’s public spaces.

The contemporary Christmas market is, in a sense, a mildly *ludic* space. Mulled wine, children’s attractions, and Christmas carols in both traditional and modern arrangements: this is not refined entertainment, but something communal and accessible. Its main section unfolds

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## 10th World Congress of Polish Studies

The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America is pleased to invite proposals for its 10th World Congress, which will be hosted by the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University Institute of Social Communication and Media Sciences and the Institute of Central Europe, June 12-14, 2026. 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 “Crossroads of Cultures.”

Lublin is an especially fitting setting for a conference titled Crossroads of Cultures. For centuries, the city has stood at the meeting point of major cultural, religious, and political currents in East-Central Europe. The 1569 Union of Lublin—an ambitious experiment in constitutional governance and multinational coexistence—symbolized the city’s role as a place where distinct traditions could converge and reshape one another. In 2026, Lublin will celebrate its heritage as a European city of culture.

Historically home to vibrant Polish, Jewish, Ukrainian, and other communities, Lublin developed as a hub of intellectual, commercial, and artistic exchange along trade routes linking the Baltic and the Black Sea. Today, Lublin embraces its identity as a space of dialogue and intercultural engagement, hosting international initiatives and cultivating a strong culture of memory work and creative collaboration. Its historic architecture, multicultural heritage, and contemporary institutions provide a compelling backdrop for exploring the intersections, entanglements, and shared futures that define cultural crossroads.

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 cohe-

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## A Word From the President

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at the Coal Market (*Targ Węglowy*), a site of importance in the city's history. It is here that the St. Dominic's Fair (Jarmark Dominikański) has been held for more than 750 years. The fair originated with a papal bull by Pope Alexander IV at the request of the Dominicans, from whom it takes its name. The friars hoped the marketplace would draw residents who, alongside trading, would attend a special indulgence mass and receive one hundred days of remission from purgatorial punishment. For centuries, commerce, religion, and everyday life coexisted here—much as today lights, sounds, and scents fill the space.

While the tradition of the St. Dominic's Fair was never interrupted, the Christmas market itself is only now slowly returning. Judging by the crowds—people shopping, taking photographs, drinking mulled wine, or simply lingering—it is a welcome revival. But it is also loud and bustling, and as I do at the beginning of nearly every visit to the city, I walked instead to St. John's Church, a space that invites a different kind of attention.

The church dates back to the fourteenth century and was severely damaged in 1945. Over the next fifty years, its structure was gradually reconstructed and secured. During that time, the building belonged to the state and functioned as a kind of monument-symbol. Its ruined interior served as a film set; in the 1960s, Janusz Morgenstern shot scenes of *Kolumbowie* here. I remember entering the church as a child, wandering through the rubble, treating it almost like a forbidden playground.

Today, St. John's Church belongs to the Baltic Sea Cultural Centre (Nadbałtyckie Centrum Kultury), which has opened the space to artists and the public. Known for its remarkable acoustics, the Centre of St. John hosts concerts, exhibitions, and even experimental installations—at one point, a forest arranged inside its walls. It is a hybrid space: once and still sacred, but also vibrantly cultural. It encourages reflection, attentiveness, and an appreciation of our multitude of backgrounds.

Perhaps this is why December feels especially meaningful to me here—as someone who is Polish and American, shaped by more than one language, more than one place, and attentive to more than one religious tradition. Lighting Hanukkah candles while walking through Christmas markets, finding quiet in a former church now filled with music and art—these moments remind me that traditions do not have to compete to matter.

With that spirit in mind, I wish you happy holidays—whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, both, or neither—and a New Year filled with health, warmth, and light. May it be a year of care, curiosity, and shared presence. Warm holiday wishes,

— Anna Müller, PIASA President

## 10th World Congress of Polish Studies

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sive 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 PowerPoint 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](mailto:pmd639@g.harvard.edu) and Neal Pease at [pease@uwm.edu](mailto:pease@uwm.edu). The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2026, although earlier submissions are welcome since capacity is limited.

— Patrick Dabrowski

## PIASA's George Szumski Collection

The oldest documents preserved in the PIASA Archive are now available online. One of the smallest collections at PIASA, yet containing the oldest surviving documents in the Archive, is the George Szumski file. Unfortunately, little is known about the donor himself, as the only information is a note: "Gift from George Szumski to the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences – September 28, 1962," which provides no details about the donor or the prior history of the documents.

The collection consists of four documents. The most intriguing is a deed from 1773 in which King Stanisław August Poniatowski grants the villages of Łucznicza, Kawki, and Górki to Franciszek Bieliński, the starost of Osieck. Another valuable artifact is a 1703 letter by Hilary Lubicz Chojecki, treasurer and judge of Kyiv, concerning the extension of a court deadline in a dispute between the Kościszewski and Walicki families. The final document is a letter from J. Kotkowski to an unknown recipient, dated March 4, 1834, in Zhytomyr.

This modest-looking collection may prove to be a valuable source of information for researchers. The preparation and digitization work was carried out as part of the project: "Preservation, processing, digitization, and promotion of PIASA collections – Stage V." The project was

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co-financed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland.

## Potocki Łańcut Archives Digitized

We are delighted to share exciting news from the PIASA archives! The Potocki Family Papers — dating back to the early 16th century — have now been fully digitized. This remarkable collection, generously supported by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland, is a treasure trove of Polish history and heritage.

The completed Potocki Archival Łańcut documents include almost the entire record of the Nowy Wiśnicz estate (1500-1827), as well as touching personal correspondence between Elżbieta Potocka and her parents, Antoni and Maria Radziwiłł, written at the turn of the 20th century. Even more captivating are the Wiśnicz Castle records which preserve centuries of legal disputes and estate divisions of great noble dynasties such as the Kmita, Tarło, and Barż families, along with detailed inventories of castle holdings in Wiśnicz and Wiśniowczyk (Podolia).

Together, these documents open a breathtaking window onto five centuries of Polish life — from the workings of the feudal economy to the privileges of the magnates, and the intertwined fates of Poland's most influential families: Czartoryski, Lubomirski, Opaliński, Ossoliński, Ostrogski, Radziwiłł, and many more.

With this milestone, PIASA continues its mission of bringing Poland's cultural heritage to the world. We invite our members, supporters, and friends to explore and celebrate this extraordinary achievement, which ensures that the voices of Poland's past remain alive for future generations.

## Connecticut Polish American Archives Receives Significant Donations

The Connecticut Polish American Archives (CPAA) at Central Connecticut State University has recently acquired three important collections that enrich the study of Polish American history.

Renata Vickrey, Archivist of the CPAA—an integral part of the Polish Studies Program at CCSU—announced the accession of the William J. Galush Collection, the Joseph T. Hapak Collection, and the James S. Pula Collection.

- The William J. Galush Collection includes research materials on Polish communities in Minneapolis, St. Paul (Minnesota), Cleveland (Ohio), and the Utica, New York Mills area of central New York State.
- The Joseph T. Hapak Collection contains documents and research notes relating to the recruitment of Polish Americans to serve in the Polish Army in France during World War I and biographical information on important figures active in this movement, as well as documents on international relations relating to the creation of the army itself.
- The James S. Pula Collection contains documents and correspondence from about 1979 to the present, much of it related to activities of the Polish American Historical Association and the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, as well as research material on various Polish-related projects.

These valuable additions further emphasize the CPAA's role as an important archives for scholars, students, and the public interested in the history and contributions of Polish Americans.

## Jan Lechoń Document Collection Available Online

The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America has announced that the entire Jan Lechoń document collection is now available online at the following addresses:

PIASA Archives page: <https://archives.piasa.org/collections?collectionId=5&page=1>

Szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl portal: <https://shorturl.at/XWCqM>

A significant part of the collection consists of correspondence addressed to Jan Lechoń by Polish-American organizations, cultural institutions, and private individuals. Letters came from organizations such as PIASA, the National Committee of Free Europe, the Paderewski Foundation, the Piłsudski Institute in New York, the Association of Polish Combatants, the Polish Journalists' Association, the Free Europe Committee, the National Committee of Americans of Polish Descent, and the Polish National Fund and Relief Committee. In addition to correspondence, the files include manuscripts of essays and lectures on the history of Polish literature, notes for

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broadcasts on Radio Free Europe, press articles, fragments of memoirs, and handwritten manuscripts. Another group of archival materials consists of Lechoń's personal documents (including his passport and identification card), various medical documents (e.g., test results, prescriptions), and financial records. The legacy preserved at PIASA also includes his personal library. The online exhibition presents a collection rich in autographs and dedications from contemporary authors who sent him their books. The collection was donated to PIASA along with the poet's entire estate after his tragic death in 1956.

The library is available at: <https://piasa.org/library/>

Scans of dedications can be found at: <https://art.piasa.org/portfolio/kolekcja-ksiazek-jana-lechonia/>

Additionally, you can listen to digitized recordings published on [rec.piasa.org](https://rec.piasa.org), podcast platforms, and on the PIASA Archives YouTube channel, which offer an even deeper insight into Jan Lechoń's work. These include recordings of his voice in the Radio Free Europe program *Głos Wolnych Pisarzy*, where he presents his own piece *Pastorałka* performed by prominent Polish actors of his time: <https://music.youtube.com/podcast/UiAdNFYoi1k>.

Also available are speeches by Lechoń's closest friends during his funeral: <https://rec.piasa.org/jan-lechons-funeral-speeches-by-ignacy-morawski-kazimierz-wierzynski-and-jan-lipski-1956/>.

And a narrated recording of Lechoń's poem *Ostatnie dni Warszawy*, about the Warsaw Uprising—a work that is both an elegy for a dying city, a prayer, an indictment of Western indifference, and an act of supreme patriotic exaltation <https://rec.piasa.org/podcast/jan-lechon-ostatnie-dni-warszawy/>

## New Polish Book Series from Routledge

The German Historical Institute Warsaw and the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History Polish Academy of Sciences invite proposals for the book series "Poland: Transnational Histories," published with Routledge. Our understanding of "transnational histories" is informed by approaches such as the new imperial histories, translocal histories, or global histories. It transcends the bilateral concepts of relational history or *histoire croisée*. This series presents interwoven histories that include diverse ethnicities, religions, cultures, and social classes. We seek original manuscripts that analyze the mobilities and shifts (of

borders, people, or concepts) characteristic of Polish history. We expect authors to contextualize their studies within broader historical developments beyond Polish territories and to examine the complexities and entanglements of Poland's past as the norm rather than as the exception. We welcome studies addressing the following topics: social and spatial migrations; cultural and intellectual transfers; social and economic changes; ethnic, linguistic, or religious interrelationships; and environmental and natural histories (especially in borderlands). Books are published in English. Proposals, also in English, should be sent to Annika Wienert (GHIW) at [wienert@dhi.waw.pl](mailto:wienert@dhi.waw.pl).

## Workshop on the Holocaust in Eastern Europe

The Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites applications for its 2026 Workshop — **Towards an Integrated History of the Holocaust in Eastern Europe – New Research and Perspectives**. Organized in cooperation with the Greenberg Chair in Holocaust Studies at New York University, The Center for Research on the Holocaust in Poland, The International Institute for Holocaust Research, and Yad Vashem, the **program is scheduled for July 26-July 31, 2026**. The workshop will focus on early-career scholars, including advanced PhD students and post-docs, conducting new research on the Holocaust in Eastern Europe to facilitate connections between research communities in Israel, Europe, and the United States. The workshop seeks to include new scholarship with a focus on 1939–1946 in Eastern Europe. Special attention will be given to interdisciplinary research, encouraging participation from scholars across history, literature, anthropology, sociology, political science, and related fields. The entire program will be conducted in English.

The Mandel Center will reimburse the costs of round-trip economy-class air tickets to/from the Washington, DC, metro area, up to a maximum reimbursable amount calculated by home institution location, which will be distributed within 6-8 weeks of the workshop's conclusion. The Mandel Center will also provide accommodation for the duration of the workshop. Participants are required to attend the full duration of the workshop and to circulate a draft paper in advance of the program. **The deadline for receipt of applications is January 14, 2026**. Applications must be submitted in English and include:

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- A short biography (max. 150 words)
- A curriculum vitae, including a list of publications, and/or ongoing research projects
- An abstract of no more than 500 words outlining the research project to be presented and discussed during the workshop.

For further information on the program and to submit applications, see:

[https://ushmmfellowships.smapply.io/prog/towards\\_an\\_integrated\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_holocaust\\_in\\_eastern\\_europe\\_new\\_research\\_and\\_perspectives](https://ushmmfellowships.smapply.io/prog/towards_an_integrated_history_of_the_holocaust_in_eastern_europe_new_research_and_perspectives).

Questions may be directed to: [iaprograms@ushmm.org](mailto:iaprograms@ushmm.org).

## US Study Abroad Course in Poland

Boston College invites applications for a summer course in Warsaw from May 23 to June 20, 2026. “Echoes of the Eagle: Identity, Struggle, and Change in Polish History” will explore the fascinating and dramatic history of Poland not only in the classroom (through literature, film, music, and visual art) but also through museum/site visits and field trips (including an overnight trip to Kraków). This program places you on the very streets where pivotal events unfolded—from the three partitions of Poland to the devastation of World War II and the Holocaust, to the rise of the Solidarity movement that reshaped Europe. As you explore historic landmarks and memorials, you will witness how Warsaw itself embodies resilience: a city painstakingly rebuilt after total wartime destruction, now thriving as a vibrant, safe, and affordable European capital. This is your chance not only to study history, but to experience it firsthand. Trips and activities will include the Warsaw Uprising Museum, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Frederyk Chopin Museum, National Museum, Outdoor Chopin Concert in Łazienki Park, Day trip to Łódź, Weekend trip to Kraków and Auschwitz/Birkenau. The **application deadline is February 5, 2026**. For further information, see <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20132828/summer-2026-abroad-course-warsaw-poland>. Apply at <https://bc-oip.terradotta.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgramAngular&id=10546>.

## Calls for Papers

**Polish National Catholic Church.** The Commission on History and Archives of the Polish National Catholic Church has announced its 25th Scholars’ Conference scheduled for April 18, 2026, to take place in Scranton, Pennsylvania, with virtual participation opportunities available. Proposals in the social sciences, humanities, and theology are welcome. The conference will focus on topics related to the Polish National Catholic Church, its various associations and outreaches, as well as the independent movements that either preceded or developed contemporaneously with it. Proposals on related subjects are also welcomed. The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2026. Selected papers will be presented at the conference and subsequently published in the *PNCC Studies Journal*. Graduate student presenters are eligible for a \$500 stipend/scholarship. Questions and proposals should be emailed to Rev. Jim Ploskonka at [dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net](mailto:dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net).

**“Underprivileged Bodies: Marginality and Minority in Europe, 1850–1939.”** The organizing committee invites proposals for this conference to be held July 6–8, 2026, at the Department of Jewish Studies, Wrocław University. The conference seeks to explore how marginalized and minority bodies were imagined, categorized, and governed in Europe between 1850 and 1939, as well as how individuals and communities experienced, performed, and contested these regimes of representation and control. Proposals are welcome that address a broad range of minorities including ethnic, religious, gender, class, age, sexual, and disabled communities. Further information may be found at <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20133736/cfp-underprivileged-bodies-marginality-and-minority-europe-1850-1939>. A 300-word abstract along with a short bio (maximum 200 words) should be emailed to [underprivilegedbodies@gmail.com](mailto:underprivilegedbodies@gmail.com) by **January 15, 2026**. For questions, please contact Dr. Ekaterina Oleshkevich at [ekaterina.oleshkevich@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:ekaterina.oleshkevich@mail.huji.ac.il) or Dr. Zuzanna Kołodziejska-Smagala at [zuzanna.kolodziejska-smagala@uwr.edu.pl](mailto:zuzanna.kolodziejska-smagala@uwr.edu.pl).

**Polish Romanticism. Transnational Constellations.** The 33rd Conference of the German-Polish Working Group for Art History and Monument Preservation invites proposals for a conference in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, October 21–24, 2026. The focus will be on topics in art, art history, and visual studies. The conference aims to provide a better understanding of Polish Romanticism, not as

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a national exception, but in its interaction with neighboring European cultures. For further information, see <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20133633/polish-romanticism-transnational-constellations-33rd-conference-german>. The conference languages are German, Polish, and English. Part of the conference will be interpreted simultaneously into German and Polish. Presentations may be given in any of the three languages. The organizers will cover travel and accommodation costs, provided sufficient funding is available. Abstracts (max. one page, 2,500 characters, biogram 500 characters) are requested with topic suggestions for presentations (25 minutes) or short panels (90 minutes) with several thematically coordinated presentations led by one or more persons. This call for papers is open to scholars at all career stages. Please submit proposals **by January 15, 2026**, to: maj-mehrvarz@dpi-da.de and loew@dpida.de.

## Second Conference on Parliamentary Junctures in Continental Europe

The organizers invite proposals for “Recombining Representation During the Transformation from Empires to Nation-States 1905-1923, the second Conference on Parliamentary Junctures in Continental Europe to be held June 15-16, 2026, in Warsaw, Poland. The purpose is to facilitate an analytically focused but regionally diversified discussion of the shifting nexus of territory and representation that accompanied the transformation in Central and Eastern Europe. Speakers are invited to reflect on the following topics (this is a non-exclusive list): the design of imperial parliaments; forms and functions of interim representative assemblies from 1917-1920; post-Versailles parliaments, their “patchwork” nature and legal and ethnocultural diversity; alternative forms of sovereignty and their representative practices (workers’ councils, peasant “republics”); violence and parliaments (large-scale street riots addressing parliaments); regionalism, autonomy, federalism, i.e. alternative visions of the territory/sovereignty nexus; Imperial legacies in parliaments; parliamentary debates and cultures; biographies of parliamentary elites; social differentiation within the assemblies; interactions between representative bodies (state-to-state) and between parliaments and international institutions (League of Nations, ILO, IPU, agents of economic re-integration, etc.). The language of the conference will be English. The conference organizer will provide accommodation to all participants. If necessary, travel expenses may be covered up to 300 EUR (please indicate in your submission if you need support; if possible, please

use your own institutional resources). Selected papers may be published in the form of a special issue of a field-specific journal (in English). Participants are expected to circulate drafts of their papers at least two weeks before the workshop. **Submission deadline is January 15, 2026.** Please send the title, abstract (up to 300 words), and a short CV (1-2 pages) to [parljunctures@mail.com](mailto:parljunctures@mail.com). For further information see <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20131948/cfp>. Questions should be sent to Wiktor Marzec at [wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl](mailto:wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl).

## Upcoming Conferences

January 7-9, 2026—“**Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution**,” an international multidisciplinary conference focusing on the fields of Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, will be held at Birkbeck, University of London, and the Wiener Holocaust Library, in London, UK. For additional information see <https://networks.h-net.org/group/announcements/20061051/beyond-camps-and-forced-labour-current-international-research> or contact Johannes-Dieter Steinert at [jdsteinert@btinternet.com](mailto:jdsteinert@btinternet.com).

January 8-11, 2026—The annual meeting of the **Polish American Historical Association** will take place in conjunction with the American Historical Association in Chicago. For further information contact Karen Majewski at [kmajewska@comcast.net](mailto:kmajewska@comcast.net). The program will be posted in September here:

<https://polishamericanstudies.org/>

April 18, 2026—The **25th Scholars’ Conference of the Polish National Catholic Church** will meet in Scranton, Pennsylvania, with virtual participation opportunities available. See the Call for Papers in this issue. Questions should be emailed to Rev. Jim Ploskonka at [dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net](mailto:dr.ploskonka@savonarola.net).

April 24, 2026—**Kościuszko Conference**, West Point, NY. The general theme will focus on Pope John Paul II, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev and the “end” of the Cold War. For further information, contact Anthony Bajdek at [a.j.bajdek@comcast.net](mailto:a.j.bajdek@comcast.net).

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# New Books on Polish Studies

**Ewa Bal** and **Kasia Lech**, *Feminist Imagining in Polish and Ukrainian Theatres* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-1009549561.

**Jacek Bartosiak**, *Oczy szeroko otwarte: polska strategia na czas wojny światowej* (Kraków: Wydawnictwo Literackie, 2025), ISBN: 978-8308085585.

**Włodzimierz Bolecki**, *Modalities of Polish Modernism* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2025), ISBN: 978-3631913840.

**John J. Bukowczyk** and **Halina Filipowicz**, eds., *Pole/Jew: History, Literature, Identity, Future* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0821426487.

**Katarzyna Chmielewska** and **Tomasz Żukowski**, eds., *Year 1966: Socialism and Nationalism in the Polish People's Republic* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1032726090.

**Maciej Chrostowski**, *Political Myths in History Textbooks: War Images of the Falange in Spain (1939-1951) and the Polish Workers' Party in Poland (1945-1956)* (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2025), ISBN: 978-3631903421.

**Ewa Ciszewska**, *Sojusznicy z rozsądku: Polska i Czechosłowacja w projekcie socjalistycznego internacjonalizmu filmowego w okresie 1945-1970* (Łódź: Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Filmowa, Telewizyjna i Teatralna im. L. Schillera, 2025), ISBN: 978-8383316437.

**George Z. Gasyna**, *A Time for the Province: Palimpsests and Borders in Twentieth-century Polish Literature* (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0228024293.

**Stanisław Gomulka** and **Antony Polonsky**, eds., *Polish Paradoxes* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003642978.

**Anna Grześkowiak-Krwawicz** and **Daniel J. Sax**, *Power in the Political Discourse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1569-1795* (Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2025), ISBN: 978-9004733312.

**Maciej Kisilowski** and **Anna Wojciuk**, eds., *Let's Agree on Poland: A Case Study in Strategic Constitutional Design* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0198979531.

**Oktawian Kuc**, *The Supreme National Tribunal and International Criminal Law: Polish Perspectives on Prosecuting War Criminals* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1041004721.

**Joanna Kulpińska** and **Paulina Napierała**, eds., *Migracje w dobie globalizacji. Dawne i nowe społeczności migranckie* (Kraków: Jagiellonian University Press, 2025).

**Olga Linkiewicz**, *Poland and the Making of Transnational Social Science: Eastern Europe, the United States, and the Wilsonian Moment* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2025), ISBN: 978-1350463998.

**Krystyna Marcinek** and **Scott Boston**, *Polish Armed Forces Modernization A New Cornerstone of European Security?* (Santa Monica, CA: Rand, 2025), ISBN: 978-1977415233.

**Dominic Pacyga**, *Clout City: The Rise and Fall of the Chicago Political Machine* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0226733845.

**Krzysztof Pawlina**, *New Shepherds: Priestly Vocations in the Catholic Church in Poland between 2000 and 2022: a Sociological Study* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2025), ISBN: 978-3525500828.

**Marcin Piatkowski**, *Europe's Growth Champion: Insights from the Economic Rise of Poland* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-0198949282.

**Eva Plach**, *Relief on the Hoof: The Seagoing Cowboys, the Heifer Project, and UNRRA in Poland* (DeKalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-1501783913.

**James S. Pula**, *"I Remember When" .... Memories from the Polish American Historical Association* (New Britain, CT: PAHA Books, 2025), ISBN: 978-0960216239.

**Jolanta Rzegocka**, *Watching the Virtues Playbills, Drama and the Teaching of Civic Virtue in the Jesuit Theatre of Poland-Lithuania* (Boston: Brill, 2025), ISBN: 978-9004697270.

**Nina Seiler**, *Transgressive Humanism in Mid-Socialist Poland* (Abingdon, Oxon, UK: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003224259.

**Krystyna Wieszczyk**, *George Orwell and Communist Poland: Émigré, Official and Clandestine Receptions* (New York: Routledge, 2025), ISBN: 978-1003355533.

**Sarah Zarrow**, published *Displays of Belonging: Polish Jewish Collecting and Museums, 1891-1941* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2025), ISBN: 978-1501781568.

# Did You Know . . .

## Popeye was Polish!



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According to an article in the September 2025 issue of the *Polish American Journal*, information on the “Find a Grave” website, and an article by Samantha Franco in “War History Online,” the model for the famous “Popeye the Sailor Man” from the comic strips and movie cartoons was Frank “Rocky” Fiegel. Born in Poland on January 27, 1868, he worked as a bar-keep in Wiebusch’s Tavern in Chester, Illinois. Apparently because one eye was slightly “bulging,” he acquired the nickname “Pop-eye.” He was described as toothless, habitually smoking a pipe he balanced in one side of his mouth and possessing inordinate strength. The eventual creator of the Popeye cartoons in 1919 was Elzie Crisler “EC” Segar who was born in Chester, met Frank when the cartoonist was a young man and became fascinated with him as a character. Popeye’s girlfriend “Olive Oyl” was also based on a real person, Dora Paskel, of German ancestry, who has tall, thin, and dressed much like the plain image in the cartoons. Fiegel passed away on March 24, 1947. He is buried in Saint Mary’s Catholic Cemetery in Chester.

## Saving Lives through Chemistry

Stephanie Kwolek was born the daughter of Polish immigrants in New Kensington, Pennsylvania. After earning a baccalaureate degree in science from Margaret Morrison College in 1946 she went to work for the DuPont corporation in Buffalo, NY. Although her assignment involved developing synthetic fibers for commercial use in tires, in 1950 she was transferred to the new Pioneering Research Laboratory in Wilmington, Delaware. There, in 1965 she discovered liquid crystalline polymers that led to producing exceptionally strong synthetic fibers. The best known of these is Kevlar, the substance used in bullet-proof protection for police departments and the armed forces but also in airplanes, brake pads, fiberoptic cables, and over 200 other applications. She once said: “I hope I’m saving lives. There are very few people in their careers that have the opportunity to do something to benefit mankind.”



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## Pioneering Women’s Rights

Born in Berlin to Polish parents forced to leave the Russian partition because of their revolutionary activities, Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska migrated to the United States to pursue a medical career only to find that women were no more welcome in that profession in America than in Europe. Eventually, with the assistance of two female American medical professionals, she was able to enter and obtain a medical degree from Western Reserve University in Ohio. Moving to Boston, she raised funds to open the New England Hospital for Women and Children, only the second hospital in America to have an entirely female staff of physicians. A teaching hospital, she hired Anita Tyng as the first female officially listed as a surgeon in any medical facility in the United States. The nursing program she founded graduated Linda Richards who was the first formally trained nurse in the US, Mary Elizabeth Mahoney who was the first African-American nurse in the United States, Mary Putnam-Jacobi who later became the first woman admitted to the prestigious School of Medicine in Paris, Sophia Jax-Blake who subsequently establishing the London School of Medicine for Women, and Elizabeth Mosher who went on to be appointed the First Dean of Students and Professor of Psychology at the University of Michigan. Her determined efforts greatly opened the field of medicine to women and gained respect for them among peers, including admittance to formerly all-male medical societies.

## New Members

**Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood** is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Stony Brook University. Her research focuses on colonial and postcolonial studies in the context of Eastern European and Eurasia, nationalism, and decolonization. She is the author of *Between East and West: Polish and Russian Nineteenth-Century Travel to the Orient* (University of Rochester Press, 2004), along with numerous articles related to her main areas of interest, primarily in Polish and Eastern European cinemas. In 2022 Kalinowska co-founded the Flying University for Ukrainian Students—an educational initiative that supports Ukrainian students by offering intensive online humanities courses taught by American professors. She was a Fulbright Fellow at the Centre for East European Studies at the University of Warsaw during the 2024–25 academic year.

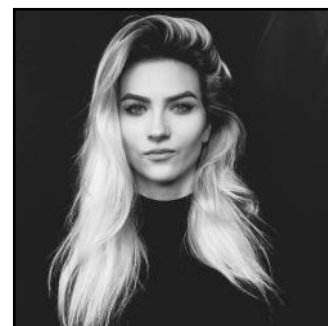


**Gregorz Deptuch** is professor and senior scientist at the Brookhaven National Laboratory. He earned an M.Sc. in Electronics from Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza im. Stanisława Staszica, Kraków, Poland (1996) and a Ph.D. in Physics-Electronics from Université de Strasbourg (2002). His fields of specialty include the design of application-specific integrated circuits, pixel detectors, and cryogenic electronics for high-energy physics, photon science, and nuclear instrumentation. He has contributed to the development of novel readout architectures, integrated sensor-electronics platforms, and advanced detection technologies. He is the inventor or co-inventor of 12 U.S. patents.



**Dominika Machel** is a cinematographer, editor, and photographer, professionally active in the audiovisual and photographic fields. She is based in Warsaw, Poland, and has been associated with Polish Television, co-creating hundreds of films documenting major artistic, musical, theatrical, and social events and preserving cultural heritage. Her work promoted popularization of culture, making it accessible and attractive to a broad audience. She earned a degree in Edukacja Techniczno-Informatyczna from Politechnika Lubelska and certifi-

cates from the Akademia Fotografii in Kraków, Poland. She is engaged in television production, documentary filmmaking, and photojournalism. She also does research in film and television production, media arts, and visual storytelling. She is especially known for *The Voice Kids*, *World of Dance Polska* and *Dancing with the Stars. Taniec z gwiazdami*.



**Nancy Sinkoff** is the Academic Director at the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life and Professor of Jewish Studies and History at Rutgers University. She earned an M.A. in United States History from Columbia University (1988), an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (1989), an M. Phil. From Columbia in Jewish History (1991), and a Ph.D. in Jewish History from Columbia University (1996). Her dissertation topic was “Tradition and Transition: Mendel Lefin of Satanów and the Beginnings of the Jewish Enlightenment in Eastern Europe, 1749-1826.”



With expertise in the fields of modern Jewish history, Polish Jewish history, and Yiddish culture, her publications include *Out of the Shtetl: Making Jews Modern in the Polish Borderlands* (2004) and *From Left to Right: Lucy S. Dawidowicz, the New York Intellectuals, and the Politics of Jewish History* (2020), the latter of which received the Fall 2020 Natan Notable Book Award and the 2020 National Jewish Book Award in the category of biography. She also served as co-editor for *Sara Levy's World: Gender, Judaism, and the Bach Tradition in Enlightenment Berlin* (2018; received the Outstanding Book Award from the Jewish Studies and Music Study Group of the American Musicological Society); *Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery* (2023; received the PIASA Anna Cienciala Award for the best edited multi-authored scholarly volume); and *A Jew in the Street: New Perspectives on European Jewish History* (2024). She has also authored over a dozen articles and book chapters.

# News

## Upcoming Conferences

(Continued from page 6.)

June 12-14, 2026—The **10th World Congress on Polish Studies**, sponsored by PIASA, is scheduled to convene at the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Poland. See article beginning on page 1.

June 15-16, 2026—**Second Conference on Parliamentary Junctures in Continental Europe**. Titled “Recombining Representation During the Transformation from Empires to Nation-States 1905-1923,” the conference will meet in Warsaw. See the call for papers in this issue. Questions should be addressed to Wiktor Marzec at [wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl](mailto:wh.marzec@uw.edu.pl).

June 17-19, 2026—“**Mixed Couples**” in Europe under Axis Rule. The conference will meet in Munich, Germany to discuss the histories of “mixed couples” and their children under Axis rule. For information contact [zfhs@ifz-muenchen.de](mailto:zfhs@ifz-muenchen.de).

July 6-8, 2026—“**Underprivileged Bodies: Marginality and Minority in Europe, 1850–1939**” will be held at the Department of Jewish Studies, Wrocław University. See call for papers in this issue.

October 21-24, 2026—**Polish Romanticism. Transnational Constellations**. The 33rd Conference of the German-Polish Working Group for Art History and Monument Preservation will convene in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, to explore topics in art, art history, and visual studies. See the call for papers in this issue.

## Kudos

**Michael Bernhard** published “State Memory Institutions and Modes of Civil Society.” *Aktualu rytoj* 5 (27-8): 10–26, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.51740/RT.5.27.28.2> and coauthored with Jan Kubik and Grzegorz Ekiert three chapters in Katarzyna Walecka, Simona Guerra, and Fernando Casal Bértoa, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025): “Social Capital and Civil Society,” “Social Movements and Protest,” and “Political Culture.”

**M. B. B. Biskupski** published “Poles and Jews in the Late Nineteenth Century Russian Empire: An Inevitable Clash?” in **John J. Bukowczyk** and **Halina Filipowicz**, eds., *Pole/Jew: History, Literature, Identity, Future* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2025). He also gave a presentation on “Why Will Poland Never Perish” for the Polish Heritage Center at Panna Maria, Texas, in November.

**Krzysztof Błędowski** published “Migracja w USA – mity i fakty” in *Rzeczpospolita*, at <https://www.rp.pl/opinie-ekonomiczne/art43299541-krzysztof-bledowski-migracja-w-usa-mity-i-fakty>.

**Kazimierz Braun** received the 2025 Golden Award from the Helena Modjeska Art & Culture Club in Los Angeles on September 10. The award is given for lifetime achievement in theater and film. Prof. Braun is the author of 23

plays in Polish and English as well as being a theater director. He was interviewed in a conversation with actors Agata Pilitowska from the Polish Theatre in Toronto and Marek Probosz from Los Angeles that was moderated by Dr. Maja Trochimczyk, President of the Modjeska Art & Culture Club.

**John J. Bukowczyk**, co-edited with **Halina Filipowicz** *Pole/Jew: History, Literature, Identity, Future* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2025), and published in the same book the following: “Introduction” (pp.1-11) and “The Polish Question” (pp. 274-89). He also published “Between Memory and History,” in **James. S. Pula**, ed., *I Remember When . . . : Memories from the Polish American Historical Association* (New Britain, CT: PAHA Books, 2025), 25-40, and “Ethnic Place-Making: Language, Space, and Power,” in **John S. Micgiel**, ed., *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (New York: Routledge, 2025), 133-48.

**Kathleen Cioffi** was awarded an Honorable Mention for the Mary Zirin Prize by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. The Zirin Prize recognizes the achievements of independent scholars and encourages their continued scholarship and service in the fields of Slavic or Central and East European Women’s Studies.

(Continued on next page.)

# Kudos

**Patrice M. Dabrowski** gave a lecture entitled “The Eastern Carpathians in 1930s Poland: Natural Space, Life-world, and National Imaginary” at the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, on October 3, 2025. She lectured on “Crowning Achievements: On the Millennium of the First Polish Coronation” at the Polish Center in Milwaukee. This lecture was reprised for the Kosciuszko Foundation’s Washington, DC, Division on October 9, 2025, as part of their celebration of Polish Independence Day.

**Beth Holmgren** and **Helena Goscilo** served as guest editors for the thematic cluster “Re-Viewing the New ‘Golden Age’ in Polish Film” in *The Polish Review*, 70:1 (2025). Holmgren’s article rounds out the cluster: “Hanna Polak’s Documentaries of Russia’s Lost Souls,” 90-111. Holmgren’s essay “From Taverns to Courtyards and Cafes: How the Shtetl Migrated into Fin de siècle Warsaw” was published in *The Jewish Inn in Polish Culture: Between Practice and Phantasm*, ed. by Halina Goldberg & Bożena Shallcross, Indiana University Press, 2025: 80-100. Holmgren gave two invited talks this spring: (1) “Piecing Together *Wyrok życia* (dir. Juliusz Gardan, 1933): Linking Film Analysis with Production History,” *Beyond the Horizon: Polish Culture Symposium*, at University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI., April 11, 2025, and (2) “Warsaw before the Apocalypse: The City as Set and Storyline in 1930s Polish Film,” banquet talk for the 2025 PIASA Conference, New York, New York. June 7, 2025.

**David Jackson** took part in a faculty exchange agreement between Bowling Green State University and the University of Gdańsk (UG) in October. He gave lectures on US foreign policy, the 2024 US elections, and the voting behavior of Polish Americans and is working with UG colleagues to establish a student exchange.

**Paul Knoll** served as Respondent for a panel at the November meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Washington, DC. The panel, which included Patrice Dabrowski as Chair, Piotr Górecki of UC Riverside, Václav Zheng of The Johns Hopkins University, and Larry Wolff of New York University, was devoted to “300 Years Ago: History and Memory of Premodern Poland.” Knoll has also had a review of Isaac Nakhimovsky’s book *The Holy Alliance. Liberalism and the Politics of Federation* (Princeton UP, 2024) published in *CHOICE*, the journal of the American Library Association, in its July 2025 volume.

**Olga Linkiewicz** published *Poland and the Making of Transnational Social Science: Eastern Europe, the United States, and the Wilsonian Moment* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2025).

**Dominika Machel** was recently invited to join the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS) – the highly selective, expert body that stands behind the Webby Awards, widely regarded as “*the Oscars of the Internet*.” Her appointment to serve as an Associate Academy Juror for the 2025 Webby Awards places her among an international group of leaders in digital innovation, creative technology, and visual storytelling. As a juror, she will help evaluate some of the most influential digital projects globally, assessing excellence in creativity, design, technical execution, and cultural impact. By joining the Academy and participating in the Webby Awards judging process, Dominika becomes part of a tradition that celebrates groundbreaking work by institutions such as The New York Times, NASA, Google, National Geographic, Vogue, and leading creative studios worldwide.

**John Micgiel** was honored with the Oskar Halecki Prize for his recently published *Poles, Polonia, and the Quest for Liberty* (London and New York: Routledge, 2025) and the Wybitny Polak w USA prize from the Fundacja Polskiego Godła Promocyjnego Teraz Polska for his scholarship on Poland. He was also awarded the degree Doctor Honoris Causa from the Carpathian National University in Iwano-Frankivsk for his research.

**Michael J. Mikoś** was elected a member of Polska Akademia Umiejętności and gave an invited lecture “O filologii zespolonej widzianej zza oceanu” in Kraków on March 28. He edited and translated with notes Wojciech Kudyba’s book *Finally the World* (Bloomington, IN: Slavica Publishers, 2025). His paper “Przekłady ‘Marii’ Malczewskiego na język angielski” was presented at the international conference “Antoni Malczewski i jego Maria” at the University of Białystok, June 3, 2025.

**Dominic Pacyga** published *Clout City: The Rise and Fall of the Chicago Political Machine* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2025).

**Angela** and **Don Pienkos** each spoke on November 8 on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Polish Center of Wisconsin, offering their recollections of the founding and early activities. The Center in a woods in Franklin, Wisconsin, is modeled after a Polish Manor House of the 18th-19th century.

**James S. Pula** published *I Remember When . . . : Memories from the Polish American Historical Association* (New Britain, CT: PAHA Books, 2025) and “From Galicia to New York: Traveling to America in 1906” in Joanna Kulpińska and Paulina Napierała, eds., *Migracje w dobie*

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# About the Institute

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*globalizacji. Dawne i nowe społeczności migranckie* (Kraków: Jagiellonian University Press, 2025), 102-13. He also gave a program for the Polish Heritage Center of Panna Maria, Texas, on “Fighting for Polish Independence” about the diaspora’s assistance to Poland 1914-1925 and participated in an online tribute to Ted Gromada sponsored by the Polish American Historical Association and PIASA in October.

**Nancy Sinkoff** was elected to the American Academy of Jewish Research (AAJR). The Academy represents the oldest organization of Judaic scholars in North America.

**Joshua Spero** published “The Line That Holds: How Warsaw and Kyiv Anchor Europe's Defense,” *Foreign Analysis Magazine* (November 2025 online).

**Ewa Thompson** published “Halloween, czyli swieto brzydoty,” *Teologia Polityczna*, November 2025, online at <https://teologiapolityczna.pl/ewa-thompson-halloween-czyli-swieto-brzydoty>.

**Maja Trochimczyk** ended her service as President of the Helena Modjeska Art & Culture Club and was recognized as the Club’s Distinguished Member (September 2025). Her essay “My Way to Polonia – A Memoir,” appeared in an anthology “*I Remember When . . .*” *Memories from the Polish American Historical Association* ed. by James S. Pula (PAHA Books, 2025). As publisher of Moonrise Press she issued four bi-lingual volumes of *Dramaty Zebrane/Collected Plays* by Kazimierz Braun (23 plays in Polish and English) and *The Wise Child & Magic. Three Plays* by Christopher Vened.

**Piotr Wróbel** published “The Canadian Contribution to the Polish Military Effort During the First World War: From Secrecy and Improvisation to Success,” *First World War Studies*, 15:3, 325-351, and conducted a webinar on the topic for the National World War I Museum and Memorial in Kansas in November. The Museum presented him with an award for the best article on World War I published in 2025.

**Sarah Zarrow** published *Displays of Belonging: Polish Jewish Collecting and Museums, 1891-1941* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2025).

## Officers

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