

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. (You might wish to take a screenshot of the QR code to have it accessible on your phone even if you do not have cell phone coverage.) An acceptable option is to print out the two emails with the QR codes and bring them with you to be scanned.

### On the conference venue

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

### Getting to the conference venue

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

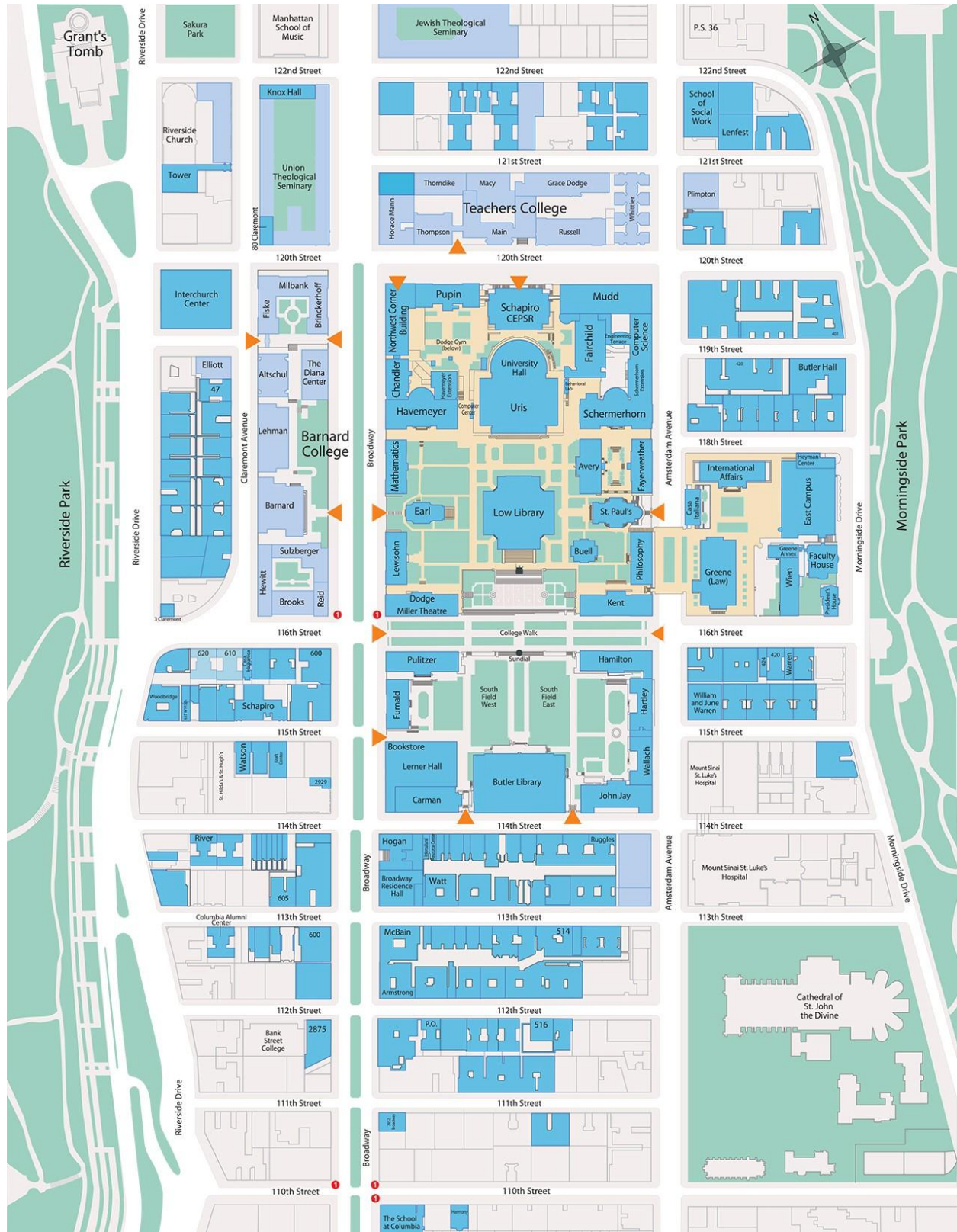
### The location of plenary session and panels

Altschul Auditorium (417 IAB, 4<sup>th</sup> floor) – plenary session

Conference rooms:

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

The conference venue is the Harriman Institute, **International Affairs Building (IAB)** 12<sup>th</sup> floor  
420 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street (on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue)



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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

### THURSDAY, JUNE 5

**5:00-6:00 PM**  
**Pre-conference reception**  
PIASA Headquarters  
208 East 30<sup>th</sup> Street

### FRIDAY, JUNE 6

**8:00 AM – 3:30 PM**  
**Registration**  
Room 1202, 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> floor IAB

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
**Concurrent Panels**

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**  
**Coffee Break**  
Room 1202, 12<sup>th</sup> 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<br>(1) – Room 1219 | 2. Theatrical<br>Interpretations – Room<br>1201 | 3. Polish Professional<br>Women – Room 1302 |
|--|---|---|

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

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

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

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| 22. Brenner Award<br>Panel – Room 1219 | 23. Meditations on<br>Literature – Room 1201 | 24. International<br>Themes – Room 1302 | 25. Polish Historical<br>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 (4<sup>th</sup>/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 118<sup>th</sup> Street - on the corner of Amsterdam Avenue and 118<sup>th</sup> Street. The Harriman Institute is in the **International Affairs Building (IAB)**. The entrance to the building is on 118<sup>th</sup> Street (4<sup>th</sup> floor = street level). The Harriman Institute is on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. That said, panels will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor (Room 707) and 13<sup>th</sup> floor (Room 1302) as well as on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor (Rooms 1219 and 1201) of the International Affairs Building. The conference opening and plenary session will be held in Altschul Auditorium, Room 417 (4<sup>th</sup> floor).

## THURSDAY, JUNE 5

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

## FRIDAY, JUNE 6

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

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

Altschul Auditorium Room 417, 4<sup>th</sup> 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-Szúcs** (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, 12<sup>th</sup> floor)

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

1. **Susanne M. Lotarski Distinguished Achievement Award Panel (1)** – Room 1219 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (13<sup>th</sup> 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 Drag 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. **Bronislaw Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences Panel** – Room 1219 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz: The Narratives of Decline

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

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

#### 6. **International History** – Room 1302 (13<sup>th</sup> 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 Sklodowska**, *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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 and the UN Security Council** – Room 1302 (13<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Steven Olejasz**, *U.S. Army*, chair

**Ewa Arciszewska**, *Polish Army*, panelist

**Glenn Sadowski**, *U.S. Marine Corps*, panelist

**Stanislas de Magienville**, *French Mission to the United Nations*, panelist

## SATURDAY, JUNE 7

**8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Registration** (Room 1202, 12<sup>th</sup> floor)

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

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

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

**Anna Kijanowska**, *University of Silesia*, Zygmunt Stokowski and Michał Kondracki: Two Polish Heroes

**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 (13<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Barbara Krupa**, *Stanford University Libraries*, chair

**Marek Haltof**, *Northern Michigan University*, *Volhynia (Wołyń, 2016)* by Wojciech Smarzewski: 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 (13<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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

**Mariusz Jaloszewski**, *Legal Journalist, OKO Press*, participant

19. **Literary Themes** – Room 1201 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (13<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Piotr Kajak**, *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*, and **Piotr Kajak**, *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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> 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 (12<sup>th</sup> floor)

**Michelle Kawaletz**, *University of Tübingen*, chair

**Sylwia 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 (13<sup>th</sup> 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?

**Katarzyna Skiert-Andrzejuk**, *Collegium Civitas*, and **Małgorzata Skiert**, *The Jozef Pilsudski University of Physical Education in Warsaw, branch in Biala Podlaska*, The Role of Physical Culture in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Post-Transition States: A Comparative Analysis of Poland, Kazakhstan, and Georgia

#### 25. **Polish Historical Trauma** – Room 707 (7<sup>th</sup> 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 **116<sup>th</sup> St.—Columbia University** downtown (10 stops) to **Times Square--42<sup>nd</sup> Street**. Change to the S train, travel crosstown (two stops) to **Grand Central--42<sup>nd</sup> Street**. Exit the subway and walk downtown five blocks to 37<sup>th</sup> Street. The Consulate is on the corner of Madison Avenue and 37<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



## 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 Chomczyński, 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.

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## 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 Stanisław Barańczak, Vitalii Borymskyi, Rachel Feldhay Brenner, Anna Cienciała, Anna Frajlich, Irena Grudzińska-Gross, Fredric Jameson, Roman Koropeckyj, Dariusz Libionka, and Antony Polonsky, among others.

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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