Dr. Piotr Michałowski, an important cultural promoter and scholar of Polish Studies at the University of Michigan, recently gave the 2018 Annual Copernicus Lecture. Entitled “Polish Culture and Transformation in the Context of Wrocław—The Specter of the Past,” the lecture was held on October 4, 1:45 pm in the Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel, and co-sponsored by the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design and Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel.

The lecture began with an analysis of the 1949-1956 “Polish Culture and Transformation in the Context of Wrocław—The Specter of the Past,” a project that explored the city’s cultural history and its impact on modern Polish society. Michalowski discussed the role of Wrocław in shaping Polish cultural identity and its relationship with neighboring countries, particularly Germany.

Michalowski’s lecture was followed by a film screening of “Karski and the Lords of Auschwitz,” a documentary film directed by Aniek Pouwels, who has been recognized for her work in promoting ethical teaching and activism in higher education. Pouwels has received several awards, including the Guggenheim Fellowship, for her research on the Holocaust and its legacy.

The event also featured a Q&A session with the director, Aniek Pouwels, who discussed the themes of the film and her approach to the subject matter.

The Copernicus Lecture is an annual event that celebrates the legacy of Copernicus and the contributions of Polish culture and history to the world. The lecture is open to the public and is co-sponsored by the University of Michigan’s Polish Culture Fund.

For more information, please visit the Michigan Polish Student Association’s website at umich.edu/cpps.
This academic year we will reflect on the theme of “Memorials.” Robert Bednorz, Polish LGBT activist, politician, and mayor of the town of Skup, will deliver the annual Copernicus Lecture on November 2, and other scholars will join us to address other facets of that theme throughout the year. We are also excited to team up with the Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival to bring to Michigan Theater Stanisław Grunberg’s award-winning film Karoli and the Lords of Humanity, followed by a conversation with the filmmaker.

We hope to see all of you at these events and are grateful for your continued support.

Geneviève Zubrzycki, Director
Associate Professor of Sociology