



## The Contemporary Interpretation of Historical Legacies in East Central Europe

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POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

### PRESENTERS

**Michał Bilewicz** is an associate professor of psychology at the University of Warsaw, where he chairs the Center for Research on Prejudice. His research interests include reconciliation processes, dehumanization, prejudice, and collective moral emotions. He is co-editor of a special issue of *Journal of Social Issues* (2013) on the consequences of genocide, and of *The Psychology of Conspiracy* (2015). Bilewicz coordinated the Polish Prejudice Survey (2009 and 2013), the first Polish diagnostic survey on xenophobia, and has presented his reports on anti-Semitism to the Polish Parliament's Ethnic Minorities Commission. Since 2013, he has served as a consultant to the Polish Ministry of Administration on the Council to Prevent Racism and Xenophobia. He is a Governing Council member of the International Society of Political Psychology and vice president of the Polish Society of Social Psychology. Bilewicz holds a PhD in social psychology from the University of Warsaw.

**Krisztina Fehérváry** is acting director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Michigan. She received a BA in cross-cultural communications (Brown University), an MA in classics (Graduate Institute, St. John's College), and a PhD in cultural anthropology (University of Chicago). Her theoretical interests center on materiality and semiotics, with an empirical focus on consumer culture, aesthetics, architecture and home decor, popular culture, and the body. Questions of political economy and historical transformation motivate her work. Fehérváry authored *Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and the Middle-Class in Hungary* (2013), for which she received the William E. Douglass Prize for best book in the Anthropology of Europe.

**Anna Grzymała-Busse** is director of the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia and the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of European and Eurasian Studies, and professor of political science at the University of Michigan. She focuses on religion and politics, informal politics, and post-communist state development. Her latest book, *Nations under God: How Churches Use Moral Authority to Influence Policy* (2015) asks why and how organized religion influences public policy, and why we see differences in church influence among countries that are otherwise similar in their religious profiles. Grzymała-Busse holds a BA in public and international affairs (Princeton University), MA in social and political studies (Cambridge University), and PhD in government (Harvard University).

**Pauline Jones Luong** is director of the International Institute, director of the Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum (DISC), and professor of political science at the University of Michigan. She has a BA in political science and history from the University of California, Berkeley, and received her MA and PhD in government from Harvard University. Her scholarly work contributes broadly to the study of institutional origin, change, and impact in a wide variety of settings: newly emergent states with multiple competing subnational identities, states transitioning from planned to market economies, states rich in natural resources, and states with predominantly Muslim populations. She is the author of *Oil is Not a Curse* (2010).

**Jan Kubik** is director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. His recent work deals with the relationship between political science and cultural anthropology, critical analysis of post-communist studies, and the politics of memory. Among his research interests are: culture and politics, protest politics and social movements, communist and post-communist politics, and interpretive and ethnographic methods in political science. He holds an MA in sociology and philosophy from Jagiellonian University and a PhD in anthropology from Columbia University.

**Krishan Kumar** is University Professor and William R. Kenan, Jr., Professor of Sociology at the University of Virginia. Kumar's current interests focus on empires and imperial peoples, his forthcoming book is *Empires and Their Rulers*. Related interests include nationalism and nation identity, Europe, global history, and problems of historical sociology. He is an associate editor of *New Literary History*. Select publications include *Prophecy and Progress: The Sociology of Industrial and Post-Industrial Society* (1978), *Utopia and Anti-Utopia in Modern Times* (1987), and *The Rise of Modern Society: Aspects of the Social and Political Development of the West* (1988). He received his undergraduate education at the University of Cambridge and his postgraduate education at the London School of Economics.

**Katherine Lebow** is an Elise Richter Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Research. Lebow's interests focus on 20th-century European and transnational history, Central Europe/Poland, war and society, autobiography/testimony, history of social science, and urban history. She is currently working on *The People Write! Polish Everyman Autobiography from the Great Depression to the Holocaust* and has published *Unfinished Utopia: Nowa Huta, Stalinism, and Polish Society, 1949-56* (2013). She holds a BA in history from Yale University, and a PhD in history from Columbia University.

**Andrzej Leder** studied philosophy at the University of Warsaw and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. His work focuses on political philosophy and the philosophy of culture, applying phenomenological and psychoanalytical tools, especially Lacanian psychoanalysis. He has published two collections of philosophical essays which in 2004 received a literary prize, and were translated to English in 2013 under the title *The Changing Guise of Myths*. His main work in political philosophy is *Sleepwalking through a Revolution: Exercise in Historical Logics* (2014). He has also published articles in English and French philosophical reviews. He is a member of the Husserl Circle and is on the board of the Levinas Institute in Paris.

**Marcin Napiórkowski** is an assistant professor in the Section for Contemporary Culture at the Institute of Polish Culture, University of Warsaw. He obtained his MA in cultural studies and sociology from the University of Warsaw, his PhD in philosophy from the Graduate School for Social Research, and habilitation (habilitacja) in cultural studies. In 2013-14 he was a postdoctoral visiting researcher at the University of Virginia. His research interests include memory studies, contemporary mythologies, and aesthetics. He is the author of *Mitologia współczesna* (2013) and *Władza wyobraźni* (2014). A forthcoming book presents the history of commemorations of the Warsaw Uprising. Napiórkowski's research has been funded by grants and fellowships from the Foundation for Polish Science, the National Science Centre, and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

**Małgorzata Pakier** is the head of the research and publications department at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. She is a member of the Social Memory Laboratory at the Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw. Pakier received her PhD from the European University Institute, Florence, History and Civilization Department. Her thesis, "The Construction of European Holocaust Memory: German and Polish Cinema after 1989," was published with Peter Lang in 2013. In 2010, she was a Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Together with Bo Stråth she co-edited the volume *A European Memory? Contested Histories and Politics of Remembrance*. She has a Charles H. Revson Foundation Fellowship, which is supporting research for her project, "The Holocaust in German and Polish Cinema after 1989 and European Processes of Remembrance."

**Leonid Peisakhin** is an assistant professor of politics at New York University-Abu Dhabi. His interests are comparative politics, political economy, political behavior, European politics, and experimental methods. He is currently finishing a book on the persistence of imperial-era political identities in Ukraine, some of which are at the root of the ongoing conflict over Ukraine's statehood and future political trajectory. The book contributes to the fledgling research agenda on cultural legacies of historical institutions and revisits theoretical insights from the literature on political socialization. Peisakhin received his BA from Harvard University, MA from the University of Oxford, and PhD from Yale University.

**Dariusz Stola** is director of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, professor of history at the Institute of Political Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences and Collegium Civitas, and a fellow at the Center for Migration Research at Warsaw University. He has published eight books and more than 100 articles on international migrations in the 20th century, the communist regime in Poland, Polish-Jewish relations, and the Holocaust, as well as on Polish debates about these pasts. He holds degrees in history from the University of Warsaw (MA) and the Polish Academy of Sciences (PhD).

**Jason Wittenberg** is an associate professor in the Department of Politics at the University of California, Berkeley. His research interests focus on Eastern Europe and the post-Soviet region, quantitative analysis, religion and politics, electoral analysis, and ethnic conflict. Wittenberg holds a BA in physics, an MA in international affairs, and received his PhD in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of *Crucibles of Political Loyalty: Church Institutions and Electoral Continuity in Hungary* (2006).

**Larry Wolff** is the Silver Professor of History and director of the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at New York University. Wolff works on the history of Eastern Europe, the Habsburg Monarchy, the Enlightenment, and the history of childhood. He has been most interested in problems concerning East and West within Europe. His current research concerns Turkish subjects on the European operatic stage during the long eighteenth century, and analyzes musical and dramatic representations in the context of European-Ottoman relations. His new book will be published in 2016: *The Singing Turk: Ottoman Power and Operatic Emotions on the European Stage from the Siege of Vienna to the Age of Napoleon*. Wolff received his PhD from Stanford University.

**Tomasz Zarycki** is associate professor and director of the Robert B. Zajonc Institute for Social Studies at the University of Warsaw. He holds a habilitation degree in sociology from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. His research focuses on sociology of politics, sociology of culture, sociology of knowledge, critical sociology, and discourse analysis with a particular focus on Polish and Eastern European societies. His latest book is *Ideologies of Eastness in Central and Eastern Europe* (2014).

**Geneviève Zubrzycki** is associate professor of sociology, director of the Copernicus Program in Polish Studies, and associate director of the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies at the University of Michigan. She is also a faculty affiliate of the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies. Zubrzycki studies national identity and religion, national mythology, collective memory and the politics of commemorations, and the place of religious symbols in the public sphere. Her work combines historical and ethnographic methods, and considers evidence from material and visual culture. She received her PhD from the University of Chicago, and her book *The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland* (2006) has received numerous awards.

## **Additional Participants**

**Joanna Andrysiak** graduated from Warsaw University, Jagiellonian University, and Université Paris-Sorbonne in cultural and film studies. She works in the research and publications department at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, specializing in academic and scholarly programs. She has published articles on Israeli cinema, film, and artistic projects using found footage.

**Julia Hlavac** is the academic program specialist for the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies at the University of Michigan, where she coordinates public programs and administers financial and administrative support. Prior to joining the Weiser Center staff, Julia worked as a Consular Officer at the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago, where she specialized in legal affairs related to Czech citizenship and bilateral international relations. She has a BA from U-M in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and the Environment and is fluent in several East European languages.

**Ewa Klekot**, assistant professor at the Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Warsaw, is an anthropologist and translator. She studied archaeology and ethnography and has a doctorate in art studies. She is interested in interdisciplinary approaches to research in the meaning of visual performances and objects; of particular interest are the factors which encourage people to collect objects, use them in a non-standard way, worship them, be bound to them, and react to them emotionally. Klekot has researched kitsch and modern devotional art, folk art, the social construction of monuments, and the concept of the museum as a space for social practices. She teaches anthropology of art, anthropology of museums, and on the social construction of monuments in Poland.

**Justyna Koszarska-Szulc** is the former curator of the POLIN Museum Postwar Years Gallery, and a senior specialist for the Museum's Core Exhibition. She is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, working on a thesis about patterns of identity in the literary and critical works of Artur Sandauer.