

Polish Political Thought in the Twentieth Century and Today

**An International Conference
organised by
Cambridge Polish Studies**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

**William Mong Hall
Sidney Sussex College**

8 December 2016

10:00am - 5:30pm



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Polish Political Thought in the Twentieth Century and Today



Sidney Sussex College

8 December 2016

Convened by **Stanley Bill**, Lecturer in Polish Studies at the University of Cambridge,
and
Arkady Rzegocki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in London,

An international conference across disciplinary boundaries, bringing together historical, political, cultural, sociological and philosophical perspectives on original Polish contributions to the history of political ideas.

The conference aims to put experts from a range of different fields into dialogue to examine Polish political thought in an international context.

PROGRAMME

10:00 *Registration and Coffee*

10:30 *Welcome:* **Stanley Bill** and **Arkady Rzegocki**

11:00 *Panel 1: Interwar Poland*
Chair: **Rory Finnin** (University of Cambridge)

Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski

"A Republican Turn? The Reputation of the Commonwealth from Roman Dmowski and Władysław Konopczyński to Andrzej Nowak and Lech Kaczyński"

Marek Kornat

"Roman Dmowski's Vision of the New Europe after the Great War"

Adam Balcer

"Muslims, Prometheanism, and the Legacy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Interwar Period"

12:30 *Lunch Break*

13:30 *Panel 2: Cold-War Poland*

Chair: **Olenka Pevny** (University of Cambridge)

George Gömöri

"The Impact of Polish Thought and Literature upon Hungary in 1956"

Jan Kubik

"The Most Artful of Dodgers: Implicit Theories of the Political in Polish Sociological Thought"

Elżbieta Ciżewska-Martyńska

"Pre-Political or Anti-Political? Polish Dissident Discourse of the Late 1970s and 1980s"

Discussant: **Dariusz Karłowicz**

15:00 *Coffee*

15:30 *Panel 3: Post-1989 Poland*

Chair: **Stanley Bill** (University of Cambridge)

Aleks Szczerbiak

"The (Contested) Polish Transition to Democracy: A (Problematic) Model for Other Countries?"

Brian Porter-Szűcs

"PiS and the Legacy of National Communism"

Ewa Ochman

"Memory and Politics: The Transformation of the Commemorative Landscape in Post-Communist Poland"

17:00 *Final Discussion*

17:30 *Wine Reception*

PARTICIPANTS

Adam Balcer is an expert in the area of the Black Sea region and Polish foreign policy at the Centre for East European Studies, University of Warsaw. He is also 'Eurasia' Project Manager at WiseEuropa and National Researcher at the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). He was project director at the demosEUROPA Centre for European Strategy. He served as a member of the Advisory Group to the Committee of Foreign Relations at the Polish Parliament. He is the author of articles, reports and books on the Black Sea region and Eurasia, and co-author of books including *Polska na globalnej szachownicy* (*Poland on the Global Chessboard*).

Richard Butterwick-Pawlikowski is Professor of Polish-Lithuanian History at the UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, Chairholder of the European

Civilization Chair at the College of Europe at Natolin in Warsaw, and visiting professor at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. His research is on the interface of politics, ideas, religion and culture, especially in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. His publications include: *Poland's Last King and English Culture: Stanisław August Poniatowski 1732-1798* (2000); and *The Polish Revolution and the Catholic Church 1788-1792: A Political History* (2012).

Elżbieta Cizewska-Martyńska is 2016-17 James Madison Program Visiting Fellow at Princeton University and Assistant Professor of History of Ideas and Sociology at the University of Warsaw. Her research areas include the ideas and legacy of the East Central European dissident movement of 1970s and 1980s and the sociology of social movements. Her dissertation was on 'The Public Philosophy of the Polish Solidarity Movement: Solidarity in 1980-1981 from the Perspective of the Republican Political Tradition', placing Solidarity's cultural dynamics in an international context. Her work has won various national prizes, including the Prime Minister's Prize.

George (György) Gömöri is an award-winning Hungarian poet and translator, and Emeritus Fellow of Darwin College, Cambridge, where he taught Hungarian and Polish Literature. He has published thirteen books of poetry in Hungarian, four in English and one in Polish. The last English selection, translated with Clive Wilmer, was *Polishing October and New Poems* (2013). With his wife Mari, he edited the verse anthology *I lived on this Earth... Hungarian Poets on the Holocaust* (2012). His most recent book on Polish literature is *The Polish Swan Triumphant: Essays on Polish and Comparative Literature from Kochanowski to Norwid* (2013).

Dariusz Karłowicz is a philosopher, journalist, editor, and social activist. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of *Teologia Polityczna (Political Theology)*, a journal devoted to the intersection between politics, theology and philosophy. He was also part of the team that created the Warsaw Uprising Museum. His published books include *Arcyparadoks śmierci (The Arch-Paradox of Death)*, 2000; *Koniec snu Konstantyna (The End of Constantine's Dream)*, 2004; and *Sokrates i inni święci (Socrates and Other Saints)*, 2005).

Marek Kornat is a historian at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences and at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. He has published acclaimed works on Poland and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact; the Polish School of Soviet Studies; and Polish diplomacy and foreign policy during the interwar period. Among other prestigious awards, he has won the Jerzy Giedroyc Prize (2005) and the prize awarded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the best publication on the history of Polish diplomacy (2012).

Jan Kubik is the Director of the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. His publications include: *The Power of Symbols against the Symbols of Power: The Rise of Solidarity and the Fall of State Socialism in Poland* and *Rebellious Civil Society: Popular Protest and Democratic Consolidation in Poland, 1989-1993* (with Grzegorz Ekiert). His recent work critically analyses post-communist studies (*Postcommunism from Within: Social Justice, Mobilization, and Hegemony*, edited with Amy Linch); and the politics of memory (*Twenty Years After Communism: The Politics of Memory and Commemoration*, with Michael Bernhard).

Ewa Ochman is Senior Lecturer in East European Studies at the University of Manchester and a member of the Centre for Jewish Studies. She is the author of *Post-communist Poland: Contested Pasts and Future Identities* (Routledge, 2013). Her articles on state sponsored history, Soviet war monuments and unsettled memories of World War II have appeared in *Nationalities Papers*, *East European Politics and Societies*, *Contemporary European History*, *History and Memory* and *Cold War History*, as well as in a number of edited volumes.

Brian Porter-Szűcs is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He is the author of *Poland and the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* (2014); *Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland* (2010); and *When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in 19th Century Poland* (2000). Porter-Szűcs was the recipient of the *Amicus Poloniae* award in 2000, and his publications have been recognized with numerous prizes, including the Budka award from the Kościuszko Foundation (1999) and the Kulczycki prize from the Association for Slavic and East European Studies (2012).

Aleks Szczerbiak is Professor of Politics and Contemporary European Studies at the University of Sussex specialising in the comparative politics of post-communist Central and Eastern Europe, especially Poland. He is author of *Poles Together? The Emergence and Development of Political Parties in Post-communist Poland* (Central European University Press, 2001), 'Poland within the European Union: New Awkward Partner or New Heart of Europe?' (Routledge, 2012) and is currently working on a book on the politics of transitional justice in post-communist Poland. He blogs regularly on Polish current affairs at: <https://polishpoliticsblog.wordpress.com/>.

CONVENORS

Stanley Bill is Lecturer in Polish Studies at the University of Cambridge. He works largely on twentieth-century Polish literature and culture, with particular interests in religion, secularization theory, Romantic ideology, postcolonial interpretations of Polish cultural history, and the writings of Czesław Miłosz and Bruno Schulz.

Arkady Rzegocki is Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the United Kingdom. He is a professor of political science at the Jagiellonian University, specialising in Polish and English political thought, the concept of national interest, and 'soft power'. He is a former visiting scholar of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

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