

UNDER WESTERN EYES

A large, stylized eye is the central focus. The iris is replaced by a pencil pointing upwards. The eye is surrounded by a collage of elements: the American and Canadian flags are on the left and right respectively. Below the eye, a stack of books is visible, with a red rose garland arching over them. The background is a textured, light brown color.

CENTRAL AND
EASTERN
EUROPE(ANS)
IN NORTH
AMERICAN
LITERATURE,
CULTURE,
AND HISTORY

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
IN WROCLAW:

15–16
MAY
2025

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



Uniwersytet
Wrocławski

Patronat Honorowy Rektora
Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego



FULBRIGHT
Poland

UMCS
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS



MNiSW

THURSDAY, 15TH MAY

ORATORIUM MARIANUM, MAIN BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW

8:00—9:00

REGISTRATION

9:00—9:30

CONFERENCE OPENING

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

dr hab. **MATEUSZ ŚWIETLICKI**, prof. UWr

RECTOR AUTHORITIES

dr hab. **JUSTYNA ZIARKOWSKA**, prof. UWr

Dean of the Faculty of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

dr hab. **KATARZYNA NOWAK-MCNEICE**, prof. UWr

Deputy Director for Science and Finance, Institute of English Studies

dr hab. **JAROSŁAW MALICKI**

Director of the Institute of Slavic Studies

9:30—10:30

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Prof. **ANASTASIA ULANOWICZ** (University of Florida)

Through Western Eyes: Representations of Central and Eastern Europe in Contemporary Comics Travel Narratives
(lecture in English translated into Polish)

Chair: **MATEUSZ ŚWIETLICKI**

10:30—11:00

COFFEE BREAK

11:00—12:00

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Prof. **JANUSZ PASTERSKI** (University of Rzeszów)

The Eyes of Emigrants: On the Poetic Practices of Seeing among Polish Poets in Canada
(lecture in Polish translated into English)

Chair: **DAGMARA DREWNIAK**

THURSDAY, 15TH MAY

ORATORIUM MARIANUM, MAIN BUILDING OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WROCŁAW

12:30—14:00 PLENARY SESSION I:

CENTRAL EUROPE IN NORTH AMERICA: POLISH EYES (session in Polish translated into English)

1. **JOANNA WOJDON** (University of Wrocław)
Polish Public History Between Seattle and New York, Miss Maria and Chicago
2. **ELŻBIETA TYSZKOWSKA-KASPRZAK** (University of Wrocław)
The history of Central and Eastern Europe in the stories of Anna Agnicz
3. **DOROTA ŻYGADŁO-CZOPNIK** (University of Wrocław)
Echoes from Poland in the pages of the Czech emigration magazine "Svědectví" in the years 1956–1960

Chair: **AGNIESZKA MATUSIAK**

14:00—14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30—16:00 PLENARY SESSION II:

POETIC & PERSONAL VOICES (session in Polish translated into English)

1. **CECILIA WOŁOCH** (poet)
The Story of Us I Had Not Been Told: Writing Ourselves Back into History
2. **JUSTYNA SIWIERSKA** (Jagiellonian University)
Caught between Scapegoating and Romanticization: Mapping the History of Roma Persecution in Tracing Self-Identity and Family Past in Cecilia Wołoch's "Tsigani: The Gypsy Poem" (2001)

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3. **STEVEN SEEGL** (University of Texas at Austin)
Small Diaspora Lives in Closeted Polish Homes: On the Bigger Questions of Leaving, Returning, Blending in, and Not Coming Back
4. **NORMAN RAVVIN** (Concordia University)
Eastern Europe Under Canadian Eyes: Revisiting the Novels of A.M. Klein and Adele Wiseman in Light of Recent Approaches
Chair: **IZABELLA KIMAK**

16:10—16:45 MEETING WITH FULBRIGHT AMBASSADORS

18:00 CONFERENCE DINNER

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES,
PLAC NANKIERA 4

8:30—9:00

REGISTRATION
2nd floor

9:00—10:45

SESSION I:

ROOM 3.2

JEWISH IMMIGRANT IDENTITIES

1. **NAN GOODMAN** (University of Colorado Boulder)
The False Messiah and Jewish American Immigrant Identity
2. **ANITA JARCZOK** (University of Bielsko-Biala)
Jewish Identity in the Memoirs of the Early-Twentieth-Century
Migrants from Eastern and Central Europe to the United States
3. **RARES PILOIU** (Otterbein University)
Mihail Sebastian's Journal and His 1934 Novel, "For 2,000 Years"
4. **ROBERT KUSEK** (Jagiellonian University)
Another History, Another Past: Central Europe in Isaac Bashevis
Singer's "The King of the Fields" and "Dan Jacobson's
The God-fearer"

Chair: **DAGMARA DREWNIK**

10:45—13:00

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES,
PLAC NANKIERA 4

9:00—10:45

SESSION II:

ROOM 3.1

ART AND POLITICAL DISCOURSES

1. **EDYTA FRELIK** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University)
Context and Translation in Tadeusz Mysłowski's Art and Thought
2. **AGNIESZKA PINDERA** (University of Warsaw)
The Polish Radio Experimental Studio and its American Residents
3. **JUSTYNA WIERZCHOWSKA** (University of Warsaw)
From Mythical Monsters to the Promised Land, and Back:
Interrogating the Image of Poland in Daniel Libeskind's Narrative
Output
4. **KRZYSZTOF SIWEK** (University of Wrocław)
George F. Kennan's political vision of Central-Eastern Europe in
1939–1949

Chair: **CORINNE MATTHEWS**

10:45—13:00

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES, PLAC NANKIERA 4

9:00—10:45

SESSION III:

ROOM 3.8

TRANSCULTURAL ENCOUNTERS

1. **MARTA KOVAL** (University of Gdansk)
Ghosts of the Past: War Crimes, Violence, and Responsibility in Aleksander Motyl's Novel "A Russian in Berlin"
2. **JOANNA KULA** (University of Wrocław)
The Conquest of the Caucasus in the Western Postcolonial Discourse vs. the Literary Work of Alisa Ganieva
3. **OLGA CZERNIKOW** (University of Wrocław)
Anthony Dvořák in a jazz band. Familiarity and strangeness in the novel "Scherzo capriccioso. A cheerful fantasy about Dvořák by Josef Škvorecki"
4. **TANYA LONG BENNETT** (University of North Georgia)
Polish Representations in Louise Erdrich's "The Master Butchers Singing Club"

Chair: **ANNA BOGINSKAYA**

10:45—13:00

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES,
PLAC NANKIERA 4

11:15—13:00

SESSION IV:

ROOM 3.2

MEMORY OF ATROCITIES I

1. **REGAN LIPES** (MacEwan University)
Re-envisioning Poland: Second-Generation Holocaust Survivor
Journeys Back to Spaces of Trauma
2. **ZUZANA BURÁKOVÁ, MARTINA MARTAUSOVÁ
AND PAVOL JOZEF ŠAFÁRIK** (University in Košice)
Inherited Trauma and Identity: Jewish-American and Eastern
European Masculinities
3. **GEORGIA KARANTONA AND TASOULA TSILIMENI** (University of
Thessaly)
Jewish Representations in Graphic Novels and the Americanisation
of the Holocaust
4. **ANNA GAIDASH** (Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University)
The Unreliable Narration of the Holodomor Imagery in Askold
Melnychuk's "Ambassador of the Dead"
(ONLINE)

Chair: **DOMINIKA FERENS**

13:00—13:30

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES, PLAC NANKIERA 4

11:15—13:00

SESSION V:

ROOM 3.1

TRAVEL NARRATIVES

1. **AGNIESZKA KUNICZUK AND DOROTA MICHUŁKA** (University of Wrocław)
American Dream - Polish Imagination: Around Nineteenth-Century Travels to the USA
2. **KATARZYNA NOWAK-MCNEICE** (University of Wrocław)
Poles in California: Helena Modrzejewska's Memories and Impressions and Susan Sontag's "In America"
3. **MAŁGORZATA RUTKOWSKA** (Maria Curie Skłodowska University, Lublin)
How to Survive in Communist Poland: The Public and the Private in Janine Wedel's "The Private Poland" and Tom Swick's "Unquiet Days: At Home in Poland"
4. **YURI STULOV** (independent)
Reality vs. Stereotypes in "Absurdistan" by Gary Shteyngart

Chair: **IZABELLA KIMAK**

13:00—13:30

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

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11:15—13:00

SESSION VI:

ROOM 3.8

THEATRE, FILM, MUSIC

1. **ANNA BENDRAT** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University)
Diasporic Re-imaginings: Magda Romanska's "Opheliemachine"
and the Central and Eastern European Experience in North America
(ONLINE)
2. **NATALIA VYSOTSKA** (Kyiv National Linguistics University)
Role-Playing One's Life: Volodymyr Dibrova's Kulish as
Metatheatrical Tragifarce
3. **ANNA BOGINSKAYA** (University of Wrocław)
American Film Adaptation of Boris Pasternak's "Doctor Zhivago"
4. **GABRIELLA HIGGINS** (Universität zu Köln)
Dmitri Shostakovich, Mieczysław Weinberg, and the Noise of Time:
Western Imaginings of Eastern European Musical Dissent

Chair: **EDYTA FRELIK**

13:00—13:30

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

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13:30—15:15

SESSION VII:

ROOM 3.2

MEMORY OF ATROCITIES II

1. **DOMINIKA FERENS** (University of Wrocław)
Speaking Truth to Implicated Subjects: Kathleen A. Balgley's
"Letters to My Father: Excavating a Jewish Identity in Poland and
Belarus (2022)"
2. **SHOSHANNAH GANZ** (Memorial University)
Mapping Four Generations of Diasporic Polish Memory and
Forgetting
3. **ANETA DYBSKA** (University of Warsaw)
The Holocaust Restitution Battles and Black Americans' Pursuit of
Reparative Justice
4. **IRYNA YAKOVENKO** (Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan
University)
Visualizing Incarceration, Un-Alienating 'Enemies' in Canadian
Non/Fiction about Internment Camps

Chair: **ANASTASIA ULANOWICZ**

15:15—15:45

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

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13:30—15:15

SESSION VIII:

ROOM 3.1

REPPRESSED VOICES

1. **LYNN W. ZIMMERMAN** (Purdue University)
Navigating Identity: The Liminal Experiences of Two Young Polish-American Women
2. **KAMILA KLAVIA BAGIŃSKA** (University of Warsaw)
Gendering Adoptive Invisibility: Motherhood and Eastern Europe in Theresa Reid's Adoptive Memoir "Two Little Girls: A Memoir of Adoption" (2006)
3. **AGNIESZKA KACZMAREK** (University of Applied Sciences, Nysa)
Wanda Rutkiewicz under Western Eyes: Why the Climber's Image in the West Differs from Depictions in Polish Mountain-Travel Writin
4. **LUKÁŠ PERUTKA** (Palacký University, Olomouc)
First Czech Encounters with the Indigenous Peoples of the Southern Great Plains

Chair: **DOROTA MICHUŁKA**

15:15—15:45

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

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13:30—15:15

SESSION IX:

ROOM 3.8

TEACHING AND UNDERSTANDING EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE

1. **VOLODYMYR KRAVCHENKO** (University of Alberta)
Many Eyes of the "West": "Eastern Europe" in North American Academia during the Cold War
2. **CORINNE MATTHEWS** (Georgia Institute of Technology)
"From Baba Yaga to Black Widow": Teaching Eastern Europe in Western Popular Culture
3. **VIKTORIYA SUKOVATA** (Kharkiv National Karazin University)
A Historian-Emigre George Vernadsky and His Father, a Scientist Vladimir Vernadsky in Receptions of American Academia
4. **DIANA ŽIDOVÁ** (University of Bratislava)
Where is my Home(land)? Slovak American Voices in North America

Chair: **ANNA BARTNICKA**

15:15—15:45

COFFEE BREAK
Room 3.3

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

INSTITUTE OF ROMANCE STUDIES, PLAC NANKIERA 4

15:45—17:30

SESSION X:

ROOM 3.2

EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN VOICES IN NORTH AMERICA

1. **LONNY HARRISON** (University of Texas at Arlington)
Vladimir Zenzinov: Memoirs of a Russian Terrorist in New York
2. **MACIEJ LASKOWSKI** (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)
Canada at the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries Through the Eyes of Polish Immigrants: The Memoirist's Perspective
3. **NIKOLAI ENDRES** (Western Kentucky University)
Under Western Bedroom Eyes: The Construction of Eastern Europe in the Gay Imagination
4. **ERNESTO DOMINGUEZ LOPEZ AND DALIA GONZALEZ DELGADO** (University of Havana)
Seeking Whiteness: Policy, race and Central and Eastern Europeans immigration in the United States (ONLINE)

Chair: **KATARZYNA NOWAK-MCNEICE**

17:30—17:45

CONFERENCE CLOSING
Room 3.2

FRIDAY, 16TH MAY

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15:45—17:30

SESSION XI:

ROOM 3.8

ROUNDTABLE:

Lena and Thomas Gushul: Life in Front and Behind the Camera

1. **JELENA POGOSJAN** (University of Alberta)
2. **MARIA MAYERCHYK** (Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences, Kleve)
3. **DMYTRO YESYPENKO** (University of Alberta)

15:45—17:30

SESSION XII:

ROOM 3.2

UKRAINIAN NORTH AMERICAN VOICES

1. **WERONIKA SUCHACKA** (University of Szczecin)
"We Cannot Not Know": Ukraine in Ukrainian-Canadian Writing – Past and Present
2. **LISA GREKUL** (UBC Okanagan / Syilx-Okanagan Nation Territory)
Scarves and Scars: The Art of Reconciliation in Ukrainian Canada (ONLINE)
3. **MARIYA SHYMCHYSHYN** (Kyiv National Linguistics University)
Negotiating Identities on the Prairies: Ukrainian Settlers and First Nations in "Valley of the Birdtail"
4. **MARYNA VARDANIAN** (Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University)
From Ukraine to America: Translating Culture through Children's Malopys

Chair: **MATEUSZ ŚWIETLICKI**

17:30—17:45

CONFERENCE CLOSING
Room 3.2

UNDER WESTERN EYES



THANK YOU FOR
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