

Kopernikana 2016



Theatre of the Eighth Day performance

Ewa Wójciak. Photos: Peter Smith

Events

FALL 2016

September 28, 12 pm

Lecture. "Polish Towns? Jewish Towns? Urban Development in Interwar Eastern Poland." **Kathryn Ciancia**, assistant professor of history, University of Wisconsin. Co-sponsor: CREES. 1636 International Institute, 1080 S. University.

October 4, 1:45 pm

Lecture. "Polish Culture and Transformation in the Context of Wrocław—European Capital of Culture 2016." **Aleksandra Janik**, professor and vice rector, Eugeniusz Geppert Academy of Art and Design (Wrocław). Co-sponsor: Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design. 2143 Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel.

November 2, 5:30 pm

Annual Copernicus Lecture. "Sexual Minorities and Civil Rights in Poland." **Robert Biedroń**, activist and mayor of Słupsk, Poland. Stern Auditorium, U-M Museum of Art, 525 S. State.



ROBERT BIEDROŃ

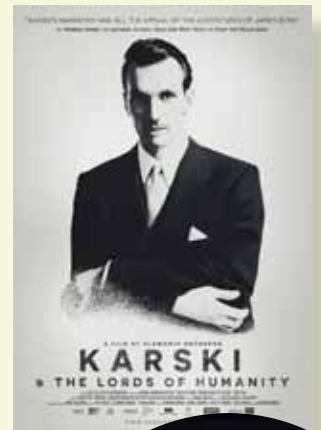
November 18-20

23rd Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival.

For times and locations, see annarborpolonia.org/filmfestival. Sponsor: Polish Cultural Fund - Ann Arbor.

November 19, 4 pm

Film and Q&A. *Karski and the Lords of Humanity*. **Sławomir Grünberg**, director. In Polish with English subtitles (72 min., 2015). Post-screening conversation with the director. Co-sponsor: Polish Cultural Fund - Ann Arbor. Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty.



SŁAWOMIR GRÜNBERG

WINTER 2017

April 3-4

4th Annual International Polish Jewish Studies Workshop. "Generations and Genealogies." Vandenberg Room, Michigan League, 911 N. University.

For full details about CPPS events, visit ii.umich.edu/cpps/events.

News

Faculty

Anna Grzymala-Busse (Political Science) was selected as a 2016 Andrew Carnegie Fellow for the project "The Dictator's Curse? Authoritarian Party Collapse and the Nation State." She has accepted a position at Stanford University, and we thank her for her generous contributions to Polish studies at U-M!

Piotr Michałowski, George G. Cameron Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2016. He is a graduate of the University of Warsaw and Yale University. He joined the faculty at U-M as associate professor in 1981, and was promoted to professor in 1987.

In four monographs, five edited volumes, and more than one hundred articles, Michałowski addressed almost everything in ancient Mesopotamian history, from political history and religion to language and literature. His insights build on multiple disciplines and comparative approaches far beyond his field, and have



PIOTR MICHAŁOWSKI Photo: Alex Mandria

made him one of the most innovative and influential scholars in his field, recognized with prestigious grants and awards, including Guggenheim and NEH.

Piotr is also an important member of the cultural scene in Ann Arbor as a jazz musician and ardent promoter of jazz. He is a long-standing member of the Copernicus Steering Committee, where he gives generously of his knowledge and time, most recently teaching a course on Polish jazz and conducting an interview with jazz great Tomasz Stańko in 2015.

Anna Muller (History, U-M Dearborn) organized two exhibitions titled "The People of Hamtramck"—one in the Historical Hamtramck Museum and the other in the Emigration Museum, Gdynia, Poland. Her article "Walls that Unite: Unlikely Friendships in Mokotów Prison, 1949-1956," appeared in *Anthropology of History Yearbook*.

Ewa Pasek (Slavic), together with three colleagues from the University of Chicago and Loyola University, founded the North American Association of Teachers of Polish, a platform that brings together teachers of Polish from schools and academia; promotes visibility of Polish language programs and centers in North America; and provides a forum for Polish language teachers to share resources, ideas, and exchange experiences.

Brian Porter-Szűcs (History) received two awards, the first from the American Council of Learned Societies, and another from Fulbright to carry out research in 2016-17 in Warsaw, Poland. He is researching a new book project

on "Supply-Side Socialism: The Origins of Neoliberalism in Communist Poland."

Magdalena Zaborowska (American Culture) delivered a paper at the MESEA conference in Warsaw, and continues to work on the research project "A Tale of Two Museums," a study of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw and the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Geneviève Zubrzycki (Sociology) published "Nationalism, 'Philosemitism' and Symbolic Boundary-Making in Contemporary Poland" in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and was elected Chair of the American Sociological Association's Sociology of Culture section. She was invited to serve on the editorial board of *Kultura i Społeczeństwo* and participated in a conversation on POLIN with museum director Dariusz Stola at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, in October 2015.

Students

Copernicus Summer Grants: **Alena Aniskiewicz**, PhD Slavic; **Paulina Duda**, PhD Slavic; **Edith Jiang**, BA International Studies; **Ethan Kennedy**, MA REES/MPP Public Policy; **Jessica Longe**, BA History; **Joanna Mazurkiewicz**, PhD Slavic; **Jacqueline Saplicki Lausell**, BA International Studies; **Stephanie Skier**, PhD History; **Gabrielle Wasilewski**, BA Women's Studies; **Katherine Wilcoxson**, BA International Studies/Political Science

Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)

Fellowships in Polish: **Ian Bratcher**, PhD Sociology;

Aleksandra Marciniak, PhD Slavic

Amelia Kulesa Konopka Fellowship: **David Beck**, BA History

Michigan Polish Student Association Fellowship:

David Beck, BA History

Marjorie and Maxwell Reade Graduate Fellowships: **Ian Bratcher**, PhD Sociology; **Mary Wroblewski**, PhD History

Copernicus Tuition Grant: **Eva Mooney**, BA Classical Languages & Literatures/English

2016 Copernicus Polish Language Awards: **David Cichocki**, BA LSA; **Gabrielle Wasilewski**, BA Women's Studies

Congratulations to recent graduates **Natalie Jaszcz**, who earned a bachelor's degree in Polish, and **Nicole Wilkins**, who earned a minor in Polish Language, Literature, and Culture from the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures.

2016-17 Copernicus Fellowships for Incoming Graduate Students in Polish Studies have been awarded to **Wojciech Owczarek** (History) and **Anna Wozny** (Sociology). Owczarek joins us from the University of Colorado, and his research plans focus on post-WWII reconstruction through an exploration of everyday life. Wozny hails from Poland, but received her undergraduate degree from the University of Tokyo. She uses a comparative approach to research familial relationships and the importance of changing cultural values in Poland and Japan.

Alena Aniskiewicz (Slavic) used her Copernicus Summer Grant to support travel to Warsaw, where she worked at the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and culture.pl while conducting research for her dissertation. Her writing on Polish culture and heritage has recently appeared in *Cosmopolitan Review*, culture.pl, and *Mercurian: A Theatrical Translation Review*.

Paulina Duda (Slavic) received the Rackham Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Award for her achievements in teaching and mentoring, and became affiliated with the *East European Film Bulletin* where she reviews Polish films. She presented a paper entitled "How 'National Cinemas' Become What They Are: Karol Irzykowski and His Ties with Delluc, Epstein, and Soviet Constructivism," at the International Conference on Visual and Performing Arts in Athens, Greece in May 2016.

Jodi Grieg (Slavic) defended her dissertation, "The Sandbox of History: Historical Play and National Narratives in Polish LGBTQ Culture," in July. Congratulations! She presented a paper at the AATSEEL conference in Austin, TX entitled "Historical Encounters of the Queer Kind" on Polish historian/performance artist Agnieszka Weseli and her work on Zofia Sadowska.

Ethan Kennedy (REES/Public Policy) interned at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw this summer. He received fellowships from the International Institute and CPPS in support of this project.

Alumni

Anna Cichopek-Gajraj (PhD History '08) was awarded the 2015 Barbara Heldt Prize (honorable mention) for the best book by a woman in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Studies for her book *Beyond Violence: Jewish Survivors in Poland and Slovakia, 1944-48* (Cambridge UP, 2014). She also received the 2016 Shofar Zakhor Award from the Phoenix Holocaust Survivors' Association for exhibiting and carrying out the work of Holocaust education, Holocaust remembrance, and community interaction.

Margarita Nafpakitis (PhD Slavic '03) joins Stanford University Libraries in September 2016 as curator for the Slavic and East European Collections.

We are grateful to the U-M Polish Student Association (pictured below) for contributing \$2,000 to establish the PSA Fellowship at CPPS for undergraduates traveling to Poland for work or study. The funds are proceeds from the Wolverine Charity Ball, and we want to thank the students for their hard work and for making the sold-out event such a success!



From the Director

This has been an amazing year at CPPS. Focusing on theatre and literature, we welcomed the world renowned Theatre of the Eighth Day (*Teatr Ósmego Dnia*) to Michigan. The troupe worked with faculty and students in the Department of Theatre & Drama, performed the play *The Files*, and Ewa Wójciak, the theatre's artistic director, delivered the Annual Copernicus Lecture.

We remain involved in the rapidly developing field of Polish-Jewish studies. In February, we hosted Dr. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, who presented the core exhibit of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. We also co-organized, with POLIN, a conference on Historical Legacies in Warsaw in May. Coming up in April 2017, we will host the 4th Annual International Polish Jewish Studies Workshop, "Generations and Genealogies," with scholars from North America, Poland, and Israel, featuring public lectures by special guests Adam Michnik and Agata Tuszyńska.

This academic year we will reflect on the theme of "minorities." Robert Biedroń, Polish LGBT activist, politician, and mayor of the town of Słupsk, 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 the Michigan Theater Sławomir Grünberg's award-winning film *Karski 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



To make a donation online, visit:
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For more information about how to support Polish studies and the Copernicus Endowment, contact copernicus@umich.edu or 734.647.2237.

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Kopernikana 2016



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