The year 2017 marks the 40th anniversary of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University. The Center came into being because of an agreement on collaboration and scholarly exchanges between Indiana University and the University of Warsaw. The universities committed to founding two centers: the American Studies Center in Warsaw, which opened in 1976, and the Polish Studies Center at IU Bloomington, officially inaugurated on October 31, 1977. To appreciate the creativity and vision of the universities’ leaders at the time, one needs to remember that during the Cold War period, formal exchanges between academic institutions in the US and institutions from behind the Iron Curtain were quite rare.

Both Centers supported students and scholars during Poland’s tumultuous period of the Solidarity movement, martial law, and the dark years of the 1980s. The American Studies Center offered a highly sought-after program in American studies and a great academic facility, which, at the time, boasted the only open-access library east of Berlin. The Polish Studies Center in Bloomington in turn served as an intellectual asylum for numerous scholars and students during martial law and the period leading to the 1989 collapse of the communist regime. Throughout its existence, it hosted leading figures of Polish culture and politics, including the Nobel laureates President Lech Wałęsa and the poet Czesław Miłosz. In its daily operations, the Center has been deeply dedicated to promoting Polish studies, both academically and culturally, and to facilitating scholarly exchanges between Polish universities (particularly the University of Warsaw and the Jagiellonian University) and Indiana University. The Center has been cooperating with many cultural institutions to bring to the Bloomington campus Polish writers, artists, and intellectuals and to organize conferences, symposia, and workshops. It has benefited the intellectual life of IU’s faculty and scholars, it has had a substantial impact on the academic and (Continued on Page 2)

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professional development of students on both sides of the ocean, and its cultural activities enrich the life of the wider Bloomington community.

In an age when many universities refuse to support centers of foreign culture, it is important to recognize the long-term investment of Indiana University in the Polish Studies Center and to cherish people who’ve contributed to the Center’s flourishing throughout the years. Timothy Wiles—whose dedication and talent we recognize each year with the Timothy Wiles Memorial lecture—and his wife Mary McGann worked tirelessly for the establishing of both the American Studies Center in Warsaw and the Polish Studies Center at IU. Timothy was director of the Polish Studies Center for over a decade, following in the footsteps of Mary Ellen Solt, the Center’s first director. Throughout the Center’s existence, its activities have been directed by such eminent scholars as Bożena Shallcross, Jack Bielasiak, Owen Johnson, Bill Johnston, and Padraic Kenney, each shaping the Center differently and leaving their inimitable imprint on its history.

We hope this newsletter will give you a taste of the Center’s activities during the 2016–2017 academic year. We are proud of our rich program of lectures, exhibitions, film series, and student and community events, but we would like to direct your attention to two events particularly designed to mark the Center’s 40th anniversary. One was the week-long residence on campus of Agnieszka Graff, an internationally renowned public intellectual, gender studies scholar, and a leading voice of feminism in Poland and elsewhere in Eastern Europe. Agnieszka Graff delivered on March 23, 2017, the 5th Annual Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture, entitled “Ebola from Brussels: The Right-Wing War on ‘Gender Ideology’ in Poland and Beyond.” During her stay on campus, Agnieszka fully participated in campus life: she discussed anti-genderism in Europe at the roundtable with Maria Bucur, Diana O’Brien, Claudia Breger, and Joanna Niżyńska (representing History/Gender studies, Political Science, German, and Slavic departments, respectively); she was involved in the SayHerName# event, which focused on the issue of domestic abuse; she taught a class on the representation of women in Polish culture; and, finally, she had countless discussions with IU’s faculty members and students. Agnieszka Graff’s home institution is the American Studies Center in Warsaw, so to host a scholar and activist of her stature at IU from the Polish Studies Center’s sister institution felt like a crystallization of the process put in motion 40 years ago. With Agnieszka’s visit, IU and Warsaw celebrated 40 years of shared history, proving how fruitful was the bold vision to create the two Centers decades before other universities invested in international collaborations.

The other event to celebrate the Center is an international symposium, “Unforeseen Constellation: Reading Postcolonial Poland with South America,” held by the Polish Studies Center April 28–29 and supported by a conference grant from the New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities. This event celebrates the PSC by looking forward to forging new academic connections, and new trajectories of intellectual inquiries, by seeing what happens when we open the field of Polish Studies to other fields and disciplines. As the debate on the postcolonial status of Poland and the historical experience under communism keeps extending in Poland from the academic to the political and public discourses, the very terms of this debate become predictable and self-entrenched, ultimately contributing to the growing polarization of Polish society rather than to a dialogue between its various groups about the country’s past and future. The aspiration of the conference is to depart from the worn-out vocabulary into different kinds of theoretical, political, and social conceptualizations. We hope that interacting with colleagues who work on the postcolonial framework in the cultural setting of Latin America helps us reconfigure our vocabulary and open up new possibilities. As I’m writing these words, I do not know yet what the two-day gathering of scholars from Europe, the US, Brazil, and Argentina will bring, but I’m hoping that together we will be able to formulate potent questions that we perhaps can’t quite yet formulate on our own.

The anniversary celebrations continue in the Fall semester with Krzysztof Penderecki’s visit to campus in November. Stay tuned for coming attractions!

Joanna Niżyńska
Director of Polish Studies Center
Associate Professor of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures
THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER 2016 INAUGURAL EVENT

Come experience the traditions and customs associated with St. Andrew's Global and International Studies Building. Eve in Poland. There will be games, wax pouring, and the chance to learn Andrzejki—St. Andrew's Day. We hope that you will join us for this family-friendly event!

Presented in partnership with Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, the IU Polish Studies Center invites you to dance traditional Polish ethno-jazz group LAUTARI with Polish ethno-jazz group LAUTARI at 6:00 p.m. November 3, 2016 in the St. Andrew's Global and International Studies Building. Please bring your friends and family.

This semester’s Polish Film series provides fascinating insight into recent Polish cinema through the lens of two award-winning films:

**The Return (2014)**
- Follows the lives of four women as they struggle to create Jewish identities and to find a sense of community. The documentary reveals the complex relationship between objects and subjects in relatively extreme conditions of the immediate postwar years. In accompanying conversations, the director Adam Zucker and Agata Zborowska, PhD student at the University of Warsaw, discuss the film’s complex narrative.

**Papusza (2013)**
- Directed by Joanna Kos-Krauze
- Polish and Cultural Studies Department at the University of Szczecin, Poland. Her research interests include translation and reception studies, European and transatlantic modernism, and modernism/postmodernism.

**For more information on IU Cinema programming, pick up a program booklet in our lobby at 1213 E. Seventh St. or visit www.cinema.indiana.edu/tickets.**

THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER PRESENTS

**POLISH CULTURE ASSOCIATION**

**POETRY & PIEROGI**

Thursday, Oct. 6
Sun CA 360
Food will be provided
The French, Polish, and German Pavilions

The Polish Studies Center Presents

**ANDREJKI—ST. ANDREW’S EVE**

November 3, 2016
Global and International Studies Building

THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER AND THE BORNES JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

The Return (2016) follows the lives of four young women who were raised Catholics and are struggling to create Jewish identities and to find a sense of community. In accompanying conversations, the director Adam Zucker and Agata Zborowska, PhD student at the University of Warsaw, discuss the film’s complex narrative.

**The Return**
- Starring: Anna Galuszka, Anna Krogulski, Klaudia Dusiak, Justyna Cisowska
- Directed by Adam Zucker
- In conversation with Agata Zborowska, PhD student at the University of Warsaw
- November 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- Global and International Studies Building

**RECEPTION TO FOLLOW**

**THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**

December 8, 2016
8:00 p.m.
The President’s Room at the Indiana Memorial Union

Please join us for a festive evening featuring live music, caroling, delicious food, and drinks. Don’t miss our traditional singing center and silent auction!

**THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER PRESENTS**

**POLISH ANIMATION NIGHT**

Thursday, November 10, 2016
6:00-8:00 p.m.
TV building 201
Please send all registrations well in advance!
CELEBRATING 40 YEARS AT IU

As we celebrate our 40th year at Indiana University, we would like to share with you this historic document from the United States Information Agency. Written just one day after the official inauguration of the Polish Studies Center, the piece chronicles the ceremonies, special guests, and the unique significance surrounding the intellectual and cultural union of Indiana University and Warsaw University.

Kent and Suzann Owen
Bloomington, Indiana

Polish Studies Center Opens at Indiana University
United States Information Agency
November 1, 1977

In the heart of America’s Middle West University students and scholars now have direct access to the history, culture, and language of Poland. On October 30 and 31, 1977, the Polish Studies Center of Indiana University was formally opened on the University’s main campus in Bloomington, a city of about 45,000 fifty miles south of Indianapolis, the State capital. The ceremonies celebrated the agreement worked out between Warsaw University and Indiana University to cooperate in a broad range of efforts that will increase opportunities for research, study, and cultural programs for both the United States and Poland.

Although in the past both universities have contracted for various kinds of arrangements with academic institutions in other countries, this agreement brings Warsaw and Indiana into a particularly strong and unique relationship in which their special resources can be used on a reciprocal basis.

At the opening ceremonies, an Indiana University official explained:

“The program mixes the two features of overseas and international activities that this institution is proud of: its area studies on campus and its exchange program with overseas institutions of higher education. In this case we are trying to mix exchange with substance in such a way that the return to each member university is fed back into the process of on-campus area studies instructions.”

Indiana University, which enrolls 33,000 students on its main campus in Bloomington and another 44,000 on seven other campuses in the state of Indiana, was chosen for the agreements with Warsaw University because of its strong area studies program in East European Languages and Literatures. The University is also renowned for its School of Music, the largest in the world with 1,600 students and staffed by such celebrated artists as Janos Starker, Josef Gingold, Gerhard Husch, Menahem Pressler and Eileen Farrell. [...].

Just as the opening of the American Studies Center in Warsaw University on October 5, 1976, gave the Polish hosts the right occasion to entertain their American visitors, this year it was Indiana University’s turn to show its Polish guests some Hoosier hospitality. (It should be explained that the word “Hoosier” applies to any native of the State of Indiana or by extension to a long-time resident; its origin is a puzzle, but it has come to stand for the democratic spirit, the lack of affectation, the lively sense of humor, and the warm good natures that are said to characterize the people of Indiana.) Evidently the delegation from Indiana had discovered those same Hoosier qualities among the Polish people during their own visit to Warsaw for the events in Bloomington were considerably more than the public acknowledgment of a formal relationship between two academic institutions: they were the cordial and festive reunion of many good friends.

The Polish delegation was led by Zygmunty Rybczki, the rector of Warsaw University, and Stanislaw Pawliszewski, a minister-counselor of the embassy in Washington, D.C. Andrzej Bartnicki, professor of history and director of the American Studies Center at Warsaw University, and Andrzej Wroblewski, professor of physics, accompanied the rector while Jerzy Jasnowski, deputy consul-general in Chicago, attended with members of the consulate staff. The distinguished medievalist, Aleksander Gieysztor, professor of history at Warsaw, who is currently visiting professor at Harvard University, joined his colleagues for the ceremonies.

During the 1977-78 academic year there are three members of the Warsaw University faculty in residence at Indiana University: Aleksandra Jasinska-Kania, visiting professor of sociology; Romuald Kudlinski, visiting profes-
sor of economics; and Marek Golebiowski, research fellow. Prof. Jasinska-Kania is teaching a course that focuses on the interaction of social structure and personality through a comparison of the American and Polish national characters. Prof. Kudlinski’s research deals with an analysis of structural changes in the world economy and stresses the current trends in capital flow and trade as a consequence of the changing role of the American economy within the world economy; he is also teaching seminars in both Indiana’s economics department and School of Business. Dr. Golebiowski, whose background is in American studies, is conducting research on the American musical theater. [...] 

Mary Ellen Solt, associate professor of comparative literature and director of the Center, sees it [the Center] as “an information and service agency functioning as a clearinghouse for intellectual and cultural exchanges.” Under the Warsaw/Indiana agreement, Mrs. Solt spent the last academic year at the American Studies Center at Warsaw where she taught courses in American literature and continued her own work in concrete poetry. After her return to Bloomington her infectious enthusiasm for the Polish people and their culture gave even greater impetus to the plans that Indiana already had underway for the establishment of the Center. Because of her familiarity with the Warsaw administration and her congeniality and effectiveness—as both her American and Polish colleagues are quick to admit—she was a happy choice for the directorship. Lodged in an office brightly decorated with Polish artworks, photographs, and handicrafts and stocked with Polish books and periodicals, Mrs. Solt is almost as much an honorary “good will ambassador” as she is an administrator concerned with developing an ever-growing schedule of projects and events. Her duties go beyond the particular interest of Indiana to include those of the Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Activities, which looks to the Center for assistance on research conducted on Polish topics at any of the member institutions. [...] 

The ceremonies opening the Center began in midafternoon on Sunday, October 30, with an exhibition of rare Polonica—books and documents concerned with Polish life and culture from the fifteenth to the early twentieth century. The materials were selected by Samuel Fiszman, professor of Polish in Indiana’s Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, from the collections of the University’s Lilly Library, one of the world’s foremost rare book and manuscript libraries. (The Library’s holdings include more than 350,000 books, 3,500,000 manuscripts, and 100,000 pieces of music.) Three young Polish musicians currently enrolled in the Indiana University School of Music presented a short concert of the works by Fryderyk Chopin and Henryk Wienawski in the Library’s main reception room. Pianists Krzysztof Slowinski and Adam Wodnicki and violinist Zofia Kuberska performed with brilliance and finesse before an appreciative audience. 

The formalities of the day were transacted in the Lincoln Room of the Library where John W. Ryan, president of Indiana University, noted in his remarks the appropriateness of the setting because America’s great Civil War President had spent his formative years in southern Indiana, coming there in 1816 the year the State entered the Union and leaving 14 years later as a man of 21. President Ryan said that the Polish Studies Center should serve as “a symbol and model of the commitment that scholars and scholarship, students and knowledge can know no boundaries, but rather must reach out to know more.” Rector Rybicki responded that “we scholars know that we have the responsibility for the future fate of the world, and that we must meet that responsibility with honor.” George M. Wilson, dean of international programs at Indiana, acting as master of ceremonies throughout the two days, pointed out the similarities in the lives of the two national heroes, Lincoln and Kosciusko, and stressed their lifelong search for freedom. Rector Rybicki and President Ryan then jointly signed an annex to the agreement between their universities reaffirming the spirit of cooperation.

On Monday morning, October 31, the visitors inspected the quarters of the Polish Studies Center on the third floor of Goodbody Hall overlooking a densely shaded collegiate Gothic quadrangle near the center of the Bloomington campus. Prof. Kudlinski reemphasized the personal relationships that had given rise to the founding of the Center, noting especially the contributions made by Mrs. Solt and her family and the five years of prepara-
tions carried out by Dean George Wilson and his associates. Rector Rybicki remarked that “the principle of unity exists in the university to encompass the physical and social sciences as well as the humanities.” He announced the provisions in the Warsaw/Indiana agreement for a series of conferences on various scholarly topics which will soon be established involving the two universities. He and President Ryan suggest that “the family” would be a pertinent subject for the first joint discussion.

Also present at the meeting to represent the government offices that have fostered the program were John Scanlon, assistant deputy director of the United States Information Agency, and Yale Richmond, director of the office of East European programs, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State, both of whom expressed their satisfaction on the opening of the Center and their good wishes for its success.

Later that afternoon, the Distinguished Alumni Room in the Indiana Memorial Union was the scene of the inaugural lecture, “The Importance of Science,” delivered by Andrzej Wroblewski, professor physics at Warsaw. True to the description of the Center as “an instrument for the exchange of culture and knowledge” given by Mrs. Solt in her introduction, Prof. Wroblewski ranged beyond his own specialty in elementary particle or high energy physics to treat the general ideas of science that act as significant forces in civilization.

“Contemporary humanism requires an awareness of what science is all about,” he said, “not a detailed knowledge of procedures and isolated facts but an understanding of general theories and principles.” Throughout his address he playfully asserted the all-encompassing nature of physics, his own discipline, and concretely supported his claim by explaining the current connections between physics and such fields as biology, chemistry, and astronomy. Tracing the development of physics from Thales of Miletus and Aristotle to the charmed quarks of the present day, Prof. Wroblewski ventured the option that “engineers and technicians are working on the technology of today while scientists are improving the technology of tomorrow.” At the conclusion of his lecture—which, incidentally, he gave in English aided by only a few notes for quotations—he accepted questions from the audience on various aspects of his topic, reiterating that “a humanist must know enough about science to understand what’s going on and why it is important.”

The inaugural address was in many ways emblematic of all the events surrounding the opening of the Center: impressively erudite but entirely accessible, conceived to span and connect diverse disciplines, spontaneously and amusingly delivered, attentively and thoughtfully received. Moreover, Prof. Wroblewski made his speech as much to an assembly of friendly colleagues brought together in the sympathetic spirit of a common enterprise as to an audience of disparate scholars and students.

The personal relationships that provide the Center with so auspicious a beginning were strengthened through three busy days that included the Indiana-Minnesota football game (which, among other favorable omens, the Hoosiers won in an upset), a performance by the University’s Opera Theater of Mozart’s Magic Flute, dinner parties and receptions, luncheons and meetings with departments, a visit to the University cyclotron, and a short excursion to neighboring Brown County, one of the State’s best known scenic attractions. The group also visited the University Library, which ranks 10th among university libraries in the nation in volumes held.

If the warm feelings and spirits of both the Poles and the Hoosiers are a reliable indication of what one can expect from their cooperative undertaking, then the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University is indeed off to an excellent start.

Zygmunt Rybicki and John W. Ryan
Anniversary Honors and Recognitions

40th Anniversary

Dear [Name],

Please accept my congratulations on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Polish Studies Center. The Center has become a hub in connecting genuine research and fostering innovative teaching of Polish literature, art, music, history, and politics. It maintains a rich history of student excellence - both here and abroad - and I am confident this will continue in the years ahead.

It is very proud of the relationship it maintains with various Polish institutions including the University of Warsaw and Jagiellonian University. These partnerships foster cross-cultural collaboration and establish scholarly exchange that result in outstanding academic achievements. Reflecting on my remarks from the 20th anniversary of the partnership between the University of Warsaw and IU, which we celebrated last year, I am again reminded of not only all the progress made and continuous to accomplish, but also how proud we at Indiana University are of the work and of your continued dedication to its mission. Therefore, a copy of this remarks, which, when you may already have, I hope you will enjoy.

It is a pleasure to commend you, the faculty, and your predecessors on what the Center has accomplished, and I would add: you would not be in congratulations and would not be celebrated as well. Thank you again for what you do on behalf of IU and the Polish Studies Center, and I look forward to another successful close to the academic year.

Your sincerely,

Michael A. McRobbie
President

Washington, March 20th, 2017

Dear Dean Feinstein, Professor Niżyńska, university officials, faculty, students, alumni and friends of the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University,

It is my great privilege to congratulate the esteemed Polish Studies Center on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. The longevity of the Center is a testament to the remarkable work that it has carried out since its establishment. I regret deeply that I am not able to be with you during this special celebration, but please know that my thoughts are with you in Bloomington this evening.

Since 1977, the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University has promoted the study of Polish language, history, literature, culture and the arts. Thanks to the Center, thousands of students have had the opportunity to study Polish topics through an array of courses offered at Indiana University. Furthermore, the PSC has been active in bringing Poland not only into the classroom, but around the campuses of IU as well.

Through the organization of a variety of guest lectures, ranging from eminent scholars to world renowned Nobel Laureates, as well as through the organization of exhibits, conferences, concerts and theatrical performances, Polish studies have been a constant element across the Indiana University system. The work of the Center has not gone unnoticed in Poland. In 2004 the Polish Foreign Minister's Award was presented to the Polish Studies Center outstanding contributions to the promotion of Poland abroad.

The value of the Polish Studies Center can be seen in its alumni. Thanks to the PSC, America’s future leaders, scholars, statesmen and professionals have received an in-depth education in Polish studies, a knowledge which they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. However, the strongest testament to the incredible work of the Polish Studies Center are the currently enrolled students. Their presence and interest in the program displays that the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University continues to be a first rate program, attracting America's best and brightest students.

As an academic by training, I am well aware of the incredible amount of work that is required to run such a center. The past forty years would not have been possible without the determination and hard work of many visionaries, university officials, professors, benefactors, assistants and others whose daily effort contributed to the success of the Center. Although their work is not always noticeable, occasions such as today offer an opportunity to recognize all those who have been instrumental to the Polish Studies Center's success. Thank you!

I hope the coming months will offer me the opportunity to visit Indiana University and express my congratulations and heartfelt appreciation in person. In the mean time I wish you all and the Polish Studies Center a fantastic jubilee – szalad!

[Signature]

Piotr Wilczak
Ambassador
To mark our 40th anniversary at Indiana University, the Polish Studies invited Agnieszka Graff, an internationally renowned public intellectual and leading gender studies scholar, for a week-long visit to IU. It was quite fitting to invite Graff for this momentous occasion because she is a scholar at the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw. As PSC Director Joanna Niżyńska noted, “To host a scholar and activist of Agnieszka Graff’s stature at IU can be seen as the crystallization of a process put in motion 40 years ago.” Agnieszka Graff was kept busy with many meetings and events during her week-long stay. She met with local activist groups, she spoke to students from the Introduction to Polish Culture course about current gender issues in Poland, and she participated in an engaging roundtable on anti-genderism in Europe with IU Professors Maria Bucur, Diana O’Brien, Claudia Breger, and Joanna Niżyńska. Graff completed her visit by giving a talk for our 5th annual Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture, which was attended by close to 70 guests. Before her talk, “Ebola From Brussels: The Right-Wing War on ‘Gender Ideology’ in Poland and Beyond,” opening remarks were given by Lee Feinstein, Dean of the School of Global and International Studies, as well as Director of the PSC Joanna Niżyńska.
Interview with Agnieszka Graff

Joanna Niżyńska: Can you tell us something about your intellectual trajectory? How have you become the Agnieszka Graff we know?

Agnieszka Graff: Every life-story has many versions. I recently tried to make sense of mine, while recording the interview which resulted in the book “Graff. Jestem Stąd” (Krytyka Polityczna, 2014, with Michał Sutowski). As the title suggests, I view myself as someone rooted in Polish culture, but this identity is somewhat problematic. It needs to be claimed. I have spent a total of seven years in the USA, and two more in the UK. It is a story of failed emigration, if you will. One of nostalgia, homesickness, alienation. Without intending it, I seem to have maintained the perspective of an outsider looking in. The years spent abroad shape how I write about gender in Polish culture. The fact that I’m polish affects my view of America. I am also an outsider in conservative, Catholic Poland as both a feminist and a person with Jewish roots. I have been told publicly to “go where I came from”, or “leave, if I don’t like it here”. Well, I am not leaving. I belong here.

Joanna Niżyńska: What were your formative experiences?

Agnieszka Graff: 1988 – my leaving Poland to study in the States. 1995 – coming back to stay. It was by looking at Poland through my “americanized” perspective that I became a feminist. In the States, as a student, I had been a Joyce scholar with only a marginal interest in gender studies. Discovering the pervasiveness of sexism in Poland, the country I had missed so badly – this experience made me who I am. Then there is 2000-2001 – the publication of my first book (“Świat bez kobiet”) and the first Manifa, the feminist demonstration which I co-organized with a group friends. These annual street marches are still happening, by the way; I am proud to count myself among the mothers of the Manifa movement. Then there was the international moment – a Fulbright scholarship that took me to the US, but also to India in 2004. It is in dialogue with women from many different locations – Israel, Croatia, India, China, the Caribbean – that I began to understand the complex and dangerous intersections between gender and nationalism. This has been the central theme of my work ever since.

Joanna Niżyńska: Who has influenced you most?

Agnieszka Graff: I had great teachers at Amherst and at Oxford, that would be a long list. But what really shaped me as a scholar and writer were the years after 1995: I was strongly affected by Prof. Ann Snitow, the brilliant New York based feminist academic, who came to teach in Warsaw and has remained my mentor and friend. Prof. Michał Głowiński’s seminar in narrative theory at the Graduate School for Social Research in Warsaw shaped me as a reader of texts. Prof. Maria Janion – obviously. Her work on gender in the Polish Romantic tradition had an enormous impact on an entire generation of Polish feminists. I was also strongly influenced by books by three Americans: Shana Penn, David Ost and Elizabeth Dunn. They all saw things that were strangely invisible to Polish scholars after 1989: the role of women in Solidarity, the role of class conflict and economic inequality in the transition era. This blindness has cost dearly in recent years.
Joanna Niżyńska: What are the differences between gender studies in the US and in Poland? Feminist movement in the US and Poland? What would you like American feminists to learn from their Polish counterparts and vice-versa?

Agnieszka Graff: That is a huge question, the subject of endless debates. One key difference is that in Poland feminist scholars tend to be activists, as well. There is no “ivory tower”, no deep division between theory and practice. Academia is not a safe space where you can hide from politics. Feminist law and philosophy professors have entered mainstream politics, something very rare in the States. Many of the women in charge of Manifa and Black Protests are also feminist intellectuals, academics. As for feminist theory, it tends to travels from West to East. Judith Butler's work has been tremendously influential in Poland, as is Faludi’s book *Backlash* and the key works by black feminists, especially bell hooks. It has all been translated and studied. Sadly, there is little movement in the other direction. Eastern European feminists tend to be treated in the West condescendingly, as providers of ‘raw material’. We deliver facts and western scholars theorize them. Books and articles by authors from the region are rarely published, cited or discussed. Not a single book by Maria Janion has been translated into English. She is a world-class feminist thinker, but completely unknown in the West. We simply do not exist on the map of transnational feminism. So I guess the main message is: take us seriously. Read us. We may know things you really need to hear, especially now that the liberal world order is crumbling.

Joanna Niżyńska: What stimulated your work on anti-genderism? What are your predictions as to the development of this movement?

Agnieszka Graff: The initial spark came in the fall of 2012, when I took part in a public debate at the Dominican Church in Warsaw. I was invited to speak on “gender”. To my amazement, my opponents, conservative Catholic women, were convinced that gender was an evil force, a grave danger to children, to Polish culture. Then a group of demonstrators entered with signs “GENDER=666” and proceeded to throw a smoke-bomb into the audience. Nobody was hurt, but the room had to be evacuated, the police were called. I was shocked, scared but also fascinated: I had witnessed first-hand the intensity of the moral panic outrage around genderism, which had been brewing on the right for some time. Since then I have been reading anti-gender books, brochures and articles, listening to their lectures on you-tube, etc. By 2014 I was part of an international group of scholars working on the subject, which is how I learned that this movement has spread across Europe, that it cuts across religions (the core is Catholic, but there are secular versions, and Russian Orthodox church is a key force). It is extremely successful at mobilizing “concerned parents” against sex educators, abortion rights, gay marriage, etc. Gender conservatism is an important component of the new wave of right wing populism in Europe. It is not just a threat to women’s rights or LGBT rights, but to liberal democracy itself.

Joanna Niżyńska: You have been working on anti-genderism with dr. Elżbieta Korolczuk. Tell us something about this collaboration.

Agnieszka Graff: Elżbieta is a sociologist who has done fascinating work on motherhood, parental movements and civil society. She is also a former student of mine, a feminist activist, and a great friend. We think and write together well. We have so far co-authored two articles on the anti-gender movement; I contribute a cultural-studies perspective, she has broad theoretical knowledge of social movements. We are both fascinated by this phenomenon and troubled by the misunderstandings surrounding it. We have read and discussed dozens of anti-gender texts, spent hours together on anti-gender websites. Our conclusion is that this is more than a new wave of back-
lash, or Catholic anti-feminism. It persistently uses the language of human rights and individual freedom, except that human rights are applied to “unborn children”, “freedom of religion” is used by doctors who want to deny patients contraception or abortion. Anti-genderism is turning democratic ideals and procedures against liberal democracy. Basically, the war on gender needs to be seen as a manifestation of a new political phenomenon: illiberal civil society. One of articles, the one on Poland is to be published in the volume Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe. Mobilizing against Equality, edited by Roman Kuhar and David Paternotte. Our most ambitious piece so far, an article on the anti-colonial frame in anti-genderism has been accepted for publication in Signs. A short version of our core ideas can be found online in Global Dialogue, where we published a piece titled “Towards An Illiberal Future: Anti-Genderism and Anti-Globalization (http://isa-global-dialogue.net/towards-an-illiberal-future-anti-genderism-and-anti-globalization/).

Joanna Niżyńska: During your visit in Bloomington, you participated in the roundtable on anti-genderism in Europe, which triggered an exciting conversation with the audience. What do you think about the reaction of the academic audience to this issue? how does it differ (if indeed it differs) from the reactions you get in Polish academic circles?

Agnieszka Graff: It was a fascinating exchange. I was pleased and surprised by the level of interest, and the awareness that anti-genderism is a serious issue, part of the major changes going on in world politics today. In Poland, many people on the left, especially men, persist in viewing anti-genderism as a Polish peculiarity, and something of a silly joke. They ignore evidence to the contrary. There is also a tendency to dismiss any phenomenon that pertains to women’s and gay rights as marginal. Polish intellectual debates are still quite sexist, even when they pay lip service to feminism. The scholars I met in Bloomington are free of this bias, and genuinely open to the idea that anti-genderism is a key part of the new wave of right wing populism. I was especially interested in comments concerning the far right in the US, possible links or common themes with Breitbart, the connection with anti-Semitism. The anti-gender movement in Europe has some very real connections to American Christian fundamentalists, but these links still need to be explored.

Joanna Niżyńska: What are other projects you keep on the back burner?

Agnieszka Graff: I’ve got two. One grows out of my teaching at the American Studies Center and my decade-long love affair with old Hollywood movies. I’m putting together a book of essays on films like Imitation of Life (1934), Mildred Pierce (1945), Adam’s Rib (1949); All about Eve (1950) – what I call ‘gender flicks’. Long before second wave feminism, they engaged the question of gender equality. What makes these movies so much fun, besides the great dialogues and the wonderful acting, is that they anticipate the feminist revolution, as well as the conservative backlash that followed. They also have a camp following, so my book may find a readership.

Joanna Niżyńska: And the other project?

Agnieszka Graff: It is linked to my work on anti-genderism. It is an article that enters into dialogue with western scholars about the future of feminism, a meta-historical study inspired by works of such scholars as Lauren Berlant, Hester Eisenstein, Nancy Fraser, Eva Illouz and Sylvia Walby. I look at the various narratives about the fate of the second wave that have been in circulation in recent decades in both the media and the feminist academic circles: backlash, postfeminism, the end of men, incorporation of feminism into therapy culture, “seduction” by neoliberalism. These stories need to be revisited from a perspective other that a US-centered one. Transnational feminism needs to become more aware that liberal democracy can no longer be taken for granted. The rise of right wing populism changes everything. And this is perhaps more visible in Warsaw or Budapest than it is in New York City...
Unforeseen Constellations: Reading Postcolonial Poland with South America
April 28-29, 2017

To celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Polish Studies Center hosted a two-day international symposium to firmly position the discussion about Poland’s past and present in a transnational context.

Although the impact of Poland’s decades-long subordination to the Soviet Union has been openly discussed, the labels of “colonial” and “postcolonial” have been reserved for the regions that were geographically clearly separated from the colonizing countries, much as Africa and India were separated from Europe. Less than twenty years later—due to mobility and globalization of intellectual frameworks and academic discourses—the debate on the postcolonial status of Poland became prominent, extending from academic circles into political and public discourse. “Unforeseen Constellations: Reading Postcolonial Poland with South America” created an opportunity for a theoretical and political intervention in this debate featuring prominent scholars from Europe, South America, and the US. The symposium participants engaged in comparative postcolonial discussions to question the advantages and disadvantages of the transfer of postcolonial studies into Eastern Europe. Some of the major themes included postcolonial authenticity, examining blind spots of postcolonial frameworks, religion and religiosity, literary postcolonialism, and Eastern European and South American encounters. The symposium was opened with welcoming remarks from Nick Cullather, Executive Associate Dean of SGIS and Professor of History and International Studies, and from the symposium organizers Joanna Niżyńska and Kristin Kopp.

Symposium Organizers:
Joanna Niżyńska
Indiana University
Kristin Kopp
University of Missouri

Akinwumi Adesokan
Indiana University
Marina Antić
Indiana University
Ishan Ashutosh
Indiana University
Stanley Bill
University of Cambridge, UK
Anke Birkenmaier
Indiana University
Laura Clapper
Indiana University
Jennifer Croft
The Buenos Aires Review
Lessie Frazier
Indiana University
Kelly Hayes
Indiana University – Purdue University
Stephanie Kane
Indiana University
Dorota Kołodziejczyk
University of Wrocław, Poland
Natalie Misteravich-Carroll
Indiana University

Marcelo Paiva de Souza
Federal University of Paraná, Brazil
Ranu Samantrai
Indiana University
Micol Seigel
Indiana University
Łukasz Siciński
Indiana University
Henryk Siewierski
University of Brasilia, Brazil
Dariusz Skórczewski
Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
Béla Soltész
Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary
Anita Starosta
Penn State University
Tamara Trojanowska
University of Toronto, Canada
Michael Young
Earlham College
Tomasz Zarycki
University of Warsaw, Poland
Symposium Program

April 28, 2017
Social Science Research Commons, Woodburn Hall 200

9:30-9:45 Welcoming remarks
Nick Cullather Executive Associate Dean of SGIS, Professor of History and International Studies

9:45-10:30 Introduction: Unforeseen Constellations
Joanna Niżyńska (IU) and Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri)

10:30-12:00 Producing and Questioning Postcolonial Authenticity
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Natalie Misteravich-Carroll
Principal Constellation: Stanley Bill, Stephanie Kane, Ranu Samantrai, Dariusz Skórczewski, Michael Young
With input from: Ishan Ashutosh, Kelly Hayes, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Béla Soltész, Tomasz Zarycki

2:00-4:00 Screening of The Wondrous World of Laundry
(dir. Hans-Christian Schmid, 2009) followed by discussion

4:15-6:00 Blind Spots of Postcolonial Frameworks
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Tamara Trojanowska
Principal Constellation: Akin Adesokan, Marina Antić, Ishan Ashutosh, Stanley Bill, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Ranu Samantrai, Béla Soltész, Tomasz Zarycki
With input from: Laura Clapper, Stephanie Kane, Micol Seigel, Dariusz Skórczewski, Anita Starosta

April 29, 2017
Faculty Room, Indiana Memorial Union

9:00-10:30 Religion and Religiosity: The Postcolonial Politics of the Sacred
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Tamara Trojanowska
Principal Constellation: Laura Clapper, Kelly Hayes, Henryk Siewierski, Anita Starosta, Michael Young
With input from: Marina Antić, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Tomasz Zarycki

10:45-12:15 Literary Postcolonialism
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Anke Birkenmaier
Principal Constellation: Akin Adesokan, Marina Antić, Jennifer Croft, Henryk Siewierski, Marcelo Paiva de Souza
With input from: Stanley Bill, Laura Clapper, Dariusz Skórczewski, Anita Starosta

2:00-3:30 Relocating Centers and Peripheries
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Lessie Frazier
Principal Constellation: Ishan Ashutosh, Stanley Bill, Kelly Hayes, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Micol Seigel, Dariusz Skórczewski, Anita Starosta, Tomasz Zarycki
With input from: Akin Adesokan, Marina Antić, Jennifer Croft, Micol Seigel, Béla Soltész, Marcelo Paiva de Souza, Michael Young

3:45-5:15 Eastern European – South American Encounters
Introduced by Kristin Kopp and Joanna Niżyńska
Moderated by Łukasz Siciński
Principal Constellation: Jennifer Croft, Stephanie Kane, Henryk Siewierski, Béla Soltész, Micol Seigel, Marcelo Paiva de Souza
With input from: Akinwumi Adesokan, Majed Akhter, Marina Antić, Ishan Ashutosh, Stanley Bill, Adam Bledsoe, Anke Birkenmaier, Laura Clapper, Lessie Frazier, Kelly Hayes, Dorota Kołodziejczyk, Kristin Kopp, Joanna Niżyńska, Ranu Samantrai, Dariusz Skórczewski, Anita Starosta, Tamara Trojanowska, Michael Young, Tomasz Zarycki
Symposium Photos
When compared to multilingual and multicultural world literatures, the status of Polish literature seems easily defined: it is written in one language and, for the most part, in one country. Yet Poland has always had bicultural writers who have used Polish together with another language, or even two, in their writings. Investigating these meaningful exceptions can be illuminating—it introduces foreigners to a “minor” literature that was at times composed in “major” languages such as French, English, German, Russian, Lithuanian and Spanish, not to mention the once universal Latin. Poland itself has a lesser known multicultural and multilingual past in which languages such as Yiddish and Lithuanian were prominent during the early to late modern periods. In examining creative works (composed by Polish authors written in a language other than Polish), Marta Skwara will challenge the notion that Polish literature is a univocal national literature.

Marta Skwara is a professor of Polish and Comparative Literature as well as the head of the Comparative Unit at the University of Szczecin, Poland. Her research interests include translation and reception studies, European and transatlantic romanticism, and modernism/postmodernism. She has written extensively on global authors of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as on Polish writers as seen in a world-literature context. She is a major voice in the reception of Walt Whitman in Polish culture, the subject of two of her many monographs. Marta Skwara is currently pursuing research at the University of Iowa as a visiting scholar at the Obermann Centre for Advanced Studies, and at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

THE POLISH STUDIES CENTER PRESENTS:

Dariusz Skorczewski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
“People’s Republic and Catholicism in Polish Narrative after 1989: The Postcolonial Dialogue”

Since the fall of Communism, demonstrating one’s detachment from, or rejection of, Catholicism has become fashionable among the younger generation of writers in Poland as a way to celebrate the liberation from both national and religious commitments. A significant figure among this generation is Piotr Józef Kubasz, born a Roman Catholic, he became a Muslim convert to Islam in 2001 and is the only contemporary Polish Muslim writer.

In his talk, Dariusz Skorczewski will draw on the early autobiographical novels of Kubasz to examine the author’s choice to reject or endorse Poland’s “grand narrative.” This grand narrative has shaped the common understanding and assessment of history and politics by Poles and provided the ground for anticolonial resistance during the Communist period. In the post-communist period, however, it became perceived as a discourse trivializing national and religious identities and was disavowed in a gesture symptomatic of the postcolonial reflexivity.

Using Kubasz as a case study and framing his talk with postcolonial theory and the debate on postcolonial society, Skorczewski will address the premises and implications of such a disavowal within the context of Poland’s transition from communism to post-communism.

Dariusz Skorczewski is a Professor of Polish literature at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin where he is the head of a cultural anthropology program in the Department of Polish Studies. He is also the Vice Dean of the Humanities for Research and International Cooperation. He works on modern Polish literature and criticism, as well as postcolonial studies in Polish culture.

Skorczewski’s recent books include Theory – Literature – Discourse: A Postcolonial Landscape published in 2013 (to be translated into English) and João Guimarães Rosa’s The Devil’s Horse (co-edited with Andrew Wierzbicki) published in 2014.

“Reshaping Culture in Translation: On Slavic Vulgarities”
Kamil Stafaniec
University of Gießen, Germany

September 29, 2016
6:00pm-7:30
Global and International Studies
Building 0013

The Polish Studies Center Presents:

Konrad Werner
Institute of Philosophy, Cognitive Science Dept., Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland

“The Polish Studies Center Presents:

Konrad Werner
Institute of Philosophy, Cognitive Science Dept., Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland

“From Politics to Metaphysics: Varieties of Antirationalism in Poland”

Kazimierz Ajałowicz (1890-1963), a prominent member of the Lvov-Warsaw School of philosophy and logic, warned against committing ourselves to Rationalism and instead set forth the idea of ANTIRATIONALISM which conceives knowledge, including science and morality, as social practices. Thus one can embrace reason with a “small r”, without committing oneself to the somewhat totalitarian inductions of Reason. This interactive workshop will consider order(s) of reason(s) while avoiding the paths of Reason. We will examine how fruitful antirationalism can be for a diverse set of fields including epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics, as well as political theory and practice.

Konrad Werner will introduce the topic and then guide an informal discussion of antirationalism as it relates to a set of illustrative texts.

Handouts will be available at the event.

October 19, 2016
6:00-7:30 p.m.
Woodburn Hall 121

Konrad Werner teaches at the Institute of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland. His interests include phenomenology and philosophy of mind and perception. He is currently working on a project involving ontology of location as applied in narrative theories of mind.

He was a visiting faculty member at Indiana University last academic year, and is currently a visiting scholar at Columbia University.
**Interview with Marta Skwara**

**Polish Studies Center:** Please tell me a little bit about the research that you are conducting at the University of Lincoln Nebraska and the University of Iowa. What brought you to the States to conduct research?

**Marta Skwara:** Basically this is the study of Walt Whitman’s reception in Poland. I study his translation into Polish and all of the Polish authors connected with Whitman. Some of them are very famous, like Nobel laureate Czesław Miłosz, who translated Whitman, some of them really forgotten by now, but I believe that their translations were so interesting that they are worth studying. So far I have published two books about the Polish reception of Whitman, both of them in Polish, but now I am working on an American version of this book with a translator, Jim Merchant, and I am also preparing an electronic bibliography of Polish translations of Whitman, which will be put in the Whitman archive.

**Polish Studies Center:** Are there many translations of Whitman in Polish?

**Marta Skwara:** It depends on how you count. If you compare it to German translations you can say that there are not so many, but still I believe that there were many over the more than 100 years. We started translating Whitman in 1872 so it’s a really long time. Sometimes it’s just 2 or 3 poems translated by a fine Polish poet. So they are really worth recording and coming back to. This is one project, but I am also working on a Polish literature handbook, or compendium. One volume is Polish history and literature in a comparative context. It is going to be in English and it is going to show the whole scope of Polish literature, but I have my own ideas on how it should be done. It is not chronological. It is focused around some issues or problems. I want to show Polish literature in contact with world literature.

**Polish Studies Center:** Can you give an example of how you are connecting Polish literature to World literature other than the Whitman example?

**Marta Skwara:** One of these examples is in translations. For example, I point to one of our most known poetic cycles dating back to the renaissance, and then I show several translations into English from different countries (English, American, modern, old translation), then I try to show how people used to understand this cycle and how they referred to it. Translation is the most natural way of crossing the limits of the country of language, but more interesting even are all sorts of intertextual references which happened to Czesław Milosz very often. He

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*Image: Marta Skwara and PSC Director Joanna Niżyńska*
became really important for some generations of American poets who quote Miłosz in English translation in their own poems. So “minor” literature becomes a point of reference and a point of dialogue within world literatures.

**Polish Studies Center:** You mentioned the minor and the major, and that brings us to the topic of your talk today. Could you please give our readers a summary of your talk?

**Marta Skwara:** It is strictly connected with the book that I am writing. Because I needed this also for myself to realize how many examples of Polish authors we have that used another language. And I must say that from the beginning I thought that of course I can point to some: ‘it’s not a big deal, I can write it and describe it in a few pages.’ But when I started to study I found many interesting examples of bicultural, bilingual poets and writers who would use major languages like English, French, German, but also who would use languages like Yiddish, for example, or Lithuanian, or at the beginning certainly Latin was the Polish literary language. So, I decided to put it together to show all of these cases of Polish literature not in the Polish language. I believe this can make a fine introduction for those people who know some major language and would like to read something without translation.

**Polish Studies Center:** You mentioned what kind of hope you have for your research in terms of Western audiences as an introduction to Polish for people who are familiar with major languages, but what do you think will happen in terms of Polish literature in Poland with your study?

**Marta Skwara:** I believe that for Polish students of literature, and I use this in a broad meaning so not only students but professors and everybody who reads Polish literature with some interest, it should be interesting to see Polish literature in a different perspective, from some different angle. Because what we are used to doing in Poland is just to study Polish literature, in Polish, in Poland. This is it. But then when you put it out of this context, when you show other connections, other languages, and all these re-readings of Polish literature in the world, you really have a different picture. So I believe that it may be interesting for Polish readers to read Polish literature, not just as Polish literature, but as one of the European literatures.
Interview with Visiting PhD Student Agata Zborowska

Agata Zborowska is a PhD student at the Institute of Polish Culture in the Department of Film and Visual Culture at the University of Warsaw. In fall 2016, Agata was a visiting scholar at Indiana University Bloomington, where she conducted research for her dissertation, entitled “The Life of Things in Post-War Poland (1944-1956): Practices and Images.” In November, Agata presented some of her work for the Polish Studies Center in a talk titled “The Life of Things in Post-War Poland.”

Polish Studies Center: Please tell us a little about your project.

Agata Zborowska: I really wanted to write about things, everyday objects. That was the first idea. And I was trying to find a good perspective. So I read a lot of books about things in a period where the problem was how to deal with an abundance of things, so like with Victorian culture and the literature about it. I was wondering how to write about things in a completely different time, or maybe different conditions. So I decided that it was good to look at things during a period where there was a problem with things in general: to get things, and the scarcity of things. Probably the ideal period is the war. But at the same time, during the war you care more about your life and your family’s life than about material objects. So I decided that maybe the post-war period is the best period to examine because you don’t have to care about your life and there will probably be some development in production and consumption, but at the same time you have to produce these things because they do not exist in the same way as before the war. That was basically my idea on why to work on things. And of course, post-war Poland is an interesting example because of the communist rules and ideas behind things. My idea was to show the dynamic between [communist] ideology and the ideas behind the ideology about things and about materiality, and at the same time to look at what Michel de Certeau describes as “tactics.” On the one hand you have the strategies connected with institutions and on the other you have tactics connected with everyday practices and everyday lives and how they deal with this ideology.

Polish Studies Center: In the sense of acquiring things?

Agata Zborowska: In the sense of thinking about things. My idea was to write about the history of mentality, or the history of the imaginary. I wanted to know, or try to gain the knowledge of, how people perceive things in general. What kind of values, what kind of meanings were rooted in things in the post-war period. The government was trying to create some ideas, but of course they were not the same ideas that people [actually] had. This tension between ideology and everyday practice was quite important for me. The problem is what kind of materials you are looking for to find these ideas behind things and the ideas that people try to put onto things.
Polish Studies Center: Why did you choose to conduct research in Bloomington?

Agata Zborowska: I chose Bloomington because of Padraic Kenney. I think that his book [Rebuilding Poland: Workers and Communists, 1945-1950] is still so important, and after so many years in English it was published one or two years ago in Polish. I decided that it would be a good idea to ask Padraic about my thoughts about post-war Poland. My background is not in history, so I really needed someone who was more educated in this area simply because I read a lot of history and I’m not satisfied with this [Polish] narration, at least in this area in this post-war period. And of course they are also created by people, by historians who were born during the PRL or just before PRL, so they are rooted in their experience in some way and they are often against the PRL or the whole ideology connected with Communism. So what I really liked in Padraic’s book is that you really see this distance which often Polish historians don’t have.

Polish Studies Center: What kind of research where you conducting here at IU?

Agata Zborowska: It’s funny, because there are many more materials here than in the University library in Warsaw. There are a lot of very old, I would say even neglected, books about this period, and a lot of journals and magazines. It was good, because you can sit here in one place with all of these Polish materials as well as books in English which is difficult to find in Poland. For these two reasons Bloomington was a great place to conduct research.

Ongoing Anniversary Celebrations
The 40th anniversary celebrations will continue in the Fall with a visit from composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki

To keep up with our latest events and initiatives, please consider subscribing to our informational listserv!
You can easily subscribe by sending an email to polish@indiana.edu.
You can also find us on Facebook or online at: http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/home/
In Fall 2016, the Polish Studies Center partnered with both the IU Cinema and the Ryder Film Series to present three contemporary Polish films: *Life Feels Good* (dir. Maciej Pieprzyca, 2013), *Papusza* (dirs. Krzysztof Krauze, Joanna Kos-Krauze, 2013), and *Cosmos* (dir. Andrzej Żulawski, 2015). Sofiya Asher and Łukasz Siciński, Lecturers in the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures, gave introductory remarks before the film screenings. Łukasz Siciński also presented a “Polish Animation Night,” and the PSC hosted a special screening of *The Maids of Wilko* to honor the passing of Andrzej Wajda.
Interview with Adam Zucker

Adam Zucker, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and editor from New York City, came to the Polish Studies Center in February for a screening of his 2014 documentary film, *The Return*. His previous independent film *Greensboro: Closer to the Truth*, about the first Truth and Reconciliation Commission in the U.S., received the Audience Award for Best Feature at the Rome International Film Festival. Zucker has also edited many feature documentaries, including Rory Kennedy’s *American Hollow* (HBO), Michael Kantor’s *Broadway: The American Musical* (PBS), Madison Davis Lacy’s *Richard Wright: Black Boy* (PBS) and Ken Burns and Steve Ives’ *The West* (PBS).

*The Return* chronicles the lives of four women—Kasia, Tusia, Maria and Katka—who were raised Catholic but discovered that they were Jewish sometime in their teens. The film follows their stories over the course of four years, as they negotiate their Jewish identities and try to find a sense of community. In accompanying these women as they struggle with challenging choices related to both their personal and collective identities, the documentary explores the difficult reality of being Jewish in contemporary Poland.

The film screening, co-sponsored by the Borns Jewish Studies Program at IU, was well attended by students, faculty, and members of the Bloomington community. Zucker eagerly answered the audience’s many questions after the screening and he updated us on the lives of the four young women in the film. He also addressed his own perceptions of Jewish culture in contemporary Poland.

PSC: What made you interested in making *The Return*?

Adam Zucker: [...] I have a very zen approach that I don’t go seeking projects, but when they come to me I know it; and I’m Jewish and I never made a Jewish film. I’m very comfortable being Jewish; it was just separate from the rest of me, so to speak, or from my filmmaking life. But a number of years ago, in 2008, I was reading the New York Times and there was an article about the interest in Poland for Jewish culture among non-Jewish Poles. The example they were giving was the Kraków Jewish Culture Festival, and I said ‘Wow! A Jewish cultural festival in the place where there are no Jewish people and which is probably a really anti-Semitic country’ because that is what I grew up believing. And I applied for, and received, a small grant to go to Poland to look into this festival. I learned, over a period of time, that Poland is not a very anti-Semitic country and, regardless of that, the interest in Jewish culture was very authentic but it was not interesting to me as a filmmaker.

While investigating the festival, Zucker met a number of young people who had recently discovered their Jewish roots. Their process of exploring and negotiating that newfound identity became the topic for his film.

Adam Zucker: For me, doing that anywhere [making a film about the subject] is very interesting but particularly in Poland, a place which was once the epicenter of the Jewish world and had the largest Jewish population and Jewish knowledge base in the world. For people in that setting, to be trying to figure out what it means to be Jewish and not knowing what it meant seemed to be really rich and resonant, and I just continued to explore that idea with the people that I met and ended up making this movie. (Continued on Page 29)
Visual artist and filmmaker Wojtek Sawa came to the Polish Studies Center to talk about some of his recent multimedia participatory installations which cross the boundaries of art and social action. *The Wall Speaks—Voices of the Unheard* is an interactive visual installation that addresses art, history, and propaganda. The work inspires a discussion of certain historical narratives that aim at disparaging ethnic, religious, and racial groups and encourages the viewers to question the problems of the present by engaging with history. In his presentation for the Polish Studies Center, Sawa spoke about the therapeutic aspect of art and how it can enter public discourse by bringing painful questions to the surface.

**Polish Studies Center:** Please tell us a little bit about your piece *The Wall Speaks*.

**Wojtek Sawa:** *The Wall Speaks—Voices of the Unheard* is a participatory, multimedia installation. It is dedicated to Polish children and teenagers of WWII. But it is designed in such a way as to address anyone today (groups of people, individuals) who cannot speak with a voice of their own and who feel that they are not being treated as fully human. In that sense the show has, I think, spoken to emigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, battered women, molested children etc. Through its interactive features it creates a platform for those who feel that they are marginalized, disenfranchised, not able to speak or share their story. To participate, in a sense, in co-creating the exhibit itself and in establishing this bridge between what happened to Polish children and teenagers in WWII, where they had gone through horrible experiences and then were either unable to share their story because it would have ended up in a bad way for them because of their enemies (Germans, Soviets) but also because there was no interest and because the narrative that stemmed from their experience was replaced by a narrative that was false, which they were not able to counteract because they did not have the power to counteract the negative image of themselves.

**Polish Studies Center:** Can you describe the interactive nature of the project? How did the participants engage with the work?

**Wojtek Sawa:** I would say that the general overall image of the exhibition visually is that it is composed of large format photographs which are very narrow, about a foot wide and 8 feet tall. There are 28 of them and each one presents a different character. These are people who I interviewed personally over several years. Next to each photograph, (these photographs are hung on fishing line so they kind of appear as if they were suspended) is a life story printed on fabric which is also suspended on fishing line. But under each photograph is a brick, a real brick. On the top side there is an inscription that speaks of institutional actions against the Polish people perpetrated either by the Soviets, Germans, but also by the Americans and the British. I ask people when they come to view the exhibit to pick up a brick and walk along the exhibit with the brick in hand to feel the weight, the burden of having been put through these situations and not being able to talk about it, not being able to share that story. And then they get to the end of the exhibit, there’s a wall and in the wall there is a steel plate which is a laser-cut grid with 100 openings the size of the brick. So, I ask people to flip the brick and then on the bottom side there is a blank sheet and I ask them to share their own experiences of a similar nature: not of a war nature, but of not being able to share your story, of feeling that you suffered through some trauma and you are not able to share that trauma for various reasons. [...]

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**The Polish Studies Center Presents**

**Wojtek Sawa:** A Lecture and Discussion of his Visual Installation Art

**JANUARY 26, 2017**

4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Global and International Studies Building 1100

Reception to Follow

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Polish Studies Center: What are you working on now?

Wojtek Sawa: Well, several things, but in the context of what we are talking about now, I'm going to be showing *The Wall Speaks—Voices of the Unheard* in Hamtramck [Michigan]. I love Hamtramck, I am enamored with Hamtramck, and the reason why I am doing this show in Hamtramck is because it has a Polish-American mayor, and it's the only city in the United States which has a majority Muslim city council. And I'm very much interested in taking the Polish story and drawing a parallel and reaching out to the contemporary Muslim Middle Eastern story, where the worst problem regarding refugees and war-torn children is the one faced by Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and other places. We are going to have 2 months of the show and also have other accompanying events every week, and we are going to be reaching out to different communities. We already spoke to the Bosnians, the Yemenis, the Bangladeshis and we'll be telling their story. We are building this larger coalition with Wayne State University and the University of Michigan Dearborn, the Jewish-Muslim council of Detroit, and the local soccer team. This is happening April-May 2017. It's going to be shown at Bank Suey at the corner of Caniff Campeau in the center [of Hamtramck] […] Another aspect of this is that I want to reach out to refugee children; we want to contact one or two refugee camps in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and (some of them have schools) we want to do a live feed from a camp school to the Horizon Alternative School in Hamtramck and maybe other schools and do a live feed between the children and do a common project where they work together.

Wojciech Tylbor-Kubrakiewicz, Visiting Professor from the Warsaw Academy of Fine Art, presented a talk about how the act of travelling inspires and informs his work. A visual artist from Warsaw, Tylbor-Kubrakiewicz specializes in the classical techniques of intaglio, relief print, and silkscreen. He holds a doctorate from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, and he has been an Associate Lecturer in the Faculty of Graphic Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw since 2001. He has received many awards for his work, including a Grand Prix at the 6th Splitgraphic International Graphic Art Biennial in Croatia in 2015.
For our Fall 2016 Inaugural Event, the Polish ethno-jazz group LAUTARI gave a special performance and led a dance workshop for the Polish Studies Center. In partnership with Lotus, the PSC brought LAUTARI to Bloomington to perform at the 2016 Lotus World Music & Arts Festival. LAUTARI’s music is a seamless blend of modern jazz improvisation and traditional folk music from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe. In addition to enjoying captivating melodies and the great fun had while learning a handful of folk dances, the audience learned about LAUTARI’s approach to folk music through an engaging discussion with the musicians. It was a fantastic way to kick off our 2016 season!
Come experience the traditions and customs associated with St. Andrew’s Eve in Poland. There will be games, wax pouring, and the chance to "divine" your future! Food and refreshments will be provided.

We hope that you will join us for this family-friendly event!

November 29, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Global and International Studies Building 1060
In December, the Polish Studies Center hosted its annual Holiday Party in the President’s Club at the Indiana Memorial Union. The evening began with a greeting from Director Joanna Niżyńska followed by the symbolic breaking of bread to commence the meal. Live musicians provided a festive atmosphere while our guests filled their plates with pierogi, authentic smoked kielbasa and kabanosy, and an assortment of delicious potluck dishes! After dinner, the room swelled with melodious singing of Polish kolędy graciously accompanied by Stella Hooker-Haase on her accordion. While the children were busy with seasonal crafts and activities, the adults perused our silent auction items. This year our auction featured an array of fabulous items including Polish candy baskets, the latest publications in Polish Studies from Slavica Publishers, a Polish beer basket, and beautiful vintage folk art items. The evening concluded with our annual potluck contest—for both savory and dessert dishes—with the first-and second-place winners taking home handmade ornaments from Poland and an assortment of Polish chocolates—a coveted rarity in Bloomington! Altogether it was a wonderful night of holiday cheer and a perfect way to close the calendar year!
Lee Feinstein participated in a panel at the German Marshall Fund’s Warsaw office February 28 on “President Trump and the Future of European Integration.” In December, President Obama appointed Feinstein to serve on the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, a four-year appointment. Feinstein serves on the Executive Council and is chair of the Museum’s Committee on Conscience, whose mandate is to “alert the national conscience . . . and work to halt acts of genocide or related crimes against humanity.” Last July in Warsaw, Feinstein signed an agreement to establish an internship program for IU students with POLIN, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Feinstein continues to serve on the board of trustees of the Kosciuszko Foundation, which promotes educational and cultural exchanges and greater American understanding of Polish culture and history.


Padraic Kenney finished his year as President of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies with an address at the national convention in Washington. The address, entitled, “Area Studies and the false Song of Globalism,” can be found here: www.asees.org/news-events/asees-blog-feed/area-studies-and-false-song-globalism. He published three essays in Kultura Liberalna: “Jakiej historii potrzebuje opozycja?” in June; “Zagubieni, nie wykleci,” in July; and “Po co historykom Polska?” in December. You can read Padraic’s essays by visiting kulturaliberalna.pl.

In addition to directing the Polish Studies Center at IU, Joanna Niżyńska has co-edited a soon to be published volume, At Crossroads, Across Purposes: A New History of Polish Literature and Culture since 1918 (University of Toronto Press, forthcoming fall 2017). In addition to her role as co-editor of this extensive volume (with contributions of some sixty scholars and over 1500 pages of manuscript), she wrote an introduction and authored a chapter focusing on the role of affect and symbolic compensation in the formation of collective memory. Last summer she gave a public lecture on the same subject entitled “Delectatio morosa, or Modes of Affective Compensation in Polish Memory Culture” at the Giessen Center for East European Studies, University of Giessen, Germany. Joanna also published “Gender Is the Real Queer: Gender Wars in Contemporary Poland” (in Father Figures and Gender Identities in Scandinavian and Comparative Literature, 2016) and contributed an entry on Milosz Bialoszewski for The Literary Encyclopedia (online).

Halina Goldberg has been invited to serve as Scholar-in-Residence, with Jonathan Bellman, for the 2017 Bard Music Festival, dedicated to Fryderyk Chopin. The acclaimed Bard Music Festival was founded in 1990, with the objective “to promote new ways of understanding and presenting the history of music to a contemporary audience. Each year, a single composer is chosen as the main subject. The biography of the composer, the influences and consequences of that composer’s achievement, and all aspects of the musical culture surrounding the time and place of the composer’s life are explored. Perhaps the most important dimensions of the festival are the ways in which it links music to the worlds of literature, painting, theater, philosophy, and politics and brings two kinds of audience together: those with a long history of interest in concert life and first-time listeners, who find the festival an ideal place to learn about and enjoy the riches of our musical past.” The collection of essays, Chopin and His World, edited by Goldberg and Bellman and associated with the festival, will be available from Princeton University Press in July, 2017. The festival will take place at Bard College, over two weekends August 11-13 and 18-20, 2017. For more information see http://fishercenter.bard.edu/bmf/
STUDENT UPDATES

Basia Andraka-Christou, JD, PhD, is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the IU Fairbanks School of Public Health (Indianapolis), where she studies state policies for decreasing opioid overdose and treating opioid addiction. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Health Policy at the IU School of Public & Environmental Affairs (Bloomington). During the 2016–2017 academic year, she published in the International Review of Neurobiology, Current Addiction Reports (with C. Arnaudo & K. Algood), and the Indiana State Medical Association Reports. She also gave five invited talks and presented her research at nine conferences. Finally, she had multiple television, print and radio media appearances, including at WFIU Radio, WFYI Radio, WBAA Radio, the Journal Gazette, and Indiana Public Media, regarding state and federal policies to address the ongoing opioid crisis. She continues to serve on the board of the Indiana Recovery Alliance, Monroe County CARES (a local coordinating council of the Governor’s Commission for a Drug Free Indiana), and the Polish-American Chamber of Commerce of the Eastern USA.

Having lived in Indianapolis after a brief stay in Kraków, Chris Beyers will be moving to New York City in the fall, where he will begin his pursuit of a Master of Arts in Museum Studies at New York University’s Graduate School of Arts and Science. Awarded the 2014–2015 Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholarship by the Polish Studies Center, Criss spent the spring semester of his junior year studying at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the Jagiellonian University and interning in the Education Department of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, Poland—experiences which were formative in further developing his passions for Polish-Jewish relations and Museum Studies that were first kindled at Indiana University. He is looking forward to exploring the wonderful cultural institutions that NYU and the city have to offer, particularly those related to Polish and Jewish Studies.

Amanda Fisher is now ABD, having successfully completed her qualifying exams in May 2016. After teaching at Indiana University’s Summer Language Workshop for her second year, she relocated in September to Perth, Western Australia—where she will remain for the majority of her dissertation process. Her work, which examines the genre of the early Soviet short story, will be funded in the 2017–2018 academic year by IU’s College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship. She intends to use some of this award to support a several-month stay in Bloomington, for easier access to committee members and research materials. When she’s not working on her dissertation, Amanda keeps active with music and sports: playing violin/fiddle in various venues, organizing and playing for folk dances, and riding her bike along the coast of the Indian Ocean.

In spring 2016, Michael Young defended his dissertation, “The City Life of Polish Village Culture: Tradition, Modernity Projects, and Subjectivities in Transition,” and was awarded a PhD in ethnomusicology shortly thereafter. In the last year, he has presented his research on the Polish traditional music and dance revival community at the IV Krajowe Seminarium Etnomuzykologiczne in Warsaw (paper title: “Performatywne podejście do miejskiej kultury ludowej: strategii i polityki Performansu Domu Tańca a Zespoły Pieśni i Tańca”) with conference travel support from REEI and CAHI, at ASEEES 2017 (“Poland’s Calling-Card: State Affiliated Folklore Ensembles and the Communist Tourist Imaginary”), and at the 2016 Anthropology of Sound Forum hosted by the Society for Ethnomusicology and American Anthropological Association (“Hi-Fi Heritage: Constructing the Past in Contemporary Recordings of the Polish Folk Music Revival”). He currently teaches at Earlham College (Richmond, IN) as a Visiting Instructor of Music.

Natalie Misteravich-Carroll defended her dissertation “Nowa Huta: A Cultural Study of Identity” in May 2016 and graduated with her PhD from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures in August 2016. Since graduating, Natalie has served as the administrative assistant for the Polish Studies Center. In November she presented a paper at the 2016 ASEEES conference entitled, “Parodying the Past: Socialist Icons in Contemporary Nowa Huta.” She recently developed and filmed a series of online Polish culture lectures for Indiana University’s Center for International Business Education and Research (IU CIBER) which will be made available as an open access video-learning series for the global community later this year.
Interview with Adam Zucker Continued

Polish Studies Center: Did you find that your subjects were ever reluctant to speak to you or were they very open?

Zucker: The answer is yes and no. It was very easy to get them to talk to me. I think a lot of Polish Jews see, at a certain point in their life, their role is a Jewish ambassador of sorts. A lot of Jews come to Poland looking for death, and it is very easy to find that. If you are a young Polish Jew and proud of your identity—I’m putting words in people’s mouths but this is definitely true—frankly it is a little annoying to always be seen as not being there, and when these tour buses come through and they go to Auschwitz and don’t even go to Kraków, which is only 30 miles away, that’s a little unnerving. So I think, in general, a lot of people go out of the way to meet with people. I’m not the first filmmaker or media person that has ever come to Warsaw or Kraków to the Jewish community, so people were happy to talk with me.

Polish Studies Center: What were some of your observations about contemporary Jewish Culture in Poland?

Zucker: At one point in the film Matisyahu, a pretty popular New York based singer, reggae hip-hop guy, (who was at that time very Orthodox and Hasidic), was at an event at the local JCC [in Kraków] and he was doing “Q&A” with the young Jewish community, who revered him. One person said, “What do you think the difference is between being Jewish in New York and Jewish in Poland?” and he said that if you are Jewish in New York you could spend a lot of time never thinking about being Jewish and no one’s going to care and no one’s going to question it. That is one of the options along a wide spectrum from nothing to everything, secular to orthodox, to all steps in between. And to me, I always took that for granted, which makes sense because that is the world that I grew up in. What was really news to me and eye-opening about Poland is that there were people who wanted to be Jewish but the only institutional way to be Jewish was to be an Orthodox Jew. You could be completely secular and hang out at the JCC, which is an option, so you have option “a” and option “b” but that’s it. In New York, within the world of progressive Jewish communities, there is every step—a little bit less, a little bit more—a little bit more gay-friendly, a little more politically oriented, a little more social activism, I mean every step along the way. But in a very small community you don’t have those choices. It requires, therefore—for people who want to enter into their Jewish identity—to embrace what they may not normally embrace, and for some people they find that confining and then people leave. But that whole reality of having few options was something that I never really thought about.

Polish Culture Association Update

With the academic year rapidly approaching its conclusion, I’d like to update the readers of this newsletter on the happenings of the Polish Culture Association at Indiana University. Co-president Emily Koscielniak has recently been accepted into the School of Public Health, where she is studying Tourism, Hospitality, and Event Management. She also is currently considering multiple internship and job offers for the upcoming summer. Co-president Bartosz Szewczyk is continuing his pursuit of a BS in molecular genetics and cell biology with plans to attend med school in the near future. Emily and Bart are both looking forward to busy summers and to returning to IU in the fall to lead the PCA in more exciting and educational Polish events.
The Polish Studies Center greatly appreciates financial contributions for its scholarly, cultural, and social activities. Donations to the Center are crucial in allowing us to sustain and expand our programs. The Center arranges a wide variety of scholarly events including conferences, lectures, and symposia; cultural events such as concerts, theatrical performances, readings, and exhibitions; and community gatherings such as Andrzejki and our annual Holiday Party.

Your help is vital in pursuing the Center’s mission to promote the study of Polish culture, history, and society at Indiana University and beyond. Please consider supporting the Polish Studies Center and making a special donation to mark our 40th Anniversary at Indiana University!

To support the Polish Studies Center, please visit: http://www.indiana.edu/~polishst/support/ and click on “Donate Now.” Alternatively, please feel free to mail donations to our office:

Polish Studies Center
Global and International Studies Building
355 N. Jordan Ave., Room 4046
Bloomington, IN 47401
Greetings from the IU Polish Studies Center!

Pozdrowienia z Ośrodka Studiów Polskich na Uniwersytecie Indiana w Bloomington!