Nearly every week this past academic year there was something new and exciting happening at the Polish Studies Center. It gives me great pleasure as director to see how the Center’s program succeeded in reaching not only across a variety of academic fields and departments but also into the larger Bloomington community. Often we would meet among our audiences people having no connection to Poland or to Polish Studies but who came to our events out of curiosity and because the word of mouth deemed the events worthy of their attention. This is truly a great success for the Center; although it is modest in size, its programming equals that of much larger units on campus. I credit this success to the efforts, dedication, and counsel of a wonderful group of people. Łukasz Siciński, who was welcomed by the Slavic Department as a new Lecturer in Polish only last fall, has quickly become a driving force behind the Center’s rich student programming. It is thanks to Łukasz that we are now able to regularly host Polish Movie and Polish Music nights and that those interested in honing their Polish language skills can join his biweekly translatorial workshops—Przekładańce. Basia Andraka-Christou, the Center’s graduate assistant, has been invaluable in handling the logistics for all our events and for making sure that our audiences never go hungry. The Center’s brilliant Executive Committee, its numerous volunteers, and our colleagues and collaborators in different departments and institutes have helped us make the PSC what it has been for years and what it is meant to be—a vital part of campus life and an important component of the University and of the new School of Global and International Studies’ mission for internationalization and outreach. (Continued on pg. 2)
In planning the PSC’s activities we strive for a balance between events with academic, student, and community profiles. This mix of events (from communal festivities such as our Holiday Party and Polish Polyester Party to specialized lectures and workshops) allows us to grow our audiences and popularize an inclusive understanding of Polish culture. That understanding goes beyond conceiving of “Polish studies” as defined by a territory or region or by a particular academic discipline. Rather, we conceive of “Polish” in the name of the Center as pointing to a Protean entity that Polish culture has been over its historical trajectory, a cultural formation, which at any given point of time has already had its global and multi-cultural dimension, which thrived on its domestic and diasporic contributions, which survived traumatic historical turmoil, and which, when approached with the attention and care it deserves, has consistently eluded any reductive definitions based on language or ethnicity.

Our collaboration with colleagues from the fields of Slavic, History, Comparative Literature, Russian and East European studies, Jewish studies, Musicology, Political sciences, English, and Law, to name only some of them, testifies to the richness and complexity of what Polish studies can be and, indeed, are. The very awareness of this richness and complexity serves as an antidote to any attempts to pitch simplistic recipes for Polishness, so detectable in often disturbing news about Poland’s current political scene. As a community of those dedicated to “things Polish,” however, we must—as Voltaire would recommend—cultivate our gardens.

So let us look back at the highlights of this academic year, as it is almost behind us. The fall semester was full of music. We inaugurated the year in the shiny, brand-new building of the School of Global and International Studies with a gathering around Karolina Cicha and Bart Pałyga, the musicians representing Poland at the Lotus Festival. Karolina and Bart tested our vocal and linguistic adaptability by teaching us a song, “Białystok,” in Yiddish. Their music was followed by the former PSC graduate assistant Michael Young’s Folk Music Workshop and Łukasz Siciński’s Polish Music Night. Andrea Bohlman, a musicologist from the University of North Carolina, gave an inspiring lecture and workshop on the soundscape of the dissident culture in Poland. Her attention to the history of Polish opposition resonated with last fall’s Themester on “Labor,” just as the presentation by Jack Bloom (a sociologist from IU Northwest) on the Communist Party’s internal wars during its fight against the Solidarity movement was designed to link to the labor theme. Both semesters were sprinkled with screenings of Polish animation and films, and the students kept the tradition of Poetry and Pierogi (in the fall with their Halloween edition “in Disguise” as they read Stanislaw Lem’s science fiction rather than the series’ eponymous genre while in the spring returning to the poetic classics of Wisława Szymborska). The fall semester concluded with a spectacular Holiday Party. Many members of our community once again displayed their cooking talents and some their singing abilities. The jury is in—we definitely need more help from our vocally talented members to sing carols better next December.

The new year began with an exhibition brought to Bloomington by the Institute for National Remembrance (IPN) on the Polish Underground State and a lecture by IPN’s President, Dr. Łukasz Kamiński, on the underground state’s historical and cultural legacy. During his visit, President Kamiński also taught a fascinating workshop on the use of board games for teaching and popularizing Polish history. Shortly after his departure, a couple of big packages arrived with IPN’s gifts for the Center—among them several board games for different age groups and comic books for children on Polish history, which we hope to use for the Polish Saturday school. These gifts will keep on giving, and the success of our first Board Game Night indicates that Kolejką, a cult board game about standing in line (sometimes called the Communist edition of Monopoly and currently withdrawn from Russia’s stores for supposedly misrepresenting the shortages of the communist system!) works across
borders and generational gaps.

We explored new connections with the Law School while hosting a lecture by our own Basia Andraka-Christou, a practicing lawyer and a Ph.D. candidate in Law and Social Science who together with her adviser Professor Jody Madeira presented a comparative Polish-American perspective on the law and politics of in vitro fertilization. This presentation confirmed that the Polish Center has plenty of wonderful human resources to explore right on campus. We harnessed a (temporarily) local talent again when inviting Magdalena Cabaj, a Visiting Fellow from Warsaw University and École normale supérieure de la rue d’Ulm in Paris to lead a workshop on gender, machines, the “post-human body,” and free will. Magdalena guided us through her reading of Stanisław Lem’s short story “The Mask,” in which Lem conceives of a machine as gendered. The warmup for our discussion was a screening of a fascinating albeit disturbing animation of Lem’s story by Brothers Quay.

The crowning lecture of the semester was the fourth Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture, delivered this year by David Crowley, a British art historian from the Royal College of Art in London. Known to many for his work on urban space in communist and post-communist Poland and Central Eastern Europe in general, Professor Crowley talked about his new research on the culture of war testimony in 1950s Poland. Addressing a wide range of sources including feature films, memoirs, photographs taken by Wehrmacht soldiers, Różewicz’s poetry, and Nałkowska’s Medallions, as well as—his main focus—Andrzej Wróblewski’s arresting paintings, Crowley proved that an interdisciplinary perspective in which the analyses of visual and verbal communication reinforce each other can be a powerful tool for understanding the political, ethical, and aesthetic entanglements of any culture.

Julie Buckler’s presentation on the “multiple lives” of contemporary Łódź, the city’s invention and reinvention of its self-image in the post-1989 period, was the last lecture of the semester. With her presentation, Professor Buckler, of Harvard University, a scholar recognized in the field of performing arts and urban studies of Russia, has shown that scholarship means more than deepening expertise in the field of one’s choice. In her project on Łódź, Buckler undertook the role of the novice studying Polish culture from scratch. In addition to the great many things we could learn from her presentation about Łódź, the lasting pedagogical effect that I hope our students will take to heart is that being a scholar also means having the courage to open oneself up to the challenges of starting anew.

Our—hopefully annual—fundraiser for the Center, under the fitting name (as its guests’ attires have proven) of the Polish Polyester Party, was a great success. We thank all the John Travolta wannabes for their neon non-iron outfits, Afro wigs, and shameless hustle dancing. Most of all, we thank you for your financial support of the Center, which simply needs its community’s involvement to continue with its activities.

The last event of the semester showcased the talents of a Ph.D. candidate from the Slavic Department, Natalie Misteravich-Caroll, in the pedagogy of folk dancing. Her fantastic workshop proved that the polonaise is, indeed, easy, but that the kujawiak too difficult for the amateurs we are. Hence, we happily rested on the laurels of the krakowiak.

Next year we will celebrate the Polish Studies Center’s 40th anniversary. Stay tuned for coming attractions, and thank you for staying with us! ■

Joanna Niżyńska, PSC Director
David Crowley Presented the Annual Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture: *The Culture of Testimony in Poland after World War II*.

On March 31st, 2016 Professor David Crowley of Royal College of Art, London, UK gave the fourth annual Timothy Wiles Memorial Lecture. In the lecture, Professor Crowley examined a group of nine paintings produced by Andrzej Wróblewski in 1949. Known as the ‘Execution’ series, they were an expression of the artist’s attempt to produce a form of painting which could meet the challenge of representing the trauma of war. Crowley examined these canvases in the company of other eyewitness testimonies of war violence in Poland including those gathered by the Main Commission for Research into German Crimes in Poland; public trials of Nazi criminals and collaborators in Polish courts; and the films of Andrzej Wajda. Memory was put under considerable ideological pressure in these years, as history was made to yield to a Stalinist narration of events.

With Wróblewski keen to serve the new political order which took command in Poland in the 1940s, the question of why some of these canvases were so warmly embraced by his compatriots after his death at 29 in 1957 was also examined. They were exhibited and discussed regularly, and also provided inspiration for film makers including Andrzej Wajda. Wróblewski’s unflinching examination of the fate of the individual caught in senseless circumstances seems to have had considerable resonance for post-war generations. Yet, one of these canvases - depicting the 'pacification' of the Ghetto Uprising in Warsaw in 1943 - was largely unseen and unknown until 1989. Its obscurity begs a question about what could be remembered publicly in the People’s Republic.
Interview with David Crowley

Joanna Niżyńska: How did you get into doing what you do?

David Crowley: I had an opportunity to go to Poland in the 1980s which seemed like a really extraordinary and rare thing to do, to cross the so-called Iron Curtain. And I got funding, so I was able to be a researcher there for a number of months and that enabled me to investigate aspects of Polish architecture and art history, which I think was pretty much unknown, certainly from my perspective, in London.

And of course the material that I saw was extraordinary. The quality of buildings, the practice of artists was extremely high, really vivid, and very exciting because it was produced in extraordinary circumstances. It was not created in a benign environment and yet artists and designers created remarkably creative things. So the opportunity to bring that back to London, to write a number of books, because people were very keen since it was the end of communism, set me on a career path. Poland has been part of my intellectual word for 25 or 30 years.

Joanna: Speaking of your book Warsaw, what was it about the experience of space in Warsaw that was striking enough that you decided to write a book about it?

David: Warsaw is an amazing city for reasons that are quite well known, reasons to do with its destruction and the question of its reconstruction. That was the point that drew my attention at first. And there were questions about the motivation for its reconstruction. A society which was supposed to be predicated on seeing the future, that claimed to be oriented towards a communist utopia, chose to rebuild itself using the architectural language of the past. The city was returned to something like its 18th century appearance and that seemed to be so paradoxical - to be part of the communist future yet also restoring the historic past.

I became fascinated with that question and it unfolded into equally interesting questions to do with the way in which after communist rule there was a new way of reimagining communist-era buildings. The question of what to do with them became pressing in the 1990s. It was a way to think about that fabric of the city that had all these folds of history running through it.

Joanna: There is a book by Filip Springer called Unwanted Children (Źle urodzone. Reportaże o architekturze PRL-u) about buildings built during the Polish People’s Republic that after 1989 became abandoned or orphaned. Why do you think the question of how ugly architecture is utilized is interesting?

David: The question of what constitutes ugly architecture depends on your viewing perspective. So in the 1990s, architects as a profession were really under attack because they seemed to be seen as loyal supporters of the regime and because their work materially manifested the poor quality of the political system. Badly built buildings came from a bad political system.

But what is interesting is that there is now a young generation that probably has no personal connection to the PRL and they do not see the buildings in quite the same ideological terms. They are interested in those buildings as buildings. So the greatest supporters of PRL architecture are coming from a young generation. They see merit, and ascetic qualities in them. And they are often critical of commercially-minded developers who often want to demolish the old to profit from building the new. And often new buildings by property developers are as banal or lifeless as the architecture we find anywhere in the world.

Joanna: Why was Warsaw rebuilt on the model of the 18th century city?

David: That is also an interesting question. The first attempts of reconstruction come from below. The motivation to reconstruct the old city was strongly expressed from people of diverse political opinions. Many people who were not very orthodox communists joined the Office for the Reconstruction of the Capital. There was this popular swell of emotion for the city coming from many quarters. And one of the things Communist authorities were quite good at least at the beginning was seeing how they could tap into popular opinion. They used emotion and popular sentiment as a way of drawing resources and support from the population. So for me the reconstruction of Warsaw starts in a popular phase and then is turned into an ideological platform.
Joanna: What was your trajectory after the Warsaw book? How did you shift intellectually from one project to another?

David: I had been working with an historian of Russian history who specializes in the Soviet period, named Susan Reid. And we edited three books together. And they each address everyday life, the quotidian world, material everyday things in ordinary life. There are a number of claims I would make about those three books. One is we could put scholars who work on Central Europe and scholars who work on the Soviet Union together in edited volumes, and that’s been a very positive thing. Historically Soviet scholars worked on Soviet matters and Polish scholars worked on Polish matters.

But when you put that company together you start to realize interesting things. Like what did the West mean to someone in Moscow? Of course we think about the West being New York or Paris. But actually philosophically and practically, Warsaw was the West for Moscow. In the 1960s Warsaw meant modernist furniture, jazz, new wave cinema, and lots of other expression of the modern. That was a sort of minor revelation to us. Another claim is that our interests were well timed. At the end of the cold war and through the 1990s, some of the reasons and much of the logic for studying Eastern Europe seemed to disappear.

But a focus on material culture presented new ways of reimagining what that Soviet experience might have been. And it led us away from the dramatic zones of conflict between, say, state and people, dissidents and gulags. And it led us to think about grey areas of compromise. Like how did someone build a home in Eastern Europe before 1989? How did they get the resources, the land, or the time? This one example would suggest that the Eastern Bloc states clearly were not as inflexible as they might have seem to have been, where, for ideological reasons, private property should not have existed but it did. So thinking hard about the everyday and its materiality opens a different set of questions, at least for us.

Joanna: Scholarship is often driven by a desire to confirm what is already known as a mainstream narrative and to deal with the topics that have already proven successful. Leisure and pleasure of domesticity in everyday life in Eastern Europe is not what comes to people’s mind when they think about the region.

David: Yes. But there is model of thinking, which I think is good for historians and critics to adopt called “counter-intuitive thinking.” So when you are told there is no luxury in Europe, let’s look for it. Let’s flip that question around and ask, where might luxury be in a place that appears to have none or even refuse it? The work we did on our third book was on that question of luxury and leisure. And we realized luxury is a moving category, and in some circumstances mundane things can become luxuries. This is a kind of truism but worth studying nonetheless. And one of the conclusions I’ve come to over a long time of looking at the Eastern Bloc is that life in the East and West was often more similar than it was different, at least at the level of every day experience.

Joanna: What is your latest project?

David: For the last 10 years or so, most of my work has been curatorial. I have become very interested in exhibitions as a way of sharing knowledge. A major exhibition I did was called “Cold War Modern.” It was a question that asked: how was modernism in art and design influenced by the East West divide? It was organized in London in a major museum [Victoria and Albert Museum], and we were able to place on display for the first time works of modernist art and design by Eastern Bloc artists and architects. And that was an amazing experience because we could show works of art to an audience who had never seen this material before and that potentially had a preconception that Eastern Europe after 1945 was a bankrupt world, lacking in original art or culture. Many of the exhibits were prototypes rather than realized schemes or mass produced products. This in itself is an interesting fact, Eastern European states under communist rule had the means to dream of a better world but not the means to realize it. That exhibition was seen by about a quarter of a million people.

I’m very interested in what you can do with exhibitions for a simple fact: with an academic paper, if I’m lucky, maybe 50 or a 100 people will read it. But an exhibition may put 10 times or 100 times as many people through that space. It is interesting to think about what you can do with objects, how you can create complex narratives. So my current exhibition project for the autumn is to think about what happened to visual art and music when New Wave and punk washed across Eastern Europe in the 1980s. The exhibition will open this autumn in Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź.
“Fighting Poland”: Exhibit by the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN)

Lecture and Reception with IPN President Kamiński

Article by Bartosz Szewczyk & Emily Koscielniak

This past January, the Polish Studies Center was host to the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN) and their exhibit “Fighting Poland.” IPN researches Polish history surrounding World War II and the Communist Era to educate the public and prosecute war crimes. This exhibit showcased the history of the Polish Underground State and the contributions it made to the resistance against the Nazi and Communist Regimes.

The opening night of the exhibit featured a lecture by Dr. Łukasz Kamiński, the President of the Institute of National Remembrance. His lecture detailed the formation, actions, and eventual disbanding of the Polish Underground State. Dr. Kamiński focused on the large role that propaganda played during the movement. He also stressed the importance of keeping records of the smaller resistance movements that occurred throughout Europe, as they were often silenced by oppressive governments.

The exhibit presented the structure of the Polish Underground State and its many divisions, including the famous Home Army that led the Warsaw Uprising. It also summarized the activities of the Council for Aid to Jews, which provided false documents for Polish Jews to allow them to leave the Warsaw Ghetto and escape the country. Additionally, the exhibit contained information ranging from the heroes of the movement, to the crimes committed against Poles, and Poland’s eventual independence.

The opening of the exhibit where they had the opportunity to discuss the lecture and the exhibit with President Kamiński. In attendance were students and faculty including Joanna Niżyńska, director of the Polish Studies Center, and Lee Feinstein, Dean of the School of Global and International Studies. The exhibit was on display in the atrium of the Global and International Studies Building for two weeks where it was seen by hundreds of students and visiting guests.

Following the lecture, guests were invited to a reception celebrating the opening of the exhibit where they had the opportunity to discuss the lecture and the exhibit with President Kamiński. In attendance were students and faculty including Joanna Niżyńska, director of the Polish Studies Center, and Lee Feinstein, Dean of the School of Global and International Studies. The exhibit was on display in the atrium of the Global and International Studies Building for two weeks where it was seen by hundreds of students and visiting guests.

The day following the Exhibit Opening, PSC held a lunch discussion entitled Popularizing Polish History: From Boardgames to Archives. During this discussion, IPN President Kamiński explained the history of IPN’s development of famous Polish boardgames, as well as IPN’s approach to disseminating knowledge and appreciation for Polish history.

Bartosz Szewczyk and Emily Koscielniak are IU Undergraduate Students & Co-Presidents Elect of the Polish Cultural Association.
The Polish Polyester Party, a fundraiser for the PSC, included dancing to Polish and American music, disco-dance instruction, great food, and a disco-era costume contest. The event took place at the Wonderlab, which provided fascinating science exhibits for kids (and the kids in all of us).
Lotus Festival Music: Modern Sounds of the Borderlands

Karolina Cicha and Bart Pałyga, musicians representing Poland at the Lotus Festival came to PSC to teach us folk songs from the Borderlands of Poland with a modern twist.

See Karolina Cicha & Bart Pałyga’s PSC performance at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQXWOrXPHfk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQXWOrXPHfk)

The event took place in the Atrium of the Global and International Studies Building on September 26, 2015.
Holiday Party

There was live music at PSC’s annual Holiday Party while we sang traditional Polish carols, competed for the best savory and sweet dish in our annual cooking contest and finished the night off with a silent auction.

December 10, 2015

The party took place in the President’s Room in the Indiana Memorial Union.
PSC GUEST LECTURE SERIES 2015-2016

Andrea Bohlman, Assistant Professor of Musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented “Hearing Beyond the Censor: Music and Oppositional Agency in Polish Independent Culture,” on October 8th, 2015.

Interview with Jack Bloom:

PSC: For those individuals who were unable to attend your lecture, what were some of the key takeaway points?

Jack: The most important theoretical question that was considered in my presentation has to do with how we analyze social movements. In that concern, one of the most important issues is considered to be the Political Opportunity Structure in which the social movement arises and must function, and one of the most important issues there is what attitude does the state take toward the social movement? Does it make concessions, seek to coopt the movement or seek to crush it? What I found in this study was that the state itself is not always unified. I found major conflicting tendencies within the ruling Polish United Workers Party: There were those who genuinely supported Solidarity, those who felt that they must make concessions that they would later wish to withdraw and those who simply wanted to crush Solidarity and to defeat its supporters within the Party. The first group prevented the efforts to fight the union for a long time, until they were finally defeated at the Extraordinary Party Congress in 1981.

After that, serious preparations began for martial law; once that was proclaimed, many of Solidarity supporters within the Party were expelled and detained. (I also found that Solidarity itself was deeply split over how to respond to the provocations carried out by the elements of the Party who would not accept the changes the union had won, though that is not discussed much in the presentation nor in the article on which the presentation was based. It is part of my book, which is called Seeing Through the Eyes of the Polish Revolution: Solidarity and the Struggle Against Communism in Poland.) The lesson from this analysis is that we should pay attention to the Political Opportunity Structure that the state faces when confronted with a powerful social movement, just as we do to the movement itself.
Another important point, related to the one above, is just how divided the ruling Party was. Certainly during the period of legal Solidarity, there was very little realization of these intra-Party splits, except within the Solidarity leadership itself, who did understand that. It is why, as I pointed out, that they sought to convince Solidarity supporters who were Party members not to leave the Party. The leaders felt that the such dual members, whose primary allegiance was to Solidarity, enabled them to know what was going on inside the Party and to influence the direction the Party took.

In addition, what stands out was that once the Party leadership determined that it controlled the Party, it seriously cracked down on its intra-Party opponents. In particular, I included accounts from two key leaders concerning how they were under attack. They were Maciek Szumowski, the editor of the Krakow Party paper, Gazeta Krakowska and Hieronym Kubiak, the reformers’ representative on the POLITBURO. I will not repeat their stories; it would take too long, but they are available in the article that was published in Social Science History, which I am making available to the Polish Studies Center for all who wish to read it.

PSC: How did you become involved in this research project?

Jack: I became involved in this research accidentally. In 1985, after finishing my previous book, Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement, I applied for the exchange program that then existed (and still does) with Warsaw University. Once having been accepted, I decided to learn what I could about Solidarity. To do so, I asked many whom I knew if they had any connections. One did: a woman who knew a couple of independent journalists gave me letters to each of them, and each of them introduced me to a large number of people in Warszawa, Kraków and Gdańsk. By the time I left Poland after 5 weeks, I realized that I had good enough connections that I could speak with anyone in the opposition whom I wished. It was an opportunity I could not turn away from. So, I came down to Bloomington to study Polish, and the next year, the PSC once again sent me. That was how I became involved in the project. This story is told in more detail in the final chapter of the book.

PSC: Were you surprised by anything in your research?

Jack: I had not been a scholar of Poland or Eastern Europe, so in that sense much of it was surprising. On the other hand, I was aware of the stifling political, social and economic system that had prevailed there. But what I was concerned about was understanding how an opposition had come into being there and ultimately prevailed—though it did not look that way when I began my research (during my first visit, in the summer of 1986; while I was there, Zbigniew Bujak, one of the last of the leaders who had managed to avoid capture, was gotten—it was a discouraging time for Solidarity activists). I was also fortunate to get a lengthy interview with a former colonel in the secret police, and later several hours with Mieczysław Rakowski; these interviews gave me some insight into what was happening on the other side. It was interesting to me just how cooperative almost everyone was. It was a good time when I undertook this research: the opposition was firmly out of power and had little to do, so they were available to give me many hours—sometimes days—to ask the many questions I had. The more I learned, the more questions came to mind, so my later interviews were often the most productive. Later, after the opposition came to power, it was more difficult to talk with some people. Overall, there was a real concern to get the word out, and to tell the story accurately. ■
Basia Andraka-Christou (Ph.D. Candidate in Law and Social Science) and Jody Madeira (IU Professor of Law) presented “In vitro Fertilization: Politics and Law in Poland” on February 11, 2016.

PSC: How did you and Jody Madeira become interested in the topic of in vitro fertilization in Poland?
Basia: Jody Madeira and I have collaborated on research in informed consent practices in fertility treatment since 2010. One of our areas of interest is how informed consent practices vary across nations. We started to explore informed consent practices in fertility treatments in Poland, when we were struck by the sheer amount of political discourse about fertility treatment in Poland, in sharp contrast to the minimal discourse about IVF in the U.S. We visited Poland together in July 2015 and began interviewing Polish physicians and patients involved in IVF. As a result, we embarked on a tangential project of examining the law and politics of IVF in Poland, in addition to informed consent in Poland.

PSC: What did you find most surprising in your research?
Basia: We were constantly surprised! First, Poland has significantly more IVF regulation than does the U.S., including much more public funding for IVF (at least until this summer). At the same time, IVF in Poland is extremely controversial, at least in the media and among conservative Catholics. On the other hand, in the U.S., IVF is far less controversial and tends to be ignored in political debates. Of course, when a society chooses to fund a medical treatment with tax dollars for the first time (as happened with IVF fairly recently in Poland), media and the general public give the topic more attention. Perhaps if IVF were publically funded in the U.S. (currently it is only funded in a handful of states), then more political discourse would revolve around IVF here as well. The other surprise was that, according to a recent study by the Polish government, over three quarters of the Polish public supports IVF, but the media and political discourse make it appear highly controversial. One reason for general public support of IVF in Poland is the cultural importance of families having children. In other words, having children is more important than how the children come to be. Unfortunately, there is evidence that some women in Poland undergoing IVF and their children are stigmatized in conservative social groups.

PSC: What are your next research steps?
Basia: We are continuing to interview Polish physicians and patients regarding their experiences with IVF. We are also continuing to examine informed consent practices in Poland. Since we started our research, the new Polish government has announced plans to halt public funding of IVF. Therefore, we will also investigate the effects of the changing regulations on the lived experiences of patients and physicians.
Julie Buckler, Samuel Hazzard Cross Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures and of Comparative Literature at Harvard University, presented *The Many Lives of Łódź: How a Post-Industrial Polish City is Re-Inventing Itself* on April 11, 2016.
**Polish Folk Music Series**

**Michael Young**, who recently received his Ph.D. from the IU Department of Folklore & Ethnomusicology, taught an outdoors **Polish Folk Singing Workshop**, on November 3rd, 2015.

**Natalie Misteravich-Caroll**, Ph.D. Candidate in the IU Slavic Department, led a **Polish Folk Dancing Workshop** on April 21st, 2016. We learned two Polish national dances: Polonez and Krakowiak.
PSC Welcomes New Lecturer in Polish, Łukasz Siciński

Interview with Łukasz Siciński

PSC: You study “rubbish” as a philosophical category. For those of us without a background in philosophy, could you explain in a few sentences how rubbish can be philosophical?

Łukasz: Sure. Generally speaking, the term “rubbish” refers to something we discard or reject because it is worthless or undesirable, and in this general sense we often use this term when we talk about physical objects. But rubbish is also a cultural category. For example, the label “rubbish” is sometimes used in regard to works of art, belief systems, or people. What is important is that rubbish is inseparable from the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, so when you use the term “rubbish” to describe something, you are in fact distinguishing between things which belong and those which do not. This makes rubbish a very interesting category which can be approached from many perspectives: cognitive, moral, social, or even metaphysical.

PSC: You have a strong interest in Polish and Czech cinema. Is it true that Polish films tend to be more artistic and American films tend to be more action-oriented? Or is that a myth?

Łukasz: I’m not sure. When we think of American films we usually think of Hollywood, but not all American films are Hollywood productions. Polish cinema is known abroad mostly because of its artistic achievements, but of course it doesn’t necessarily mean that Polish films tend to be less action-oriented than American films. Action cinema is quite popular in Poland, and many talented film directors have successfully tried their hands at this genre. Some, like the award-winning director Władysław Pasikowski, specialize in the action genre and have made it an important part of contemporary Polish cinema.

PSC: What is your favorite Polish movie? Czech movie? American movie?

Łukasz: I like Jerzy Kawalerowicz’s Mother Joan of the Angels and the films of Jan Jakub Kolski, especially his Johnny the Aquarius. My favorite Czech film is Petr Zelenka’s The Karamazovs. Zelenka’s film presents a group of Czech theatre actors rehearsing a stage production of Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov. The performance takes place at a local steelworks in Kraków. It is a very interesting film about the relationship between art and life. My favorite American movie? I really like The Big Lebowski and Jim Jarmusch’s Down by Law.

PSC: I understand that you have a Master’s degree in Slavic Languages and a Master’s Degree in Philosophy and that you are working on your Ph.D. What were your Masters’ theses about? What is your dissertation about? Is your dissertation related to your Masters’ theses?

Łukasz: I studied philosophy at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland. I specialized in philosophy of culture and in political theory, and my thesis was on Niccolò Machiavelli and his idea of virtue. After I received an M.A. in philosophy, I moved to Canada where I got my M.A. in Slavic languages and literatures from the University of Toronto. My interests revolved around the intersection of literature and philosophy, and my M.A. research focused on Bruno Schulz and his understanding of the relation between language and reality. My dissertation is a continuation of these interests, but it deals with postwar Polish literature and centers on the notion of rubbish. I write about Miron Białoszewski and Tadeusz Różewicz and ways they use the category of rubbish to explore the limitations of human cognition.
**PSC:** You have been instrumental in helping organize student-centered cultural activities at PSC this year. Why do you think it is important that students studying Polish language attend cultural events like movie screenings and music nights?

**Łukasz:** Yes, it is very important that language students attend these events. It is impossible to separate language from culture. As someone said, the person who learns language without learning culture risks becoming a fluent fool. But, to be sure, these cultural activities are designed to meet the interests of a wide range of students, and those who want to attend them don’t need to know Polish. The goal of these activities and events is to bring together people who are interested in Polish culture and want to explore it in an informal setting. It’s about community building as much as it is about cultural exposure.

**PSC:** The Polish language is considered one of the hardest foreign languages for native-English speakers to learn. Do you have any advice or words of encouragement for students who are getting frustrated with the complexities of Polish grammar?

**Łukasz:** Learning a new language is never easy regardless of what language you choose. But there are ways to make the process less stressful. The best way to avoid frustration is to make sure you study regularly. Language learning is a cumulative process, so to learn a language well, you need to study and practice it on a daily basis. Just be persistent and systematic – and you’ll be okay. And never hesitate to contact your instructor if you find yourself struggling with the material or feel overwhelmed. Remember that your instructor wants you to succeed as much as you do.

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**New Initiatives**

Łukasz Siciński, new lecturer of Polish in the Slavic Languages Department, organized multiple student events this year, including biweekly translation sessions (Przekładania), two feature-length Polish movie nights, a Polish short film night, a Polish board game night, and a Polish music night.

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![Polish Film Night, Fall 2015](image1)

![Polish Board Game Night, Spring 2016](image2)
Under the leadership of 2015-2016 co-presidents, Amanda Fisher and Criss Beyers, the Polish Cultural Association (PCA) continued its tradition of bringing Polish cultural events to undergraduate students. This year, PCA organized two Poetry and Pierogi Nights. The first night in the Fall semester explored science-fiction literature. The second night in the Spring semester examined Szymborska’s poetry.

PCA is an IU student organization that aims to promote Polish culture at Indiana University. This group acts as a supplement to language instructions and academic and cultural programming provided by the Polish Studies Center. PCA provides tutoring services for students studying Polish language and culture, programming in line with both modern and traditional Polish holidays and observances, shows modern and classic Polish films, reads and discusses modern Polish authors, and reaches out to Polish members of the IU-Bloomington faculty and the greater community. PCA hopes to provide a bridge of understanding from Indiana University to Poland on behalf of IU students.

New PCA Leadership

The Polish Cultural Association is excited to welcome new Co-Presidents for 2016-2017:

**Bartosz Szewczyk, Co-President & Treasurer**
Bartosz hails from Chicago, Illinois. He is a Sophomore majoring in biology and international studies. Bartosz’s family emigrated from Poland. As a first-generation American, he wants to better understand Polish culture and Language. In the Spring semester, he took *Introduction to Polish Culture* with Joanna Niżyńska and advanced intermediate Polish with Łukasz Siciński. Bartosz plans to attend medical school and pursue a career in medicine.

**Emily Koscielniak, Co-President**
Emily is originally from Wisconsin Dells, WI. Her family is from Rabka, Poland. Her family integrated Polish culture into her everyday life in Wisconsin. Like Bartosz, in the Spring semester she took a class on Polish culture with Joanna Niżyńska and language with Łukasz Siciński. After graduation, Emily plans to pursue a career in hospitality and tourism, most likely by expanding her family’s hotel business.

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The Bloomington Polish School was founded in 2012 as an initiative of parents with the intention of teaching Polish to children. The school started with just one teacher and four students. Today, after four years, we have three fantastic teachers and eighteen students, including two adults.

Our school is a place of gathering for anyone willing to learn Polish. We offer classes for children and adults, beginners and more advanced students. We make sure that our classroom activities are fun!

As a supplement to the language, we also teach Polish art and music, focusing on our culture and traditions. We are delighted to see friendships formed among children, adolescents, and adults.

Classes take place every Saturday and they are free. The spring semester ends in mid-May and the fall starts in September.

I would like to end this note with heartfelt thanks to the amazing parents of our students. Our school depends on their support and I am sincerely grateful for all they do.

I hope you will join us at the Bloomington Polish School.

Anna Murawska-Mroz
Director, Bloomington Polish School
Jack Bloom is currently working on revising his book *Class, Race and the Civil Rights Movement* for a second edition. The book, published in 1987 and continuously in print since then, examines two major issues: what changed in America, in the South and in international politics to make it possible for blacks to make gains they had been unable to gain before; and how did they do it, and what changes internally and organizationally did they have to go through to do it. Also, how were the limits to what the civil rights movement accomplished determined? He has also begun work on what will essentially be a sequel to that book, tentatively titled *Class, Race and the Rise of the New Right*. That book notes that conservatism, which was the dominant ideology in the country for several decades, was dealt a huge blow first by the New Deal and the rise of the new unions with it, and then by the civil rights movement. The reaction to the huge changes these movements brought about began to come together first in response to the civil rights movement and later joined with efforts to overturn or limit the New Deal programs and those of the Great Society, and the regulatory mechanisms put in place especially from the seventies on.

Daniel Cole, PSC Executive Committee member, continues to split his teaching time between IU’s Maurer Law School and SPEA, where he holds full joint appointments. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the Political Science Department, and an Affiliated Faculty member of the Ostrom Workshop.

Much of Cole’s current writing is on developing common analytical frameworks to enable interdisciplinary research by social scientists and legal scholars. He is also working (with IU Political Scientist Michael McGinnis) on the final two volumes of a four-volume collection of works by and about IU’s Nobel Prize-winning political-economist, Elinor Ostrom, who passed away in 2012. And he is writing a couple of book chapters on environmental instrument choice, which has been a consistent area of research interest for nearly two decades. Professor Cole has recovered the copyright from Macmillan for his 1998 book, *Instituting Environmental Protection: From Red to Green in Poland*. He has just republished it in the digital commons in the IU Maurer Law School’s digital repository at http://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facbooks/153/. The book recount the history of environmental protection efforts in Poland before, during, and in the years immediately following communism.

This semester, Professor Cole is on sabbatical. His main research project (in collaboration with other scholars from the Ostrom Workshop) is to continue Elinor Ostrom’s efforts to develop common analytical frameworks for social scientists to facilitate interdisciplinary research. In February, he spent two weeks visiting the Australian National University in Canberra as part of its official exchange program with IU. While there, he led a three-hour workshop for faculty and graduate students on Ostrom Workshop approaches to institutional analysis, and presented a public lecture on “Common-pool Resource Problems as Assurance Games with Complex Institutional Structures.” In March, he presented a paper on “Persistent Problems in Social Scientific Treatments of Property & Law” at a Symposium on Property Rights sponsored by the World Interdisciplinary Network for Institutional Research in Bristol, UK. In May, he will present a talk on introducing a reasonable Precautionary Principle into conventional regulatory Cost-Benefit Analysis at a conference on Sustainability in Tempe, Arizona, and another talk on systems of property rights at the annual meeting of the Society for Environmental Law & Economics (of which he is a co-founder) in Austen, Texas.
Halina Goldberg gave a number of invited and competitive papers in 2015 in the US and abroad, among them “Brzmienie mapy, muzyka obrazów: krajobraz dźwiękowy Warszawy Chopina” [The Sound of the Map, the Music of the Pictures: The Soundscape of Chopin’s Warsaw] at a conference Refleksja humanistyczna w planowaniu przestrzennym [Humanistic Considerations in Spatial Planning], organized by The Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Chopin Institute conference; and “Nationalizing the kujawiak and Constructions of Nostalgia in Chopin’s Mazurkas,” at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin, Ireland. She also was interviewed by the International Chopin Competition Studio, The Fryderyk Chopin Institute. With Jonathan Bellman she co-edited a special issue of four essays, including one of her own, in the Journal of Musicological Research on “Musical Narrative: The Hidden Soundtrack of the Nineteenth Century.”

In terms of her other projects, Phase I of the Digital Scholarly Companion: “Jewish Life in Interwar Łódź,” supported by New Frontiers in the Arts & Humanities and Collaborative Research and Creative Activity grants from OVPR and The Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program Supplementary Faculty Funding, went online in Spring 2015; phase II is underway. This project, for which Professor Goldberg serves as the Principal Investigator, has won Honorary Patronage from the mayor of Łódź. Professor Goldberg’s think-piece about the permanent museum exhibit “In Mrs. Goldberg’s Kitchen” (the undertaking that inspired the digital project) appeared in the multi-disciplinary volume Going to the People: Jews and the Ethnographic Impulse, edited by Jeffrey Veidlinger (Indiana University Press, 2016).

### Bill Johnston

Bill Johnston’s translation of Tomasz Różycki’s mock epic poem Twelve Stations (Dwanaście stacji) was published by Zephyr Press in March 2015. In January 2016 Twelve Stations was longlisted for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation and received the 2016 Found in Translation award.

In addition to directing the Polish Studies Center at IU during the 2015/2016 academic year, Joanna Niżyńska presented at two conferences, including the international conference “After Memory: Conflicting Claims to World War II in Contemporary Eastern European Literatures,” organized by the Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZFL), Berlin, Germany. Among her completed publications this year, she considers most important a volume tentatively entitled A History of Polish Literature and Culture: New Perspectives on the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries (University of Toronto Press, forthcoming fall 2016), which she co-edited with Tamara Trojanowska (University of Toronto, Canada) and Przemysław Czapliński (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland). In addition to editing the volume and writing an extensive introduction, she authored for the volume a chapter focusing on the role of affect and symbolic compensation in the formation of collective memory.

In 2016, Padraic Kenney assumed his duties as President of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. He published several essays in the Polish weekly Kultura Liberalna (available at kulturaliberalna.pl). In May 2015, his book Rebuilding Poland: Workers and Communists, 1945-1950 (originally published in 1997) finally came out in Polish translation: Budowanie Polski Ludowej. Robotnicy a komuniści 1945-1950 (WAB); this provided an occasion for a book tour that included interviews in print, online, on radio and TV.
Bill Johnston, Professor of Comparative Literature at Indiana University, Bloomington has won the 2016 Found in Translation Award for his translation of *Twelve Stations* by Tomasz Różycki, published in 2015 by Zephyr Press. This is the second time Bill Johnston has been named winner of the award. In 2008 his translation of *New Poems* (Archipelago Books, 2007) by Tadeusz Różewicz was recognized by the jury of the first edition of this prestigious award.

The English translation of *Twelve Stations* was actually launched at the Polish Studies Center on April 13, 2015 with a bilingual reading performed by Tomasz Różycki and Bill Johnston followed by a series of events to celebrate the accomplished author and his translator (see the photos). The PSC is proud to have Bill Johnston on its Executive Committee and it gives us immense pleasure to congratulate him on yet another accomplishment.

As Polish Cultural Institute in New York states it, Bill Johnston is one of the leading translators of Polish literature in the English-speaking world. He has translated dozens of Polish works from the Renaissance to the present day, including contemporary writers such as Magdalena Tulli, Andrzej Stasiuk, Witold Gombrowicz and others. He has won many prizes: most recently, the Transatlantyk Prize for translation. His translation of Wieslaw Myśliwski's novel *Stone Upon Stone* won the 2012 Best Translated Book award for fiction, the PEN Translation Prize and the AATSEEL Translation Award. In 2013 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to complete a new translation of Adam Mickiewicz's *Pan Tadeusz*, the Polish national epic poem. [http://www.polishculture-nyc.org/index.cfm?eventId=2541].

**PSC hosted a bilingual reading performed by Tomasz Różycki and Bill Johnston on April 13, 2015**
Barbara (“Basia”) Andraka-Christou, J.D. is defending her Ph.D. dissertation in Law & Social Science in July 2016. Her dissertation examines the social and legal reasons for underuse of medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction. During the 2015-2016 academic year, five of her articles were published or accepted for publication in the following journals: the Stanford Journal of Criminal Law & Policy, Virginia Journal of Social Policy and the Law Health Matrix: Journal of Law & Medicine, the Journal of Public Policy & Entrepreneurship, and the Journal of Law & the Biosciences (the latter article was co-written with Jody Madeira). Additionally, she had an essay published in the edited volume Animal Models for Medications Screening to Treat Addiction (from Elsevier Press). Finally, in the last academic year she gave seven invited talks and presented her research at four conferences. In Fall 2016, Basia begins a post-doctoral position at the IUPUI School of Public Health.

Amanda Fisher is currently taking her PhD qualifying exams in the Slavic Department, which will be finished in mid-May. She will then focus on her dissertation, which will explore fantasies of escape in the 1920s and 1930s Russian and Polish Literatures. Most recently, in Fall 2015, she participated in the annual ASEEES convention, where she presented her paper “Isolation and Slaughter: Destructive Nostalgia in Svetlana Vasilenko’s ‘Piggy’” as part of a panel on nostalgia in East European literature. In the Fall, she published an article entitled "Infertility, Abuse, and Menopause: Surrealist Motherhood in Jan Švankmejer’s Little Otik" in the Prague-based journal Oriens Aliter.

Natalie Misteravich-Carroll is defending her dissertation and graduating this Spring from the Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures. Her dissertation, “Nowa Huta: a Cultural Study of Identity,” is a cultural-literary study of the city of Nowa Huta, Poland, built in 1949 as Poland’s first “Socialist City.” The dissertation examines the causative power of texts as they function to create, manipulate, or destroy the identity of a city and its people. She analyzes a wide range of texts (novels, poems, films, songs, and visual art) as both a product and a producer of history and identity. Starting with texts from the Stalinist space and working chronologically up to the present day, her dissertation demonstrates that narratives about Nowa Huta and its inhabitants have evolved diachronically, parallel to historical events in Poland, yet each successive attempt to produce a new identity is inherently informed by the Stalinist narrative.

Michał B. Paradowski is an assistant professor at the Institute of Applied Linguistics, Warsaw University, and currently a visiting scholar at the IU Department of Second Language Studies. His research interests include issues related to second and third language acquisition, cross-linguistic influence, bi- and multilingualism, psycholinguistics, corpus linguistics, and complexity science. He has been an invited speaker at scientific events and universities in Europe, America, Africa, and Asia. His recent edited volumes are Teaching Languages off the Beaten Track (2014) and Productive Foreign Language Skills for an Intercultural World (2015). In his free time Michał enjoys cross-country and mountain hiking (during his stay in B-town he has been actively exploring the surrounding state parks), culinary experiments (and has used the kitchen at his Campus View apartment to introduce a few dozen guests to Polish cuisine), and the performing arts (so has been thrilled at the rich event program at the MAC).
Scholarship Recipients Update

Criss Beyers
For the past three years, Criss has served as the co-President of the Polish Cultural Association (PCA) at Indiana University, a student organization dedicated to providing members of the University’s Polish community with cultural and educational programming. A trip to CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center, and a celebration of the life and works of Stanisław Barańczak that marked the beginning of PCA’s series “Poetry and Pierogi” series, are among some of the organization’s most notable events. During his time at Indiana University, Criss has had the opportunity to participate in various courses focused on Polish history, literature, culture and language taught by wonderful professors, including Padraic Kenney and Joanna Niżyńska. As the Samuel and Alicja Fiszman Scholar, he was able to spend the spring of 2015 studying at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities of the Jagiellonian University. In addition to his studies, Criss interned in the Education Department at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, Poland, giving guided tours of the core exhibition. In May of 2016, Criss will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Slavic Languages and Literatures, with minors in Polish Studies and History. This fall, he will begin pursuing a Master of Arts in History at Concordia University in Montreal, which will allow him to explore the impact of institutionalized Jewish Holocaust tourism to Poland on Polish-Jewish relations.

Anna Polovic
Thanks to the Fiszman award, Anna was able to study abroad at the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at Jagiellonian University in Kraków this past fall. She took five classes about different aspects of Polish culture, as well as a language course. She was also working on literature about the Holocaust as well as on the Polish filmmaker Wojciech Wiszniewski. As a folklore and ethnomusicology major, Anna gained a better understanding of pop culture and explored a variety of musical forms. The award also enabled her to travel throughout Poland. Especially important for her was a trip to the Tatra Mountain, the region where Anna’s great-grandparents were born.

Sara Taylor
Thanks to the IU Office of the Vice President of International Affairs (OVPIA) graduate student exchange award, Sara Taylor (Department of Theatre, Drama, and Contemporary Dance) spent the academic year in Poland studying Polish theatre history and politics and doing preliminary research for her dissertation on student theatre movements in the post-war Soviet Empire. As a guest of the faculty of History and the Institute of Polish Culture at the University of Warsaw, she spent the year engaged in intensive study in both classrooms and archives all over Poland.
The PSC 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, talks, and symposia; cultural events such as concerts, theatrical performances, readings, and exhibitions; and informal gatherings. 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.

To support PSC, 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
355 N. Jordan Ave., Room 4046
Bloomington, IN 47401
Greetings from the IU Polish Studies Center!

Pozdrowienia z Ośrodka Badań Polskich na Uniwersytecie Indiana w Bloomington!