



AN URGENT APPEAL TO SUPPORT POLISH-JEWISH STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Destroyed by the Nazis and suppressed by the communists, Jewish life in Poland was revived in the 1990s. It is now threatened by a new wave of anti-Semitism and legislation that restrict research and speech on the Holocaust. More than ever since the fall of communism, there is an urgent need to protect and encourage research in the history of Polish Jewry and the Holocaust in Poland. The University of Michigan Copernicus Program in Polish Studies has a strong record of programming aimed at capturing the vitality of Polish-Jewish culture and history and addressing head-on the problems of populism, rightwing nationalism, and anti-Semitism (see Appendix 3). In the last few years, we have developed partnerships with POLIN (the Jewish museum in Warsaw), and Kraków's Jewish Community Center. We are working toward establishing new partnerships with recently opened Hillels in Warsaw and Kraków, as well as with the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. We want to do more!

We propose hosting researchers, NGO leaders, and Jewish activists whose activities are curtailed by the current government and the overall socio-political atmosphere.

SHORT- TO MID-TERM PROJECTS:

- Fund one-to three-month research visits to the University of Michigan by Polish scholars, journalists, and artists whose work is targeted by the new "Holocaust law." Visiting fellows will share their work with U-M faculty and students as well as with local communities. Fellows will take advantage of our extensive library resources, writing workshops, and networking opportunities. Our faculty are well connected with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington; the Center for Jewish History and the Archives of the Joint Distribution Committee in New York.
- Develop programming and events exploring the legacy of Polish-Jewish art, music, literature, and history, and the challenges Polish Jewry faces currently.
- Develop opportunities for U-M students interested in Polish-Jewish affairs to conduct research in Poland and work as interns in Jewish institutions.

LONG-TERM PROJECT:

- Hire a replacement for Professor Zvi Gitelman, who recently retired. His research focused on Jewish political thought, ethnicity, and politics in the former Communist countries, Israeli politics, East European politics, and Jewish culture.

For more information about how you can support this project, contact Geneviève Zubrzycki, Professor of Sociology and Director, Copernicus Program in Polish Studies (CPPS) at genez@umich.edu or call CPPS at 734-647-2237.

Appendix 1

FACULTY IN POLISH-JEWISH STUDIES

The University of Michigan faculty includes world-renowned scholars with unique expertise on Jewish-related themes in Poland.

- **Herbert Eagle** – Slavic Languages & Literatures
East European literature and cinema, literary and film theory
- **Zvi Gitelman (emeritus)**– Political Science, Judaic Studies
East European and Israeli politics, Jewish political thought and behavior
- **Mikhail Krutikov** – Slavic Languages & Literatures, Judaic Studies
Yiddish literature, Jews in Eastern Europe
- **Benjamin Paloff** – Slavic Languages & Literatures, Comparative Literature
Polish literature and translation
- **Shachar Pinsker** – Judaic Studies, Near Eastern Studies
Hebrew literature, modern Jewish literary culture
- **Brian Porter-Szűcs** – History
Modern Polish history, religion in Poland
- **Jeffrey Veidlinger** – History, Judaic Studies
Modern East European Jewish history, Jewish culture
- **Michael Yashinsky**– Judaic Studies
Yiddish language
- **Geneviève Zubrzycki** – Sociology
Nationalism and religion, Jewish revival in contemporary Poland

LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

The University of Michigan Library is known to house one of the country's largest collections of Slavic, East European and Judaica in literatures, languages, history, social sciences, art and bibliography. Two specialized curators oversee the collections: **Elliot H. Gertel**, the Irving M. Hermelin Curator of Judaica; and **Janet Crayne**, for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Appendix 2

POLIN MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2014, CPPS signed an agreement with POLIN to conduct research, organize conferences, and arrange opportunities for an exchange of students and visiting research scholars, as well as internships for undergraduate students. What follows is a description of our activities:

LECTURES

CPPS has hosted POLIN's director, Professor Dariusz Stola, and curator of the core exhibition Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, for public lectures and meetings with faculty and students at U-M.

CONFERENCES

CPPS and the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies organized an international conference at POLIN in May 2016 titled "The Contemporary Interpretation of Historical Legacies in East Central Europe." POLIN co-sponsored the 2017 Generations and Genealogies Conference organized by U-M and the Polish Jewish Studies Workshop. The 35 participants came from Poland, Israel, the United States, and Canada. Two special presentations enhanced the scholarly program: a lecture by Agata Tuszyńska on her book *A Family History of Fear: A Memoir*; and the Annual Copernicus Lecture by Adam Michnik, historian and editor-in-chief of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, who spoke about "The Glory and Poverty of the '68 Generation."

STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

To date, CPPS has funded eight students on internships at the POLIN Museum since 2015. Every year, two students travel to Warsaw to participate in six-to eight-week internships to work on web and marketing strategies and to support the POLIN Meeting Point Summer School, a two-week intensive educational program that brings together students from Poland, Germany, Israel, and Ukraine.

Appendix 3

EVENTS ON POLISH-JEWISH THEMES, 2008-present

Scandal in Ivansk. David Blumenfeld, director (79 min., 2017). Film, May 10, 2018.

Reflecting on Politics, History, and Half a Century at Michigan. Zvi Gitelman, professor of political science and Judaic studies, U-M. Symposium, Dec 4, 2017.

Comics is the Yiddish of Art. Art Spiegelman, comic artist. Lecture, Nov 9, 2017.

A Historian in the Ghetto: Emanuel Ringelblum and the Oyneg Shabes Archive. Samuel Kassow, professor of history, Trinity College. Lecture, Oct 25, 2017.

The Glory and Poverty of the '68 Generation. Adam Michnik, historian and editor-in-chief, *Gazeta Wyborcza*. Annual Copernicus Lecture, Apr 3, 2017.

Generations and Genealogies. Organizer: Geneviève Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology and CPPS director, U-M. 4th Annual Polish Jewish Studies Workshop, Apr 3-4, 2017.

Family History of Fear: A Memoir. Agata Tuszyńska, author. Reading, Apr 2, 2017.

Karski & the Lords of Humanity. Followed by Q&A with Sławomir Grünberg, director (72 min., 2015). Film and discussion, Nov 19, 2016.

Polish Towns? Jewish Towns? Urban Development in Interwar Eastern Poland. Kathryn Ciancia, assistant professor of history, University of Wisconsin. Lecture, Sep 28, 2016.

The Contemporary Interpretation of Historical Legacies in East Central Europe. Conveners: Anna Grzymała-Busse, Ronald and Eileen Weiser Professor of European and Eurasian Studies, professor of political science, U-M; and Geneviève Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology and CPPS director, U-M. Conference at POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, May 20-21, 2016.

Converging Paths: The Artist in Conversation. Paweł Figurski, photographer; interviewed by Jeffrey Veidlinger, Joseph Brodsky Collegiate Professor of History and Judaic Studies, U-M; and Geneviève Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology and CPPS director, U-M. Interview, Jan 27, 2016.

Converging Paths: Photography of Paweł Figurski. Exhibition, Jan 21-Feb 26, 2016.

Rising from the Rubble: Creating the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, chief curator, Core Exhibition, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews; university professor emerita and professor emerita of performance studies, New York University. Lecture, Jan 13, 2016.

A Country with No Exit? Migrations from Poland 1949-89. Dariusz Stola, professor of history, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Lecture, Apr 21, 2015.

POLIN: The New Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Dariusz Stola, professor of history, Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences; director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Lecture, Apr 20, 2015.

A Polish Doctor in the Nazi Camps: Reflections on Writing Story and History. Barbara Rylko-Bauer author. Lecture, Mar 30, 2015.

We Are Here. Followed by Q&A with Francine Zuckerman, director (82 min., 2013). Film and discussion, Mar 25, 2015.

The Wacław Zimpel / Krzysztof Dys Duo. Concert, Nov 12, 2014.

The Last Klezmer: Leopold Kozłowski, His Life and His Music. Followed by Q&A with Yale Strom, director (85 min., 1994). Film and discussion, Oct 29, 2014.

Jewish Poland: A Materialized Settlement and a Metaphysical Landscape in Jewish Legends. Haya Bar-Itzhak, Schusterman Visiting Israeli Scholar, University of Haifa. Lecture, Oct 22, 2014.

Enlightened Memory? On Remembering the Jewish Past in Contemporary Germany and Poland. Michael Meng, assistant professor of history, Clemson University. Lecture, Oct 8, 2014.

Bruno Schulz's *Sanatorium*: Reflections on the Uneasy Afterlife of National Literatures. Karen C. Underhill, assistant professor of Polish literature and culture, University of Illinois. Lecture, Feb 10, 2014.

"With One Color, We Cannot See": Building Pluralism through Jewishness in Contemporary Poland. Geneviève Zubrzycki, associate professor of sociology, U-M. Lecture, Jan 9, 2014.

"Making History": An Intellectual Journey into the Hidden Polish Past. Jan Gross, Norman B. Tomlinson '16 and '48 Professor of War and Society and professor of history, Princeton University. Annual Copernicus Lecture, Nov 11, 2013.

Shofar. Polish free jazz-Hasidic ensemble led by Mikołaj Trzaska. Concert, Nov 5, 2013.

Hasidism and Politics. Marcin Wodzinski, University of Wrocław. Lecture, Apr 3, 2013.

In Darkness (W ciemności). Agnieszka Holland, director (2011). Film, Oct 10, 2012.

A Filmmaker's Approach to Society's Most Vexing Concerns. Agnieszka Holland, director and screenwriter. Annual Copernicus Lecture, Oct 10, 2012.

Agnieszka Holland and Her Place in Film History: A Conversation. Agnieszka Holland, director and screenwriter; Daniel Herbert, U-M. Discussion, Oct 9, 2012.

Europa Europa (Hitlerjunge Salomon). Agnieszka Holland, director (1990). Film, Sep 20, 2012.

Jewish Music in the Time of the Holocaust. Moderator: Timothy Cheek, associate professor of voice, U-M. Presenters: Kathryn Goodson, piano; Caroline Helton, assistant professor of voice, U-M. Discussion, Apr 18, 2012.

Wiera Gran: A Singer, A Collaborator? The Other Side of Polanski's Pianist. Agata Tuszyńska, writer. Annual Copernicus Lecture, Jan 24, 2012.

Beyond Martyrology: Poles and Jews during WWII. Brian Porter-Szűcs, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History, U-M. Lecture, Oct 25, 2011.

Photographing the Jewish Nation: Pictures from An'sky's Ethnographic Expedition. Eugene Avrutin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Julie Subrin, *Tablet Magazine*. Lecture, Apr 1, 2011.

Intimate Violence: Popular Anti-Jewish Riots in Occupied Poland. Jeff Kopstein, University of Toronto. Lecture, Feb 17, 2011.

Jewish Modernism in Early 20th-Century Europe: Languages, Trends, Politics. Symposium, Dec 9-10, 2010.

Auschwitz in the 21st Century. Piotr Cywiński, director, Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Annual Copernicus Lecture, Oct 25, 2010.

Central European Jewish Culture: Revisions & Revisualizations. Conference, Oct 22-23, 2008.