

**International Conference to Mark the  
Opening of the Core Exhibition of POLIN  
Museum of the History of Polish Jews,  
in Warsaw**

## **From Ibrahim ibn Yakub to 6 Anielewicz Street**

**11-14 May 2015**

### **PROGRAM**

**POLIN**  
MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY  
OF POLISH JEWS



**יְהוּדֵי שְׂעָר** JEWISH  
**הִיסְטוֹרְיָא שְׂעָר** HISTORICAL  
**אִינסְטִיטוּט** INSTITUTE

## DAY 1: MONDAY 11 MAY 2015

From 9:30 AM Registration

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### 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

Time available to view the Core Exhibition.

### 2:00 PM Formal opening of the conference

**Dariusz Stola** (Director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews)

**Paweł Śpiewak** (Director, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)

**Antony Polonsky** (Chief Historian, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews; Brandeis University)

**Shana Penn** (Executive Director, Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture)

### 2:30-3:15 PM

**Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** (Chief Curator, Core Exhibition of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews), plenary address: *Visiting the Core Exhibition, revisiting the history of Polish Jews* (EN)

3:15-3:45 PM Coffee break

### 3:45-6:00 PM

#### DISCUSSION OF THE GALLERIES

#### DEALING WITH THE PERIOD DOWN TO 1795

Chair: **Igor Kąkolewski** (Centre for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Berlin)

Presentations by the lead scholars of the galleries:

**Hanna Zaremska** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), *Jews in medieval Poland: in a land of new settlement, on the frontiers of the Diaspora* (PL)

**Adam Teller** (Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island), *Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue: creating the narrative for the two early modern galleries* (EN)

Commentators:

**Kenneth Stow** (University of Haifa, Israel), *A living and useful past* (EN)

**Adam Kaźmierczyk** (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), *Reflections on the relationship between the szlachta, the Church and the Jews* (PL)

6:30 PM Reception

## DAY 2: TUESDAY 12 MAY 2015

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### 9:00-11:15 AM

#### THE PRESENT STATE OF KNOWLEDGE ON THE PERIOD DOWN TO 1795 AND AREAS WHICH NEED FURTHER INVESTIGATION

#### FIRST SESSION

Chair: **Shaul Stampfer** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Jürgen Heyde** (Leipzig University), lead speaker, *Jews in medieval and early modern Poland – perceptions and practices* (EN)

**Hanna Węgrzynek** (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews), *Agreements between towns and kehillot and their influence on the legal status of Polish Jews* (PL)

**Jacek Wijaczka** (Mikołaj Kopernik University, Toruń), *The role and significance of Jews in the economy of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth* (PL)

10:45-11:15 AM Coffee break

## SECOND SESSION

Chair: **Anna Michałowska-Mycielska** (University of Warsaw)

**Moshe Rosman** (Bar Ilan University, Israel), lead speaker, *Polish-Jewish historiography 1970-2015: construction, consensus, controversy* (EN)

**Judith Kalik** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *A reassessment of the Jewish poll-tax assessment lists in eighteenth-century Crown Poland* (EN)

**Jan Doktór** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw), *Frankism: a history of Jacob Frank or of the Frankists?* (PL)

12:30-1:30 PM Lunch

## 1:30-3:30 PM

### DISCUSSION OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY GALLERY

Chair: **François Guesnet** (University College London)

Presentations by the lead scholars of the gallery:

**Marcin Wodziński** (University of Wrocław), *What worked and what didn't in the nineteenth century gallery?* (PL)

**Samuel Kassow** (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut), *The train leaves the station: the 'challenges of modernity' in museum space* (EN)

Commentators:

**Tomasz Kizwalter** (University of Warsaw), *Modernism and identity. Polish Jews in the face of nineteenth-century change* (PL)

**David Assaf** (Tel Aviv University), *Hasidism in the Museum: expectations and limitations* (EN)

**Shulamit Magnus** (Oberlin College, Ohio), *Pauline Wengeroff: between tradition and modernity, East and West* (EN)

3:30-4:00 PM Coffee break

## 4:00-4:15 PM

### PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUME

*Warsaw. The Jewish Metropolis: Essays in Honor of the 75th Birthday of Professor Antony Polonsky*

Respondent: **Moshe Rosman** (Bar Ilan University, Israel)

## 4:15-6:30 PM

### ROUND TABLE: THE HISTORIAN IN THE MUSEUM

Chair: **Antony Polonsky** (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews; Brandeis University)

**Jonathan Brent** (YIVO), *The way YIVO is organizing and supporting new research in the history of Jewish life in Eastern Europe*

**Edyta Gawron** (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), *Between the university and the museum*

**Paweł Machcewicz** (Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk), *How an academic historian faced the challenge of creating a permanent exhibition for the Museum of the Second World War; how to integrate the narrative about the Holocaust into an exhibition that should include the whole experience of WWII*

**Victoria Mochalova** (Moscow Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization Sefer), *Moscow Jewish museums*

**Benjamin Nathans** (University of Pennsylvania), *My experience as chair of the Content Committee for the Jewish Museum in Moscow*

**Lea Prais** (Yad Vashem), *Questions for the historian in the museum*

**Jonathan Webber** (Galicia Jewish Museum, Kraków), *Jewish tourism to Poland: the opportunities for new museum narratives to recontextualize Jewish histories*

**7:00 PM**

Historical walk from POLIN Museum to the Jewish Historical Institute followed by a reception

**DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015**

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**9:00-10:45 AM**

**THE NINETEENTH CENTURY: GAPS IN OUR KNOWLEDGE**

Chair: **Michał Galas** (Jagiellonian University, Kraków)

**Israel Bartal** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), lead speaker, *Modern times Polish style? Orthodoxy, Enlightenment, and patriotism* (EN)

**Yaroslav Hrytsak** (Lviv University, Ukrainian Catholic University), *Life after death: Ivan Franko and his Jewish controversies* (EN)

**Dariusz Staliunas** (Lithuanian Institute of History, Vilnius), *Jew-hatred and anti-Jewish violence in the former lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (during the 'long nineteenth century')* (EN)

**Glenn Dynner** (Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York), *Polish Jewish traditionalists: the missing silent majority?* (EN)

10:45-11:15 AM Coffee break

**11:15 AM-1:00 PM**

**DISCUSSION OF THE INTERWAR GALLERY**

Chair: **Wacław Wierzbieniec** (University of Rzeszów, State Higher School of Technology and Economics, Jarosław)

Presentation by the lead scholar of the gallery:

**Samuel Kassow** (Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut), *The interwar gallery: stories of hopes and disappointments* (EN)

Commentators:

**Anna Landau-Czajka** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), *Not only Mały Przegląd. The educational ideals and values propagated in the Jewish press for children and adolescents* (PL)

**Gershon Bacon** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *One Jewish street? On unity and disunity in interwar Polish Jewry* (EN)

**Michael Steinlauf** (Gratz College, Melrose Park, Pennsylvania), *What's in, what's out: a critique of the interwar gallery* (EN)

1:00-2:00 PM Lunch

**2:00-4:00 PM**

**THE INTERWAR PERIOD: RESEARCH AGENDAS**

Chair: **Szymon Rudnicki** (University of Warsaw)

Speakers:

**Katrin Steffen** (University of Hamburg), lead speaker, *Contested Jewish Polishness: on the position of Jews in Polish culture and society during the interwar period* (EN)

**Karen Underhill** (University of Illinois, Chicago), *POLIN and dokeyt in the Polish Studies curriculum: post-national approaches to Jewish/Polish culture and literature of the interwar period* (EN)

**Naomi Seidman** (Graduate Theological Seminary, Berkeley), *A revolution in the name of tradition: approaches to the study of interwar Orthodox girls' education* (EN)

**Joanna Nalewajko-Kulikow** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), *The interwar Yiddish press - mirror of interwar Polish Jewry. State of research and perspectives* (PL)

4:00-4:30 PM Coffee break

**4:30-6:30 PM**

**DISCUSSION OF THE HOLOCAUST GALLERY**

Chair: **Havi Dreyfus** (University of Tel Aviv; Yad Vashem)

Presentation by the lead scholars of the gallery:

**Barbara Engelking** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw),

**Jacek Leociak** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), *The historical narrative and unique features of the Holocaust gallery* (PL)

Commentators:

**Omer Bartov** (Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island),

*How effectively is interethnic coexistence and violence, especially in eastern Poland, presented in the gallery?* (EN)

**Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs** (Jagiellonian University, Kraków),

*The challenges of the new historiography and education about the Holocaust in Poland* (PL)

**Saulius Suziedelis** (Millersville University, Pennsylvania),

*A Lithuanian looks at the gallery: what does it reveal about the Holocaust?* (EN)

**7:30 PM**

**FILM PROGRAM**

*Strong man* (1929) by Henryk Szaro with live music

*The adventure of a good citizen* (1937) by Franciszka and Stefan Themerson

Introduction: **Joanna Andrysiak** (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews)

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**DAY 4: THURSDAY 14 MAY 2015**

**9:00-11:00 AM**

**THE HOLOCAUST: CURRENT ISSUES IN RESEARCH**

Chair: **Piotr Wróbel** (University of Toronto)

**Dan Michman** (Yad Vashem; Bar Ilan University, Israel),

lead speaker, *An outsider's view of the development of Polish Holocaust Studies* (EN)

**Andrzej Żbikowski** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)

*The dispute over who is a witness: the state of research on Polish-Jewish relations during the Holocaust* (PL)

**Dariusz Libionka** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw;

State Museum at Majdanek), *Recent research on the attitude of Poles to Jews during the Holocaust* (PL)

**Daniel Blatman** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), *Beyond national insights and identities: contemporary historiography of the Holocaust in Poland* (EN)

11:00-11:30 AM Coffee break

**11:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**DISCUSSION OF THE POSTWAR GALLERY**

Chair: **Bożena Szaynok** (University of Wrocław)

Presentations by the lead scholars of the gallery:

**Helena Datner** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw), *The question of perspective in historical analysis and its relation to contemporary history: the case of the Postwar gallery of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews* (PL)

**Stanisław Krajewski** (University of Warsaw), *On the explicit and implicit assumptions behind the Postwar gallery of the Core Exhibition at POLIN Museum* (EN)

Commentators:

**Grzegorz Berendt** (Gdańsk University; Institute for National Remembrance, Gdańsk), *Anti-Jewish violence in Poland 1944-1947: the state of research and the presentation of the issue in the Museum* (PL)

**Andrzej Paczkowski** (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), *The Postwar gallery – a historian's reaction* (PL)

**Marci Shore** (Yale University), *Reflections on Polish-Jewish history in the postwar years* (EN)

1:00-2:00 PM Lunch

**2:00-4:00 PM**

### **BLANK SPOTS IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD**

Chair: **Jean-Charles Szurek** (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris)

**Audrey Kichelewski** (Université de Strasbourg), lead speaker, *In or out? Identities and images of Poland among Polish Jews in the postwar period* (EN)

**August Grabski** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw), *Jews and the 'cursed soldiers'* (PL)

**Monika Adamczyk-Garbowska** (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin), *Yiddish sources on Jewish visits and returns to Poland in the early postwar period* (PL)

**Alina Skibińska** (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Office in Warsaw), *Exhumation protocols. An unknown and moving source for the study of wartime and postwar crimes*

4:00-4:30 PM Coffee break

**4:30-6:30 PM**

### **ROUND TABLE: THE ROLE OF THE MUSEUM AND OF THE JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND POPULARIZATION OF RESEARCH INTO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF POLISH JEWS**

Chair: **Antony Polonsky** (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews; Brandeis University)

**Israel Bartal** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem); **Jonathan Sarna** (Brandeis University; National Museum of American Jewish History, Philadelphia); **Paul Shapiro** (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.); **Dariusz Stola** (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews); **Paweł Śpiewak** (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)

Closing Remarks



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Joint Institution of Culture



CITY  
OF WARSAW



Association  
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Historical  
Institutes  
of Poland