



The Polish Studies Center Newsletter

Indiana University • Bloomington, Indiana

Spring 2007

Director's Notebook

By Bill Johnston

Welcome to a new issue of our newsletter. This was another fine year for the Polish Studies Center, and we're glad to report on some of the many fascinating events and activities the center organized over the course of the year.

In February, five faculty and graduate students represented Indiana University at a new conference on Polish Studies held at the University of Toronto and co-sponsored by IU (see Tomasz Bilczewski's report on page 2). A follow-up conference will be held at Indiana University in Spring 2008.

Our tradition of innovative and exciting meetings was continued in March when we held a conference to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of the Solidarity movement. Outstanding guests included Polish Consul-General Jarosław Łasiński, journalist and former Solidarity member Konstanty Gebert, and scholar Irena Grudzińska-Gross. Indiana University faculty Jack Bielasiak, Jeff Isaac, and Owen Johnson also took part (see page 3).

In the fall our guests included Professor

Bożena Shallcross of the University of Chicago, a former director of this center, who gave a well-attended talk, "Situating the Holocaust Object."

Our congratulations go to Ania Muller

the work of administrative assistant Andy Hinnant and the Center's graduate assistant, Mira Rosenthal, both of whom did sterling work over the course of the year. Lastly, I

wish to say a big thank you to Urszula (Ula) Knepper, our librarian, who served the Center for several years. Ula left in the fall to begin work at the Wells Library.

I regret to report that Marci Shore left Indiana University at the end of the 2005-2006 academic year to take a position at Yale University. We wish her well in her new post. On a brighter note, the late appearance of this Newsletter allows me to pass on some excellent news: next academic year, an outstanding historian of Poland, Padraig Kenney will be joining the faculty of IU.

The coming year, the 30th of the Polish Studies Center's existence, promises to be just as fruitful. In April we are organizing a major conference on Polish-German relations in the post-war period (see pages 6-7 for details). This conference promises to be a groundbreaking event; under the leadership of Professor Justyna Beinek and myself, the conference has been awarded substantial grants by the New Frontiers Program and the College Arts and Humanities Institute. With these grants, we have been able to invite a number of outstanding speakers from Poland, Germany, the United States, and elsewhere.

As always, the Polish Studies Center can only function with the participation of its rich community. Please continue to attend our events and to suggest potential guests, activities, and projects. Remember: you are the Center!



Professor Maria Bucur (center) presents the Armstrong Memorial Research Essay Award to Ania Muller (left) and Nicole McGrath (right).

and Nicole McGrath who both received the Armstrong Memorial Research Essay Award. Ania is a Ph.D. student in History and a longtime associate of the Polish Studies Center, and Nicole is a third-year student of Polish.

The work of the Center has benefited from the contributions of numerous individuals. Professor Justyna Beinek, the new assistant professor of Polish language and literature in the Slavic Department, has been extremely active in helping to organize events and also in drumming up interest in Polish Studies generally—this has been reflected in the increased activity of the Polish Cultural Association (see page 10). Tomasz Bilczewski, our Kościuszko Foundation visiting fellow, did a great job of teaching language and supporting the work of the Center. I also wish to acknowledge

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Polish Studies Abroad: Under Reconstruction?

By Tomasz Bilczewski

Building on the two-volume work *Polish Studies under Reconstruction*, which includes articles by some of the best specialists in Poland, the Polish Studies Center helped organize an international conference held at the University of Toronto in February 2007, *In Search of (Creative) Diversity: New Perspectives in Polish Literary and Cultural Studies Abroad*. The conference was put together jointly by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Toronto, the Department of International Polish Studies at Jagiellonian University, the Center for Slavic and East European Studies at Ohio State University, and the Polish Studies Center at Indiana University with the intent to add international perspectives on how best to respond to the questions of the field. Are we currently facing a serious crisis in Polish Studies? Where does the field stand? How is it responding to increasingly complex challenges caused by the development of new methodologies that question existing approaches in the humanities? What is the field's place and position in academia after the era of deconstruction?

The overall spirit of discussions focused on the issue of how Polish Studies could participate in shaping a modern version of *humanitas*, a theme which will be reflected in a forthcoming collection of essays edited by the conference host, professor Tamara Trojanowska, and her co-organizers. It would be extremely difficult to summarize all the critical observations that were made during both individual presentations and roundtable sessions. However, one key issue emerged as a conclusion to the three-day conference: After the collapse of the Berlin Wall and in an era of new technologies, the distance between Polish and foreign scholars interested in Polish culture is slowly but steadily disappearing; however, academics are still

not fully exploiting the benefits of successful efforts to overcome boundaries built by the totalitarian ideology which controlled Eastern Europe for over half a century.

Irrespective of the divergent institutional structures between Polish Studies in Poland and Polish Studies outside the country, created in part by significant differences in higher education systems and job market requirements, the disparities between the functioning academic curricula are quite

harder to enable undergraduate and, above all, graduate students to create individual images of Polish literature and culture, based on exposure to the multidimensional idiomatic experiences of Poland's past and present, images that are independent of overwhelming and omnipresent pressures for political correctness.

In light of the flimsy institutional condition of Polish programs in the United States, one real chance to ward off a long-term crisis

in Polish Studies is to build closer ties with institutions of higher education in Poland, an opportunity that did not exist before the events of '89. Joint projects in research and teaching provide a chance to create an inspiring intellectual climate for future Polish Studies experts. Without cooperation, the majority of existing programs outside of Poland can only offer a rather superficial version of professional competence and will, in fact, (to use Spivak's lexicon) support a clerical, stereotypical, or metropolitan form of multicultural education.

This need for more intense international cooperation

coincides with the recent process of restructuring humanities departments at major Polish universities. Their new shape tries to create a stimulating institutional framework for Polish scholars from abroad who are willing to gain some new intellectual experience that is not available in their home academic centers. At the same time, incoming scholars as well as students bring a fresh perspective that helps Polish universities and academics rethink and question the practices they have already adopted. To give an example, the Faculty of Polish Studies at Jagiellonian University has recently opened two units that promote international intellectual exchange: the Department of International Polish Studies

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striking. First, one needs to come to terms with Polish programs' marginal position within American Slavic or Eastern European departments. This is in part a reflection of the political climate influencing distribution of federal financial support. Moreover, it would be idealistic and naive to hope that the perception of Polish culture, especially in the United States, could gain real independence from Russian Studies. At the same time, Polish literature and culture particularly in the 20th century—the so-called Polish school of poetry comes to mind—shows the field's unique character. It would be a big failure if academics cannot offer a model of education in Polish Studies that maintains and deepens the well-established interest in studying this distinct cultural heritage. We should work

Solidarity 25 Years Later

By Ania Muller

Twenty-five years after the carnival of Solidarity began, the Polish Studies Center decided to join the mood of celebration by organizing a conference that brought together oppositional activists Irena Grudzińska-Gross, Konstanty Gebert, and Jack Bielasiak; a representative of the Polish government, Consul-General Jarosław Łasiński; as well as young scholars Greg Domber, Eva Cermanova, and myself.

During the first panel, "Solidarity: A Retrospective," witnesses and dissidents shared their thoughts on the effect Solidarity had on Poland, followed by a lively discussion in which many audience members shared their own personal encounters with Polish opposition and martial law. The wide spectrum of opinions expressed by speakers, moderators, and members of the audience highlighted the difficulties of defining what Solidarity actually was, how it came about, and how it flourished. During the second panel, the floor was given to graduate students, who presented short papers on new research being done on the time period. Topics ranged from research on America's role during the Cold War to a quick glance at how Polish dissidents depict themselves as men and activists. Also during this panel, Eva Cermanova made an interesting detour and directed the audience's attention to Czechoslovak dissident, Vaclav Benda. This, in turn, inspired interesting discussions on differences and similarities between dissident movements in various East European countries.

After the conference, conversation continued at Professor Bill Johnston's house, where glasses of wine and plates



of good cheese helped to foster the dissident tradition of intellectual debates, if only for one evening.

This event was sponsored by the Polish Studies Center, Horizons of Knowledge, the Robert A. and Sandra S. Borns Jewish Studies Program, the Office of International Programs, the Russian and East European Institute, and the Department of Political Science.

Ania Muller is a doctoral candidate in history at Indiana University.



Above: Consul-General Jarosław Łasiński delivers opening remarks. Seated: Irena Grudzińska-Gross, Konstanty Gebert, and Jack Bielasiak. Bottom: Bill Johnston with the Consul-General and Dean Patrick O'Meara at the opening reception.

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and the Center for Advanced Studies in the Humanities. The former consists of multifaceted programs created mainly for foreign undergraduate students. The latter is a center of excellence in research that offers a novel, unique doctoral program and gathers scholars of international repute to discuss the most intriguing issues in the humanities within the context of Polish literature and culture.

Following the Toronto conference,

many of the participants are hopeful that the discussion initiated there will inspire concrete projects, establishing stronger institutional ties between scholars teaching and doing research in Polish Studies, no matter where their home institution is located. The conference was a wonderful response to the growing interests of many outstanding American academics and showed how countries that suffered from Soviet colonization can contribute to knowledge

about mechanisms of intellectual, political, and economic domination and resistance, thus helping to build a wise multicultural coexistence of very diverse communities.

Tomasz Bilczewski is a lecturer in the Department of International Polish Studies at Jagiellonian University, Kraków. In 2005-2007, he was the Kościuszko Foundation visiting Polish language and literature instructor at IU-Bloomington.

“On the road of life”: Tadeusz Różewicz’s New Poems

By Bill Johnston

In his mid-eighties now, renowned Polish poet Tadeusz Różewicz continues to be as productive a writer as he has ever been. Over the last year or so I have been working on translations of his three most recent books, *the professor’s knife* (2001), *gray zone* (2002), and *exit* (2004), for a single volume entitled *New Poems*, to be published this spring by Archipelago Books.

Różewicz was born in 1921. During the Second World War he fought in the AK or Home Army, the partisan force that battled with the Nazis. His wartime experiences shaped his world view and also his writing. Though attracted to poetry, he was suspicious of the linguistically complex and rather overblown kinds of verse that had been in vogue in Poland before the war. He felt that a new kind of poetic language was needed if poetry was to survive at all after the horrors of the war. From his first book, *Unease* (*Niepokój*, 1946), he developed a spare, stripped-down, almost prosaic language that mirrored the moral devastation the war had wrought on him, his country, and the world. He consciously and consistently avoided the use of metaphor. His diction was direct to the point of pain.

The Polish reading public instantly recognized that this was a huge talent. Różewicz rapidly rose to become one of the most highly-regarded writers of his generation—his best-known contemporaries being Zbigniew Herbert (1924-1998) and Wisława Szymborska (b. 1923). Over the course of the last sixty years he has produced over twenty major books of poetry, and numerous works in prose. Różewicz also writes plays, the best known being *The Card Index* (*Kartoteka*, 1960) and *White Marriage* (*Białe małżeństwo*, 1975); in fact, he is one of the most important Polish dramatists of the 20th century.

Różewicz’s recent poetry has lost none of its simplicity and directness; nor is it any more encumbered by elaborate metaphor. One untitled poem includes the lines:

on the road of life

where I walked
flew

limped
losing along the way
the truth
which I sought
in dark places

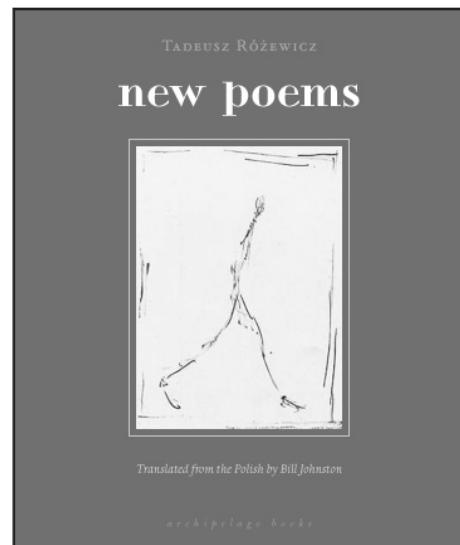
Yet though the form remains recognizable, Różewicz’s subject matter is ever-changing. In these new poems, he reflects on the vast complexities of cultural and political life in the new century. He draws his material from Polish poetry (especially Norwid), Russian literature, German philosophy, and stories in the newspaper. He writes about TV chat shows, book fairs, and chance encounters in a café. He revisits the atrocities and catastrophes of his lifetime, from the Holocaust to the Indonesian tsunami of 2004. With agonizing clarity of vision, he records and comments on these upheavals. Yet there is also a lot of humor. In “Regression in der Ursuppe,” he comically compresses human history and his own:

humans invented the wheel
wrote Faust

and began printing
paper money
all sorts of things appeared
doughnuts Fat Thursday
platonic love pedophilia
national poetry day (sic!)
national rheumatism day (sic!)
national illness day—it’s today!
finally I too entered the world
in 1921 and suddenly . . .
atishoo! I’m old I forget my glasses
I forget that history
happened Caesar Hitler Mata Hari
Stalin capitalism communism
Einstein Picasso Al Capone
Al Qaida and Al Kaseltzer

Other poems here return to the kinds of topics Różewicz has often engaged with, such as painting and other visual arts, and religion. In “Ashurbanipal killing a wounded lion,” he describes a Babylonian bas-relief:

I always stand hushed
before this scene



the king of the beasts
and the king of slaves
in a mortal embrace

Calm on the face
of Ashurbanipal

a grimace of pain and rage
on the lion’s muzzle hidden in its mane

In “there’s a monument,” Różewicz, possibly Poland’s best-known atheist (and one who repeatedly turns to religious subject matter), asks rhetorically, “what sort of atheist am I”:

they keep asking me
what I think about God
and I answer
what matters isn’t what I think about
God
but what God thinks about me

Above all, the material gathered in *New Poems* is intensely and unapologetically personal. The book is like a journal in verse, recording what the poet reads, what he sees on TV, his meetings and travels, and his reflections. Różewicz’s poems bring together the great historical moments of the last century with the seemingly insignificant details of everyday life—tying shoelaces, eating a boiled egg, or taking one’s medication. By the act of juxtaposing these

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A Collaboration in Music

In January 2006, Teresa Kubiak, a professor of music and voice at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in Bloomington, accepted to her studio soprano Joanna Ruszala-Wiśniewska. Ruszala, who is pursuing a Performance Diploma degree, was a soloist at the Opera House in Katowice and has already sung on several international operatic and concert stages in Europe.

After only a semester of study at IU, Ruszala sang with great success the role of Donna Anna in the Mozart opera "Don Giovanni," performed on September 23 and 29, 2006. It was the first opera production of the season at IU's Musical Arts Center. In the same production, the role of the Commendatore was sung by talented Polish bass-baritone Miroslaw Witkowski, who studies voice with Professor Noble. Witkowski was recruited by Professor Kubiak during her Master Class held at the Academy of Music in Łódź, Poland, in May 2005.

Professor Kubiak was recently honored by her alma mater, the Grażyna and Kiejstut Bacewicz Academy of Music in Łódź, receiving the highest academic award of "Doctor Honoris Causa." The award was conferred in a ceremony in May 2005. Professor Kubiak gave a press conference for local newspapers and TV media and

held a Master Class for graduate students of the Academy of Music in Łódź. She was also invited by the dean of the academy to hold annual Master Classes and establish a

permanent collaboration between Indiana University in Bloomington and the Academy of Music in Łódź.



Joanna Ruszala-Wiśniewska in costume after a performance as Donna Anna in the Mozart Opera "Don Giovanni."

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two planes of life—the public and private, the historical and the commonplace—Różewicz asserts the equal importance of both, and reaffirms the dignity of the individual life in its every moment. In "the professor's knife," a poem about the weighty subject of the Nazi death camps—the knife in question was made illegally by his friend Mietek (art critic Mieczysław Porębski) in Auschwitz—a long section describes Mietek making soft-boiled eggs for himself and the poet (Tadzio), and chiding the latter for talking to him during the process:

Tadzio! you have to understand that
boiling
an egg requires attention
concentration even
it'll probably be overdone

It is precisely this kind of attention to the detail of the moment that makes Różewicz a great poet.

At the end of the book there is a handful of Różewicz's most recent poems. The last of these, "The Gates of Death," is a profoundly personal reflection on the end of life, in which the poet writes:

behind me I have a journey
growing longer
from hour to hour
before me I have
an ever shorter journey

faith in what exists
is knowledge not faith
but faith in what does not exist
is true faith

In comparison with the other Polish poets of his era—Herbert, Szymborska, and of course Czesław Miłosz—Tadeusz Różewicz has been unjustly overlooked in English translation in recent years. This is changing, however, with the appearance of *New Poems*, and of a new selection from the full range of his work compiled and translated by Joanna Trzeciak, which is also to appear soon. It has been a privilege to bring this masterful, intimate, and searingly intelligent poetry to an English-language readership.

Bill Johnston is the director of the Polish Studies Center.

Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics

Indiana University, Bloomington, April 19–22, 2007

On April 19–22, 2007, more than forty scholars of Poland and Germany will convene at the IU Bloomington campus for the conference *Polish-German Post/Memory: Aesthetics, Ethics, Politics*. This interdisciplinary, international meeting will focus on Polish-German relations, and specifically on the competing memories of the traumatic events of World War II and beyond. Experts, focusing on history, political science, law, ethics, cultural studies,

literature, film, and performance, will participate in this exploration of the culture of memory (and the memory of culture),

In addition to twenty-six lectures by guests from the United States, Canada, Germany, Poland, Great Britain, Switzerland, and Australia, His Excellency Janusz Reiter, Ambassador of Poland to the U.S.; and Adam Michnik, editor-in-chief of *Gazeta Wyborcza* and visiting professor of Polish history at Princeton University, will deliver

public addresses. Breon Mitchell (Indiana University) will discuss translating Günter Grass.

The conference has been organized by Justyna Beinek (conference chair) and Bill Johnston (director of the Polish Studies Center), Heidi Hein-Kircher (Herder Institute, Marburg, Germany), Kristin Kopp (University of Missouri, Columbia), and Joanna Niżyńska (Harvard University).

Conference Program

<http://www.indiana.edu/~eucenter/pgconf>

Thursday, April 19

Pre-Conference Public Lectures and Opening Reception

- 3:30 p.m. Adam Michnik, Editor-in-Chief of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Warsaw, Poland, and Visiting Professor of History at Princeton University: public lecture *Poland and Germany: The Return of Bad Memories* (IMU, Dogwood Room)
- 5:30 p.m. His Excellency Janusz Reiter, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the U.S.: public lecture (IMU, Dogwood Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Opening reception: welcoming remarks by Dean Patrick O'Meara and conference organizers from Indiana University: Justyna Beinek, conference chair, and Bill Johnston, Director, Polish Studies Center (IMU, University Club, Faculty Room)

Friday, April 20

All Friday and Saturday sessions take place in the Oak Room at the Indiana Memorial Union

9:15 a.m. His Excellency Janusz Reiter, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to the U.S.: welcoming remarks

Panel 1: National Identities 9:30-11 a.m.

- Heidi Hein-Kircher, Herder Institute, Marburg, Germany, *From the People's Republic to Third Republic: Remembrance and New Identity?*
 Wanda Jarząbek, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland, *Shadows of Memory and the German Question in Polish Politics 1989-2006*
 Michael Meng, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Whose Victims? Remembering the Warsaw (Ghetto) Uprising, 1945-1968*
 Moderators: Beate Sissenich, Indiana University & Regina Smyth, Indiana University

Panel 2: Representing Memory 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

- Przemysław Czapliński, The Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland, *Declaring a War: Contemporary Polish Prose Fiction and the Memory of WWII*
 Marek Zaleski, Institute for Literary Studies (IBL), Warsaw, Poland, *Liberation of Memory? Post-Memory or Camp-Memory? On What Is a Messenger Girl Doing? by Darek Foks and Zbigniew Libera*
 Bożena Karwowska, University of British Columbia, Canada, *German Female Characters in Polish Postwar Literature: Antagonistic (National) Identities and "Female" Memories*
 Moderators: Claudia Breger, Indiana University & Fritz Breithaupt, Indiana University

Panel 3: Flight and Expulsions 2-3:30 p.m.

- Paweł Lutomski, Stanford University, *Who Are the Victims and Who Are the Perpetrators? Polish Expulsions of Germans as a Case of Moral Ambiguity*
 Christian Lotz, The Leipziger Circle: Forum for Scholarship and the Arts, Germany, *Expulsion and the Politics of Memory*
 Magdalena Marszałek, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, *Memories on Stage: The Theater Project "Transfer" by Jan Klata*
 Moderators: Mark Roseman, Indiana University & Timothy Waters, Indiana University School of Law

Panel 4: Reconciliation and the Other 3:45-5:30 p.m.

Annika Frieberg, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Reconciliation Remembered: Early Activists in the Polish-German Relations*
 Piotr Kosicki, Princeton University, *Polish Catholics' Path to Germany: Historical Memory, Transnational Intellectual Networks, and the Polish Bishops' Letter of 1965*

Stefan Guth, University of Bern, Switzerland, *Friendship by Decree: The Commission of Historians of the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of Poland 1956-1990*

David Pickus, Arizona State University, *Not Another Other: Re-Thinking the German Image of Poland*

Moderators: Maximilian Eiden, University of Stuttgart, Germany & Petra Fachinger, Queen's University, Canada

Special Session: 5:45-6:45 p.m.: Breon Mitchell, Indiana University, Oskar's New Tin Drum: Günter Grass and Literary Translation

Saturday, April 21**Panel 5: Strategizing Memory 9:30-11:15 a.m.**

Angelika Bammer, Emory University, *Nostalgia*

Hanna Gosk, Warsaw University, Poland, *Aspects of Identity-Formation in the Dialogue with the Other: A Literary Version of Polish-German Relations in 20th-Century Polish Fiction*

Jessie Labov, Stanford University, *Nothing to Fear but Gross Himself*

Joanna Kędzierska Stimmel, Middlebury College, *One Past, Two Histories: Tracing/Inventing the Holocaust Past in Texts by Monika Maron and Jarosław M. Rymkiewicz*

Moderators: Maria Bucur, Indiana University & Irena Grudzińska Gross, Boston University

Panel 6: Tourism's Memory 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Erica Lehrer, University of Washington, *Of Mice, Cats, and Pigs: Postmemorial Relations in the Jewish-German-Polish Troika*

Imke Hansen, University of Hamburg, Germany, *Who Owns Auschwitz? Conflicting Memories and the Instrumentalisation of the Holocaust: German, Jewish, and Polish Perspectives*

Bryoni Trezise, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, *Postcards from Auschwitz: Tourism's Memory*

Moderators: Darcy Buerkle, Smith College & Jeff Veidlinger, Indiana University

Panel 7: Local Identities 2-3:30 p.m.

Anna Muller, Indiana University, *To Become a "Gdańszczanin"—The Process of Constructing Post-War Polish Gdańsk through the Prism of Oral History and Memory Studies*

Gregor Thum, University of Pittsburgh, *The Rediscovery of Prussia: Searching for the Local Past in Poland and Germany*

Winson Chu, University of California, Berkeley, *The Lodzer Mensch: From Cultural Contamination to Marketable Multiculturalism*

Moderators: Robert Nelson, University of Windsor, Canada & Barbara Skinner, Indiana State University

Panel 8: Spatial Narratives 3:45-5:15 p.m.

Aleksandra Galasińska, University of Wolverhampton, Great Britain, *Once upon a Time on the River Neisse: Temporal Indexicality in Photo-Elicited Narratives from a Polish Border Town*

Andrew Asher, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *In the Absence of History: Inventing Transnational Space in the Border Cities of Frankfurt (Oder), Germany and Ślubice, Poland*

Marta Kurkowska-Budzan, Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland, *WWII and Germans in Past and Present Polish Landscape of Memory. Jedwabne and Wizna: A Case Study*

Moderators: Mateusz Hartwich, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany & Margaret Wojtunik, Queen's University, Canada

Sunday, April 22**Final Roundtable: Future Projects and Transatlantic Cooperation 9:30-11 a.m.**

Moderators: Justyna Beinek, Indiana University, Kristin Kopp, University of Missouri, Columbia & Joanna Niżyńska, Harvard University

Conference sponsors:

Indiana University, Bloomington: College of Arts and Humanities Institute; European Union Center of Excellence; Office of the Vice Provost for Research: New Frontiers in the Arts and Humanities Program; Office of International Programs; Polish Studies Center; Russian and East European Institute; West European Studies

Herder Institute, Marburg, Germany

German Research Foundation, Germany

Bloomington Blues: Two Polish Exchange Scholars Reflect on IU

By Karol Olejniczak & Adrian Zdrada

There and Back Again

It all began at the airport. Adrian was lucky. Karol was not. We actually did not meet at the airport, but we were there, at Okęcie Airport, at the same time on an August Saturday, waiting for our planes that were to take us to the promised land—the United States. We were to start our adventure at the same time, but Karol chose to fly via Chicago . . . He could tell you more—off the record—stories about Polish Airline's reliability, work organization, proper sitting in the plane, etc. And Adrian? He was lucky, so far . . .

Our word of advice: Do not fly via Chicago. If you do—be ready to spend two days at the airport . . . and ALWAYS call LOT to check if you still have a place on the airplane . . . Anyway count on your luck.

Settling Down

Our first meeting with autochthons gave us a most positive impression. Andrew was helpful, open, and friendly. Later on we realized that not all Americans are as friendly, open, and helpful, but this discovery made us appreciate Andrew even more.

Bloomington offers an astonishing variety of food. But since this is not a tour guide, let's be honest. The bread is crappy, no Polish sausage, no pierogis. On the other hand, the Californian wines are stunning (you can't miss a good bottle of Zinfandel!) and you can find some interesting local wines too. Well, we had to eat something as well. We spent long lunch hours at a Thai buffet, discussing fashion with Tomek, a teacher of Polish. We ate a lot, too much probably, of Mexican food, while "ediscussing" the superiority of Trotskyism. But we also ate many burgers at Nick's, where waitresses were nice and served us Guinness with a shamrock on the top.

Once in Bloomington, the fortune wheel turned. Karol got a gorgeous apartment on the 9th floor of the only Bloomington skyscraper with a beautiful view on the campus. Adrian moved into a house, where the cat set the rules (ironically its name was Charlie).

After a month in Bloomington we were introduced to T.J. Maxx. It was love at first sight. Some of us found a lot of fantastic socks there. Some of us found more. Karol's Finding even visited him a few weeks ago and the story continues. We all have warm feelings about this store. And it was always fun to run around the shelves, asking Tomek and Justyna for advice regarding perfumes, and trying on the tenth pair of jeans.

But you would get us wrong thinking we just lost ourselves in the civilization of consumption. We quickly understood that there is nothing more important for young Bloomingtonians than sports. And when you are in Rome, you know, you must do what the Romans do. So we did a lot of sports. We swam, we played soccer, we played squash, we played volleyball. Once we even played golf. Well, kind of. It's good to have it on your CV, right?

Our word of advice: sign-up for the rec center (the sooner the better), shop in T.J. Maxx, cook for yourself (your friends will appreciate this as well), get an apartment in Campus View (9th floor—the lower ones are unfurnished), find the Big Red One and shop there on Saturday.

Building a Social Network

During the first weeks we tried to socialize with SPEA students. It was all in vain. We learned quickly what the "culture of small talk" means. Where are you from? Which part of Poland? What is your field of interest? Thank you, your five minutes is up. But each experience has its positive sides. Firstly, we mastered the diplomatic skill of talking politely without saying anything. Secondly, we met each other!

And then Andrew invited us for the Polish sausage party [aka the annual Polish picnic]. That was the turning point. We met the Polish Studies Center team—Bill, Justyna, Tomek, Mira. We signed up for the Polish table (no fees required) where we met our wonderful Croatian friend Lidija and Ed—a hard-working student of Polish. Indeed, it was a refreshing, highly enjoyable, and educative experience. It helped us forget about such thrilling issues as American security policy

and European evaluation. Instead we talked about literature (well, we mainly listened at that point), the latest gossip from Cracow, American fashion, Latin, and the uniqueness of Polish mentality.

Our word of advice: go to the Polish sausage party, don't miss any of the Polish tables, and definitely visit the Polish Studies Center!

Strictly Academic Experience

It would be highly unfair if you—Dear Reader—jumped to the conclusion that we were too busy to conduct any research. We know very well where the library is (it is the biggest building in Bloomington anyway). We progressed in our PhD ideas and work, got lots of inspiration that still brings its sweet fruits. To make a long story short, IU is the best place we did research (access to books and articles is simply outstanding; computer and internet facilities are ten times better than in the EU), we did have the "right cup of tea/coffee" with key professors in our fields that gave us lots of hints and advice, and lectures in SPEA and seminars in Public Policy were an unforgettable experience.

Our word of advice: copy as much as possible, download as much as possible, test as much software as possible, talk with as many professors as possible (once you figure out what you want to know).

P.S. Students of Polish language—please find 10 biggest mistakes and "polonizmy" in our "naszym tekście."

Karol Olejniczak is a research fellow at the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies, Warsaw University. He specializes in public management and evaluation of regional development programs. He holds a B.A. in European Studies (Warsaw University), an M.A. in Regional Studies (Warsaw University), and an M.A. in European Public Affairs (European Institute of Public Administration, NL).

Adrian Zdrada works for the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw, where he is an analyst of American foreign policy. He holds an M.A. from the American Studies Center, Warsaw University.

FACULTY NEWS

Justyna Beinek (IUB Slavics) spent a month in Warsaw in summer 2006 as a recipient of a Short Term Faculty Exchange program between IU and Warsaw University. Last summer she also traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, where she delivered a lecture, "Four Tankmen, a Diva, and a Dog: Westernization Anxiety in Contemporary Polish Pop Music," at the conference *Capitalism and/or Patriarchy: Post-Communist Cultures*, held at the European Humanities University. This year she is teaching two new courses, "Body/Text" on representations of the body in Polish literature and culture and "Polish Film" (for the latter she won a Writing-Teaching fellowship from IU's Campus Writing Program). Last fall she participated in two roundtables at the AAASS conference in Washington: one on Polish Studies and their link to Comparative Literature, and one on images of the "West" in literature and the arts. In January 2007 she lectured on the idea of the "West" in Russian and Polish cultures at the Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, for which she received grants from the New Frontiers in Arts and Humanities program (Exploratory Travel) and the Polish Studies Center.

Jack Bielasiak (IUB Political Science) published several articles, including: "Regime Diversity and Electoral Systems in Post-Communism" in the *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* and "Party Systems and EU Accession: Euroscepticism in East Europe" in *Public Opinion about the*

EU in Eastern Europe (Palgrave Publishers, 2006), edited by Robert Rohrschneider and Stephen Whitefield. He also gave numerous lectures and presentations, including: "Regime Diversity and Institutional Engineering: Design and Reform of Electoral Systems in Post-Communism" presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association and "Extending Democracy around the Globe? Causes and Outcomes of Democratization" presented at AP Comparative Politics Readings.

In June 2006, **Ronald F. Feldstein** (IUB Slavics) participated in a conference at the University of Łódź entitled *Diachronia w badaniach nad językiem w dydaktyce szkoły wyższej*. He chaired one section as moderator and presented a paper (in Russian), "Contradictory quantitative reflexes of liquid diphthongs in Polish, of the type *płotno, król, we młodości*," which will be published in the proceedings of the conference.

Owen Johnson (IUB Journalism and History) participated in the conference "Solidarity 25 Years Later," hosted by the Polish Studies Center.

Bill Johnston (IUB Second Language Studies and Comparative Literature) spent last year completing a number of translation projects, including Andrzej Stasiuk's *Nine* for Harcourt, *New Poems* by Tadeusz Różewicz

for Archipelago Books, and Stefan Żeromski's *The Coming Spring (Przedwiośnie)* for Central European University Press. In the summer he was invited to take part in "Poland in the Rockies," a program for outstanding Polish Canadian and Polish American university students. In October, at the annual meeting of the American Literary Translators Association, he gave a talk on translating Juliusz Słowacki's *Balladina*.

STUDENT NEWS

Elizabeth Borowsky (IUB Music) had her debut solo CD, "Chopin Recital" released by ICRecords in the Spring of 2006. The CD is the result of a special prize she received from ICRecords while participating in the International Chopin Competition in Warsaw, Poland in September/October 2005.

Bora Chung (IUB Slavics) presented her paper "The image of shop in Prus's *The Doll* and Schulz's *Cinnamon Shops*" at AAASS in Washington DC.

Greg Domber (IUB Visiting Scholar, REEI) has been working on his dissertation "Supporting the Revolution: America, Democratization, and the End of the Cold War in Poland, 1981-1989." This past year, he completed work as an associate editor of *From Solidarity to Martial Law: The Polish Crisis of 1980-1981* (Central European University Press, 2007). Next year, he will be

New and Forthcoming Polish Area Studies Publications, 2006-2007

The Forgotten Keys: Selected Poetry of Tomasz Różewicz, translated from the Polish by Mira Rosenthal (Zephyr Press, 2007).

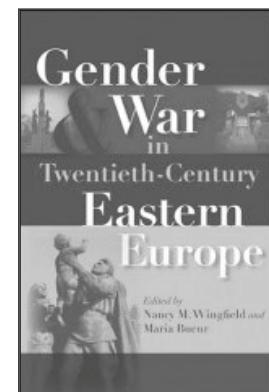
Gender and War in Twentieth Century Eastern Europe, edited by Maria Bucur and Nancy Wingfield (Indiana University Press, 2006).

Ku zwycięstwu „Solidarności”: Korespondencja Ambasady USA w Warszawie z Departamentem Stanu, styczeń-wrzesień 1989, selected and introduced by Gregory F. Domber (Instytut Studiów Politycznych PAN, 2006).

Living Gender After Communism, edited by Jean C. Robinson and Janet Elise Johnson (Indiana University Press, 2007).

New Poems, by Tadeusz Różewicz, translated from the Polish by Bill Johnston (Archipelago, 2007).

Public Opinion, Party Competition, and the European Union in Post-communist Europe, edited by Robert Rohrschneider and Stephen Whitefield (Palgrave MacMillan, 2006).



a post-doctoral fellow at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law.

Andy Hinnant (IUB REEI/SPEA) spent the summer interning in Warsaw and learning about the business and political climate in Poland. The first half of the summer, he interned at the American Chamber of Commerce, where he wrote the report: "Impact of US Investment in Poland over the Last 15 Years." He also attended several interesting AmCham events, including President Kaczyński's meeting with foreign investors and a stakeholder dialogue—attended by General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt, among others—where he participated in discussions on the challenges and trends facing the world and potential, locally relevant responses. The second half of the summer, Andy interned at the US Embassy's political section where he conducted research for The State Department's annual Report on Human Rights Practices by interviewing key figures in various non-profit organizations and scouring Polish newspapers for human rights issues.

Anna Muller's (IUB History) article "The Bim-Bom Theatre: Cultural De-Stalinization of the Polish People's Republic," was published in the fall edition of Slavic and East European Performance.

Mira Rosenthal (IUB Comparative Literature) spent the summer studying Polish at Warsaw University as part of IUB's Office of International Programs exchange. She completed her first book of translations, *The Forgotten Keys: Selected Poetry of Tomasz Różycki* (Zephyr, forthcoming). Her translations also appeared

in a special Polish issue of *Poetry Wales*. This spring, she presented her work on a panel entitled "Torn Up from the Roots: Four Eastern European Poets Respond to Displacement" at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Krystyna Mazur, Assistant Professor at the American Studies Center, Warsaw University, author of *Poetry and Repetition* (Routledge 2005), is a visiting scholar this Spring, doing research related to her second book on expatriate American modernist women writers.

Karol Olejniczak was a visiting scholar in Fall 2006. While at IU, he worked on a research project titled: "The use of evaluation in public management: US and EU experiences in a comparative perspective." He is a research fellow at the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies, Warsaw University. He has conducted research projects in Ireland, the Netherlands, Italy, UK, Austria and Poland. Currently he is preparing his Ph.D. dissertation in management titled: "The utilization of evaluation in INTERREG programs."

Adrian Zdrada was a visiting scholar in Fall 2006. While in Bloomington, he collected materials for his Ph.D. dissertation on the impact of ethnic lobbies on US foreign policy-making. He works for the Polish Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw. During the 2006 fall semester, he was a research fellow at the Institute for Development Strategies at SPEA.

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The Polish Cultural Association

On Friday, October 27, the Polish Cultural Association hosted a Polish barbecue at the Polish Studies Center. Although it was cold and raining, we had a wonderful turnout of over forty people ranging from professors and students from all disciplines to Polish families from the Bloomington area. There was plenty of food to go around, and a large and varying collection of Polish music enlivened the scene. The food was excellent with two different kinds of sausage, wiejska and a specialty sausage, wiejski and rye bread, and kisziona kapusta—all fresh from Chicago, thanks to Greg Polit. The Polish Cultural Association would like to thank everyone who made the event such a success.

The PCA is planning a number of events for this upcoming semester, including a monthly movie showing to supplement the Spring Polish Film Series, a Smigus Dyngus day activity, and possibly a collaboration with the Ukrainian club to hold a rock concert. We welcome suggestions for future activities and can always use more members—both those who speak Polish and those who don't understand a word of it—to help plan activities.

Donate to the Polish Studies Center

The Polish Studies Center is greatly in need of financial contributions for its scholarly, cultural, and social activities. Donations to the Center are crucial in allowing us to build our program. As you know, the Center arranges a wide array of scholarly events like conferences, talks, and symposia; cultural events such as concerts, theatrical performances, readings, and exhibitions; and informal social gatherings. Your help is vital in pursuing the Center's mission, which is to promote the study of Polish culture, history, and society at Indiana University and beyond.

Thanks to state and federal tax laws, your gift to the Indiana University Foundation for Indiana University's Polish Studies Center can be a real bargain! Indiana residents can receive a 50 percent tax credit on their Indiana tax returns, up to a maximum credit of \$100 if you are filing alone or \$200 if you are filing jointly. Add the value of the charitable deduction when you itemize on your federal return, and your gift winds up actually costing you a fraction of its value to Indiana University.

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Director
Bill Johnston

Administrative Assistant
Andy Hinnant

Graduate Assistant
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