

International conference “Interculturalism in Historical Education”

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, 6 Anielewicza Street

20-22 April, 2015

DAY 1: Monday, April 20, 2015

11.00-12.45 Project Ideas Exchange

Open event accompanying the conference

You are taking part in the conference and want to share your ideas, exchange experiences, tell others about the project you are working on or searching for a project partner? You are not taking part in the conference but are interested in multiculturalism and historical education and would like to find out what exciting projects are being realized in Poland and abroad? Here is the opportunity!

13.00-15.00 Curatorial Tour of POLIN Museum’s Core Exhibition

Led by Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Chief Curator, Core Exhibition.

Reservations required

15.00-16.30 Registration

16.30-17.00 Formal Opening of the Conference

Zygmunt Stępiński (Deputy Director, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews)

Professor Adam Daniel Rotfeld (Member of the Museum Council, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews)

Ana Perona-Fjeldstad (Executive Director, The European Wergeland Centre)

Joanna Kluzik-Rostkowska (Minister, Ministry of National Education, Poland)

Bjørnulf Vinje Borgundvaag (State Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Norway)

17.00-18.30 Panel Discussion:

Opening statement by **Laila Bokhari** (State Secretary, Prime Minister’s Office, Norway)

“History and Citizenship Education. Diversity in Europe – Contemporary Challenges”

Experts from Poland, Norway, France and Sweden will analyze the role of cultural and ethnic diversity in their countries as well as the challenges particular countries face in historical and citizenship education. The panel discussion will be attended by: prof. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett (POLIN Museum), Thomas Michael Walle (Norwegian Folk Museum), Philippe Boukara (Memorial de la Shoah), Christina Gamstorp (Forum for Living History). Moderation: Konstanty Gebert (journalist, Poland).

18.30-19.30 Dinner

19.30-20.30 Concert by Bente Kahan

Open event accompanying the conference. Reservation is required for non-conference guests.

Bente Kahan is a Norwegian-born Jewish actress, musician, director and playwright. During the concert she will perform her program "Home – Songs and Tales by a European Jew," which presents the fate of European Jews as illustrated by the example of Bente Kahan’s own family.

DAY 2: Tuesday, April 21, 2015

1st SESSION: HISTORY EDUCATION AND INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCES

9.00-10.00 Expert Lecture and Discussion

Lecture by: Professor Kirstin Skinstad van der Kooij (Oslo and Akershus University College)
Commentary by: Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe)

In recent decades due to mobility and migrations European societies have become increasingly diverse. Many European countries also have a more diverse past than we are aware of. Diversity is not only linked to ethnic or religious difference – at some point in their lives most people will have the experience of being a “stranger” in a new environment, culture, or with regard to unfamiliar ways of communicating. Intercultural competence training is needed to prepare people for an encounter with what they experience as “different”. Historical education can play a major role in this process, challenging assumptions of what is normal and taken for granted. What are the attitudes and intercultural skills one can discover thanks to historical science? What sort of practices do we observe at museums, memorials and in classrooms in this respect?

10.00-10.15 Coffee Break

10.15-12.30 Workshop Session

Workshops held simultaneously, participants are asked to choose one

WORKSHOP 1:

Karen Polak (Anne Frank House, Amsterdam), Flora Suen (Anne Frank Zentrum, Berlin)
“Historical Biographies and Multiple Identities: Setting the Stage for Intercultural Historical Learning”
(ENG)

Taking historical biographies and the autobiography of the learner as point of departure can help us acknowledge the conflicts in our societies and take these real conflicts as the starting point for a dialogue on the past and the present. We will work with 15 biographies from different periods in modern history. The participants will be actively engaged in the learning process that reflects the didactical approach that students experience. The workshop will also focus on the pedagogical challenges in different educational contexts, when working with historical biographies. We will discuss how to contribute to intercultural sensitivity by giving insights into questions of identity on the basis of historical biographies that reflect diversity. Other points of interest are to give insight into the resistance to unequal treatment in different historical contexts; to reflect on continuities and discontinuities in discrimination/inequality; and to consider the meaning of taking action in response to discrimination.

WORKSHOP 2:

Harald Syse (Norwegian Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities, Oslo)
“Different Cultural Background – Different Memory Culture”
(ENG)

The workshop will present and discuss a teaching material/method called “Memory cards”. The aim of the method is to enable students to reflect on why and how specific events in the past are or should be understood and remembered, and to approach events of the past through something tangible in the present. It therefore focuses on the differentiation between “the past”, “history” and “memory” and the cultural structure of the

latter. The students' understanding and perceived importance of certain memorials will partly be framed by their cultural background. Discussing memorial culture can therefore be seen as an intercultural competence. The material has been used with different student and teacher groups, and was developed within a larger project called "Teaching Memory Culture (TeacMem)". Part one of the workshop will be to work with the "Memory cards" in order to comprehend the concept. Part two will be to discuss further development and different uses of the material and the method.

WORKSHOP 3:

Grzegorz Demel (Znak Foundation, Cracow)

"How to Make History a Tool? Understanding Interculturalism" (PL/ENG)

The workshop will critically reflect on stereotypes and autostereotypes, multiculturalism, cross-ethnic relations and national myths as seen in Polish historical consciousness, particularly with regard to the eastern borderlands of pre-war Poland and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. An attempt will be made to examine ideas that seem obvious (such as *Polishness*) and to take an anthropological view of one's own group as *the Other*.

WORKSHOP 4:

Agata Pietrzyk-Sławińska (Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw)

"Museums as Laboratories of Difference. The Royal Łazienki Museum" (PL/ENG)

During the workshop we will look at museums as *laboratories of difference* – places of encounter with difference on the historic, anthropological and psychological level. Using the example of the Royal Łazienki Museum – a place that is at once national and intercultural – we will reflect on the educational potential of a historic residence, in particular on its role in intercultural education. We will treat museum animation as a way of encountering the *Other* (someone historically and culturally remote), abolishing stereotypes and preconceptions, and as a filter that allows one to approach difference as an invitation to learn more about *oneself*. Adopting the viewpoint of a museum visitor (who often feels alienated and lacking a proper understanding) we will look for a way to reduce distance between museum visitors and museums, to build a more personal relation. The workshop will combine meta-reflection with historical education, cultural animation and art therapy exercises.

12.30-13.30 Lunch

2nd SESSION: LOCAL HISTORY AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS "OTHERS"

13.30-14.30 Expert Lecture and Discussion

Lecture: Witold Dąbrowski (Brama Grodzka/NN Theatre, Lublin)

Commentary: Brendan Jackson (The Laundry Association, UK)

We would like to juxtapose global challenges with local histories in the context of communities. What role does the experience of diversity play in their past and present? What sort of challenges does it pose? Are local heritage and collective memory an important reference in local education? How is memory of the local intercultural past animated – and what role does diversity play in animating local communities? What can local histories teach society at large?

14.30-14.45 Coffee Break

14.45-17.00 Workshop Session

Workshops held simultaneously, participants are asked to choose one

WORKSHOP 1:

Maria Galbraith (University of Alabama), Małgorzata Wosińska (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań)
“Fragmented Lives: The Jewish Past in Social, Visual and Personal Space”
(ENG)

The workshop critically analyzes practices of commemoration and remembering Jewish culture in Poland. Taking into account the fluidity of categories of belonging within the context of globalization, it emphasizes strategies for displaying fragmentary tangible and intangible heritage in ways that promote intercultural dialog among active subjects and break post-holocaust silences on the social and individual level. Work involving “fragments” of Jewish heritage (objects, representations, recollections) can be tools for building dialog between different ethnicities and religions based on recognizing the violence of the past, while also confronting the challenges of the future.

WORKSHOP 2:

Jolanta Steciuk (Polis Association of Young Reporters and the Polish Academy of Sciences Graduate School for Social Research), Zuzanna Piechowicz (Polis Association of Young Reporters and TOK FM Radio)
“Displaced Germans in the Collective Memory of Poles”
(ENG)

War-time displacement, border changes and post-war migration as well as communist propaganda for decades removed the memory of the former German inhabitants of the lands incorporated into Poland after World War II from Polish public discourse. Anything related to German inhabitants was removed from local memory. We will analyze post-war postcards speaking of the so-called “Regained Territories” as well as contemporary media material, and work in groups to answer the question of how to talk about Germans, former inhabitants of Poland’s western and northern territories. How to build a coherent narrative that takes account of the historical context and Germany’s responsibility for the outbreak of World War II.

WORKSHOP 3:

Jolanta Olsztyn, Andrzej Subko (French Upper Secondary School, Warsaw and Secondary School Complex, Sejny)
“Meeting the Other – an Example of Good Practice: In Search of Atlantis”
(PL/ENG)

During the workshop we will discuss how to frame private histories in general categories. How to present private stories to reach other people, to win an Oscar?! How to include various local histories in the story about the present? We will have a closer look at these issues based on experiences in intercultural education, i.e. cooperation between a Polish upper secondary school from Sejny and a French school from Warsaw. We will reflect on how to build a sense of shared experience among young people from different cultural, national and religious backgrounds, how to overcome one’s sense of alienation, how to present the experience of community in historical (mythological?) terms.

WORKSHOP 4:

Satsita Khumaidova, Dominika Cieřlikowska (Anti-discrimination Education Association)

“A Meeting with a Person, Culture, and Nation – Elements of Drama in Building Intercultural Competencies” (PL/ENG)

The workshop has been designed to shape emotions and attitudes, but also to teach tangible skills. The central theme will be the story of a real person, a Chechen woman living in Poland. Her fortunes will help us understand not only the difficult and complicated history of her family, but also that of the Chechen people. The character’s history has been presented in such a way so as to underscore the challenges involved in adapting to a new life in a new culture, the cultural shock, and the selected acculturation strategies: integration and assimilation, or the acquisition of intercultural competencies.

WORKSHOP 5:

Joanna Mikulska, Joanna Kocon (Doroękarnia Children and Youth Culture Center, Warsaw)

“Siekierki Gallery of Forgotten Places” (PL/ENG)

Through the non-standard activity of a spatial game participants will have the opportunity to find out more about the history of the former Siekierki village, today located within the borders of Warsaw. The rules are simple: players choose one of four characters living in pre-war Siekierki and join them on a visit to places that have vanished, including a manor, a blacksmith’s shop, a linen press shop, and a shoemaker’s shop. The game is based on the accounts of local residents. The workshop leaders will also share their experiences in working with this method and will show how to stimulate local communities in an interesting way.

19.00-20.00 Polin Choir – Concert

Open event accompanying the conference. Reservation is required for non-conference guests.

Concert by a choir made up of Warsaw residents – professionals, amateurs, youth, adults, seniors and representatives of Warsaw’s minorities. The choir gave its premiere performance during the Grand Opening of POLIN Museum’s Core Exhibition in October 2014. The group prepared their own piece inspired by the Polin legend, the legend of how the Jews came to Poland. This extraordinary show combines languages, text and music from a variety of cultures and exemplifies the universal story of searching for a home. The choir is conducted by Sean Palmer and Kuba Pałys.

DAY 3: Wednesday, April 22, 2015

3rd SESSION: INTERCULTURALISM IN THE CITY

9.00-10.00 Expert Lecture and Discussion

Lecture by: Professor Paul Scheffer (University of Amsterdam)

Commentary by: Professor Barbara Szacka (University of Warsaw)

Warsaw is a very interesting example of a city with a rich multicultural past which today, in spite of immigration, remains extremely homogenous as compared to other European capitals. This interesting case will become a point of departure for talking about the multiculturalism (and interculturalism) of contemporary cities, the importance of historical education for building attitudes of openness and respect for cultural minorities and migrants, and the relationship between public spaces and their history and memory. We will reflect on *whose* memory is represented in urban space, and how to breathe life into it.

10.00-10.15 Coffee Break

10.15-12.30 Workshop Session

Workshops held simultaneously, participants are asked to choose one

WORKSHOP 1:

Kinga Anna Gajda, Katarzyna Suszkiewicz, Ewelina Malik (Jagiellonian University in Cracow)
“The ‘Path’ Method as an Active Method of Intercultural Education”
(ENG)

The aim of the workshop is to make participants familiar with a new teaching method which allows for the use of local cultural and historical heritage, and to improve their knowledge not only on multi- and interculturalism, but also about the city. The workshop will present the issue of interculturalism and the path method in an active way. The workshop participants will then leave the building to follow a thematic path devoted to Warsaw’s interculturalism.

WORKSHOP 2:

Agnieszka Kajczyk (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)
“Warsaw: A Cultural Melting Pot – Life Around Tłomackie”
(ENG)

*Squares slither like cobras,
houses as proud as peacocks,
give me a tiny old stone,
let me find myself in Warsaw.*

Despite appearances, today’s Warsaw does not resemble the city it once was – a place where different cultures, traditions and nations crossed, clashed, but still co-existed. Based on the example of Tłomackie Square, workshop participants will analyze archival documents, including literary works, photographs, and memoir excerpts, to reconstruct and study the history of multicultural Warsaw. This in turn will become a starting point for a discussion on complex and complicated neighborly relations in the past. The participants will also focus on the problems of living in a multicultural city and the related threats, but also on the potential of contemporary society.

The aim of the workshop is to make people sensitive to contemporary manifestations of xenophobia and prejudice, and to help them build a culture of memory in the city where they live.

WORKSHOP 3:

Dorota Jędruch, Agnieszka Fluder (National Museum in Cracow)
“Graffiti City. How to React to Hate”
(PL/ENG)

The city is a place where a vast array of messages compete for our attention. Many of these messages often try to appropriate the space they appear in, to dominate and to exclude those considered “the enemy” or “the other.” Their language is dominated by racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia. During the workshop we will analyze the content of such messages and try to find responses (as part of a workshop with an artist) in the form of a template and a graphic design that would include a message stressing the communal nature of the city.

WORKSHOP 4:

David Stoleru, Arielle Margaux (The Beit Project Association, Barcelona)
“The Beit Project: Using the City for Educational Purposes”
(ENG)

The idea is to present The Beit Project through an experiential workshop, using the skills and knowledge of the participants to bring there one step further into the use of heritage sites and urban space, using our specific methodology. We will ask each one of them to describe (and maybe draw! with any possible technique) a heritage place in their hometown, and from there we will begin to work on the use of those visual elements to create a meaningful dialog on contemporary issues

12.30-13.30 Lunch

4TH SESSION IV: DEALING WITH PREJUDICE, DISCRIMINATION AND HATE SPEECH

13.30-14.30 Expert Lecture and Discussion

Lecture by: Professor Andreas Zick (University of Bielefeld, Germany)
Commentary by: Marte Michelet (journalist and researcher, Norway)

Even if triggered within contemporary socio-cultural and political contexts, prejudice, group focused hate and their expressions in hate speech and hate crimes can always be examined within some kind of historical context. Often those who hold and express negative attitudes towards minorities are not aware of the destructive consequences of such attitudes in the past, nor of their destructive potential for our own societies. How can understanding the historical dimension of racism, anti-Semitism and other forms of hate against minorities contribute to effective educational responses and prevention? What can historical education contribute to combating prejudice and hate? And how can education in physical environments such as museums or memorials address hate on the internet?

14.30-14.45 Coffee Break

14.45-17.00 Workshop Session

Workshops held simultaneously, participants are asked to choose one

WORKSHOP 1:

Maja Dobiasz, Malina Janusz-Baranowska (Center for Citizenship Education Foundation, Warsaw)
“Knowledge Alone is Not Enough’ - How to Counteract Anti-Semitism in Polish Schools? Good Educational Practices”
(PL/ENG)

Schools can help students learn about the local, multicultural and multiethnic past, encourage them to listen to the accounts of historical witnesses, help them encounter otherness, make them sensitive to stereotypes and improve their language skills. Schools can influence students’ attitudes, teach openness, respect and tolerance. How to achieve this? Based on the latest research, workshop participants will find out more about the situation in Polish schools and the attitude of young people to anti-Semitism. They will be given examples of good practices and work methods that have been developed and used by leaders of anti-discriminatory education. The concept of the workshop is based on youth cooperation experiences in projects implemented by the Center for Citizenship Education Foundation, including “Safer. A story about Polish Jews,” “School of tolerance,” and “Hate. I am against,” as well as the teaching practice of the winners of the Irena Sendler award “For Repairing the World”.

WORKSHOP 2:

Nora Hammidi (Anne Frank House, Amsterdam)

“Educational Comics in your Classroom – the Possibilities of Teaching Diversity with ‘New Friends’” (ENG)

Central theme in this interactive workshop is teaching sensitive issues like prejudice and discrimination using educational comic ‘New Friends. ‘New Friends’ aims to create mutual understanding by giving students insights into the most important social mechanisms that can contribute to or battle stereotypes, prejudice, bullying, discrimination and racism (identity, friendship, the formation of groups, group pressure, forming opinions and in- and exclusion.)

In groups we will analyse the storyline of “New Friends” and practice with accompanying educational materials. Furthermore we will discuss the possibilities to use “New friends” and the educational materials in your own country and school system. “New friends” is the third educational comic book developed by the Anne Frank house and artist Eric Heuvel. “A Family Secret” (2003) and “The Search (2007) deal with the history of the Second World War and The Holocaust. The historical comics are also presented in the workshop.

WORKSHOP 3:

Monika Mazur-Rafał (Humanity in Action, Poland)

“Freedom of Speech vs. Hate Speech: Challenges in Setting Limits” (ENG)

Freedom of speech lies at the core of democracy. Any totalitarian or authoritarian system usually limits this right first. However, even in a democracy it is not an absolute freedom. The rights and freedoms of other people are the conventional limit of a person’s liberty. The limit, which is understood in theory, is not so obvious in practice when one needs to differentiate between some people’s freedom of speech and others’ freedom of religion, as evidenced by heated discussions about the Paris events (Charlie Hebdo). Where in practice does the boundary between freedom of speech and hate speech lie? How is it delineated in different cultures and at the intersection of different cultures? Can history serve as an inspiration in answering these questions and if so, how?

WORKSHOP 4:

Zakia Akkouch (European Wergeland Centre, Oslo), Jan Dąbkowski (Polis Association of Young Reporters, Warsaw)

“The Role of History Education in Prevention of Hate Speech and Discrimination” (ENG)

The workshop will allow the participants to engage with two modules from “Bookmarks- A manual for combating hate speech through human rights education” which is the main educational tool of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign of the Council of Europe. These modules will hopefully lead the participants to reflect on how history education can be used to prevent and respond to discrimination and hate speech today in addition to introducing the participants to Bookmarks. The two modules that will be used for the workshop are: “Group X/Lessons of History”: is based on the narrative of the persecution of Roma before and during WWII and is aimed at raising awareness of Roma rights and the Human Rights abuses they commonly experience today. Furthermore, it invites participants to consider how victims of hate speech are often deprived of numerous other human rights. “Roots and Branches”: triggers reflection on the historical reasons of prejudiced language by inviting participants to map the historic roots of common prejudices and group focused enmity that underline hate speech today.

17.00-17.15 Coffee Break

17.15-17.30 New Round of the EEA/Norway Grants

Presentation by Ambassador Ingrid Schulerud (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway)

17.30-18.30 “Interculturalism in Historical Education”: Summary Panel Discussion

Program Board members will sum up key findings and issues discussed during the conference. The panel discussion will be attended by: Sjur Bergan (Council of Europe), Alicja Pacewicz (Center for Citizenship Education Foundation) and Dr. Grzegorz Mazurkiewicz (Jagiellonian University in Cracow).

Moderation: Dr. Claudia Lenz (European Wergeland Centre).

The organizers reserve the right to amend the program. Version as of April 15, 2015