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
DAY 1: MONDAY 11 MAY 2015
From 9:30 AM Registration

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

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)

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*
DAY 3: WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015

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)
Darius 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 doikeyt 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)

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)

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 Wroclaw)

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 Berndt (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
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