

## **Workshops 2016**

### **The 5th Polish-Israeli Young Scholars Workshop on the History and Culture of Polish Jews, 27 – 29 June 2016**

Organizers:

- POLIN Museum
- Institute for the History of Polish Jewry and Israel - Poland Relations, Tel Aviv University
- Institute of Jewish Studies, Jagiellonian University
- Department of Jewish Studies, University of Wrocław
- Marcell and Maria Roth Chair in the History and Culture of Polish Jewry, Bar Ilan University

The event encompassed presentations on the history and culture of Polish Jewry divided into the following research panels: ‘The 19<sup>th</sup> century’, ‘Interwar Period/Second Republic’, ‘Holocaust’, ‘Life of the Ghetto’, ‘Yiddish Literature’, ‘Hebrew Literature’, ‘Memory, Holocaust, Art’. The workshop participants were young doctoral students from Poland, Israel, Germany, USA, and Russia. Distinguished professors from Israel and Poland took part in the project as mentors.

The range of research fields represented during the workshop resulted in thought-provoking discussions and vivid exchange of ideas. The project offered a good opportunity for young scholars to receive feedback on their doctoral research from experienced academics as well as peers from other research institutions worldwide.

## **Awkward Objects of Genocide: The Holocaust and Vernacular Arts in and Beyond Polish Museums, 3-5 October 2016**

Organizers:

- POLIN Museum
- Concordia University
- Research Centre for Memory Cultures, Jagiellonian University
- University of Bremen

The workshop focused on the survey and discussion of preliminary results gathered in the first phase of the research project “Awkward Objects of Genocide. Vernacular Art on the Holocaust and Ethnographic Museums” (itself part of a larger multi-country collaboration entitled “Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts: From Intervention to Co-Production”, Horizon 2020 program - Reflective Societies). The goal of the project is to change the status of “vernacular Holocaust art” within ethnographic collections, and also bring a new category of creative production into view within the more general discourse on “Holocaust art.” The workshop offered the opportunity to discuss in an interdisciplinary setting the holdings identified in Polish institutions, and the ways these have been categorized, presented, and interpreted.

Participating scholars represented various disciplines and research fields, including Art History, Ethnography, Literary and Cultural Studies. Curators and visual artists also took part in the meeting. The involvement of specialists from so many different backgrounds led to intensive exchange of ideas and helped to overcome the ways of seeing and interpreting the objects of the art to which we are used to.

Polish-Jewish everyday coexistence, the participants contributed to the growing body of knowledge on Polish-Jewish history, everyday coexistence and its cultural memory. The scholars explored the core exhibition of POLIN Museum through the lenses of representation and cultural memory and learned how the museum had redefined both the Polish-Jewish everyday coexistence in different periods and the contemporary dialogue with it.

**Seminar on the International Tracing Service Digital Archive for Polish Scholars,  
September 12-16, 2016**

Organizers:

- POLIN Museum
- Institute of National Remembrance
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The workshop took place at POLIN Museum and at the Institute of National Remembrance. Nineteen participants discussed the problem of migration, and the usefulness of the International Tracing Service Digital Archive for Polish researchers. They took part in the workshop sessions and lectures delivered by Suzanne Brown-Fleming from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, prof. Jerzy Dąbrowski from Institute of National Remembrance, prof. Jerzy Kochanowski from University of Warsaw, and dr. Anna Rosner from the Jewish Historical Institute. The key-note lecture was delivered by prof. Paul Shapiro from USHMM.

**A Present Past: Modern Representations of Polish-Jewish Everyday Coexistence in Word  
and Image, 25-27 October 2016**

Organizers:

- POLIN Museum
- University of Haifa
- University of Wrocław

The event brought together senior scholars and early career researchers in Polish-Jewish history, art and literature from Israel, Poland, United Kingdom and Lithuania, and provided a scholarly platform for cross-cultural exchange of ideas.

The motto of the workshop was the 'present past'. The project examined how different generations of modern historians, writers and artists remembered and represented Polish-Jewish coexistence and how they mediated the multiple layers of 'living together' to their audiences.