



Jewish Initiative and Agency under Communism

An International Conference at the University of Wrocław

28 – 30 June 2022



Taube Department of Jewish Studies,
University of Wrocław
ul. św. Jadwigi 3/4, Wrocław

All conference proceedings will take place
in the Jerzy Woronczak conference hall,
room 115, of the Jewish Studies Department.

Jewish Initiative and Agency under Communism: An International Conference at the University of Wrocław, 28 – 30 June 2022

Venue:

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All conference proceedings will take place in the Jerzy Woronczak conference hall, room 115, of the Jewish Studies Department.

Tuesday, 28 June:

16:00- Registration

16:30- Opening of the conference

17:00-19:00 – The first keynote panel:

Chair: David Engel (New York University)

Dariusz Stola (Institute of Political Studies Polish Academy of Science):

Social capital, external homeland, failed dreams: what made Jewish emigration from communist Poland

Anna Shternshis (University of Toronto):

Black Years Revisited: Oral History of Soviet Jews Remembering 1948-1953

Discussion

19:30: Conference dinner

Wednesday, 29 June:

9:30-11:15 Panel I:

Chair: Marcin Wodziński (University of Wrocław)

Karolina Szymaniak (Jewish Historical Institute / University of Wrocław):

A Canon for a/the Jewish Future? Rachel Auerbach's Reimagining the Jewish Literary Canon in the Late 1940s

Gennadiy Estraiikh (New York University):

Ilya Ehrenburg: An Inadvertent Guru to the Jews in Post-Stalinist Soviet Society

Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukrainian Catholic University):

'Guys from Banderstadt': Ukrainian-Jewish-Russian-Argentinian Rock Scene in the Late Soviet Lviv

Discussion

11:15-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:15- Panel II:

Chair: Semion Goldin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Kamil Kijek (University of Wrocław):

From 'Autonomy' Towards Subjectivity, from Holocaust Aftermath Towards Jewish History in Post-Holocaust Poland. The Case of the Jewish Community of Dzierżoniów, 1945-1950

Kateřina Čapková (Institute of Contemporary History Czech Academy of Science):

Oranges from Israel. Jewish Agency through the Ties to Israel during the anti-Zionist years in Czechoslovakia

Yechiel Weizman (Bar Ilan University):

Imagined Power, Real Agency. Polish Jews and the fate of the Jewish Heritage Sites in Communist Poland.

13:30-15:00 Lunch break

15:00-16:10 Panel III:

Chair: Kamil Kijek (University of Wrocław)

Anna Koch (University of Leeds):

Fighting for "the annihilation of racial ideology": Jewish communists' discussion of racism and anti-Jewish persecution in the emerging East German State

Łukasz Bertram (Institute of Political Studies Polish Academy of Science):

Agency in the Back Rows. An Obscured Experience of the Political Activists of Jewish Background in Poland, 1944–1956

Discussion

16:30-18:30: The second keynote panel

Chair: Dariusz Stola (Institute of Political Studies Polish Academy of Science Warsaw)

Juliane Fürst (Leibniz Center for Contemporary History Potsdam):

The Jewish Non-Jewish Activists: Dissidents, Artists and Hippies

David Engel (New York University):

Jews, Communism, and the Problem of Security

Discussion

19:00 Conference dinner

Thursday, 30 June:

09:30-10:45 Panel IV:

Chair: Katarzyna Liszka (University of Wrocław)

Katarzyna Person (Jewish Historical Institute Warsaw):

“I am ready to take this journey”. Jewish agency and crossing the Iron Curtain in search for justice in the immediate postwar world.

Arkadi Zeltser (Yad Vashem):

Between Past and Present: Holocaust Memory among Soviet Jews in the 1960s

10:45-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-13:00 Concluding panel and summary of the conference

Chair: Semion Goldin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Discussants:

Eli Lederhandler (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Kateřina Čapková (Institute of Contemporary History Czech Academy of Science)

13:30-14:30 Lunch

The conference is organized with the financial support of the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and Eastern European Jewry of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, the Taube Department of Jewish Studies and Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław, and the Institute of Contemporary History, Czech Academy of Sciences.



The conference is organized within the framework of the Global Education Outreach Program.



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