

II International Interdisciplinary Scientific Conference of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia

Poles and Polish diaspora in North America

21-22 September 2017

Emigration Museum in Gdynia

Emigration Museum in Gdynia is a local government cultural institution. It gathers and facilitates collections on the history of Polish emigration and aims to disseminate knowledge about the processes of migration over the centuries.

The Museum's mission is to reconstruct the fate of emigrants and to speak about them. This applies both to the stories of well-known and famous people, whose names appear in the context of scientific, sport, economic or artistic achievements, as well as to millions of anonymous emigrants leaving their homes in search of a better life. The ambition of the museum is to popularize knowledge about various aspects of migratory movements, their conditions, consequences and the impact on the formation of Polish Diaspora clusters, as well as the mutual relationships between these clusters and their country of origin. We would also like to create a forum for researchers and those interested in the issues of migration and Polish communities abroad.

The first project in the science and popularization area was last year's conference inaugurating activities of the Museum in this field. It was devoted to the issues of Poles and the Polish community in Latin America. The event was attended by nearly 40 researchers representing more than 20 research centers and institutions from Poland, Brazil, Argentina, Austria, Israel and the United States. Continuing this activity Emigration Museum in Gdynia, together with its partners: the Migration Research Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences, The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America, Polish American Historical Association and the Polish Association for Canadian Studies, are pleased to invite you to the second international conference. It will be dedicated to the Polish presence in North America.

During the conference, we would like to focus on issues such as: the history of emigration from Poland to North America; social, legal and political conditions of the transatlantic migration; the formation, development and transformations of the Polish community in the US and Canada; the contribution of Poles in the political, social, cultural and scientific life of the US and Canada; cooperation and contacts of the Polish diaspora with Poland and its impact on relations between Poland and the US and Canada; language and identity of the Polish communities in North America; literary and cultural aspects of the Polish presence in the US and Canada; functioning of the Polish organizations and media; activities of the Polish clergy on the American continent; the image of Poles in the American and Canadian societies, etc.

The above list is only a suggestion of issues that can be presented at the conference.

The conference will be of interdisciplinary character and therefore we invite experts specializing in issues of the Poles and the Polish communities in North America representing various disciplines, including historians, Americanists, Canadianists, political scientists, sociologists, culture experts, literary scholars, cultural anthropologists, philologists, etc.

We hope that, as it was the case last year, the Emigration Museum in Gdynia will provide the conference participants with an inspiring space conducive to creative and critical exchange of views and the latest research findings.

The conference will be summarized with a monographic reviewed publication issued in a printed form.

Conference language: Polish / English

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE:

Application form attached to the present invitation shall be sent **until 30 April 2017** to the following e-mail address: r.raczynski@muzeumemigracji.pl

Information on the paper acceptance will be sent no later than **on 15 May 2017**.

Participation in the conference is **free of charge** for the participants.

Conference organizers provide prelectors with:

- one stay on the night of 21 September for participants from Poland; three stays on the nights of 20, 21, 22 September for participants from abroad,
- catering (breakfasts, lunches, coffee breaks and a formal banquet),
- upon having obtained a positive review, print of the text in a post-conference publication.

NOTE: The number of participants is limited. The final selection of those qualified to participate in the conference will be made by the Scientific Committee of the conference on the basis of the submitted abstracts.

SCHEDULE:

- up to 30 April 2017 – receiving applications,
- up to 15 May 2017 – confirmation of qualification to participate,
- 21-22 September 2017 – conference in the Emigration Museum in Gdynia,
- up to 15 November 2017 – deadline for submittal of texts for publication.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

- Prof. Adam Walaszek, Ph.D. – Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora Studies, Jagiellonian University (chairperson),
- Prof. Katarzyna Jerzak, Ph.D. – Institute of Modern Languages, Pomeranian University in Słupsk,
- Magdalena Lesińska, Ph.D. – Centre for Migration Research, University of Warsaw,

- Prof. Bożena Leven - The College of New Jersey, director of *The Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences of America*,
- Anna Mazurkiewicz, Ph.D. – Institute of History of the University of Gdańsk, president of the *Polish American Historical Association*,
- Prof. Anna Reczyńska, Ph.D. - Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora Studies, Jagiellonian University.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

- Sebastian Tyrakowski
- Rafał Raczyński, Ph.D (conference coordinator)
- Katarzyna Morawska, Ph.D.

PARTNERS:



**The Migration Research Committee
of the Polish Academy of Sciences**
<http://www.kbnm.pan.pl/>



**The Polish Institute
of Arts & Sciences of America**
<http://www.piasa.org/>



Polish American Historical Association
<http://www.polishamericanstudies.org/>



The Polish Association for Canadian Studies
<http://www.ptbk.org.pl/>

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MORE INFORMATION ON THE MUSEUM:

<http://www.polska1.pl/pl/>

The Museum is a member of the Association of European Migration Institutions (AEMI).