Facing History’s Poland Study Tour
Confirmed Speakers and Tour Guides

Speakers

Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, Director
Center for Holocaust Studies at the Jagiellonian University

Dr. Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs is the Director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. She received her Ph.D. in Humanities from Jagiellonian University.

Dr. Ambrosewicz-Jacobs was a fellow at several institutions. She was a Pew Fellow at the Center for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, a visiting fellow at Oxford University and at Cambridge University, and a DAAD fellow at the Memorial and Educational Site House of the Wannsee Conference. She is also the author of *Me – Us – Them. Ethnic Prejudices and Alternative Methods of Education: The Case of Poland* and has published more than 50 articles on anti-Semitism in Poland, memory of the Holocaust, and education about the Holocaust.

Anna Bando, President
Association of Polish Righteous Among Nations

The Association of Polish Righteous Among Nations was founded in 1985. Its members are Polish citizens who have been honored with the title and medal of Righteous Among the Nations. The goals of the society are to disseminate information about the occupation, the Holocaust and the actions of the Righteous, and to fight against anti-Semitism and xenophobia. Anna Bando, nee Stupnicka, together with her mother, Janina Stupnicka, were honored in 1984 as Righteous Among the Nations for their rescue of Liliana Alter, an eleven year old Jewish girl, from the Warsaw ghetto. The two smuggled her out of the ghetto as well as provided her false papers and sheltered her until the end of the war. They also provided assistance to Ryszard Grynberg and Mikołaj Borenstein. Ms. Bando is a retired neurosurgeon.

Michał Bilewicz, Vice President, Forum for Dialogue
Coordinator for the Center for Research on Prejudice Warsaw University

A PhD in Social Psychology, Fulbright Scholar, and visiting scholar at the Oxford Center for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Michał Bilewicz is the former editor-in-chief of the young Polish Jews magazine, Jidele, journalist for the Słowo Żydowskie ("Jewish Word") newspaper, and member of the Krytyka Polityczna ("Political Critique") magazine editorial office. He is the Coordinator of the Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw. Bilewicz is the co-editor of the book *Difficult Questions in Polish-Jewish Dialogue* (published in 2006) and *Jews and Communism* (published in 2000). His research focuses on issues of prejudice, group conflict, anti-Semitism, and dehumanization.
Michał Boni, Minister of Administration and Digitization

Michał Boni is a graduate of the University of Warsaw, where for many years he lectured in the Department of Polish Culture. He has been involved in the "Solidarity" movement since 1980, since 1989 has been a member of the national authorities of "Solidarity", and in 1990 was named the Chairman of the "Mazowsze" Region Managing Board. He is one of the authors of the "Solidarity Across Generations 50+", which is designed to help people over 50 return to the labor market.

In 1991, Boni was appointed the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. From 1992 to 1993 he held the position of the Secretary of State in the same ministry, where he was responsible for labor market policy. Since 1995, Boni has been the Director of the Social Policy Reform Program at the Stefan Batory Foundation. From 1998 to 2001, Boni served as the Chief Advisor to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Boni was a key expert in shaping of the National Development Plan and the National Action Plan for 2007 to 2013. Since January 2008, he has been the Secretary of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Since 2008, he was the Head of Strategic Advisors to the Prime Minister. Under his leadership the team has conducted a socio-economic evaluation of Poland and has participated in the development of strategic plans for the government. Among some of the most important documents are: "Report on Polish Intellectual Capital", "Returner. Navigation for returning migrants", "Poland 2030. Development Challenges" and "Youth 2011".

From 2011 to 2013, Boni served as the Minister of Administration and Digitization.

Father Manfred Deselaers, Director of the Education Department
Center for Prayer and Dialogue in Oświęcim

Father Manfred Deselaers is a Catholic priest from the Diocese of Aachen in Germany. He studied theology in Tübingen and Chicago, was ordained in 1983, and received his Doctorate at the Pontifical Academy of Theology in Krakow in 1991. Since 1989, Father Deselaers has been involved in efforts of German-Polish reconciliation. He also dedicates his life to Christian-Jewish Dialogue at the Center for Dialogue and Prayer in Oswiecim. Since the 90s he has been a guide at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and a Holocaust Educator of the International School of Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. At the Education Department of the Center for Dialogue and Prayer he takes care of the pedagogical and educational aspects of the Center. As a lecturer, he concentrates on the religious meaning of the memory of Auschwitz.
Andrzej Folwarczny, Founder and President
Forum for Dialogue

The founder and the President of the Forum for Dialogue Foundation, Andrzej Folwarczny is an ex-member of the Polish Parliament (the Sejm) from the Freedom Union (Unia Wolności), and chairman of the Polish-Israeli Parliamentary Group. He is the co-editor of the book, *Difficult Questions in Polish-Jewish Dialogue*, published in 2006. Between 1999 and 2004, Folwarczny served as the Vice-President of the Israel-Poland Friendship Association (Towarzystwo Przyjaźni Polsko-Izraelskiej).

Konstanty Gerbert, Polish Journalist and Jewish Activist

Konstanty Gebert is an international reporter and columnist at “Gazeta Wyborcza”, Poland’s biggest daily. He was a democratic opposition activist in the Seventies, when he was also an organizer of the Jewish Flying University, and an underground journalist in the eighties under martial law. He is the founder of the Polish Jewish intellectual monthly Midrasz, and a board member of the Taube Centre for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland and of Einstein Forum in Potsdam, Germany. He has taught in Poland, Israel and the US. Gerbert has written ten books, his essays have appeared in two dozen collective works in Poland and abroad, and he has published articles in newspapers around the world.

Magdalena Grycan, Volunteer
Forum for Dialogue

Magdalena Grycan is a Volunteer at Forum for Dialogue. She is a Ph. D. candidate at the Institute of French Studies at the University of Warsaw working on a thesis about the identity of Polish Jews, émigrés of March ’68. She is interested in Jewish issues in Poland and in France and has taken part in numerous conferences and published several articles about Jewish identity and language issues. Grycan has worked as a French language teacher in one of Warsaw’s high schools and teaches French at Warsaw University. She previously co-operated with the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris and Center for Civic Education in Warsaw.

Anna Gulinska, Director of Programming
Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow

Anna Gulinska was born in 1983 in Tarnow. In 2002 she moved to Krakow to study in the Department of Jewish Studies of the Jagiellonian University. During her studies she was particularly interested in the Yiddish language and she further developed her skills by participating in two Yiddish courses: at New York University (2006) and at Tel Aviv University (2007). Upon her graduation from University with a masters degree in Jewish Studies (2007) she started working in the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow as an Education and Research Assistant. From July, 2008 she has been working in the Jewish Community Center of Krakow as the Director of Programming. She has been also involved in numerous projects for Jewish institutions in Poland.
Dariusz Jabłoński, Producer
Apple Film Productions, *Aftermath*

Dariusz Jabłoński is a Polish film director, Producer and President of his own production company, Apple Film Productions, and one of the leading independent producers in Poland. Jabłoński is a graduate of the Film Directing Academy in Łódź, Poland. Since establishing Apple Film Productions in 1990, he has produced more than 21 documentaries, 9 feature films, and 15 teleplays. Jabłoński is a founder of the Polish Film Awards and the Polish Film Academy as well as of the Independent Film Foundation, created to promote Art House films and their writers. One of his latest productions is the film *Aftermath*, which focuses on two Polish brothers who uncover a dark secret that forces them to confront the history of their family and their hometown.

Olga Kaczmarek, Project Coordinator
Forum for Dialogue

Olga Kaczmarek is a Project Coordinator at Forum for Dialogue. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the Institute of Polish Culture at the University of Warsaw. She was a Fulbright fellow at Penn State University. Kaczmarek wrote her masters thesis on blood libel in Europe and Poland. She previously co-operated with the Museum of the History of Polish Jews on The Polish Righteous program and worked as Forum for Dialogue’s educator.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Program Director, Core Exhibition
The Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is a scholar of Performance and Jewish Studies and a museum professional. She was born in Canada during the Second World War to Jewish immigrants from Poland. Professor of Performance Studies at New York University since 1981 (and distinguished University Professor since 2002), she is best known for her interdisciplinary contributions to Jewish studies and to the theory and history of museums, tourism, and heritage. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is currently Program Director of the Core Exhibition for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.

Monika Koszyńska, Chief Specialist in the Department of Historical Education
The Institute for National Remembrance, Office of Public Education

Monika Koszyńska graduated from Warsaw University with a Master’s degree in pedagogy. She has 12 years of experience as a primary and civic education teacher and guidance counselor and is one of the founding teachers of The Lauder-Morasha School – the first Jewish Day School in Poland after 1968.

Since 2006, Ms. Koszyńska has served as the Chief Specialist in the Department of Historical Education at The Institute for National Remembrance, Office of Public Education. She is the Founder and Former Chairman of the Encounters Association for Education and Culture and has been a representative in Poland to the USC.
Shoah Foundation since 2011. As of March 2013, she has been the Manager of Youth Education at The Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Ms. Koszyńska has authored many publications about educational projects and oral history for use in classroom settings. She specializes in intercultural and multicultural education.

**Stanisław Krajewski, Professor of Philosophy**
**University of Warsaw**

Dr. Stanisław Krajewski and his wife, Monika Krajewska, were among the first to document Poland’s remaining Jewish cemeteries, synagogues, and other Jewish sites since the 1970s. They helped to create the Jewish Flying University, an independent group that studied Jewish issues in the Communist era, and in 1988 were founding members of the first Jewish kindergarten in Warsaw since World War II. Stanisław and Monika received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Culture and the American Jewish Committee in 2013.

Dr. Krajewski, now a Professor of Philosophy at University of Warsaw, is the author of several key books on Jewish contemporary history and identity in Poland. Some of his publications include *Poland and the Jews: Reflections of a Polish Polish Jew and Jews, Judaism, and Poland*. Today, he serves as Co-Chairman, on the Jewish side, of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews. Since 2007, Dr. Krajewski has been working as part of the team preparing content for the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.

**Tomasz Kuncewicz, Director**
**The Auschwitz Jewish Center**

Tomasz Kuncewicz received his Masters degrees in English Studies from Poznan University and in Jewish History from Brandeis University. His major interests are Polish-Jewish history, the Holocaust, antisemitism, other forms of xenophobia, and anti-discrimination education. Since 2000, Kuncewicz has served as the Director of the Auschwitz Jewish Center.

**Robert Kuwałek, Curator and Historian**
**State Museum of Majdanek**

Robert Kuwałek graduated from the Catholic University of Lublin with a particular interest in Jewish topics. In 2002, he received a scholarship from the Kosciuszko Foundation to conduct research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and the National Archives in College Park. Before returning to the State Museum of Majdanek, he served as director of the Belzec Memorial Museum. He is the author or co-author of numerous scholarly works on the Jewish community of Lublin and the Holocaust. In 2010, Mr. Kuwalek published his first monography about the Belzec death camp, which was published in German in 2012 and in French in 2013.
Helise Lieberman, Educational Director
Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Culture and Poland Jewish Heritage Tours

Helise Lieberman is the director of the Taube Center for the Renewal of Jewish Life in Poland Foundation. A former Hillel director, she was the founding principal of the Lauder-Morasha Day School in Warsaw and has served as a consultant to the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe, the Westbury Group, and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. She is currently an educational consultant for JDC - Baltics. In 2007-2008, Ms. Lieberman received a scholarship to participate in the Senior Educators Program of the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at Hebrew University. As a Jewish Peoplehood educator, she was a member of the International Task Force on Jewish Peoplehood Education and is helping shape the Koret-Taube Initiative on Jewish Peoplehood based in San Francisco. Ms. Lieberman, born in the U.S., has lived in Warsaw since 1994 with her husband, Yale Reisner, and their daughter, Nitzan.

Urszula Makosz
Professional Singer and Actress, Performs Traditional Yiddish Music

and

Przemysław Piekarski
Senior Lecturer, Jagellion University

Urszula Makosz is a classically trained singer and actor and has toured Poland and abroad. She became interested in Yiddish language and song after her first time attending the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow. Makosz’ award-winning Jewish musical performances typically include songs about the ghetto, the resistance, and the Holocaust, as well as more everyday issues, such as love and family.

Dr. Przemysław Piekarski is a Yiddish Professor at Jagellion University. He is a linguist and translator of English, Hindi, Yiddish, and French. Piekarksi has conducted workshops in Yiddish at the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow from 1999 to 2013.

Janusz Makuch, Director and Founder
Krakow Jewish Festival

Janusz is best known as a founder of the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow and has been its director for 25 years. Amongst many honors, he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta “for outstanding achievements in discovering, collecting and disseminating the truth about the Holocaust, and for his contribution to advancing the history of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising”. As a young Pole, Makuch was not taught about Jewish history in school. At the age of 14, he was exposed to Jewish history and culture in his hometown of Pulawy and as his interest in Jewish life in Poland grew he decided to found the cultural festival in 1988.

Updated as of 5/1/14
The Jewish Culture Festival has led to the rebirth of Jewish life in Kazimierz, and is one of the biggest and most important festivals of its kind in the world. It was the first post-war festival dedicated to Jewish culture in Poland and its aim was to bring back the memory of Poland’s Jews and their contribution to Polish culture. Today, with almost 30,000 participants annually, the festival is the largest and most diverse exhibition of what is important and creative in the contemporary Jewish world. Most significantly, it draws a largely non-Jewish, Polish audience that is able to witness the rebirth of Jewish culture in Krakow.

Ewa Małkowska-Bieniek, Curator
The Museum of the History of the Polish Jews

Ewa Małkowska-Bieniek is an art historian and a graduate of Institute of Art History at the University of Warsaw. For years she has been dealing with the art and culture of Jews in Warsaw. In the past, she worked at the Institute of Art of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, where she was responsible for archiving Warsaw’s photos. Since 2008, she has worked at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews as a curator of the “Into the Country (17-18 centuries)” gallery of the Core Exhibition. In 2013, she took the position of a Curator of Exhibitions at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Stephen Mull, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland

Stephen Mull was confirmed as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland on September 22, 2012, and sworn in by Secretary Clinton on October 24. He served as Executive Secretary of the State Department from June 21, 2010 until October 5, 2012. Before then, he had served since August 2008 as Senior Advisor to Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns, in which capacity he coordinated U.S. diplomatic efforts on Iran, managed the State Department’s crisis response during the Russian-Georgian war of August 2008, and led negotiations on a range of U.S. national security issues, including the agreement permitting the flight of U.S. military resupply flights to Afghanistan through Russian airspace. At the beginning of the Obama administration, he led and exercised the authorities of the Office of the Under Secretary for International Security Affairs and Arms Control pending the arrival of a permanent Under Secretary.

He served as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs from January 2007 through August 2008. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania 2003-2006, and was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia 2000-2003. His other overseas assignments have been in Poland, South Africa, and the Bahamas. In Washington, he has served as Deputy Executive Secretary of the Department, Director of the Office of Southern European Affairs, and Deputy Director of the Operations Center.

Mr. Mull is the recipient of two Presidential Meritorious Service Awards, the Baker-Wilkins Award for Outstanding Deputy Chief of Mission, the Director General’s Award for Reporting, two Superior Honor Awards, two Distinguished Honor Awards, and more than ten Senior Foreign Service performance awards. He joined the Foreign Service in March 1982, and holds the rank of Career Minister.

Updated as of 5/1/14
Jakub Nowakowski, Director
Galicia Jewish Museum

Jakub Nowakowski was born and raised in Kazimierz, the district of Kraków in which the Museum is located. He has an MA in History from the Department of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University, having written a thesis on Jewish resistance in Kraków during the Second World War. He also has a postgraduate diploma in Management and Marketing from the Kraków School of Economics and Computer Science, and he holds a Tour Leader’s Licence from the City of Kraków.

Nowakowski has worked at the Galicia Jewish Museum since 2005 in a variety of capacities. He had the opportunity to work with and be profoundly influenced by the Museum’s founding director Chris Schwarz.

Annamaria Orla-Bukowska, Social Anthropologist
Institute of Sociology of the Jagiellonian University

Dr. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska teaches (among other subjects) Holocaust courses at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow as well as the Graduate School for Social Research in Warsaw. Her general field of research is majority-minority relationships with a specialization in Polish Christian-Polish Jewish relations before, during and after the Shoah. Orla-Bukowska was a 1999 Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies Fellow and a 2004 Yad Vashem Fellow.

Annamaria Orla-Bukowska is the co-editor of Rethinking Poles and Jews: Troubled Past, Brighter Future, the 2007 book produced in collaboration with Professor Robert Cherry of Brooklyn College (published in English as well as in Polish). The volume comprises a collection of essays devoted to American and Polish, Jewish and non-Jewish perspectives on the Holocaust; it was one of the first books to address the negative assumptions and anti-Polish bias found in post-Shoah historiography.

Jonathan Ornstein, Director
Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Krakow

Jonathan Ornstein is the Director of the Jewish Community Center in Krakow. Hailing from New York City, Jonathan has made Krakow his home, and before his role as JCC Director he lectured in Modern Hebrew at the Jagiellonian University’s Department of Jewish Studies for six years and founded the “Gesher” association for Polish–Israeli dialogue.
Rafal Pankowski, Polish Magazine Editor, Author, and Lecturer

Rafal Pankowski has served as Deputy Editor of ‘Nigdy Wiecej’ (Never Again) magazine since 1996, which belongs to the association of the same name. He has published widely on racism, nationalism, xenophobia and other issues including the books *Neo-Fascism in Western Europe* (1998) *Racism and Popular Culture* (2006), and *The Populist Radical Right in Poland* (2010). He currently works as a lecturer at Collegium Civitas and head of the Warsaw-based East Europe Monitoring Centre. Pankowski received his undergraduate degree from Warsaw University (he also studied at Oxford University as an undergrad) and his PhD in Sociology from the University of Warsaw.

Karolina Panz, Polish Scholar and Social Scientist

Karolina Panz attended the University of Warsaw – Institute of Applied Social Sciences and received a master’s degree in Social Policy and Multicultural Anthropology in 2006. Extensive passages from her master’s thesis, “The Fate of the Jewish Inhabitants of Grójec: Between Remembering and Forgetting,” were printed in a yearly publication of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research, *Holocaust Studies and Materials*. Her primary interests are multiculturalism in its local dimension as well as collective memory and the dynamics of remembering the past through a reconstruction of micro-stories of Jewish communities and the Holocaust. Currently, she is focusing on reconstructing and remembering the history of the Jewish community in Podhale. In 2013, she was awarded a scholarship for young scholars by The Polish Center for Holocaust Research.

Krzysztof Persak, Director

Office of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation

Dr. Krzysztof Persak is Director of the Office of the President of the Institute of National Remembrance – Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation and a Research Fellow at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Dr. Persak graduated from the Warsaw University where he received his M.A. and PhD in History. In 1999, he was a visiting fellow at the Cold War International History Project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C. He also served as a consultant for the Hoover Institution Archives and a research associate of the NATO–Warsaw Pact Parallel History Project.

Dr. Persak’s research area is a contemporary political and social history of Poland, with special focus on Polish-Jewish relations, Polish-Soviet relations, the communist power system and the communist security police. His expertise encompasses legal aspects of historical events. His major publications include: *Odrodzenie harcerstwa w 1956 roku* [Rebirth of Scouting Movement in Poland in 1956] (Warsaw, 1996); *Wokol Jedwabnego* [Around Jedwabne – A two-volume study of a massacre of Jewish inhabitants in north-eastern Poland, carried out by Polish peasants and Nazi Security Police in July 1941] (Warsaw, 2002– jointly with Pawel Machcewicz); *A Handbook of the Communist Security Apparatus in East Central Europe, 1944-1989* (Warsaw, 2005 – jointly with Lukasz Kaminski); and *Sprawa Henryka Hollanda* [Henryk Holland Affair – an investigative study into the mysterious death of a known journalist during a search conducted in his apartment by the communist Security Service in 1961] (Warsaw, 2006). The latter book won the *Polityka* weekly historical award, the most prestigious Polish award for books on 20th century history.

Updated as of 5/1/14
Jakub Petelewicz, Educational Director
Forum for Dialogue

Jakub Petelewicz is Forum’s Educational Director. He is a historian active in research on Holocaust and Polish-Jewish relationships. Petelewicz is also a Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Yad Vashem Institute in Jerusalem. He has authored many articles about the Holocaust and Polish Jewry. He co-authored "Sources for Holocaust Research in Poland: Archival and Bibliographical Guide" as well as of "Selection of Sources for Teaching about the Holocaust in Poland for High-Schools". Petelewicz is the Co-Founder and Academic Secretary of the Polish Center for Holocaust Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences, and is the Managing Editor of "Zaglada Zydow. Studia i Materialy" ("Holocaust Studies and Materials"). He was one of the authors of the initial concept of the Holocaust Gallery in the Museum of the History of Polish Jews.

Antony Polonsky, Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies
Brandeis University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Dr. Antony Polonsky was born in South Africa and studied history and political science at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1999, Polonsky was appointed Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies, an appointment held jointly at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and at Brandeis University. He also currently serves as the Chief Historian of the Permanent Exhibit of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. He is an expert in Eastern European Jewish History and Holocaust Studies. In 2011, he won the inaugural Kulczycki Prize for his three-volume monograph, The Jews in Poland and Russia (2009, 2010, 2012). Polonsky is the author of Politics in Independent Poland (1972), The Little Dictators. A History of Eastern Europe since 1918 (1975), and The Beginnings of Communist Rule in Poland (1981). He is also the co-author of Jewish Writing in the Contemporary World: Poland (2001), The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy Over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland (2004), and numerous other books and articles in both English and Polish. A former Rhodes Scholar, Polonsky holds an M.Phil. and D.Phil. from Oxford University, and in 1997-98 he held the Skirball Visiting Fellowship at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He was a Founder and is now Vice President of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies in Oxford and of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies based in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Zuzanna Radzik, Board Member
Forum for Dialogue

A theologian, Zuzanna Radzik graduated from the Bobolanum Theological Faculty in Warsaw and Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Currently she is a PhD candidate at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences of the University of Warsaw and member of a research group “Ethnographic Archive”. Radzik cooperates on a regular basis with Tygodnik Powszechny where she made her debut with a controversial article, "Basements Still Rotting" which led to the closing down of an anti-Semitic bookshop, "Antyk."
Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, has a long and rich history of involvement in the Jewish communities of both Eastern Europe and Asia. Educated in Jewish day schools in the New York area, he graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1977 with a Religious Studies major and received an MA in History from Columbia University in 1982. After receiving smicha (rabbinic ordination) through Yeshiva University, Schudrich served as rabbi of Japan's Jewish community from 1983-1989. In June 2000, Rabbi Schudrich began to serve as the Rabbi of Warsaw and Lodz, and in December 2004, he was appointed to the position of Chief Rabbi of Poland. Rabbi Schudrich serves on behalf of Poland's Jewish community as the official interlocutor with both the Polish government and the Catholic Church. Rabbi Schudrich is especially proud of the time he spends counseling Poles who have recently discovered their Jewish identity. In his role as chief rabbi, Schudrich oversees five rabbis and numerous Jewish day schools and summer camps. In addition, he works to protect and preserve mass gravesites, including more than 1,400 cemeteries and the six concentration camps in Poland from World War II.

Piotr Setkiewicz, Head of the Research Department
Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum

Born in 1963, Dr. Setkiewicz studied history at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and earned his doctorate at the Silesian University in 1999 for a dissertation on IG Farben-Werk Auschwitz, 1941-1945.

He began working for the research department at the Museum in 1988. Dr. Setkiewicz served as Head of the Archives from 2001-2007. He became Head of the Research Department in 2008. His research interests include the employment of prisoners in German industry and the history of the Auschwitz sub-camps.

Joanna Sobolewska-Pyz, President
Association of “Children of the Holocaust” in Poland

Joanna Sobolewska-Pyz, born Inka Grynszpan, spent the early years of the war in an orphanage for young children in Warsaw. She was assisted by several people before, in 1943, being taken in by Anastazja and Walerian Sobolewski, who raised Inka (known as Joanna or Joasia on her false papers) as their own child. Ms. Sobolewska-Pyz survived the war and still resides in Warsaw. She is currently the President of the Association of “Children of the Holocaust” in Poland, the association of Holocaust survivors who at the outbreak of the WWII were 13 years of age or younger, or were born during the war; who because of their Jewish origins were targeted for extermination by the Nazi occupiers, were incarcerated in ghettos, concentration camps or death camps, or had to conceal their identity.
Paweł Śpiewak, Director
Jewish Historical Institute

Paweł Śpiewak is one of the best known and most media-active public intellectuals in Poland. He is also a sociologist, historian, author and former politician and, since 2011, he has been the Director of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. His sociological interests cover a broad range of liberal-conservative social and philosophical analyses. He is known in Poland and Europe as author of numerous books, including Ideologies and Citizens (1991), Anti-Totalitarianism – A Polish Debate (2003), The Promise of Democracy (2004), Memory After Communism (2005), Five Books of Tora – Commentaries (2012), and the widely acclaimed Zydokomuna (2012) that demolishes the anti-Semitic stereotype of pro-communist Jews in Poland.

Aleksander Smolar, Chairman
Board of the Stefan Batory Foundation and Political Scientist

Aleksander Smolar is a political scientist. He is the Chairman of the Board of Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw. He Co-Founded the Board of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Smolar also is the Vice Chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen in Vienna. He studied economics and sociology at the University of Warsaw and international relations at the School for Advanced International Studies, John Hopkins University.

After 18 years as a political émigré in France – and Research Fellow in the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique – he became a political advisor to Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, and later a foreign policy advisor to Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka.


Dariusz Stola, Director
The Museum of the History of Polish Jews

On February 26, 2014 Dr. Dariusz Stola received an official nomination for the post of Director of Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Stola is a historian, professor at the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, and fellow at the Center for Migration Research, Warsaw University. He has published nine books and more than a hundred articles on international migrations in the 20th century, the communist regime in Poland, Polish-Jewish relations and the Holocaust, as well as on Polish debates about these pasts. His book A Country with No Exit? Migrations from Poland, 1949-1989 received Poland’s most prestigious book of the year award in history and is the first comprehensive monograph of international mobility from a communist country.
Marian Turski, Chairman
Council for The Museum of the History of the Polish Jews

A historian, journalist and Holocaust survivor, Marian Turski was born on June 26, 1926 in Druskienniki, in today's Lithuania. In 1942, he was confined in the ghetto in Łódź (then Litzmannstadt). He was deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944 and in the spring of 1945, he lived through the death march of former Auschwitz prisoners to Buchenwald.

He is active in numerous Jewish organizations, as chairman of the Jewish Historical Institute Association in Warsaw, and a member of the International Auschwitz Council, the Association Board that oversees the Wannsee Conference Center, and the Council of the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews.

Jonathan Webber, Professor
Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University

Prof. Webber is a British social anthropologist with special expertise on European Judaism and European Jews. He taught for eighteen years at the University of Oxford, and then for eight years was the UNESCO Chair in Jewish and Interfaith Studies at the University of Birmingham (UK) before moving in 2011 to take up a professorship at the Institute of European Studies of the Jagiellonian University. Since 1988 Prof. Webber has been researching and documenting the rich history of Polish–Jewish relations and the cultural heritage of Polish Jews. He is chairman of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kazimierz and a member of the International Auschwitz Council advising, promoting and aiding the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in its various activities. He is author of Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia (Indiana University Press, 2009). Prof. Webber has been awarded the Gold Cross of Poland's Order of Merit for services to Polish–Jewish dialogue.

Marcin Wodziński, Professor of History & Literature & Director of the Department of Jewish Studies
University of Wroclaw

Marcin Wodziński is a Professor of History and Literature and Director of the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wroclaw. His special fields of interest are the social history of the Jews in the nineteenth century, the regional history of the Jews in Silesia, and Jewish sepulchral art. He is the author of several books, including Hasidism and Politics: The Kingdom of Poland, 1815–1864 (2013) and Hasidism in the Kingdom of Poland, 1815–1867: Historical Sources in the Polish State Archives (2011). Additionally, he is the co-editor of the Bibliotheca Judaica series which is published by Wroclaw University Publishing. Wodziński served as the Chief Consultant for history at the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. He is Vice President of the Polish Association of Jewish Studies and Editor in Chief of its periodical, Studia Judaica. In 2011 he was awarded the Jan Karski and Pola Nirenska Prize by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.
Henryk Wujec, Chairman  
Council of the Forum for Dialogue Foundation

Henryk Wujec is the Chairman of the Council of the Forum for Dialogue Foundation. He is one of the most famous leaders of the political underground in Communist Poland and was an active politician after the fall of Communism in 1989. Wujec has been a member of KOR ("The Workers’ Defense Committee") since 1977, a group that emerged in 1976 reaching out to political prisoners and those otherwise affected by participation in popular strikes and protests, as well as their families under the communist rule. KOR offered legal and financial support, and openly opposed abuses of power. Wujec was among the originators and editors of an underground biweekly “Robotnik” ("The Worker"), which served as a means of communicating uncensored information on the legal, political, and economic situation, targeting laborers. In 1980, Wujec was among the founders of “Solidarity” ("Solidarnosc") Trade Union and later became a member of its National Board. In 1987–1990 he was the Secretary of the “Citizens’ Committee”, a group under Lech Wałęsa’s leadership, advocating democratic reforms in Poland. It eventually turned into an electoral committee building social support for the oppositional candidates to the parliament in 1989 elections. In 1989 he participated in the “Round Table” negotiations that directly affected the collapse of Communism. In the years 1989-2001, Wujec was a member of the Sejm (Polish National Parliament) and was a secretary of state in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development from 1999 to 2000. Wujec was awarded with the Commander’s Cross with Star of the Order of the Rebirth of Poland (2006) on the 30th anniversary of the KOR. He has served as an advisor to President of the Republic of Poland Bronislaw Komorowski since 2010. In 2012, he became a member of The International Auschwitz Council and in 2013 of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation.

Maciek Zabierowski, Head of Learning  
The Auschwitz Jewish Center

Maciek Zabierowski believes history is a collection of human experience to learn from. As Head of Learning at The Auschwitz Jewish Center, a role he has held since 2006, Zabierowski designs and runs engaging workshops on Jewish history in Poland, the Holocaust, and human rights for Polish and European students of all ages and Polish law enforcement officers. Zabierowski received a Masters in History in 2006 from the Jagellonian University. In 2012, Zabierowski was featured as a scholar for Facing History and Ourselves’ Holocaust and Human Behavior International Seminar.
Tour Guides from Momentum Tours and Travel

Dariusz Kuźniar, a licensed guide and tour leader since 1984, is a native of Krakow. He has lived in Australia and the United States. Among many VIP’s from all around the world he has previously guided George Bush, Dan Rostenkowski, and Ed Koch. He holds an M.A. in English Philology from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Since 1991 he has owned his own travel business and is the Director of Operations in Poland for Momentum Tours & Travel.

Kamila Kuzniar, a licensed guide and tour leader, is a native of Krakow. She holds an M.A. in Middle and Far Eastern Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, as well as an M.A. in Applied Psychology. In addition to touring individuals and groups, among them representatives of the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Kuzniar works as psychologist.

Tour Guide from the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Jagna Kofta works in the Museum of The History of Polish Jews at creating educational programs for students. She also runs courses and educational tours on Jewish history and culture for junior- and upper-high school students. She has worked on building Polish-Jewish dialogue during meetings between young people from Poland and Israel, organized by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. Jagna Kofta holds a number of cyclical lectures on the history of Polish Jews at the Shalom Foundation’s Third Age University. She also has conducted workshops for teachers at educational conferences organized by the Ministry of National Education and the Institute of National Remembrance.

Tour Guides from the Galicia Jewish Museum

Małgorzata (Gosia) Fus specializes in Jewish literature and theatre and holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Jagiellonian University in Krakow. She has been a professionally-accredited Kraków tour guide since 2007. Gosia joined the Galicia Jewish Museum’s educational department in 2008 and now serves as an Education Assistant. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the museum’s educational programming and the creation of resources and materials for the international school and for public programming.
Jakub Janeczko was born in Poznań. He is a sociology graduate from Jagiellonian University. His master’s thesis explored changes in narratives of tourist guide books of Kraków’s Jewish quarter that occurred between early 20th century and present. In 2010 he obtained a state tourist guide license and ever since he has been working as a Kraków tourist guide.

Bartosz Wencel graduated from the Jewish Studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and is working as a tourist guide and educator. He cooperates with Galicia Jewish Museum, Forum for Dialogue, and Jarden Jewish Bookshop and Travel Agency. Bartek also assists people who are coming to Poland in order to find traces of their ancestors. He is interested in daily life in Austro-Hungarian Galicia, Jewish Folklore and everything that is connected with the nineteenth century.

Alicja Zioło is a full-time tour guide - Kraków is part of her work, but also her hobby. Apart from guiding in the areas typically chosen by the tourists coming to Kraków, Alicja always tries to sneak in some everyday life of the city into her tours. She loves to guide outside of its historical center. Alicja’s main specialty is the street art in Kraków.