

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Not the End, Not the Beginning.

Reconstructing Jewish Life in Poland and Central Europe after the Second World War

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15–17 June 2025, POLIN Museum



DAY 1: SUNDAY, 15 JUNE 2025

3.30 pm

Conference Opening

3.40–5.40 pm

Panel 1: Old and New Spaces: Holocaust Survivors in Local Communities of East Central Europe

Chair: Anna Cichopek-Gajraj

Edyta Gawron – Transit Cities with Jewish Infrastructure: Postwar Jewish Life in Kraków and Prague Compared.

Monika Stępień – Welfare and Educational Activities of the Provincial Jewish Committee in Postwar Kraków.

Eugenia Mihalcea – Repatriated: Jewish Survivors of Transnistria in Postwar Romania, 1944–1948.

Anna Wylegała – Together and Apart Again but Just for a While: Jewish Survivors in Eastern Galician Shtetls, 1944–1946.

5.40–6.00 pm

Coffee break

6.00–7.30 pm

Keynote Lecture: Marcos Silber – Migration, Bordering and Belonging Beyond Borders: Jewish Movement Between Poland and Israel, 1945–1957.

DAY 2: MONDAY, 16 JUNE 2025

9.00–10.30 am

Panel 2: To Get Out: Jewish Migration Patterns through and from Poland

Chair: Dariusz Stola

Magdalena Semczyszyn – “To Leave. By Any Means Available” – What We Still Do Not Know About the Jewish Exodus from Poland within the Framework of Bricha, 1945–1947.

Karolina Panz – Postwar Anti-Jewish Violence in Podhale: Smuggling Networks, Perpetrators, and Victims, 1945–1947.

Serafima Velkovich – The Organized Escape to Freedom: A Case Study of the Chabad Lubavitch Community.

10.30–11.00 am

Coffee break

11.00 am–12.30 pm	<p>Panel 3: Polish Jews after the Holocaust as a Transnational Community Chair: Kamil Kijek</p> <p>Anna Sommer – Across Borders: Transnational Assistance and New Approaches to Understanding the Surviving Remnants of Polish Jewry.</p> <p>Anne-Christin Klotz – Survivor Landsmanshaftn as Utopian Safe Havens: Polish Jews and the Search for a New Heym after the Shoah.</p> <p>Frankee Lyons – The End of the Postwar Decade? Global Jewish Encounters at the Fifth World Festival of Youth and Students.</p>
12.30–1.30 pm	Lunch
1.30–3.30 pm	<p>Panel 4: Holocaust Memory and Justice in Early Postwar Poland Chair: Monika Heinemann</p> <p>Janek Gryta, Magdalena Saryusz-Wolska – Exhumations, Reburials and Commemorations: The Early Memory Work at Holocaust Sites in Southern Poland.</p> <p>Justyna Koszarska-Szulc – Seeking Justice: Polish and Jewish Narratives in Immediate Postwar Trials.</p> <p>Alicja Podbielska – “But This Righteous Anger of Ours Does Not Prevent Us From Appreciating Every Expression of Decency”: Early Postwar Jewish Discourse on Poles’ Attitudes During the Holocaust.</p>
3.30–4.00 pm	Coffee break
4.00–6.00 pm	<p>Panel 5: Holocaust Memory and Art in Early Postwar Central and East Central Europe Chair: Krzysztof Persak</p> <p>Maria Ferenc – Remembering Mordechai Anielewicz in the Aftermath of the War.</p> <p>Agata Pietrasik – Exhibitions as Agents of Disseminating and Shaping Memory of the Holocaust in Early Postwar Poland.</p> <p>Olga Ungar – Early Holocaust Memorials in Yugoslavia: Jewish Commemoration and Comparative Insights from Poland.</p>

Rachel Perry – Who Will Draw Our History?
Holocaust Graphic Narratives by Women Artists,
1944–1949.

6.00–6.30 pm

Coffee break

6.30–8.00 pm

Roundtable: Oral History in Research on Poland's
Twentieth-Century History – Experiences, Problems,
Challenges

Participants: Andrzej Czyżewski, Jakub Gałęziowski,
Józef Markiewicz, Marek Szajda (moderator),
Anna Wylegała

DAY 3: TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2025

9.30–11.30 am

Panel 6: Between Continuation and Politics.
Jewish Culture in Early Postwar Poland
Chair: Ella Florsheim

Karolina Koprowska – Mit Hofenung un Gloybn...
Expressions of Hope in Postwar Yiddish Literature
in Poland.

Agata Dąbrowska – Reviving Jewish Tradition
and Identity or Serving the Regime? Jewish
Theatre in Communist Poland, 1945–1955.

Agnieszka Podpora – Song in the City
of Slaughter: Polish-Jewish Literary Translation
Culture, 1945–1950.

Rachelle Grossman – Dirty Slugs and Flimsy
Paper: The Postwar Yiddish Page.

11.30 am–12.00 pm

Coffee break

12.00–2.00 pm

**Panel 7: Personal Entanglements
and New Life after the Holocaust**
Chair: Ewa Koźmińska-Frejłak

Natalia Aleksion – Elusive Relationships:
Survivors and Their Rescuers in the Aftermath
of the Holocaust.

Yael Paulina Robinson Gottfeld – Between Two
Worlds: Mixed Polish-Jewish Families and the
Rebuilding of Jewish Life in Postwar Poland.

Marta Duch-Dyngosz – “The Last Jews”: Investigating Trajectories of Holocaust Survivors Who Returned and Remained in Polish, Belarusian and Ukrainian Shtetls after 1944.

Katarzyna Kwiatkowska-Moskalewicz
– Life Without a Shadow? Post-Holocaust
Adaptation Strategies of Jewish Communists
in Poland.

2.00 pm

Conference Closure

Organizers:



The conference is organized within the Global Education Outreach Program.



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Conference venue:
POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews,
Warsaw, 6 Anielewicz St.

Cover image: Ghetto Fighters House Archive