



### Conference materials

## **Two-Day Seminar on Polish Literature and Polish Studies in Scandinavia Divergent Narratives: Identity, Politics, and Home in Contemporary Polish Literature 24-25.04.2025**

**HUMANISTISKA OCH TEOLOGISKA FAKULTETERNA  
SOL SPRÅK- OCH LITTERATURCENTRUM**

Link: <https://www.sol.lu.se/en/polska/divergent-narratives/>  
<https://www.sol.lu.se/institutionen/kalendarium/eventang/divergent-narratives-rozbiezne-narracje-identity-politics-and-home-contemporary-polish-literature>

Program: .....	1
Thursday, 24 April 2025 .....	2
Friday, 25 April 2025 .....	3
Biographical notes .....	4
Information about Polish Archives .....	7

### **Program:**

*This seminar examines the complex and often divergent intersections of identity, politics, and the concept of home as depicted in contemporary Polish literature. By exploring themes such as gender, ethnicity, Jewishness, migration, and belonging, we seek to uncover how modern Polish authors grapple with and challenge these multifaceted issues. Through engaging lectures, thought-provoking discussions, and collaborative roundtables, participants will also explore the influence of historical memory, class dynamics, and intersectionality, situating Polish literature within a broader global context of cultural and literary studies.*

**Thursday, 24 April 2025, SOL LINGVISTEN L123, Time: 10.00-16.30**

**Friday, 25 April 2025, SOL ABSALON A214, Time: 10.00-15.00**

Thursday, 24 April 2025

SOL LINGVISTEN L123

**9:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

**Registration & Welcome Coffee**

**10:00 AM – 10:10 AM**

**Opening Remarks**

- Welcome address by the organizers
- Introduction to the seminar's theme and goals

**10:15 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Lecture: Identity in Contemporary Polish Literature**

Speaker: Prof. Przemysław Czapliński

Tożsamość i przemoc. Literatura i przemiany identyfikacyjne w kulturze polskiej na przełomie XX i XXI wieku

**The Identity and Violence: Shifts in Identification  
in Polish Literature at the Turn of the 20th and the 21st Century.**

followed by comment and Q&A session, led by Ulla Chowaniec Krzysztof Stala

**Coffee break**

**12:30 PM – 13:30 PM**

Author Spotlight: Maciej Hen

**Talk: The Role of Historical Memory in Shaping Contemporary Polish Narratives**

Reading the fragments of the forthcoming book in Polish and translated by Ursula Phillips.

Distribution of excerpts from Hen's upcoming book for participant review

Discussion: Featuring Ulla Chowaniec and Ursula Phillips

**13:30 PM – 15:00 PM Lunch Break**

**15.00 - 16.30 PM Panel Discussion: Translation and Polish Literature.**

Talks on Recent Translations from and into Polish. Translation Choices, Translation paths

David Szybek, and Ursula Phillips, Paweł Kaźmierczak and Knut Andreas Grimstad

Moderator: Renata Ingbrant

**Q&A Session**

**18:00 PM**

**Dinner & Informal Networking SOL Restaurant**

Friday, 25 April 2025

SOL ABSALON A214

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Roundtable Discussion: Intersectional Perspectives on Polish Studies, Polish Research, and The Role of Polish Language and Literature in Scandinavia.**

- Presentations of ongoing research, projects and collaborations from universities in Copenhagen, Uppsala, Stockholm, Lund, and Oslo.

**10.00-11.00 PM**

- Dr. Magdalena Slyk Polish Studies and Uppsala. Research spotlight: *Literature in National Minority Languages: the Case of Silesian*
- Dr. Knut Grimstad Polish Studies and Oslo. Research spotlight: *articles on the following subjects: “Księgi Jakubowe” as a neo-historical novel; free rendering (Nachdichtung) of the Bible, with example from the two most recent translations into Norwegian); co-translation of selected plays by Masłowska and Wronika Murek.*
- Dr. Renata Ingbrant, Polish Studies and Stockholm. Research spotlight: *Reimagining Home: Displacement, History, and Postmemory in Polish (Central European) Narratives.*

Moderator: Krzysztof Stala

**(11.00-11.15 Break)**

**11.15-11.45 PM**

- Dr. Anita Pluwak Polish Studies and Copenhagen. Research spotlight: *Troubled Subjects: subjectivity and masculinity in postsocialist thrillers and espionage fiction*
- Dr. Ulla Chowaniec, Polish Studies and Lund. Research spotlight: *Wioletta Grzegorzewska’s Writing and the Poetics of Autofiction*

Moderator: Krzysztof Stala

**Discussion: 11.45-12.15**

**12.15-12.45** NAWA possibilities of the future cooperation, projects, programmes (ZOOM)

Moderator: Ulla Chowaniec

**12:45 PM – 14:00 PM Lunch Break**

**14:00 PM – 14:30 PM Archival Work & Research. Polish Archives in Sweden**

Presentations Information about Archives of Polish Immigrants after WW2, and Solidarity at Lunds Universitets Bibliotek.

- The role of archives in uncovering narratives of Polish and Polish-Jewish migrants and refugees, Victoria Martinez.
- Ulla Chowaniec, Zenia Marcinkowska Larsson and Building Archives in Holocaust Museum in Stockholm

**14.30-15.15 Future Directions & Closing Remarks.** Summary of seminar discussions, Opportunities for future research and collaborations. Thank-you address

- Moderator: Barbara Törquist Plewa

**Participants Include:**

Academics, researchers, writers, and students of East-European Studies, European studies, Jewish studies, literature and cultural studies

**Organised by:**

- Dr. Urszula Ulla Chowaniec, Lund University,
- Prof. Barbara Törquist Plewa, Lund University

*Conference is sponsored by Einar Hansens Allhemsstiftelse*

## Biographical notes

(Alphabetical order)

**Dr. Urszula Ulla Chowaniec**

**Lund University**

Associate Professor of Polish Literature at Lund University, specializing in Polish language, Jewish women's writing, and Yiddish women's literature. Her work focuses on themes of memory, identity, trauma, and post-Holocaust narratives, especially in the writing of Zenia Marcinkowska Larsson, Chava Rosenfarb, and Irena Klepfisz. She teaches courses on literature, culture, and memory, and actively engages in public literary promotion. Co-editor of *Women's Voices and Feminism in Polish Cultural History* and author of *Melancholic Migrating Bodies in Contemporary Polish Women's Writing*.

<https://www.sol.lu.se/person/urszulachowaniec/>

**Prof. Przemysław Czapliński**

**Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań**

Professor of literary studies, essayist, translator, and co-founder of the Department of Anthropology of Literature at [Adam Mickiewicz University](https://amu.edu.pl/uniwersytet/wyszukiwarka-pracownikow/osoba?id=10004569&alias=Przemysław-Czapliński), Poznań. His influential publications include *Polska do wymiany*, *The Remnants of Modernity*, and *Poruszona mapa*. He has co-edited volumes on Sarmatism, oral literature, and Holocaust representation. He has lectured at universities across Europe and the U.S., and received prestigious awards such as the Kościelski Award and Jan Długosz Prize. <https://amu.edu.pl/uniwersytet/wyszukiwarka-pracownikow/osoba?id=10004569&alias=Przemysław-Czapliński>

**Dr. Knut Grimstad**

**University of Oslo**

Professor of Polish literature at the [University of Oslo](https://www.uio.no), with expertise in literary memory studies, Polish and Russian literature, and translation theory. Co-editor of *Gender and*

*Sexuality in Ethical Context* and *Polish Literature and Transformation 1989–2011*. A graduate of Jagiellonian University and UCL SSEES, he has held academic posts in Tromsø and Trondheim. <https://www.hf.uio.no/ilos/personer/vit/knutandr/>

**Maciej Hen**

Polish writer, filmmaker, and musician. Author of acclaimed works such as *Solfatara* (Gombrowicz Literary Award) and *According to Her*, translated into English by Anna Błasiak. A graduate of the Łódź Film School, Hen's writing blends historical imagination with cultural reflection. Contributor to *Gazeta Wyborcza*, he is an engaged voice in cultural debates in Poland.

**Dr. Renata Ingbrant**  
**Stockholm University**

Associate Professor in Polish Studies at [Stockholm University](https://www.su.se/english/profiles/rin-1.181811). Her doctoral work on Anna Świrszczyńska examined women's poetry from a feminist perspective. She teaches Polish language, literature, and history, and has developed independent courses and supervised numerous theses. <https://www.su.se/english/profiles/rin-1.181811>

**Paweł Kaźmierczak**  
**Bydgoszcz University**

Translator and lecturer at Bydgoszcz University, specializing in literary translation and Polish literature. His teaching focuses on contemporary literature and cultural communication between Poland and other linguistic spheres.

**Tomasz Leśniak**  
**Lund University Library**

Librarian and curator at Lund University Library, responsible for the *Ravensbrück Archive* and the *Solidarity Archives*, documenting post-Holocaust testimonies and Polish political history.

[Witnessing Genocide Archive](#)  
Solidarity Archive in Alvin

**Dr. Victoria Martinez**  
**Lund University**

Researcher specializing in gendered experiences of Nazi persecution and postwar migration. Her dissertation, *Afterlives* (2023), explored Jewish and non-Jewish Polish survivors in Sweden. She works extensively with the *Ravensbrück archive* and contributes to several academic networks on Holocaust memory and survivor testimony.

<https://portal.research.lu.se/en/persons/victoria-martinez>

**Dr. Anita Pluwak**  
**University of Copenhagen**

Teaching Associate Professor at the [Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies](#). Holds a PhD from Lund University. Her research includes Holocaust and war narratives,

postwar Polish melodrama, and interwar avant-garde. Recent articles appear in *Slavic Review*, *East European Politics and Societies*, and *Nordisk Østforum*.

Research Profile <https://researchprofiles.ku.dk/en/persons/anita-pluwak>

### **Dr. Ursula Phillips**

Translator and literary historian focused on Polish women's literature. She has introduced many 19th to 21st-century authors to Anglophone readers. Recipient of the Found in Translation Award (2015) and the PIASA Waclaw Lednicki Award. Current translations include Jacek Dukaj's *Ice* (forthcoming 2025).

### **Dr. Magdalena Slyk**

#### **Uppsala University**

Lecturer in Polish at the [Department of Modern Languages](#), Uppsala University. She teaches Polish language and literature, supervises theses, and researches translation and glottodidactics. Co-author of *Polsk grammatik* and contributor to *Signum* and *Postscriptum polonistyczne*. Link <https://www.uu.se/kontakt-och-organisation/personal?query=N1-265>

### **David Szybek**

Lund-based translator working from Polish, Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian. His current project is the translation of Mikołaj Łoziński's *Stramer* for Norstedts. An active member of Sweden's translation community.

Interview <https://oversattarsektionen.se/manadens-oversattare/david-szybek>

### **Prof. Krzysztof Stala**

#### **University of Copenhagen**

Former head of Polish Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Editor of volumes on post-communist cultural change and religion in Central and Eastern Europe, including *Cultural Transformations After Communism* and *Rethinking the Space for Religion*.

### **Prof. Barbara Törnquist-Plewa**

#### **Lund University**

Professor of Eastern and Central European Studies and Deputy Dean at Lund University. Her research focuses on memory, heritage, and nationalism in Eastern Europe. Leader of the EU COST network *In Search for Transcultural Memory in Europe* and co-editor of the CEU Press series *Memory, Heritage and Public History*.

Research Profile

# Information about Polish Archives

## **Unique Polish Archival Materials at Lund University Library**

### **Prepared and curated by Tomasz Leśniak, Librarian, Lund University**

We are pleased to highlight two extraordinary collections housed at Lund University Library, each offering unique insights into 20th-century Polish history and memory. These archives are invaluable resources for researchers interested in genocide studies, memory work, exile, resistance movements, and political history.

## **Witnessing Genocide: Experiences of Nazi Concentration Camps**

### **The Ravensbrück Archive – The Polish Research Institute in Lund Archive**

This archive constitutes a singular body of testimony from Polish survivors of Nazi concentration camps, particularly Ravensbrück. Following the evacuation of approximately 20,000 survivors to Sweden in 1945, a working group known as *The Polish Research Institute in Lund* began collecting testimonies, documents, and personal narratives.

This curated archive provides rare, first-hand perspectives on the lived experiences of women and men who endured the brutality of the camps, and it remains a cornerstone for research into post-war testimony and Polish-Swedish memory relations.

 [More information and access](#)

<https://www.ub.lu.se/hitta/digitala-samlingar/witnessing-genocide>

## **Solidarity Archives – The Swedish Solidarity Support Committee Collection**

Donated to Lund University Library in 2016, the Solidarity Archives document Swedish support for the Polish Solidarity movement during the 1980s. The material is divided into two main parts:

- Books and journals sorted alphabetically
- Publications arranged by Polish administrative regions

During the cataloging process (initiated in 2019), the archive maintained its original structure, with the notable exception of the regional section being updated to reflect Poland's post-1999 administrative division into 16 voivodeships, 308 counties, and 2,489 municipalities.

This collection is an important source for understanding international solidarity, Cold War-era activism, and Polish-Swedish political connections.

 [Explore the archive in Alvin Portal](#)

[https://www.alvin-portal.org/alvin/view.jsf?dswid=-8515&searchType=EXTENDED&query=IPA&aq=%5B%5B%7B%22A\\_FQ%22%3A%22IPA%22%7D%5D%5D&aqe=%5B%5D&af=%5B%5D&pid=alvin-record%3A462121&c=1#alvin-record%3A462121](https://www.alvin-portal.org/alvin/view.jsf?dswid=-8515&searchType=EXTENDED&query=IPA&aq=%5B%5B%7B%22A_FQ%22%3A%22IPA%22%7D%5D%5D&aqe=%5B%5D&af=%5B%5D&pid=alvin-record%3A462121&c=1#alvin-record%3A462121)