

International academic conference

Shared Experiences – Different Paths?

**The Turning Point of 1956 and its
Significance for the Countries and
Societies of East Central Europe**

**19–21
X**

**PILECKI INSTITUTE
82 SIENNA STREET
WARSAW**



Day 1: MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

15.00–16.15 Conference opening and inaugural lecture

Keynote lecture I: Silvio Pons, *Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa*

Communism in Europe after the Second World War and the Crisis of 1956: Transnational Perspectives

Moderator: Bartłomiej Kapica, *Pilecki Institute*

16.15–16.45 Coffee break

16.45–18.30 Session I: Systemic Crisis: De-Stalinisation and the Limits of Political Reform

Moderator: Bartłomiej Kapica, *Pilecki Institute*

- Attila Apor, *Scruton Community Space*, 1956 and the Inevitable Course of Hungarian State Socialism
- Milán Pap, *University of Public Service, Budapest*, A Cult in Crisis: Hungary's Liberation Ritual and the Rupture of 1956 in Comparative Perspective
- Arnd Bauerkämper, *Freie Universität Berlin*, The Revolt That Never Was. Walter Ulbricht's Victory Over His Critics in the GDR, 1956–57
- Enis Sulstarova, *University of Tirana*, Contesting De-Stalinization: Albania in the Years 1953–1956

18.30 Dinner

Day 2: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:00–10:00 Keynote lecture II: Daniela Koleva, St Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia

'Everything for the sake of man, everything for the good of man'. Welfare and Legitimacy

Moderator: Ewelina Szpak, *Polish Academy of Sciences*

10:00–10:20 Coffee break

10:20–11.40 Session II: Society in Motion: Workers, Young People, Minorities

Moderator: Paweł Sasanka, *Pilecki Institute*

- Padraic Kenney, *Leibniz Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam*, Dreams and Disappointments – Workers in a Communist State
- Tom Junes, *Polish Academy of Sciences*, The Generation of '56: Transnational Student Revolt in the Soviet Bloc, 1955–1957
- Marek Szajda, *Civitas University, Warsaw*, Was 1956 an Anti-Semitic Year? The Experiences of Jews in Poland During the October Thaw

11.40–12.00 Coffee break

12.00–13.20 Session III: The Socialist Welfare State: Modernization, Consumption, and New Legitimacy

Moderation: Michał Przeperski, *Polish Academy of Sciences*

- Maksim Shulga, *European University Institute, Florence*, The Promise of Private Space: Khrushchev's Housing Reform and the Remaking of Soviet Property, 1956–1976
- Ewelina Szpak, *Polish Academy of Sciences*, Towards a Welfare State? Modernity and Health Policy in Rural Poland after 1956
- Hubert Wilk, *Polish Academy of Sciences*, Towards Socialism on Four Wheels. Mass Motorization in the Eastern Bloc in the 1950s

13.20–14.30 Lunch break

14.30–15.50 Session IV: Socialism with a Human Face? Everyday Life After 1956

Moderation: Hubert Wilk, *Polish Academy of Sciences*

- Natalia Jarska, *Polish Academy of Sciences*, Women, Work and Expertise Before and After 1956: Poland in a Comparative Perspective
- Ivana Dobrivojević Tomić, *Institute of Contemporary History in Belgrade*, Building Socialism with a "Human Face". The Yugoslav Experience 1956–1991
- Dániel Farkas, *Danube Institute*, Goulash, Communism, and Globalisation in Hungary, 1958–1970

15.50–16.10 Coffee break

16.10–17.50 Session V: Between East and West: The Flow of Knowledge and Ideas

Moderation: Bartosz Kaliski, *Polish Academy of Science*

- Paweł Sasanka, *Pilecki Institute*, 1956 and the Transnational Spread of the Idea of Workers' Councils: Polish-Yugoslav Encounters
- Jędrzej Piekara, *Museum of the Second World War, Gdańsk*, Émigré Agency in the Thaw: Jerzy Giedroyc and the Polish October in the Light of the Literary Institute's Archives
- Oleksandr Avramchuk, *University of Warsaw*, Poland after 1956: Academic Exchange and the U.S.–Soviet Struggle for Socialist Bloc Elites
- Aleksandra Sumorok, *Academy of Fine Arts, Łódź*, A "Window of Opportunity"? The Ford Foundation Fellowship Program for Polish Architects, 1957–1962

19.00 Dinner

Day 3: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

9.00–10.40 Session VI: 1956 as a New Beginning: New Spaces for Culture and Action

Moderation: Bartosz Kaliski, *Polish Academy of Sciences*

- Melinda Harlov-Csörtán, *Apor Vilmos Catholic College*, International Participation Possibilities at Cultural Organisations and Initiatives after 1956
- Maksymilian Loth-Hill, *Durham University*, 1956 – A Turning Point in Polish Museology?
- Katarzyna Matul, *Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw*, Beyond 1956: Rethinking the Origins of the Polish School of Poster
- Iveta Leitane, *University of Tübingen*, From the French Group to the National Resistance After 1956 in Latvia

10.40–11.00 Coffee break

11.00–12.20 Session VII: The Polish October and the Outside World

Moderation: Michał Przeperski, *Polish Academy of Sciences*

- Meng Yang, *University of Warsaw*, 1956 as a Turning Point in Sino-Polish Relations During the Cold War: Sino-Polish Maritime Cooperation and the 1952 Chipolbrok Flag Crisis
- Daniel Filip, *University of Bucharest*, The Polish Crisis of 1956 Through the Lens of Romanian Diplomacy
- Jacek Tebinka, *University of Gdańsk*, Great Britain and Poland in 1956. From a Soviet Satellite to the National Communist State

12.20–12.40 Coffee break

12.40–14.00 Session VIII: New Relationships and Global Opening

Moderation: Paweł Sasanka, *Pilecki Institute*

- Jakub Tyszkiewicz, *University of Wrocław*, Dreams of Titoization: The United States' Response to Political Change in Central Europe in 1956.
- Przemysław Gasztold, *Institute of National Remembrance, War Studies University, Warsaw*, 1956 and Poland's Global Opening: Reconfiguring Relations with the Third World
- Zsombor Bódy, *Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest*, Opening Up to the Global South From Within the Eastern Bloc and From a Neutral Position. Hungary and Austria's Room for Maneuver in the "Third World" in Comparative Terms, Starting in the Mid-1950s.



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
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