

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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# Un/Doing Academia in Time of Polycrisis

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8-9 April 2025



**POSTCOMER**

*Laboratory for the Study of Collective Memory  
in Post-Communist Europe*



THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR  
OF NICOLAUS COPERNICUS  
UNIVERSITY IN TORUŃ



NICOLAUS COPERNICUS  
UNIVERSITY  
IN TORUŃ



# WELCOME



Agata Domachowska  
Professor at NCU and  
Head of POSTCOMER

*On behalf of the organizers, I would like to thank you all for deciding to attend this international conference. Your presence and participation are what makes this event truly meaningful. We appreciate the time and effort you have dedicated to being here, and we are excited to engage with all of you over the course of the different panels. We are sure that the conference will be an excellent opportunity to learn, connect and exchange ideas.*

*This international conference is organised by "POSTCOMER - The Laboratory for Research on Collective Memory in Post-Communist Europe", whose research group has been conducting large- and small-scale research across various academic disciplines for over a decade, developing comparative studies on memory in post-communist Europe. Over these years, we have organized a series of lectures and seminars featuring memory studies scholars, also engaging in workshops and conferences that have hosted many international researchers. POSTCOMER group constantly evolves in its academic endeavor, welcoming new people and launching new projects. I firmly believe that "Un/Doing Academia in Time of Polycrisis" is another excellent and critical issue to connect and exchange ideas. Looking forward to hosting you in Toruń!*

# VENUES

1

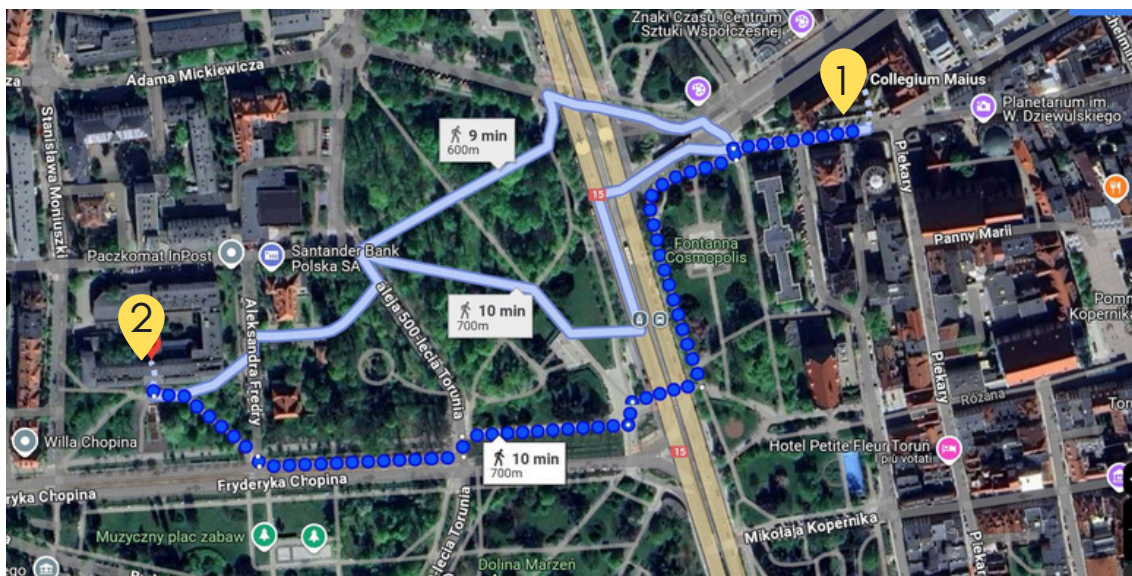
**8 April, 2025**

Collegium Maius, Room 307  
Fosa Staromiejska 3, 87-100 Toruń

2

**9 April, 2025**

Faculty of Mathematics & Computer Science  
Conference Room  
ul. Chopina 12/18, 87-100 Toruń



# KEYNOTE



## Manuela Boatcă

Professor of Sociology and Head of School of the Global Studies Programme at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She has published widely on world-systems analysis, decolonial perspectives on global inequalities, gender and citizenship in modernity/coloniality, and the geopolitics of knowledge in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In 2018 she was awarded an ACLS collaborative fellowship alongside literary scholar Anca Parvulescu (Washington University in St. Louis, USA), for a comparative project on inter-imperiality in Transylvania. The resulting co-authored book, titled “Creolizing the Modern. Transylvania Across Empires” is forthcoming in English, German, and Romanian in 2022.

# WORKSHOP



Francesco Trupia  
*Facilitator*



Michał Bomastyk  
*Moderator*



Margarita Spasova  
*Human Rights &  
Gender Policy Expert*



Ewa Karolina Garbarz  
*Polonium Foundation*



Natalia Konwerska  
*Emic Foundation*

# PROGRAM

**8 April, 2025**

1 Collegium Maius, Room 307  
Fosa Staromiejska 3, 87-100 Toruń

**Registration**

**09:30 - 10:00**

**Opening**

**10:00 - 10:15**

Dr. Francesco Trupia & Prof. Agata Domachowska  
*Nicolaus Copernicus University*

**Keynote**

*Unthinking  
Multiple Crises  
in Unequal Europe*

**10:15 - 11:30**

Prof. Manuela Boatcă  
*Professor of Sociology at the University of Freiburg*

Coffee Break

11:30- 12:00

**Panel 1**

*Polycrisis at Play:  
Perspectives from  
Polish Academia  
and Beyond*

**12:00- 13:30**

**Chair:** Agata Domachowska, NCU

Agnieszka Dziejczak-Foltyn, *University of Łódź*  
& Aleksandra Rzyńska, *Kazimierz Wielki University*

Kinga Gajda, *Jagiellonian University*

🗨️ Eugeniusz Kuznicow-Wyszyński, *University of Warsaw*

🗨️ Anna Kuznicow-Wyszyńska, *University of Warsaw*

## Panel 2

*Polycrisis  
and its  
Discotents*

**13:30- 15:30**

**Chair:** Francesco Trupia, *NCU*

Joanna Augustyn, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Konstantina D. Oikonomou, *University of the Peloponnese*

Andrzej Wojciech Nowak, *Adam Mickiewicz University*

Maya Kesrounay, *New York University in Abu Dhabi*

Lunch Break

15:30- 16:00

## Workshop

*Open Discussion  
on knowledge,  
migration and  
polycrisis*

**16:00- 17:30**

**Moderator:** Dr. Michał Bomastyk

Ewa Karolina Garbarz, *Polonium Foundation*

Natalia Konwerska, *Emic Foundation*

Margarita Spasova, *Human Rights  
& Gender Policy Expert*

**9 April, 2025**

**2** Faculty of Mathematics & Computer Science  
Conference Room  
ul. Chopina 12/18, 87-100 Toruń

**Registration**

**09:30 - 10:00**

**Panel 3**

**10:00- 11:30**

*Doing Academia  
Outside Academia?*

**Chair:** Dariusz Pniewski, *NCU*

Olga Solovieva, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Elitsa Kapusheva, *University of Vienna*

Radek Przedpełski, *Trinity College Dublin*

John Clammer, *O.P. Jindal Global University and Kyoto University*, & Agnieszka Pawnik, *Jagiellonian University*

**Coffee Break**

**11:30- 12:00**

**Panel 4**

**12:00- 13:30**

*Polycrisis  
in the  
Western  
Balkans*

**Chair:** Agata Domachowska, *NCU*

🗣️ Naum Trajanovski, *Warsaw University*

🗣️ Emina Zoletic, *Warsaw University*

Heqi Sun, *Warsaw University*

🗣️ Arban Mehmeti, *Humboldt University*



Lunch Break

## Panel 5

*Artistic/creative workshop classes for students as a tool for responding to current crises*

## Panel 6

*Drifting out of The Six Moves. The Auto-ethnographic Arts-based Research*

Dinner

13:30 - 14:00

14:00- 15:30

**Chair:** Francesco Trupia, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Dariusz Pniewski, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Krzysztof Iwaneczko, *Music Academy in Bydgoszcz*

Witold Kanicki, *University of Arts in Poznań*

15:30- 17:00

**Chair:** Maja Dobiasz-Krysiak, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Maja Dobiasz-Krysiak, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Piotr Zańko, *Pomeranian University in Słupsk*

Arek Pasożyt, *Nicolaus Copernicus University*

Bogumiła Majczyno, *Independent scholar*

17:30

# BIOGRAPHIES

## **Eugeniusz Kuznicow-Wyszyński, *University of Warsaw***

MA in Contemporary Diplomacy and European Studies at the University of Warsaw, graduate of the European Academy of Diplomacy and the Academy of Leaders of the Republic of Poland. NAWA government exchange scholarship holder at the University of Belgrade, Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, Charles University in Prague, and the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Former scholar of the Widening Europe Programme at the European University Institute in Florence. Currently an employee of the Office for Foreigners in Warsaw. Since 2022, a PhD candidate at the University of Warsaw in the discipline of Political Science and Administration. The doctoral dissertation focuses on analyzing the impact of the Karta Polaka on the legal and political status of the Polish diaspora in their countries of residence, particularly in the context of cultural integration and national identity. The research also covers the historical background of repatriation and contemporary challenges and dilemmas related to the national belonging of Poles living abroad.

## **Heqi Suni, *University of Warsaw***

PhD Candidate in Political Science and Public Administration, focuses his research on the European Union's enlargement to the Western Balkans and China-CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) relations. He has been awarded the Lithuanian State Scholarship for the 2024/2025 academic year and is conducting visiting research at Vytautas Magnus University.

## **Olga Solovieva, *Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń***

Researcher in Slavonic and Comparative Literatures at the Center of Excellence IMSERt at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. She is the author of *Christ's Subversive Body: Practices of Religious Rhetoric in Culture and Politics* (2018) and *The Russian Kurosawa: Transnational Cinema, or the Art of Speaking Differently* (2023).

## **Maya Kesrouany, *New York University in Abu Dhabi***

Associate Professor of Modern Arabic Literature and Middle Eastern Studies at New York University in Abu Dhabi. Originally from Lebanon, She studied English and Arabic literature at the American University of Beirut and completed my PhD in Comparative Literature at Emory University in the States. A trained comparatist, She works across and from within multiple languages and traditions. My research now centers on twentieth- and twenty-first century cultural production from the Middle East, with a specific interest in the relationship between aesthetics and politics in literary and visual arts and the theory, practice, and impact of translation on 20th century Arab cultural thought. My first book *Prophetic Translation: The Promise of European Literature in the Egyptian Imaginary* was published by Edinburgh University Press in January 2019. The book explores translations of French and British literature and philosophy into Arabic around the turn of the 20th century and their impact on modern Arabic narrative and thought. Other publications deal more specifically with the translation and teaching of Arabic literature, the history of criticism, and the role of the public intellectual in the Arab world today. My current project traces a history of Arab women's activism in relation to notions of privilege as opposed to rights in Lebanon and Palestine specifically.

## **Elitsa Kapusheva, *University of Vienna***

Social and cultural anthropologist, based between Bulgaria and Armenia. She received a bachelor's degree in social and cultural anthropology from the Free University of Berlin and a master's degree in CREOLE-Cultural Differences and Transnational Processes from the University of Vienna. In 2024, she defended her thesis titled "Between wars and peace - everyday practices of self-determination. An ethnographic study of multiple Armenian perspectives". Elitsa is interested in the areas of peace and conflict studies, environmental anthropology, migration research and all the various intersections thereof, and she is a strong supporter of publicly and politically engaged anthropology. Most recently she has been actively working with the Bulgarian NGO the Orion Grid for providing support to activists, formal and informal collectives, and change agents.

**Naum Trajanovski, *University of Warsaw***

Adjunct faculty member at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw. He is currently working on the research project "Towards Illiberal Constitutionalism in East Central Europe: Historical Analysis in Comparative and Transnational Perspectives." He holds a PhD in sociology from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. His major academic interests include historical sociology, the history of sociology in East Central and Southeast Europe, nationalism, and memory studies. He recently published the monograph *A History of Macedonian Sociology: In Quest for Identity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024).

**Anna Kuznicow-Wyszyńska, *University of Warsaw***

PhD candidate at University of Warsaw in the Doctoral School of Social Sciences, specializing in international criminal law, transitional justice. With a strong academic background in international law, Anna's research focuses on the intersections of international accountability mechanisms and post-authoritarian societies. Anna's current research, titled "The problem of prosecuting the crime of aggression in the International Criminal Court: contemporary legal challenges and implications for international relations", examines one of the most complex and impactful issues within international justice. This project requires an interdisciplinary approach that bridges legal analysis with political and societal considerations. In addition to academic work, she has experience in legal consulting and working with non-governmental organizations, which has provided practical insights into the complexities of applying international legal standards within different political contexts. Anna aims to bridge the gap between theoretical frameworks and policy-oriented solutions, with a focus on advancing legal reforms. She has a keen interest in exploring how institutional frameworks shape academic opportunities and contribute to global disparities. Anna's interest extends to examining the impact of exclusionary practices on international scholars' mobility and career progression. Through academic endeavors, Anna aims to advocate for inclusive policies that enhance equity in higher education worldwide.

**Agnieszka Pawnik, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow***

Ph.D researcher at Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland). She earned an MA in Asian Studies from JU, while completing part of her study at Nagoya University of Foreign Studies (Japan). Originally trained as a historian, her research interests include: Japanese politics; post-WWII Poland and its wartime memory; history and political identity.

**John Clammer, *Jagiellonian University in Krakow***

D.Phil. in Social Anthropology at Oxford, he taught at the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Hull University (UK), and then at the University of Singapore (now National University), Sophia University (Tokyo), and the United Nations University. He has been a visiting Professor or Fellow at Oxford, the Australian National University, the Bauhaus University Weimar, Handong University (South Korea), Tokyo University, JNU, Pondicherry Central University, the University of Kent, Warwick University, the University of Buenos Aires, and most recently Distinguished Visiting Professor on two occasions at Kyoto University. His research has ranged over many areas of sociology and social anthropology, including development and sustainability, economic anthropology, religion, urban sociology, art and performance, ethnicity and social theory.

**Andrzej Wojciech Nowak, *Adam Mickiewicz University***

Philosopher, academic teacher, and researcher, Andrzej works in the Philosophy Faculty, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland. His current research focus is on the hegemonical dimension of materiality and ontology. Tries to merge the ontological sensitivity of post-humanism with the Promethean promise of modernity and Enlightenment. Author of books: *Ontological Imagination. Philosophical (re)construction of phronetic social science* (2016, in Polish), *Agency, System, Modernity* (2011, in Polish), co-author of *Whose Fear? Whose Science? Structures of knowledge and socio-scientific controversies* (2016, in Polish) and *Polish Science and Technology Studies in the New Millennium* (in English 2022). Author of dozens of articles. An active participant in public life, occasional columnist, blogger, devoted bike tourist, and marathon runner.

**Dariusz Pniewski, *Nicolaus Copernicus University***

PhD hab., associate professor in the Faculty of Humanities at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun. He works on European literature, art, the aesthetics (especially the sublime) of the 'long nineteenth century' and its contexts (French, British, German and Polish). He is currently working on his third monography on literary imagination, and metaphors inspired by scientific discoveries and technologies (technoscience) in aeronautics, nutrition, and photography in the "long 19th century" (British, French, German and Polish). He has been leading literary workshops for almost a decade.

**Krzysztof Iwaneczko, Music Academy in Bydgoszcz**

PhD in musical arts, active musician, singer, pianist, composer and lyricist. He graduated from the Feliks Nowowiejski Academy of Music in Bydgoszcz in the jazz vocalist class of Dr. Joanna Żółkoś-Zagdańska, as of 2019, he is a lecturer in jazz vocalism there. He has been leading musical workshops for many years.

**Witold Kanicki, University of Arts in Poznań**

PhD in art history, assistant professor at the Department of Art Education at the University of Arts in Poznań, lecturer at the Züricher Hochschule der Künste in Zurich and the Warsaw School of Photography. Independent critic and curator. Author of dozens of texts on art and photography.

**Maja Dobiasz-Krysiak, Nicolaus Copernicus University**

Dr. hab. Anthropologist and Culture Animator.

**Piotr Zańko, Pomeranian University in Slupsk**

Social and Critical Pedagogue.

**Bogumiła Majczyno**

independent researcher, Musician, Singer, and Culture Animator.

**Kaouther Douzi, University of Liege**

PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Liège, Belgium, with a multidisciplinary academic background, holding three MRes degrees: Cultural Sciences (University of Tunis), Sociology and Anthropology (Doha Institute), and Sociology of Religion (University of Padua). Research interests include feminist and gender studies, the socio-anthropology of body protests, marginalization, and the anthropology of art.

**Konstantina D. Oikonomou, University of the Peloponnese**

Adjunct lecturer in International Relations and International Law, as well as a research fellow at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of the Peloponnese, Greece. She is also principal researcher at the Center for Conflict, Peace, and Justice Studies. Her research focuses on the intersections of international law and international politics, with a particular emphasis on the dynamics of conflict, justice, and accountability. Adopting a critical perspective on global governance, she examines themes such as conflict and transition, semi-peripherality, and the liminal spaces of international law and politics. I completed my undergraduate studies in Political Science and International Studies at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She holds a PDG in Law, an LLM and PhD in International Legal Studies from the University of London.

**Emina Zoletic, University of Warsaw**

PhD candidate at the Faculty of Sociology and Centre for Research on Social Memories at the University of Warsaw, Poland. She is a former Fulbright fellow researcher at Syracuse University, NY, 2023-2024. She is doing a doctoral project titled "Intergenerational Transmission of the Memory of the War: The Cases of Families in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Diaspora in Europe and North America". The doctoral research project deals with the intergenerational transmission of memory and migration. She was awarded two scholarships, the CEFRES Young Fellowship in Prague and the Zeit Stiftung Bucerius "Beyond Borders" scholarship in Germany (2022/2023). These helped Emina finalize her fieldwork and collect data in a few EU countries. She is a Memory Studies Association (MSA) member and the COST ACTION Slow Memory. Before going to Academia, she worked many years in a clinical setting in Bosnia as a clinical psychologist and collaborated with many NGO that dealt with trauma.

### **Radek Przedpełski, Trinity College Dublin**

Radek Przedpełski (he/him) is a migrant artist and adjunct lecturer in interactive digital media at Trinity College Dublin. Radek is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow on the project "Not a Space Race. Towards a New Quantum Policy." Radek graduated from TCD with a PhD in Digital Art and Humanities. Radek's dissertation explored the 1970s experimental neo-avant-garde intermedia in People's Republic of Poland focusing on Polish engineer-turned-artist Marek Konieczny (1936-2022). Radek is currently writing a monograph on deterritorializing Sarmatism (a Baroque mythology of Eastness) in works of this marginalised artist. Radek co-edited a volume on Deleuze, Guattari and the Art of Multiplicity (Edinburgh University Press, 2020). Radek is a member of Substantial Motion Research Network founded by Laura U. Marks and Azadeh Emadi for cross-cultural investigation of media art, as well as a curator, together with Marks, of the annual Small File Media Festival hosted by the School for the Creative Arts at Vancouver; Simon Fraser University (SFU). Inspired by ecologies of the Outer Carpathian Mountains and Éire, Radek's artistic practice explores entanglements between the earth, the cosmos, and sustainable artistic techniques. Radek presented his installations at the Quadrangle Gallery, Galway; Ghent, Belgium; Vancouver's Studio T Gallery; and Seyðisfjörður, eastern Iceland. Radek also researches Polish Tatar culture; he translated a volume of Tatar *rubaiyyat* into English, taught on Turkic resonances in Polish culture and in 2021 was invited by Mercer Union gallery in Toronto to engage with the representation of Polish and Lithuanian Tatars in Erdem Taşdelen's exhibition *A Minaret for General's Wife*. Radek was a researcher for the Slavs and Tatars collective.

### **Joanna Augustyn, Nicolaus Copernicus University**

PhD in Medieval Literature from the University of Warsaw (2023). Her doctoral thesis, "Sexual Ambivalences in Medieval French Literature" (forthcoming publication), explores a wide corpus of chansons de geste, fabliaux, and saints' lives featuring transvestite or transgender characters, analyzing their subversive potential through a Butlerian lens. Joanna's research focuses on gender and queer studies within the medieval field, examining the intersections of identity, representation, and societal norms in premodern texts. I actively participate in international academic conferences, including the International Medieval Congress (IMC) in Leeds (2023). Since 2020, at Nicolaus Copernicus University (UMK) in Toruń, she teaches medieval and Renaissance French literature as well as literary theory.

### **Agnieszka Dziedzicak-Foltyn, University of Łódź**

Associate professor of social sciences in the field of sociology at the Department of Applied Sociology and Social Work, University of Lodz. She is the author of the habilitation monograph "Reforma szkolnictwa wyższego w Polsce w debacie publicznej. Bilans dyskusji o uniwersytetach 1990-2015" (2017). Her research focuses on higher education studies, higher education policy, public policy, and the sociology of education.

### **Aleksandra Rzyska, University of Łódź**

PhD in social sciences in the field of pedagogy, assistant professor in the Department of Research Methodology and Discourse Studies at Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz. Author of the monograph "Reprezentacje uniwersytetu w dyskursie prasowym" (2021). The subject matter of her published scientific texts concerns especially the problems of public communication, media discourse, higher education and education.

# CONTACTS

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**POSTCOMER**, *Laboratory for the Study of Collective Memory in Post-Communist Europe*



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## ONLINE PARTICIPATION



Meeting ID: 925 1300 1574

Password: 715477

**Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/92513001574?pwd=augn0NDc9m38w4Ajf5fUf48UnMzaJz.1>



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W TORONIU

WYDZIAŁ  
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