

The New Agora: International Academy on Intercultural Dialogue

Wrocław (Poland), July 5 – 7, 2007

Organized by: Borderland Foundation, Sejny, Poland
International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education and University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław, Poland

Official Partners: Ford Foundation, City of Wrocław

What is the *New Agora*?

New Agora is an international project launched in 2006 by the Borderland Foundation, an institution based right at the borders between Poland, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia whose goal is to promote and strengthen intercultural dialogue. The project consists of a series of debates organized each year in a different city in the world. The event brings together an international group of influential scholars, NGO activists, local community leaders, cultural animators, and students for several days of intensive conversations. The first *New Agora* was organized in 2006 in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia, a city that symbolizes the tragedy of multicultural cities in the late 20th century. During the war Sarajevo's *agora* – the public space that makes meeting and dialogue between different cultures possible and reflects the universal values of civil society was brutally destroyed. During the *New Agora* symposium, the urban space of Sarajevo served to inspire a debate about the consequences of the war and the crisis faced by multicultural cities not only in Europe, but also around the world.

***New Agora* in Wrocław**

The 2007 *New Agora* is slated for Wrocław, the capital of the Polish region of Lower Silesia, which survived many of the 20th century tragedies connected to the crisis of European multiculturalism. As an outcome of WWII, Wrocław, a city of Polish, Czech, Austrian, and German roots, witnessed dramatic population shifts. The German population of the city was expelled in 1945-1948 and Wrocław became the main frontier city of the “Wild West” - the newly acquired territories of Poland. The populations of Lvov and the other former Polish cities, who, because of the reconfiguration of the European map found themselves in the Soviet Union, made their way to Wrocław – the capital of the “new Poland”. The city and the surrounding region briefly became the gathering point for displaced Jews from destroyed communities from all over Poland. However, by the end of the 1960's most of the Jews had emigrated to Israel, United States and other countries.

Wrocław is unique among Polish cities, because the consciousness of its contemporary inhabitants is founded on the frontier mentality that dates from the immediate post-period. Today's Wrocław is a dynamic, rapidly developing metropolitan center, which takes advantage of its rich heritage, including its multicultural past. Wrocław has 650,000 permanent residents and includes a large student population (130,000). At the same time, as an outcome of European Union enlargement, the city is experiencing a brain-drain of its college graduates now free to work in many countries of the EU. This outflow of well-educated citizens is happening concurrently with a major influx of foreign investment and a steady stream of immigrants from the eastern side of the new border of the EU. As a borderland frontier city of the New Europe, Wrocław offers an ideal setting for an international debate on the challenges and the future of cosmopolitan urban spaces.

Topics and speakers

Cosmopolis: Heritage, modernity and bridge-building: strategies for a multicultural city (Day 1 - July 5, 2007)

The processes of globalization, which have increased the movement of people across national and regional borders, have introduced new opportunities and challenges to urban centers worldwide. Due to higher concentrations of diversified cultural, financial and human capitals, cities are often the spaces in which the need for the resolution of intercultural conflict and the launching of a dialogue are most pressing. While borders between many countries are becoming increasingly permeable, the borders within urban spaces based on the affiliation to different cultures, classes, religions, ethnic groups, as well as the borders of public and private spaces, are becoming more pronounced. Such issues of urban borderlands are no longer limited to traditional capitals of world resettlement, such as New York, Paris or London, but touch smaller regional centers worldwide.

The participants of our debate on this issues will be **Eva Hoffman** from London - a distinguished writer and the author of *Lost in Translation* and *Shtetl* books, who as an essayist also takes part actively in the debate about the British model of multiculturalism; **Elżbieta Matynia** - Professor of the New School for Social Research in New York, the director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies, well known for her research on the sociology of the city and performative democracy; **Ivana Bursikova** from Prague - the President of the NGO Agora Central Europe, which promotes civic participation in democracy building and citizen's participation in shaping local and regional cultural policies; **Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett** - Professor of the Performance Studies at the Tisch School of Arts of the New York University, a member of the Council of the Museum of History of Polish Jews, a museum expert well known for her works on the aesthetics of everyday life, who explores also the relations between cultural heritage, enterprise and the tourist industry in modern cities; **Rafał Dutkiewicz** – the Mayor of Wrocław, a former Solidarity activist and today a highly successful city strategist and manager who enjoys strong social support (he achieved one of the best results in the last local elections in Poland); **Ashok Bhalotra** from Rotterdam - a Kashmir-born architect recognized in the world for his projects on public spaces in multicultural cities.

Religion versus civil society: The role and place of religion in multicultural societies (Day 2 – July 6, 2007)

In many places in the world, we are witnessing the return of religion into the public sphere, hearing no longer so much about the “politicization of religion” as about the “religionization of politics.” Most immigrants who are currently moving to Europe come from cultures in which religion plays an important role and they remain religious in their new places of residence. Social studies have shown that places with high concentrations of immigrants which have previously been rather religiously passive are experiencing an increase in the religious activity of citizens. Young generations in some European countries seek engagement in religion (in Poland, for example, we are observing the phenomenon of the *JP II Generation*) while at the same time demanding active participation in political life. In contrast to the generation of their parents, young people do not strive to keep the religious and the political spheres separate, but search for their common denominator. We will be asking whether finding such connection is possible? Is the secular society model no longer valid? Should it be defended?

These questions are of special importance for the future model of a multicultural society. The cultural tensions and conflicts in Europe with a Muslim population of over 20 million (more than

15 million living within the borders of the EU) are likely to be increasingly rooted in religion. Can religion be helpful in neutralizing these conflicts? If so, then how? What role can religion play in the building of civil society?

The participants of the debate will be **Zygmunt Bauman** from Leeds - a world-famous sociologist and philosopher, the author of the notion of 'liquid modernity,' whose books include *Postmodernity and Its Discontents*, *Globalisation: The Human Consequences*, and *Liquid Life*, **David Goodhart** from London – the former *Financial Times* correspondent in Berlin, now the Editor-in-Chief of the outstanding “Prospect” magazine, which has initiated debates about key European issues, including the crisis of multiculturalism, **Konstanty Gebert** from Warsaw - the journalist for the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily and the founder of the *Midrasz* magazine, involved both personally and professionally in the problems of religion and an expert on the Middle East and the Balkan affairs; **Stanisław Obirek** from Łódź - a former Jesuite who has recently left priesthood, theologian, Professor at the University of Łódź, and a journalist, engaged in the dialogue with other religions and with nonbelievers; **Edwin Bendyk** from Warsaw - a recognized columnist (among others of the „Polityka” weekly) who writes on such issues as processes of modernization and post-modernization, diffusion of culture and innovations, social communication and influence of the media (especially the new media) on culture, whose books include *Zatruta studnia* and *Antymatrix. Człowiek w labiryncie sieci*.

'What has happened to us?' A rise of national sentiments and xenophobia in the new EU member states of Central and East Europe (Day 3 – July 7, 2007)

During the democratic revolutions, few of us probably imagined that our Central European societies would so soon be characterized by predominantly populist governments, obsessive accounting for the past, low election turnouts, disappearance of social solidarity, growing xenophobia and the revival of the old patterns of nationalism and religious extremism. Is this all just a peculiarity of the Central-European model of transition, or rather a reflection of the changing face of Europe? Is it possible to revive the past positive patterns of Central European societies with their strong tradition of intercultural tolerance and the culture of dialogue? If so, how should it be done and by what means? The question is the more urgent since the countries of our region are about to face similar problems that are now on the agenda of Western European countries: incoming waves of immigrants, growing cultural conflicts, terrorist threats, and psychosis of “islamophobia.” The way that Central European countries will deal with these challenges will either deepen the crisis of multiculturalism in Europe or contribute to its improvement.

The participants of the debate will be **Ivan Krastev** from Sofia – one of the most recognized analysts of current social and political processes in the world, a member of the Forum of Young Global Leaders a partner organization of the World Economic Forum and the head of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia; **Aleksander Kaczorowski** from Warsaw – for many years the editor of the „Gazeta Środkowoeuropejska,” a regular insert to the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, now a deputy Editor-in-Chief of the *Newsweek Polska*, expert in the Central European current affairs, including the politics and culture of the region; **Basil Kerski** from Berlin – the Polish, Iraqi and German Editor-in-Chief of the bilingual Polish-German magazine *Dialog*, a recognized expert in international relations; **Leszek Koczanowicz** from Wrocław – philosopher, Professor of the University of Lower Silesia, author of many publications about political and social philosophy and the philosophy of culture; **Józef Pinior** from Wrocław – a well-known Solidarity leader from Wrocław and now a Member of the European Parliament.

Symposium Format

The *New Agora* is not a typical scholarly conference, but an forum for debate and exchange that is open to the public, especially students. More than 20 speakers and panelists will meet for three days in Wrocław's Museum of Architecture to engage in a discussion on three key issues. In addition to their formal contribution during sessions, all speakers and participants are expected to take an active part in the discussions during all three days. The speakers' contributions are treated as an introduction into a free, open and informal debate.

Every day, we will present several documentary movies from the series *My favorite poem*, by the journalist and writer **Ewa Zadrzyńska**. In her short film essays made between 2006-2007, she made portraits of Poles living in Poland and abroad who speak about their favorite poems. The discussion about poetry unveils the heroes' experiences and feelings, their daily problems and hopes, as well as their connections to the places in which they live.

An integral part of the *New Agora* in Wrocław will be **site visits, exhibitions and cultural programs** which will take place in the Wrocław Industrial Park, Centennial Hall, the Museum of Architecture and the White Stork Synagogue in Wrocław.

Moderators

The debates will be moderated by **Hana Cervinkova**, Czech-born cultural anthropologist living in Wrocław, **Krzysztof Czyżewski** – co-founder and director of the Borderland Foundation, **Juliet Golden** – American reporter and journalist living in Wrocław, **Chris Keulemans** – reporter and writer from Amsterdam and **Elzbieta Matynia** – Professor from New School University in New York and University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław.

Language

The official language of the *New Agora* is English. Polish translation can be provided on individual basis.

Participants

In total, more than 60 persons will take place in the symposium. In addition to 22 speakers, the participants will include leaders of intercultural projects, especially those who are involved in the joint initiatives with the Borderland Foundation or the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education. We have launched the so-called "Bridge builders network", informal grouping of individuals and institutions involved in intercultural work. Persons and organizations involved come from Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Czech Republic and Poland. They will participate actively in the symposium and provide, together with local organizations, presentations of their intercultural projects. There will also be intellectuals and cultural animators from Wrocław and the region, representatives of the local government, students, and journalists.

Symposium Program (July 4 – July 8, 2007)

July 4, 2007

Arrival of Participants – hotel accommodation

July 5, 2007 (Day 1)

Museum of Architecture

Cosmopolis: Heritage, modernity and bridge-building - strategies for a multicultural city

10.00- 12.30 Session 1 (moderators: Hana Cervinkova and Juliet Golden)

Speakers: Eva Hoffman
 Elzbieta Matynia
 Rafał Dutkiewicz
 Ivana Bursikova

10' documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Klara Wyrzykowska (Charles Baudelaire - "To a Passerby")

12.30- 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 Session 2 (moderator: Elzbieta Matynia)

Documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Ula Dudziak (Adam Zagajewski - "Try to praise the mutilated world")

Speakers: Ashok Balotra
 Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

16:00 Departure from the Museum of Architecture to the Wrocław Industrial Park

16:30 - 18:00 Interactive Visit to the Wrocław Industrial Park

18:00 Departure from the Industrial Park to the hotels

19:30 Departure from the hotels to dinner at the Centennial Hall

20:00 Tour of the Centennial Hall and Dinner at Pergolla

July 6, 2007 (Day 2)

Museum of Architecture

Religion versus Civil Society: The role and place of religion in multicultural societies

10.00- 13.00 Session 1 (moderator: Chris Keulemans)

Speakers: Zygmunt Bauman
 David Goodhart
 Konstanty Gebert

Documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Marta Kuczynska (Zbigniew Herert - "The Seventh Angel")

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00- 16.30 Session 2 (moderator: Krzysztof Czyżewski)

Documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Radek Wisniewski (Karol Maliszewski - "Muted June")

Speakers: Agata Bielik-Robson
Stanisław Obirek
Edwin Bendyk

19:00 Concert at the White Stork Synagogue

July 7, 2007 (Day 3)

Museum of Architecture

'What has happened to us?' A rise of national sentiments and xenophobia in the new EU member states of Central and East Europe

10.00- 12.30 Session 1 (moderator: Edwin Bendyk)

Speakers: Ivan Krastev
Leszek Koczanowicz
Kris Keulemans

Documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Justyna Kulikowska (Czesław Miłosz – “Wind in the Evening”)

12.30- 13.30 Lunch

Documentary Film by Ewa Zadrzyńska
Piotr Wolukanis (Tadeusz Różewicz - "Posthumous Rehabilitation")

13.30- 15.30 Session 2 (moderator: Leszek Koczanowicz)

Speakers: Aleksander Kaczorowski
Basil Kerski

20:00 - Dinner

July 8, 2007

Departure of Participants

Speakers' Biographies

Zygmunt Bauman is the Emeritus Professor of Sociology, University of Leeds, England. One of the most prominent theoreticians of postmodernity, Zygmunt Bauman has written extensively on different aspects of the present, including culture, politics, ethics, morality, freedom and many others. His latest publications in English include *Liquid Times* (2006) and *Consuming Life* (2007).

Edwin Bendyk is a journalist and writer. In the late 1980s he was involved in the independent students' movements as an editor of two underground magazines: *Miś* and *Grizzly*. After 1989 he worked for several media outlets such as *Gazeta i Nowoczesność*, *Życie Warszawy* and the Polish Information Agency (as an editor-in-chief of the press desk). Since 1999 he has been working for *Polityka*, a major Polish weekly magazine, and contributed to such publications as *Przegląd Polityczny*, *Krytyka Polityczna*, *Res Publica Nowa*, *Computerworld*, *Kultura Współczesna*, *Zeszyty Artystyczne*. He is mainly interested in topics concerning processes of modernization and post-modernization, diffusion of culture and innovations, knowledge management, social networks, social communication and the influence of media (especially New Media) on culture, and social and political actions. He is the author of two books, *Zatruta studnia* (*The Poisoned Well*, 2002), which won several prizes and was a finalist for the Nike 2003 Literary Prize, and *Antymatrix. Człowiek w labiryncie sieci* (*Anti-Matrix: A Man in a Labyrinth of Networks*, 2004).

Ashok Bhalotra is the director CEO of KuiperCompagnons, a Dutch urban design office in Rotterdam, founded as early as 1916 by Granpré Molière. Born in Gujerat in India in 1943 and educated in Delhi as an architect and urbanist in accordance with CIAM's post-war revision, he was trained in practice by Team X. In 1968 he worked for Shadrach Woods on 'The Growing Number', the Milan Triennale of that year, compiling with him the publication *Urbanism is Everybody's Business*. He joined KuiperCompagnons in 1971 and began teaching at Delft University of Technology. His work is a reflection of city form and city life the world over. Bhalotra practices an urbanism that we might call baroque. His geometry is grandiose yet mild: it welcomes variations provoked by the lie of the site and other chance elements. City plans and building types for him present a rich pattern of oppositions: pleasure and use, function and ritual, tradition and modernity, the sublime and the banal, order and chaos, reality and dream – all couched in the dialectic of dwelling and traveling. In 2004 he was awarded the Green Pin of The Architects' Association of Denmark. This prize is given for outstanding work in favor of environmentally sound architecture and urban planning. According to the jury Ashok Bhalotra has attracted worldwide attention because of his striking plans for urban development, landscape planning and conversions of harbor areas to both residential and industrial areas.

Ivana Bursikova is the President of Agora Central Europe, a Prague-based NGO specializing in practical projects promoting public participation and democratic decision-making in Central European urban areas. Agora Central Europe also organizes media debates on key public issues. In addition, Ivana Bursikova is an active politician in the Prague City Parliament, focusing primarily on the problems of urban historic preservation and public policy.

Krzysztof Czyżewski is a cultural animator, the co-founder and the President of the Borderland Foundation in Poland. His experience at the beginnings as an alternative theater artist has led him to the concept of cultural animation that would promote and develop the unique experience of multicultural borderland regions. The Borderland Foundation and the associated Borderland Center that he also heads, both based in northeast Poland, a region with strong multicultural traditions, since the early 1990s have been implementing this concept of broad and multi-disciplinary cross-cultural work. For their activities focused on promoting dialogue between cultures and nations the Borderland Foundation and Krzysztof Czyżewski personally have been

awarded with many prizes by institutions and organizations from Poland and abroad. Krzysztof Czyżewski is also a poet and essayist, the author of numerous articles devoted to the heritage and socio-cultural, 'bridge-building' potential of the borderlands.

Hana Cervinkova was born in the Czech Republic and received her university training in anthropology in the United States (Ph.D. 2003 – New School for Social Research, New York). In 2003 she founded the International Institute for the Study on Culture and Education (IISCE) at the University of Lower Silesia (DSWE) in Wrocław, dedicated to the building of inter-cultural understanding and citizen participation through educational projects. She is also the President of *Hala Ludowa*, a company owned by the City of Wrocław and the Region of Lower Silesia, which manages Centennial Hall, the historic congress and recreation facility, inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. In both her current academic and administrative work, she focuses on various aspects of urban transformation in Central Europe and explores issues related to the processes of participative learning in the urban context.

Rafał Dutkiewicz holds a Ph.D. in logic from the Catholic University in Lublin. An active opposition organizer, he was one of the leaders of the underground *Solidarność* movement in Wrocław in the 1980s. In the 1990s, he founded a private “headhunting” company, Signium Professional. Since 2002, he has served as the Mayor of Wrocław, winning his second term in office in 2006 with 84.53% of the popular vote. For his work as the mayor, Rafał Dutkiewicz has received many national and international awards, winning a reputation as a one of the most popular and successful self-government leaders in Poland.

Konstanty Gebert holds a psychology degree from the University of Warsaw and was the co-founder of the (unofficial) Jewish Flying University (1979), the Polish Council of Christians and Jews (1980) and a white-collar trade union that merged with Solidarity (1980). Under the pen name of Dawid Warszawski, he became a well-known editor and columnist of KOS fortnightly and of other underground publications. Since 1989, he has worked for *Gazeta Wyborcza*, where he is columnist and international reporter. He is a frequent contributor to other Polish and international media, including the BBC, *The Guardian* (London), *Le Monde Diplomatique* (Paris), *MicroMega* (Rome), *Respekt* (Prague), *Magyar Naranc* (Budapest), *Svijet* (Sarajevo), *Maariv* (Tel Aviv), *New Republic* (New York), *The Los Angeles Times* (Los Angeles), *The Walrus* (Toronto), *Die Welt* (Berlin), *The Moscow Times* (Moscow). In 1997 he founded, and till 2000 was editor-in-chief of the Jewish intellectual monthly *Midrasz*, of which he is now the publisher. From 1995 till 2000 he was vice-chair, and since 2000 media consultant, of MDLF, an international credit fund for independent media. Since 2005, he has served as the Polish representative of the US Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture. He is the author of eight books, e.g. on the Polish round table negotiations of 1989, and on the Yugoslav wars, the commentaries on the Torah in Polish or a history of Israel's wars since 1967. A collection of essays on contemporary Polish Jewry will be published this year.

Juliet D. Golden was born in the USA, but has lived and worked in Poland since the beginning of the 1990s. She received her bachelor's degree in Political Science from Indiana University and her master's degree in International Relations from Columbia University. In her professional career she has worked in journalism, human resources and marketing. A former Senior Reporter for the Warsaw Business Journal, she currently does considerable work in the public sector in Poland. She recently directed an hour-long documentary film *The Squatters' Circus*, which aired on the Planete Channel in 2006 and was shown at film festivals in the United States and Poland. Hobby: photographing vanishing Lower Silesia and Wrocław, in particular historic architecture.

David Goodhart is a journalist and the Editor-in-Chief of the British *Prospect* magazine. He was born in 1956 and educated at Eton (1969-1974) and York University (1976-79, first in history and politics). He worked on the *Yorkshire Evening Press* (1979-1982) then the *Financial Times* (1982-1994) as a labour correspondent, city reporter, Lex columnist, Germany correspondent (as Bonn correspondent for the FT he covered German unification), and employment editor. In 1995 he launched *Prospect*, an intellectual current affairs monthly magazine based in London. David Goodhart's publications include: *Eddie Shah and the Newspaper Revolution* (with Patrick Wintour; Coronet, 1986), *Making the City Work* (with Charles Grant; Fabian pamphlet, 1987), *The Reshaping of the German Social Market* (IPPR pamphlet, 1994), *Thinking Allowed, The Best of Prospect Magazine 1995-2005*, (edited and with an introduction by David Goodhart; Atlantic Books, 2005).

Eva Hoffman grew up in Cracow, Poland, where she studied music intensively before emigrating in her teens to Canada and then the United States. After receiving her Ph.D. in literature from Harvard University, she worked at *The New York Times*, serving as Deputy Editor of Arts and Leisure, senior editor at the Book Review and a regular book critic. She is the author of five books, including *Lost in Translation* and *The Secret*. Her work has been translated into many languages and has led to various fellowships and awards, including, among others, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Whiting Foundation Award for Writing and an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She has written and lectured internationally on issues of exile, memory, Polish-Jewish history, politics and culture. She has written and presented several radio programs, including one on Memory and Music, which received the prestigious Prix Italia International for the Media. She has taught literature and creative writing at various universities and is currently Visiting Professor at Hunter College, CUNY. She divides her time between London and New York.

Aleksander Kaczorowski (1969) is a writer, translator and journalist. He is the author of three books devoted to Czech literature and culture: *Praski elementarz* ('Prague primer', 2001), *Gra w życie. Opowieść o Bohumilu Hrabalu* ('Playing life: Story about Bohumil Hrabal', 2004), and *Europa z płaskostopiem* ('Flat-footed Europe', 2007). He translated into Polish the works by Bohumil Hrabal, Josef Škvorecky, and Egon Bondy. Between 1995–2002 he was the editor of the *Gazeta Środkowoeuropejska*, a regular insert to the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, focused on the Central European current affairs. Later he worked for the weekly magazines *Polityka* and *Forum*. Now is the deputy editor-in-chief of the Polish edition of *Newsweek*.

Basil Kerski (1969) is a journalist, political scientist, the Editor-in-Chief of the bilingual Polish-German magazine *Dialog* based in Berlin. He is a co-editor of, and contributor for several other Polish and German magazines (*Przegląd Polityczny*, *Inter Finitimos*, *Borussia*). He has published in the *Berliner Zeitung* and *Des Tagesspiegel*. He specializes in history and politics of modern Germany and the Polish-German and Polish-Ukrainian relations.

Chris Keulemans (born in Tunisia) is a writer and journalist living in Amsterdam. He has published six books of fiction and essays. His last work, *De Amerikaan die ik nooit geweest ben / The American I never was* (2004) used the combination of media - radio, website, documentary and novel. Currently, he is working on a book of essays and travel stories on Art after Crisis, see www.submarinechannel.com/artaftercrisis. During the 1990s, he was managing director of De Balie, a centre for culture and politics in Amsterdam. Since then, he has traveled extensively across the Balkans, the Middle-East, South-East Asia and North America. His articles have appeared mainly in the Dutch weekly *Vrij Nederland* and have been translated into several languages. His main subjects include ruined cities, fearless refugees, complicated movies, urban

multiculturalism, great goalkeepers, intelligent hip-hop, sad politics and cities brought back to life by the artists who inhabit them.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is University Professor, Professor of Performance Studies, and Affiliated Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. She is currently chairing the Core Exhibition Development Team of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, in Warsaw, Poland. Her books include *Destination Culture: Tourism, Museums, and Heritage*, and *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864-1939*, with Lucjan Dobroszycki. They *Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland before the Holocaust*, in collaboration with her father, Mayer Kirshenblatt, will appear in September 2007.

Leszek Koczanowicz is a Professor of philosophy and the Chair of Cultural Studies Department at the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław. He is the author of many articles and several books in political and social philosophy as well as the philosophy of culture. He is the co-editor with Beth J. Singer *Democracy and Totalitarian Experience* (New York-Amsterdam 2005). He recently completed a manuscript on the problem of social and political time.

Ivan Krastev is a political scientist and Chair of the Board of the Centre for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Bulgaria. Since 2004 Mr. Krastev has been the Executive Director of the International Commission on the Balkans chaired by the former Italian Premier Minister Giuliano Amato. He is the Director of the Open Century Project of the Central European University in Budapest. In 2006 Ivan Krastev was awarded membership in the Forum of Young Global Leaders, a partner organization of the World Economic Forum. His latest books in English are: *Shifting Obsessions: Three Essays on The Politics of Anticorruption* (CEU Press 2004), and *The Anti-American Century* (ed. Alan McPherson and Ivan Krastev, CEU Press 2007). He is also the Editor-in-Chief of the Bulgarian edition of *Foreign Policy*.

Elzbieta Matynia holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Warsaw University and works as the Associate Professor of Liberal Studies and Sociology at New School for Social Research in New York. Between 1990 – 1996, she has been the Director of the East and Central Europe Program and since 1996 the Director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies at New School for Social Research in New York. Elzbieta Matynia has published extensively in the areas of the sociology of arts and culture, history of social ideas, 20th century social movements and democratization processes in East and Central Europe and South Africa. Her current research is on nationalism and ethnic conflict; new democracies in East and Central Europe; and women and democratic transition. Her latest book is titled *Performative Democracy*.

Stanislaw Obirek, a former Jesuit priest, is currently a professor at Łódź University. He teaches in the Department of American Studies and Mass Media, a part of the Faculty of International and Political Studies. After finishing philosophical and theological studies at the Gregorian University in Rome, he received his Ph.D. from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. His books include: *The Vision of the Church and the State in Piotr Skarga's sermons* (1994); *The Jesuits in the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania, 1564-1668* (1996); *What we Have in Common? Dialogue with Nonbelievers* (2002); and *Religion A Shelter or a Prison?* (2006) He is interested in the place of religion in modern cultures, inter-religious dialogue, and strategies for overcoming conflicts between different civilizations and cultures.

Ewa Zadrzyńska is a journalist and a fiction writer. From 1984 she has resided in New York City and in Warsaw. Her short stories can be found on the contemporary reading list for Polish

schools and she is known as the author of children's books. Ewa Zadrzyńska is a frequent contributor to the Polish and US media. Her articles appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Newsday* and in Polish magazines: *Polityka*, *Kultura*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Twój Styl*. For her work in journalism Ms. Zadrzyńska was awarded with the prestigious Professional Journalism Fellowship at the Stanford University. Since 2005 she has represented the Belgian Evens Foundation in Poland and has been working on a program, *Poetry Unites – My Favorite Poem*, sponsored by the foundation.

Information about the Organizers

The Borderland Foundation

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The educational and cultural programs of the Borderland Foundation result from several years' experience in cultural work in the borderland regions of East and Central Europe. Their major assumption is a multilateral and thorough examination of intercultural processes taking place within borderland communities through research travels, documentation, artistic and educational work and finally through popularization of multicultural heritage of the region in the form of publications, seminars, exhibitions, concerts and theatre performances.

The Foundation's main programs include the Borderland Forum - workshops and trainings combined with artistic presentations, film screenings, and seminars, aimed at implementing the model of intercultural work of the Borderland Foundation in other regions of the world; Internships for students of cultural animation; Musicians' Raft between New York and Sejny – a cultural-artistic program focused on Yiddish cultural heritage in Central and Eastern Europe; Glass Beads Game - long-term artistic and educational project with children and youth focused on multicultural education; Borderland Publishing House – publishing translations into Polish and original works by prominent Central European writers; Internet Portal "Borderland Archipelago", serving as a source of information about events and activities of the Borderland Foundation and presenting the resources of the Library and Documentation Center of Borderland Cultures. The Borderland Foundation is in the process of creating the International Dialogue Center in Krasnogruda, a future school of modern intercultural practice.

The activities of the Foundation are supported by the Ministry of Culture of Poland, the Ford Foundation, The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Open Society Institute, the European Culture Foundation and the European Commission and other private and public sources.

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IISCE is an interdepartmental academic and research institute located at a non-public institution of higher education, the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław. Founded in October 2003,

IISCE responds to the processes of transnational integration with projects that increase international mobility, intercultural understanding and citizen participation through education.

Our activities include research projects in education, anthropology and sociology, training workshops for teachers, language courses, public lectures, building of collaborative networks and consortia with foreign universities, organization of study programs for foreign students. The activities of the Institute build on the methodological principle that the practitioners who are the target groups of our actions (students, teachers, the unemployed) are active participants in the educational process. The main goals are to stimulate self-reflection and foster active citizen participation in the life of the community. By helping people become participants instead of recipients in the educational process, we seek to contribute to the building of the culture of pluralism and diversity that is critical to participative democracy.

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Partners:

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