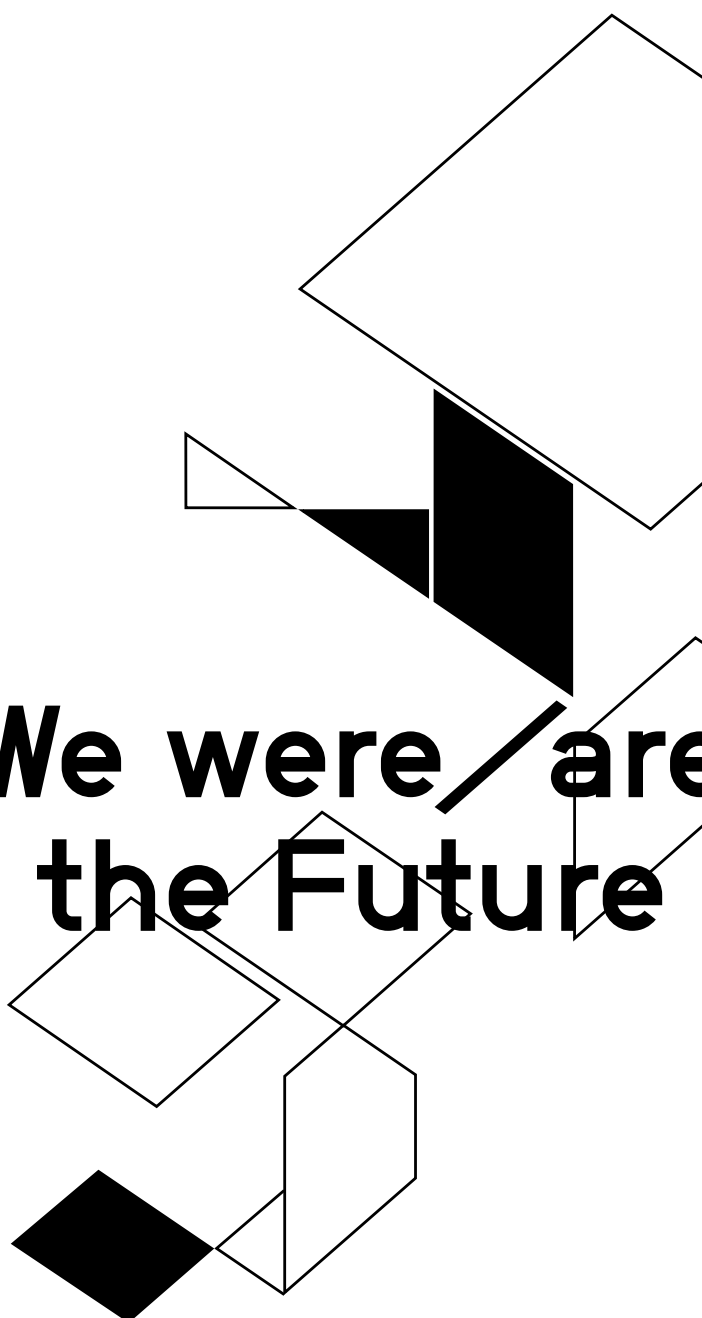


exercising
modernity

academy
2021



**We were / are
the Future**

exercising
modernity

Organizer

Pilecki Institute Berlin

Partners

The Liebling Haus –

The White City Center (Tel Aviv)

Adam Mickiewicz Institute Warsaw

Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
of the Republic of Poland

We were/are the Future

29–31.01.21

05–07.02.21

12–14.02.21

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Exercising Modernity is a project initiated by the Pilecki Institute Berlin with the aim of describing the Polish share in modern heritage in a new, interdisciplinary way. The international format of the project allows for a systematic interpretation of the Polish dream of modernity in a European and global context. Within the framework of Exercising Modernity, an extensive accompanying program comprising conferences, lectures and workshops, is offered to a broad audience throughout the year.

The annual Exercising Modernity Academy is the core of the project. As a German-Polish-Israeli cooperative initiative, it aims at a critical reflection on the legacy of modernism and modernity, and offers young artists and scholars the opportunity to exchange ideas on the culture and history of the 20th century. Participants will discover different modern cultures through workshops and seminars, and also in a more direct way via study visits, and are invited to engage in a critical discussion on modern heritage with its bright but also very dark sides.

Organizer



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Idea for 2021

The third edition of the Exercising Modernity Academy is devoted to the ways in which modernities across the world have envisioned the future – with its new man and woman, its society, new ways of life and a new everyday order.

By rejecting the burden of the past, modernity has often emphasized an openness to the future. The “new” was imagined to bring peace to society, and the idea of historical progress fueled the hope for the ever greater prosperity of ever greater parts of humanity. The ways in which societies might be organized and life might be regulated were a subject of interest for many modernization strategies, as well as for modernist projects across the globe. The struggles for new forms were closely linked with an idea to bridge the gap between technological progress and private life, as well as with a faith in the new political and social order. Housing and city planning played a key role in this process. The belief in their emancipatory potential and their role in changing the rhythms of every-day life created a growing interest in how objects became tools for building a state identity and how the constructed and designed environment became an expression of certain biopolitics.

This process can be seen, however, as taking place in an ambivalent way. The strive for something radically new could make way for hitherto unseen terror and decay. Engines of social and technical progress such as standardization, normalization and typization

turned out to be a basis for totalitarian building plans and radical spatial segregation – apparent in the Stalinist terror and in the horrors of National Socialism, the darkest chapter in the history of modernity.

Organized in the midst of a pandemic and in the context of the climate crisis, when questions of possible scenarios for the future are at the center of public debate, the third edition of the Exercising Modernity Academy proposes to look back on some of the ideas that fueled the belief in the future a century ago. Exploring the intersections of humanities, architecture, design, art history, social and political sciences, we invite our lecturers and participants to look at what modernisms and 20th-century modernisation practices have to offer us today. What kind of new world can art, design and architecture promise us today and help us to achieve? What can we learn from the experiments of the 20th century today? Can a critical revision of their ideas serve as an inspiration for the solutions we now urgently need?

SECTION I

FRI 29.01.21

18:00-20:00

Welcome & introduction by
Hanna Radziejowska (Director of Pilecki
Institute Berlin), Aleksandra Janus (Curator
of the Exercising Modernity program), &
Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk (Pilecki Institute
Berlin, Head of the Exercising Modernity
program)

SAT 30.01.21

10:00-12:00

Lectures by

Lucian Hölscher: General Aspects of a
European History of the Future

Michał Łuczewski: Sitting out the
Apocalypse

Zvi Efrat: The Israel Project

12:00-12:30 Lunch break

12:30-14:00

Discussion with Lucian Hölscher, Michał
Łuczewski & Zvi Efrat, moderated by
Katarzyna Kasia: Is there a future for
modernity?

SUN 31.01.21

12:00-13.30

Discussion with Aleksandra Janus,
Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk & Hanna
Radziejowska, moderated by Mateusz
Fałkowski: What future? What modernity?
Where are we?

● → broadcast live

SECTION II

FRI 05.02.21

17:00-18:30

Keynote lecture by Robert Jan van Pelt:
Architecture of Perdition

SAT 06.02.21

10:00-12:00

Workshop by CENTRALA:
Rational sensuality (part I)

12:00-12:30 Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Workshop by CENTRALA:
Rational sensuality (part II)

17:00-18:30

● Discussion with Wojciech Kotecki, Dorota
Leśniak-Rychlak, Łukasz Pancewicz &
Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk, moderated by
Anna Cymer [PL with ENG translation]:
Urban planning of the future. Designing
cities in times of uncertainty

SUN 07.02.21

10:00-12:00

Seminar by Ines Weizman:
Modernism's afterlife in the age of digital
reconstruction (part I)

12:00-13:00 Lunch break

13:00-15:00

Seminar by Ines Weizman (part II)

SECTION III

FRI 12.02.21

17:00-18:30

Keynote lecture by Marci Shore:
A short history of post-truth, or the uses and
disadvantages of replacing God

SAT 13.02.21

10:00-12:00

Seminar by Joanna Kordjak:
Smokeless cities

12:00-12:30 Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Seminar with texts by Ralf Fücks
(Zentrum Liberale Moderne)

17:00-18:30

● Keynote lecture by Shira Levy-Benyemini
& Sharon Golan-Yaron (The Liebling Haus –
The White City Center): New metabolism of
the modernist city

SUN 14.02.21

10:00-12:00

Seminar with texts by Karolina Wigura
(Kultura Liberalna)

12:00-12:30 Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Seminar by Shira Levy-Benyemini &
Sharon Golan-Yaron: New metabolism
of the modernist city

14:30-15:00 Coffee break

15:00-16:30

Summing up of the Academy

SECTION I

New Ideas and Visions

In the first thematic section, New Ideas and Visions, we wish to explore the philosophical and historiographical concept of modernity in its relationship with the “new” and with the idea of progress towards a better future. Crucial to modernity is a revision of tradition, regarding several spheres of life such as technology and economics (the rise of capitalism), religion (secularization), and politics (development of nation-states). In the East and West, this process manifested itself in strikingly different arrangements, its temporality diverged in each concrete expression. The notions of future, past and their historical relationship to one another differed in respective cases.

[Link for the internal events](#)
password: PP4A

FRI 29.01.2021

18:00-18:15

Introduction & welcome

Hanna Radziejowska (Director of the Pilecki Institute Berlin)

18:15-18:30

We were/are the Future - introduction into the Academy 2021

Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk (Head of the Exercising Modernity program, Pilecki Institute Berlin)

18:30-20:00

Introductory workshop

Aleksandra Janus (Co-curator of the Exercising Modernity program, Director of Centrum Cyfrowe)

Hanna Radziejowska is a director of the Pilecki Institute in Berlin, coordinator, curator, producer, and scriptwriter of cultural and museum projects. Together with Jack Fairweather, she has curated the exhibition “Der Freiwillige. Witold Pilecki und die Unterwanderung von Auschwitz” which has been awarded the “Historical Event of the Year 2019” prize for the best exhibition and is located at the Pilecki Institute in Berlin. In 2019 her exhibition “Houses of Glass” won the Mayor of Warsaw’s exhibition award in the category “Best Event on Architecture”.

Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk is an art historian and curator. She studied Art History at the Jagiellonian University, Universität Wien and Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The author of academic articles on art and architecture of the 20th century and publications in exhibition catalogs and magazines. Co-editor of the publications “Image/Body and Composition of Space. Sculptures of the avant-garde”. Curator and

co-curator of exhibitions, including “Identity. 100 Years of Polish Architecture” (2019); “Composing Space. Sculptures of the avant-garde” (2019-2020). Head of the Exercising Modernity program (Pilecki Institute Berlin).

Aleksandra Janus is a researcher and curator of cultural programs, she holds a PhD in Anthropology (Jagiellonian University). She is co-founder of “Museum Lab” training program for Polish heritage professionals, head of the Open Culture Studio and a Director & Board Member of Centrum Cyfrowe, co-founder initiative “Museums for Climate” and co-curator of Exercising Modernity program. Her work focuses on difficult heritage and memory cultures as well as digital transformation in the cultural heritage sector.

SAT 30.01.21

10:00-12:00

Lectures

Lucian Hölscher

General Aspects of a European History of the Future

The lecture will present the history of the concept of progress from the conditions surrounding its emergence in the early modern period to its dissolution into partial and temporary phases of progress in the present. This will be followed by a brief review of the concept of presently much discussed “plurality of times”. Thereupon, an original hypothesis of historical future cycles will be presented. Finally, seven striking phenomena in the history of the future in the 19th

and 20th centuries will be outlined: the differentiation of socio-political concepts of the future – the invention of a language of the future in the arts at the turn of the 20th century – the dialectic of hope and disappointment in the implementation of architectural designs – concepts of the new man and a new society 1900-1930 – the relation of vision and destruction in urban planning – past futures and future pasts – the idea of a virtual history.

Lucian Hölscher is professor emeritus at the Historical Institute of the Ruhr University Bochum. He is the author of numerous publications in the field of the theory of history, the history of historical sciences, as well as the political, social and cultural history of the 19th and 20th centuries with a special focus on the history of religion in modern times. His book “Die Entdeckung der Zukunft”, a central text of historical futurology, was published in 1999 and in a second edition in 2016. As a contribution to the theory of historical times, he published the comprehensive monograph “Zeitgärten: Zeitfiguren in der Geschichte der Neuzeit” in 2020.

Michał Łuczewski

Sitting out the Apocalypse

The Apocalypse is currently in fashion. It appears to have extricated itself from the realm of religion and begun to define contemporary culture. Modernity has built itself on resistance to religious predictions of the end of the world. The prophets of the Apocalypse have been replaced by scholars who have shifted the end times further into the future in order to make space for progress until progress itself

became infinite. If we consider the end today, it means that modernity as we know it has been exhausted. But that does not mean a return to some age-old religion, but a union of age-old religions with secular progress. Nowadays, the most progressive people are those who are also the most apocalyptic. It is no longer a matter of intellectual inquiry. It seems that the West today is waiting for the Apocalypse, traveling through it, or perhaps has even come out the other side and we are now inhabiting a post-apocalyptic world like zombies, ignorant of their own death and continuing to exist through sheer momentum. The youngest generations live their lives as if the Apocalypse were in progress. Children and adolescents are ever more concerned about climate change.

But what is the Apocalypse? The Apocalypse is always something other than what we imagine it to be. If we define it as an ecological catastrophe, it becomes slightly less terrifying. It seems, for a brief moment, that we know the diagnosis and we know what must be done. But what if we are only looking at the climate because we cannot bear to look upon the end of our societies and we have no idea what to do? The goal of the lecture will be to seek out a strategy to survive the end.

Michał Łuczewski is a Polish sociologist and psychologist, assistant professor at the University of Warsaw and father of four: three girls and a boy. He served in the Polish President's National Development Council (2015-2020), former director of programmes at the Centre for the Thought of John Paul II in Warsaw (2013-2019), co-author of documentary-films, including recent series for the National Polish Television "Wojtyła according to Łuczewski". An editor

of an 'antidisciplinary' journal "State of Things", and of "Forty four. An Apocalyptic Magazine". He is the author of manual "Solidarity Step by Step" (Warsaw 2015) as well as most recently "Moral Capital. Politics of History in Late Modernity". Łuczewski is currently sitting out the Apocalypse.

Zvi Efrat

The Israel Project

The lecture will develop a series of notes on the role of regional planning, urbanism and architecture in the literal and phenomenal construction of statehood in Israel during the 1950s and 60s, including the establishment of dozens of new towns, hundreds of new rural settlements, national infrastructures and an entirely transformed landscape.

Zvi Efrat is an architect and architectural historian. He studied at the Pratt Institute and New York University, and received his PhD from Princeton University. With his architectural firm Efrat-Kowalsky Architects, he specializes in public institutions, especially museums, and in repurposing existing structures. Recent projects have included renewing and expanding the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and preserving and expanding the City Museum of Tel Aviv. From 2002 to 2010, he was Head of the Department of Architecture at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem. He has curated numerous exhibitions, including "Borderline Disorder" for the Israeli Pavilion at the 8th Venice Architecture Biennale in 2002, and "The Object of Zionism" for the Swiss Architecture Museum in Basel in 2011. His most recent book, "The Object of Zionism: The Architecture of Israel", was published in 2018.

12:00-12:30

Lunch break

12:30-14:00

Discussion

Lucian Hölscher, Michał Łuczewski &
Zvi Efrat, moderator: Katarzyna Kasia

Is there a future for modernity?

Is it possible to design the future without the assumption that it will be modern? The unknown is disturbing and surprising, no matter what preparations have been made. The last year has shown us that we need a strategy that will allow us to survive the crisis of the global pandemic. This strategy will surely be new, but should it also be modern? The idea of progress resurges at various reprises, but it often turns out instead to be a kind of regression, because the best is long behind us, and the roads of return have long been cut off.

In the face of radical change, we often reach for tried and tested solutions, not because they have proved successful, but because we have learned to minimize the losses they cause. The question of whether we are ready for the future is extraneous; the future will come whether we want it or not. It is better, then, to consider whether we can exert any kind of influence on it. Should we cling to what we know and remain in neophobic confinement, or should we meet the challenges and work on the assumption that we are able to create a new and better world?

Katarzyna Kasia is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Warsaw. She holds PhD in Philosophy. She is the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Visual Culture Management at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and the Head of the Department of Cultural Theory. Kasia has held scholarships from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and the Kościuszko Foundation, and is a visiting scholar at Princeton University. She is the author of the books "The Craft of Molding. Luigi Pareyson, the aesthetics of formativity" and "The aesthetic community and the experience of the spectacle", and has also translated works by Italian philosophers (Pareyson, Vattimo i.a.). She contributes articles to "Kultura Liberalna", has been a regular commentator on the Polish satirist program "Szkło Kontaktowe" since 2019, and has been giving morning broadcasts on Radio Nowy Świat since July 2020.

SUN 31.01.2021

12:00-13:30

Discussion

Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk, Aleksandra Janus
& Hanna Radziejowska,
moderator: Mateusz Fałkowski

What future? What modernity? Where are we?

Mateusz Fałkowski talks to the curators of the Exercising Modernity program: Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk, Aleksandra Janus and Hanna Radziejowska about what progress, modernity and tradition mean to them, and what future they envision, as well as about the emancipatory and simultaneously dangerous nature of modern projects and the curators' personal ways of approaching and looking at the topics of this year's Exercising Modernity program.

exercising
modernity

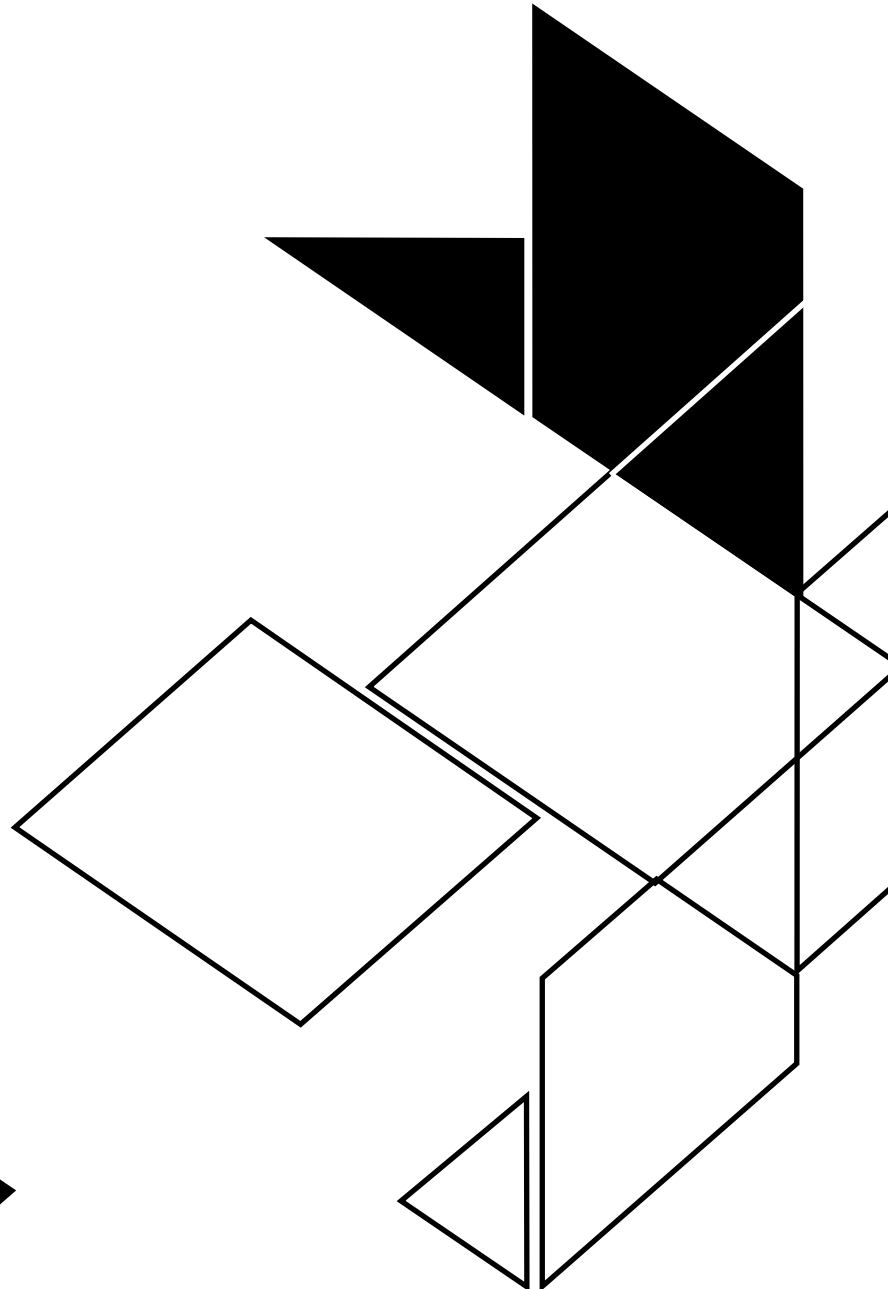
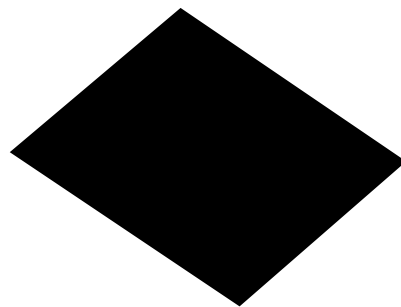
We were/are
the Future

Aleksandra Janus see page 12

Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk see page 11

Hanna Radziejowska see page 11

Mateusz Fałkowski is a sociologist and the deputy head of the Pilecki Institute Berlin. He studied sociology, history and philosophy in Warsaw, Berlin and Erfurt. His main areas of interest are historical sociology and the studies of social movements.



SECTION II

New Art for a New Life

The early 20th-century trans-national attempts to create a new (wo)man and to shape a new society also reached art, design, and architecture. From housing and kitchen reform, through urban planning and design, modernist visions explored the agency and potential of objects that could serve as a tool for identity-building, at the same time redefining the role of artists and architects in new communities. Modern art and architectural strategies embodied and mirrored many contradictions inherent in modernity, showing the ambivalent potential of modernist projects. The section New Art for a New Life focuses on art, design and architecture as important fields of shaping daily life and as vehicles for implementing new ideas, but also as means for regulation, control and political propaganda.

[Link for the internal events](#)
password: PP4A

FRI 05.02.2021

17:00-18:30

Keynote lecture

Robert Jan van Pelt

Architecture of Perdition

From its origins in the 16th century, the history of the architectural profession has been shaped by the aspiration to build a better and more beautiful world. In the 20th century, however, a number of German architects constructed extermination camps that clearly violated the fundamental principles of the profession. How did the gas-chamber equipped crematoria fit in the history of architecture, and what lessons do they hold for young architects today?

Robert Jan van Pelt has taught as a professor at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture since 1987 and held appointments at many institutions of higher education, including the Architectural Association in London, the Technical University in Vienna, the National University of Singapore, the University of Virginia, Clark University, and MIT. He is the author of several books and recipient of many academic honors, including the National Jewish Book Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. An internationally recognized authority on the history of Auschwitz, van Pelt's work was featured in the BBC-Horizon program "Blueprints of Genocide" (1994) and he acted as a senior consultant on the BBC/PBS series "Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State" (2005).

SAT 06.02.2021

10:00-12:00

Workshop (part I)

CENTRALA

12:00-12:30

Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Workshop (part II)

CENTRALA

Rational sensuality

This altermodernistic workshop will be a free incursion into history, geography and identity. It will be a kind of journey that rejects the linear vision of time typical of modernism (which was a march towards progress, towards a better tomorrow). We will reflect on the past and the future, but, unlike in postmodernism, not only looking for forms to be combined into an eclectic whole. The introductory lecture will show inspirations mostly from the Polish context. It will be a stimulus to map personal memories, references and dreams. We intend to collect a group imaginarium on how to inhabit not only architecture, but also the natural world with its fauna and flora. Eventually the journey will lead us to the unexpected.

CENTRALA (Małgorzata Kuciewicz and Simone De Iacobis) is a Warsaw-based architecture and research studio that works with reinterpretations and spatial interventions aimed at renewing the language of architecture. In their architecture research practice, they observe the relations between architecture and natural phenomena. They view architecture as a process rather than a static form, and consider gravity, water circulation, and atmospheric and astronomical events as its building materials. In architecture that combines an intimate, human scale with the scale of the planet, they see a tool that can help us tune in to the rhythm of the surrounding world.

Interested in the memory and materiality of architecture, CENTRALA stimulates public debate on the protection of the post-war architectural heritage. Learning from the legacy of Warsaw designers (such as Zofia and Oskar Hansen, Viola and Jacek Damiński, or Alina Scholz), they restore forgotten architectural expertise: the grammar of the 1950s and 1960s Polish exhibition designs, the shared vocabulary of post-war modernism, or the use of hydrobotany in architecture.

centrala.net.pl

17:00-18:30

Discussion [PL with ENG translation]

Wojciech Kotecki, Dorota Leśniak-Rychlak, Łukasz Pancewicz & Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk, moderator: Anna Cymer

• Urban planning of the future. Designing cities in times of uncertainty

It happens that reality can overtake human imagination. No sooner had we developed a debate on urban planning, the process of forming cities and modernistic heritage which has done much to mold our urbanized environment, than the global pandemic challenged our views on the subject. The virus, which

has forced people to maintain greater distances between one another and complicated typically urban co-existence in crowded and boisterous groups, will doubtlessly influence urban planning. What consequences will it have? Where can we find points of reference for them? Can modernism become an inspiration, with its neighborly units, its intimate public spaces and access to greenery? What can we, today, in the age of climate change and viral threat, learn from the past in order to make our cities more conducive to life? Has modernism taught us anything, given us anything, or should we plan to rethink our cities from the ground up?

Dorota Leśniak-Rychlak is a Polish art historian and architect with a doctoral degree. She is editor-in-chief of “Autoportret”; founder and chairperson of the Architecture Institute Foundation; curator and co-curator of numerous architecture exhibitions, including “Impossible Objects” at the Polish Pavilion, 14th edition of the Architecture Biennale in Venice and the “Warsaw Under Construction” Festival at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw. Originator and editor of publications in the field of architecture theory and practice. Her recent publication titled “We are finally in our own home” concerns housing changes that took place in Poland during the transformation period.

Łukasz Pancewicz is an urban planner, academic instructor with a doctoral degree, along with Monika Arczyńska, a co-founder of A2P2, an architecture and planning firm specializing in solving complex urban problems. In his early career, Pancewicz worked as a consultant and official dealing with urban planning for the city of Łódź. He completed his internship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has carried out projects involving urban planning in cities such as Gdańsk, Warsaw and Kraków, public space planning (Gdynia, Łódź) and designing public services (e.g. a system of public bike hire in the regions of Upper Silesia and the Dąbrowa Basin).

Wojciech Kotecki is an architect and urban planner who graduated from the Architecture Department of the Warsaw University of Technology. He is a member of the executive committee of the Contest Jury of the Polish Association of Architects (Warsaw branch), an academic instructor at the Architecture Department of the Warsaw University of Technology and, since 2014, a co-owner of the architecture firm BBGK Architekci. He took part in the construction of several master plan projects, residential facilities, high-rise buildings and public buildings such as the municipality hall in Konstancin-Jeziorna, a prefabricated residential building on Sprzeczna Street in Warsaw, or the master plan of the Gdańsk Shipyard – Młode Miasto (with Henning Larsen).

Małgorzata Jędrzejczyk see page 11

Anna Cymer is a historian of architecture and graduate of Art History at the University of Warsaw. She works with the dissemination of knowledge about architecture. She also writes for popular, industry and specialist media. Anna Cymer has twice received scholarships from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and is a winner of the Journalist Award from the Chamber of Architects of the Republic of Poland. She is the author of the book “Architecture in Poland 1945–1989”.

[Link for the broadcasted event](#)

SUN 7.02.2021

10:00-12:00

Seminar (part I)

Ines Weizman

12:00-12:30

Lunch break

13:00-15:00

Seminar (part II)

Ines Weizman

Modernism's afterlife in the age of digital reconstruction

The digital era allows architectural history and theory to be expanded in two separate and seemingly contradictory directions. On the one hand, new technologies of detection – like 3D scans, remote sensing, proximate analysis (by instruments that resemble an MRI more than an X-Ray), and drones – can reach points otherwise inaccessible to the human eye. These technologies allow us to approach material objects – artefacts, but also buildings and landscapes – in wholly new and unprecedented ways, seeking to unpack their magic encyclopedia. The “chemical and technological” analysis of material surfaces, construction materials, color coatings, etc. reveal their layered transparencies, providing a glimpse beneath the surface. On the other hand, the historian can use representational models, data, and algorithms to expand the repertoire of contemporary research, complementing this new archaeological approach to material analysis with an analytical form that manages and cross-references a large quantity of data. To demonstrate how these new technological methods of analysis essentially reveal their potential through engagement with artistic practices and architectural

design, this seminar will look at a series of connected case studies from the architectural modernism of the early 20th century, Bauhaus histories and the hundred-year history of modernism's migration, exile and instrumentalization for colonial expansion.

In this seminar, Ines Weizman will also present a series of short films and exhibition projects that she produced as an architect and curator, but also recently as the director of the Centre for Documentary Architecture.

Ines Weizman is professor of architecture theory, director of the Bauhaus-Institute of History and Theory of Architecture and Planning and founding director of the Centre for Documentary Architecture (CDA) at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. She trained as an architect at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar and the École d'Architecture de Belleville in Paris, the Sorbonne, the University of Cambridge, and the Architectural Association, where she completed her PhD thesis in History and Theory. She is editor of the books “Architecture and the Paradox of Dissidence” (2014) and “Dust & Data: Traces of the Bauhaus across 100 Years” (2019) as well as author of “Before and After: Documenting the Architecture of Disaster” (2019, co-written with Eyal Weizman). Weizman has also worked on exhibitions and installations such as “Repeat Yourself: Loos, Law, and the Culture of the Copy” (2012, Venice Architecture Biennale; 2013, Architecture Centre in Vienna and Buell Center at Columbia University, New York), “Celltexts: Books and Other Works Produced in Prison” (2008, with Eyal Weizman, first exhibited at the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin), “The Matter of Data” (2019, co-curated with the CDA and shown in Weimar, Tel Aviv and Berlin).

SECTION III

New State and Society

New visions of social structure and social order were accompanied by new institutions and new forms of collective life. The section New State and Society explores manifestations of modernist ideas in different parts of the world, focusing on their ideological and political backgrounds and their consequences for social life. During the Academy, we will be exploring both the historical and socio-political contexts of modernisms as well as their legacy in our contemporary life and culture. Furthermore, we will focus on the ambivalence of this legacy and ways in which it affected 20th-century Europe. Through a critical examination of these issues, we will also invite our lecturers and participants to reflect on those aspects of the modernist vision of society that can still inspire those looking for solutions to present-day challenges.

[Link for the internal events](#)
password: PP4A

FRI 12.02.2021

17:00-18:30

Keynote lecture

Marci Shore

A short history of post-truth, or the uses and disadvantages of replacing God

The central question of modernity was arguably this: how could we find a firm grounding for truth in the absence of God? Post-modernity began when we gave up on replacing God, and accepted that there was no firm grounding for truth. How does this history of truth help us understand both the totalitarian experiences of the 20th century, and the neo-totalitarian experiences of the present day?

Marci Shore teaches European cultural and intellectual history at Yale University as an associate professor. She received her MA from the University of Toronto and her PhD from Stanford University. Her doctoral thesis, "Caviar and Ashes: A Warsaw Generation's Life and Death in Marxism, 1918–1968," won several awards. She is also the author of the book "The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe".

SAT 13.02.2021

10:00-12:00

Seminar

Joanna Kordjak

Smokeless cities

“These will be cities with rationally planned residential districts, cities free from the smoke of factories, which will be wisely isolated from residential areas, cities without the smoke of boiler rooms and steam traction (...) cities with ample public transport, reflected in the surface of regulated rivers, man-made canals and reservoirs. Cities with proud and varied vistas, gleaming with a rich array of forms and colors” – these visions of the ideal socialist cities of the future were outlined by Edmund Goldzmant, an architect and urban planner, and the main promoter and theoretician of socialist realism in Polish architecture. During the seminar, we will discuss the most important urban projects in Central and Eastern Europe built in the first post-war decade, such as: Nowa Huta, Nowe Tychy, Eisenhüttenstadt, Ostrava-Poruba, Dunaújváros and Dimitrovgrad. We will also examine one of their functions as political centers in which a properly designed space was to serve as the setting for great spectacles of propaganda. The participants will thus be introduced to the subject of the exhibition currently being prepared at the Zachęta National Gallery of Art: “Cold Revolution. Societies of Central and Eastern Europe and socialist realism, 1948–1959” (curators: Joanna Kordjak and Jérôme Bazin, April–July 2021).

Joanna Kordjak is an art historian, curator at the Zachęta National Gallery of Art. Her main research area is 20th-century Polish art, with a focus on the post-war period. Author and co-author of numerous exhibitions, e.g. “Andrzej Wróblewski 1927–1959” (2007); “The Map. Artistic Migrations and the Cold War” (2013); “Cosmos Calling! Art and Science in the Long 1960s; Just After the War” (2015), “Poland — a Country of Folklore?” (2016), “The Future Will Be Different. Visions and Practices of Social Modernisation” (2018); “Puppets: Theatre, Film, Politics” (2019) and editor of their accompanying publications. Co-organizer of the international conference and co-editor (with Jérôme Bazin) of the book “Cold Revolution. Central and Eastern European Societies in the Times of Socialist Realism, 1948-1959”, (Mousse Publishing, Milan 2020). She is a laureate of the Jerzy Stajuda Prize for Art Criticism (2015).

12:00-12:30

Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Seminar with texts by Ralf Fücks
(Zentrum Liberale Moderne)

Ralf Fücks is managing director of the Center for Liberal Modernity, following 21 years as president of the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, the political foundation associated with the Greens. At the center of his work were green economics and ecological innovation, migration, the future of Europe and international politics. Before that he was co-chair of the German Green Party (1989/90) and Senator of Environment and City Development in Bremen.

LibMod (Zentrum Liberale Moderne) is an independent think tank, a debating platform and a project organization. Their topics span from international politics to sociopolitical challenges. LibMod is aimed to be a rallying point for free thinkers from different political camps and social groups, finding answers to the challenges of our time and promoting the formation of political thought in that spirit.

libmod.de

17:00-18:30

Keynote lecture

Shira Levy-Benyemini
& Sharon Golan-Yaron
(The Liebling Haus –
The White City Center)

● New metabolism of the modernist city

The avant-garde modernist era formed post World War I was a quest for creating better human living conditions in the world of tomorrow. As technical aspects of the Industrial revolution brought with them new opportunities of creation and mass production for the benefit of society, multidisciplinary approaches to design, architecture and urban planning started changing its shape. Practical issues such as the connection to the environment were an integral part of understanding the human need for recreation, and the connection to nature as a whole was at the forefront of the agenda.

Understanding the “COVID-19 recession” crisis as an opportunity for change while considering contemporary possibilities arising from the “big data information age” we are currently in, one must reconsider the social and tangible shapes that our society dowels up on in order to approach the call for change.

As the Canadian activist Naomi Klein states, we are seeing the beginnings of the era of climate barbarism. The clear need to return to a vernacular

understanding of the local ecosystem invites a shift to new co-habitation strategies, which we must start to design.

The Liebling Haus will tackle questions of such possible new strategies considering a post disciplinary approach, which shall encourage both the contemplation of new forms of metabolisms on the one hand while integrating solutions with a historical value based on the modernist era on the other.

Shira Levy-Benyemini is a CEO and Artistic Director of the Liebling Haus – The White City Center, was born in Tel Aviv in 1974 and holds an MA in City Planning and Public Policy from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and a Diploma of Curatorial Studies and Museology from Tel Aviv University. Levy-Benyemini is an expert on urban regeneration processes, community planning and urban conservation. In her thesis, Levy Benyemini explored the interconnections of urban transformation, particularly involving cultural and artistic activities. As a city planner, she has participated in the establishment of the department for conservation implementation in the Tel Aviv municipality. Her main activity in recent years is creating projects that connect urban planning with culture and art.

Sharon Golan-Yaron Architect Sharon Golan-Yaron is the Program Director of the Liebling Haus. She holds a Bachelor degree in Architecture from the IIT Chicago, a Master's degree from the Technische Universität Berlin, and a second Master's degree in architectural conservation and urban planning from the Technion in Haifa. During her work at the Conservation department of the Tel Aviv Municipality she laid the foundation for and co-founded the Liebling Haus – The White City Center. Her Book “Architectural Guide Tel Aviv” was published for the Center in 2019, by DOM publishers. Her main activity in recent years is engaging the community and the public with contemporary urban issues, while merging historical conservation with environmental responsibilities.

[Link for the broadcasted event](#)

SUN 14.02.2021

10:00-12:00

Seminar with texts by Karolina Wigura
(Kultura Liberalna)

Karolina Wigura is affiliated with the political department. She studied Sociology, Philosophy and Political Science at the University of Warsaw and Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. Assistant professor at the Institute of Sociology of the University of Warsaw. The holder of scholarships from, among others, the Vienna IWM and GMF. She is the author of the book *Guilt of Nations. Forgiveness as a strategy of conducting politics.* (J. Tischner Prize 2012). In the academic year 2019-20, she was a visiting fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin. Wigura is a frequent commentator in the Polish and international media, featuring in *The New York Times*, *Die Tageszeitung*, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, and many other press outlets.

Kultura Liberalna is a centrist, liberal media organization, established in Poland in 2008 by a group of journalists and academics, which publishes an influential weekly online journal featuring articles, commentary and debate. Kultura Liberalna also publishes books, organizes international events and develops partnerships with other media outlets and intellectual networks around the globe. Our main aim is to strengthen and modernize liberal ideas in Central and Eastern Europe through the promotion of the ideals of an open society, worldview pluralism and free debate based on mutual respect.

<https://liberalculture.org>

12:00-12:30

Lunch break

12:30-14:30

Seminar

Shira Levy-Benyemini &
Sharon Golan-Yaron
(The Liebling Haus – The White City Center)

**New metabolism of the
modernist city** see page 32

Shira Levy-Benyemini see page 33

Sharon Golan-Yaron see page 33

14:30-15:00

Coffee break

15:00-16:30

Summing up of the Academy

THE ORGANIZER

Pilecki Institute Berlin

The Pilecki Institute Berlin is the German branch of the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw, an institution for the study of the history of Poland in the modern era. The history of modern Poland is closely linked with the terrible events of the last century. Having just regained its independence after World War I, and in the midst of a process of rapid modernization, the country was the first to be hit by World War II only a few years later. With its division between the Third Reich and the Soviet Union, Poland stood in the middle of the battlefield of the two great totalitarianisms of the 20th century. Witold Pilecki, the institute's namesake, survived the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz and eventually fell victim to the Communist regime. His story can inspire us to reflect on the Polish experience of modernity and its contradictions, in both its utopian and dystopian aspects. Thus, Pilecki's commitment to democracy and freedom sets a good example for the scientific and cultural activity of the Pilecki Institute.

instytutpileckiego.pl/en/berlin

PARTNERS

Adam Mickiewicz Institute

The Adam Mickiewicz Institute is a national cultural institution whose mission is to develop and communicate the cultural aspect of the Poland brand by actively participating in international cultural exchange. The Institute has so far carried out cultural projects in 70 countries across 6 continents, including the United Kingdom, France, Russia, Israel, Germany, Turkey, USA, Canada, Australia, Morocco, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, as well as China, Japan, and Korea. Through its activities to date, the Institute has introduced 38 strategic programs watched by 60 million viewers. It also runs the Culture.pl website – a daily news service about the most interesting events and phenomena related to Polish culture

iam.pl/en

The Liebling Haus – The White City Center

The White City Center (WCC) was co-founded by the Tel Aviv-Yafo Municipality and the German government at a historical and cultural crossroad in the heart of Tel Aviv. The WCC's mission is to actively preserve the heritage of the White City site and the international style, known in Israel as the Bauhaus.

In 2003, UNESCO declared the White City zone in Tel Aviv as a unique World Heritage Site of the modern movement. The White City Center was founded in an effort to advance the recognition of the outstanding architectural landscape of Tel Aviv, with its collection of over 4,000 buildings built in the international style; an unparalleled global phenomenon.

whitecitycenter.org

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Ministry of
Culture
and National
Heritage of
the Republic
of Poland.