



**Warsaw
Gdynia**

The image features a central graphic composed of overlapping geometric shapes and lines. A prominent diagonal line runs from the top right towards the bottom left. Overlaid on this are several rectangular and trapezoidal outlines, some of which are filled with solid black. The text 'Warsaw' and 'Gdynia' is printed in a bold, black, sans-serif font, centered horizontally and partially overlaid by the geometric elements.

exercising modernity

Communities & the commons
Warsaw, Gdynia (PL)
14.11—19.11.2019

The Organizer

The Pilecki Institute in Warsaw is a research and cultural institution whose main aim is to develop international cooperation and to broaden the fields of research and study on the experiences of the 20th century and on the significance of the European values – democracy and freedom. The Institute pursues reflection on the social, historical and cultural transformations in 20th century Europe with a particular focus on the processes which took place in our region. The patron of the Institute, Witold Pilecki, was a witness to the wartime fate of Poles and himself a victim of the German and Soviet totalitarian regimes. From today's perspective, Pilecki's story can prompt us to rethink the Polish experience of modernity in its double aspect: both as the one that brought destruction on Europe and that which continues to serve as an inspiration for promoting freedom and democracy throughout the continent. Under the “Exercising modernity” project, the Pilecki Institute invites scholars and artists to reflect upon modern Europe by studying the beginning and sources of modernity in Poland, Germany and Israel, and by examining the bright and dark sides of the 20th century modernization practices.

Organizer



Partners



Our Partners in Warsaw and Gdynia

Wolskie Centrum Kultury

An ideal cultural center is a place created by people who feel at home. The Wola Cultural Center wants to connect a community of creators and recipients of broadly understood culture that integrates and builds a local community. A modern community, open to various attitudes and phenomena of the modern world, but based on the local identity of Wola. The mission of the Wola Cultural Center is to support a creative and integrated community, bringing together creators and recipients of culture that co-creates a cultural program and supports its implementation.

Gdynia City Museum

Gdynia City Museum was founded on 1st January 1983. Its management's office was located in Starowiejska Street, in the so-called Abraham's house. The new seat of the Gdynia City Museum is a modern bright sandstone building located where the sea and land meet. It was opened in 2007. This event ended Gdynia's long struggle for a suitable place to present its past or a place where generations could exchange thoughts, experiences and dreams.

Tens of thousands of objects (photographs, postcards, documents on social life, posters, plans, maps and works of art) gathered in the Museum are a source of knowledge about the past and today's life of the city, which constantly fascinates tourists and makes new generations of its inhabitants proud.

As a part of its activity, the Gdynia City Museum explores and presents modernity in its diversity – its good and bad aspects or the relevant and obsolete ones as well as the spectacular and the ordinary, which may be barely noticeable.

One of the most important goals of Gdynia City Museum is cultural education. Through education based on modern ideas, we want to not only explain phenomena around us, but also to provide tools for independent interpretation of the world and culture.

Venues & accommodation

Hotel Ibis Reduta

Bitwy Warszawskiej 16, 02-366 Warsaw
www.accorhotels.com/pl/hotel-7125-ibis-warszawa-reduta/index.shtml

Hotel Mercure Gdynia

Armii Krajowej 22, 81-372 Gdynia
www.accorhotels.com/pl/hotel-3417-hotel-mercure-gdynia-centrum/index.shtml

Wawelberg's Colony

The monumental brick buildings located at 15 Górczewska Street, built in 1898—1900, may be called the first workers' colony in Warsaw, with a rich welfare programme. They provided cheap accommodation for workers. Later, the Warsaw Housing Co-operative (Polish: *Warszawska Spółdzielnia Mieszkaniowa*) and the Workers' Estates Association (Polish: *Towarzystwo Osiedli Robotniczych*) continued the work of the Foundation. The Wawelbergs, aware of the need of education, established also a school there. Unfortunately, the school building was destroyed a long time ago. There was also a public bath in the district, decorated with pseudo-medieval pinnacles. It was pulled down several years ago. The residents of the apartments in Górczewska Street were both Poles and Jews.

Gdynia

Gdynia is a unique city in Polish history. It is Poland's dream of access to the sea come true as well as the most spectacular outcome of Poles' 20th century modernization efforts. Therefore, it is a city in which modernity and everyday life are intertwined with myths — the myth of the sea, the myth of modernity, the myth of entrepreneurship, the myth of Polishness, the myth of the interwar, the myth of the city. We want to explore the ordinary, everyday history and modernity of the city as well as its mythology, or, more precisely, its various mythologies.

Day 1

14.11.2019

arrival of the participants in Warsaw, check in at the hotel Ibis Reduta

17:30 – 18:30

Meeting with Kooperatywa Dobrze (in Otwarta Kolonia – Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

18:30 – 19:30

welcome meeting with Andrzej Chybowski (Kolonia Wawelberga) and Krzysztof Mikołajewski, director of Wolskie Centrum Kultury, a tour around the institution and introduction to its social activities (in Otwarta Kolonia - Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

19:30 – 21:00

catering/dinner (in Otwarta Kolonia — Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

Day 2

15.11.2019

9:30 – 17:00

architectural tour of Warsaw (subject: social housing estates as a manifestation of modernity), guided by: Aleksandra Kędziorek, Grzegorz Piątek

Lunch: Przystanek Koło

19:30 – 21:00

Dinner at Kuchnia Konfliktu

Day 3

16.11.2019

9:30 – 13:00

workshops – spatial activities by Mirosław Bałka and Katarzyna Krakowiak, part I

lunch (place will be announced)

14:00 – 17:00

workshops — spatial activities by Mirosław Bałka and Katarzyna Krakowiak, part II

17:30 – 19:00

open lecture by Joanna Kordjak (in Otwarta Kolonia – Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

19:30

dinner

Day 4

17.11.2019

9:00 — 10:00

tour in Kolonia Wawelberga (guided by local activists)

workshop by Michał Łuczewski (10:00 – 13:00 + 14:00 – 16:00)

13:00-14:00

lunch (in Otwarta Kolonia – Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

16:00 – 18:00

internal workshop & discussion (in Otwarta Kolonia – Wolskie Centrum Kultury)

18:00

dinner in Otwarta Kolonia – Wolskie Centrum Kultury

Day 5 18.11.2019

early morning travel from Warsaw to Gdynia

time for leaving luggage at the hotel, lunch

14:00 – 19:00

workshops held by the Gdynia City Museum
and a tour of the city

farewell dinner

Day 6 19.11.2019

departure of the participants

Open lecture on 16.11.2019

Joanna Kordjak

*Visions and Practices of Social Modernisation
after 1918*

The beginnings of ecological thinking, architectural projects based on broad social participation (which we ourselves may well view as modern), collective theatrical activities founded on the mobilization of local communities, and progressive concepts of education (including sexual education) are only some examples of the dynamic social and moral change which took place in Poland – similarly as in other countries of Europe – during the interwar period. New concepts of organization of social life referenced the needs of social groups which had previously been marginalized, such as women, children, workers, or ethnic minorities, and were strongly oriented towards the achievement of integration and the rooting out of discord and alienation. The lecture will focus on the visions and practice of social modernization, and by this means present Poland of the years 1918–1939 from an altogether different perspective.

Lecturers

Mirosław Bałka lives and works in Warsaw and Otwock. He is a sculptor also active in the field of experimental video and drawing. In 1985 he graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, where since 2011 he has run the Studio of Spatial Activities in the Faculty of Media Art. He is a member of Akademie der Künste, Berlin. Bałka has participated in major exhibitions worldwide including: Venice Biennale (1990, 2003, 2005, 2013; representing Poland in 1993), documenta IX, Kassel (1992), Sydney Biennale (1992, 2006) or Sao Paulo Biennale (1998). In 2009

he presented the special project *How It Is* for the Unilever Series, Turbine Hall, Tate Modern, London. He is the author of the Memorial to the Victims of the Estonia Ferry Disaster in Stockholm (1997), and numerous spatial works including *AUSCHWITZWIELICZKA*, Cracow (2010), and *HEAL*, University of California, San Francisco (2009). A series of conversations between Mirosław Balka and professor Zygmunt Bauman were published in 2012.

Andrzej Chybowski is a representative of the Wawelberg's Colony Association of Residents and Friends. He is a researcher interested in history and especially the history of the Wawelberg's Colony. The Wawelberg's Colony is one of the earliest and most interesting social housing estate in Warsaw. It is an important point of the program of the Exercise Modernity 2019 program. Chybowski is also an activist fighting for the preservation of the estate and animating its community.

Jacek Friedrich, PhD, is an art historian, employee of the Institute of Art History at the University of Gdańsk, and the director of the Museum of the City of Gdynia. His research is focused on contemporary visual culture, architecture and design in the 20th century, and the reconstruction and protection of architectural monuments and their relationships with ideas, ideologies, and politics. He is the author of several publications, including *Odbudowa Głównego Miasta w Gdańsku w latach 1945–1960* (Gdańsk 2015) and *Walka obrazów. Przedstawienia wobec idei w Wolnym Mieście Gdańsku* (Gdańsk 2018).

Aleksandra Kędziorek – a curator and historian of art and architecture. She has worked at the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, the Bęc Zmiana Foundation and the Museum of Architecture in Wrocław. Her research is focused on the subject of Polish modernist architecture which she promotes with exhibitions and publications both in Poland and around the world. She was the co-curator of the travelling exhibition “Oskar Hansen: Open Form” which was presented in Barcelona, Porto, New Haven, Warsaw and Vilnius in 2014–2017; the curator of the house of Zofia and Oskar Hansen in Szumin in 2013–2017; and was a co-editor of the books *Oskar Hansen—Opening Modernism: On Open Form Architecture, Art and Didactics* (with Ł. Ronduda, 2014) and *Archipelag CIAM. Listy Heleny Syrkus* (with K. Uchowicz and M. Wirkus, 2019). She publishes in “Autoportret” and “Przekrój” i.a. In 2017, she received a scholarship from the “Młoda Polska” program from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

Joanna Kordjak is an art historian, curator at the Zachęta —National Gallery of Art. Her main research area is twentieth-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); *Marek Piasecki. Fragile* (2008); *Antonisz: Technology for Me Is a Form of Art* (2013); *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. Laureate of the Jerzy Stajuda Prize for Art Criticism (2015).

Dobrze Food Cooperative (Kooperatywa „Dobrze”) is a rapidly growing grassroots food initiative in Poland. As the first and grassroots cooperative in the country we run shops with organic and seasonal food. Are shops are members-based, however remain open to public. The first shop was opened in 2014 and the second one in 2016. Both are based in centre of Warsaw. „Dobrze” Food Cooperative strives to create an alternative to supermarkets and luxury organic stores. Our shops are shared property of the members who govern it according to international cooperative principles. As for mid 2018 our cooperative gathers 290 households, employs 12 people and cooperates with around 20 small-scale farms during a year. It’s mission statement declares: “Our goal is to support a food system that fulfills needs of consumers and producers and take care of environment. We believe that direct cooperation between consumers and producers contributes to strengthening active citizenship and creates fair economy, beneficial for all involved parties. We believe that direct cooperation between consumers and producers contributes to strengthening active citizenship and creates fair economy, beneficial for all involved parties.”

Katarzyna Krakowiak she creates sculptures, objects, sounds, sound installations and situations, all of them in order to find languages to describe architecture. Central to her work to date has been the concept of (sonic) taction, elaborated by formations of acoustic environments, welcoming the viewer-listener to submersion. Her works later expanded to large-scale installations with the use of existing urban structures in her investigations of limits of architecture. At present, Krakowiak’s work is extended into a conceptualization of architecture – and its unmeasurability – in linguistic terms: as an imperfective verb – a part of a process,

a phase in observing and re-imagining, of acting and non-acting, of taking action and its cessation; and as language – a space of becoming and deconstruction, appearing differently, according to its usage; apparently, the same, but different, when unpeopled or inhabited. Awarded (among others) by St. John’s College of Oxford University (UK), Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (Poland), Trust for Mutual Understanding (US). In 2012 she got a special award for solo exhibition *Making the walls quake as if they were dilated with the secret knowledge of great power* (curator: Michał Libera) at the Polish Pavilion on the 13th International Exhibition of Architecture – la Biennale di Venezia. Mother, partner, academic teacher. She lives and works in Otwock, Poland.

Kuchnia Konfliktu is a restaurant and a place of inter-cultural meetings. It creates a space for dialogue and integration, giving jobs to refugees and immigrants in Poland and sharing the excellent cuisine of their regions. In the face of radicalization of public debate and the lack of political will to deal with the refugee crisis, Kuchnia Konfliktu believes that opportunities should be created for understanding each other. This is important both for the community of foreigners and for the locals. Kuchnia Konfliktu is an example that you don’t have to be passive in the face of growing xenophobia and hate speech. For foreigners who co-create Kuchnia Konfliktu, the project is an opportunity to learn about Polish culture and establish relationships with the locals and each other in a friendly professional space. By offering fair employment conditions and training, Kuchnia Konfliktu wants to enable newcomers a better, safer start in the Polish labor market.

Michał Łuczewski is a Polish sociologist, specializing in, among others, sociology of nation and memory. Assistant professor at the Institute of Sociology at the University of Warsaw. He conducted ethnographic research in Żmiącka, the longest-studied village in the world, based on which he defended his doctoral thesis titled *National experience in everyday life. Problematic monograph of the local community* (2007). He was a visiting scholar at Columbia University (2005–2006) and was awarded scholarships by: Collegium Invisibile (2000), Polish Science Foundation (2009) Fulbright Foundation (2005), as well as a Józef Tischner scholarship at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna.

Krzysztof Mikołajewski is a graduate of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Science at the University of Warsaw. From the beginning of his professional career he has been associated with culture and cultural activism. In 2018, Krzysztof Mikołajewski was appointed as the director of the Wolskie Centrum Kultury, where he works until now. Krzysztof Mikołajewski is also an academic, holding a PhD in humanities. For years, he has been associated with the Institute of Political Sciences at the University of Warsaw where he is a member of the Consultative Council. He was an academic teacher and since 2017, he has been associated with the Faculty of Social Sciences of the SGGW University in Warsaw. He is the author of two monographs and several scientific articles on the theory of politics, participation and social communication.

Grzegorz Piątek is an architect, critic, curator, writer and co-founder of Centrum Architektury, an independent architecture foundation and publisher based in Warsaw. He graduated from the department of Architecture at Warsaw University of

Technology. He is the curator of exhibitions and art projects related to architecture, inter alia *Hotel Polonia. The Afterlife of Buildings* awarded the Golden Lion at the XI Biennale, Venice (with Jarosław Trybuś, 2008); *Open: Poland. Architecture and Identity*, Royal Institute of British Architects, London (as part of “PolskaYear”, with Rob Wilson, 2009); *Modernización/Modernizació*, Cuenca/Barcelona (with J. Trybuś, 2010). Grzegorz Piątek has authored numerous articles and essays on architecture, design, and city. During the years 2005 through until 2011, he was a member of the editorial board of the monthly “Architektura-murator”.

Practical info

1. Warsaw Chopin Airport (Lotnisko Chopina) – Warsaw Central Station (Dworzec Warszawa Centralna/ Warszawa Centrum)

You need to go to the train service located at the airport. Look for SKM S3 line.

SKM S3 trains operate on a route: WARSZAWA LOTNISKO CHOPINA (Warsaw Chopin Airport) – Warszawa Służewiec – Warszawa Żwirki i Wigury – Warszawa Rakowiec – Warszawa Al. Jerozolimskie – Warszawa Zachodnia – WARSZAWA CENTRUM (Central Railway Station).

or

you can take a bus, line 175, direction “Plac Piłsudskiego” (Piłsudski Square), go till the bus-stop “Dworzec Centralny” (Warsaw Central Station).

You can buy tickets at the bus stop, and at the train station, or in the bus and train (special machines).

2. Warsaw Chopin Airport (Lotnisko Chopina) – Ibis Warszawa Reduta Hotel

Catch a bus, line 175, direction “Plac Piłsudskiego” (Pilsudski Square), go till the bus-stop “Uniwersytet Medyczny”, get off the bus. On the same bus stop you will catch 136 line. Go 3 stops, until “Szczęśliwicka” bus stop. Get off the bus. Your hotel is located about 50 meters from the bus stop :-)

3. Ibis Warszawa Reduta Hotel – Warsaw Central Station (Dworzec Warszawa Centralna/ Warszawa Centrum).

You need to walk around 500 m/ or go one bus stop by line 136 or 167 or 186, to Aleje Jerozolimskie Street and catch 127 bus (direction Mariensztat), on Rondo Zesłańców Syberyjskich bus-stop.

Guidance how to get to 127 bus stop from the hotel:

option 1: you will find a bus just by the hotel, catch line: 136 or 167 or 186 and go just one bus stop; or

option 2: walk on foot: turn right from the hotel (Bitwy Warszawskiej Street) and walk around 500 meter until the roundabout called Rondo Zesłańców Syberyjskich. Turn right in Aleje Jerozolimskie and after some 50 meters you will find a bus stop where you can catch 127 line.

4. The shortest way back: Warsaw Central Station (Dworzec Warszawa Centralna/ Warszawa Centrum) – Ibis Warszawa Reduta Hotel

Look for the tram line No 9, direction Aleja Krakowska. Go 6 stops until “Och Teatr” stop, get off the tram. Cross the street on your right, on the bus stop catch 167 line, direction “Znana”. Go 2 stops until “Szczęśliwicka” bus stop. Your hotel is located about 50 meters from the bus stop.

You can also check the public transport communication via: www.jakdojade.pl/warszawa/trasa/?stopsLayer=true

Public transport in Warsaw

We recommend using public transport in Warsaw. In the ticket machines you can buy single or short-term tickets, you can check out the options here: www.ztm.waw.pl/index.php?c=110&l=2 You only need tickets for the Zone 1.

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instytutpileckiego.pl