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INICJATYWA DOSKONAŁOŚCI



**UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLOŃSKI
W KRAKOWIE**
INSTYTUT STUDIÓW EUROPEJSKICH



THE IRON CURTAIN TODAY

SITES OF MEMORY, BORDERS,
AND MONUMENTS OF THE
COLD WAR IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Conference Program

**Institute for European Studies, Faculty of International and Political Studies
Jagiellonian University**

ul. Reymonta 4, Kraków
Conference Room 407

25 June 2026

10:00–10:10 Opening Remarks

Prof. Kinga Anna Gajda & Prof. Krzysztof Koźbiat

The Iron Curtain and the Politics of Memory

10:10–11:40

Chair: Kinga Anna Gajda

- **Piotr Michałowski** (European Network of Cultural Centres, Brussels)
Complicated Cohabitation – The Heritage of Post-Communist Tower Block

Housing Estates in Cities and Towns of Central and Eastern Europe as Remnants of the Iron Curtain Era. The Politics of Memory in Post-Socialist Societies in Relation to Inherited Tower Blocks, with Particular Emphasis on Reinterpretation, Readaptation, Rebellion, and Attempts at Acceptance

- **Ladislav Cabada** (Metropolitan University Prague)
Materiality of the Iron Curtain – Physical Remains Protected and Ignored: The Issue of Authenticity
- **Rasa Čepaitienė** (Lithuanian Institute of History)
The “Cold War Museum” in Lithuania and Its Place within the Politics of Lithuanian History
- **Filip Byrtus** (Metropolitan University Prague)
Postcommunist Strongmen
- **Marta Pietras-Eichberger**
Is the Iron Curtain Really Gone? Borders, Exclusion and Human Rights in Contemporary Europe
- **Agnieszka Gawlas-Zajączkowska** (Jagiellonian University)
The Afterlife of the Iron Curtain in Holocaust Memory: Post-Communist Poland between Anti-Communism and Europeanization

11:40–12:00 Coffee Break

(Catering Rooms 302 & 329)

National Identity, Borderlands and Political Narratives

12:00–13:30

Chair: Tadeusz Kopyś

- **Andrea Schmidt** (University of Pécs)
Reimagining the Nation: Borderlands and Identity Politics in Hungary
- **Tomáš Krim** (Metropolitan University Prague)
The Semantics of Appeasement. Cold War “Peace” Narratives in Contemporary Central European Populist Discourse
- **André Niknam** (Jagiellonian University)
Selective Ostpolitik: Merkel, Nord Stream, and the Central European Memory of the Iron Curtain
- **Łukasz Lewkowicz** (University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin)
The Slovak National Uprising in Political Discourse During the Cold War and in Contemporary Political Debates

- **Krzysztof Żarna** (Rzeszów University)
Between Bratislava and Vienna: The Slovak-Austrian Border as a Site of Memory of the Iron Curtain
- **Rose Smith** (Czech Academy of Science)
[Paper title to be added]

13:30–14:00 Lunch Break

(Catering Rooms 302 & 329)

Memory, Ideology and Post-Communist Transformations

14:00–15:30

Chair: Krzysztof Koźbiał

- **Gal Kirn** (University of Ljubljana)
Memory, Socialism and the Political Uses of the Past in Post-Yugoslav Space
- **Józef Henrik** (University of Agriculture in Krakow)
Agrarian Landscapes of Memory: Rural Communities and the Legacy of the Iron Curtain in Central Europe
- **Tadeusz Kopyś** (Jagiellonian University)
Between Memory and Geopolitics: Central Europe after the Cold War
- **Krzysztof Koźbiał** (Jagiellonian University)
The Pan-European Picnic (1989) and Its Role in the Memory of the Iron Curtain
- **Kinga Anna Gajda** (Jagiellonian University)
Narratives of Victimhood in the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan: Memory, Identity and the Politics of Recognition

15:30–16:30 Roundtable Discussion

Chair: Krzysztof Koźbiał

Discussion Topic:

The Iron Curtain as Memory, Border, and Political Symbol in Contemporary Europe

Participants: all speakers

16:30 Closing Remarks

The conference is financed by the Strategic Programme Excellence Initiative of the Faculty of International and Political Studies, Jagiellonian University.