
12TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

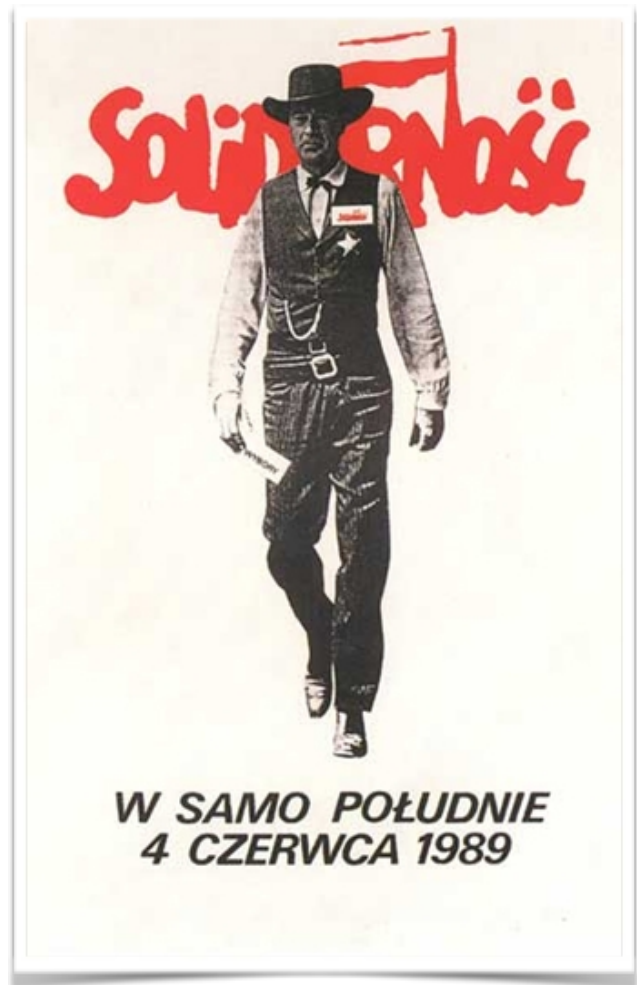
HUMAN RIGHTS AND A JUST SOCIETY

The Meaning of Solidarity Today: Polish, American and Global Perspectives

Concept:

Much of Poland lay in shambles at the end of World War II in 1945. Warsaw's infrastructure was more than 90% destroyed and Poland had lost more than 6 million of its population to Nazi atrocities and war. Initial hope for a revival of Poland, however, quickly evaporated when Poland came under Soviet and Russian domination. Human Rights due to be restored went by the wayside. Freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and free elections were not to be. And, although the Catholic Church remained a constant force, worship was discouraged. Resistance was crushed until 1980, when labor movements in Lublin and Gdańsk gained political traction. The founding of Solidarity in 1980 in the Gdańsk shipyards became the catalyst for unraveling Communist rule and ultimately culminated in the restoration of a democratically elected government in 1989 and the restoration of human rights sacred to Poles and their democracy.

Entering its twelfth consecutive year, the 2017 "Human Rights and a Just Society" Symposium focuses this year on the historical and contemporary meanings of the Polish Solidarity Movement ("Solidarność" in Polish). The Symposium will promote and invite discussion on how Poland succeeded in overcoming the communist regime, the legacy of Solidarity today and human rights and democracy in contemporary Poland.



"Human Rights and a Just Society" is co-sponsored by the Faculty of Law at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń and the John Felice Rome Center of Loyola University Chicago.

Your Moderators, John Kurowski, Esq. and Dr. Michal Balcerzak, proudly present this year's schedule of events:

Sunday, 15 October

6:00PM - 9:00PM

Documentary Screening: "Fall of the Empire"

Introduction to film provided by Dr. Michał Balcerzak.
Discussion immediately following the film, moderated by Dr. Alia Nardini and Dr. Balcerzak.

Location:

Hotel Copernicus
(Conference Room Luna)
ul. Bulwar Filadelfijski 11
87-100 Torun, Poland

Monday, 16 October

Location:

Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration
(Faculty Conference Room)
ul. Gagarina 13
87-100 Toruń, Poland

9:00AM - 9:10AM

Introduction and Welcome:

Prof. Bożena Gronowska, Vice-Dean for International Cooperation

9:10AM - 10:10AM

The Legacy of Polish Solidarity Movement - Historical and Contemporary Aspects

Presented by Dr. Jacek Kołtan, Deputy Director, Social Thought Department, European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland

10:10AM - 11:00AM

The Influence of Catholic Political Parties in European Governments

Presented by Dr. Michele Marchi, Assistant Professor, Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna and Adjunct Professor of History, Spring Hill College Italy Center

11:00AM - 11:15AM

Coffee Break

11:15AM - 12:00PM

The Moral Aspects of Solidarity Within the European Union

Presented by Vassilios Grammatikas, Assistant Professor of International Law, Democritus University of Thrace, Department of Social Administration and Political Science, Komotini, Greece

12:00PM - 1:00PM

Solidarity's Lessons for Modern-day Political Movements and its Impact on Global Human Rights
Panel of Three Speakers

Tuesday, 17 October

7:00AM - 10:00AM

Travel to Gdańsk

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Are the Changes Reaped by the Fall of Communism Starting to Recede? Current Government Policies and the State of Human Rights in Contemporary Poland

Q&A Session with Lech Wałęsa, former President of the Republic of Poland and Leader of Polish Solidarity Movement

Location:

European Solidarity Center
pl. Solidarności 1
80-863 Gdańsk, Poland

12:00PM - 2:00PM

Tour of the European Solidarity Center

The Faculty:

Dr. Michał Balcerzak is an Associate Professor and the Chair for Human Rights in the Faculty of Law and Administration at Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Toruń. He obtained his Master's degree of Law in 2003 and his Ph.D. in 2007 from Nicolaus Copernicus. In 2004, he was awarded the Diploma of the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France. Apart from his academic activities, Dr. Balcerzak was a legal advisor in the office of the Polish Government Agent before the European Court of Human Rights. Between 2012 and 2017 he was an alternate member of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union. In 2014 he was elected by the UN Human Rights Council as a member of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. He specializes in European and International human rights law, the international judiciary and the law of international organizations.

Dr. Vassilios Grammatikas is an Assistant Professor in the field of Public International Law in the Department of Social Administration & Political Science at Democritus University of Thrace in Komotini, Greece. He specializes in human rights and, more specifically, minority protection, as well as in relations between the EU and its wider neighborhood. He has achieved extensive teaching and research experience in the Black Sea area, while he was an election observer for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe seven times in former Soviet countries (Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Russia), Balkan countries (Bosnia twice, Montenegro, Albania) and for the EU in Tanzania.

Dr. Jacek Koltan is a philosopher and political scientist, and the Deputy Director for Research at the European Solidarity Centre in Gdańsk, Poland. He studied at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland and Humboldt-Universität and Freie Universität in Berlin, Germany. He has been a fellow of the KAAD scholarship fund in Berlin (2001-2007) and a visiting scholar of the Catholic University of America in Washington DC (2012). His research interests cover social and political theory, the history of the solidarity idea, new social movements, hermeneutics as well as social design and anthropology. He is the author of *Solidarity and the Crisis of Trust* (ed., 2016), *Anthology. European Solidarity Centre Permanent Exhibition* (ed.,

2015), *Obywatele ACTA* (ed., 2014), *Solidarność. A Peaceful Revolution* (ed., 2009), *Der Mitmensch. Zur Identitätsproblematik des sozialen Selbst ausgehend von der Frühphilosophie Martin Heideggers und Karl Löwiths* (2012). Dr. Kottan also teaches social design theory at the Academy of Fine Arts in Gdańsk.

John Kurowski, Esq. is an American lawyer who has been engaged in the private practice of law in the United States for over 35 years. He received a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in History from Loyola University of Chicago and attended the John Felice Rome Center in 1973-1974. He received his Juris Doctor from the St. Louis University School of Law. Mr. Kurowski has a broad legal background, having experience and interests in litigation, trials, government affairs and human rights. He is the founder and now managing partner of the law firm of Kurowski Shultz, LLC. He is a member of the Congress of Fellows of the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg and the Society of Fellows of the Aspen Institute. He is a frequent lecturer on a variety of legal and other topics at programs throughout the United States. In 2006, he was invited to attend the Justice and Society program of the Aspen Institute in Aspen, Colorado. In the fall of 2006 and the spring of 2010, he served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the School of Law and Administration of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland. While teaching in Toruń in 2006 he began this symposium in cooperation with the NCU law faculty. Loyola University Chicago presented Mr. Kurowski with its John Felice Award in 2013 in recognition of his contribution to the John Felice Rome Center, as well as to business and his community.

Dr. Marcin Kaldunski is an Assistant Professor of Law at the Nicolaus Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Toruń, Poland. He has been engaged, in particular, in public international law as well as international economic law. He received his Ph.D. in law from Nicolaus Copernicus University in 2005. His Ph.D. thesis was also published as a monograph in 2006 entitled *The Most Favoured Nation Clause*. He has published several books on international law. Since 2005, along with Dr. Balcerzak, he has been one of the faculty coaches working with students who take part in the Jessup International Law moot court competitions. His teams won the Polish National competition in 2006 and 2007 and competed at the international level in Washington, D.C. both years. Also, since 2005 he has been conducting research at The Hague Academy of International Law and in the World Trade Organization. He is a member of the International Law Association. He teaches International Law at Nicolas Copernicus University School of Law and Administration in Toruń, Poland.

Dr. Michele Marchi was born in Bologna in 1977, and studied Political Science at the University of Bologna where he graduated in 2003. Upon graduation he immediately began his doctoral studies and obtained his Ph.D. in Political History of Contemporary Europe (XIX-XX century) in 2007. His doctorate was granted by four Universities: Bologna, Roma-Luiss, Perugia and Napoli-Suor Orsola Benincasa. Dr. Marchi's thesis focused on religion and politics in Italy and France from the Second World War to the Sixties. Following many years of post-doctoral studies at the University of Bologna, long periods of research in France, numerous courses of Contemporary History and History of the European political systems and producing books and numerous academic articles on European history published in both French and Italian, he became Senior Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Political Science of Alma Mater Studiorum in December 2015. In addition to his work at the Spring Hill College Italy Center, Dr. Marchi teaches a course on Political, Social and International Sciences at the University of Bologna. His main research interests are French and Italian history of the XX century, history of European integration and French and Italian foreign policy.

Dr. Alia Nardini was born in Milan, Italy, and moved to England to study Philosophy and Politics at the University of York, UK. She has a Ph.D. in History, Institutions and International Relations of Non-European Countries, specializing in American politics and the history of the Republican Party. Adjunct fellow of Centro Studi Tocqueville Acton, she is a member of the Amici della Fondazione Spadolini, collaborates with the Magna Carta Foundation, Istituto di Politica and the Vatican Radio. Dr. Nardini is also on the editorial board of the journal Rivista di Politica. She follows U.S. presidential elections for Italian magazines and newspapers, regularly publishes academic articles, and has written two books: one on war between morality and politics, and the second on American neo-conservatism. In the past, Dr. Nardini researched environmental issues with the National Trust in the United Kingdom, and with the World Wildlife Fund in Italy, where she was deeply involved in the Torre Guaceto Marine Reserve area, dealing with conservation issues, immigration and service learning projects with the local community. Besides teaching Political Science at the Spring Hill Italy Center, Dr. Nardini coordinates the internships and undergraduate research programs, and directs the immersion trip to Puglia and the summer internship projects in Brindisi on migration and environmental justice. Her current works focuses mainly on international relations, identity and conflict theory, and contemporary American political thought.