

The Richard Pipes Laboratory
at the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
the Graduate School for Social Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology
of the Polish Academy of Sciences,
and
the Centre for Polish-Russian Dialogue and Understanding
invite paper submissions ahead of the international conference:

**Migrating Knowledge in the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Experience
and Contribution of Emigrant Intellectuals from Central and Eastern Europe**

to take place on 14th -15th October 2021 in Warsaw

CONFERENCE AIM

This conference aims to highlight research into the intellectual heritage of emigrants and re-emigrants from the broadly defined area of Central and Eastern Europe to Western Europe and America in the 20th Century. The conference also aims to raise awareness of the ideas and scientific achievements of Professor Richard Pipes, Polish-American Harvard academic, who emigrated with his family from Poland to the United States at the beginning of World War II.

The conference follows on from a series of meetings aimed at providing an opportunity for discussion and exchange between members of the international scientific community working on the history of the USSR and countries of the Eastern Bloc.

BACKGROUND

While the Central and Eastern European region has been a reservoir of migrants for many generations, the planned conference will cover the period following World War I up until the present day. For many years, decisions to leave the region were spurred by regional economic backwardness, the political domination of great powers, and numerous conflicts. Large waves of migration took place after the First and Second World Wars. First of all, migration affected the nations making up the Soviet Union. The next wave of migration embraced the people of the emerging Eastern Bloc. With the beginning of the Cold War, the decision to live outside of one's place of origin was made by opponents of communist governments, by representatives of national minorities, and by those who were afraid or reluctant to return to their homelands. Those active in public life formed an integral part of the *émigré* intellectual community.

Migration to Western Europe and North America was also motivated by better living conditions, the lack of repression, and the possibility of self-realisation in the West. The departure of intellectuals contributed to a "brain drain" that weakened countries of origin. At the same time, countries of settlement gained invaluable intellectual capital in the form of specialists from Central and Eastern Europe. This phenomenon was significant in the context of the establishment of US-based research centres dealing with the Soviet Union/Russia. The most famous representatives of this trend were Zbigniew Brzezinski and Richard Pipes. The presence of *émigré* intellectuals was noteworthy beyond the world of politics, as in the case of Polish and Ukrainian political scientists and historians such as Adam Ulam, Piotr Wandycz and Omeljan Pritsak, who undertook research on Central and Eastern Europe, or Prague-born sociologist Ernest Gellner, who worked in London.

Another issue not sufficiently discussed is migration from Central and Eastern Europe after 1989 and the wave of returns to countries previously behind the Iron Curtain. This next wave of migration was facilitated by new trends in globalisation and regional integration. The possibility for scholarly research exchange or education abroad played an important role in the exchange of migrant knowledge.

Specialists attending the conference will be able to discuss all of these phenomena. The conference organisers aim to bring together representatives of various disciplines within the humanities and social sciences, including sociologists, political scientists, memory scholars and historians. The conference will offer an opportunity to compare perspectives, discuss controversies and promote dialogue between participants themselves and the societies they represent. The event will be of value to those engaged in historical and contemporary research activities addressing phenomena associated with the migration of intellectuals.

THEMES

The proposed themes of the conference cover, *inter alia*:

- perceptions of Central and Eastern Europe among émigré intellectuals;
- the role of émigré intellectuals in shaping perceptions of Central and Eastern Europe in the West;
- the issues that emigrant intellectuals deal with most frequently when researching the past, studying social reality and analysing international relations;
- the use of migrants' knowledge in the public life of countries of resettlement;
- the engagement of emigrants in establishing contacts between their home country and country of resettlement;
- changes in the perception of Central and Eastern Europe in the scientific debate after the Cold War;
- the influence of contemporary emigrant intellectuals on the perceptions of Central and Eastern Europe in the West.

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

- 1) Participation in the conference is free of charge. During the conference meals will be provided.
- 2) The conference language is English.
- 3) The expected time for presenting each paper is 15 minutes, after which 5-10 minutes will be allocated for questions and discussion.

4) The Richard Pipes Laboratory Council will invite presenters of the best papers to prepare articles for publication.

5) Applications for the conference in the form of the attached questionnaire should be sent to **lab.pipes@isppan.waw.pl** by 30th May 2021.

6) The organisers will inform speakers about the qualification of papers by 15th June 2021.

SPECIAL GUESTS AND ORGANISERS

Special Guests:

- Prof. Cəmil Həsənlı (University of London)
- Prof. Maciej Janowski (Polish Academy of Sciences)
- Prof. Sergey V. Ryazantsev (Russian Academy of Sciences)
- Prof. Izabela Wagner (Collegium Civitas)
- Prof. Tomasz Zarycki (University of Warsaw)

Scientific Committee:

- Prof. Michał Federowicz
- Prof. Nina Gładziuk
- Prof. Grzegorz Motyka
- Prof. Piotr Osęka – Chairman
- Prof. Joanna Wawrzyniak
- Dr Ernest Wyciszkiewicz

Organising Committee:

- Prof. Przemysław Adamczewski
- Dr Bartłomiej Krzysztan
- Dr Wojciech Łysek
- Dr Dagmara Moskwa