



POLSKI UNIWERSYTET NA OBCZYŹNIE
THE POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD
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Twentieth Century Polish History Seminar

Convenors: Prof. Michael Fleming and Dr Wojciech Rappak

Book launch

8 December 2021 6.15 GMT via ZOOM

Joanna Beata Michlic

Piętno Zagłady: Wojenna i powojenna historia oraz pamięć żydowskich dzieci ocalałych w Polsce

(The Scars of the Holocaust: The wartime and postwar history and memory of Jewish child-survivors in Poland)



In *Piętno Zagłady Wojenna i powojenna historia oraz pamięć żydowskich dzieci ocalałych w Polsce*, the author Joanna Beata Michlic explores how Polish Jewish children adapted to and remembered wartime traumas, how they dealt with the loss of childhood and with the destruction of their families, their peer groups, and their entire pre-war worlds. She draws a map of a wide range interactions between the children and adults not only during the war, but also in the immediate post-war period - the turbulent, short era during which the children's future had been shaped. The immediate aftermath did not bring out necessarily a sense of joy and freedom amongst the Jewish child survivors, but, instead, was marked by major complexities and contrasts between the hopes expressed and the actual opportunities

open to the child survivors. The children's lives at that time were filled with a multitude of uncertainties, fears and anxieties, as they were confronted with fundamental existential questions of "Who Am I?", "Who are my family?" "Where do I come from?" "What should I do next?" and "Who should I trust?"

Michlic presents and discusses her book on child Holocaust survivors with Dariusz Stola and Michael Fleming. Dr Wojtek Rappak chairs the event.

Biographical information



Joanna Beata Michlic is a social and cultural historian, and founder and first Director of HBI (Hadassah-Brandeis Institute) Project on Families, Children, and the Holocaust at Brandeis University. She is an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the UCL Centre for the Study of Collective Violence, the Holocaust and Genocide, UCL Institute for Advances Studies, and Research Fellow at Weiss-Livnat International Centre for Holocaust Research and Education, University of Haifa, June 2019 - May 2022. She is a co-Editor in Chief of *Genealogy* Journal.

Among her major publications are *Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present*, (translated into Polish in 2015 and nominated for the Best History Book of Kazimierz Moczarski Award 2016 in Poland; Hebrew translation, with new epilogue, by Yad Vashem Institute in preparation, 2021), *Bringing the Dark Past to Light: The Reception of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Europe*, co-edited with John-Paul Himka (Lincoln, NUP, 2012), and singled co-edited *Jewish Family 1939 –Present: History, Representation, and Memory*, Brandeis University Press/NEUP, January 2017). The latter made the Ethical Inquiry list of the best books published in 2017 at Brandeis University: <http://www.brandeis.edu/ethics/ethicalinquiry/2017/December.html>

Piętno Zagłady Wojenna i powojenna historia oraz pamięć żydowskich dzieci ocalałych w Polsce was published by ZIH in December 2020. <https://www.jhi.pl/wydawnictwo/pietno-zaglady,420>

She is currently working on a book project on the history and memory of rescue of Jews in Poland, *More Than The Milk Of Human Kindness: Jewish Survivors and Their Polish Rescuers Recount Their Tales, 1944-1949*.



Dariusz Stola is a historian, professor at the Institute for Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences. He has researched the political and social history of Poland in the twentieth century, in particular Polish-Jewish relations, international migrations and communist regime, as well as the memory of these pasts. He has authored more than hundred articles and six books, including: *Kraj bez wyjścia? Migracje z Polski, 1949-1989* [*Migrations from Poland 1949-1989*]; *Kampania antysyjonistyczna w Polsce 1967-1968*, [*The anti-Zionist campaign in Poland 1967-1968*]; and *Nadzieja i zagłada* [*Hope and the Holocaust*].

In 2014-2019 he was the director of the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw.

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