



Through the Centuries. Chronicles of Polish Presence on the African Continent.
Spatio-Temporal Characteristic of Polish Diaspora in Africa.

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

12th International Annual April Conference

9 April 2022 - LONDON

www.puno.ac.uk

Polish University Abroad in London (PUNO)
in cooperation with:

Social Sciences Department of Sol Plaatje University, South Africa
Polish Association of Siberian Deportees in Africa



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ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Polish University Abroad in London has since 2010 been organising the annual International April Conferences, in memory of the last Polish President in Exile – **Ryszard Kaczorowski**. The conferences aim to highlight the contributions of Poles to culture, art and science in the world. This year's conference, to be held on 9 April 2022, will explore the history of Polish presence on the African continent. The process of formation of Polish communities around the world dates back to the 18th century. Poles left their country for many reasons, but the beginnings of Polish emigration were mainly associated with political and economic conditions in Poland.

The presence of compatriots on the African continent can be traced to the 15th and 16th centuries, when the first Polish presence was recorded in North Africa, and in the south of the continent from the 17th century, with the presence of Polish missionaries, travellers and sailors in the service of other nations. From the early 19th century, Polish scientists began to travel to the African continent to undertake research into the languages and cultures of the African indigenous people as well as conduct studies on the continent's topography. With the discovery of gold in the South African Transvaal, Polish settlement in the area began to develop. The 20th century filled the pages of Polish history in Africa very extensively - with Polish missionaries working in many African countries, as well as scientists, artists and journalists visiting selected places, becoming part of the culture and history of the African societies. In 1912, I.J. Paderewski toured South Africa; and between 1931 and 1936, Polish journalist Kazimierz Nowak travelled alone across the African continent from north to south and back, covering some 40,000 km by bicycle, on foot, horseback, camel, dugout canoe and train, keeping valuable notes and documenting the culture and customs of African societies at the time.

The Second World War opened a new chapter in the history of Polish relations with, and migration to, Africa. From 1942, Polish refugees evacuated from the depths of the Soviet Union began arriving in Eastern and Southern Africa. The end of the War and the British withdrawal of recognition for the Polish government in exile on 5 July 1945 raised the question of the future of Poles in Africa. Disappointed by the results of the

Yalta Conference, 80% of Polish citizens decided to remain in Africa or chose to continue their emigration to Western countries.

The following decades saw an increase in Polish contract workers, especially in West Africa, and the difficult 1980s contributed to another wave of emigration from Poland.

Today, decisions to emigrate, although no longer dictated by dramatic political events or harsh economic conditions, are taken by young people to discover and get to know the African continent – finding out that the culturally heterogeneous and socially diverse continent has so much to offer and still remains mysterious to many Poles. The scope of the conference covers the beginnings of the Polish diaspora settlement in African countries up to the twentieth century, with particular emphasis on the history of Poles evacuated to the east and south of Africa during World War II, and contemporary Polish-African cultural, social and religious contacts.

The conference is a unique opportunity to tell - sometimes - a complicated story of Polish connections with the African continent, against the background of important events in world history, interwoven with the social history of African countries, in order to make us aware of the very important role played by Africa in the modern world.

Committees:

Scientific Committee:

- Prof. Paweł Boski, SWPS University, Warsaw (Poland)
- Prof. Grażyna Czubińska, Polish University Abroad, London (UK)
- Dr Teresa Folga-Naidoo, Polish University Abroad, London (UK)
- Dr Jochen Lingelbach, University of Bayreuth, Bayreuth (Germany)
- Dr Cobus Rademeyer, Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley (South Africa)
- HONORARY MEMBERSHIP: Eugenia Maresch, London (UK)

Organising Committee:

- Dr Teresa Folga-Naidoo, PUNO, London
- Dr Anna Watoła, PUNO, London
- Roman Mazur MBA, PUNO, London
- Stefan Szewczuk MA, PASD, South Africa
- Hon. Sheka Tarawalie, PUNO, London
- Ewa Łukaszewicz MSc, PUNO, London
- Eric Tackie Tawiah Ankrah BA, PUNO, London
- Wojciech Klas MA, PUNO, London
- Małgorzata Witkowska MBA, PUNO, London
- Rafał Drąg Msc, PUNO, London
- Halina Stochniot MA, PUNO, London
- Joanna Ogorzałek MA, PUNO, London
- Danuta Nadaj MA, PUNO, London

PROGRAMME

9 April 2022, London

Language of the conference: English

10.00 - 10.30

OPENING REMARKS

Prof. Włodzimierz Mier-Jędrzejowicz, *RECTOR, Polish University Abroad in London*

MODERATOR OF CONFERENCE PANELS:

Dr Teresa Folga-Naidoo, *Chairperson, Africa Studies Unit, Polish University Abroad in London*

10.30 - 12.05

Panel 1. History of the First Polish Settlers in Africa until 1939
(20-minute presentation, 15-minute discussion after presentations)

- 1. Prof. Arkadiusz Żukowski**, *Institute of Political Science, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland: **The History of Poles in Southern Africa (from the 16th century to the beginning of the 21st century)***
- 2. Dr Cobus Rademeyer**, *Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley, South Africa: **Retracing the History of Polish Diaspora in Africa: The South Africa/Poland History Project***
- 3. Dr David N. Tshimba**, *Centre for African Studies, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda: **Jan Czekanowski and His Revelations About Swahilisation Astride a Congo-Uganda Border, 1907-09***
- 4. Eric Tackie Tawiah Ankrah, BA**, *Africa Studies Unit, Polish University Abroad in London, UK: **The Exploits of a Lone Polish Photojournalist on the African Continent***

Discussion

12.05 - 14.00

Panel 2. Polish Odyssey in Africa During WW2

(20-minute presentation, 15-minute discussion after presentations)

1. **Dr Jochen Lingelbach**, *University of Bayreuth, Germany*: **On the Edges of Whiteness. Polish Refugees in British Colonial Africa During and After the Second World War**

2. **Stefan Szewczuk, MA**, *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa*: **Victims of Russian aggression - preliminary findings on a history of the Polish Children of Oudtshoorn, South Africa**

3. **Dr Piotr Puchalski**, *Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland*: **Confronting Colonialism. Poles in British Colonies in Africa as Imperial Agents, 1939-1945**

4. **Prof. Janusz Zuziak**, *Jan Długosz University, Poland*: **Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade in the Siege of Tobruk**

5. **Jennifer Grant, MA**, *Queen Mary University of London, UK*: **The Graves of Polish Officers and Men in a Strange land': Khartoum War Cemetery and Polish Relations with the Imperial War Graves Commission**

Discussion

14.00 - 14.20 **Break**

14.20 - 15.55

Panel 3. Polish Scientific, Cultural and Socio-Economic Contribution to African Continent

(20-minute presentation, 15-minute discussion after presentations)

1. Prof. dr hab. Paweł Boski, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland: *Poles as Expatriates in Africa During the Last 15 years of Polish People's Republic: An Economic and Psycho-Cultural Phenomenon*

2. Prof. Stephen Muoki Joshua, Pwani University, Kilifi, Kenya: *Technologies of Imaging In Communication Art And Social Sciences (TICASS) Project and Africa-Polish Partnerships*

3. Hon. Sheka Tarawalie, Africa Studies Unit, Polish University Abroad in London, UK: *Polish Presence In Sierra Leone: Minimal But Meaningful – A Personal And Intellectual Perspective*

4. Dr Wanda Chunnnett, School of Business, University of Cape Town, South Africa: *An Assessment of the Characteristics That Enabled Resource Constrained Polish Entrepreneurs to Establish Sustainable, Job Creating Businesses in Southern Africa*

Discussion

15.55 - 16.30

Conclusion, Discussion and Closure of the Conference.

EXHIBITION



The poster features a dark background with a red gradient at the bottom. In the top left corner is the circular logo of PUNO (Polish University Abroad) with the motto 'Vivamus tempus ducamus' and 'PUNO' at the bottom. To the right of the logo, the text reads: 'XII Annual International April Conference', 'POLISH UNIVERSITY ABROAD', 'Exhibition in London', and '09-04-2022'. The main title is 'Through the Centuries. Chronicles of Polish Presence on the African Continent.' in large white serif font. Below the title, the subtitle 'SPATIO-TEMPORAL CHARACTERISTIC OF POLISH DIASPORA IN AFRICA' is written in red. At the bottom left, the website 'www.puno.ac.uk' is listed.

Our exhibition relates to the historical facts that happened between the WW2 and present times. Thanks to the support of the Polish Library in London, and also to our own multimedia database, we are able to show the most crucial issues relating to the Polish presence in Africa. In an electronic version of this exhibition, we can easily move from post-war Uganda or South Africa reality to today's Kenya or Sierra Leone. Polish people have been present almost everywhere in Africa. This exhibition is just a fragment of the history of Polish presence on the African continent. Full version of the exhibition has been carefully created by the researchers from PUNO's Africa Studies Unit. It will be available for viewing not only online later this year.

ABSTRACTS

10.30 - 12.05

Panel 1. History of the First Polish Settlers in Africa until 1939

Prof. Arkadiusz Żukowski, *Institute of Political Science, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland*

The History of Poles in Southern Africa (from the 16th century to the beginning of the 21st century)

The article refers to the initial contacts of Poles with the South African coast (missionaries and merchants) in the 16th century, as well as their permanent presence in the Cape as soldiers of the Dutch United East India Company and the first free citizens (free burghers) (second half of the 17th and 18th centuries). It also covers the participation of Poles in successive waves of emigration to South Africa (e.g. in the British Kaffraria), and above all, during the diamond and gold rush (the first permanent centres and organisations of emigrants) in the second half of the 19th century and at the turn of the 20th century. It also covers the activity of Polish missionaries in this period (mainly Mariannhill Mission). It diagnoses the changes that occurred in the number and activity of emigrants from Polish lands and the territory of the Polish Second Republic. An important place is given to the period of World War II in the context of periodic stays in the Union of South Africa of soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces and children evacuated from the USSR (House of Polish Children "Southern Cross" in Oudtshoorn). The period after World War II is analysed through the prism of the formation of the first permanent centres of the Polish Diaspora, mainly in Johannesburg and Cape Town, but also in other South African cities (e.g. Pretoria and Durban) and industrial districts (e.g. Vaal Triangle) - the organisations and their activities and the pastoral care of this Diaspora. The professional activities of representatives of the Polish Diaspora, its relations with the Polish Government in Exile and its stance towards the South African reality and the People's Republic of Poland are highlighted. Finally, the article diagnoses the situation of the Diaspora after the political transformation in Poland and the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa, and interprets the socio-professional changes within it that have taken place in the last three decades.

Key Words

Polish Diaspora, South Africa, Southern Africa, emigration, Polish missionaries

Dr Cobus Rademeyer, Sol Plaatje University, Kimberley, South Africa

Retracing the History of Polish Diaspora in Africa: The South Africa/Poland History Project

Before the inception of the South Africa/Poland History project in 2013 historical information on the Polish diaspora in Africa was relatively limited among South African historia. Although the narrative of Polish diaspora to Africa was very well preserved within the Polish community in South Africa, little was documented within the academic landscape in South Africa, or the African continent at large. In this regard historians from Poland and the rest of Europe were far more active in analysing Polish diaspora to the African continent.

The establishment of the South Africa/Poland History project initially focussed on the Polish children of Oudtshoorn (1943 to 1947) but as the project grew it expanded into dissecting the Polish diaspora to the African continent as a collective. Since 2013 the project team succeeded in producing annual conferences which joined together integrated topics on the Polish diaspora to Africa. Without exception all these conferences contributed to expanding the parameters of the project, touching on a variety of aspects within the spatio-temporal characteristics of Polish Diaspora to the African continent. Over the years the project has boomed into various different sub-segments of great magnitude, including a PhD focusing on the Polish children of Oudtshoorn, collaborations with other Eastern European communities in South Africa and further expansions into the African continent. Although the project is not unique in nature, it is playing an important role in expanding the histories of the Polish diaspora on the African continent.

Key Words

South Africa, Oudtshoorn, South Africa/Polish History project

Dr David N. Tshimba, Centre for African Studies, Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda

Jan Czekanowski and His Revelations About Swahilisation Astride a Congo-Uganda Border, 1907-09

Conventional wisdom in the historiography of ivory caravan at the hands of the WaSwahili (Zanzibar-originating caravaners) in much of East Africa's interior holds Swahilisation as a process of veiled conquest. Jan Czekanowski, a Polish anthropologist, however, wrestles with this dominant view. Taking part in the German-sponsored Mecklenburg scientific expedition to central Africa in May 1907, the twenty-five-years old Czekanowski embarked on a twenty-month cultural anthropological fieldwork. He crossed both the Rwenzori mountain ranges and River Semliki, and went up to the Congo-Nile watershed. In his field notes (later published as a book) based on close ethnographic observations of both highlanders and lowlanders astride the Rwenzori Mountains, Czekanowski espouses a different, if nuanced, view which holds Swahilisation as alliance-building, the core aim of which was a new process of state formation. To gain a much better historical understanding of Swahilisation of the late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century Rwenzori region, this paper attempts a critical reading of the ways in which WaSwahili caravaners in this region sought after their fortunes and dealt with their misfortunes, in juxtaposition to the revelations found in Czekanowski's Carnets. Chief among these revelations is Czekanowski's identification of 'Wanande' (Rwenzori lowlanders) and 'Wakonjo' (Rwenzori highlanders) as ethnic nicknames initiated by those he refers to as 'Islamised Wangwana' (WaSwahili caravaners). These two ethnic nicknames, Czekanowski maintains, would be further entrenched and popularised by colonial officialdom, the Belgian colonial state to begin with.

Key Words

anthropology, ethnography, ethnic, East Africa, Swahili

**Eric Tackie Tawiah Ankrah, BA, Africa Studies Unit, Polish University
Abroad in London, UK**

The Exploits of a Lone Polish Photojournalist on the African Continent

The article is a biographical presentation of the exploits of Kazimierz Nowak, a Polish lone ranger who explored Africa. Kazimierz Nowak was born on January 11, 1897 in Stryj, Austrian Poland (now in Ukraine). From 1931 to 1936, he travelled alone, by bicycle, on foot, on horseback, by boat and on camel back along the length of Africa, covering a total distance of 40,000 km from Libya to Cape Agulhas, South Africa and back to Algeria in North Africa.

He was a Polish traveller, correspondent, reporter and photographer who through sheer perseverance, resilience and persistence achieved his dreams of documenting the beautiful continent of Africa which was described as the “Dark Continent” at the time. He believed he would be able to make money to support his family by submitting reports and photographs to Polish and German newspapers. Kazimierz Nowak died on October 13, 1937 in Poznań, Poland leaving behind a plethora of information on the beautiful African continent for the Polish people, Europe and the world at large. The presentation features photographs and descriptions of the exploits of Kazimierz Nowak.

Key Words

Kazimierz Nowak, biography, Dark Continent, photojournalist, cyclist

12.05 - 14.00

Panel 2. Polish Odyssey in Africa During WW2

Dr Jochen Lingelbach, University of Bayreuth, Germany

On the Edges of Whiteness. Polish Refugees in British Colonial Africa During and After the Second World War

In this talk, I will present key findings from my book focusing on the interaction of the Polish refugees with different actors of the hosting colonial societies in

East and Central Africa. Despite the intention of colonial officials to isolate the Poles and minimise their interaction with members of the hosting societies, numerous informal encounters with Africans, European settlers and others evolved. After the war, most of the refugees refused to return to their, by then Soviet-dominated, home country. The colonial administration was, however, eager to get rid of this problematic group and by 1950 most had been resettled elsewhere.

Based on extensive archival and oral history research in Africa and Europe this talk addresses the question where these mainly poor, female, peasant-class refugees belonged in colonial societies signified by the 'politics of difference'. I argue that their positionality was not clear-cut, but relationally depending on the perspectives of those involved. While they were privileged by their whiteness, they were nevertheless marginalised as refugees, women, Eastern Europeans and peasants. Consequently, they found themselves on the edges of colonial whiteness.

Key Words

Polish refugees, Africa, World War Two, colonial history

Stefan Szewczuk, MA, *University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa*

Victims of Russian aggression - preliminary findings on a history of the Polish Children of Oudtshoorn, South Africa

This paper is based on the research findings to date on Stefan Szewczuk's PhD in history on the Polish Children of Oudtshoorn, South Africa. On the 10th of April 1943, five hundred Polish refugee children, and their caregivers arrived in the Oudtshoorn Children's Home after surviving being deported to Siberia by the Russian NKVD and the subsequent journey out of Siberia. The Polish Government-in-Exile in London as represented in South Africa by the Consul-General, Dr Stanisław Łepkowski, entered into negotiations with Smuts' Union Government that resulted in an agreement being reached for five hundred Polish children and their caregivers to find safety and refuge in Oudtshoorn. The primary objective of this research project is to document the untold lived experiences of the Oudtshoorn Children in their deportations to Siberia, their journey out of Siberia to Persia then onto Oudtshoorn and subsequently their

lives in South Africa. This project draws inspiration from Jochen Lingelbach's book: *On the Edges of Whiteness: Polish Refugees in British Colonial Africa During and After the Second World War*. This project also draws inspiration from Sally Peberdy's study *Selecting Immigrants, National Identity and South Africa's Immigration Policies 1910 - 2008*. Peberdy gives an extensive discussion on Indian and Jewish Immigrants and the legislation enacted, via the 1913 Immigrants Regulation Act, the 1930 Quota Act and the 1937 Aliens Act, to curb and discourage immigration by these two groups of peoples to South Africa. The studies by Lingelbach and Peberdy provide the foundation for comparative research on the multidimensional and multifaceted history of the Polish refugees of Oudtshoorn.

Key Words

Siberian deportees, Oudtshoorn, Jan Smuts, Stanisław Łepkowski

Dr Piotr Puchalski, *Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland*

Confronting Colonialism. Poles in British Colonies in Africa as Imperial Agents, 1939-1945

In 1922, Lord Frederick Lugard published *The Dual Mandate in British Tropical Africa*, in which the concept of indirect rule was introduced as a backbone of British colonialism in West Africa, whereby power was devolved to a new class of imperial intermediaries. In 1931-1932, the Statute of Westminster and the Imperial Economic Conference in Ottawa made further changes to the British colonial system, whereby dominions became sovereign entities while the gold standard was abandoned by the Empire. This process of colonial power devolution was artificially placed on hold during the outbreak of World War II in 1939, as a return to paternalism and developmentalism took place. In this paper, I will argue that while Polish refugees posed a threat to the racial hierarchy that supported the British colonial system in Africa also during wartime, the British did not refrain from using more elite Poles to acquire the sympathy of collaborating African elites. I will cite stories related to Polish officers serving in the Royal West African Frontier Force and to Polish diplomats in British East Africa to support my claim.

Key Words

Polish officers, West Africa, colonialism

Prof. Janusz Zuziak, Jan Długosz University in Czestochowa, Poland

Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade in the Siege of Tobruk

One of the battles and symbols in the history of the Polish Army of the Second World War is the battle of Tobruk and the participation of the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Stanisław Kopański. The Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade was not anticipated in the initial plans of the Polish Army's organisation in France. The decision to form it was taken in the spring of 1940. The process of organising and equipping the Brigade was disturbed in June 1940 with the defeat of France. After its capitulation the Polish authorities took the decision to deploy the Brigade to Palestine and subordinate it to the British. In the middle of August 1941, having agreed with the Commander-in Chief General Sikorski the British commanders decided to deploy the Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade to Tobruk in order to relieve the Australian 9th Infantry Division. The manpower on 28 August when the transfer was completed numbered 5,065 soldiers, 288 officers including. The Carpathian Artillery Regiment commanded by Lt.Col. Stanisław Gliwicz received the combat order first. That Regiment relieved the British 51st Field Artillery Regiment during the night of 20 and 21 August. The first Polish shots in the Siege of Tobruk were fired on 22 August. The Carpathian Brigade completed the Tobruk epic after 110 days of heavy fighting in the desert. The Polish soldiers played a crucial role in the Siege which allowed recreating the allied forces and counteract. Through 110 days they defended the most threatened section. The Carpathian Brigade experienced a bloody baptism of fire on the sands of the Libyan Desert in the Tobruk fortress. They suffered heavy losses: 112 killed and died of their wounds they received and 221 wounded.

Key Words

WW II, Polish Independent Carpathian Rifle Brigade, Tobruk

Jennifer Grant, MA, Queen Mary University of London, UK

The Graves of Polish Officers and Men in a Strange land': Khartoum War Cemetery and Polish Relations with the Imperial War Graves Commission

The Polish military presence in Africa during the Second World War was significant, from the formation of the Polish Independent Rifles Carpathian Brigade and training of the 2nd Polish Corps through to the role of Polish airmen who had volunteered to serve on the Tokoradi Run, delivering aircraft from the West Coast to Egypt.

Khartoum War Cemetery contains the graves of seven of these Polish airmen, the majority killed in air accidents at Khartoum Aerodome in 1943. As Allied servicemen on British territory, their graves fell under the authority of the Imperial War Graves Commission, whose remit had expanded to include a commitment to honouring the war dead of Britain's allies in the same way as the British, for the duration of the war.

Due to the anomalous political situation of the Poles in the West, however, and hostility from the Anders Poles to the transfer of Polish graves overseas into Warsaw's hands, discussion about the erection of permanent headstones entered a period of administrative limbo. Long after the headstones of the other Allies had been engraved and set in place in the cemetery, the Polish graves remained with their temporary markers.

The very production and design of the Polish headstones in Khartoum, therefore, represents a contested battleground of the early Cold War. Designed without consulting any Polish authority, in order to avoid diplomatic missteps, they ignored Polish commemorative traditions; the absence of a cross would be a source of particular upset.

A study of the Polish Khartoum headstones therefore allows us to explore both Poland's standing as a wartime ally, embedded within the IWGC framework of honouring the war dead on foreign soil, but also sheds a light on the contested status of the Polish veterans in the West and the sacrifice of commemoration to diplomatic disputes.

Key Words

Polish Commemoration Khartoum Sudan Burial

14.20 - 15.55

**Panel 3. Polish Scientific, Cultural and Socio-Economic
Contribution to African Continent**

Prof. dr hab. Paweł Boski, *University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw, Poland*

Poles as Expatriates in Africa During the Last 15 years of Polish People's Republic: An Economic and Psycho-Cultural Phenomenon

When was the presence of Poles in Africa most numerous? The answer may not be immediately obvious but it is undisputed: it started with Gierek's decade and lasted till about the end of the communist regime. It was a part of the opening to the West, which characterised the 1970s. Within this orientation Poles were being sent to Algeria, Libya, Nigeria and Zaire/Congo as professional experts, and the process was coordinated by PHZ Polservice, a state company of foreign trade.

Motivations for departure, which could last even ten years, were predominantly economical, with salaries ten times of remuneration in Poland. It meant a huge advancement in wealth to the financial elite of the country.

Poles in Africa created an interesting lifestyle which was a mix of economic migrants' thrift and excessive saving, combined with post-colonial extravaganza and Sarmatism.

Because of the State of War crushing Solidarność in early 80s, and general economic slump in the country, a large proportion of expatriates chose to migrate to the West, rather than returning to Poland.

Poles were competent workers in their host countries but with the end of that 15years long period, they left Africa not leaving behind any durable legacy.

Key Words

Polish People's Republic (PRL), expatriates, economic migration, psychological adaptation

Prof Stephen Muoki Joshua, Pwani University, Kilifi, Kenya

Technologies of Imaging In Communication Art And Social Sciences (TICASS) Project and Africa-Polish Partnerships

Technologies of Imaging in Communication Art and Social Sciences (TICASS) is a collaborative research project that brought together some six academic institutions. These are:

1. Akademia Sztuki (Poland)
2. University of Macerata (Italy)
3. Polish University Abroad (UK)
4. SENK (Poland)
5. Univerzita Jan Evangelista (UJEP) – (Czech Republic)
6. Pwani University (Kenya)

As a 3-year project, between 2017-2020, funded by the European Union under Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions- MSCA Research and innovation staff exchange-Horizon 2020 (Grant Agreement number: 734602, the main objective was to discover the abilities and limitations of visual technologies in communication and art in the contemporary urban iconosphere in the context of cultural, political and economic differences from the perspective of social sciences. The project has had several secondments. Two secondments were hosted by Pwani University in Kilifi between February and March and in July 2018 respectively. The project has hosted various international conferences, workshops, and produced three book publications besides a rich network of relations that has borne several MOUs and partnerships that are ongoing. The article analyses networks, partnerships, projects and cross-cultural experiences between Africa and Poland realised through the Ticass project. It relies on interviews and documents produced by Africans and Polish academics in the project.

Key Words

Afro-Polish relations, culture, exchange, Images, Information Technology

Hon. Sheka Tarawalie, Africa Studies Unit, Polish University Abroad in London, UK

Polish Presence In Sierra Leone: Minimal But Meaningful – A Personal And Intellectual Perspective

Poland has come a long way after the Second World War, and so is Sierra Leone after its civil war in the 1990s – with a small number of Polish experts having shared invaluable post-war experiences in Sierra Leone’s peace efforts through the UN. The two countries have recently sought to establish diplomatic relations by way of Poland establishing a consulate in Freetown, as there are now a relatively significant number of Polish people in Sierra Leone.

My presentation would look at both the cultural/literary and socio-economic relationship: literally, by way of Sierra Leone having come in contact with Polish literature since the early twentieth century through Joseph Conrad (Polish name - Józef Teodor Konrad Korzeniowski). His books were and still are part of the curriculum in Sierra Leone’s universities, being very topical and controversial especially for how he portrayed slavery and the African continent in the world-acclaimed ‘Heart of Darkness’.

I would then explore my personal intellectual journey from being a fan of Conrad as a Literature/English major student and to my writing of a book.

I would submit that a continuing and well-developed cultural, educational, and socio-economic relationship between Polish people and Sierra Leoneans would only yield great results for both countries – as Sierra Leone (‘the Athens of West Africa’) could provide badly-needed English teachers for Poland via the Africa Studies Unit which recently did the landmark research into how to break the chains of poverty in Sierra Leone through its Floor4Africa project.

Key Words

charity, education, literature, poverty

Dr Wanda Chunnnett, School of Business, University of Cape Town, South Africa

An Assessment of the Characteristics That Enabled Resource Constrained Polish Entrepreneurs to Establish Sustainable, Job Creating Businesses in Southern Africa

The paper provides a contribution to the debate on the value that is created by migrant entrepreneurs in Africa. It leverages the author's PhD research that considered the question: What can emerging market economies do to leverage sustainable growth opportunities from resource constrained, involuntary migrant entrepreneurs?

Using an inductive, critical realist study of behavioural attributes, within the context of social, economic and migration capital, the research culminated in the development of a model that might be implemented by public and private institutions to maximise the economic benefits that groups of migrant entrepreneurs can deliver.

The paper seeks to take the involuntary migrant debate beyond the "refugee as burden" paradigm, by focusing on a theoretical proposition that the legal, knowledge, language and economic capital required by constrained migrant entrepreneurs, such as the group of Polish orphans that was involuntarily transported to South and Southern Africa during World war 11, allowed them to establish a locus of power in their host country, augmented by additional "migration capital", an offshoot of mobility capital, which originates from the interactions within and between the migrant group networks.

The "pull" model is premised on the finding that migration is a temporal rather than geographic or ethnic issue and that there is additional value to be extracted over the lifespan of a migrant business if the social integration can be expedited through the facilitation of migration capital in addition to individual social, knowledge and economic capital. By focusing on the Polish orphan group, as one of three groups studied, it considers the benefit that can be realised by developing host countries from migrant entrepreneurs, eager to become established in a new country and achieve their long-term vision.

Key Words

Refugee, entrepreneur, migrant capital

BIOGRAMS

ERIC TACKIE TAWIAH ANKRAH, BA in Geography and Resource Development with Sociology from the University of Ghana (2007), Works as Standard & Quality Assurance Officer with the Ghana Tourism Authority (GTA). Participant of symposiums, workshops and seminars on tourism, environment and culture. As an accomplished geographer, he uses his skills to conduct research in the identification of possible areas of product development and investments. He markets and promotes tourism and tourist products using social media, exhibitions/fairs, radio and television. He specialises in tour planning and tour guiding to cultural/heritage and ecotourism sites in Ghana.

PAWEŁ BOSKI, Professor of cross-cultural psychology; Career in Poland, Nigeria, Canada, and United States. Head, Department of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Polish Academy of Sciences; SWPS University. Author of 200 papers; author of *Kulturowe ramy zachowań społecznych*, [2009, I edition; 2022, II edition].

WANDA CHUNNETT, graduate of the University of Cape Town Graduate School of business where she was awarded a PhD in Business Administration for her dissertation titled: “A model for the utilisation of networks and leveraging of the economic benefits of migration capital in emerging markets “. An offshoot of the dissertation, “Refugees –an assessment of the current management approach a using the EGOS "good" business model framework” was written and presented at the European Group for Organisational Studies, in Copenhagen, in 2017 and considered the role of donor agencies as agents for good in the refugee context.

Dr Chunnnett is still an active Business Practitioner and Director of a company but also acts as an assessor for the Graduate School of Business, supporting Post Graduate Diploma Courses offered to middle managers by the GSB.

JENNIFER GRANT, I am a Postgraduate Researcher at QMUL, working under the supervision of Professor Daniel Todman. My focus of enquiry is the experience of the Polish Armed Forces in the UK during the Second World War, with a particular focus on how British civilians and organisations adapted their practises to accommodate the Polish forces. I am interested in addressing the entirety of the Polish experience, as servicemen, as foreigners, and as exiles. My research therefore adopts a broad focus, from language lessons and military training through to the Polish experience of the justice system and the Imperial War Grave Commission’s treatment of the Polish war dead.

The granddaughter of Sybiracy, I am an Oxford graduate with an MA from SSEES. I am keen on promoting generate greater awareness of Poland's role during the Second World War and have spoken at the Chelsea History Festival and the National Army Museum, as well as writing articles for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and History of War magazine. I am a regular guest of WW2TV and have appeared on a number of popular history podcasts.

JOCHEN LINGELBACH, postdoctoral research fellow in African History at the University of Bayreuth. He obtained his doctorate at the University of Leipzig with a dissertation on Polish refugees in Africa (published in 2020 with Berghahn Books as "On the Edges of Whiteness. Polish Refugees in British Colonial Africa during and after the Second World War"). Currently he works as a postdoctoral research fellow on the project "Africa in the Global History of Refugee Camps" within the University of Bayreuth's "Africa Multiple. Reconfiguring African Studies" Cluster of Excellence.

STEPHEN MUOKI, Qualification: Bachelor of Arts (BA) Bible and Theology, Pan Africa Christian University (PACU); Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) Africa Nazarene University (ANU); Master of Theology (MTH-History of Christianity) University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) (SA); PhD History of Christianity, UKZN (SA) 2011

Area(s) of Specialization: History of Christianity in Africa, Polity, Oral History and Religious Histories of Contemporary Social Issues such as HIV and AIDS, epidemics and Terrorism, History of Religious Art.

Employment History: PU and Unisa:

September 2017 - Present: Associate Professor in History of Christianity at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Pwani University in Kenya and research fellow at Unisa

January 2017 – Present: Director, Board of Undergraduate Studies, Pwani University, Kenya

Sept 2012 – December 2016: Pioneering Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Pwani University

PIOTR PUCHALSKI, *Dr*, Assistant Professor of Modern History at the Pedagogical University of Kraków (Poland), where he offers courses in the history of Poland, colonial empires, international relations, and contemporary tourism. He has previously published in the Historical Journal and the Journal of Modern European History. His upcoming book is Poland in a Colonial World Order: Adjustments and Aspirations, 1918-1939 (Routledge, 2022), and he has

also contributed to the upcoming edited volume *The World Beyond the West: Perspectives from Eastern Europe* (Berghahn Books, 2022). His next project deals with Poland's post-1939 colonial entanglements.

COBUS RADEMEYER, *Dr.*, Acting Head of School for Humanities at Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley, South Africa. His PhD research investigated the role of sports isolation as a factor in the struggle for a new political dispensation in South Africa during the period 1980 to 1992. Apart from a lecturing stint abroad, he has lectured at tertiary level for most of his academic career in the central region of South Africa. Before joining SPU in March 2015 as a Senior Lecturer in History, he was a history lecturer on the QwaQwa Campus of the University of the Free State. He is currently involved in research projects on the Polish association of Siberian deportees in South Africa and Olympic history respectively. His research interests include sports history, the history of disability sport and the historical interaction between Eastern European, South Africa and Africa since 1900.

STEFAN SZEWCZUK, Stefan was a career scientist and researcher for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The CSIR is the largest scientific and research organisation on the African continent. Stefan has published widely on a range of scientific topics and has presented scientific papers at international conferences. International work experience has included undertaking projects not only in South Africa, but also in Botswana, Zimbabwe, The Netherlands, Japan, Italy, Greece, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Portugal, United Kingdom, Niger (North Africa), Mozambique, Egypt, United States of America and Russia. Stefan is President of the Polish Association of Siberian Deportees in Africa and Vice President of the Polish Heritage Foundation of South Africa. Stefan is currently a PhD candidate in history at the University of the Witwatersrand. The research focus of his PhD is on the Polish Children of Oudtshoorn, South Africa, who found safety and refuge in the refugee camp in Oudtshoorn after managing to escape from the gulags of Siberia. Stefan has published and presented at international conferences on the Polish children of Oudtshoorn.

SHEKA TARAWALIE, *Hon.*, journalist, writer and author who, until March 2016, was Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, earlier the Deputy Minister of Information & Communications and Press Secretary of the SL President Koroma. Graduate of Sierra Leone's premier university founded in 1827, Fourah Bay College, he was the founder and one-time Editor-In-Chief of *The Torchlight*, a Freetown newspaper. He is one of Sierra Leone's most

distinguished journalists. Author of a 400-odd-page autobiography, 'Pope Francis, Politics and the Mabanta Boy' (2019). Since 2021 he holds the position of a Junior Researcher at PUNO's Africa Studies Unit.

DAVID TSHIMBA, *Dr*, Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for African Studies at Uganda Martyrs University, where he also lectures in its Department of Governance, Peace and International Studies. He earned his Ph.D. (History and Political Studies) from the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme at the Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR). While at MISR, David benefited from a host of research fellowships, including with the University of Michigan African Presidential Scholars Program (UMAPS) for his doctoral study on historicizing political violence in the Rwenzori region astride the Congo-Uganda border since the advent of the European (British and Belgian) colonial state. David's research interests include thematic issues of (political) violence, (forced) migration, and (social) justice.

JANUSZ ZUZIAK, military historian, professor of the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa, head of the Department of Safety Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences. 1990-2001 assistant and senior lecturer in the Military Historical Institute, 2001-2007 main specialist in the Military Bureau for Historical Research and professor in the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce. 2007-2008 chair of Department of Military History, 2008-2013 director of the Institute of the Humanities in the National Defence University. He specialises in modern Poland's and common military history, especially in the history of the second World War, history of the Polish Armed Forces in the West 1939-1945 and the history of Polish political and military emigration in Great Britain after the WW2.

ARKADIUSZ ŻUKOWSKI, Full Professor, political scientist, Africanist, Director of the Institute of Political Science at the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, member of the Committee on Political Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences, member of the Council for Scientific Excellence, President of the Polish Political Science Association, member of the Executive Committee of the International Political Science Association. His research focuses on the Polish Diaspora in Africa, in particular in South Africa and Polish-South African relations. His research interests also include electoral systems, Polish foreign policy, Kaliningrad Oblast of the Russian Federation, political science as a scientific discipline and as a subject of teaching.

JOIN US ONLINE:

Polish University Abroad is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: APRIL CONFERENCE 2022: Chronicles of Polish Presence on the African Continent

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