

Notes about Authors

Patrycja Badzińska, PhD candidate in Political Sciences at the Jagiellonian University. Graduate of a bachelor's degree in American Studies at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of the Jagiellonian University, and a master's degree in Political Science at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University. In July 2025, she defended her master's thesis entitled "Diné constitutional status in the American federal system – analysis in the water law perspective". Her research interests include issues related to Indigenous sovereignty, decolonial studies, Diné water law, the legacy of mining on tribal lands in the United States and Indigenous resistance towards extractive. In March 2025, she conducted a research project in the United States focusing on the water crisis in the Navajo Nation. This subject was also the focus of three papers she presented at international academic conferences: "Water, Decolonization and Spirituality: Navajo Traditional Knowledge as a Form of Building Ecological Peace in the Face of Drought" at the conference "Performing Religions, Faith, and Spirituality" in Tempe, Arizona, "Navajo Nation's Water Rights in the Light of the Ethics of Hospitality – Hope for Change?" at the "American Hospitality" conference in Białystok, Poland and "Diné Water Security in the Face of Systemic Marginalization: The Political Dimension of the Water Crisis in the Navajo Nation", at the 6th Jagiellonian Security Conference organized at JU in Kraków. She was an Erasmus+ scholarship holder in Örebro in 2023.

Mateusz Bogdanowicz, PhD, Assistant Professor (Institute of English, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn). His research interests focus on the culture and history of Anglophone countries, specifically, Canadian and American Studies (20th century). As the Director of Studies at *Britannia* School of English in Giżycko, he is involved in English teaching, ESP, Business English, teacher training and translation. He authored the monograph *The Political Significance of Canada and the Evolution of Her Role within the Politics of the United States during World War II*, as well as chapters and articles in scientific publications (e.g. *Dzieje Najnowsze*, *TransCanadiana* and *Echa Przeszłości*).

Justyna Budzik, Ph.D., literary critic employed as Assistant Professor at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora of the Jagiellonian University. Budzik conducts scholarly research devoted to Polish émigré literature and art created on the European continent and in North America in the 20th and 21st centuries (Great Britain, United States, and Canada). She has published two monographs: *Feeling at Home versus the Feeling of Estrangement. A Study on the Situation of Polish Writers in Canada* and *In the Theater of the World. Artistic Homelands of Elżbieta Wittlin Lipton*. Her articles have been published in "Konteksty Kultury", "Tygiel Kultury", "Strony", "Fraza", "Akcent", "Perspektywy Kultury", "Tematy i Konteksty", "Er(r)go. Teoria-Literatura-Kultura" as well as in "Ad Americam" and "The Polish Review".

Agnieszka Gondor-Wiercioch, Associate Professor, PhD/Dr hab., teaches American, Latin American and Canadian literature at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, and has published two monographs; one on multicultural models in Louise Erdrich and José María Arguedas (2009) and the other on the roles of history in contemporary Native American and Latino/a fiction (2016) and many articles related to the themes of Contemporary Native American and Latino/a Fiction, transculturation and history reconstruction, identity search in ethnic literature, hybrid and heterogeneous literature, dialogic identity, ethnic and post-ethnic dilemmas, comparative literature, transnational problems and the clash and convergence of contrasting cultural models.

Katarzyna Kawecka, holds a Master's degree in American Studies from the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Her research interests focus on the representation of women and, more broadly, on socio-cultural issues reflected in American literature, as well as on the role of religion in the political and social life of the United States. She is the author of the article *The Enduring Relevance of Mental Illness* in Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, published in *Smoking Guns – Tematy dzielące Amerykę*. Her undergraduate thesis explored *The Bell Jar* as a novel of feminism and mental illness, while her Master's thesis examined the portrayal of women in Alice Munro's *Lives of Girls and Women*. She has also participated in conferences devoted to the position of women in the United States and in American literature.

Adam Krzyk, Doctor of Humanities, graduate in English and American Studies. Currently serves as a Senior Lecturer at the Language Center of the Jagiellonian University Medical College and collaborates with the American Law School at the Faculty of Law and Administration. Author of numerous scholarly publications devoted to the analysis of the image of Marie Skłodowska-Curie in the context of biographical studies, the anthropology of the portrayal of women scientists, gender studies, and the role of the scholar in public life and international diplomacy. A significant part of his research output also comprises analyses of United States foreign policy, political rhetoric, and literary representations of American history and society. His research interests focus on the methodology of teaching English for Specific Purposes, language communication, and the structure and functioning of the United States healthcare system.

Rafał Kuś holds a PhD degree in political studies (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, 2011). He graduated from the Jagiellonian University with degrees in law as well as journalism and social communication. He completed Postgraduate Studies for Translators of Specialist Texts, Postgraduate Studies in Press, Publishing, and Copyright Law, and Postgraduate Studies in Rhetoric (Jagiellonian University). Dr. Kuś graduated also from the American Law School (Catholic University of America) and the ICPSR Summer Program in the Quantitative Methods of Social Research (University of Michigan). He received the Dr. Paweł Stęпка Award for the Best Doctoral Dissertation in the Field of Electronic Media (2012). Dr. Kuś is the author of numerous scholarly papers and two monographs.

Andrzej Mania, born on 21 August 1949, has been a Professor of Humanities since 1993. He is a historian and political scientist specializing in contemporary international relations and world diplomacy, with particular emphasis on American diplomacy. He is the author of ten books and numerous articles. Prof. Mania has been a fellow at various prestigious institutions, including the Norwegian Nobel Institute, the Kosciuszko Foundation and the Kennan Institute at the Wilson Center. He has conducted research at several American presidential libraries, the Library of Congress, the National Archives of the United States and various universities. He has supervised 36 Ph.D. candidates and hundreds of M.A. students. Prof. Mania retired from Jagiellonian University on 1 October 2020, having served at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations from 1975 to 2020. He is the founder of American Studies at Jagiellonian University and was Head of the Department of American Studies from 1993 to 2017. He served as Dean of the Faculty of International and Political Studies from 2000 to 2002. Additionally, he was a member of the Polish Accreditation Committee from 2000 to 2006 and, from at least 2008 to 2016, he held the position of Vice-Rector for Educational Affairs at Jagiellonian University. He is a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Political Science Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Paulina Napierała, Ph.D., is a political scientist and Assistant Professor at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University. Her research explores the intersection of religion and politics in the United States. Currently, she is focusing on the socio-political role of the Black Church. She was a grantee of the Kosciuszko Foundation (2015, 2022), the Advanced Research Collaborative CUNY (2022-2023), the Fulbright Commission (2007-2008), and the National Science Center Poland (NCN 2019), which allowed her to conduct research and consultations at Boston College, Harvard University, CUNY, and Valdosta State University. She has authored, coauthored and edited a number of articles, book chapters, and books in the field of religion and politics and American studies, including a recently published *Religion and American Politics. Domestic and International Contexts* (Peter Lang, 2024).

Magdalena Paluszkiewicz-Misiaczek, assistant professor, works at the Chair of Canadian Studies of the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at the Jagiellonian University. Holds an MA in English (major in translation and teaching English as a foreign language); a PhD in history; and habilitation in political science (Jagiellonian University). Visiting Researcher at the Indigenous Resource Centre (IRC) of Ottawa University (2001, 2017). Her research and teaching activities cover the history of women's movements in North America, US and Canadian policy towards Indigenous Peoples as well as the historical and contemporary aspects of social policy-making in USA and Canada, with particular emphasis on models of care system designed for war veterans and participants of foreign peacekeeping and stabilization missions.

Maciej Smółka, holds a PhD degree in cultural studies (Jagiellonian University in Kraków, 2021), and specializes in popular music studies and popular culture studies. Since 2024 he has been a Secretary general of newly-established IASPM Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe (CESE) branch, and a vice-director of the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at the Jagiellonian University. A critic and researcher of popular music, specializing in the history of American popular music, contemporary music industry, local music scenes, and specificities of popular culture. Author of *Say Yes! To Michigan* (AT, 2017), *The Sound of a City* (Peter Lang, 2023), and *The Minneapolis Sound* (Intellect, forthcoming).

Jolanta Szymkowska-Bartyzel, Ph.D., is an associate professor at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University. Her scholarly interests focus on the history and reception of American popular culture in Poland. She is the author of books and articles on American culture, American cultural transfer, film and mass media.

William Wise has worked in the Actuarial profession with life insurance companies for more than ten years working for US, Canadian and Australian life insurance companies. He has also completed post-graduate work in History. Additionally, he has held various positions at universities in North America and Australia. His main research interest in History is the political and economic struggle between the non-slave states and the slave states during the Antebellum period.

Łukasz Wordliczek is associate professor at the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University. He holds a PhD in political sciences (2002, Jagiellonian University), and habilitation in political science (2013, Jagiellonian University). His didactic activity (in Polish and English) includes subjects related mainly to the American and Polish political systems and American foreign policy. Dr. Wordliczek is the author, editor, or co-editor of nine books, as well as the author of a number of articles and conference papers in Polish and English on relations between technology and politics, non-state actors, public policy, and political science methodology. He is a member of the International Studies Association, Polish Society for International Studies, International Political Science Association, European Consortium for Political Research (in 2008-2012, the official representative of the Faculty of International and Political Studies of the Jagiellonian University), Central European International Studies Association, and the Polish Society of Political Sciences. Dr. Wordliczek is a promoter and reviewer of over 200 bachelor's and master's theses and a two-time winner of the individual award of the Rector of the Jagiellonian University. Email: lukasz.wordliczek@uj.edu.pl.

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