Development and Reception of Polish Economic Historiography Achievements in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE	LOCATION
27 Aug 2026, 08:30 - 10:30	House 3 SR224
THEME	CONFERENCE
C - National and Regional Schools of Historiography	International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

The year 2025 marks the 120th anniversary of the first Polish habilitation in economic history, obtained by Franciszek Bujak in 1905 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and the groundbreaking lecture he gave there entitled “History of Economic Relations”, which together symbolically marked the beginning of economic history as an academic discipline in Polish lands. By the end of the interwar period, Franciszek Bujak in Krakow (and later in Lviv) and Jan Rutkowski in Pozna? had established modern research centers that were recognized abroad, which contributed greatly to the development of Polish and world economic historiography (new methods, a wide range of sources, integration with other social sciences – economics, sociology, statistics). After 1945, more research centers developed (especially in Warsaw, ?ód?, Wroc?aw), and economic history gained an stronger position in Polish history and economics.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Polish economic historians have systematically broadened the scope of their research, taking into account long-term economic processes, social transformations, and the development of socio-economic structures, which allowed for an increasingly comprehensive and comparative view of the history of Poland and the world. In theoretical terms, the discipline has evolved from a historical-institutional and descriptive approach, through the Marxist concept of socio-economic formations and modernization theories, to contemporary comparative, quantitative approaches and those in the field of new institutional economics.

This development took place in interaction with foreign research centers, consisting of scientific trips, exchange of publications and correspondence (e.g. contact between Jan Rutkowski and M. Bloche and M. M. Postan). Even during the communist period, Polish economic historians maintained contacts with researchers from Western Europe, especially with the Annales school.

The aim of the session Development and Reception of Polish Economic Historiography Achievements in the 20th and 21st Centuries, organized under the banner of the Polish Association of Economic History, is to reflect on the successive stages of development of economic historiography in Poland, its institutionalization (schools and research teams, departments, journals, publishing series, scientific associations, conferences), internationalization, theoretical and methodological approaches used, realization of the idea of interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity through integration with other social sciences.

As a result, it is expected first of all to expand historical knowledge. Secondly, in the long term, the publication of the panel's conclusions will allow to participate in the formation of a new social consciousness and the rational actions for the search for new topics, sources, methods, and paradigms, without which it is difficult to imagine the development of economic history in the 21st century.

To participate in the session, the organizers would like to invite researchers from Poland and abroad who are interested in Polish economic historiography and who maintain scientific contacts with the Polish research community.

Participants

Convenor

- Lucyna B?a?ejczyk-Majka (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)
- Tadeusz Janicki (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)
- Damian B?bnowski (University of Lodz & Institute of National Remembrance)

Panelists

- Tadeusz Janicki (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)
- Lucyna B?a?ejczyk-Majka (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)
- Piotr Kory? (University of Warsaw)
- Damian B?bnowski (University of Lodz & Institute of National Remembrance)
- Bernd Martin (Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg)
- Pawe? Grata (University of Rzeszów)
- Jaros?aw Kinal (University of Rzeszów)
- Adam K?drzy?ski (University of Lodz)
- Rados?aw Poniat (University of Bialystok)
- Konrad Walerski (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder))
- Piotr Franaszek (Jagielonian University, Kraków)
- Pascale Nachez (Université de Strasbourg)
- Daniel Bagi (Institute of Historical Studies, ELTE Budapest)
- István Miklós Balázs (Institute of Historical Studies, ELTE Budapest)
- Uwe Müller (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig (GWZO))
- Joanna Jaroszyk (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)

Papers

From F. Bujak to J. Kochanowicz – the contribution of selected Polish academics to the development of research methods in economic history

Tadeusz Janicki (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?), Lucyna B?a?ejczyk-Majka (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna?)

In Search of the Roots of Backwardness: Polish Social and Economic History in the 20th and 21st Centuries

Piotr Kory? (University of Warsaw)

Behind the Iron Curtain: Exiled Polish Economic Historiography, 1945-1989

Damian B?bnowski (University of Lodz & Institute of National Remembrance)

Cooperation of Polish and German economic historians in the process of reconciliation between Poland and Germany

Bernd Martin (Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg)

Research on modernization processes in Poland after 1989

Pawe? Grata (University of Rzeszów), Jaros?aw Kinal (University of Rzeszów)

Fiscal Issues in Polish Research Over the Last Hundred Years

Adam K?drzy?ski (University of Lodz)

Polish historical demography in the 20th and 21st centuries: from population history to post-classical demography

Rados?aw Poniat (University of Bialystok)

Sociology as a Source of Knowledge about Economic Changes. Selected Representatives, Problems, and Institutions in the History of Polish Sociology from the Interwar Period to the Polish People's Republic

Konrad Walerski (Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder))

French perception of Polish research on economic history

Pascale Nachez (Université de Strasbourg)

Contribution of Franciszek Bujak and His School to the Study of Poland’s Economic and Social History

Piotr Franaszek (Jagielonian University, Kraków)

Reception of Jan Rutkowski and Franciszek Bujak in Hungary in the Interwar Period

István Miklós Balázs (Institute of Historical Studies, ELTE Budapest)

Between the Eastern Bloc and the ‘West’. The position of the journal “Studia Historiae Oeconomicae (SHO)” in debates on modern economic history during the 1970s and 1980s

Uwe Müller (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Leipzig (GWZO)), Joanna Jaroszyk (Adam Mickiewicz University, Pozna ?)

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