

## **“Early Modern Poland-Lithuania at the Crossroads of Europe: Social, Cultural, and Intellectual Transfers”**

**date: 15-16 May 2023, European University Institute  
Villa Salviati, Sala del Torino**

organizers: Prof. Giancarlo Casale, Jan Błóński (HEC), Natalia Woszczyk (HEC)

<https://www.eui.eu/events?id=554573>

At the end of the sixteenth century, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was the second-largest European country. With its population diverse along the ethnic and confessional lines, early modern Poland-Lithuania were at the crossroads between the West and East of the early modern world. Yet, too often, one may have an impression that the Commonwealth is either a blank spot on the map of research between the Eastern borders of German lands and the Western ends of Russia, or that it is a lonely island drifting between the waves of global processes, barely affected by them.

During our workshop, we want to focus on the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as the space of cultural, social, and intellectual transfers, and through this lens, examine the connections and the disconnections between 1569 and 1795 in the early modern world. With the focus on multiethnic and multifaith agents of transfer, its mechanisms, and reception, we aim to begin the discussion on the role played by early modern Poland-Lithuania in the global processes. By emphasizing the analysis of the primary sources, we hope to hear the voices of the historical agents transmitting and reciprocating the transfers of ideas, objects, and knowledge; and, finally, to better understand the mechanisms of those processes.

We do not argue for the uniqueness and exceptionality of the Commonwealth, we do not attempt to find the “Polish *Sonderweg*” nor do we try to idealize its past. Yet, we believe that including the perspective of this multiethnic and multifaith political entity in the discussion on the social, cultural, and intellectual transfers would allow us to move beyond the concept of Europe understood only as the north-western part of the continent. We believe that the reflection upon it, together with a dynamical approach focused on processes instead of structures would shed new light on the possible ways of decentralising Eurocentrism in historical studies.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

15 May

**10:00 Welcome by the workshop organizers**

**10:15 Presentation of the primary source analysis by Professor Valentina Lepri:** *Early modern academic primary sources for the history of knowledge: Typologies and approach*

**11:00 Coffee break**

**11:30 I Panel – Transcultural Knowledge Production: Actors, Sources, and Paths**

Moderator: Professor Valentina Lepri (Polish Academy of Sciences)

Participants:

Alicja Bielak (PAS): *Between Private and Public: Future Use of Students' Notebooks*

Gniewomir Hawrasz (PAS): *Matthias Lis of Krajna - one of the forgotten founding fathers of Polish Renaissance Neoplatonism?*

Dennj Solera (PAS): *Paduan Students in Gian Vincenzo Pinelli's house: books, ideas and social relations*

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 II Panel – Global cultural encounters and vernacular reactions**

Moderator: Professor Karen Friedrich (University of Aberdeen)

Participants:

Jan Błoński (EUI): *Clues and Dead Ends. A Story of a Self-Immolated Tavernkeeper*

Wojciech Kordyzon (UW): *Poet, Scholar, Diplomat: Daniel Naborowski (1573–1640) Networking in the Republic of Letters*

Luisa Brotto (PAS): *Tomasz Drezner's Account of Social Trust Between Western and Central-Eastern Legal Education*

**16:00 Aperitivo at Villa Salviati**

**20:00 Conference dinner in Florence**

**16 May**

**9:30 III Panel – Official Exchange and Diplomatic Relations**

Moderator: Professor Robert Frost (University of Aberdeen)

Participants:

Klaudia Kuchnio (EUI): *“Is he honest? He is. Did he receive a good education? He did.” The Medici Court and the Third Royal Election in Poland-Lithuania*

Christoph Moore (University of Aberdeen): *Maria Clementina Sobieska: A Planned Queen*

Magda Jakubowska (University of Warsaw): *Diplomatic practice of Poland-Lithuania at the turn of the 16th century. The case of Stanisław Golski’s embassy in Constantinople 1597*

**11:00 Coffee break**

**11:30 IV Panel – Religious peace and conflicts**

Moderator: Professor Giancarlo Casale (EUI)

Participants:

Natalia Woszczyk (EUI): *Between Fear and Consolation: The Emotional Geographies of the Bohemian Brethren Exile (1548)*

Anastazja Grudnicka (EUI): *Between the Local and the Universal: Wooden Churches in Counter-Reformation Poland-Lithuania*

Pawel Pietrowcew (University of Warsaw): *Transfer of Texts of a “Radical Heretic” on the Example of Copies of Andreas Moscorovius’ Political Speeches*

**13:00 Lunch**

**14:30 Roundtable discussion**

**15:30 Coffee break**

**16:00 Closing lecture by Professor Robert Frost:** *Renaissance Republicanism, Ius Gentium, and Natural Law. The Polish-Lithuanian Republic and International Relations after 1569*

This event is supported by the Decentring Eurocentrism Cluster Co-Sponsorships.

