

CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference title: East-Central Europe in Exile: Patterns of Transatlantic Migrations.

Date: May 31st- June 3rd, 2012

Host: History Department, University of Gdańsk, Poland

Partners: History Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Polish American Historical Association, City of Gdynia, Visegrad Fund

Organizing committee: **Dr. Anna Mazurkiewicz** (Department of Contemporary History, University of Gdańsk) – project coordinator ; **PhDr. Slavomír Michálek, DrSc.** (Institute of History, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava); **Doc. PhDr. Francis D. Raška, PhD.** (Department of American Studies, Charles University, Prague); **Dr. Magdolna Baráth** (Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security, Budapest)

Language of the proceedings and subsequent publication: English.

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The conference's goal is to bring together migration scholars from both Europe and the Americas to look into the causes and the effects of East-Central European emigration overseas and to reveal common themes in the processes of East European transatlantic migrations during in the 19th and 20th centuries. As East European nations' turbulent past often obliterates the classical migration typologies like political-economic, forced-voluntary, temporary-permanent, to examine East-Central European transatlantic migration is to analyze people's movements for bread and freedom simultaneously. While acknowledging significant cultural and historical differences among the nations of Eastern Europe some important transnational patterns of transatlantic emigration from this region have already been observed. Vital common features were uncovered by earlier works pertaining to the Cold War political emigration from Eastern Europe and Soviet-imposed regimes' response to its activities in exile. However, the forced migration from Eastern Europe did not start with the Nazi and/or Soviet domination of the area. When and why did these processes begin and how did they evolve? What are the similarities in the patterns of both coerced and voluntary emigration from Eastern Europe? Was there interethnic cooperation among the Eastern Europeans in exile? How did the American reception of the different Eastern European nationals change over the two centuries? In order to answer these questions and consequently to understand the role and impact of the "East-Central Europe in Exile" broad contextual interpretations are needed.

Therefore we welcome submissions by scholars researching transatlantic migration from Eastern Europe (from the Baltic coast to the Black Sea and the Balkans) in the 19th and 20th centuries. The key idea is to present, compare and discuss mostly ethnic-focused research to date, and place East-Central European emigration patterns within regional, historical and international context. We hope that the outcome of this conference will be an international study of Eastern Europe's émigré impact on both the sending and receiving countries, as well as on international relations since the early 19th century. One of the vital

aims of our project is to promote cooperation and research on the phenomenon of emigration as an act of political protest and its international repercussions. We look forward to meeting scholars interested in creation of an international team working on East European story of transatlantic migration in search of both freedom and prosperity.

We seek papers, reports, works-in progress on issues related to any of the following themes:

- Migration theories, patterns, typologies; emigration, re-emigration, secondary emigration;
- Historiography of East European transatlantic migrations;
- East-Central European emigration case-studies; individual and state organized emigration, institutions and groups assisting emigrants; travel conditions and assistance.
- East-Central European artistic, literary and cultural presence in the Americas;
- Cooperation among East European émigrés and its motivations (religious, political, economic, cultural etc.);
- Exiles, refugees and “hyphenated” East European ethnic communities in the U.S. in a comparative perspective;
- Acculturation routes: special focus on Polish-Americans and Americans.
- Emigration as an act of political protest;
- Exile links to the home country;
- Sending and receiving states’ policies towards the East-Central European Diasporas;
- Transatlantic implications of East European forced migration cases
- Exit ports with a special attention to Gdynia, Poland

Paper proposals should be submitted to the organizing committee via e-mail by December 31st 2011: eceinexile@gmail.com . Please include: a) full name of the author b) affiliation c) e-mail address d) title of the paper e) 300 word abstract.

Acknowledgments of acceptance will be sent out by January 15th 2012. The articles ready for publication should be submitted no later than by the end of June 2012 (Due to the tight founding schedule).

All accepted presenters are kindly requested to bring a sample, or a copy of a primary source material with which they work on daily basis. Letters, archival documents, memoirs, photos, artifacts – all kind of primary sources are welcomed! These materials are to be discussed, examined and interpreted with a group of the University of Gdańsk students during a planned workshop entitled: **How to write emigration history? Introduction to research methodology**. Thank You!

Contact

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