



# **ARCHIVES: ACTIVATION!**

An online conference inaugurating the digital  
Archives of the Pilecki Institute  
**12–13 January 2021**



# Poland in the Face of Totalitarianism. A Hub for Exploring History

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In the Pilecki Institute Archives we gather and make available digital versions of various documents. All of them describe the fates of Polish citizens who experienced two totalitarianisms – the German and the Soviet – in the 20th century. We acquire them from both domestic and foreign institutions: the Bundesarchiv, the United Nations Archives, the British National Archives, the Institute of National Remembrance, Polish state archives and many others. In this way we are building a knowledge base and a hub for comprehensive research on the Second World War and the dual occupation of Poland – for scholars, journalists, people of culture, families of the victims and witnesses to totalitarian crimes, as well as all history enthusiasts.

Our archives presently comprise over 5,000 archival units, which translates into over a million pages. And this is just the beginning. By implementing an elaborate archival program and digitizing sources on a mass scale, we gather in one place all the documents needed for research on the Polish experience of confronting two totalitarian regimes in the 20th century, especially during the Second World War. A historian who would like to read them all in their original versions would have to visit several European states and travel to the US. In our archives, the evidence of German and Soviet crimes is stored side by side. The testimonies of Polish citizens – victims and witnesses of two totalitarianisms – shed a new light on the documentation produced by the terror apparatus. The records concerning the first attempts at bringing the criminals to a reckoning, which were made by the Polish Underground State and the Government-in-Exile, are juxtaposed with the post-war court documentation. In order to introduce the Polish testimonies into international circulation, we have to emphasize their value and importance against the main body of sources concerning the history of the 20th century, the Second World War and totalitarian regimes. Our archives make possible, inspire and support such reflection, inviting scholars from Poland and abroad to add their contribution.

The inauguration of the Pilecki Institute Archives offers an opportunity to present its workings, functionality and the collections gathered thus far. It is also a chance to enliven the idea of archives as such; it is a sound basis and an indispensable reference point in a discussion about where we come from, what we are and where we are going. Moreover, the traditional function of the archives as a source of reliable knowledge and a vehicle for fact checking seems crucial in the face of the inundation of fake news, half-truths and manipulation in the public space. During our online conference, we will discuss the role of archives in modern societies. We will ask about their place in the historian's work, explore their interaction with contemporary culture and consider strategies and tools for making them available. Modern archival institutions are open to the public, attract their audiences and present their collections in a compelling manner. As of today, one of them is the Pilecki Institute Archives.

# 12 JANUARY



**9.00–10.15**

**Opening:**

Wojciech Kozłowski,  
Director of the Pilecki Institute

**Presentation of the Pilecki Institute  
Archives and their holdings:**

Pilecki Institute Archives  
– Krzysztof Wiśniewski,  
Pilecki Institute

Bundesarchiv  
– Hanna Radziejowska,  
Pilecki-Institut Berlin

UNWCC i The National Archives  
– John Cornell, Pilecki Institute

Witnesses to the Age  
– Wojciech Saramonowicz,  
Pilecki Institute

Chronicles of Terror  
– Karol Kalinowski, Pilecki Institute

**10.30–12.00**

**Panel I. Modern archives.  
How do contemporary archives  
reach their audiences?**

**Moderator:**

Tomasz Stefanek, Pilecki Institute

**Panelists:**

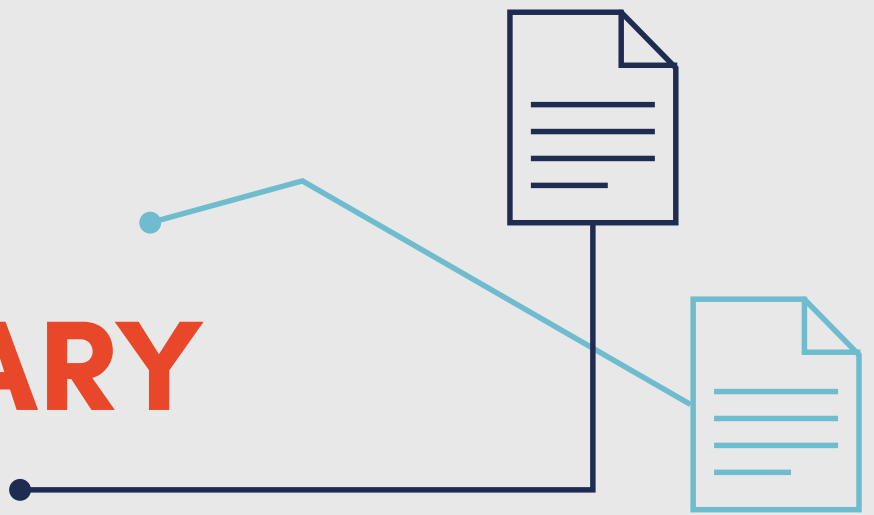
Tobias Herrmann, Bundesarchiv

Tamas Kiss,  
Central European University

Monika Maniewska,  
Pilecki Institute

Albert Stankowski,  
Warsaw Ghetto Museum

# 12 JANUARY



**14.00–15.30**

**Panel II. Truth and narrative.  
The role of archives in modern  
debates on history**

**Moderator:**

Mateusz Werner, Pilecki Institute

**Panelists:**

Jochen Böhrer,  
Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena

Danuta Drywa, Stutthof Museum

Roger Moorhouse, historian, author  
of among others *Poland 1939*

Andrzej Zawistowski,  
Pilecki Institute

**15.45–17.15**

**Panel III. Archives in culture.  
How do documents give rise to  
stories?**

**Moderator:**

Barbara Schabowska,  
Adam Mickiewicz Institute

**Panelists:**

Grzegorz Czerniak,  
Pilecki Institute

Filip Gańczak,  
Institute of National Remembrance

Krzysztof Noworyta, culture animator

Kai Pfeiffer, visual artist

Hanna Radziejowska,  
Pilecki-Institut Berlin

# 13 JANUARY



18.00–19.15

**Panel IV. Postwar criminal investigations and trials.  
The historical value of postwar trial documentation in the context  
of research on World War II and postwar reckoning in modern democracies**

**Moderator:**

Hanna Radziejowska, Pilecki-Institut Berlin

**Panelists:**

Andrej Angrick, Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur

Christian Frosch, film director, screenwriter of among others *Murer: Anatomy of a Trial*

Joanna Nickel, Pilecki Institute

During the debate we will talk about the historical value of trial documentation in the context of research on World War II. To what extent did the archival sources, interviews, and trial documentation that was produced in the period from the Nuremberg trials to the 1960s and 1970s open up new research perspectives on examining and describing crimes committed by the functionaries of the Third Reich? The fact that numerous postwar criminal investigations and trials were discontinued and resulted in the acquittal of many Austrian and German criminals also leads to important questions about the postwar reckoning in modern democracies.

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**Dr Andrej Angrick**, a historian. He completed his doctoral studies on the history of Einsatzgruppe D at the Technische Universität Berlin and has since been conducting research on the history of occupation and extermination politics. He has been employed as a historian for the Hamburger Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur since 1997 and has worked as an investigator for the American Special Cases Bureau as well as an expert witness in the so-called Ghetto Pension Proceedings since 2007. He is a member of advisory councils YAHAD in Unum and Protecting Memory, organizations dealing with the protection of newly discovered mass graves of the victims of German totalitarianism. He is the author of various monographs and numerous essays, and co-editor of documentary editions, including: *Aktion 1005. Spurenbeseitigung von NS-Massenverbrechen 1942–1945* (2018), a two-volume work on the organized process to cover up the traces of the crimes committed by the Third Reich in Eastern Europe.

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**Dr Jochen Böhler**, a historian, he is acting chair of Eastern European History at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena. Previously, he worked at the Imre Kertész Kolleg in Jena (2010–2019) and at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw (2000–2010). He is an expert on the history of Eastern Europe in the era of the World Wars. His publications (most recently *Civil War in Central Europe. The Reconstruction of Poland, 1918–1921*, English: Oxford University Press 2018 / Polish: ZNAK 2018) have appeared in English, Polish, and German.

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**Grzegorz Czerniak**, director, screenwriter, director of photography. Author of 20 documentaries and several hundred episodes of television programs. Since the 1990s he has been active in the Association “Polish Community”. He organized numerous artistic trips to Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Ukraine and France. In 2001 he co-organized the Polish Summer School in Tomsk, Siberia. Since 2018 he has been working in the film department of the Pilecki Institute, which recorded 1,500 interviews with history witnesses as part of the “Witnesses to the Age” project.

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**Dr Danuta Drywa**, historian, long-serving employee of the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, head of the Documentation Department and Holocaust researcher. Her scholarly work concerns also the fates of the Polish population of Gdańsk Pomerania during the Second World War. She is the author of, among others, *Zagłada Żydów w obozie koncentracyjnym Stutthof w latach 1939–1945* (2001), *Säuberungsaktion na Pomorzu Gdańskim w świetle dokumentów obozu Stutthof w latach 1939–1942* (2015), as well as numerous articles on the history of KL Stutthof written on the basis of surviving camp documents. Her most recent publication is *Poselstwo RP w Bernie. Przemilczana historia* (2020).

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**Christian Frosch**, a film director and screenwriter. He graduated from screenwriting and directing studies at Deutsche Film- und Fernsehakademie Berlin (DFFB) in 1996, and has completed master classes by Tilda Swinton and István Szabó. As a screenwriter and director, he has made five full-length feature films, including *Murer: Anatomie eines Prozesses* [Murer: Anatomy of a Trial] (2018) about the trial of Franz Murer, the butcher of Vilnius, in Graz in 1963, in which the SS-officer was acquitted in spite of the testimonies of surviving witnesses. The film received the Austrian Film Prize for Best Feature Film in 2019.

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**Dr Filip Gańczak**, journalist, political scientist, employee of the Institute of National Remembrance in Warsaw. His research interests center on German and Polish-German issues as well as the film milieu in the Polish People's Republic. Author of, among others, *Erika Steinbach. Piękna czy bestia?* (2008), *Filmowcy w matni bezpieki* (2011), *Polski nie oddamy. Władze NRD wobec wydarzeń w PRL 1980–1981* (2017, German edition 2020), and *Jan Sehn. Tropicielef nazistów* (2020).

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**Dr Tobias Herrmann**, studies in History, Politics, Economics and German philology 1994–2006; doctorate at the university of Bonn (thesis in medieval history) 2006; internship at the German Federal Archives (Bundesarchiv) and the Archives School (Archivschule) in Marburg 2006–2008; head of the Ludwigsburg branch office of the Bundesarchiv 2008–2012; currently head of the section for General Archival Matters of the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz (public and international relations, strategic planning, digital communication and more).

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**Dr Tamás Kiss**, a historian of the early modern Ottoman Empire with a PhD in Medieval Studies (Central European University, 2016), and a software and web developer, as well as the creator of, among others, Ottoman Turkish text analysis software Rumi 1.0 and [simonofstquentin.org](http://simonofstquentin.org). As an IT project manager (Qulto) he is in charge of DH, NLP, and repository solutions, Affiliated with the Centre for Digital Humanities at ELTE, Budapest, I continue DH research with a focus on repositories and Ottoman history.

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**Monika Maniewska**, historian, archivist, graduate of the Faculty of History of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. Co-author of the publication *Lista Ładosia. Spis osób, na których nazwiska w okresie II wojny światowej zostały wystawione paszporty latynoamerykańskie przez Poselstwo RP i organizacje żydowskie w Szwajcarii* (2019) and its subsequent English edition. Manager of the Archives Acquisition Team at the Pilecki Institute.

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**Roger Moorhouse**, a historian specialising in Germany and Poland in World War Two. He is the author of a number of books on the subject, including “The Devils’ Alliance” (2014), “Berlin at War” (2012) and the award-winning “First to Fight” (2019), a history of the September Campaign of 1939, which was published in Poland as “Polska 1939”. He is a visiting professor at the College of Europe in Natolin, Warsaw, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in London.

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**Dr Joanna Nikiel**, a historian. Doctor of Humanities, graduate of History and Art History at the University of Wrocław, and postgraduate studies in the international art market and project management, DAAD and KAAD scholarship holder. She defended her Doctoral dissertation *Kształcenie architektów w Niemczech Wschodnich na przykładzie Kunsthochschule Berlin Weissensee w latach 1946-1970* [Educating architects in East Germany and the example of the Kunsthochschule Berlin Weissensee in 1946-1970], summa cum laude in 2018. An associate of the University of Wrocław and the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw, researcher of the 20th-century history of Germany and Poland.

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**Krzysztof Noworyta**, creator and producer of narrative projects in the form of exhibitions, films and digital products aimed at popularizing Polish history and culture. Co-author of the permanent exhibitions of the Polish History Museum and the Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek as well as the exhibition-experience “Śladami Jezusa” and the exhibition “Zajezdnia strajkuje” for the Depot History Centre in Wrocław. Together with Jacek Dukaj he created the visual and spatial design of the *Literature and Language Centre – Planet Lem in Kraków* and the narrative concept of the “Polish Legends” campaign for *Allegro*. He also produced two parts of “The Unconquered” animated film for the Institute of National Remembrance.



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**Kai Pfeiffer**, comic book author and visual artist creating various comic projects which cover fiction, abstraction and reportage. He has been cooperating with the Pilecki Institute for a year, he is working on his own graphic novel inspired by archives and is a tutor of the Institute's program for German comic artists "Living Archiv". Author of among others *Radioactive forever*, a documentary comic about the Chernobyl reactor disaster, which was released in Japan in 2012 (*No Nukes*, ed. Ryuichi Sakamoto). Curator of several comic exhibitions. In the years 2009–2014 he taught comics at the Kassel Art School. In 2018, he co-directed the documentary film *Urwald* with Ulli Lust, for which he also contributed music and sound design. The semi-documentary comic strip series *Der Flaneur*, in collaboration with the illustrator Tim Dinter, appeared in 2003 on the Berlin site of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung". Since 2011, he has been part of an artistic duo with the Brussels artist Dominique Goblet.

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**Hanna Radziejowska**, coordinator, curator, producer and scriptwriter of cultural and museum projects. A graduate of the Institute of History at University of Warsaw. She worked for Warsaw's cultural and local government institutions: the Warsaw Rising Museum, the History Meeting House, the Copernicus Science Centre, the Targówek District's Office and the Museum of Warsaw, among others. From June 2017 to February 2018 she was the Director of the Polish Institute in Berlin. From April 2019 she has been the head of the Pilecki Institute Branch in Berlin. Together with Jack Fairweather she has co-curated the exhibition entitled "The Volunteer. Witold Pilecki and his mission in Auschwitz".

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**Barbara Schabowska**, manager, editor, TV and radio journalist. She obtained an MA from the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw and an MBA from the Warsaw University of Business. For over 10 years she worked for the Polish Radio Channel 2, where she created and hosted programs devoted to the cultural history and philosophy as well as prepared several hundred documentaries on cultural, historical and social issues. In 2017 she was appointed *Director and Editor-in-Chief of TVP Kultura*, a channel with which she cooperates to this day. In June 2020 she became the director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

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**Albert Stankowski**, Polish historian, member of the Jewish Historical Institute Association in Poland (2011–2015). At the Museum of the History of Polish Jews he worked as a head of the Digital Collection Department and adviser for contacts with the Jewish community. Initiator and creator of the Virtual Shtetl. Since March 2018 director of the Warsaw Ghetto Museum. Since 2013 member of the International Council of Museums, since 2018 – of the POLIN Museum Council and the Polish Delegation to the IHRA, since 2019 – of the Treblinka Museum Council and the Council of Memory of the Pilecki Institute, since 2020 – of the Majdanek Museum Council.

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**Tomasz Stefanek**, historian of ideas and museologist. He carried out research, educational and exhibition projects in cooperation with the Warsaw Rising Museum and the Polish History Museum. Co-creator of the permanent exhibition of the Emigration Museum in Gdynia. Author of a selection of Tomasz Merta's writings *Nieodzowność konserwatyzmu. Pisma wybrane* (2011) and a collection of essays *Być albo nie być. Szkice o podmiotowości* (2016). He wrote among others for "Teologia Polityczna", "Rzeczpospolita" and "Polska The Times". Employee of the Pilecki Institute.

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**Dr Mateusz Werner**, philosopher of culture, essayist, film critic. Author of the book *Wobec nihilizmu. Gombrowicz, Witkacy* (2010), publisher of Pier Paolo Pasolini's essays *Po ludobójstwie* (2012), editor of, among others, *What Kieślowski Tells Us Today?* (2008) and *Polish Cinema Now! Focus on Contemporary Polish Cinema* (2010). Assistant professor at the Faculty of Humanities of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University and head of the totalitarian studies section at the Pilecki Institute. Editor of the "Kronos" philosophical quarterly.

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**Dr Andrzej Zawistowski, Professor of the Warsaw School of Economics**, historian specializing in economic, social and political history of the 20th century. Employee of the Department of Economic and Social History of the Warsaw School of Economics and the Pilecki Institute. In the years 2012–2016 director of the Public Education Office of the Institute of National Remembrance, and in the years 2017–2020 head of the Historical Department of the Warsaw Rising Museum. Author of several hundred scientific and popular scientific publications, including monographs and textbooks. Co-creator of the popular scientific historical monthly "Pamięć.pl".

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Simultaneous interpretation in Polish, English and German will be provided