

Anna Mazurkiewicz

"Defining State-Private Network. American Freedom Committees During the Cold War"

ABSTRACT

The Cold War (1947-1989) was dominated by the global rivalry between a totalitarian state steered from behind the walls of the Kremlin and a world power built on the ideals of democracy and freedom with a popularly elected leader occupying the White House. While both adversaries were engaged in extensive "political warfare" only one of them had to consider public opinion in order to stay in power and maintain legitimacy in order to conduct its foreign policy. Interestingly, the United States had to care for both the support of its own citizens but also for its allies in the so-called "free world". Given the global nature of the confrontation and the fact that most of it took place in the territories of the so-called "external empires" (regions dominated by the respective powers, or under their predominant influences), my interest is vested in the agency and role of the peoples originating from these territories. One particular group that interests me the most are the political exiles who had left the Communist-dominated regions and entered into complex relations with the Americans in order to fight for the liberation of their homelands from the Soviet yoke. While their actions have already been relatively well researched, mostly within the context of relevant ethnic or national historiographies, the American policy behind supporting the exile political organizations turns out to be more complex than it might have seemed and deserves a more thorough investigation.

BIO

Dr hab. Anna Mazurkiewicz, prof. UG (Associate Professor) works at the Faculty of History at the University of Gdańsk (UG). She is a graduate of UG (MA 1999, summa cum laude; PhD 2006, National Centre for Culture's award for best doctoral dissertation in history).



She also studied at the California State University, Fresno (1997-1998), was APRF Fellow at the Notre Dame University (2002-2003), Kosciuszko Foundation Research Fellow at the IHRC at the University of Minnesota (2007-2008), Visegrad Fellow at the Central European University, Open Society Archives in Budapest (2010). She lectured in Germany, Slovenia and the US. As Kosciuszko Foundation Visiting Professor, she has taught multiple courses at State University of New York

(Buffalo, 2012-2013) and Valdosta State University (2018). In 2017/18 as a recipient of the Fulbright Senior Award she conducted research at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University. Her scholarly interests include: the Cold War; United States after World War II; U.S.-Polish diplomatic relations; media system in the United States; U.S. policy towards the countries of East Central Europe; political activity of refugees from East Central Europe in the United States after World War II; political emigration from East Central Europe in 1945-1989. She has published three books, two related to the American response to elections in Poland (1947, 1989) and one on the role of the political exiles from East Central Europe in American Cold War politics (1948-1954). The next book will be on the Assembly of Captive European Nations (ACEN) in the context of American foreign policy during the Cold War. Mazurkiewicz published in Polish, American, and German periodicals, as well as edited three volumes on migrations with a special focus on transatlantic migrations, coercion in migration. In 2019 DeGruyter will be releasing a handbook "East Central European Migrations during the Cold War" edited by her. Member of a number of Polish and foreign scholarly associations, Mazurkiewicz is the past President of the Polish American Historical Association (2017-2018). She is the recipient of a number of awards including: The National Centre for Culture's award for best doctoral dissertation in history (2007), Oskar Halecki Prize for two volumes she had edited: East Central Europe in Exile, Mieczislaus Haiman award for sustained contribution to the study of Polish Americans (2019). She currently serves a Fulbright Program Ambassador in Gdańsk.