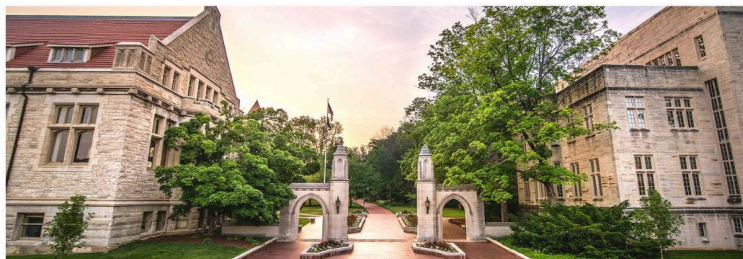


**KRZYSZTOF MICHAŁEK  
MEMORIAL LECTURE**

  
**INDIANA UNIVERSITY**  
BLOOMINGTON

Uniwersytet Warszawski  
May 24th 2019



## **KURT VONNEGUT AND “QUALITY OF PLACE” IN AMERICA’S MIDWEST**

Prof. Edward Commentale  
Associate Vice Provost for Arts and Humanities, Director of the Arts and Humanities Council  
Indiana University Bloomington

Krakowskie Przedmieście  
26/28, Instytut Historyczny,  
Sala Kolumnowa

Krzysztof Michałek Memorial Lecture  
Uniwersytet Warszawski, May 24th 2019

Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, Instytut Historyczny, Sala Kolumnowa

Prof. Edward Commentale  
Associate Vice Provost for Arts and Humanities, Director of the Arts and Humanities Council  
Indiana University Bloomington

### **Kurt Vonnegut and ‘Quality of Place’ in America’s Midwest**

#### **Program**

- 12:00 Spotkanie z prof. Comentale
- 13:00 Otwarty wykład “Kurt Vonnegut and ‘Quality of Place’ in America’s Midwest”
- 13:00 Powitanie – przedstawiciel władz UW
- 13:10 Przypomnienie postaci prof. Michałka – dr Zbigniew Kwiecień, Ośrodek Studiów Amerykańskich UW
- 13:20 Wprowadzenie do wykładu – prof. dr hab. Paweł Frelik, Ośrodek Studiów Amerykańskich UW
- 13:30 Wykład
- 14:15 Pytania/ odpowiedzi, dyskusja
- 14:30 Podziękowanie, zamknięcie wydarzenia

Wydarzenie prowadzone będzie w języku angielskim.

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## Open Lecture

This talk introduces my work developing cultural programs with rural communities in Indiana, and then explores how Vonnegut's fiction provides ways of thinking through difficult questions about the state's identity, culture, and politics. After a close look at Vonnegut's depictions of Indiana and its people in his novels, I examine how the author places the Midwest's cultural history squarely at the center of United States history and makes it representative of the problems that currently plague the nation at large. A widening class divide, political radicalization, the collapse of civic discourse—Vonnegut's writing locates both the causes and potential corrections to these issues in the traditions and communities he knew in the Midwest and then makes a case for writing and storytelling as essential to restoring the country's democratic institutions.

Edward P. Comentale is Professor of English, Associate Vice Provost for Arts and Humanities, and Director of the Arts and Humanities Council at Indiana University Bloomington. He is the author of *Modernism, Cultural Production, and the British Avant-Garde* and *Sweet Air: Modernism, Regionalism, and American Popular Song*. He co-edits a scholarly book series on fan cultures for Indiana University Press, through which he's published *The Year's Work in Lebowsky Studies* and *The Year's Work at the Zombie Research*.