



POLAND AS A LABORATORY OF DEMOCRACY

A DEBATE AROUND THE PUBLICATION
"OXFORD HANDBOOK OF
POLISH POLITICS"

21 MAY 2026

POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
SCIENTIFIC CENTER IN ROME
VICOLO DORIA 2 | INT. 6

PROGRAMME



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in Rome

PAN
POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Rome
Scientific Center

UKSW

UNIWERSYTET KARDYNAŁA
STEFANA WYSZYŃSKIEGO
W WARSZAWIE



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



14:00 - 14:25 **Welcome Coffee & Book Display**

14:25 - 14:30 **Opening of the Event**

Magdalena Wrana (Director of the PAS Scientific Centre in Rome)

14:30 - 15:10

OPENING: WHY POLAND, WHY NOW? · EDITORS IN CONVERSATION _____

Katarzyna Walecka (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University / Kellogg College, Oxford)
Simona Guerra (University of Surrey)

15:10 - 16:40

PANEL I · HANDBOOK AUTHORS _____

POLAND TRANSFORMED: HOW, FOR WHOM, AND AT WHAT COST?

Chair: **Simona Guerra**

1 Setting the Scene

Joanna Tyrowicz (University of Warsaw / Monetary Policy Council)

Growth for whom? The winners and losers of Poland's economic transformation

2 Follow the money

Marcin Walecki (OSGA, University of Oxford)

Did the way parties are funded serve democracy — or undermine it?

3 Who Takes Charge

Maciej Hartliński (University of Warmia and Mazury)

Has strong leadership been a democratic asset or a democratic risk?

4 Grievances Weaponised

Joanna Fomina (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, PAS)

Who weaponised migration as an issue — and who paid the price?

5 The Electoral Verdict

Michał Kotnarowski (Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, PAS)

Who did voters reward — and when did they start punishing the mainstream?

Discussion

16:40 - 16:55

Coffee Break



- 16:55 - 18:25** **PANEL II · OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVES** —————
SEEN FROM OUTSIDE: WHAT POLAND REVEALS ABOUT ITSELF AND ABOUT EUROPE
Chair: Katarzyna Walecka
- 1 The promise**
Antonio Macchia (University of Teramo)
What Europe saw in Poland then — and what it sees now
- 2 The Long View**
Mirela Marta Banach (Jagiellonian University)
What history tells us about Poland that current politics tends to forget
- 3 The Ideological Turn**
Małgorzata Fijał (Jagiellonian University / PAS Scientific Centre in Rome)
Is Polish populism a local product — or a European import?
- 4 Europe's Mirror**
Nicholas Startin (John Cabot University in Rome)
What can France, Britain, and Italy learn from what happened in Poland?
- Discussion**
- 18:25 - 18:40** **Closing Remarks**
Katarzyna Walecka
Simona Guerra
- 18:40** **Cocktail Reception**

