Academic Year 2017-18 Calendar of events

Unless otherwise stated, all events take place in the Seminar Room, European Studies Centre, 70 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HR

Hilary 2018 Term

Week 4

Friday 9 February, 5:00pm – 7:00pm
Zygmunt Bauman as a Polish and Global Thinker: How Solid is ‘Liquid Modernity’?
Richard Sennett (LSE, New York University)
Katarzyna Kasia (Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw)
Jaroslaw Kuisz (University of Copenhagen, St Antony’s College)
Chair: Michael Biggs (St Cross College)

Trinity 2018 Term

Week 3

Friday, Saturday 11-12 May
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
Europeanism and Nationalism: Post-1989 Poland in Comparative Perspective

One of the most important disputes in contemporary Poland is the one concerning the country’s future place in the EU and its attitude towards Brussels. In the highly polarized Polish political culture, on the one hand there are the advocates of closer integration with the EU, promotion of human rights and certain model of liberal democracy. On the other, there are promoters of a more particular model based on traditional Polish and Christian values. The temperature of this clash might be read from the names, which the two respective sides use to describe their opponents: the first group is often labelled as “Europeanists”, the other as “nationalists”.

This dispute is only to some extent peculiar to Poland. It exhibits significant similarities with other European countries, including Britain, France, Austria, and the Netherlands, as well as Central European neighbours such as Hungary and Slovakia. It does not only concern the political realm of the EU or the nation state; it includes a whole array of other debates, like the family model, attitude to religion (including especially Christianity and Islam), gay rights, etc.

The conference will tackle the clash between the “Europeanists” and “nationalists” in a broader, comparative perspective. The most important question we will be posing will be, to what extent it in fact reveals a deeper crisis of the definition of the community. The first panel and the Leszek Kołakowski Lecture will take place on 11 May, with three panels continuing on 12 May.

For a full conference programme, click here.