



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE "THE YEAR 1945 IN SILESIA" Opole, 9–10 October 2025

The year 2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the Soviet offensive through Silesia, the end of the Second World War, and the change in the region's national affiliation. We invite you to take part in an academic debate on these events and their consequences.

The titular year 1945 represents a turning point in the history of the Silesian region, bringing about a series of political, social, and economic transformations. We welcome contributions from both experienced scholars and early career researchers from Poland and abroad to join the discussion on these historic developments.

Suggested Topics:

- **War**
(Crimes and the collapse of the Nazi regime in the final phase of the war; the specificity of military operations in Silesia; the front's advance; death marches; martyrdom of the clergy; liberation of Nazi camps; casualties of war)
- **Authority**
(Soviet rule in Silesia; the problem of dual power; establishment of Polish administrative structures; nationality verification; surveillance; propaganda; practical implementation of the "programme of fulfilment" – the new (or old?) myth of the Recovered Territories)
- **Society**
(*The Upper Silesian Tragedy* – camps, population displacement processes; rebuilding social life; eyewitness accounts; war-related trauma; sense of temporariness)
- **Economy**
(War damage; looting; nationalization of property and industry)
- **Culture**
(De-Germanization; Polonization; the creation of Polish cultural and educational institutions)
- **Biographies**

- **Memory and Representation**
(Sites of memory; film; literature; press; memoirs and testimonies; the discourse surrounding the year 1945)
- **Sources**
- **Education**
(Educational projects; lesson plans; teaching materials)

Organizers:

Instytut Śląski (the Silesian Institute), Archiwum Państwowe w Opolu (the State Archives in Opole), Instytut Historii Uniwersytetu Opolskiego (the Institute of History, University of Opole), Wojewódzka Biblioteka Publiczna im. Emanuela Smółki w Opolu (the Emanuel Smółka Voivodeship Public Library in Opole), Centrum Dokumentacyjno-Wystawiennicze Niemców w Polsce (the Documentation and Exhibition Centre of Germans in Poland).

Academic Committee:

- dr hab. Tomasz Ciesielski, prof. UO, Instytut Historii Uniwersytetu Opolskiego (the Institute of History, University of Opole)
- dr Bartosz Jan Kuświk, Instytut Śląski (the Silesian Institute)
- dr Sławomir Marchel, Archiwum Państwowe w Opolu (the State Archives in Opole)
- dr hab. Adriana Dawid, prof. UO, Instytut Historii Uniwersytetu Opolskiego (the Institute of History, University of Opole)
- dr hab. Piotr Pałys, prof. IŚ, Instytut Śląski (the Silesian Institute)

Submission Guidelines:

Completed application forms for both general participation and the student/doctoral session (forms below), along with a paper abstract, should be submitted by **30 July 2025**.

Organizatorzy zastrzegają sobie prawo wyboru tematów spośród zgłoszonych propozycji.

Inquiries should be directed to:

Conference Secretary – Joanna Siek

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A post-conference publication is planned for 2026. Therefore, participants will be required to submit academic articles prepared in accordance with the publishing guidelines of Instytut Śląski (the Silesian Institute) by 30 December 2025 (*editorial instructions.pdf*).

The final conference programme will be announced by 20 September 2025.

Please note:

There is no conference fee.

The organizers do not provide accommodation or meals for presenters.