

**WYDZIAŁ NAUK SPOŁECZNYCH****INSTYTUT SOCJOLOGII**

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Department of the Sociology of Borderland of the Institute of Sociology, University of Wrocław
and

The Section of the Sociology of Ethnicity of the Polish Sociological Association
The Wrocław Branch of the Polish Sociological Association

invite to participate in the international scientific conference

”POLISH NEIGHBOURHOODS –BELARUS”

to be held **5–6.04.2018** in Wrocław.

Although neighbourhoods are a temporal phenomenon, one cannot but note that they set the social reality in order. Neighbours may not always be noticeable, yet they always are bearers of some emotional load. According to Richard Grathoff, “neighbours manifest themselves in a peculiar situation of intersubjectivity as the closest Others beyond the scope of the milieu. They delimit the milieu’s borders and borderlands”. Bearing in mind the vast material concerning the Polish borderlands—these bridges between the states and societies—that the social scientists have succeeded to gather, one can assume that the thought over bigger phenomena, i.e. neighbourhoods, will turn out to be no less interesting and fruitful.

Such an approach to the problem encourages the reflection over the question about the ways the particular Polish neighbourhoods are practised. This can be achieved by means of a series of international conferences, organised by the Institute of Sociology of Wrocław University, The Section of the Sociology of Ethnicity of the Polish Sociological Association and the Wrocław Branch of the Polish Sociological Association. We hope these meetings will cover Poland’s all neighbourhoods—so far we have managed to organise the sessions relating to the following ones: Polish-Lithuanian (2011), Polish-Czech (2012), Polish-Ukrainian (2014), Polish-Russian (2015) and Polish-Slovak (2016); the conferences were followed by relevant books (for more information see the publishing house’s website: www.gajt.com.pl).

We would like to direct the problems of the conference to a wide group of scientists, but also journalists as well as other experts and representatives of the institutions dealing with **the present, i.e. after 1989, face of the Polish-Belarusian neighbourhood as seen through the prism of the social issues**. Our ambition is to gather these people—Poles, Belarusians and the representatives of other nations—at the same time and site so that they could present their papers and exchange opinions. **Following the example of previous meetings we will do our best to close each of the conference’s sessions with in-depth discussions over the presented papers.** We plan to publish a collection of articles on the Polish-Belarusian neighbourhood.

The organisers suggest that the papers presented relate to the questions that for the last 25 years have shaped a social face of the Polish-Belarusian neighbourhood. These may include:



- social problems in the Polish-Belarusian transborderland;
- a social dimension of the Polish-Belarusian cooperation;
- the Poles' situation in Belarus and the Belarusians' situation in Poland;
- Poland's and Poles' image in Belarus as well as Belarus' and Belarusians' image in Poland;
- the Polish-Belarusian neighbourhood and the idea of Central Europe;
- the Polish plots in the Belarusian (and the Belarusian plots in the Polish) literature, art and film;
- the platforms of the mutual interest between Poles and Belarusians;

Conference organisers: Julita Makaro, PhD Hab., Marcin Dębicki, PhD Hab.

Conference's Secretary: Kamilla Dolińska, PhD

Operating languages: Polish, English

Conference fee is **350 PLN (75–80 EUR)**, depending on the exchange rate) or **250 PLN (55–60 EUR)** for PhD students and participants from Belarus, and it includes: lunch (5th and 6th April), drinks during the conference, a visit at the Museum of the Wrocław University (5th April). We plan to release the volume of the reviewed articles. The organisers are not instrumental in the obtention of accommodation.

The titles of the papers and abstracts (up to 1000 signs) need to be sent by **15th February 2018** to:

Instytut Socjologii Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego, ul. Koszarowa 3, 51-149 Wrocław

or by e-mail at: sasiedztwa@wp.pl

We will let you know about the acceptance of the paper by **25th February 2018**. Application forms and other information about the conference can be found at <http://www.socjologia.uni.wroc.pl>.