

***The Power of the Powerless Revisited***

23-24 October 2014

Villa Decius, Krakow

The year 1989 was exceptional not only for Europe but also for the entire world, and brought changes that continue to influence all continents even today. Central and Eastern European communities broke the soviet empire and started to live in a free world, Frederik Willem de Klerk became the president of South Africa and the main driving force in bringing about the end of apartheid in Africa, students in Tiananmen Square launched China on a completely different trajectory of development and democracy began to return to Latin America after years of military dictatorship and authoritarian rule.

It was also a year in which a little-known British scientist, Tim Berners-Lee, invented what would become the world wide web.

25 years later, we can observe the process of changes in Europe from many perspectives. We can comment on the legacy of the 1989 events, criticise unwanted developments of democracy and the fact that all around the continent far-right parties “are dancing to the tune of Kalinka” or weep over economic migration inside EU. We can also criticise and fear the double nature of the internet which has become a perfect tool of global surveillance.

The first easy example of the unwanted developments comes from Europe where populism and breaking of democratic rules coupled with imposing restrictive laws on individual freedom by right-wing governments challenge not only their democratic legitimation but also the sense of membership in the EU. Intimidation of citizens, however, is by no means a European specialty. The constraints on freedom, especially in Muslim states and India remain horrendous and “hunting” atheists or people of other faiths has become a new national sport, next to golf. Going further to the East, we reach China, the biggest empire of censorship of Internet in the world. Its efficiency, however, occasionally fails and information about hundreds of thousands of mass protests against policy of “peaceful development” leaks to the public. Problems with observing human rights are still on the agenda in Venezuela, Honduras, Colombia and Argentina, indicating that Latin America as a whole is still at an early stage of democratisation.

The year 2014 was planned as a year in which the Western world was to observe 100 years of the first world war, and also to celebrate 25 years of the democratic transformation of the European continent. These plans, however, lost its attractiveness in confrontation with developments in Ukraine stimulated by Russia. Violent suppression of protests in Kyiv’s Euromaidan, the annexation of Crimea and the destabilisation of the Eastern Ukraine shocked the entire world. A flagrant violation of international law regulating the use of force reached European borders and Russian subversive actions were met with condemnation and concern almost all over the world.

In 2014 a new war started in Europe challenging Ukraine and the European states. Liberal democracies turned out to be not only poor at decision making but also hesitant when it comes to admitting that a war waging thousands of kilometers away threatens precisely them, their security and comfort of living. They undertake actions slowly believing in their efficiency and that their results will not affect them. Majority of them does not hear Ivan Krastev’s warning: „Today we have no idea what else they are ready to do, but they know perfectly well what we are not ready to do.”

## *The Power of the Powerless Revisited*

### **PROGRAMME**

(draft, 16 September)

**Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Welcome addresses**

**10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Opening speech**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Debate 1: TIMES OF INNOCENCE**

Remembering Solidarity. Political developments in Central Europe in 1989.  
Challenges of transformation.

**Experts:**

Magda Vášáryová (Slovakia)

Jan Lityński (Poland)\*

Andrei Pleșu (Romania)

László Rajk (Hungary)

Michael Žantovský (Czech Republic)\*

**Moderator:** Krzysztof Bobiński

**1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Special lecture**

**1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Debate 2: LOST EQUILIBRIUM**

The end of the post-cold war world. Methods and tools for regulating internal  
and external relations. Citizens in a media trap.

**Experts:**

Wolfgang Eichwede (Germany)

Mauricio Alarcón-Salvador (Ecuador)\*

Karolina Wigura (Poland)

Taras Wozniak (Ukraine)

**Moderator:** Małgorzata Nocuń\*

**3:00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. Opening of an exhibition of documentary photography "Power"**

### **SPECIAL EVENT**

**4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. 11<sup>th</sup> Awards Gala of the Polish Sérgio Vieira de Mello Prize granted in  
memory of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

With participation of the Jury of the Polish Sérgio Vieira de Mello, UNHCHR, Prize\*: HE Jorge Geraldo Kadri, Ambassador of Brazil to Poland, HE Staffan Herrström, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Poland, Krystyna Żurek, Director, Department of United Nations and Human Rights, MFA, Anna-Carin Öst, UNHCR Representative, Łukasz Kamiński, President of the Institute of National Remembrance, Irena Lipowicz, Human Rights Defender, Jan Piekło, Director of Polish-Ukrainian Cooperation Foundation PAUCI, Ellen Germain, United States Consul General, Wiesław Nowak, President of ZUE S.A. Jan Pamuła, President of Kraków Airport, Tomasz Sedyka, Smart Practical Logic sp. z o. o., Jacek Weremczuk, Regional Director of PZU.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Blog:

Polish – Marcel Wandas

English – Ziemowit Jóźwik

Arabic – Kareem Amer

\*waiting for confirmation

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> October**

**EXPERT SEMINAR**

**Round table debate: POWER**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

Ukraine - Europe: Imperative of security. Regime of transformation and pressure of dialogue.  
Compelled to use power.

**Introductions:**

J.E. Andrij Deszczycia (Ukraine)

Charles F. Doran (USA)

Wojciech Przybylski (Poland)

**Moderator:**

Michał Vašečka (Slovakia)

**Experts:**

Samuel Abraham (Slovakia)

Kareem Amer (Egypt/Norway)

Lawon Barshcheuski (Belarus)\*

Krzysztof Bobiński (Poland)

Riccardo Campa (Italy/Poland)\*

Danuta Glondys (Poland)

Wolfgang Eichwede (Germany)

Michel Kowalewicz (France)\*

Jan Lityński (Poland)\*

Helge Lunde (Norway)\*

Małgorzata Nocuń (Poland)

Jan Piekło (Poland)

Andrei Pleșu (Romania)

László Rajk (Hungary)

Mauricio Alarcón Salvador (Ecuador)

Magda Vášáryová (Slovakia)

Karolina Wigura (Poland)

Taras Woźniak (Ukraine)

Michael Žantovský (Czech Republic)\*

**14:00 Experts' study visits**

**Cooperation: Foundation PAUCI**