

## AIPA AGM 19 October 2022

### President's Report and list of Key Events

Dear AIPA Members,

I am happy to report that the last eleven months following our AGM in November 2021 were very fruitful.

Firstly, we conducted a thorough revision of our members' register. This meant collecting and reviewing information from all members and correcting any inaccuracies in the register. Physical addresses, emails, names, and titles have all been updated. We also put in place mechanisms that will prevent the register from becoming out of date in the future. It was a mammoth task but of critical importance for our future communication. I thank all the members for filling in the questionnaires.

Secondly, we reviewed AIPA's Statutory Rules (Constitution). This huge task took six months and involved several Subcommittee meetings and discussions. At the Special General Meeting (SGM) on 25 June 2022, proposed amendments to Statutory Rules were voted on and several minor changes were introduced to the wording of specific paragraphs. We clarified previously misinterpreted paragraphs, such as the voting status of bona fide couples.

Despite the time-consuming bureaucratic tasks, AIPA continued to organise events.

Covid-19 continued to affect us in 2021, yet even during the lockdowns, AIPA managed to increase the number of guests and events. The list of guests during 2021-22 lockdowns includes such distinguished speakers as Professor Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of Poland's leading anti-racist organization 'NEVER AGAIN', Professor Stanisław Obirek, cultural anthropologist interested in the place of religion in modern cultures, inter-religious dialogue, and strategies for overcoming conflicts between different civilizations and cultures, and Radosław Sikorski, a distinguished politician and author, a Member of the European Parliament, and Poland's former Minister of Foreign Affairs. Special thanks to Gosia Klatt and Jan Pakulski, who were instrumental in organising these events.

This trend continued in 2022. Several successful online seminars followed. Our Zoom webinar on *Polish Aid to Ukrainian Museums and National Heritage Amid Russia's Invasion* attracted over one hundred participants. Special thanks to AIPA members Irena Zdanowicz and Joanna Lang, the event organisers. The webinar was supported by the Australian Institute of Art History (AIAH) and the Centre of Visual Art (CoVA), University of Melbourne.

Online presentations attracted new audiences and participants from around the world.

Please see the long list of events on our website. You may also access the recordings on the AIPA YouTube channel.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible, both online and in person, at our upcoming functions and we would welcome hearing about your ideas for future initiatives!

**Below is a detailed list of key events and activities that have either been initiated by AIPA, or with which the Institute has been involved in other ways. The list contains both online and live events.**

**31/08/2021**

**Zoom Webinar**

***Israel and Poland – Friends or Enemies***

Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska

Ms Magdziak- Miszewska is a former Polish Ambassador to Israel (2006–2012). The webinar was organised in association with the Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants (ASPJ).

**9/09/2021**

**Zoom lecture**

***Challenging nationalist extremism in Poland***

Prof. Rafał Pankowski

Prof. Pankowski is co-founder of Poland's leading anti-racist organisation 'NEVER AGAIN' The lecture was co-organised with the European Studies Association of Australia and New Zealand (ESAANZ).

**20/10/2021**

**Zoom lecture**

***Can we save the Catholic Church***

Prof. Stanisław Obirek

Prof. Obirek is a cultural anthropologist who teaches at Warsaw University.

**10/11/2021**

**Zoom lecture**

***Poland's contestation of the rules of the European Union and the political consequences of the dispute***

Radosław Sikorski

Radoslaw Sikorski is a politician, a member of the European Parliament and Poland's former Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**30/11/2021**

**Zoom meeting**

AIPA AGM.

**3/12/2021 Melbourne**

**Live event**

**AIPA Christmas Drinks at the University House.** AIPA members and supporters gathered at Melbourne University House to celebrate the festive season and the coming New Year.

**13/12/2021 Melbourne,**

**Live event**

**Rena Makarow**, a Polish woman and mother of AIPA member, Eva Collins, was recognised posthumously by Israel's Yad Vashem Institute, which bestowed on her the title of 'Righteous Among the Nations'. Eva Collins was one of the keynote speakers at the ceremony.

**15/12/2021 Melbourne.**

**Live event**

**AIPA President Alexandra Dunwill represented AIPA at the Henryk Sławik Award ceremony** on Wednesday 15. December 2021. The Henryk Sławik Award is dedicated to the memory of the great Polish diplomat, politician and humanitarian who saved several thousand Jews between 1940 and 1944 and was subsequently murdered in the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. The Henryk Sławik Award is bestowed upon an individual who, or organisation which contributes to a greater understanding of the unique and dynamic contribution by the Polish Jewish community to the all-embracing Polish culture and ethos. The recipient of the 2021 award is Australian-Jewish

writer and human rights advocate, Arnold Zable. The ceremony was conducted in person and also live streamed on Zoom.

**14/01/2022**

**Letter of Congratulation to Dr Zofia Kinowska**, the author of *Fenomen Australijskiego Instytutu Spraw Polskich. Przykład aktywności obywatelskiej polskiej inteligencji w Australii po 1989 roku*. The book describes the 30 years of AIPA activities and our Institute's contribution to the intellectual life in Australia, including in the areas of public diplomacy and Polish-Jewish relations.

**06/02/ 2022**

#### **SBS Interview**

**AIPA President, Dr Alexandra Dunwill** was invited by SBS Polish radio to talk about AIPA's achievements, new challenges, and plans for the future. The link to this interview is available on the AIPA website under the Resources tab. <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/polish/pl/podcast-episode/new-president-of-the-australian-institute-of-polish-affairs/k11ty6e85>

**27/02/ 2022 Melbourne and Hobart**

A number of AIPA members attended/spoke at the rallies in support of Ukraine, in Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart.

**26/03/2022**

#### **Zoom webinar**

**Webinar with Paulina Olszanka** Polish-Australian journalist who is originally from Melbourne. Currently living in Poland, Paulina Olszanka has written for the Guardian, the Fairfax Media, the Economist, and is a regular contributor to The Times in the UK. She spoke about the situation in Poland in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine, the extraordinary grassroots response to the refugees, and the evolving refugee crisis within Poland's borders.

**08/04/2022**

#### **AIPA donated \$5000 to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal**

Alexandra Dunwill president of AIPA wrote to Mr Kohut, President of the Association of Ukrainians in Victoria and Mr Romaniw, Chair of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations, informing them of AIPA's support for the Ukrainian cause and our decision to donate. The letter is available on the AIPA website.

**17/04/2022**

#### **SBS Polish program**

Alexandra Dunwill addressed SBS listeners **with Easter wishes**.

#### **April 2022 Sydney and Melbourne**

##### **Poetry and music live events**

In Sydney (24/04) and Melbourne (30/04), AIPA has organized two live events with both a social and a cultural focus. The guest of honour was Mr Zygmunt Sieradzki, a film producer, author, and poet. He talked about his recently published book of poetry, *Accidental Kameleon* (not a spelling mistake), and a documentary about his mother Wanda Sieradzka was screened. A Holocaust survivor, journalist, and poet, Sieradzka wrote lyrics to many well-known Polish songs including the famous 'Don't cry when I'm gone'. The song resonated with generations of Poles and was one of the greatest hits of the 1960s.

The poems were read by the author himself as well as the stage, television and film actor, Kristof Kaczmarek. Tamara Vasilevitsky, a Melbourne-based pianist and chamber orchestra soloist, created a truly magical atmosphere with her intertwined piano performances.

A similar event took place in Sydney, in the residence of AIPA members Margaret and Ernest Fajwul, with support of our members and friends there. The details are in the NSW Coordinator's report. I would like to thank all those who contributed to the Sydney event.

SBS Polish program conducted two interviews with Zygmunt Sieradzki in which AIPA's role in organising these events was emphasised.

Part 1. can be accessed at: <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/polish/en/podcast-episode/conversation-with-zygmunt-sieradzki-part-1/uazqwz148>

Part 2 can be accessed at: <https://www.sbs.com.au/language/polish/pl/podcast-episode/talking-to-zygmunt-sieradzki-part-2/865khq5z1>

**23/06/2022**

#### **Zoom webinar**

**AIPA President, Dr Alexandra Margaret Dunwill**, presented her research findings at the webinar organised by the Laboratory of Analysis of the Transformation of Elites and Intelligentsia, #Elitylab UW, operating at the Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw.

<http://al.uw.edu.pl/seminarium-elitarne-szkoly-w-polsce-po-1989-roku/>

**25/06/ 2022**

**AIPA Special General Meeting (SGM)** was conducted to vote on the amendments to AIPA Statutory Rules

**Although June, 25 SGM marks the end of the 2021–2022 financial year, I want to remind members that in the current financial year AIPA conducted/was involved in several successful events, that are listed below.**

**03/07/2022 Melbourne**

#### **Live event**

**Book launch of *Ask no questions***, by Eva Collins.

AIPA members Alexandra and Julian Dunwill, Zofia and Jan Pakulski, and Irena Zdanowicz attended a book launch of AIPA's long-standing member Eva Collins.

The launch was conducted by Rosie Lew AM, a philanthropist supporting education, medical research, and the arts.

The speakers were poet, Anne Carson, and Dr. Hass Dellal AO, CEO of the Australia Multicultural Foundation and former SBS television and radio chair.

**14/07/2022**

#### **Zoom webinar & donation to aid Ukrainian museums**

##### ***Polish Aid to Ukrainian Museums and National Heritage Amid Russia's Invasion***

A webinar with the participation of:

- Prof Dorota Folga-Januszewska, the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw, and Deputy Director of Wilanów Palace of King John III Sobieski
- Dr Piotr Rypson, Chair, ICOM Poland & Curator, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw
- Dr Paweł Ukielski, Deputy Director, The Warsaw Rising Museum
- Mr Michał Krasucki, Director of the Capital City Heritage Protection Department, Warsaw

Over 100 participants joined the webinar. The event was supported by the Australian Institute of Art History (AIAH) and the Centre of Visual Art (CoVA), University of Melbourne. Special thanks to AIPA members, Irena Zdanowicz and Joanna Lang who organised the event.

AIPA subsequently donated \$500 to each of the Polish museum associations that are providing aid to their Ukrainian counterparts: Committee for Ukrainian Museums (Komitet Pomocy Muzeom Ukrainy, organised by the Warsaw Rising Museum / Muzeum Powstania Warszawskiego) and ICOM Polska. Their bank accounts are listed on AIPA's website.

**17/07/2022**

**Two-part SBS interview with Joanna Lang**, one of the organisers of the webinar

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/polish/pl/podcast-episode/polish-aid-to-ukrainian-museums/2ytz9ptz0>

**21/08/2022 SBS interview with Alexandra Dunwill** about the upcoming webinar with Martin Krygier.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/language/polish/pl/podcast-episode/webinarium-populizm-i-rzady-prawna-swiecie-i-w-warszawie/0bnelk4e2>

**24/08/2022**

**Zoom webinar**

***Populism and the rule of law, around the world and in Warsaw***

Prof. Martin Krygier

The concept of populism has been frequently explored and discussed in the media and in academic publications. The term is often all-embracing and therefore confusing to the general public. So too is the rule of law, which populists are accused of sabotaging, in Poland and elsewhere. Martin's presentation suggested how we might think about both concepts, and the nature of their difficult interactions.

**07/09/2022**

**Live event**

A group of AIPA members attended the **Dariusz Popiela Oration**, and a screening of a documentary *Edge of Light* at the Classic cinema, Elsternwick (Melbourne) organised by ASPJ. A group of AIPA members in Sydney attended a similar event on 11/09/2022.

**06/10/22**

**Zoom Webinar**

***A Pandemic of Populists: On the Populist Threat to Constitutional Democracy***

Prof. Wojciech Sadurski

This lecture by Wojciech Sadurski examined the nature of the populist challenge to liberal, constitutional democracy, with special focus on Poland. Outlining the rise of populisms and their governing styles, Prof. Sadurski focused on what populists in power *do*, rather than what they *say*.

Best regards,

Dr Alexandra Margaret Dunwill

AIPA President



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