



## **Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (PhD)**

Polish Ambassador to the United States and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas

Ambassador Piotr Wilczek was born on 26 April 1962, in Chorzów, Poland. A prolific literary scholar, intellectual historian, writer, and translator, he graduated in 1986 from the University of Silesia in Katowice, where he also received his Ph.D. (1992) and *Habilitation* (2001). Recruited by his *Alma Mater*, he remained there until 2008 as a professor and Faculty Dean. His interests include comparative literature, philology, and intellectual history that form the culture and geography of knowledge across time. In 2006, he received the title of Professor of the Humanities from the President of the Republic of Poland.

In 2008, he joined the University of Warsaw faculty at the new, experimental *Artes Liberales* program. He became the Founding Director of *Collegium Artes Liberales* (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) where he helped establish and chaired Centre for the Study of the Reformation and Intellectual Culture in Early-Modern Europe. Since 2010, he has also been at the helm of the *Artes Liberales* Doctoral Studies Program. An international scholar active in Europe and the United States, he has been promoting liberal arts education, which breaks the existing barriers between narrow fields of specialization traditionally favored in the continental Europe.

His commitment to interdisciplinary approach to learning draws on his own engagement with international studies, scholarly exchanges, and cultural diplomacy. A recipient of numerous grants and scholarships, he conducted postgraduate research in intellectual history at Oxford's St Anne's College in 1988 and completed two postdoctoral projects at the Warburg Institute, University of London, in 1996 and 1998. Twice, he was visiting translator at The British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia. In the United States from 1998 to 2001, he taught Polish literature and language as a visiting professor at Rice University, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago. He was invited to give public lectures at Harvard University and the University of Texas at Austin and conducted research as a visiting scholar at Boston College and Cleveland State University.

Piotr Wilczek is an active member of the Warsaw-based non-partisan American Study Group at the Polish Institute of International Affairs, which brings together experts, journalist, and academics who comment on political and cultural developments in the United States and analyze their implications for Poland, Europe, and the trans-Atlantic alliance. Until his diplomatic appointment in the US, he was Representative in Poland of the New York-based Kosciuszko Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to educational, cultural, and artistic exchange between the United States and Poland. He also served as President of the Foundation's affiliate in Warsaw.

Piotr Wilczek authored and edited 22 published monographs and more than 100 journal articles which appeared in Poland, the UK, and the United States, both in English and Polish. He belongs to a number of professional groups and associations and is a board member of various international scholarly journals, book series, advisory councils, and academic and educational initiatives in Europe and the United States. In May 2017 he was awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Cleveland State University.

On 21 October 2016 the President of the Republic of Poland nominated him Ambassador to the United States and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.



**Thaddeus C. Radzilowski (PhD)**  
Piast Institute Co-Founder and President  
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Dr. Thaddeus Radzilowski, President and co-founder of the Piast Institute, is an award-winning historian, whose work focuses on Poland and other Central and Eastern European nations, including Russia. He has written extensively on the histories of these regions as well as the migration of peoples from Central and Eastern Europe, with special emphasis on social history and historiography. He has lectured widely in Europe and North America and has published more than 100 monographs, edited collections, journal articles, book chapters and scholarly papers.

In 1999, the President of Poland presented Dr. Radzilowski with the Cavaliers Cross of the Polish Order of Merit for distinguished contributions to the dissemination of Polish culture in the world.

Prior to co-founding the Piast Institute, Dr. Radzilowski taught at University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College and Southwest Minnesota State University, where he served as Chair of the department of history, director of the Regional History Center, director of Rural studies and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also served as the acting director of the Immigration Research Center of the University of Minnesota, co-directed a special program on international business at the Wirtschafts Universität wien in Vienna (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business) and chaired an International Conference on Migration at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. He served as President of St. Mary College from 1995 - 2003.

Dr. Radzilowski has also served as an advisor and consultant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the U.S. Bureau of the Census and was a member of the Ford Foundation Commission on Ethnicity on American Life. He was the National Endowment for the Humanities' liaison to ethnic and community groups in the United States, a consultant for the New Jersey Department of Education and numerous other local and state government boards on ethnicity and pluralism. He has also written, produced, consulted and advised on a number of radio and television productions, including award-winning films created in conjunction with organizations such as PBS and A&E. Dr. Radzilowski received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan. He is a corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN).



**Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski (PhD)**

Professor of History

Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish & Polish American Studies

Coordinator, Polish Studies Program

Central Connecticut State University

M.B.B. Biskupski received his B.A. in history, *summa cum laude*, from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1971. He received his M.A. in history from UCLA in 1972, and his M. Phil., also in history, from Yale University in 1975. He completed his Ph.D. in history at Yale in 1981. At Yale he held dissertation fellowships from the Fulbright-Hays Foundation and the International Studies Association/Ford Foundation. He was named the Stanislaus A. Blejwas Endowed Chair in Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU in 2002. Prior to his arrival, he taught at Millersville University, the University of Rochester, and St. John Fisher College. In 1995, he held a Fulbright Research Professorship in the Institute of History at the University of Warsaw, and, in 1997, was a Fellow of the Central European University of Budapest.

Dr. Biskupski's teaching interests include Poland, Central and Eastern Europe including the Balkans, international relations, and historical theory. His current research includes: Poland and international politics, 1914-39; Polish political culture; and the Poles and international espionage. For more information on the Polish Studies Program and the Blejwas Endowed Chair programs, please see the web site for [Polish and Polish American Studies at CCSU](#).

M. B. Biskupski (as he is identified in his scholarly writing) is the descendant of Polish soldiers, artists, and musicians who were forced to leave Russian Poland early in the 20th century for political reasons. They settled in Brazil, whence they came to the United States. Dr. Biskupski is the recipient of many academic and national awards, including the Honor Roll of Polish Science by the Polish Ministry of Education, and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. In 2011 he was elected president of the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America.