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# *The Partitions of Poland between Turning Point and Continuity – New Perspectives on a Period of Change (1772–1815)*

Workshop Reader





## Oleksandra Krushynska (Vienna, AT)

### Curriculum Vitae

Oleksandra Krushynska is a university assistant (pre-doc) at the Department of Eastern European History of the University of Vienna. Her doctoral project deals with the first decades of the history of the Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria within the Habsburg empire (supervisors: Prof. Dr. Kerstin S. Jobst and Prof. Dr. Christoph Augustynowicz). She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees with honors in International Relations from the Institute of International Relations at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. She was also a participant of the international Master's program Erasmus Mundus Global Studies, and has studied Global History at the University of Vienna and International Relations at the University of Wrocław as part of her mobility track. She was awarded a Master's Degree in Global Studies, with her MA thesis dealing with the recent European integration reforms in Ukraine and the assistance of the European Union in these transformations.

### Abstract

#### ***A Comparison of the First Patents and Other Legislative Acts of the Habsburg Government in Galicia after the First and the Third Partition of Poland***

After the First Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1772 the “Kingdom of Galicia and Lodomeria” (or simply “Galicia”) was created out of the territories annexed by the Habsburg Monarchy. In 1795, during the Third Partition, the empire has once again absorbed the territories of the Commonwealth, thus creating the “West Galicia” province. The twenty-three years that have passed turned out to be crucial for the course of history of the European continent, and, ultimately, the world. In 1772, the Viennese government was influenced greatly by the postulates of Enlightenment Absolutism philosophy, and conducted numerous social, economic and political reforms in its spirit. The initial plans of reforms in Galicia, whose territory was at the time considered to be one of the least developed Commonwealth parts, were inspired by this philosophy as well. The land should have been “built anew”, with any structures of the former regime not matching the ideals of Enlightenment and the centralization tendencies of the monarchy destroyed. At the same time, the Habsburgs could not help but consider the remaining Polish-Lithuanian state as a factor in their politics concerning Galicia, as rich Polish landowners still had their possessions and political influence there.

In twenty-three years, the situation has changed majorly. The disappointment in radical reforms of Joseph II, as well as the events of the French Revolution inspired a transition to a conservative and defensive approach to state governance, caused by the fear of

widespread revolutionary tendencies in the Habsburg realm. In the case of the former Commonwealth territories, the Viennese government had all the reasons to be extremely cautious. One year prior to the Third Partition, the Kościuszko Uprising has engulfed the Polish-Lithuanian lands, and numerous Galician inhabitants have supported the insurgents. Although the uprising was eventually unsuccessful and has accelerated the Commonwealth's demise, it has demonstrated the hostility potential of the former Rzeczpospolita population towards their new regimes. For that reason, the major agenda in Galician politics has shifted from "bringing Galicia to civility" to defending the borders of the empire and its inner security.

The main task of this research is to observe the change in tone in Habsburg strategies concerning Galicia that took place between the First and the Third Partition. To do that, the texts of the very first manifestos and instructions given to the population of the former Commonwealth lands in 1772/73 and 1795/96 shall be analyzed and compared. It shall be argued that, by studying the reasoning behind even the slightest changes in wording, the evolution of the Habsburg approach towards Galicia can be understood better.

## Nazarii Loshtyn (Lviv, UA)

### Curriculum Vitae

Nazarii Loshtyn is a Ukrainian historian, holding a PhD in History and based in Lviv. From 2009 to 2014 he studied history and archival science at the Faculty of History at the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv. In 2018, he defended his doctoral thesis about monastic libraries of the Catholic Metropolitanate of Lviv from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He continues to study monastic culture in Galicia up until now. Since 2020, Nazarii Loshtyn works as a Research Fellow of the Manuscript Department of the Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv, and since 2022 as a Research Fellow of the Department of the History of Middle Ages at the Ivan Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies (on a part-time basis).

### Abstract

#### ***From Monastery to Secular University – Changes of the Library Network in the City of Lviv after 1772***

In the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the centres of education in the city of Lviv were monasteries. The monasteries also had the largest libraries in the city. These are the monasteries of the Dominicans, Franciscan-Observants and Jesuits. These are religious libraries, with theological and preacher's literature. However, with the annexation of Lviv by the Habsburg Empire, the situation changed. During the secular reforms, monasteries lost their status, and the centre of book culture of Lviv in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century moved to the university and its library. The monastery books together with the library of the Garelli family from Vienna became the basis of the library of the secular university in Lviv.

## Kateryna Pasichnyk (*Halle (Saale)*, DE)

### Curriculum Vitae

Kateryna Pasichnyk is a PhD Candidate at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. She received her BA in history at the University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and earned her MA in comparative history at the Central European University in 2018. From 2018 to 2021 she was a scholarship holder at the international graduate school "Obligation of societal norms" at the University Halle-Wittenberg. Her areas of research include the history of medicine, imperial and regional history, the Russian Empire in general and the Podolian Governorate in particular. Her current dissertation project is called "Healing in the Russian Empire: Legal Norms, Medical Perceptions and Diseased Bodies in the Medical Disputes over Improper Treatment (1749–1803)". Her recent publication is a *Forenbeitrag* in a volume on Contact Zones in Central Europa in *Geschichte und Region/Storia e Regione*. It concerns "Knowledge of Epidemic Danger in the Middle Dniestr Region in the Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century" (forthcoming, September–October 2022).

### Abstract

#### ***On the Verge of Illegality – Jewish Barbers in the Podolian Province after the Partitions of Poland***

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the imperial doctor and anthropologist Ivan Pantiukhov wrote that in Berdychiv a feldsher enjoyed much more authority than a qualified physician, being able to throw the latter's prescription out the window. This description was aimed at criticizing the medical situation in the Southwestern Krai (*Iugo-Zapadnyi krai*), mainly composed of lands annexed by the Russian Empire after the Partitions of Poland. Many of those whom the imperial doctor called feldshers were of Jewish descent and natives of these lands, referred to in earlier sources as Jewish barbers. After the Partitions of Poland, they, along with other medical practitioners working in the area, found themselves subordinated to the imperial medical authorities and had to pass examinations. These early encounters between the Jewish practitioners and the imperial system have escaped the attention of historians, who have focused on this group either in the pre-Partition period or well after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

This paper argues that this missed period of the "shift in political rule" (*Herrschaftswechsel*) is particularly important time when the prerequisites for preserving the family medical tradition of Jewish barbers for decades to come emerged. Narrowing the focus on the Podolian province, my paper situates this group in a regional multicultural medical landscape, examining the dynamic between imperial agenda and local response,

the transfer of imperial medical law and the formation of new legitimacy beliefs among new imperial subjects in the context of the region's surviving multiple sources of power, such as Polish landlords or Jewish kahals. The Podolian Jewish barbers proved to be indispensable mediators between the medical administration and local communities and probably the most active participants in medical daily life, being much more mobile than, for instance, the town physicians, as well as providing affordable medical services.

## Robert Scheele (Vienna, AT)

### Curriculum Vitae

Robert Scheele studied Economic and Social History as well as Political Science in Tübingen and Dublin. He just finished his dissertation at the University of Vienna, dealing with trade networks and relations of Jewish and Scottish merchants along the “via regia” between Frankfurt am Main, Leipzig, Silesia and Galicia between 1772 and 1815. He also worked as a tour guide for many years and in different places, specializing, besides Central Europe, especially in British and Irish history.

### Abstract

#### ***The Importance of Urban Centres for the Development and Continuity of Long-Distance Trade***

My dissertation analyses the economic and trade policies of the states involved in the Partitions of Poland around 1800, mainly those of the Habsburg Empire and of the Kingdom of Prussia, to a lesser extent those of Tsarist Russia. It focuses on the (temporary and constant) trade-related migration and settlement patterns of Jewish and Scottish (and other) merchants between these cities and territories mentioned above, and/or limitations or counter-measures to such spaces, i. e. freedoms (especially for the Jewish populations). I am looking at this specifically (but not exclusively) in the context of the trade fairs, at Frankfurt am Main, Leipzig, Wrocław and Kraków, as well as generally in Brody (and Lviv), i. e. the centres of the multi-ethnic region (Crown Land) of Galicia. And, reciprocally, how did the two minority groups mentioned above deal with the cities and territories they were temporarily or permanently settling in – or to what extent did they even shape them or gain a certain extent of clout in them? And to what extent did this differ between the Jews and the Scots?

A chapter of my thesis also deals with the centre-periphery-relation between the imperial centre (Vienna) and this Eastern (Galician) periphery and the Habsburg monarchy's efforts to homogenize Galicia. Thus, I am also looking at multiethnicity and borders as factors of identity and in the creation of “social capital”, i. e. trust, as a basis for inter-regional trade network structures. Crucial for the identity and the status of the early modern bourgeois merchants in those cities was also a city constitution granting them liberties, e.g. of inheritance and property and citizens' rights, i. e. an independent judiciary and mayoralty of, for and by the bourgeois citizens' – e. g. the “Magdeburg law” (*Magdeburger Recht*) and an own field of commercial law, allowing them to form independent guilds or other trade associations. In German this phenomenon of the free urban citizen was described by the slogan “*Stadtluft macht frei*” (“urban air makes you free”). With regard to that, I will be

discussing the importance of such urban centres, for the development and continuity of long-distance trade, specifically in comparison and relation to the respective territorial or “imperial” governments.



## Tomasz Hen-Konarski (Warsaw, PL)

### Curriculum Vitae

Tomasz Hen-Konarski holds a Magister degree from the University of Warsaw and a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence. Apart from this, he studied and/or taught in Bielefeld, Budapest, London, and Lviv. He is interested in European political culture of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Currently, Tomasz is a research fellow (*adiunkt*) in the Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences (IHPAN) with a project on the first generations of Greek Catholic priests under Austrian rule in Galicia. He is also a co-organizer of the Assemani Seminar for Eastern Catholic History. His work appeared, among others, in *Acta Poloniae Historica*, *Austrian History Yearbook*, *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, *European History Quarterly*, and *Kwartalnik Historyczny*. In the summer of 2023 Tomasz will be a visiting fellow in the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI) with funding from the Fulbright Program.

### Abstract

#### ***The Transformation of the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church Elite in the First Decades of Austrian Rule in Galicia***

Galicia was taken over by Austria at a very particular moment in the Monarchy's development. Since the late 1740s the Habsburg union of estates-governed lands was in the process of transformation into a fully functional unitary state. Maria Theresa and her sons strove to subordinate the Catholic Church to this state-building effort, the most important tool for this being the strict supervision of clergy's education. The profound transformation undergone by the Greek Catholic church elite of Galicia in the last decades of the 18<sup>th</sup> century must be seen in this broader Austrian context, both in terms of space and time, as it was a continuation of Habsburg policies predating the watershed of 1772.

Over the space of three decades, Austrian authorities enabled the emergence of a completely new group of elite Greek Catholic ecclesiastics educated in newly established institutions, such as the Viennese Barbareum and the Lviv General Seminary. These individuals were to change the face of their Church and initiate historical processes, the consequences of which nobody could foresee in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Their story is not completely unknown, but it has been presented in isolation from the wider historiographical context as a topic belonging exclusively to Greek Catholic ecclesiastical history. Here, I propose to reconceptualise the case of this peculiar Church in two novel ways: 1) as an institution of the emerging Austrian state and 2) a dynamic social arena within which individual players were

forced to reformulate their sense of belonging, paving thus the way for the modern nation building.

## Benedikt Stimmer (Vienna, AT)

### Curriculum Vitae

Benedikt Stimmer studied History as well as German Philology at the University of Vienna, with an exchange semester at the University of Warsaw. In 2019, he graduated with a master thesis on the Josephinian language policy in Galicia, which was awarded the Francis-Stephen-Promotion-Award of the Austrian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. After his subsequent graduation in German Philology, he was a short-term fellow at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw in the summer of 2021. He is currently working as a university assistant (pre-doc) at the University of Vienna, conducting comparative research about the Austrian and Prussian language and school policies in their Polish provinces around 1800. He published several articles mainly about the connection between language issues and school policies as well as the Josephinian perception of Galicia in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### Abstract

#### ***Enlightenment, Statehood and the “Polish Question” – Reforming Education in Partitioned Poland***

From an administrative perspective, the paper asks how the Partitions of Poland influenced official school development and thereby follows the central thesis that the partitioning process set in motion in 1772 acted as a catalyst for school policy reforms. After the First Partition, which coincided with the dissolution of the Jesuit Order, notable state school policy initiatives were launched, primarily in remaining Poland itself and to a limited extent also in Galicia, with the primary goal of strengthening state power and subsequently utilizing the country's economic potential. This process continued after 1793/95, when there was an increased expansion of public schooling, especially in the territories annexed by Prussia. While in many ways structurally different, Prussian popular Enlightenment efforts pursued goals similar to that in Josephinian Galicia: expanding elementary education while partially dismantling the traditionally strong secondary educational system in favour of a reallocation of resources. This reflects the general efforts to educate the masses into loyal subjects and, at the same time, to subject the traditional elites to greater state control against the backdrop of the arising “Polish Question”.

It can thus be noted that the desire to mobilize the economic potential of either the remaining or the new state territory (this also applied to the Duchy of Warsaw after 1807/09) favoured reforms in the field of popular education, especially in quantitative terms, thus undoubtedly leading to a pronounced increase in the overall literacy rate between 1772 and 1815. In the area of secondary and higher education, the role of the Partitions appears to be

more ambivalent: Here, the idea of modernization through reduction dominated, as did, in part, the founding of single prestigious institutions in the spirit of the Enlightenment (most notably the lyceums in Warsaw and Kremenets). Particularly in the university sector, the logic of the “Polish Question” led to a decline: The University of Kraków was integrated into the bureaucratic Austrian educational system, while in former Greater Poland students were now sent to Prussian universities, not least because of the state’s desire for their acculturation. Only the University of Vilnius experienced a period of prosperity after 1803, but very little happened by contrast in the field of elementary education in the Russian territories.

## Magdalena Bąk (Vienna, AT)

### Curriculum Vitae

Magdalena Bąk studied German Philology as well as Literature and Cultural Studies in Kraków and Salzburg. She also has a university certificate in German as a Foreign or Secondary Language from the University of Marburg and held language courses in Kraków and Salzburg for several years. Since 2020, she is working at the Austrian Literary Society (*Österreichische Gesellschaft für Literatur*) and since 2021 also as a university assistant (pre-doc) at the Institute for German Studies at the University of Vienna, where she is currently writing her dissertation. Her research interests include, i. a., the literature(s) of the Habsburg Monarchy (predominantly German, Polish and Czech), the theory and practice of translation as well as myth theory (*Mythostheorie*).

### Abstract

#### ***The Partitions of Poland in the Work of Józef Morelowski***

*Forthcoming*