

Academy

Ćwiczenie nowoczesności | Exercising modernity | Modernität üben | לתרגל מודרניות

Warsaw–Berlin–Tel Aviv

#2019: The Commons & Communities

Forms of communitiness form the keynote of the second edition of the Polish–German–Israeli project **Ćwiczenie nowoczesności • Exercising modernity • Modernität üben • לתרגל מודרניות**. A part of the project is the **Exercising Modernity Academy**, which is being organized by the Pilecki Institute in cooperation with the Liebling House – The White City Center (Tel Aviv), the Polish Institute in Tel Aviv, and the Gdynia City Museum. Meetings under the **Exercising Modernity Academy** will be held in the autumn of 2019 in Tel Aviv, Warsaw, Gdynia, Berlin and Weimar.

The community, communitiness, *the Commons* – there exist many terms which describe the common good and that which is collective or shared. Issues concerning social relations in the 20th century, founded on a common identity (historical, religious, national or class–based), on common interests and needs, but also on conflicts as to that which is common, inspire discussions and questions about the meaning and the vital role of communities in the development of modern states, cities and societies.

On the one hand, the past century was marked by attempts at subordinating the lives of individuals to the ideological interests of specific groups, at erasing singularity and separateness, and also by a hostility towards “others” – “aliens” and “strangers.” But on the other, it was precisely these movements, social groupings and political communities, centered around common values and propagating the idea of maintaining a balance between the separate and the common, that were able to defeat totalitarian systems. The dream of modernity, rooted in democratic values, impelled one to avoid extremes, where either the individual or the group constituted the absolute point of reference for the world of politics or the economy.

At the same time, the theory and practice of democratic states in the first decades of the 21st century, their culture of memory, town planning, environmental protection, the struggle against extremism, and the challenges posed by globalization define the next stage in the execution the idea of communitiness, and this requires not only seeking new possibilities for its implementation, but also a verification of premises. The importance of the discussion on various concepts of community–based life and habitation in communities continues to grow. The change in the social situation and interhuman relations is clearly evidenced by, for

example, the process of progressing isolation of individuals accompanied by the appearance of new models of self-organization, the formation of which – particularly in the large cities – is brought about by various factors, also economic, such as an increase in real estate prices. These transformations, occurring in our contemporaneity, inspire discussions on alternative forms of habitation, work and spending leisure time. The terms *the Commons* and “communitiness” may also be associated with reflections on interhuman relations which differ from our socio-economic model, and on dreams of a just and egalitarian world. Taken together, these threads define the ideological framework of both modernity, understood historically, and our contemporary way of thinking about the organization of space and social life.

What does “communitiness” mean in distinct geographical and political contexts? How do we conceive the structure and the process of creating a community, and how were these conceived at the beginning of the 20th century? What conceptions of community-based living and the common space functioned in the interwar period? How was the role of social institutions and the potential future development of interhuman relations perceived at the time?

We intend to examine these issues in the course of the second edition of the Polish–German–Israeli **Exercising Modernity Academy** project. In particular, we will analyze past and present forms of cohabitation, and also new forms of societal management. Our focus will be on the following:

- communitiness as one of the fundamental ideas of modernity, also in the context of collective memory and identity,
- community-based forms of habitation in Germany, Poland and Israel, such as social housing states or the Israeli kibbutz,
- forms of social self-organization, for example cooperatives and (housing) associations,
- the public space and the quest for a modern agora for modern democracies.

In our project we plan to focus on three perspectives, i.e. the Polish, German, and Israeli, the dissimilarity of which is the result of disparate historical and cultural experiences.

Participants will attend classes taught by eminent artists, curators, architects and researchers, among others Mirosław Bałka, Jacek Friedrich, Aleksandra Kędziorek, Katarzyna Krakowiak, Grzegorz Piątek, and the Liebling House – The White City Center team (Shira Benyemini, Sharon Golan, Sabrina Cegła).

Our offer includes:

- gratuitous participation in the Academy, provision of board, lodging and transportation,
- lectures and workshops held by experienced and acclaimed scholars and artists,
- an interesting program of accompanying events,
- those who complete the course will be entitled to submit their own research or artistic project, elaborated or expanded during classes, for a special scholarship program organized by the Pilecki Institute and devoted to the issue of modernity in the 20th century (details will be announced at the beginning of 2020).

Applications:

The **Ćwiczenie nowoczesności | Exercising modernity | Modernität üben | לתרגל מודרניזם** Academy program is open to researchers specializing in the humanities and artists who at the time of completion of the enrolment stage shall be under 35 years of age, and shall come from or reside in Israel, Germany or Poland.

Candidates are invited to submit their applications by e-mail to the address:

apply@exercisingmodernity.com by 19.09.2019 (8:00 p.m.). You are requested to write "Academy 2019" as the subject of the e-mail.

A complete application should include:

1. Scans of signed forms:

- declaration concerning the controller of personal data – attachment no. 1,
- declaration concerning the provision of consent to the processing of personal data and personal image data – attachment no. 2,

2. Artistic/academic biographical note and/or portfolio,

3. 3 mini-essays (each up to 1,800 characters with spaces) answering the following questions:

- How does the subject of this year's edition of the **Exercising Modernity Academy** connect with your current interests/work/research/artistic practice?
- What are your expectations of the **Exercising Modernity Academy** program and the course instructors?
- If you could carry out a six-month research/artistic project related to the subject matter of the 2019 edition of the **Exercising Modernity Academy**, what would this project consist in?

Additional information:

- Application documents will be accepted in English, Polish or German.

- Successful candidates undertake to attend all sessions held in the course of the Academy.
I session: Tel Aviv (24–29.10.2019)
II session: Warsaw and Gdynia (14–19.11.2019)
III session: Berlin, Weimar (05–08.12.2019)
- Classes and workshops will be held in English.
- Information on the **Exercising Modernity** Academy is available on the website of the Pilecki Institute (www.instytutpileckiego.pl) and on www.exercisingmodernity.com.
- Any questions or concerns should be sent to the address:
contact@exercisingmodernity.com.
- The results of the recruitment procedure shall be announced by **23.09.2019**, and the list of selected participants will be published on the website of the Pilecki Institute (www.instytutpileckiego.pl) and on the project website: www.exercisingmodernity.com.
- The organizers are not under any obligation to substantiate the decisions of the enrolment committee. No appeal procedure has been provided for.
- For candidates selected to participate in the project, the present document will constitute an attachment to the agreement concluded between any such candidate and the Pilecki Institute.