

## Awards Announcement

### **Majer Balaban competition for the best Masters and Doctoral Dissertations concerned with the Jews and Israel**

#### **Organised by Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in 2009**

Forty-three works, including nine doctoral and thirty-four masters dissertations were submitted to the competition organised in 2009 by the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute. All works will be placed in Jewish Historical Institute's archive

The judging panel was formed by : dr Alina Cała (chair), dr Helena Datner, dr hab. Jan Doktor, dr Paweł Fijałkowski, dr August Grabski, dr Piotr Kendziorek, dr Dorota Krawczyńska, dr Alina Molisak, prof. Joanna Tokarska-Bakir, dr Bożena Umińska, dr Piotr Weiser (secretary), dr Hanna Węgrzynek, dr hab. Andrzej Żbikowski, dr Agnieszka Żółkiewska.

Additionally, the submissions were judged by the following experts: dr Zofia Borzymińska, dr Wojciech Brojer, Jan Jagielski, dr Bohdan Kos, prof. Henryk Lipszyc, prof. Jerzy Tomaszewski

Seven doctoral and fourteen masters dissertations were admitted to the final stage of the competition. The following doctoral dissertations qualified for the third stage:

1. **Agata Dąbrowska** – *Shylock – martyr, demon or clown. Polish reception of William Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice'* - submitted in 2008, Faculty of Philology, University of Lodz (supervisor: prof. Krystyna Kujawińska-Courtney)
2. **Ewa Grochowska** – *Women in the messianic idea of Judaism and Christian tradition*- submitted in 2007, Faculty of Philosophy, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (supervisor- prof. Jadwiga Mizińska)
- 3 **Anna Jeziorkowska-Polakowska** – *Models of lullabies in Polish, Jewish and Polish-Jewish literature of the turn of 19 and 20 century*- submitted in 2007, Institute of Polish Philology, John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin (supervisor: prof. Sławomir Żurek)
4. **Justyna Kowalska-Leder** – *Experience of Shoah from the perspective of a child in the Polish literature of personal documents* - submitted in 2007, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor prof. Małgorzata Szpakowska)
5. **Edyta Majcher-Ociesa** - *Economical activity of Jews in Kielce province in 1918-1939, Faculty of Humanities, Akademia Świętokrzyska im. Jana Kochanowskiego in Kielce* (supervisor: prof. Regina Renz)
6. **Mateusz Rodak**- *Myth and reality. Jewish criminality in the interwar period on the example of Lublin province* Institute of History, Polish Academy of Science (supervisor: prof. Anna Landau-Czajka)

7. **Marcin Urynowicz** – *Adam Czerniaków 1880-1942. Life and activity-* submitted in 2008, Faculty of History, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Jerzy Tomaszewski)

The following masters dissertations qualified for the final stage:

1. **Bażanowska Noemi** – *This used to be my home! Jewish orphanages in post-war Poland. Cracow orphanage 1945-1957-* submitted in 2008, Judaic Studies, Faculty of History, Jagiellonian University (supervisor: prof. Adam Kaźmierczyk)
2. **Bilewicz Aleksandra** – *Negotiating the borders of identity. Sephardic Jews on Facebook community portal-* submitted in 2009, Individual Studies in the Department off Philosophy and Sociology (supervisor: dr Michał Kowalski)
3. **Kolator Elwira** – *Life and destruction of Jews of Zareby Koscielne-* submitted in 2009, Faculty of Polish Philology, Pultusk Academy of Humanities, (supervisor: dr Roman Chymkowski)
4. **Kołacַz Grzegorz** – *Conditions of the attitude of Jews in Nazi occupied Poland* - submitted in 2007, Faculty of History, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Marcin Kula)
5. **Król Joanna** – *Hybridism of the writings of Hanna Krall. Discussion on chosen examples-* submitted in 2009, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Hanna Gosk)
6. **Magdzińska Anna** – *Reflection of 1900 Chojny events in the press of Poznan* - submitted in 2009, Faculty of History, Adam Mickiewicza University in Poznan, (supervisor: prof. Krzysztof Makowski)
7. **Małczyński Jacek** – *Modality of memory on the example of Bełżec death camp*, submitted as part of individual studies in the Department of Cultural Studies University of Wrocław (supervisor: prof. Stefan Bednarek).
8. **Meroń Katarzyna** – *Jewish heritage of Podgorze in the undertakings of local self- government* - submitted in 2009, Institute of European Studies Jagiellonian University (supervisor: prof. Jacek Purchla).
9. **Mroczkowska Alicja** – *Beit Chaim. The expression of Jewish identity on the turn of 20 and 21 century* - submitted in 2008, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Magdalena Zowczak)
10. **Samolej Maciej Bartłomiej** – *Obraz getta łódzkiego w literaturze polsko-żydowskiej na podstawie „Kroniki” Henryka Grynberga*, obroniona w 2009 r. w Inst. Filologii Polskiej KUL, (promotor: prof. Sławomir Żurek)
11. **Samolej Maciej Bartłomiej** – *The picture of Lodz Ghetto in Polish-Jewish literature on the basis of Henryk Grynberg’s ‘Chronicles’* - submitted in 2009, Institute of Polish Philology, John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin (supervisor: prof. Sławomir Żurek)

12. **Stawiarski Bartłomiej** – *‘Conspiracy’ of Wrocławian Jews. The expulsion of Jews from Wrocław in 1453* - submitted in 2006, Faculty of Historical and Pedagogical Studies, University of Wrocław (supervisor: prof. Marek Derwich)
13. **Tatar Anna** – *Elements of ‘gulaged’ reality in the chosen works of Tadeusz Borowski* - submitted in 2009, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Hanna Gosk)
14. **Wojtasik Bruno Marek** – *Jews in Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski 1939-1945* - submitted in 2008, Faculty of Humanities, Akademia Świętokrzyska im. Jana Kochanowskiego in Kielce, (supervisor: prof. Mieczysław B. Markowski)
15. **Zawadzka Maria** – *Virtual Jews coming out of emptiness at Prozna street. Analysis of the mechanisms of reconstruction of Jewish world in the perspective of ‘Singer’s Warsaw’ and the Festival of Jewish Culture in Cracow* – submitted in 2009, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Roch Sulima).

The jury panel has awarded Agata Dabrowska for doctoral dissertation *Shylock – martyr, demon or clown. Polish reception of William Shakespeare’s ‘Merchant of Venice’*

Agata Dabrowska's work includes exceptionally broad and very interesting material concerning various staging of Shakespeare's 'Merchant of Venice' in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Poland. The author does not focus her perspective on theatre studies alone, but includes a very rich political and historical context. Various interpretations of Shylock, either hostile or emphatic towards the character, were a reflection of changes in the perception of Jews by Polish creative elites at that time. Agata Dabrowska did not look exclusively at the history of the theatre and changes in the canon of performance but also at the impact of currents of thought of various times, and more widely the mixing of art and political currents. Her work combines rare breadth of perspective and intellectual horizons with hard work and inquisitiveness.

In the masters dissertations category, the jury has awarded Noemi Bażanowska for *This used to be my home! Jewish orphanages in post-war Poland. Cracow Orphanage 1945-1957*

This is a very elegant and passionately written monograph of Cracow's Orphanage for children who survived the Holocaust. The author not only researched archival and press documentation, recreating the structure of the institution and its history, but also got in touch with former inhabitants of the Orphanage who as a group immigrated to Israel in 1957. The interviews allowed her to recreate the memory of the atmosphere of the Orphanage, relations between the children and between them and their carers. The dissertation also includes an analysis of differences in organisations and educational policy between this and other institutions taking care of Jewish children in Poland at the time.

The Jury has also decided on three distinctions for doctoral dissertations:

**Justyna Kowalska-Leder** – *Experience of Shoah from the perspective of a child in the Polish literature of personal documents* - submitted in 2007, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor prof. Małgorzata Szpakowska)

**Mateusz Rodak**- *Myth and reality. Jewish criminality in the interwar period on the example of Lublin province* Polish Academy of Science, Institute of History (supervisor: prof. Anna Landau-Czajka)

**Marcin Urynowicz** – *Adam Czerniaków 1880-1942. Life and activity*- submitted in 2008, Faculty of History, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Jerzy Tomaszewski)

Three distinctions for masters dissertations were awarded to:

**Magdzińska Anna** – *Reflection of 1900 Chojny events in the press of Poznan* - submitted in 2009, Faculty of History, Adam Mickiewicza University in Poznan, (supervisor: prof. Krzysztof Makowski)

**Mroczkowska Alicja** – *Beit Chaim. The expression of Jewish identity on the turn of 20 and 21 century* - submitted in 2008, Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Magdalena Zowczak)

**Tatar Anna** – *Elements of 'gulaged' reality in the chosen works of Tadeusz Borowski* - submitted in 2009, Faculty of Polish Philology, University of Warsaw (supervisor: prof. Hanna Gosk)

High level thematic scope and the number of submitted dissertations are proof that, to the great satisfaction of the panel, the subject of Jewish history and culture has been included in a number of branches of humanities in many institutions.

In the last three editions of the competition we complained about linguistic barriers to the progress of research within the field. We observed a general lack of knowledge of Hebrew-language academic publications from Israel and the reduction of source base to Polish language. It is with satisfaction that we noted a great improvement with this pattern. A few of the authors made use of publications and sources both in Yiddish and Hebrew. Students can also count on better levels of academic assistance as the number of scholars able to offer supervision in the topic of Jewish Culture and History grows.