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**Press communiqué for immediate release**

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*Montréal, September 15, 2009*

**International Symposium:**

**FROM TOTALITARIANISM TO DEMOCRACY:  
TWISTED AND UNFINISHED ROAD**

**On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe**

organized by

**The Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada and the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cracow, Poland,**

will be held at

Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, McGill University, Montréal, QC, Canada

**on Oct.21-22, 2009**

The participating scholars (see below) will examine the processes of transformation of the post-communist countries, the heritage of these transformations and their impact from the point of view of human rights, feminism, ecology and globalization.

**Prof. Peter G. Brown**, Geography, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Michal Buchowski**, Social Anthropology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland and Comparative Central European Studies, Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

**Prof. Adam Czarnota**, Co-director, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

**Prof. Magdalena Dembinska**, Sciences politiques, Université de Montréal, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Rachel A. Epstein**, International Studies, University of Denver, Denver, CO, USA

**Dr. Georgiana Galateanu**, Slavic Languages and Literature, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

**Prof. Tania Gosselin**, Sciences politiques, Université du Québec à Montréal, QC, Canada

**Maître Julius Grey**, Human Rights Jurist, Senior Partner, Grey-Casgrain, Montreal, QC, Canada and Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in Canada (PIASC)

**Prof. Juliet Johnson**, Political Science, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Dr. Anika Keinz**, Chair, Comparative Central European Studies, Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany

**Prof. Doïna Lecca**, Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Education, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Michel Librowicz**, Stratégie, responsabilité sociale et environnementale, Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, QC, Canada and Program Director, Canadian Executive MBA, Warsaw School of Economics, Warsaw, Poland

**Prof. Lorenz Lüthi**, History, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Prof. Karol Modzelewski**, Institute of History, University of Warsaw, And Vice President, Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Warsaw, Poland

**Prof. Christina Stojanova**, Fine Arts, University of Regina, Regina, SAS, Canada

**Prof. Piotr Sztompka**, Chair, Theoretical Sociology, Jagiellonian University and Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU), Cracow, Poland

**Bronisław Wildstein**, Journalist, *Rzeczpospolita*, Warsaw, Poland

**Prof. Andrzej Zybertowicz**, Institute of Sociology, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland

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For further information and detailed program please see [www.conference1989.mcgill.ca](http://www.conference1989.mcgill.ca)

Participation in the Symposium is **open to the public** and thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, **free of charge**, but for organizational reasons, to guarantee space, **pre-registration** is requested either on the above web-site or by calling the Polish Library at McGill: **(514) 398-6978**.

Please note that the language of the Symposium will be English or French, without simultaneous translation.

Persons who register before **October 15, 2009** will receive a folder with the program and abstracts of the presentations.

Light lunch will be available in the Thomson House cafeteria.

The exhibit entitled "Dissent in Poland", produced by KARTA Center, Warsaw, Poland will be presented in the hall of Thomson House to accompany the conference.

**The conference has been organized thanks to following sponsors:**

**the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Canada, the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Montreal, the Goethe Institute and the Corporation Quebec – Pologne pour les Arts**

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