



Donnerstag, 15. Juni 2023 / Thursday, 15 June 2023

11.00 – 12.30h Workshops Geschichte / History

Workshop 2 Prof. Dr. Adam Walaszek PhD *"We're Polish" Children and Youth at home, school and on the streets of U.S. cities until 1940 (English)*

Institution: Jagiellonian University

Place: Krakow, Poland

Abstract

The schools associated with Polish parishes in the U.S. were to serve “national” and ethnic purposes. Discussions about the goals of such schools were interwoven with urgent disputes about the image, culture, and identity of Polonia itself. Public schools were criticized and accused of “Americanization” of children, ethnic schools were created and supported by the members of the group and church authorities, to prevent this process. The chapter discusses school curricula, staff (mostly Felician sisters) and controversies regarding the quality of teaching. Other spheres of children’s lives are also analyzed, especially work, street culture, juvenile delinquency and, finally, the attempts to “supervise” or “control” ethnic children , undertaken by ethnyic communities, the settlement houses, and other institutions, such as the “Little Republics” movement.

CV

Professor of History, specializing in the history of migrations, social American history, history of Polish ethnic group in the U.S.