

# SCIENCE: POLISH PERSPECTIVES MEETUP BERKELEY

28 October 2023

#KEEPCALMANDCURIEON

Converging the Realms:  
Bridging Academic and Industrial Research

**POLONIUM  
FOUNDATION**

Polish Club  
of Berkeley



This project is supported by the Chancellery of the Prime Minister Republic of Poland and The Odra-Niemen Association.  
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## EVENT AGENDA

**Saturday, October 28th, 9:00 - 20:00 PT**

Location: Tilden Room, MLK Student Union Building, UC Berkeley

8.30 - 9:00 am	Registration at the venue and welcome networking coffee
9:00 - 9:45 am	<b>Official Event Opening</b>  Welcome message from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Polish Club of Berkeley</li><li>• Polish Consulate</li><li>• Polish Honorary Vice-Consul</li><li>• Polonium Foundation</li><li>• Polonium Network</li></ul>
9:45 - 10:15 am	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER I: <i>Robert Hass, Pulitzer Awardee, UC Berkeley</i></b>
10:15 - 10:30 am	Short Coffee Break
10:30 - 11:30 am	<b>Speakers session I</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michał Papaj, UC Berkeley</li><li>• Marta Borowska, Stanford University</li><li>• Tomasz Nowakowski, UCSF</li><li>• Illan Roth, UC Berkeley</li></ul>
11:30 am - 12:00 pm	Coffee break + networking
12:00 - 1:00 pm	<b>Speakers session II</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agnieszka Ilwicka Karuna, Yiddish Book Center, Taube Foundation</li><li>• Magdalena Jaworowicz, Polish Professional Women of Silicon Valley</li><li>• National Science Center representative</li></ul>
1:00 - 2:30 pm	<b>Networking Lunch + Group Photo at 2:15 pm</b>
2:30 - 3:30 pm	<b>Speakers session III</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Luke Kowalski, VP Oracle, UC Berkeley</li><li>• Michał Kosiński, Stanford Business</li><li>• Arkadiusz Goetz, SFSU</li><li>• Kamil Kaczmarek, AnyScale</li></ul>
3:30 - 3:45 pm	Short Coffee Break
3:45 - 4:30 pm	<b>KEYNOTE SPEAKER II: <i>Natalia Jura, UCSF</i></b>
4:30 - 4:45 pm	Closing Remarks
5:00 - 8:00 pm	Drinks & networking session (off-campus)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**Robert Hass**

University of California, Berkeley

### **Czesław Miłosz's legacy at UC Berkeley**

Dr. Robert Hass is an American poet who won the 2008 Pulitzer Prize (shared with Philip Schultz) and the 2007 National Book Award, both for his book of poems titled "Time and Materials: Poems 1997–2005."

Dr. Hass served as Poet Laureate of the United States from 1995 to 1997, as well as a Chancellor of the Academy of American Poets from 2001 to 2007. In 2014 he was awarded the Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets.

Dr. Hass is an Emeritus Faculty in the English Department at UC Berkeley. While at Berkeley, he collaborated with Polish poet and Nobel Prize laureate Czesław Miłosz, who was also a professor at the university, as well as Robert Pinsky to translate Miłosz's work into English.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### Natalia Jura

Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology  
Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of  
California San Francisco

Dr. Natalia Jura obtained her MS in biochemistry from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, followed by PhD in molecular and cellular biology from Stony Brook University and postdoctoral training in structural biology at UC Berkeley. She is now a Professor at the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology and an Investigator at the Cardiovascular Research Institute at UCSF. Dr. Jura's laboratory aims to understand molecular signals, which allow cells to communicate with each other and respond to environmental stimuli. Her group combines cell biology with structural biology approaches, such as X-ray crystallography and cryo-electron microscopy, to investigate mechanisms of receptor tyrosine kinase signaling, and non-canonical functions of atypical protein kinases, called pseudokinases. For her research accomplishments, Dr. Jura was recently awarded a UCSF Byers Award. In addition to her research activities at UCSF, Dr. Jura serves as an Associate Director of the Quantitative Biosciences Institute at UCSF. In this role, Dr. Jura oversees promotion of interdisciplinary collaborative research at UCSF and beyond. Dr. Jura is also a co-Director of the UCSF Tetrad graduate program that trains doctoral students towards PhD degrees in cell biology, biochemistry and genetics. Her leadership skills have recently been recognized by the Women in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Leadership Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Together with her colleagues at UCSF, Dr. Jura recently co-founded a biotech company, Rezo Therapeutics, focused on discovery of new cancer targets via integration of advanced proteomics, genomics, computational and structural biology.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - STEM TALKS



**Michał Papaj**

University of California, Berkeley

### **2D materials: a great physics sandbox**

Michał Papaj completed his undergraduate studies in Physics at University of Warsaw. He then obtained his PhD at Massachusetts Institute of Technology under Prof. Liang Fu. He is now Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at UC Berkeley. As a theoretical condensed matter physicist he is studying fundamental properties of quantum materials, including superconductors and strongly correlated systems.



## INVITED SPEAKERS - STEM TALKS



**Marta Borkowska**

Stanford University

Marta grew up in Łódź and studied in Poland and Austria before moving to the University of Chicago on a year-long fellowship to complete her master's studies. She then joined the University of Chicago as a Ph.D. candidate to pair her interests in structural biology and immunology. She naturally gravitated to the area of unconventional immune recognition because its mechanisms are largely unknown. Now, she continues to use this foundation as a springboard for engineering designer approaches in immunotherapy at Stanford University. Her long-term goal is to be an independent investigator running a research laboratory at an academic institute. Marta is broadly interested in complex immune signaling and aims to develop protein engineering approaches to control and modulate them. She enjoys playing chess, exploring science through art, and is a proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - STEM TALKS



**Tomasz Nowakowski**

University of California San Francisco

Dr. Nowakowski grew up in Gdansk, Poland, and completed International Baccalaureate at 3LO in Gdynia before immigrating to the United Kingdom to study Biological Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. He received his PhD in Biomedical Sciences in 2012 for his studies of molecular control of brain development. He then emigrated again to San Francisco, where he pioneered studies of the human brain at single cell resolution and established his independent research group in 2017 in the Weill Institute for Neurosciences. He is now an Associate Professor of Neurological Surgery and Anatomy at the University of California San Francisco, and his research focuses on understanding how the human develops. His team is developing new technologies to precisely monitor, manipulate, and replace cells in the human brain that could lead to new therapeutic applications for neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders. His research has been recognized by numerous awards and honors, including the Eppendorf and Science Prize in Neurobiology, the Cortical Explorer Award from the Cajal Club, the Bridge to Independence Award from the Simons Foundation for Autism Research, the Klingenstein-Simons Fellowship in Neuroscience, the Robertson Neuroscience Investigator Award from the New York Stem Cell Foundation, and the Joseph Altman Award in Developmental Neuroscience from the Japan Neuroscience Society.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - STEM TALKS



**Ilan Roth**

University of California, Berkeley

### **Energy in the sky: Aurora as a laboratory**

Ilan Roth emigrated as a child from Communist Poland to the West Coast. After obtaining a PhD, he arrived at the Space Sciences Laboratory at UC Berkeley. He has been involved in theoretical and numerical research of numerous electromagnetic phenomena in the Aurora, magnetosphere, Sun, heliosphere or with applications to astrophysics. After 35 years he nominally retired while continuing his research, mainly in mathematical applications to magnetized plasma.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - COMMUNICATION SESSION



**Agnieszka Ilwicka-Karuna**

University of Florida

### **Why philanthropy does matter? On the difference between the philanthropy and the charity**

Agnieszka (Aga) Ilwicka-Karuna is a PhD candidate in Jewish Studies at the History Department of the University of Florida. Her work focuses primarily on post-war migration, language, women's and children's history, memory, politics, philanthropy, and last but not least, oral history. Agnieszka graduated from the Jewish Studies program at the University of Southampton with a Master of Research. She holds a Master of Arts and a BA in Humanities from the University of Wrocław. In 2012-2013, she was awarded a one-year fellowship at the Yiddish Book Center that led her down the path of oral history. Since then, she has recorded over 150 interviews in Yiddish, Polish, and English among the Jewish communities in Poland, Israel, and the United States. The interviews are available [here](#).

Agnieszka is a strong advocate for human, animal, and nature rights. Her main areas of interest are migration, philanthropy, memory, and the preservation of languages, with a strong focus on the Yiddish language and culture. In the Bay Area, she serves the Polish community as an assistant at the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland in San Francisco.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - COMMUNICATION SESSION



**Magdalena Jaworowicz**

Polish Professional Women of Silicon Valley

Magda Jaworowicz is a marketing communication expert with 15 years of experience in global marketing program. For most of her career, she has worked for global tech companies and was responsible for marketing, training, and development. She currently works as a Marketing Velocity Learning Manager at Cisco. Magda has a passion for education; holds Ph.D. degree in Communication, MA in Education, MBA in Management. She is strongly motivated by a desire to share her knowledge with others and has devoted much of her time to such endeavors in recent years. She has lectured extensively at the University of Warsaw during the past seven years and worked as TEDx public speaking trainer.

Together with her husband, she writes an art blog (ArtExperience.live) and has published five books relating to different fields of marketing, such as Copywriting, Political Marketing, Gender Marketing, Video Marketing, and Event Marketing. She has been referenced by Wikipedia under the definition "Event Marketing."

## INVITED SPEAKERS - COMMUNICATION SESSION



### Justyna Woźniakowska

International Cooperation Department, National Science Centre

### **Opportunities for research project funding**

The National Science Centre (NCN) is a Polish government agency that supports basic research in Poland through funding schemes for scientists at various career stages - from predoctoral trainees to experienced investigators. The NCN funds research in the arts, humanities and social sciences, life sciences, as well as physical sciences and engineering. They are passionate about supporting international collaborations in basic research.

Learn more about the NCN at [this link](#).

## INVITED SPEAKERS - TECHNOLOGY SESSION



### Luke Kowalski

Oracle  
UC Berkeley  
University of Birmingham, UK

Luke Kowalski is recognized for his loyalty and pragmatism, but he also excels in his ability to work across disciplines. He has executed projects involving legal issues (antitrust, IP, audits, litigation), acquisitions (due diligence, integration, or divestitures), technical standards (document formats), government affairs (EU/USA trade, IP reform, repatriation), and even managed functions like physical security, user interface design and accessibility.

He currently serves as an svp in the corporate architecture group at Oracle reporting to one of Larry Ellison's EVPs. Before coming to Oracle, he worked for various startups in technical, design, and business roles, as well as for Netscape's Server and E commerce divisions. He holds several patents and professional certifications, serves as an ISO representative for US through ANSI and lectures frequently at conferences and universities. His educational background includes advanced degrees from UTA, Pratt Institute, and Columbia University. He is currently teaching a blockchain challenge lab at UC Berkeley's Engineering School on Mondays and pursuing a distance learning PhD at University of Birmingham in his free time.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - TECHNOLOGY SESSION



**Michał Kosiński**

Stanford University

### **Understanding Modern AI**

Michał is a Professor at Stanford University. His research interests encompass both human and artificial cognition. His current work centers on examining the psychological processes in Large Language Models (LLMs), and leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Big Data, and computational techniques to model and predict human behavior. Michał has co-authored *Modern Psychometrics* (a popular textbook) and published over 90 peer-reviewed papers in leading journals including *Nature Scientific Reports*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Psychological Science*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Machine Learning*, that have been cited over 17,000 times. He is among the Top 1% of the Highly Cited Researchers according to Clarivate. His research inspired a cover of *The Economist*, a 2014 theatre play "Privacy", multiple TED talks, a video game, and was discussed in thousands of books, press articles, podcasts, and documentaries. Michał was behind the first press article warning against Cambridge Analytica. His research exposed the privacy risks that they have exploited and measured the efficiency of their methods. He holds a doctorate in psychology from the University of Cambridge and master's degrees in psychometrics and in social psychology. He used to work as a post-doctoral scholar at Stanford's Computer Science Department, the Deputy Director of the University of Cambridge Psychometrics Centre, and a researcher at Microsoft Research (Machine Learning Group).



## INVITED SPEAKERS - TECHNOLOGY SESSION



**Arkadiusz Goetz**

San Francisco State University

### **A living textbook for calculus is no longer a distant dream**

Professor Arek Goetz is an active researcher in Dynamical Systems, an academic instructor, and an e-learning entrepreneur. He also holds a tenured full professorship at San Francisco State University. Born in Poland where his early formative years were influenced by Polish Children's Fund and by Polish Mathematics and Physics Olympiads. He represented Poland in the first International Computer Science Olympiad. Educated in Poland and US, Goetz graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1996 with a doctoral degree in pure mathematics. Since then, he held visiting positions at Boston University, the University of Exeter, University of Aix-Marseille, Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques (IHES) in France, and Instituto Nacional de Matemática Pura e Aplicada (IMPA) in Brazil. A recipient of two National Science Foundation Grants for his research in Dynamical Systems with geometric singularities, he has delivered over a hundred research talks at conferences and universities worldwide. An experienced academic instructor, Goetz is also the founder of Mangoroot, a multimedia internet platform for communicating and learning Calculus over the internet. The platform has been used to successfully engage calculus students in the US, Middle East, and Asia. His passion to convey mathematics to his students takes him to remote places on the planet such as glaciers and volcanoes as part of his online teaching courses.

## INVITED SPEAKERS - TECHNOLOGY SESSION



**Kamil Kaczmarek**

AnyScale

### **Curiosity**

Kamil is a technical training lead at Anyscale Inc., where he builds technical training and educational resources for the broader Ray community. Prior to joining Anyscale he co-founded Neptune.ai and worked in the AI consultancy company. Kamil holds M.Sc. in Cognitive Science and B.Sc. in Computer Science. He is passionate about sports.

## PARTNER TALKS



### Aleksander Skrzypek

Foreign Trade Office in Los Angeles, The Polish  
Investment & Trade Agency

Aleksander (Alex) Skrzypek is the expert in the Foreign Trade Office of the Polish Investment & Trade Agency (PAIH) in Los Angeles. The Agency is the governmental entity that supports both the foreign expansion of Polish business and the inflow of FDI into Poland. In order to boost Polish exports, hammer out the best solution, assist in overcoming administrative and legal procedures, develop marketing strategies and find reliable partners and suppliers, PAIH has established a network of more than 55 foreign trade offices to support Polish entrepreneurs all over the world. The Offices are focused on distant markets of rapid growth, that represent the greatest potential for Polish companies as well as on attractive foreign investors whose ambition is to set up business in Poland.

Alex is a graduate of law of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Nicolas Copernicus University in Torun and English Studies (teaching and translating) at the tSWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. His professional interests cover work for public administration and government, tutoring in marketing and promotion, counseling in building a brand and launching a business, mastering diplomacy, negotiations and assertiveness skills, academic teaching of English language and culture.

Personally, Alex is passionate about entrepreneurship, foreign policies, diplomacy, Anglo-Saxon cultures, sport and travelling around the world. And at heart he also has a verve to write scientific articles, do translations on a number of topics and support Polish world-class sportsmen in building their professional image and brand in social media.

## **ORGANIZERS**

# **POLONIUM FOUNDATION**

Polonium Foundation is an independent non-profit NGO. We are turning Polish brain drain into brain circulation by unlocking the potential of Polish research diaspora. We connect its members at our events, research the community, and provide policy recommendations. Our community gathers highly skilled professionals working in academia and industry, all around the world. We are creating a community that fosters collaboration, exchange of ideas, and sharing of knowledge.

## ORGANIZING TEAM - POLONIUM FOUNDATION



**Ala Santos**

*President and CEO of  
Polonium Foundation*



**Vanessa Bijak**

*Board Member and COO  
of Polonium Foundation  
USA Team Lead*



**Marta Gajowa**

*SPP Meetup Berkeley  
Coordinator*



**Anna Holubecki**

*Communications Team Officer*



**Olivia Zbihley**

*Communications Team Officer*



**Patrycja Mulica**

*Partnerships Team Lead*

## ORGANIZING TEAM - POLONIUM FOUNDATION



**Laura Coughlin**

*Partnerships Team Officer  
USA Team Member*



**Karol Sokolowski**

*Partnerships Team Officer  
USA Team Member*



**Michał Winnicki**

*Partnerships Team Officer  
USA Team Member*



**Aleksandra Krzywańska**

*Science Team Officer  
USA Team Member*



**Paweł Morzywołek**

*Polonium Network Team  
USA Team Member*



**Kuba Orłowski**

*Partnerships Team Officer  
Conference Book Editor*



**Aleksandra Sławińska**

*Operations Team Lead*

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## ORGANIZERS



The Polish Club of Berkeley is a vibrant organization that unites the Polish community affiliated with the University of California, Berkeley, while also extending its warm embrace to everyone interested in Polish culture both on campus and beyond. Our mission is to celebrate the rich Polish heritage, whether it's held by Polish students studying abroad in the United States or those with Polish-American backgrounds. We extend a hearty welcome to undergraduates, graduates, faculty, and staff, with or without knowledge of the Polish language.

Our campus organization hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including cultural celebrations like Wigilia and enjoyable film nights. In addition to fostering cultural connections, we also provide academic support, facilitate alumni networking, and open our arms to all, whether you're an undergraduate, graduate student, faculty member, or an off-campus enthusiast. Join us in our mission to share the beauty of Polish culture and build lasting connections at UC Berkeley and in the wider community.



*Celebration of 100th anniversary  
of Polish Independence*



*Meeting at Czesław Miłosz's  
house*

## ORGANIZING TEAM - POLISH CLUB OF BERKELEY



**Emil Albrychiewicz**

*SPP Meetup Berkeley Coordinator*



**Krysia Pietraszkiewicz**

*Organization Team*



**Adrian Kubicki**

*Organization Team*



**Krzysztof Kozak**

*Organization Team*



**Amelia Lubelska**

*Volunteer*



**Natalia Stasik**

*Volunteer*



**Patrycja Macaalay**

*Volunteer*



**Franciszek Waligóra**

*Volunteer*



**Maksymilain Kwapiński**

*Volunteer*

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