

Center for Armenian Studies (Research)

There are two Armenian subgroups in Poland today. The first one – it is the *old* minority – the ancestors of rich merchants and nobility, living in Poland from the middle-ages. Many significant persons in Polish history and contemporary culture have come from this group. The second one is a group of *newcomers* from post-Soviet Armenia. Though it is estimated, that there are about 50 thousands of Armenians in Poland (the third European Diaspora: 2 mln Russia, 450 thousand France), there are few of scholars dealing with this question.

On 27 April 2004 the Rector of NCU created the Center for Armenian Studies (Centrum Badań Ormiańskich – CBO), the first one of its kind in Eastern Europe. The Center will promote both traditional and interdisciplinary research and even representatives of biological and technical sciences are invited. Another aim of the Center is to consolidate Polish armenologists and to help them to contact Armenian science around the globe.

The founder and Director of the Center is not of Armenian origin. He is the only Polish sociologists dealing with Armenian questions, and for the several years past has devoted himself to research on Armenian migration and Diaspora, both in Poland and abroad. The last transnational research project he has involved with was *Combating Social Exclusion of Minorities and Immigrant Communities through Culture*, realised with colleagues from Spain, Greece, Ireland and Holland (www.culture-exchange.net), where Armenian issues are strongly represented.

The financial provisions from NCU are enough for beginning activities and for the first phase of work of the CBO – two years long. The Center is still looking for new contacts, financial support and possible cooperative projects. After four study trips to Armenia, scientific contact with that Caucasian country has been strongly tied and the same can be said of the Armenian Embassy in Poland and a few researchers in Russia, Germany, Austria and the Greek community.

You are invited to participate in CBO activities.

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