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Thursday, 26.1.2023,

# MAGDALENA LUBAŃSKA

Institute of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Warsaw

19:00 – 20:15 CET / 1:00 PM EST – 2:15 PM EST

Article *Presentation*

*Religion, Ethics and Conspiracy of Silence in a Polish Village  
Confronting Postwar Past*

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With commentary by Aleksandra Szczepan, of Jagiellonian University, and  
Karina Jarzyńska, of Jagiellonian University.

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From Magdalena Lubańska:

In my study I analyze the religious and ethical dimension of remembering the murders committed after World War II in the region of Subcarpatian town of Przeworsk in Poland. The killings were perpetrated in a turbulent period of few years that followed World War II, which can be described, following Giorgio Agamben's term, "state of exception".

At that time, some members of the local population formed gangs to commit assaults and robberies against forced labourers returning to their homeland from Germany (or from the West generally). According to my respondents, who were witnessing those events as children, most of such assaults resulted in deaths. Socially unmoored and unprotected by law, the victims were reduced to the status of a purely biological "bare life".

My presentation will show how the post-memory of those events and religious response to them, finds its expression in the small local community with very strong neighbourly ties and strong kinship connections. I will also discuss theoretical framework I use, referring to, inter alia, a postsecular turn. The findings are based on over fifty in-depth ethnographic interviews conducted in years 2016-2020, audio recordings and video footage made for two awardwinning film documentaries co-created by me: "Not to judge" (2017) and "Great Fear" (2020).

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Meeting Link [Here](#)

No pre registration necessary. All are welcome!

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