

CALL FOR PAPERS



Benedetto Croce and Gustaw Herling-Grudziński: Between Literature, History, Philosophy, and Linguistics. Interdisciplinary Conference

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- **CONFERENCE VENUE:** POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ROME (ITALY)
 - **DATA:** 27 – 28 MARCH 2025
 - **ORGANISERS:** UNIVERSITY OF ŁÓDŹ (UŁ), CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI UNIVERSITY IN WARSAW (UKSW), POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES – SCIENTIFIC CENTER IN ROME (PAS)
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The aim of the proposed conference is to **create a forum for discussion and the exchange of ideas and experiences, among Polish and Italian scholars from various humanities disciplines** (literature, history, philosophy, linguistics and related fields). The **purpose is to examine two monumental figures** who were fundamental to cultural relations between Italy and Poland in the 20th century: **Benedetto Croce, a philosopher** and representative of Italian liberal thought and idealistic historicism, and **Gustaw Herling-Grudziński, a writer, dissident, former Gulag prisoner, and soldier in General Władysław Anders' Polish Corps, whose paths crossed in Italy.**

As Marta Herling recalls, the relationship between Gustaw Herling-Grudziński and Benedetto Croce “appears as a meeting of destiny.” Croce’s writings had a profound influence on the Polish writer even during his studies in Warsaw, when, shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Croce’s *History of Europe in the Nineteenth Century* became a topic of discussion among intellectual circles. Toward the end of 1943, on the eve of the Battle of Monte Cassino, the turbulent events of the war brought Herling-Grudziński to Italy, where he had the opportunity to meet the great philosopher in person. In his essay *Villa Tritone. Interludio bellico in Italia*, Herling-Grudziński described his meeting with Croce in Sorrento, which took place in March 1944. Benedetto Croce also documented the event in his diary, referring to “a soldier from the Polish division [...], a scholar of philosophy, a reader of my books”. From that moment, a vibrant intellectual dialogue developed between the two protagonists.

Both Croce and Gustaw Herling-Grudziński represent eminent figures, recognised for their unique achievements and immense legacies, deserving of deeper exploration within a bilateral context by Polish and Italian scholars through the format of an interdisciplinary scientific conference.



We invite contributions that align, among others, with the following topics:

- (1) Croce in Polish writings before and after 1989:** between classical liberalism and neo-Hegelian historicism;
- (2) Herling-Grudziński in Italy:** tracing the writer in exile;
- (3) Croce and Herling-Grudziński:** translation, reception, interpretation;
- (4) Croce in the biography of writings of Herling-Grudziński:** between history, literature, and memory.

The conference will conclude with an open debate involving scholars and translators of both authors' works in Poland and Italy.

There is no registration fee for the conference. Travel and accommodation expenses are the responsibility of the speakers.

The accepted papers are expected to be published in a volume of the conference proceedings.

Proposals for presentations (20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion), in **Italian** or **English**, should include:

- **title of the presentation;**
- **abstract** (max 300 words);
- **brief biographical information about the author** (max 150 words);
- **academic affiliation and contact details.**

Please **submit your proposal by 31 January 2025** to the following e-mail address: [**croceherling2025@gmail.com**](mailto:croceherling2025@gmail.com), with the subject line **"Croce-Herling Conference 2025"**.

Selected presentations will be announced by **10 February 2025**.

Organising Committee Members :

Dr Łukasz Jan Berezowski
Dr Małgorzata Ślarzyńska
Dr Małgorzata Fijał