

Title: Artificial America. Imaging the Roaring Twenties in Polish Avant-Garde Literature and Art (1918–1939)

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In the proposed paper I would like to explore the imagery of the American roaring twenties in Poland between the wars. This problem has so far been unjustifiably neglected by scholars - not only in the sphere of international studies on the avant-garde, but also within Polish studies of modernism. In the Cold War era, issues concerning Poland's connections with American culture, could not be sufficiently taken up by scholars, mainly for political reasons; hence even today it is a largely understudied subject.

In my paper I would like to assume that the concept of the enthusiasm for America was perceived as a myth of modernity in interwar Poland. Was the imagery of America seen in this way as an ideal project for the new Poland, which in 1918 regained its independence? What were the positive and the negative aspects of this fascination with American culture and an eagerness to transfer it onto Polish ground? To what extent were aspects, which are associated with the roaring twenties, such as jazz, Hollywood, art deco, fashion, comics, cartoons, skyscrapers, American sports, press, American lifestyle present and had an impact on the shape of the Polish avant-garde of 1918–1939? The aim of the paper is to investigate the aesthetics of Polish modernism with regard to the notion of "America" as an ultramodern, cultural phenomenon, which spread throughout Europe and inspired new avant-garde currents.