



PLATFORM  
OF EUROPEAN  
MEMORY AND  
CONSCIENCE



Śląskie Centrum  
Wolności i Solidarności  
im. Dziewięciu Górników z „Wujka”

PALNIA WUJEK

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**FROM HEROES TO REMEMBRANCE:  
HOW DO WE BUILD MEMORY TODAY?**

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**25 MAY 2026 | KATOWICE, POLAND**



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# Framework Agenda



PEMC ANNUAL MEETING  
AND CONFERENCE

Monday  
25<sup>th</sup> May 2026



The Silesian Centre for  
Freedom and Solidarity

Registration	15:30–16:55
Welcome by the organisers and VIPs	17:00–17:15
Keynote speech	17:15–17:45
Panel I	17:45–18:45
Coffee break	18:45–19:00
Panel II	19:00–20:30
Closing remarks + Goodbyes	20:30–20:45
Dinner and Freedom Toast	Afterwards

For More information, visit:  
[www.memoryandconscience.eu](http://www.memoryandconscience.eu)



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# OPENING SESSION

WELCOME

**ROBERT CIUPA**

*SILESIA CENTRE OF  
FREEDOM AND SOLIDARITY*

KEYNOTE SPEECH

**ŁUKASZ KAMIŃSKI**

*NATIONAL OSSOLINSKI  
INSTITUTE*



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# Heroes, Victims and Memory: Creating Spaces of Remembrance and Experience



**PANEL I**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 17:45–18:45

## SPEAKERS



**JAMES  
BARTHOLOMEW**

*Museum of Communist  
Terror (ENG)*



**PETER  
KEUP**

*Union of the Associations of the  
Victims of Communist Tyranny (GER)*



**ROBERT  
CIUPA**

*Silesian Centre of Freedom  
and Solidarity (POL)*



**PAWEŁ  
UKIELSKI**

*Warsaw Rising Museum (POL)*

**Moderator**

How do we translate the weight of heroism and the silence of sacrifice into a remembrance and a social institution?

This session focuses on the methodology and program design of memory sites that refuse to let history remain a static exhibit.

Our speakers will present specific projects that tie personal biographies to the physical architecture of remembrance. From the tragic events of the “Wujek Nine” in Katowice to the Museum of Communist Terror in London and the specialised German approach to Stasi legacies, this panel explores how institutions implement their core mission: turning the history of a crime into a classroom of freedom.

More information visit:

[www.memoryandconscience.eu/pemc-2026](http://www.memoryandconscience.eu/pemc-2026)



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# Do We Need Genius Loci or Not? How Do Remembrance of Heroes and Victims Emerge



**PANEL II**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 19:00–20:30

## SPEAKERS



**ERIC PATTERSON**  
*Victims of Communism  
Memorial Foundation  
(USA)*



**ARŪNAS  
BUBNYS**  
*Genocide and Resistance Research  
Centre of Lithuania (LTU)*



**DARIUSZ  
WĘGRZYN**  
*Silesian Centre of Freedom  
and Solidarity (POL)*



**JOSHUA  
EVANGELISTA**  
*Gariwo Foundation (ITA)*



**ANTOINE  
ARJAKOVSKY**  
*College des Bernardins (FRA)*  
**Moderator**

Does a place of memory require the “spirit of the place”, the Genius Loci, to be authentic, or can values be institutionalised through symbolic action and political will?

This deep-dive discussion analyses the birth of memory institutions from various perspectives: the grassroots struggle to preserve sites like the Tuskulėnai, the symbolic gardens of Gariwo, and the global reach of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation. We will debate the roles of stakeholders, authorities, and cities in fostering these spaces, and ask whether the power of an idea alone is enough to sustain remembrance when the physical traces of the past are absent.

This panel aims to uncover the complex interplay between authentic stories, political patronage, and the universal need to honour those who stood against tyranny.

For More information, visit:  
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# CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS

**MAREK MUTOR**

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