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*Novi pogledi, perspektive i istraživanja teorije roda*  
organizuje predavanje

**WOMEN'S ARCHIVE - WRITING MODERN WOMEN'S HISTORY AND  
RECREATING CULTURE OF UNPUBLISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**

koje će se održati

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Predavačice:

**dr Monika Rudaś-Grodzka, dr Katarzyna Nadana-Sokołowska i**

**dr Emilia Kolinko**

**dr Monika Rudaś-Grodzka** - Professor at IBL PAN, historian of ideas, literary historian of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Currently she also deals with women's spirituality. She is the head of the Women's Archive of the Polish Academy of Sciences. She established two imprints of IBL PAN Publishing, *Lupa obscura* and *Archiwum Kobiet. Documents*. She published books "Make ideas sing". *Platonic motifs in the life and works of Adam Mickiewicz in Vilnius-Kaunas period* and *Slav Sphinx and Polish mummy*. In 2018 she published *Letters from prison. Bronisława Waligórska. 1886*.

**dr Katarzyna Nadana-Sokołowska** – literary historian, literary critic, lecturer in gender studies, graduate of the Faculty of Polish Studies at the University of Warsaw and the School of Social Studies at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Received her PhD degree in 2008. Member of the interdisciplinary team of the Women's Archive at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 2015 assistant professor at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Her main areas of scientific interest are feminist criticism, autobiographies, the works of George Sand and their reception in Poland, as well as feminist studies in religion.

**dr Emilia Kolinko** – currently a member of Women's Archives in the Institute of Literary Research in Polish Academy of Science. Her research interests include 19-century ego-documents, biography, women's history and a theory of archives.

## **WOMEN'S ARCHIVE**

### **WRITING MODERN WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RECREATING CULTURE OF UNPUBLISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Abstract**

The project "Women's Archives" has been carried out since 2013 at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences under the leadership of prof. Monika Rudaś-Grodzka. The project is performed as a part of the grant of the National Programme for the Development of Humanities of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The project aims to create a database and launch a digital archive of unpublished life writing written by women who lived in the territories of historic Poland since the sixteenth century to the present. The database resulting from the project includes women's manuscripts traced down on the basis of research in various archives in contemporary Poland and other European countries, with a particular emphasis on the areas associated with Polish culture through their status as its former territories (parts of Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus and Russia).

The manuscripts in the online catalogue are indexed according to criteria essential for future analysis of their content, such as authorship, place and time of origin, literary genre, plus a number of keywords that primarily come from gender studies and are related to such disciplines as the history of customs, anthropology, sociology, history, political science, pedagogy, and cultural and literary studies. The catalogue serves as the basis for a digital archive, which is accessible to anyone.

The scholars working on the project specialise in gender studies, in particular in the study of literature created by women of various historical periods (such as early modernity, romanticism, second half of the 19th century or modernism). They specialise in various genres and aspects of women's writing, including diaries and letters, autobiographies, family chronicles, and sagas, *silvae rerum* or convent writings; or in links between Polish and Eastern European cultures or Polish and Jewish culture. The team members independently choose archives and old written texts, basing on their research interests and research intuition as regards documents which may appear the most interesting for contemporary readers.

What made us decide to carry out this project? First of all we wanted to retain various documents written by women, which are e.g. a record of ephemeral feelings and thoughts or trivial events doomed to oblivion. Women's diaries, memoirs, correspondence and unpublished manuscripts of their literary works, especially from before the second half of the 19th century are still a barely known continent of Polish culture and not only this, holding secrets of women's identity, origins of this identity, as well as secrets of women's relationships and activities other than considered to be the only significant ones for a woman's biography.

Diaries and letters by women are a fascinating source of research on female mores, i.e. on the character of ties which link them, and the role they play in each other's lives. Such cultural threads are neglected and put on the sidelines of official culture, in which a woman plays the role only through reference to a man: a father, a husband, a son. It was essential to us that the writing "self" of women could have enough space to speak, to show in which dialogue relations it is and how it shapes the identities of persons involved in this dialogue.