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A Certain (Dis)advantage: Comparison and Itinerant Thinkers

Mickiewicz's Parisian Lectures at College de France is one of the foundational acts for the Slavic comparative literature and for *komparatystyka* in general. His scandalous, by many scholarly norms, authorial position initiated and exemplified a perspective that can be considered a model for comparative inquiries, even though he ultimately sublimated his displacement into a religious vision and lost the impetus that organized many of his actions. Nonetheless, he is the diasporic thinker operating within the Romantic comparison. In my present inquiry I take a transatlantic leap to see how a diasporic itinerary is inscribed in our contemporaneity by three comparatists from American academe--Irena Grudzińska-Gross, Svetlana Boym and Olga Solovieva—and their incisive interventions in some well-trenched spheres of thought.



Bożena Shallcross is a professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures at the University of Chicago and an author of several monographs, edited and translated volumes, intertwined with articles. In her research she revises a variety of concepts related to the once fundamental division between the seeing subject and the objectual sphere in literature, visual arts, and an experiential world of various phenomena. As of late, she interrogated the historical setting of the Holocaust in order to grasp the precarious ontology of trivial, everyday things of that time. She just prepared a book-length project tentatively entitled *Nanophilology: Inscriptions and Other Marks*.