

16th EASA biennial conference [New anthropological horizons in and beyond Europe](https://easaonline.org/conferences/easa2020/panels#8694)

EASA2020 – P176: Engaged Anthropology at Times of Nationalistic Enhancement in the XX Century. Convenors: Grazyna Kubica-Heller ((Institute of Sociology, Jagiellonian University, Kraków) and Anna Engelking (Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw). <https://easaonline.org/conferences/easa2020/panels#8694>

Thursday 23 July, 08:30-10:15 and 11:00-12:45 (Lisbon/London time)

The panel's aim was "to discuss the engagement of anthropologists in fighting with or supporting twentieth-century nationalisms. Why were some anthropologists using anthropological knowledge to deconstruct nationalisms, while others were doing just the opposite: they were engaged in strengthening them?" The first session was introduced by the convenors with a short statement, concluded by the remark: "We hope that this historical panel will help us understand the contemporary situation. How to defend the ideas of multiculturalism and pluralism, the importance of citizenship and openness, when the nationalistic enhancement is again so powerful?" Adam Pisarek (University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland) presented a paper on "Race and the island. The role of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to the Torres Strait in the formation of selected concepts of the nation state." He was followed by Erik Petschelis (University of São Paulo, Brazil) who spoke about "Hermann von Ihering (1850-1930) and the indigenous question." Then Laura Cristina Pop (Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania) presented a paper on "Treasures from Transylvania: ethnographers, archives and the fascinating universe of traditional society – tools of constructing the 20th century Transylvanian national identity" and Grażyna Kubica-Heller (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland) talked about "Interwar Polish engaged anthropology and nationalism – two exemplary cases" and presented some theoretical background on engaged anthropology (following the sociologists Pierre Bourdieu and Michel Burawoy). The topic was continued in the second session by a paper of Anna Engelking (Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland) entitled "Dworakowski, Chajes, Obrębski. Three models of the anthropologist-state nationalism relation in prewar Poland." Götz Bachmann (Leuphana University, Lüneburg, Germany) talked about "The Oyneg Shabes Action Research Group, 1940-1943" in the Warsaw Ghetto. Later Ricardo Gomes Moreira (Institute for Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal) spoke about "Genetic Temporalities: history and narrative in the production of imaginaries of belonging and biological diversity." The final paper was given by Katarzyna Warمیńska (Cracow University of Economics, Poland) and Ewa Michna (Jagiellonian University, Poland) on the subject "Unveiling the difference? The Polish anthropologist in the face of social transformation" based on their own experiences in the 1990s. The panel was concluded by a prolonged discussion on various kinds of anthropological engagement, quite often strengthening state nationalism, which was taken for granted by contemporary anthropologists.