

Mariusz Kałczewiak

July 10, 8pm (Warsaw time)

**Boys Showing Off. Polish-Jewish Strongmen and Boxers and the Changing Notions of Masculinity.**

This lecture will analyze the figures of two Polish-Jewish men: strongman Zisha Breitbart (1883-1925) and boxer Shapsel Rotholc (1913-1996) in the context of the popular classes' masculinity. We will trace how their followers and opponents discussed, challenged, or rejected their Jewish masculinities centered around physical power. Polish-Jewish men represented masculinities much more diverse than the binary notions of Zionist "Muscle Jewry" and weak and unmasculine "Talmud Jewry." Breitbart and Rotholc demonstrated how performances and social modeling of physical strength and fitness became central to defining Jewish masculinities in interwar Poland.