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# BIOS OF THE PARTICIPANTS



**TINA BETTELS-SCHWABBAUER** is a research associate at the Erich Brost Institute for International Journalism at the Technical University of Dortmund, where she heads the German editorial team of the European Journalism Observatory (EJO / [www.ejo-online.eu](http://www.ejo-online.eu)). Furthermore, she is involved in a European project entitled “New Skills for the Next Generation of Journalists” (NEWSREEL), supported by the line of Erasmus+ programme devoted to strategic partnerships. In

her research, she focuses on collaborative journalism, international media systems, journalism cultures and education of journalists in Central and Eastern Europe. The latter is the topic of her doctoral thesis.



**HUBERT BOROWSKI** sociologist by education, worked in the market research industry (TNS, Orange) and in non-governmental organizations (PBIS “Stocznia”). Also, he was active as an independent analyst and researcher (including for

the media). Currently, manager of data department at Laboratorium EE, where he worked among others on the data-based project called “Sonar” carried out for the Gazeta Wyborcza daily.



**MATHIAS BRÜGGMANN** is an international correspondent for Handelsblatt, focussing on Eastern Europe, Iran and the Arab world. His previous postings were in Brussels, Moscow and Warsaw.



**OLGA DOŁEŚNIAK-HARCZUK** (born 1980). After completing Johann Wolfgang Goethe's 49th High School in Warsaw, she studied linguistics at Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, and in the years 2003-2011 worked as a Polish correspondent in Germany and the Balkans. Her areas of interest include politics, the history and culture of Germany, the German media market, the migration crisis in Europe, including its sources, implications, demographic and economic consequences, as well as Turkey and Islam. Deputy editor-in-chief of the "Nowe Państwo" monthly and "Gazeta Polska Codziennie" daily. Expert from the Staszic Institute.



**DR KAROL FRANCAK, PH.D.** sociologist and cultural scholar, assistant professor in the Department of Research on Social Communication, Institute of Sociol-

ogy, University of Lodz. He teaches and researches in the areas of sociology, discourse analysis, and media studies. Author of publications in scientific journals and in the Polish socio-cultural press, including "Odra" and "Tygodnik Powszechny".



**PHILIPP FRITZ** has been a foreign correspondent for „Welt” and „Welt am Sonntag” since June 2018. He reports mainly from Poland, but also from the Ukraine and the Baltic states. He volunteered at the „Berliner Zeitung” and then worked as a freelance journalist for the „Taz”, „Die Zeit” and „Jüdische Allgemeine”. Until 2018 he was editor at the Eastern European Network n-ost in Berlin. Philipp Fritz studied Political Science and Cultural Studies at the University of Bremen and the Jagiellonian University in Krakow.



**RICHARD FUCHS** is a freelance journalist specialising in energy policy & European Affairs. He is working on a permanent basis for Germany's International broadcaster Deutsche Welle, covering German internal politics for an international audience. Besides his position as political correspondent, Richard is an award-winning reporter for several public service media outlets in Germany, amongst them Deutschlandfunk, SWR, BR and others. He has been active as a media trainer for Germany's media development organisation DW Akademie, and is known as an author and experienced conference host.



**MARCIN PIOTR GWÓZDŹ** born on 14th December 1977 in Żąbkowice Śląskie. Graduate of the Poznań University of Technology in the field of management and production



engineering, as well as of the Wrocław University of Technology, where he studied mechanics and machine construction. He also completed the Reserve Officer School. Married, father of three daughters. Manager with over a dozen years' experience in managing joint stock companies. Licensed restructuring consultant and practicing specialist in company accounting and finances, who combines his technical expertise with experience in team management. Member of local government and social activist. In the municipal elections of 2010 and 2014, he was elected a councillor for the Ząbkowice powiat. From 2007 to 2016, he was President of the Management Board of Przedsiębiorstwo Wodociągów i Kanalizacji Delfin sp. z o.o. (water and sewage utility company). Later, he also held the post of the President of the Management Board of the largest spa resort in Poland, Uzdrowiska Kłodzkie S.A. –PGU Group and of Vice-President of KGHM TFI S.A. Fields of interest: old-timers, young-timers, as well as sports, mainly football (former player).



**WOJCIECH JAKÓBIK** is an energy sector analyst. Graduate of political sciences (B.A.) and international relations (M.A.). He is a lecturer at the College of Eastern Europe at the University of Warsaw and administers websites and social networks as well as creates content for them. Editor-in-chief of BiznesAlert.pl. His experience includes projects related, among other things, to international affairs, e.g. at the Europa Bezpieczeństwo Energia (Europe Safety Energy) portal and projects carried out by Ośrodek Myśli Politycznej (Centre for Political Thought). In his creative works, he tries to question the dogmatic approach to specialist topics which is sometimes presented in a simplified and impoverished manner, to make them comprehensible.



**EWELINA KARPIŃSKA-MOREK** – journalist, deputy director of Interia news outlets, graduate of journalism at the Jagiellonian University. Winner of the Polish-German Tadeusz Mazowiecki Journalism Award for her piece entitled "Bo przyjdzie Krampus i zabierze ci nupel" (2019), co-author of the book "Teraz jesteście Niemcami" (2018).



**MARCIN KĘDZIERSKI, PH.D.** Programme Director of CA KJ (the Centre of Analysis of the Jagiellonian Club) and expert in education, holder of Ph.D. in economics. Economist, graduate of international relations at the Economic University of Cracow (2008) and doctoral studies at the Chair for Economy and Public Administration at the Economic University of Cracow (2013). Cooperated with the Tertio Millennio Institute (2008–2009), member of the team of a



European project called VETWORKS, dealing with evaluation in vocational schooling and lifelong learning (2009–2011). From 2011, assistant at the Chair for European Studies at the Economic University of Cracow, where he currently holds the post of a lecturer. From 2009 to 2012, Member of the Board for Finances, and in the period 2012–2015 president of the Jagiellonian Club. Initiator and editor-in-chief of the Visegrad Plus portal; specialises in public policies with particular focus on educational policy, as well as the foreign policy of Central and Eastern Europe.



**THOMAS KRALINSKI**

born on 25.08.1972 in Weimar. State Secretary, Plenipotentiary of Brandenburg to the Federation, for Media und International Relations. Deputy member of the German-French Friendship Group and of the German-Russian Friendship Group. Married. 1991 Abitur (higher education entrance qualification). 1992 to 1998 M.A. studies in Political Sciences,

Economics and Eastern European/South-Eastern European Studies in Leipzig (Germany) and Manchester (UK). From 1998, member of the SPD party. From 1999 to 2003 research associate to the SPD Landtag Group's Economic Speaker, Dresden (Germany). From 2003 to 2004 consultant to the SPD State Association of Brandenburg, Potsdam (Germany). From 2004 to 2014 Secretary General of the SPD Parliamentary Group in the Landtag of Brandenburg. From 2014 to 2016 and since 2018 State Secretary and Plenipotentiary of Brandenburg to the Federation and in charge of the Media and international relations. From 2016 to 2018 Head of the State Chancellery of Brandenburg.



My name is **JAROSŁAW KUŹNIAR** and I am a

multi-instrumentalist. My experience includes work for the radio, press and television. These days, I focus on the online channel as this is where the future of the media lies. I've been professionally active since

the age of fifteen. Trójka, Radio ZET, TVN24, TVN, Onet. These brands speak for themselves. I would change them, seeking more – both more knowledge and more work. On my way, I've come across great masters who had the time to stop and teach me my profession: Kaczkowski, Niedźwiecki, Kydryński, Mann, Miszczak. Now, I am a teacher to my students. I emphasize acting wise in front of the camera, modern way of creating one's personal brand and developing individual social media channels. Also, I provide trainings to companies and individuals in the areas of my specialty. There is another passion of mine, travelling, that has become my new profession for several years now. I discover the world on my own and with Clients, for whom travelling does not have to be holidays. We prepare our tailor-made expeditions for individual and business Clients, who – just like me – wish to take a different, wiser and deeper, approach to it. We set out to find knowledge and not fun. At the beginning of 2019, I opened my own agency, Kuźniar Media, which is now at the center of my professional work. There, I deal with carrying out trainings, writing narratives



for brands, consulting companies on social media, and inspiring others as a speaker and host. When working at the start-up community, I got to know many companies whose owners keep asking me how to run their marketing and PR, how to build new media and take care of their brand. Kuźniar Media is a creative agency that responds to those questions.



**EWA ŁABNO-FAŁĘCKA, PH.D** graduate of the Jagiellonian University, she earned her doctoral degree at the University of Tübingen. In the years 1993-1999 she was culture attache at the Polish Embassy in Bonn (Germany). Since 2000 she has been in charge of communication, external relations and governmental affairs in the Daimler Group AG in Poland. Winner of numerous awards, including „Businesswoman of the Year” (2016) in the category Corporation. She received Medal of Merit for the Polish Transportation (2014).



**CLAUS CHRISTIAN MALZAHN** 55, has been working as a journalist for the past 35 years. In his work, he concentrates on political and social relations in Eastern Germany. Back in the 80's he reported on the opposition in the GDR. In the years 1994 – 2010, he worked as a reporter for the “Spiegel” magazine, with postings in Erfurt, Berlin and Bonn. In 1999 he moved to the international editorial team of “Spiegel”, travelling to countries such as Kosovo, Afghanistan or Iraq. In the years 2000 to 2002, Malzahn was a “Spiegel”-correspondent from Warsaw. Today he is active as a reporter of the WELT Group, focusing on the states of East Germany. Claus Christian Malzahn has authored many books, including “Deutschland. Deutschland. Kurze Geschichte einer geteilten Nation (DTV, 2005)”. He lives in Berlin.



**MARKUS MECKEL** Co-chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs in the GDR, pastor. He has a seat on the advisory board and is a Council Chairman of the Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship whose activity he initiated. He is also a member of the board of trustees of the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity. He is involved in European foreign policy and supports democracy. Mr Meckel studied theology in Naumburg and Berlin. He was involved in the activities of the political opposition in the former GDR in the 1970s and 80s. In 1989, he initiated the founding of the Social Democratic Party in the GDR (SPD) together with Martin Gutzeit. In 1990, he served as the acting president of the eastern SPD. After democratic elections in 1990, he served as a member of the GDR People's Chamber and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From 1990-2009, Mr Meckel served as an MP and from 1994-2009



chaired the German-Polish Parliamentary Friendship Group in Bundestag. He was a deputy speaker on foreign affairs of the SPD. From 1998–2006, he was the chairman of the German Delegation in the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and vice-president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly 2000–2002.



**ROMAN NUCK** starting from 2013, he is in charge of cross-border projects and reporting from the Czech Republic and Poland at MDR LFH Sachsen. Prior to this position, he was active as an editor and reporter at the MDR-aktuell and ARD-aktuell editorial offices in Leipzig. He reported for various news formats of MDR and ARD television, such as MDR aktuell, Tagesschau and Tagesthemen. In addition, Roman Nuck worked as a television correspondent in the ARD studio in Prague and was an intern in the editorial offices of Česká televize and Český rozhlas as well as in the Polish radio station Radio Wrocław. Roman Nuck's field of

specialty is television for which he has worked for almost 20 years now. He currently coordinates the cooperation between MDR and Polish and Czech radio and television colleagues, at the same time focusing on the development of new joint radio and television formats. In addition, Roman Nuck works as managing editor for the regional MDR television magazine Sachsenspiegel.

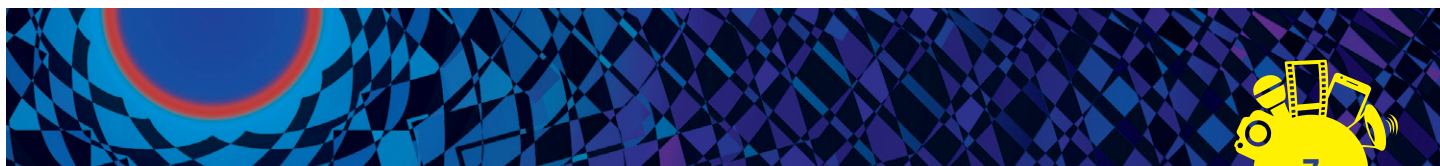
*Photo: MDR*



**CEZARY PRZYBYLSKI** (born on 18.06.1956 in Sławobórz, Poland). Father of two sons. Local politician and social activist. Long-term school teacher and headmaster (1986–1998). Graduate of the University of Agriculture in Wrocław (Poland) and postgraduate studies in financial management of enterprises. He started in local government in 1990 as a councillor and member of the municipal board of Warta Bolesławiecka. In the years 1994–1998 he was a delegate of the Legnica Province Assembly, where he headed the Committee

for Social Activities. From 1998, councillor and deputy governor of Bolesławice district. He held the post of the president of the Education Committee of the Association of Polish Districts until 2001 and was active in the Education Team of the Joint Commission of the Government and Local Authorities. He was elected governor of the Bolesławiec district for two terms, in 2006 and 2010. In the same period, he also headed the Convention of Districts of Lower Silesian Voivodeship. Long-term member of the ROP Monitoring Committee for the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. In February 2014, elected Marshal of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. Involved in activities supporting education, economic development and culture. Member of the Polska Miedź Foundation, initiator of a number of social campaigns, including the creation of local branches of Food Banks. Winner of numerous prestigious awards and distinctions, including the Distinguished Cultural Service Award (2004), Lower Silesian Key to Success (2008), Lower Silesia Griffin Economic Award (2009), Education Leader ministerial award (2012), Silver Medal of Merit for National Defence (2012).





**KAJA PUTO** is a Polish journalist and editor who writes on Eastern Europe, nationalism and migration. She contributes to Polish and international media. Member of Krytyka Polityczna, Rekolektyw – Reporters Association and n-ost – The Network for Reporting on Eastern Europe. She studied philosophy, culture studies and political studies in Kraków, Berlin and Tbilisi. From 2015–2018, she was a deputy director of Korporacja Ha!art publishing house.



**KRZYSZTOF RAK**, managing director of the Foundation for Polish–German Cooperation. Historian of philosophy, translator, columnist and expert in international affairs. A graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Warsaw, he worked for several years as an assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Białystok Branch of the University of

Warsaw (currently the University of Białystok). In the 1990s he was a civil servant at the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland. There, he dealt with international affairs, including Polish–German relations and European policies. Having left his career in the civil service, he became the press officer at the Polish Security Printing Works. In the years 2006–2008, he was a member of the Management Board of the FWPN. In the period 2007–2009 he worked in Polish Television (TVP), initially as a specialist for international contacts. As part of his job, he coordinated the operation of the TVP News Agency's International Department. Later, he was the head of the “Wiadomości” news service. He was active as a columnist on international affairs from the mid-1990s, and his articles were published mostly in “Życie” and “Wprost”. Also, he also wrote articles for “Gazeta Wyborcza”, “Nasz Dziennik”, “Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung”, “Die Welt”, “Handelsblatt” and “The Sarmatian Review”. He currently cooperates with “Rzeczpospolita” and “Nowa Konfederacja”.



**PIA RAUSCHENBERGER** is a radio journalist. Currently, she works for Deutschlandfunk Kultur. Her fields of interest include politics, society, science and psychology, with particular focus on issues at the border of these areas. Pia Rauschenberger studied psychology in Leipzig and Berlin and she learned to be a radio journalist at Deutschlandradio in Berlin and in Köln.



**ANDREAS ROSSBACH** is a Russian–German journalist for online, video and print. He covers various topics for German and international press, but focuses on human rights, social issues and politics in Eastern Europe and Russia. He studied Economics, Politics and Journalism and is an alumni of different journalism fellowships like the Reporters in the Field Fellowship of the Robert Bosch Foundation, the Journalism and Cultural Studies fellowship



of the Boris Nemtsov Foundation for Freedom and the Borderland fellowship of the European Solidarity Academy in Gdańsk.



#### ALEKSANDRA RYBIŃSKA

Political scientist. A graduate of the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris (Sciences-Po). A columnist for the internet portal wPolityce.pl, television wpolsce.pl and the weekly magazine Sieci, expert from the think-tank The Warsaw Institute, member of the board of the Maciej Rybiński Foundation and the main board of the Association of Polish Journalists (SDP). She grew up in Germany, France and Great Britain. In the years 2006–2011 she was a journalist for Rzeczpospolita and Uważam Rze, then (2013–2014) head of the foreign department in Gazeta Polska Codziennie. She was published in Gazeta Polska, Nowa Konfederacja, The Warsaw Institute Review, quarterly Rzeczy Wspólne, Teologia Polityczna, Gazeta Bankowa, BBC World Service, Welt am Sonntag and Der Tagesspiegel.

She has been connected with Fratria since 2014.

*Photo: Julita Szewczyk/SAVE A DREAM*



**OLIVER SCHENK** is Chief of the State Chancellery and State Minister for Federal and European Affairs of the Free State of Saxony. In the capacity of the Minister for European Affairs, he is in charge of the European Policy Division, which the Department of European Policy and European Union Affairs belongs to. His role includes shaping and executing the EU policy of Saxony. This department deals with such comprehensive issues of European policy as transposal of the Constitutional Treaty, structural and regional policy, the budget of the European Union and the enlargement of the EU. Oliver Schenk was born on 14th August 1968 in Dachau. He is married and belongs to the Roman Catholic Church. Together with his family, he lives in Dresden. After high school he started studying economics in Münster, and following his graduation, in the year 1994, he em-

barked on his professional career in the civil service. His first employer was the Ministry of the Environment and Rural Development of Saxony. In 1999 he moved to the Ministry of Finance, where he initially wrote speeches, and then headed the Office of the Minister of Finance. In the period 2005–2009, Oliver Schenker held the post of the Director of the Department for Coordination and Director for Political Planning, Federal and International Affairs in the State Chancellery of Saxony. Next, he assumed the post of the Director of the Administrative Upgrading and IT Department at the State Ministry of the Interior. In 2010, Oliver Schenk relocated to Berlin, where he took the office of regional head of the Federal Office of the CDU party. In the years 2014–2017 he headed the Department on Matters of Principle and Telematics at the Federal Ministry of Health in Berlin.



**EMILY SCHULTHEIS** is a freelance journalist based in Berlin, where she writes





about European politics and the rise of right-wing populist parties. Over the course of her political reporting career, Emily has covered elections across a dozen countries and more than 25 U.S. states. Her work has appeared in The Atlantic, Politico, Politico Europe, The Guardian, Foreign Policy, BBC Online, The Los Angeles Times, CBS News, the National Journal, National Journal Magazine, Der Tagesspiegel, Deutsche Welle and Spiegel Online International. Before moving to Berlin in 2017, Emily covered U.S. national politics and elections for six years from Washington, first for Politico and then for the National Journal and CBS News.



**KAROLIN SCHWARZ** is a freelance journalist, fact checker and trainer. Her work appeared in the ARD political magazine Kontraste, and on ARD's fact-checking platform Faktenfinder, BuzzFeed and Motherboard. She also took over editorial responsibility for the video series about:–blank. She gives lectures

and training courses all over the world (including in Sweden, Singapore, Bulgaria and Romania). In the past, she has worked as a fact checker for Correctiv.org and as a community tamer for Jäger & Sammler (funk) and local newspaper Leipziger Volkszeitung. In February 2016, she founded Hoaxmap.org, where false reports of refugees and PoC are collected. The project received nominations for the Grimme Online Award, the alternative media prize and the journalist prize “Der lange Atem” and received the democracy prize of the SPD faction in the Saxon state parliament. She is also working on a new project: a database for fake photos and videos.

*Photo: Andi Weiland*



**PIOTR STASIAK** (born in 1979). Studied journalism at the University of Warsaw. Graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. In the years 2002 – 2012, he worked in the editorial team of the Polityka weekly. As a

journalist, he authored over 300 texts on technology and economy, for which he was awarded with, among others, nomination to Grand Press award and the President of the Office for Competition and Consumer. Between 2009 and 2012 he headed the editorial team of the online “Polityka”, and led the team in charge of digitalization of this weekly. One of the accomplishments of the team was the creation of the Kindle and iPad editions of “Polityka”, as well as launching one of the first paid online editions in the Polish media. From 2012 to 2015 head of the online editorial team of “Newsweek Polska” and advisor to the Board of Ringier Axel Springer Polska and Onet.pl. Since 2015, managing partner in an online communication agency Bazgroł. He is obsessed about reading, collects old books and tries to spend a lot of time with his daughters.



**NATALIE STEGER** (born 06.04.1969 in Speyer) is head of the ZDF studio in Warsaw, reporting

from Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The reports, background reports and analyses developed in the studio are broadcast by ZDF. In the years 1988–1995, Natalie Steger studied political sciences, American studies and journalism in Mainz and Sacramento. From 1988 to 1991 an independent journalist of “Die Rheinpfalz” in Speyer, then in the years 1991–1992 – independent journalist of the Südwestfunk radio. In the year 1993 she worked in the Governor’s Press Office in Sacramento. From 1993 to 1996, journalist of the SWF TV news, and from 1997 to 1999 editor and reporter of ZDF’s program “Leute heute”, whereas from 1999 to 2000 – editor and reporter of ZDF’s magazine “hallo Deutschland”. From 2000 to 2004, reporter of ZDF’s “ZDF.reporter”, and from 2004 to 2008, correspondent in the ZDF’s studio in Brussels. In January 2005 she was a correspondent from Phuket following the tsunami in Thailand. Then, from 2008 to 2010 head of the ZDF studio in Saxony, and from 2011 to 2016 correspondent in the international ZDF studio in Paris. Since 2016 Natalie Steger has been heading the ZDF studio in Warsaw. She was awarded

with a scholarship of the University in Sacramento, “Model United Nations” scholarship in New York, as well as a special mention of the Axel Springer Award for young journalists for her documentary entitled “Sun City, Paradies der Alten”.

*Photo: ZDF/Rico Rossival*



#### **GRZEGORZ ŚLUBOWSKI.**

Specializes in Eastern Europe and works on a permanent basis at the Polish Radio. Currently, he is editor-in-chief of the Chief Editor’s Office of International Journalism. He hosts the “Racja stanu” (in English: Raison d’etat) program on TVP Polonia channel. For 6 years, he was a correspondent in Moscow, where he reported among others on the Kursk submarine disaster, the Dubrovka theater hostage crisis and the Beslan school siege. In his reports and commentaries, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia, were no longer only geographic names and simple human problems became equally important as headline events. He is a journalist with a great

network of contacts which he can use in an excellent manner. These days, he runs an international program entitled “Więcej świata” (in English: More World), where caters to the listeners of the Polish Radio One, providing them with clear and comprehensible explanations of global developments.



#### **BARBARA WŁODARCZYK.**

Having completed here studies of journalism, she started her work at the TVP’s editorial office of international politics. In the years 2004–2009 she was TVP’s political correspondent in Moscow. Currently she is a political commentator at the TVP. Under her cycle entitled “Szerokie tory” (wide tracks), she created over 100 documentaries depicting the live of the inhabitants of the former USSR. For the cycle, she received such awards as Grand Press and The International Chicago Television Award in the category of documentaries. She is one of the best known TV journalist. She now cooperates with TVP

**MAREK WRÓBEL**

Chair of the Management Board, Fundacja Republikańska. A graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration and the Faculty of Journalism and Political Sciences of the University of Warsaw. In the years 2006-2007 he was the head of the political cabinet of the Minister of Economy Piotr Woźniak.