

## Polish Studies Article Prize 2025

### Jury

Dr Janek Gryta, University of Southampton

Dr Katarzyna Kosior, Northumbria University

### Winner

Jagoda Wierzejska, "Artistic Forms of Shaping Ukrainian National Identity by Leon Getz," *Nationalities Papers* 53, no. 3 (published online 20 May 2024): 682–701.

We are delighted to recognize the article „Artistic Forms of Shaping Ukrainian National Identity by Leon Getz” as an outstanding contribution to Polish studies. Wierzejska’s article makes a significant and original contribution to the field by introducing Leon Getz, an overlooked Ukrainian artist who lived and created in Poland, into the scholarly conversation. Born in Lviv to a family divided between Polish and Ukrainian identities, Getz chose to affirm his Ukrainianness throughout a life marked by war, displacement, and personal tragedy. The article offers a compelling exploration of how this identity was continuously shaped and reaffirmed in Polish cultural and political contexts that were often hostile or exclusionary.

The jurors were particularly impressed by the article’s originality, its recovery of a largely invisible figure, and its nuanced reading of both art and ego-documents. Through a sensitive and theoretically informed analysis, the author presents Getz’s creative work as a form of identity performance, shaped by his encounters with Polishness and his response to a world in flux. The use of rarely accessed archival sources from multiple countries further deepens the scholarly value of the piece, opening new directions for research in Polish, Ukrainian, and borderland studies.

Stylishly written and carefully structured, the article builds complexity by revisiting key themes through new lenses, allowing readers to grasp the layers of meaning in Getz’s life and work. It is an exemplary model of how cultural history and identity theory can be brought together to illuminate the experiences of individuals caught in the crosscurrents of national narratives.

### Honourable Mention

Monika Rice, "Dr. Arnold Mostowicz: 'Not Alone in Space.' Moral Injury and the Quest for Extraterrestrial Redemption," *Jewish Culture and History* 25 (4), 2024: 601–31.

