

The film culture of the Polish People's Republic is analyzed primarily through the work of Polish directors - specific films and artistic figures are analyzed. Works dealing with the institutional dimension of cinema are rare. Little is known about the mechanisms of releasing specific titles to the screens; only Polish films whose distribution was banned were subject to analysis. Meanwhile, many popular foreign films could not be screened in Poland. On the other hand, the selectivity of repertoire made it that in the mid-1960s, the international federation of film critics recognized Poland as a country with the best cinema repertoire in the world! In later decades, many important films, awarded with Oscars or awards at important festivals did not make it to Poland (some of them could be distributed only in a small number of copies, via so-called studio cinemas or Film Discussion Clubs). It is hard to believe, but it has still been impossible to determine a full list of all films distributed in cinemas in the period of the Polish People's Republic and shown on TVP at this time! The project will fill this gap thanks to an online database, which shall only contain information on distribution (e.g. country of production, number of copies, period of use, date of sessions on TV).

The project will answer the following questions: What foreign films were shown in Polish cinemas (and why these)? What was the delay with which foreign films came in to Polish cinemas? What kinds of films shown in cinemas were later placed on the silver screen? What important films of world cinema were not distributed in Polish cinemas in People's Poland and were not broadcast on Polish Television at the time? What was the phenomenon of short extras before screening feature films? How did Polish cinemas cope with the imperative to build a certain percentage of the repertoire of films from socialist countries? When did the "black market" of cinema tickets appear? How did Film Discussion Clubs function? On what basis was it decided if a film was allowed for 12, 15 or 18-year-old viewers? Were films on television shown in thematic cycles? What were the quantitative ratios between films from "socialist" and "capitalist" countries - in cinemas and television? How were repertoires in cinemas and television developed on public and church holidays? The project will shed a light on these issues, thus constituting a whole new approach to film culture of People's Poland.