

**Between Center and Periphery:
A Comparison of Ludwik Ehrlich's Theoretical Concepts with American-British International
Relations in the First Half of the Twenty Century**

SUMMARY

The basic goal of the project is to compare the theoretical concepts developed by Polish scholar Ludwik Ehrlich (1889-1968) and the Anglo-American academic discipline International Relations during the first half of the 20th century.

In the first stage, the unified terminology would be proposed and comparative categories would be introduced (e.g. the idea of war, peace, state, sovereignty, etc.). Next, the comparing categories (proposed in the previous stage) would be isolated from the main Anglo-American International Relations theories developed between 10s and 60s of the 20th century. In the third stage, data on Ludwik Ehrlich's life and publications concerning the field of International Relations would be collected – based on archive queries in Poland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the US. Those archive queries are necessary because Prof. Ehrlich (a) during his stay in the UK was lecturing at the King's College and the Exeter College, (b) during his long residency in the US was teaching at the University of California and acted as the head of the Press Office in New York of the Polish Embassy, (c) in the Interwar period was teaching at the Jan Casimir University in Lviv and (d) after the Second World War was lecturer at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. In the next stage, the isolation of theoretical concepts and comparing categories from Ludwik Ehrlich's works on international relations would be conducted based on data collected during the previous stage. The final stage is a comparison between previously described Anglo-American International Relations theories from the first half of 20th century and Ludwik Ehrlich's ideas on international issues. In results, similarities and differences in the development of that kind of theoretical thinking would be described. Simultaneously, the influence of context on Prof. Ehrlich's theorizing would be presented.

Two research gaps were identified in existing literature. Firstly, even Prof. Ehrlich is perceived as the most important Polish scholar in the field of International Relations in the first half of the 20th century, the knowledge about his achievements in this discipline is quite limited. Secondly, we observe the growing number of studies focused on European (especially German) scholars who shaped American International Relations in the 20th century, while research on how Anglo-American theoretical concepts of international relations were spread and transformed at the semi-peripheries of international system (e.g. in Central and Eastern Europe) is limited.

The proposed project's scientific methodology is grounded in the contextual approaches from the intellectual history studies on the International Relations theories. According to this kind of concepts, particular IR theories are not universal, but a result of context in which they were created (e.g. social, political and economic situation). At the level of research design, the project is based on comparative case study approach. The general topic of the first case study is Anglo-American International Relations in the first half of the 20th century. The second case is focused on Ludwik Ehrlich's achievements in the field of International Relations. The employed data collection method is qualitative document analysis.

Project results will help fully understand the development of Ludwik Ehrlich's International Relations theoretical concepts. Prof. Ehrlich's ideas would be presented in reference to the Anglo-American IR theories and the process showing how scientific theories travel between center and periphery of international system would be presented. At the same time, there will be described in detail the role played by different types of context in the development of IR research in Poland in the first half of the 20th century. In the end, closing existing research gaps in the state of the art will enable further research on contemporary International Relations in Poland and more broadly in the Central and Eastern Europe.