

**Dr hab. Artur Markowski**

**Project: Social roots of anti-Jewish violence: The Kingdom of Poland in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**

### **General audience summary**

The aim of the project is to find an answer to the question regarding the roots of physically manifested anti-Jewish aggression in the period of social change after the abolition of serfdom in the Kingdom of Poland (1864). The geography and social conditions of anti-Jewish violence will be studied and its functional typology proposed. The research will cover not only pogroms (acts of collective violence) but also other types of physical attacks (including beatings, vandalism, and robbery).

The idea of the research is to go beyond the standard seeking of the causes of anti-Jewish violence only in antisemitism, but also to search for them in other phenomena, such as: social practices, concepts of creating local leadership, fighting for the fulfillment of economic aspirations related to the social position of the lower classes, the relations between the authorities and the citizens (subjects) in an authoritarian system, the acquisition of political subjectivity by disadvantaged classes, and traditions of social conflicts and tensions.

Questions will be asked about the mechanism of violence, the reasons leading to its occurrence, the goals it was attempted to achieve, the social characteristics of the perpetrators and participants of the attacks, models of leadership implementation in attack groups in case of collective violence, as well as the geographical and demographic taxonomies of these events. Particularly important here is the context of the social change to which the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Poland were subjected in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (at the early stage of peripheral modernization) in connection to the abolition of serfdom, migration to cities and the rapid and chaotic development of the capitalist economy, with its cultural consequences in the form of social atrophy, the disappearance of old and new role models, the weakening of the functions of the local community, and the disappearance of traditional social norms and values. The system of regulating of violent behavior will also be studied, related to the level of control of society first by the state and then by emerging political movements and organizations.

We will seek answers to these questions analyzing primary source materials held in archives in Poland, Russia, the United States, England, Germany, and Austria. The project will rely on several methods of analysis, primarily the historical-spatial analysis with the use of the Geographical Information System (GIS).

The result of the project will contribute significantly to a better and more thorough understanding of the causes of violence and its mechanism to the development of the Jewish Studies, the studies of Polish-Jewish relations, the studies of violence, and social history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.