

The main goal of the project “Polish queen consorts in the 15th and 16th centuries as wives and mothers” **will be to fill the gaps in the implementation of basic research on women ruling in the Republic of Poland in its heyday and to try to find their role and influence on the political history, social and cultural development of this area.** The two centuries indicated in the title have been selected for a reason. It is a paradox that the wives of the Jagiellon kings of Poland, are among the least examined in historiography. For too long historiography kept them in the shadow of their husbands. Research into issues directly related to these queens consort will enrich our knowledge of their lives, giving an opportunity to further understand their itineraries, and for some of them to retrace these for the first time. New light will also be shed on issues related to the politics, society, economy and culture during the reign of the Jagiellonian dynasty. Of equal importance will be an attempt to capture the way in which the royal family functioned in Kingdom of Poland and later in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (*Rzeczpospolita*). We will focus on the position and influence of women: mothers, mothers-in-law, wives, sisters and daughters within the context of family relationships. Notably, the group of queens consort in question came from different countries and estates of the realm, were at different ages, had distinct relations with their families and their in-laws and husbands.

The research team will first collect and analyse the existing and scattered source material; this will be followed by archival and library research and its evaluation. An analysis of the collected materials will lead to announcing and publishing the research results during international conferences and in high impact journals and, ultimately, in a monograph to be published by a high-ranking academic publisher (e.g. Brill, Brepols, Routledge). The team comprising Polish and foreign scholars will meet on a regular basis at workshops (mostly conducted online) to discuss the results of each of research stages, will contribute to expanding the research horizons and using the Western research approaches to examination of the influential women in the history of Poland.