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"Economic Crisis, Anti-Semitism or Some Other Factor? Re-Evaluating the 1935-1937 Pogrom Wave in Poland"

In the contemporary scholarly literature there is a wide consensus regarding the factors that led to wave of anti-Jewish violence in Polish countryside and provincial towns in the middle of 1930s. Most scholars claim that the main reason was prolonged economic crisis, with anti-Semitic agitation as only secondary and indirect factor that led to anti-Jewish violence.

Kamil Kijek will re-evaluate these views by presenting his research on activities of "Young" stream of biggest Polish right-wing political party (Stronnictwo Narodowe, known widely as NDCja), internal conflicts and political dynamics inside the Polish right wing opposition to the ruling "sanacja" regime, policies of provincial and state authorities, finally, activities of various Jewish political actors. His talk will provide new explanation of factors that led to anti-Jewish violence as well as of the dynamics of pogroms in Przytyk, Odrzywół and Częstochowa. He will also discuss Jewish reactions and some influence that anti-Jewish violence had on Jewish political culture of 1930s.