Dr Ada Arendt-Weise

Cultural anthropologist, environmental historian and learning designer.

I research the history of environmental care and design new ways to teach and talk about it: university courses, skills workshops, serious games, public programmes, radio and webinar series. Based in Zurich; working in English, German and Polish.

CURRICULUM VITAE · ORCID 0000-0001-7149-0156 · CONTACT VIA THE WEBSITE

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

9/2022 – 11/2026 **Postdoctoral Fellow**
University of Oslo · Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History
Early modern environmental and climate history; ethics of care. Co-head of the KLIMER research group (Climate, Environment and Energy) since 3/2023.

10/2021 – 9/2022 **Assistant Professor in Cultural History (tenure-track)**
University of Warsaw · Institute of Polish Culture, Section of Cultural History

9/2020 – 8/2021 **Swiss Government Excellence Grant Fellow**
University of Bern · Institute of History, Section for Economic, Social and Environmental History

10/2018 – 9/2020 **Assistant Lecturer in Cultural History**
University of Warsaw · Institute of Polish Culture, Section of Cultural History

10/2016 – 2/2020 **Project Researcher**
University of Warsaw · National Science Centre project on the cultural history of the Chopin International Piano Competition

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2025 **Certificate of Advanced Studies in Digitale Lern- und Lehrkulturen**
Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)
Educational and experience design, playful didactics, learning video and podcast production, AI, AR and VR in teaching.

2024 **Learning Experience Design · Foundations of UX Design**
University of Michigan and Google, via Coursera

2018 **PhD in Cultural History, cum laude**
University of Warsaw
Dissertation on early modern almanac annotation, literacy and timekeeping practices.

2011 **MA in Cultural Studies, cum laude**
University of Warsaw

2008 – 2009 **Erasmus exchange, Comparative and Postcolonial Literatures**
University of Bologna

TEACHING AND LEARNING DESIGN

More than a decade of university teaching in Poland and Norway, in Polish and English, across cultural history, cultural anthropology, environmental history and the theory of culture, from BA to PhD level. Sixteen courses taught and fourteen syllabi developed from scratch, including the co-developed courses *Introduction to Global*

Environmental History and *Nature's Mirror: Histories of Early Modern Environmental Knowledge*, and twenty-four semesters of *Early Modern Cultural History* as sole instructor. Supervisor of eight BA and four MA theses, one of which won the Bronisław Geremek national prize; tutor in the Collegium Invisibile programme for exceptionally talented students; mentor of four doctoral candidates in environmental, climate and cultural history.

10/2018 – 9/2020

Expert on the Quality of Postgraduate Education

University of Warsaw · Integrated Development Programme, doctoral training across all faculties

- Needs analysis among PhD candidates of all disciplines; designed, ran and evaluated a portfolio of 40+ workshops on transferable and digital skills
- Sourced and coached external instructors; built cross-departmental partnerships; managed enrolment and feedback in the LMS; reported to university leadership
- Steered the programme through Poland's national higher-education reform and the shift to remote teaching in 2020

2023 –

Interdisciplinary seminar and reading-group formats

University of Oslo

Programmed KLIMER's monthly interdisciplinary seminar with international guests; launched the cross-departmental Brown Bag Seminars and a curated environmental-humanities reading group; keynote for a doctoral workshop on environmental temporalities (2025).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND LEARNING FORMATS

2025

Climate Impacts · serious game

Zurich

Tabletop strategy game in which players steer historical societies through droughts, floods and eruptions, pairing documented past adaptations with present-day equivalents. Game mechanics, historical research, playtesting and debrief design.

2024

Zona Frigida · hybrid learning experience

Lake Zurich

Self-guided, digitally augmented trail on cold-water immersion: a seven-step journey from QR codes at the lakeshore and safety checklists to immersion, reflection and a collective meeting, linking participants' own sensations to the cellular science of TRPM8 cold sensors. Concept, learning design and content.

2023

50 twarzy Konkursu · radio podcast

Radio Kapitał, Warsaw

Writer and host of a nine-episode series on live radio and streaming, based on the co-authored, prize-winning book *The Chopin Games*.

2020 – 2021

Augenblicke. Walking and Talking with Robert Walser · webinar series

Robert Walser Zentrum, Bern, with the Swiss Embassy in Poland

Curator and host of an online public series in two volumes.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP, FELLOWSHIPS AND FUNDING

3/2023 –

Co-Head, KLIMER research group (Climate, Environment and Energy)

University of Oslo

Seminar programming, hosting of visiting researchers, mentoring of doctoral candidates, budget oversight, and all group communication: website, newsletter, social media and event material.

2024 – 2030

Mercator Fellow

University of Münster · DFG Emmy Noether group "Die Spuren der ‚Kleinen Eiszeit' in der Literatur der frühen Neuzeit (1570–1780)"

Climate extremes of the Little Ice Age and their narrative traces in early modern German-language literature.

2020 – 2021

Swiss Government Excellence Grant
Swiss Confederation · University of Bern
Project "Managing an Ecological Crisis. Ludwik Mikołaj Grabiański's Almanacs 1696, 1701": one household navigating the compound climatic, agricultural and epidemic crises of the Late Maunder Minimum.

2016 – 2020

Co-Investigator, initiator and grant writer
National Science Centre, Poland (Opus 11; CHF 98,000)
Cultural History of the Chopin International Piano Competition.

2012 – 2014

Co-Investigator
Polish Ministry of Science, National Programme for the Development of Humanities (CHF 41,300)
Mnemonics and Cultural Memory in the Former Ages.

2021 – 2024

Principal-investigator proposals (submitted, not funded)
ERC and SNSF Starting Grants "Homo Curans. Early Modern Manorial Households as Collectives of Care"; SNSF Ambizione "Clasped Hands. Swiss Commons, Polish Cooperativism and the Ethics of Care".

INVITED TALKS, PANELS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS SINCE 2023

9/2025	Examining Past Environmental Temporalities Through Relationships of Care	Keynote · PhD workshop *Approaching Environmental Temporalities*, **University of Oslo**
7/2025	Roundtable on multispecies history	7. Schweizerische Geschichtstage, **University of Lucerne**
5/2025	Annotations of Care. Two Early Modern Almanac-Keepers Seen Through Their Marginalia, 1668–1701	Symposium *Usable Temporalities*, **University of Fribourg**
5/2025	Care as Historical Praxis	Invited online talk · **Durham University**
2/2025	Historia dla klimatu. Which story of the past do we need for the future?	Public debate · **Museum of the History of Poland**, Warsaw
8/2024	Modi Operandi. Novel Concepts in Environmental History	Convenor and chair · 4th World Congress of Environmental History, **University of Oulu**
3/2024	Archaeology of Care. Making Sense of Early Modern Almanac Annotations	Conference paper · Wolfenbütteler Arbeitskreis, **Herzog August Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel**
8/2023	Temporality of Care. The Case of Early Modern Fishponds	**ESEH Congress**, Bern, and LIFETIMES closing conference, **University of Oslo**
7/2023	Roundtable on care theory in science and technology studies	6th Nordic STS Conference, **University of Oslo**

FURTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015 – 2018

Admissions Officer
University of Warsaw
Coordinated outreach events, candidate interviews and orientation; tracked alumni careers.

2016

Descriptive Cataloguer
National Library of Poland, Warsaw
Created and maintained bibliographic and authority records for the central catalogue; monitored the English-language publishing market for Polonica and advised on acquisitions.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

1 Arendt, A. *Always Fragment. Microhistories of Care.* London: Routledge (Microhistories series). Under contract.

2 Arendt, A. (2019). *Archeologia zatroskania. Staropolskie kalendarze w działaniu* [*Archaeology of Care. Early Modern Almanacs in Action*]. Warsaw: University of Warsaw Press.
Gaudeamus 2019 prize of the Polish Academic Publishers Association; third-degree prize of the Rector of the University of Warsaw. Reviewed in Barok 2019:25, Ruch Literacki 2020:2, Biblioteka 2020:24, Acta Poloniae Historica 2020:121.

Book chapters

3 Arendt, A. (forthcoming). "Sustainability, Ethics and Care." In M. Middeke, G. Rippl & H. Zapf (eds.), *Handbook of Cultural Sustainability* (De Gruyter Handbooks of English and American Studies: Text and Theory). Berlin: De Gruyter.

4 Arendt, A. (2025). "Rethinking Evidence, Scale, and Causation: The Methodological Intersection of Microhistory and Environmental History." In S. G. Magnússon, T. Cohen & D. Carneiro (eds.), *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Microhistory. Origins, Present State, and Prospects.* New York: Bloomsbury.

5 Arendt, A. (2021). "Chopin Hijacked," "In Jasna Street," "A Chopiniade on a Nocturne," "The Gombrowicz Edition." In A. Arendt, M. Bogucki, P. Majewski & K. Sobczak, *The Chopin Games. History of the International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition 1927–2015*, transl. T. Zymer. Warsaw: University of Warsaw Press, pp. 116–194.
Academia 2021 prize, "Best academic and scientific book", 11th Warsaw Book Fair; basis of the radio podcast *50 twarzy Konkursu*. Reviewed in Res Facta Nova 2020:21, 30; Die Tonkunst 2023:17; Studia Chopinowskie 2021:18; Ruch Muzyczny 2021:20; The Daily Telegraph, 22 Oct. 2021.

6 Arendt, A. (2013). "Miejsce i rola kieszonkowych kalendarzy drukowanych w dawnej kulturze pamięci" [*Early Modern Almanacs and the Culture of Memory*]. In M. Prejs & A. Jakóbczyk-Gola (eds.), *Mnemonika i pamięć kulturowa epok dawnych.* Warsaw: Neriton, pp. 133–151.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

7 Arendt, A. (2025). "Archaeology of Care. A Proposal on How to Read Almanac Annotations." *Jahrbuch für Kommunikationsgeschichte* 27: 35–52.

8 Arendt, A. (2023). "Pride and Prejudice. Proto-Racism in Walerian Nekanda Trepka's 'Liber Generationis Plebeanorum' (c. 1624–1640)." *The Seventeenth Century* 38(2): 245–261.

9 Arendt, A. (2020). "Ksyloteki, czyli patroszenie lasu" [*Xylotheques, or the Evisceration of the Forest*]. *Annales Universitatis Paedagogicae Cracoviensis. Studia Poetica* 8: 215–229.

10 Arendt, A. (2018). "Pigułki na nieczytanie. Dwugłos autorsko-czytelniczy w kalendarzu na 1696 rok" [*Pills for Illiteracy. A Reader–Author Dialogue in an Almanac for 1696*]. *Rocznik Antropologii Historii* 11: 119–128.

11 Arendt, A. (2016). "Dwa XVII-wieczne kalendarze Bazylego Łuszczewskiego" [*Bazyli Łuszczewski's Two Seventeenth-Century Almanacs*]. *Barok* 43: 147–166.

Papers in conference proceedings

12 Arendt, A. (2013). "Od królewskich dworów po stragany. Kręte ścieżki hermetyzmu renesansowego w kulturze staropolskiej" [*From Royal Courts to Market Stalls. The Reception of Renaissance Hermeticism in Early Modern Polish Culture*]. In R. Ptaszek & D. Sobieraj (eds.), *Ezoteryczne tropy w kulturze Zachodu.* Lublin: Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, pp. 131–143.

13 Arendt, A. (2010). "Wspomnienie Galicji – ćwiczenia z wybiórczego pamiętania i twórczej rekonstrukcji przeszłości" [*Galicia as an Exercise in Selective Remembrance and Reconstruction of the Past*]. In M. Příhoda & V. Čermák (eds.), *Slovanský areál a Evropa.* Prague: Filozofická fakulta Univerzity Karlovy, pp. 23–30.

Edited collections

14 Arendt, A., Jakóbczyk-Gola, A., Morawski, P. & Piotrowski, I. (eds.) (2022). *Długie trwanie kultury staropolskiej. Ustanowienia, praktyki, rekonstrukcje* [*The Longue Durée of Early Modern Polish Culture. Foundations, Practices, Reconstructions*]. Warsaw: Neriton.

Academic translations (German to Polish)

15 Assmann, A. (forthcoming). *Ist die Zeit aus den Fugen?* Translated by A. Arendt. Warsaw: Warsaw University Press.

16 Elias, N. (2017). *Esej o czasie* [*Über die Zeit*]. Translated by A. Arendt. Warsaw: Warsaw University Press.

Translations for museums and exhibitions (Polish to English)

17 Hatowska, A. & Targoń, J. (eds.) (2018). *The Great War.* Łódź: Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi.

18 Jach, A. & Kurc-Maj, P. (eds.) (2017). *Superorganism. The Avant-Garde and the Experience of Nature*. Łódź: Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi.

19 Strożek, P. (ed.) (2017). *Enrico Prampolini. Futurism, Stage Design and the Polish Avant-Garde Theatre*. Łódź: Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi.

20 Kurc-Maj, P. & Saciuk-Gąsowska, A. (eds.) (2017). *Organisers of Life. De Stijl, the Polish Avant-Garde and Design.* Łódź: Muzeum Sztuki w Łodzi.

Book reviews

21 Arendt, A. (2013). "Trzy nowe tomy serii Bibliotheca Curiosa" [*Three New Volumes from Bibliotheca Curiosa*]. *Barok* 40: 223–227.

22 Arendt, A. (2011). Review of Krzysztof Mrowcewicz, *Małe folio. Historia jednego wiersza. Barok* 38: 211–212.

Essays for a general readership

23 Arendt, A. (2020). "Botticelli albo co zrobiłby anachronizm?" [*Botticelli, or What Would Anachronism Do?*]. *Dialog* 2(771): 156–162.

24 Arendt, A. (2018). "Fantazmoskopy Schumanna" [*Robert Schumann's Phantasmoscopes*]. *Ruch Muzyczny* 8: 94–96.

LANGUAGES

Polish native

English C2

German C1 written · B2 spoken

Italian A2

Norwegian, Russian, Latin reading

TOOLS

Design and publishing Adobe InDesign, Illustrator

Video and audio Adobe Premiere, Riverside

Web and newsletters Vortex CMS, Sympa

Learning platforms Moodle, Canvas

Remote collaboration Miro, MS Teams, Zoom

MEMBERSHIPS

European Society for Environmental History

International Society for Cultural History

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte

Multispecies Landscapes Lab, University of Oslo

PRIZES

2021 Academia prize, best academic and scientific book, for *The Chopin Games*

2019 Gaudeamus prize, Polish Academic Publishers Association, for *Archeologia zatroskania*

2019 Rector's prize for scientific achievement, University of Warsaw

References available on request.