Friedrich Cain (Konstanz):

Any parting or linking of Polish and German scientists or science(s) from a historical perspective owes to specific categories of description (such as national borders, alliances, traditions etc.) that would often lead to preconditioned (a)symmetries and dis-/entanglements. The presentation therefore will propose another perspective via a downshift of narrative to the level of scientific practices and their material, social, and epistemological circumstances. The tactics and techniques Polish scientists developed to further conduct research and teaching during German occupation 1939-1945 will be analyzed in terms of the contemporary discussions about science. Questions of "faithful" or "ideological" conduct of research, measuring or weighing moments of disregard, espionage and collaboration as well as discussions on the sheer possibility of science under these circumstances (zero vs. "unique social laboratory") had to be decided. Such close look opens up a wide field of multidimensional gestures, each one of these merging many influences (social, emotional, religious, ethical etc.) and opening a vast field of reactions (depression, hope, political program, proto-cybernetic attempts in psychotechnics or social engineering etc.).