

**Maria V. Polski**  
[mariap@eastwest.edu](mailto:mariap@eastwest.edu)

**EDUCATION**

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MOSCOW LOMONOSOV UNIVERSITY

Moscow, Russia

Ph.D., Linguistics

February 1994

MA, English and Linguistics, honors

July 1990

**SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

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Member of National Association for Media Literacy Education

Member of Media Ecology Association

Member of the Illinois Coalition for Media Literacy

“Unread by Oliver James as a media ecological case study” accepted talk at Media Ecology conference, Winnipeg, Canada, June 2026

“From Worksheets to Equity: Teaching Power and Access to First-Generation Students”, featured workshop at Media Education research jam, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, March 11, 2026

“Modern curriculum for foundational skills in the digital media world” Talk at Media Ecology Association convention, Mexico City, Mexico, June 7, 2025

“AI environment puts a premium on human authenticity and individual voice” Talk at Media Ecology Association convention, Amherst, NY June 7, 2024,

“Media Literacy for general education: a case for optimism” Talk at Media Education Lab, April 1, 2024

Guest editor of *ETC: A Review of General Semantics* 80:2 , 2023

Polski, M. & Olga Hazanova, "Introduction to the Work of Yuri Rozhdestvensky" *ETC: A Review of General Semantics* 80:2, 2023

"Media Awareness Reader for General Education Courses." *ETC.: A Review of General Semantics*, vol. 80, no. 2, Apr. 2023, pp. 214+.

Hazanova, O. and Polski, M. “Message across the ages: Culture-forming functions of language” talk at MEA convention, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2022

Gorman, L. and Polski, M. “Digital media may cultivate awareness and responsibility in users: A case for optimism”. [Explorations in Media Ecology, Volume 20, Issue 3](#), Sep 2021, p. 337 - 353 DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1386/eme\\_00099\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/eme_00099_1)

“Translation of Yuri Rozhdestvensky’s 1967 article “Language theory and the problem of language development””, *Explorations in Media Ecology*, 21:2&3, pp. 131–42, . 2022

[https://doi.org/10.1386/eme\\_00125\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1386/eme_00125_7) [Google Scholar]

“A helpful algorithm to overcome the challenges and maximize the benefits of digital media” Talk at MEA Convention NY, NY, 2021

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**DIRECTOR, English and Communication Program**  
East-West University

Chicago, IL  
2001 - present

### **Administrative responsibilities:**

Hiring adjunct instructors	Organizing student events
Performance reviews	Supervising internships in social media and Phantom Press
Program review	Maintaining EWU TikTok account
Putting out fires	Maintaining EWU LinkedIn account
Creating quarterly schedules	Academic advising
Mentoring new faculty	Member of the Faculty Council

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**  
East-West University

Chicago, IL  
2001 - present

### **Curriculum development and teaching**

#### **Communication:**

- \* Freshman general education classes: Speech, Composition, Digital Media Literacy
- \* Senior general education seminar: the relationship between humans and technology.
  
- \* Major classes:
  - \* Communication Theory (selects four of the existing 250 communication theories and compares them),
  - \* Persuasion and Debate (provides practical debate exercises and theoretical rhetorical knowledge),
  - \* Persuasion and Public Issues (focuses on analysis of sources and on psychology of agreement and disagreement),
  - \* Media and Society (covers the influence of media on society, quantitative and qualitative methods of media analysis and the influence of any given communication medium on overall societal processes).

**Linguistics:** develop and teach major classes exploring changes in language and the role of language as a tool of division, discrimination, advancement and unification for individuals, social groups and countries

**Core Curriculum:** develop and teach interdisciplinary core humanities classes; expanded curriculum to include the World Literature cycle, History of English and History of the Bible; designed and taught original classes on intertextuality and irony in literature; developed a program to incorporate real-time cultural experiences such as operas, concerts and art exhibits

ESL: developed and supervised the ESL program, including textbook selection, hiring of instructors and student advising.

### **University Service**

- \* Faculty advisor to Phantom Press, the independent quarterly student publication
- \* Served on multiple University committees, including Honors, Curriculum Committee, Student Success and Retention, and Adjunct Compensation
- \* Served as academic advisor to English and ESL majors
- \* Supervised the tutoring program: 15 employees servicing up to 200 students per quarter
- \* Developed and Administered the English as a Second Language program
- \* Supervised the Honors Program

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR: HUMANITIES, ENGLISH AND ESL** Chicago, IL  
College of DuPage, Benedictine University, Daley College, Dominican University 1999 – present

ESL: all levels of communication, written and oral, for ESL students, from beginner speaking and writing classes to advanced grammar and college preparatory writing.

English: freshman composition and research classes as required

Humanities: Honors Seminar “Human Being Natural Being,” Freshman Seminar “What is the Self”, Senior Seminar “The Good Life”

**LECTURER, MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT** Moscow, Russia  
Moscow Lomonosov University 1996–1999

Advanced Grammar: systematic overview and application of grammatical patterns.

Interpreting and Translation: interpreting in business, social, political situations; translation of documents and literature; intercultural communication issues; elements of rhetoric.

Understanding Fiction: elements of literary analysis; style; literary terminology. Based on British and American fiction.

Writing for Academic Purposes: research project formats and vocabulary.

**INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR** Washington, DC; Moscow, Russia and Chicago, IL  
Free-lance 1989 - 2005

Selected experiences: interpreted for Russian Vice-Premier, US Ambassador in Russia, Vice-President of Ford Motor Company, CEO of Baxter Healthcare Corporation, Music Director of US National Symphony Orchestra. Translated for Consulting firms McKinsey, Bain, AT&Kearney.

### **GHOST WRITER**

*On My Own*, ghost-writer for Mr. Hans Dotzler. Autobiography of a German soldier captured by the Russian army during WWII. Self-published by Mr. Dotzler in 2005.

## ADDITIONAL PAST SCHOLARSHIP

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- “Plato and Rozhdestvensky on creation of culture” Talk at MEA Convention in Toronto, Canada, 2019
- “Does new technology bring new art?” Conference Talk. Media Ecology Association, Moraga, CA, June 24, 2017
- Polski, M., Biyashev, I. and Gorman, L. Proverbs and the Digital Age. Media Ecology Association Conference. Denver, CO. 2015
- Polski, M. and Gorman, L. Teaching Media Ecology Russian Style. *Explorations in Media Ecology*, 2015.
- Polski, M. Media Ecology – Art or Techne?. *Media Ecology Association Conference*, Grand Rapids, MI 2013
- Polski, M. and Gorman, L. Responding to Humanoid Robots. *Explorations in Media Ecology*. 2013.
- Polski, M. Review of the essay on Herman and Chomsky’s *Manufacturing Consent for the Literature of Propaganda*, The Gale Group (Cengage Learning). 2012.
- Maydanchik, B. and Polski, M. On some issues in the study of technological progress in relation to all aspects of culture. *Proceedings of the Russian Engineering Academy*. 2012
- Maydanchik, B and Polski, M. Безопасность общества и культура личности (из опыта США) [Safety in society and the culture of individuals (some practices of the USA)] Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference on the Problems of Safety of Modern Societies. Ekaterinburg, Russia. June 2012
- Polski, M. and Gorman, L. A Triumph vs. a Vortex: Yuri Rozhdestvensky vs. Marshall McLuhan. *Explorations in Media Ecology*, 10:3+4. 2012. pp. 263-278
- Polski, M. and Lyutykh, E. Selecting Literature for a Heritage School: on Immigrant Heritage in the Global Culture. Submitted, 2012.
- Polski, M. “Theory of Language in the Information Age: Marshall McLuhan and Yuri Rozhdestvensky” Conference talk, AATSEEL, Pasadena, CA 2011
- Polski, M. and Biyashev, I. The Evolutionary Value of Ovid’s *The Art of Love*: Prestige, Mating, and Outsmarting Fellow Humans. Conference talk. ACTC New Haven, CT, 2011
- Lyutykh, E. and Polski, M. “Through the looking glass: examining the curriculum in a Russian weekend school to understand Russian immigrant identity”. Conference talk. *Russian Outside the Nation: Speakers and Identities*, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2010.
- Polski, M. “Who Wrote the Bible – pedagogy of discomfort conference talk” ACTC 2009
- Lyutykh, E. and Polski, M. “Parents’ perspectives on the role of community in children’s learning.” *Thresholds in Education* Vol. XXXV No 4, 2009.
- Polski, M. “Proverbs as the Ultimate Communication Theory” based on Rozhdestvensky communication theory. Conference talk, ACTC, Plymouth, MA 2008

- Lyutykh, E. and Polski, M. "Novogodnee Predstavlenie: Developing Culturally Authentic Ways to Support Learning of the Russian Immigrant Children". Conference talk MWERA, Columbus, OH, 2008.
- Polski, M. "Identity Formation and Public Selves" conference talk CCCC New York, NY 2007,
- Polski, M. "Different Cultures, Similar Issues", Conference talk ACTC 2006:
- Polski, M. "The Law of Non-Destruction and Accumulation of Culture", based on Rozhdestvensky theory of culture; conference talk, M/MLA, Chicago, IL 2006
- Polski, M. "Genre Theory of Yuri Rozhdestvensky" conference talk; CCCC, San Francisco, CA 2005
- Polski, M "Educating in the age of multiple genres and textures of speech". Conference talk; M/MLA, St. Luis, MO, 2004
- Polski, M. Easy Ways to Teach Modals: Infinitives and Modals," Daley College ESL Faculty Development Conference. Chicago, IL, 2001
- Polski, M. Continuity and Change in the Secondary Education of Circumpolar Peoples of the Russian Federation. Project funded by a grand from George Soros Foundation, Moscow, Russia and Chicago, IL, 1997-2000
- Skrebneva [Polski], M. "Methods of Teaching a Native Language; Methods of Teaching a Foreign Language; Methods of Physical Training. Comparison of Approaches in Three Disciplines" *Russian Philology News*, Moscow, Russia 1994
- Skrebneva, M. "Inclusion of Physical Culture Terminology in General Language Dictionaries. Comparison of French, English and Russian Traditions". *Terminology Studies*, Moscow, Russia, 1994
- Skrebneva, M. "Terminology Used in Teaching Physical Culture. Training Methodology Reflected in the System of Terms. Based on the Analysis of Physical Culture Thesaurus of National Institute of Physical Culture". *Terminology Studies*, Moscow, Russia, 1993

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

Russian Language and Culture Center, Naperville, IL – member of the organization committee, responsible for education program development, 2007 - present

Rogers Park Literature and Language Club. Talks:

- \* 2019: What are Indo-European languages?
- \* 2018: The origins of human language
- \* 2010: Who Wrote the Bible?
- \* 2001: Types of Public Speech Classified by the Intent of the Speaker. In Which Situations Is the Intent to Establish the Truth?
- \* 2000: Reading Recommendations for Learners of English: How to Select Books That Will Help to Learn the Modern American Language.