

FairerTales
Winter Writing Retreat
for Researchers

22nd - 26th January 2017

Pałac Maciejewo, Poland

Begin the year productively, balanced, and in good company at the Winter Writing Retreat for Researchers in the Castle Hotel Maciejewo in West Pomerania (Airport Stettin-Goleniów PL)

Fairertales brings you to a fantastic place where you get the needed time, community, and guidance to spell out your ideas and to regenerate.



Participants

The writing retreat is open to 15 thinkers and researchers of all ages, academic ranks, affiliations, and disciplines.

We invite you to experience being part of a writing community, whose members are passionate about research and ideas and mindful about living balanced lives. If this sounds right to you, then this is for you. We particularly recommend the retreat to collaborating writers who can use the time to work intensely on a shared project. There are scholarships available to Early Career Researchers in professional limbo and for researchers in the Polish academic system.

Programme

The programme of the retreat is tailored to facilitate a productive and empowering writing experience, in which ideas have space to come to life and necessary phases of recreation are scheduled in, too.

It includes two daily structured writing sessions (following the procedures suggested by R. Murray), two daily feel-good sessions (mindfulness, yoga, singing, walks, drumming) and an introductory session about Sustaining Liminal Thinking Capacity in everyday life. Participants can join in with the programme fully or selectively, or even resist the programme or experience it as a comforting background of events (we know that for some of you, this can be the best setup for writing). A detailed programme will be announced once the participants have provided the organisers with their particular writing plans for the retreat (eg. co-writing, finishing a piece of writing, starting a piece of writing).

Sample Day Schedule

7.00-8.30	Tea & raisins with warm-up writing, goal setting, and planning
8.30-9.30	Full Polish Breakfast
9.30-10.00	Feel-Good Morning Session
10.00-11.30	Writing
11.30-12.00	Break and Healthy Snack
12.00-13.30	Writing
13.30-14.30	Light Lunch
14.30-15.30	Outdoor Activities, Siesta, Meditation
15.30-16.30	Homemade Cake with Tandem Peer Review
16.30-17.30	Writing, reading, or editing session
17.30-18.00	Wrapping up the day: Our Liminal Thinking Diary
18.00-18.30	Feel- Good Evening Session
18.30-19.30	3-Course Dinner
From 19.30	Recreation: Spa, Table Tennis Tournaments, Bar, Film
23.00-23.15	Snack for night owl writers



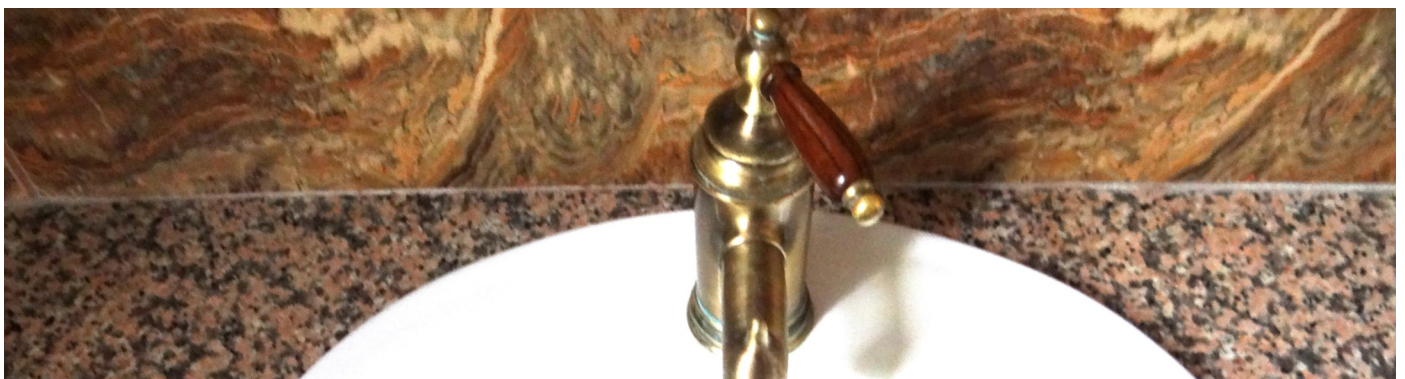
Accommodation

Pałac Maciejewo is an enchanted historical manor hotel on Lake Lechickie, surrounded by fields and forests in West Pomerania near Szczecin (Stettin) in Poland. It has preserved the Central European charm of Wes Anderson's *Hotel Budapest*, while sporting the comforts of German-style modernity that have been adopted in many hotels at the German-Polish border area.

Hallways, reception, dining room and bar are decorated majestically with velvet curtains, wooden carvings, antlers, and pictures hunting of scenes. The armchairs around a large tiled stove next to the grand piano in are waiting to be populated by thinkers and writers. A light hall with large windows in the modern extension of the building will serve us as a communal space for structured writing and feel-good exercises. It is overlooking the idyllic park and potentially frozen lake. A smaller and but more pompous meeting room is also available for participants. In the modern extension of the lower ground of the building, you'll find a space for post-writing recreation: a swimming pool, a sauna, a table tennis table, and a snooker table. The hotel offers double and single rooms of good standard at the same rate.

By the way: The history of this building is typical for many manors in the former German areas of Poland: The building was finished in 1899 and hosted the lineage of the von Flemmings, who had been reigning in the area since the 16th century, according to legends, with little sympathy to their farmers. It is said that the old count has to repay for his uncharitable behaviour by haunting the manor every night in company of a black hound. After World War II, when the German-Polish national borders shifted westwards and West Pomerania became part of Poland, the manor was transformed into an educational centre for farming. In the 1980s it was given to the regional tourism group "Pomerania", a model that indicated experimentation with socialist economies. Since 1998, the manor is again in private hands and serves as a hotel.









Food

The daily menu for the retreat is be created by the organisers with explicit thought of the writing process and in response to the dietary requirements of the participants.

After a substantial Polish breakfast, lunches will be light. Evening meals will again be more substantial. There will be a morning break with healthy snacks and coffee, and an afternoon break with home-made cakes. Food will be home-cooked from scratch in Maciejewo Hotel including locally sourced ingredients.

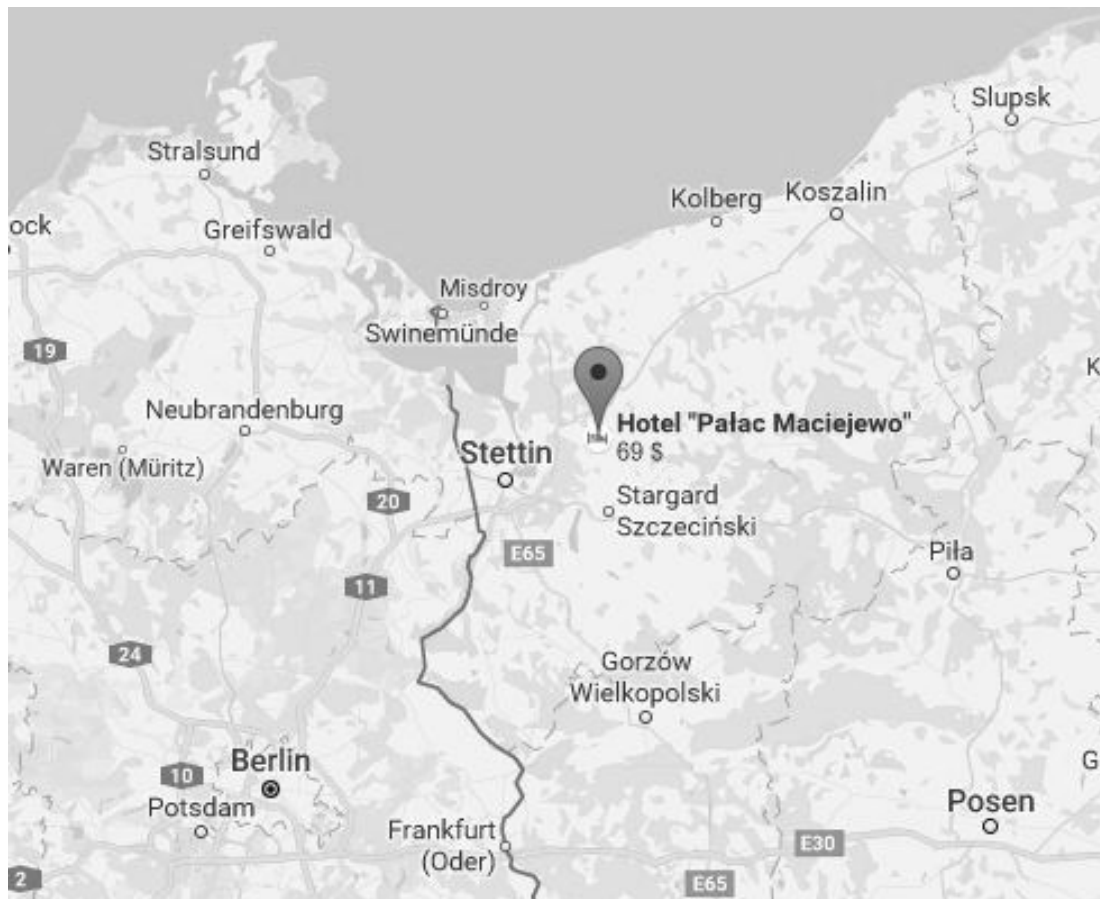


Getting there & Times

The retreat starts with late dinner at 21.00 on 22nd Jan. 2017. It finishes with early dinner at 17.30 on 26th Jan. 2017.

Cheap Ryanair Flights from Liverpool John Lennon Airport and London Stansted to Stettin/Goleniów Airport are currently available on the dates of the retreat.

Participants will be picked up at Goleniów airport in groups of 7 by the hotel van. The Airport is only 15 km away from the hotel. Other nearby airports are Poznań Airport and Berlin Airport. We will assist you with organizing alternative transport if need (this will however not be covered by the retreat fee).





The Philosophy: Embracing our Liminal Thinking Capacity

We believe that the essence of innovative research lies in the possibility for phases of liminal thinking, during which researchers use the information available to them for crossing intellectual thresholds: We must treasure these phases and build a healthy work culture around them. The retreat aims to strengthen researchers as virtuous professionals with Liminal Thinking Capacity.

The concept of *Liminal Thinking Capacity* was introduced by Hannah C. Wadle, PhD in her strategic research paper “Strengthening a Liminal Community: Anthropological Framework for Rethinking University Support Strategies for Early Career Researchers and Ph.D. Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences.” *Liminal Thinking Capacity* is a close relative to John Keats’s notion of *Negative Capability*. Keats describes a poet’s capacity to mentally last through difficult, unsettling periods of internal ambivalence in order to provide a channel for creativity that is untamed by reason or logics. *Liminal Thinking Capacity* may be viewed as the intellectual sibling of *Negative Capability*: It describes a researcher’s capacity to embark on long intellectual journeys into the ontologically unknown and to dwell in intellectual border zones. It emphasises a researcher’s ability to develop new ideas and innovative thoughts as a result of these intellectual journeys.

Liminal Thinking Capacity further implies a researcher’s emotional strength and psychological toolkit to withstand and counterbalance long periods of ontological insecurity and fruitless experimentation that are integral parts of the research profession and that bear health risks. Personal balance is thus just as much a part of the concept of *Liminal Thinking Capacity* as is intellectual inbetween-ness.

Researchers with Liminal Thinking Capacity take pride in their ability to sustain long periods of ontological insecurity to build innovative ideas. They are productive, because they know how to distinguish liminal from non-liminal tasks in their everyday work. And they have a toolkit for keeping themselves balanced, grounded, and connected in phases of intense liminal work. The three pillars of the retreat are thus strengthening creative confidence, writing performance, mindful recreation. All of them form part of the Liminal Thinking Capacity of researchers.



Team

Hannah C. Wadle, PhD, is an Early Career Social Anthropologist with a passion for bringing people together.

She is the founder of FairerTales and designs training courses for the University of Manchester. Her research interests include tourism development, transnational heritage making in rural post-Cold-War Europe, and cultural technologies of reality augmentation and virtual worlding. She is member of the Centre for Imaginative Ethnography and uses academic writing together with art and ethno-fiction to explore research topics and communicate ideas. Hannah also researches Higher Education issues and is the author of the AHRC funded report *strengthening a Liminal Community. Anthropological Framework for Rethinking University Support Strategies for Early Career Researchers and Ph.D. Students in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, (available on <https://ecrmcr2016.wordpress.com>). Since 2004 she has been involved in designing and facilitating over 30 workshops in Germany, Poland, and the UK for international students, early career researchers, PhD students, disadvantaged apprentices, trade unionists, and college students.

Clare Donegan, is a trained mindfulness and meditation teacher based in Hebden Bridge.

Clare teaches a wide spectrum of groups including children festival goers and head teachers. She has a regular yoga and meditation practice for over a decade and has found them to be deeply transformative. Prior to teaching mindfulness Clare has worked as an art director and producer with young people on transnational projects, building bridges between North England, Jamaica, and France through dance and performance. She is a keen social activist who believes in change through creative encounters, self-acceptance, and experiences of one-ness.





Pricing

* **Early bird fee (reservation before 20th December): 495 GBP**

* **Regular fee (reservation after the 20th December): 545 GBP**

There are 15 places available in the retreat.*

*A small number of additional FairerTales-fellowships at a reduced rate are available for researchers based in Poland or post-doctoral researchers in professional limbo. Please send an application to Hannah.wadle@gmx.de to be considered.

The fee for the retreat includes:

- * Retreat programme: creative confidence training, structured writing sessions, well-being sessions, and peer-mentoring
- * Accommodation in single or double rooms (as requested)
- * Full board with a delicious writer's diet
- * Full use of spa and game facilities (swimming pool, sauna, table tennis, snooker)
- * Transport to and from Stettin-Goleniów Airport when flying with Ryanair from Liverpool on the 22nd and 26th January.

Please note that flights and transport from and to other airports are not included in the price.

Booking Process

To reserve your space on the retreat or for any questions, please send email to Hannah.wadle@gmx.de or call 07855234938.

Upon your registration request via email, we'll send you a registration form and invoice: The reservation of your place at the retreat becomes viable with the payment of the first installment. The second instalment must be transferred no later than the 15th of January 2017. If you have to withdraw from the event for illness or personal reasons, we will refund you 50% of the retreat fee up to one day before the start of the event. We also recommend you to buy a travel cancellation insurance cover.

Social Responsibility

By offering reduced rates to Early Career Researchers in transition and Polish scholars, FairerTales aims to make the writing retreat accessible and inclusive. With this retreat FairerTales helps creating new ideas for the revitalization of manor hotels in rural Poland outside the main season and during the week.