



Dr Katarzyna Kosior, Northumbria University, UK

Royal Court and the Seim in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Seventeenth Century

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In 1667, Andrzej Maksymilian Fredro, political thinker and senator of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, argued that fewer parliaments should be held to prevent the royal court's corruption of the szlachta from the lower chamber. He feared that envoys, tempted by a political career in the ambit of the court, would seek royal patronage and neglect their local and military responsibilities. This lecture thinks this through spatially, considering how the blurring of parliamentary and courtly spaces was manifest at Wawel in Krakow and the royal palace in Warsaw, the royal residences where parliaments took place.

