



ATHENA
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



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CZĘSTOKOWA

ATHENA

Sustainable Production
Networking event UMCS

5 DECEMBER 2025

10:00 - 11:30 AM

online

REGISTER HERE UNTIL DEC. 2ND

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As proud members of the ATHENA European Universities Alliance, UMCS is excited to share the vibrant developments taking place within our community.

As the leader of the “Sustainability Production” Cluster, we would like to invite you to join the networking meeting online, where we will showcase the research initiatives, innovative projects, and educational potential of our institution.

During the meeting, UMCS researchers will offer engaging, 10-minute presentations designed to highlight their latest achievements and outline concrete opportunities for dynamic international collaboration within sustainability.

This session will be an excellent chance to discover new partners, generate project ideas, and strengthen the bonds within our ATHENA network.

We truly hope you will join us and help shape the next steps of our shared journey toward sustainable and forward-thinking higher education.

AGENDA

10:00: Introduction and welcoming words

Joanna Czarnecka

10:05: **Beata Podkościelna**

Sustainable Polymer Materials for a Greener Future

10:15: **Monika Wawrzekiewicz**

Sustainable polymer adsorbents for water and wastewater treatment: evaluation of biocomponent- enhanced materials for pollutant removal

10:25: **Anna Wołowicz**

Innovative Adsorbents for a Cleaner Future - from Contamination to Sustainability

10:35: **Aleksandra Kowalska**

Building sustainable food systems for food security

10:45: **Michał Łuszczuk**

Sustainable Production and Development in the Arctic. Between Geopolitics and Climate Change

10:55: **Joanna Hołda**

Creative industries and the modern city

11:05: **Anna Granat**

Guide to media, information, and digital protection

11:15: **Małgorzata Wójcik**

Sustainable phytomanagement of metal(loid)-contaminated soils

11:25: **Anna Jarosz-Wilkolazka**

Biodiversity of exopolymers in different ecosystems – the influence of environmental factors on their properties and dynamics

BIOS



Beata Podkościelna is a Professor and Head of the Department of Polymer Chemistry at UMCS, Poland. A specialist in polymer and material chemistry, she focuses on the synthesis, modification, and characterization of advanced polymeric and hybrid materials, including lignin-based composites and environmentally friendly sorbents. She is the Chair of the Lublin Branch of the Polish Chemical Society (PTChem) and an active participant in international research networks, including COST and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. Since 2024, she has been leading the Erasmus+ project "Improving teaching competencies in design of new generation biomaterials from wood waste" (BIOMAT), dedicated to advancing sustainable biopolymer education.



Monika Wawrzekiewicz is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Chemistry at UMCS. She specializes in removal and separation of inorganic and organic compounds - particularly dyes and heavy-metal ions - using various adsorbents, with a strong focus on textile wastewater treatment, water purification and environmental protection. She received her Master's degree in 2001, her PhD in chemical sciences in 2005 and her habilitation (dr hab.) in 2015 - all at UMCS. She has participated in numerous national and international research grants and currently leads an international Erasmus+ project focused on the development of bio-based materials for sustainable water purification.



Anna Wołowicz is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Inorganic Chemistry at the Institute of Chemical Sciences, Faculty of Chemistry, UMCS. She is a researcher who focuses on adsorption processes and environmental protection in a broad sense. She investigates effective adsorbents, both commercially available and synthetically obtained, for the removal of inorganic and organic pollutants, particularly heavy and noble metal ions, from model aqueous solutions and real wastewater. By developing environmentally friendly solutions that enable pollution reduction, resource recovery and material reuse, her research contributes to sustainability supporting cleaner technologies and responsible resource management. Anna Wołowicz is the author or co-author of close to 50 papers published in high-impact journals, as well as around 100 posters and 25 oral presentations delivered at 45 international and national conferences.



Aleksandra Kowalska, Associate Professor at the Institute of Economics and Finance, UMCS. Expert in the area of technological and sustainable transition of the agri-food sector. Most recently she has been doing research on digitizing agriculture, food security issues and consumer behavior in the food market. She has published in numerous peer-review journals, authored book chapters and written two books in the field of agricultural economics, food integrity and sustainable economy. She is the member of the Polish Association of Agricultural and Agribusiness Economists and the European Association of Agricultural Economists.

BIOS



Michał Łuszczuk is an Associate Professor in the Department of Socio-Economic Geography at UMCS. A specialist in international relations with a deep passion for Arctic studies. He is an active member of the Committee on Polar Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences and has served as a member of the IASC Council and the IASSA Council. Between 2020-2024, co-led the Polish-German research project about Sustainable Urban Development in the European Arctic.

The project culminated in a monograph published by Routledge in 2025, which is available in open access.



Joanna Holda - doctor of Law, an Assistant Professor at the Department of Audiovisual Media, Institute of Communication and Media Studies, Faculty of Political Science and Journalism, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, expert in creative industries, design, media, and urban strategies and author of scientific publications in the field of creative industries, media, new technologies, among others. She also gained experience as a practitioner, including by establishing and managing the Lublin Design Institute at the Lublin Science and Technology Park (in 2015-2019).



Dr hab. Anna Granat is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Information Science, Bibliology and Media Education within the Institute of Social Communication and Media Studies at the Faculty of Political Science and Journalism of UMCS). Her main academic specialization is mediolinguistics, especially the linguistic pragmatics in the media—she researches the language of the media sender, media recipient, and media messages. She conducts research on the reception of media communication and the communicative effects of media interaction, including issues such as media threats.



Małgorzata Wójcik is an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Physiology and Biophysics at UMCS. She is a specialist in the mechanisms of plant tolerance to metal-induced stress. Her research focuses on plant adaptation to metalliferous habitats at the morphological, anatomical, physiological, and molecular levels, as well as on phytoremediation and phytomanagement of metal-contaminated areas using plant biostimulants. She was a partner in two European Horizon projects on sustainable contaminated land management and has participated in several national research projects. She serves as Vice-President of the Polish Botanical Society and Deputy Editor of Acta Agrobotanica. She is also passionate about promoting botanical science among diverse audiences, from schoolchildren to seniors.



Anna Jarosz-Wilkolazka is a Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology at UMCS. She is a biochemist specialising in the fascinating world of microbial enzymes and special metabolites (mainly extracellular polymers), which have potential applications in biotechnological and environmental processes. She conducts her research in interdisciplinary teams, cooperates with leading centres in Poland and abroad, and is the leader of several national research projects. Populariser of science taking part in numerous public engagement activities, which she also initiated (Touring Science Festival, Biochemical Competition, Science Picnic). Member of the Polish Biochemical Society and the international group Oxizymes.

Register for the meeting until Dec. 2nd 2025

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