

Fragments of research for *Gently Running Downwards*

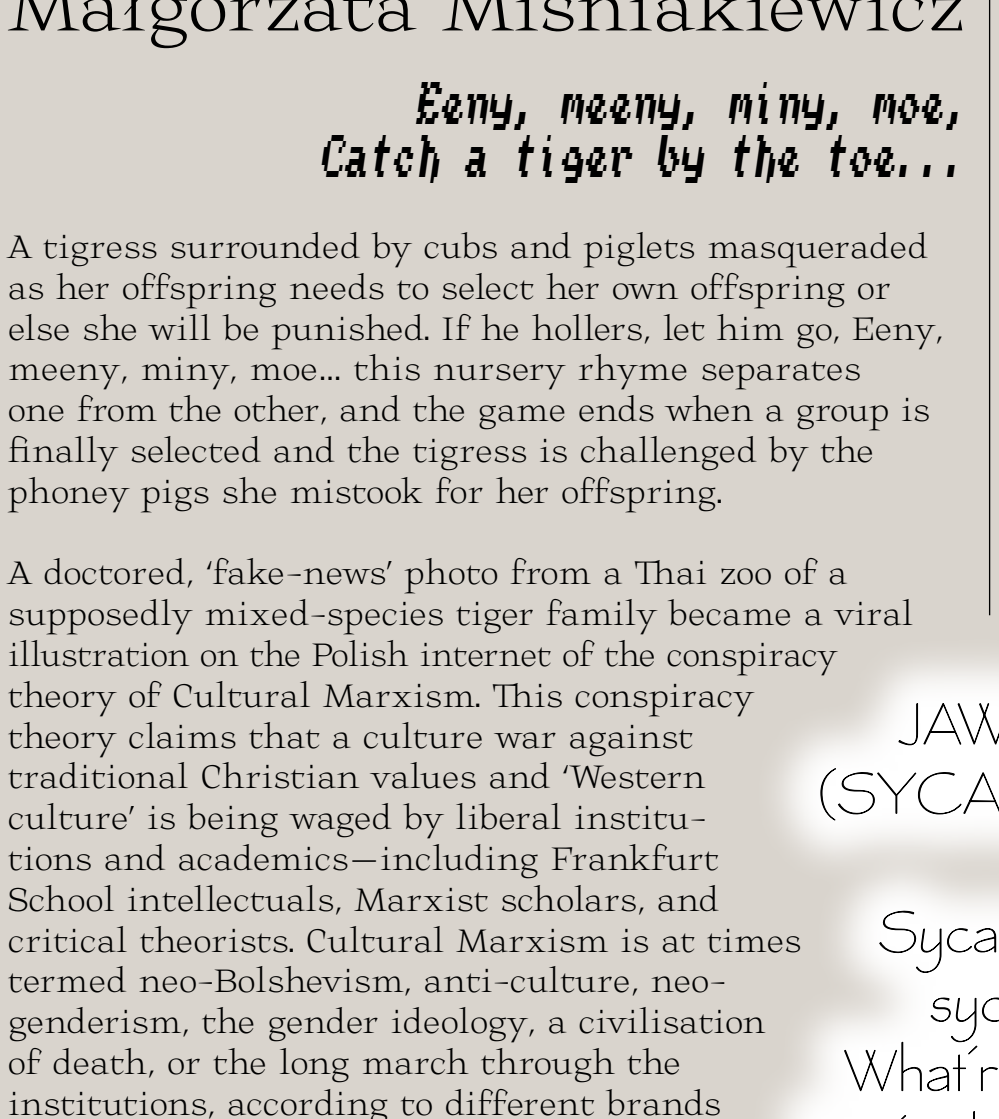
Liliana Zeic

PIERŚCIEN
(THE RING)¹



Does this photograph show a tiger nursing piglets after her own cubs died?

Tigress_found footage 1



Tigress_found footage 2

Małgorzata Miśniakiewicz

**Eeny, meeny, miny, moe,
Catch a tiger by the toe...**

A tigress surrounded by cubs and piglets masqueraded as her offspring needs to select her own offspring or else she will be punished. If he hollers, let him go, Eeny, meeny, miny, moe... this nursery rhyme separates one from the other, and the game ends when a group is finally selected and the tigress is challenged by the phoney pigs she mistook for her offspring.

A doctored, 'fake-news' photo from a Thai zoo of a supposedly mixed-species tiger family became a viral illustration on the Polish internet of the conspiracy theory of Cultural Marxism. This conspiracy theory claims that a culture war against traditional Christian values and 'Western culture' is being waged by liberal institutions and academics—including Frankfurt School intellectuals, Marxist scholars, and critical theorists. Cultural Marxism is at times termed neo-Bolshevism, anti-culture, neo-genderism, the gender ideology, a civilisation of death, or the long march through the institutions, according to different brands of right-wing politics or far-right or alt-right corners of the Internet.

If a vision of Adorno doing Satan's work by teaching homosexuality to children and promoting excessive drinking in a bid to replace the class war with the gender war is a bit much to fathom, here come the memes. So the Bengal tigress embodies Poland (or sometimes Europe for those slightly less nationalistically inclined) deceived by acreping neo-Marxist ideology, represented here by the deceptive piglets suckling at her mighty tit.

MACZEK
(POPPIES)³

**I would like this to be
about someone else**

1. Oh you white dove
oh you tiny bird
have you seen, have you heard
how they sow poppies?
like that, like that,
they sow poppies.
like that, like that,
they sow poppies.

(Children imitate sowing
with their hands)

2. Oh you white dove
oh you tiny bird
have you seen, have you heard
how poppy is growing?
like that, like that,
poppy is growing.

(Children raise their hands)

3. Oh you white dove
oh you tiny bird
have you seen, have you heard
how poppy is blooming?
like that, like that,
poppy is blooming.

(They raise their arms, putting their hands
together and then apart)

4. Oh you white dove
oh you tiny bird
have you seen, have you heard
How poppy's maturing?
Like that the poppy forms.

(They clench their fists, showing
how poppy heads form.) (...)

In as much as right-wing actors strategically resort to normative methods in order to tighten the grip of bio-politics, the corporeal effect of ultra-conservatism goes beyond the oppression of particular sexual and reproductive practices. The bodies of individuals subjected to discriminatory policies and propaganda not only unwillingly become sites for negotiating socially accepted norms, they become dispossessed of their physicality and their right to self-determination, in the name of the equivocal values of an alleged majority. Minority stress—which comes from prejudice and discrimination—is experienced on a physical level, and manifested in barely describable sensations. It can be seen as ideology incarnate, a bodily response to political reality; one that grows over time, remains nearly imperceptible and hardly remedied. A queer body thus becomes the primary and final site of a politics that aims to reject it.

**whatever they asked for,
they could be sure to obtain
at least half of it**

The political alliance between the ruling party and the Catholic Church has resulted in drafted a number of conservative legislations and have played an important role in shaping the language of public debate. As queer people were called an 'ideology', 'foetuses' were replaced with 'unborn children'. The introduction of an almost complete ban on abortion in 2021, via a legislative path of dubious legality, spearheaded in 2016 and—despite marginal social support and unprecedented women's protest in 2020—is one of the examples of the political power of the Church and its conservative allies. As bedrooms and wombs became battlegrounds of national identity, the biopolitical reach of right-wing religious conservatism is embodied in a feeling that your chest gets stuck to the back of your stomach.

**frame our issues in terms of
"rights"**

The war against sexual and reproductive rights, which battles over abortion, access to contraception, IVF treatments, sexual minorities rights, adoption, sexual education and even divorce, is framed as a fight for Christian-inspired values that—supposedly—reflect the 'Natural Law', regardless of its 'selective and subjective interpretation. According to campaigners, this so-called 'Natural Law' is countered and violated by a 'Cultural Revolution' that promotes the liberal values of equality and anti-discrimination and leads to the decline of 'Western civilisation'. According to the manifesto, 'Restoring the Natural Order: an Agenda for Europe', the reversal of such laws can be obtained by litigation, lobbying, and policymaking. This manifesto outlines a series of strategies, including debunking and usurping the opponent's 'victim status'; and mimicking the language of human rights to create alternate terms.

**You have to cut, cut, cut very thin slices,
slice after slice, and put it in our mouth.**

CIUCIUBABKA
(THE BLIND MAN'S BUFF)⁶

The participant called the blind man's buff stands in the middle of the circle; they are blindfolded. One of the remaining participants of the game spins them around and asks:

— Blind man's buff, what are you standing on?
— On a barrel. — And what's in the barrel?
— Cabbage and acid.
— Well then blind man's buff, catch us!

The blind man's buff, moving blind, tries to catch someone as soon as possible and, after touching them, recognize the person (give the name).

When they do so—and it is not an easy task—this person becomes the blind man's buff as punishment, and the game begins again.

sensibility and sensitivity towards the feelings of a supposed conservative majority that are expected from the LGBTQIA activists. The systematic advancement of conservative policies in Poland has changed not only the language of public debate but also threw liberalisation of sexual and reproductive rights out the Overton's window. The national cognitive landscape is populated by unborn children and LGBT ideology—creatures widely unheard of several years ago.

PAN ZELMAN (MR ZELMAN)⁷

There goes, There goes Zelman
There goes, There goes, his brother
There goes, There goes, his whole family

What does Zelman want
What does his brother want
What does want his whole family
Zelman wants a maid
His brother wants a maid
His whole family wants a maid.

The maid's not ready yet
The trousseau's not sown yet
Go away Zelman (...)

Zelman wants a maid
His brother wants a maid
His whole family wants a maid

What field has Zelman got?
A Romani field Zelman's got

We don't have maid,
we won't give a maid to such a field
Go away Zelman (...)

Zelman wants a maid
His brother wants a maid
His whole family wants a maid

What field has Zelman got?
A German field Zelman's got

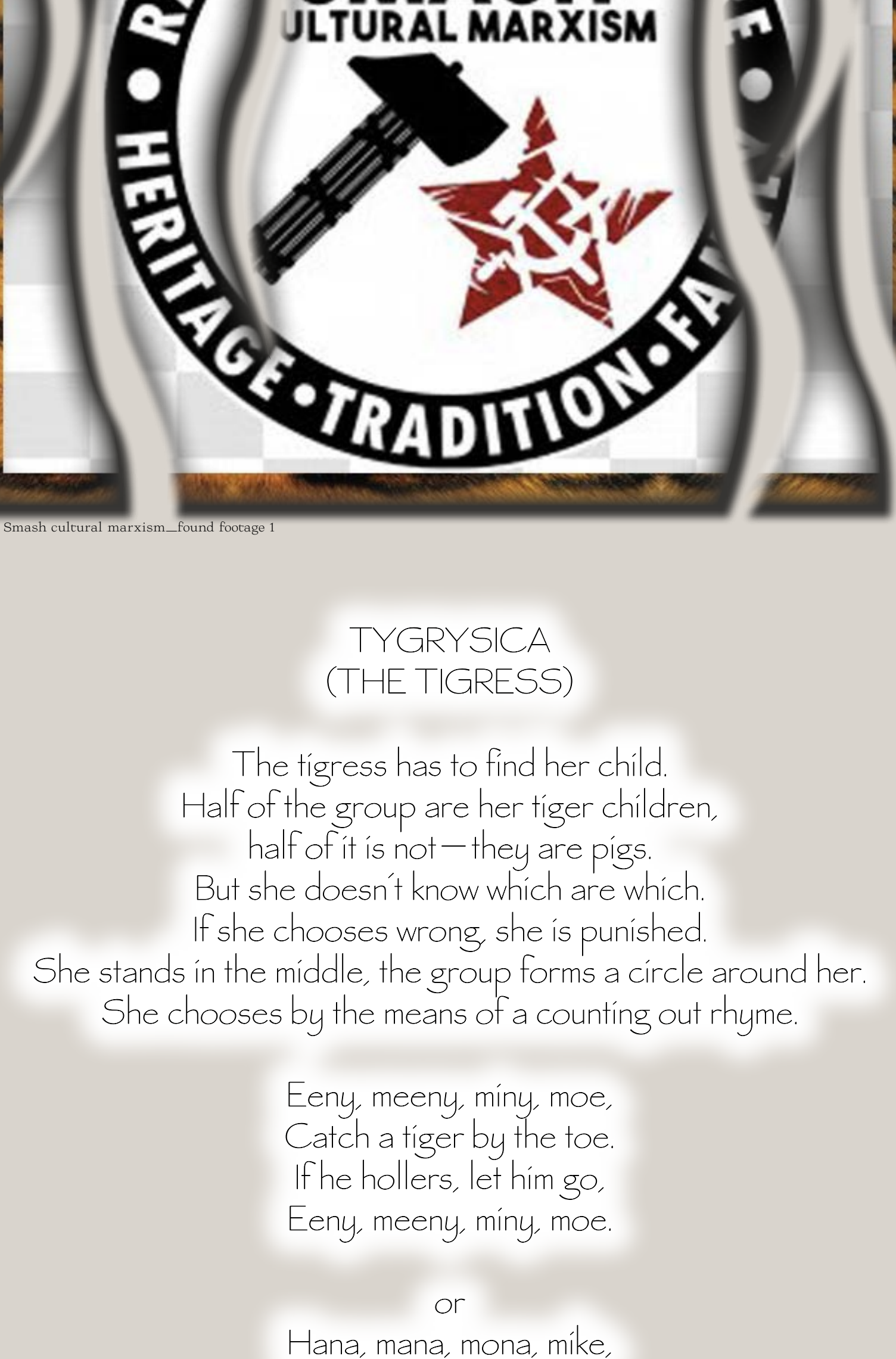
Go away Zelman (...)

Zelman wants a maid
His brother wants a maid
His whole family wants a maid

What field has Zelman got?
A Ukrainian field Zelman's got

Oh we have a maid
We will give a maid to such a field.

...If he hollers, let him go, Eeny, meeny, miny, moe...



Smash cultural marxism_found footage 1

TYGRYSICA
(THE TIGRESS)

The tigress has to find her child.
Half of the group are her tiger children,
half of it is not—they are pigs.
But she doesn't know which are which.
If she chooses wrong, she is punished.
She stands in the middle, the group forms a circle around her.
She chooses by the means of a counting out rhyme.

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe,
Catch a tiger by the toe.
If he hollers, let him go,
Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.

or
Hana, mana, mona, mike,
Barcelona, bona, strike,
Hare, ware, frown, venac
Harrico, warrico, we, wo, wac

She chooses half of the group:
they become her children.
They come to her in the middle of the circle.
Only then she discovers which of the children
is a pig and which is a tiger.

The Ordo Iuris Institute for Legal Culture Foundation, as well as the subjects connected therewith make a broad use of available legal means and frequently sue for protection of personal rights in similar cases. In March 2020 the Ordo Iuris Institute announced that they would begin legal proceedings against the authors of the "Atlas Nienawiści" (Atlas of Hatred). Until now, with the support of the Institute, there have been filed four lawsuits concerning the protection of personal rights of local government institutions, while two subsequent lawsuits are supposed to be filed soon. The Institute also sued, among others, Agnieszka Holland (for claiming that the Institute introduces fascist acts of law) and Anna Maria Żukowska, a Parliament member (for calling this organisation "the institute for fascist culture"). Similar lawsuits were filed, with the support of Reduta Dobrego Imienia—The Polish League against Defamation Foundation, against Marta Lempart and Klementyna Suchanow.

¹LEGAL INFORMATION pertaining to the issue of legal infringement upon personal rights or copyright through circulating the installation Gently running downwards', Emilia Barabasz Law Office, 8th April 2021.

Lawsuits concerning the protection of personal rights as such seem to be used due to the chilling effect as desired by the plaintiffs. This is inscribed in the trend of Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP). It is an increasingly common phenomenon whose aim is frequently to scare off people who work in journalism, social activism or artistic fields. Additionally, as a result of these factors, the probability of filing such a lawsuit is relatively high; it also carries the burden of a considerable financial risk.

²LEGAL INFORMATION pertaining to the issue of legal infringement upon personal rights or copyright through circulating the installation Gently running downwards', Emilia Barabasz Law Office, 8th April 2021.

³Traditional, Pierscien (The ring), <http://www.akademikolberg.pl/project/pierscien/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁴Traditional, Jaworowi ludzie (Sycamore people), <http://www.akademikolberg.pl/project/jaworowi-ludzie/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁵Traditional, Maczek (Poppies), <https://malykolberg.pl/produkt/maczek/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁶Traditional, Pojedziemy na łów (We shall go a-hunting), <http://www.akademikolberg.pl/project/lancogryka/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁷Traditional, Ojciec Abraham (Father Abraham), <https://malykolberg.pl/produkt/ojciec-abraham/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁸Traditional, Ciuciubabka (The blind man's buff), <http://www.zabawydladzieci.com.pl/ciuciubabka/>, translation Ewa Bodał

⁹Traditional, Pan Zelman (Mr Zelman), <https://polskapl/item/zabawy-na-gry-nuchowe-dzieci-i-młodziezy-ze-zrodle-dziejowch-i-ludziawnych,cs,65,access%5C15012021>, translation Ewa Bodał

¹⁰www.zmianywnaziempi, Marcin Malik, 21.02.2018.

¹¹<https://www.zmianywnaziempi.pl/bozenyur/lizstora-kulturowo-markszmu-czesc-i>

¹²<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/tiger-and-piglets/>

¹³<http://www.snopes.com/fact-check/tiger-and-piglets/>

¹⁴https://www.reddit.com/r/Eyebleach/comments/569jst/mother_tiger_adopts_piglets/

¹⁵<https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/cultural-marxism/>

