

May 31, 2012, Thursday, 19:00

Lecture by  
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## THE DEFEAT OF SOLIDARITY: ANGER AND POLITICS IN POSTCOMMUNIST EUROPE



Tadeusz Kurek, mural in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, 2010

Poland offers a particularly provocative case of transition from a planned to a market economy in Eastern Europe, for it was here where workers most famously seemed to have won, thanks to the role of the *Solidarity* trade union. And yet, within a few short years, they had clearly lost. An oppressive communist regime gave way to a capitalist society that embraced economic and political inequality, leaving many workers frustrated and angry. Finally workers rejected their liberal leaders, opening the way for right-wing nationalists to take control of *Solidarity*. Informed by years of fieldwork in Polish factory towns, interviews with workers, labor activists, and politicians, David Ost gives voice to those who have not been heard, and proposes a novel theory about the role of anger in politics to show how they profoundly affect political outcomes.