

ELZBIETA MATYNIA

Elzbieta Matynia is a professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies and director of the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies at the New School for Social Research in New York. Her research in political and cultural sociology focuses on democratic transitions in Eastern Europe and beyond, and more recently on the concept of borderlands in the emerging “shared Europe”. Her recent book (2009), *Performative Democracy*, was published in the Yale Cultural Sociology Series by Paradigm Publishers. It explores a potential in political life that easily escapes theorists: the indigenously inspired enacting of democracy by citizens. Written by one who experienced an emerging public sphere within Communist Poland, the book seeks to identify the conditions for performativity in public life.