

# The Bulletin

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## *Francis Nicosia receives “Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies” from Holocaust Educational Foundation*

by Jonathan Huener

Among scholars of the Holocaust, the Holocaust Educational Foundation, based at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, stands out as one of the leading organizations in the field. The foundation sponsors annual summer seminars for university faculty and graduate students, provides research funding, sponsors travel seminars to Europe and Israel, and perhaps most importantly, organizes the biennial “Lessons and Legacies” conference that draws the most prominent Holocaust scholars from around the world.

The University of Vermont was particularly well represented at the thirteenth such conference in November 2014, which was centered on the theme “The Holocaust after 70 Years: New Perspectives on Persecution, Resistance, and Survival.” Alan Steinweis, Dana Smith (M.A., History, 2011), Susanna Schrafstetter, Frank Nicosia, Lutz Kaelber, and Jon Huener were all in attendance, and one of the high points of the weekend was the presentation of the “Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies” to our colleague Frank Nicosia. The award is presented every other year to scholars and educators who have been consistent leaders in research and teaching on the Holocaust, as well as service to the field.

Frank’s academic biography is indeed impressive, and begins with his studies at the Pennsylvania State University, Georgetown University, and McGill University, where he completed his doctorate under the supervision of Peter Hoffmann. Since then he has had an impressive career as Professor of History at Saint Michael’s College and, since 2008, at the University of Vermont, where he has served as the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies. At both of these institutions Frank has earned a well-deserved reputation as an outstanding teacher, and his work in the classroom was acknowledged in the year 2000 when he

was named “Vermont Professor of the Year” by the Carnegie Endowment for the Advancement of Teaching.

In the broader field of Holocaust studies, Frank is best known for his scholarship, and it was perhaps indicative of the trajectory his career would take when the first article he ever published appeared in the prestigious *Journal of Modern History*. Since then, his research has gone on to appear in venues such as the *Journal of Contemporary History*, *Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte*, the *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, and *German History*. Frank has established himself as one of the premier scholars of German antisemitism, Zionism, and especially German and Nazi policy toward the Middle East. His research in these areas has been supported by two Fulbright grants, by residencies at the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung at the Technische Universität Berlin and at the Humboldt-Universität Berlin, and by fellowships and grants from the



Recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies in 2014 (from left to right): Steven Katz, Boston University; Dagmar Herzog, Graduate Center, City University of New York; Francis Nicosia, University of Vermont; Roger Brooks, Connecticut College. At the far right is Theodor “Zev” Weiss, Executive Director Emeritus of the Holocaust Education Foundation.

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*Nicosia Receives Award, continued from front page*

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Philosophical Society, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The books that have emerged from his work in archives extending from North America across Europe to the Middle East have included, for example, his first work, *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question* (University of Texas Press, 1985); his more recent book *Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany*, published by Cambridge University Press in 2008 and in German as *Zionismus und Antisemitismus im Dritten Reich* (Wallstein-Verlag) in 2012; and finally, *Nazi Germany and the Arab World*, which appeared late last year with Cambridge University Press. He has, in addition, co-authored with Donald Niewyk *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust* (Columbia, 2000), and has edited and co-edited numerous volumes, such as *Germans Against Nazism: Nonconformity, Opposition and Resistance in the Third Reich* (Berg, 1990), *Wer bleibt, Opfert seine Jahre, Vielleicht Sein Leben: Deutsche Juden, 1938-1941* (Wallstein-Verlag, 2010), as well as a volume that is to appear with the Leo Baeck Institute entitled *Dokumente zur Geschichte des deutschen Zionismus 1933-1941*, forthcoming with Mohr/Siebeck-Verlag. Several of us at UVM have also had the pleasure of organizing with Frank the Miller Symposia and co-editing with him the volumes that have emerged from these meetings:

*Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies* (2002); *Business and Industry in Nazi Germany* (2004); *The Arts in Nazi Germany: Continuity, Conformity, Change* (2006); and *Jewish Life in Nazi Germany* (2010), all of which have been published by Berghahn Books as part of the acclaimed series "Vermont Studies on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust."

Frank's service to the profession is broad and deep, as he has always been an enthusiastic reviewer of his colleagues' scholarship and a generous contributor to the professional organizations that make work in the field of Holocaust studies possible. Frank has served on numerous boards and committees for the German Studies Association and has worked on behalf of the Holocaust Educational Foundation in a variety of ways, serving on its academic board, and co-chairing the 2010 "Lessons and Legacies" conference.

All these accomplishments have certainly won Frank the respect and admiration of his colleagues in the field; those of us who have worked with him closely over the years also, of course, value him for his congeniality, generosity, and sense of humor. We congratulate him heartily on this award.

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Jonathan Huener is Associate Professor of History at UVM. During the Fall 2014 semester he served as Interim Director of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies.

## Holocaust Studies Courses Offered at UVM • 2014-2015

### Fall 2014

REL/HS-180: Moral and Religious Perspectives on the Holocaust (Sugarman)

HST/HS-190: The Holocaust (Nicosia)

HST/HS-226: France under German Occupation (Zdatny)

### Spring 2015

WLIT/HS-17: Holocaust Literature (Schreckenberger)

HST/HS-112: History of Zionism to 1948 (Nicosia)

HST/HS-115: History of Poland (Huener)

HST/HS-119: Modern Jewish History (Steinweis)

HST/HS-139: Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)

HST/HS-190: The Holocaust (Huener)

HST/HS-191: History of World War II (Buchanan)

HST/HS-227: Anti-Semitism in Europe: From the Enlightenment to the 'Final Solution' (Nicosia)

HST 238: World War II in the USSR (Youngblood)

### Fall 2015

HST 101: History Methods (Steinweis) (emphasis on the 1930's and World War Two)

HST/HS 139: Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)

HST/HS 190: The Holocaust (Nicosia)

HST/HS 191: World War Two (Buchanan)

HST/HS 226: The Holocaust in Poland (Huener)



## *A Guest Professorship at the University of Munich*

by Alan E. Steinweis



The historic main building of the University of Munich

For three semesters in 2013 and 2014 I was on leave from UVM in order to hold the Chair for Jewish History and Culture at the University of Munich. In the German system, a “chair” (*Lehrstuhl*) is not so much a professorship as it is an institute consisting of teaching faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, and staff support. This particular chair in Munich is the only one of its kind in Germany inasmuch as it is fully integrated into the history faculty of the university. Jewish Studies programs and institutes at other German universities – and there are quite a few of them – are not as thoroughly integrated into the history curriculum.

The Chair in Munich has been held since its creation in 1997 by Michael Brenner, an eminent scholar of modern German-Jewish history. While the emphasis of the Chair’s teaching and research focuses on modern and recent Jewish history, the geographical focus is quite broad, encompassing Europe and the Americas, with a good deal of attention also given to the history of Zionism and the State of Israel.

Because the purpose of the Chair is to educate students and promote research about Jewish history, topics such as antisemitism have not featured prominently in its profile. This raises the question of why I, a Holocaust specialist, was invited to hold the Chair for three semesters while Professor Brenner was on leave at American University in Washington. The main reason is that the city of Munich is now emerging as an important center for the study of the Holocaust. The Institute for Contemporary History (*Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte*), a venerable institution in Munich, has recently established a Center for Holocaust Studies, made possible by generous

financial backing from the provincial government of Bavaria. In a relatively brief time, the Center has hired a team of outstanding historians, established doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships, organized major international conferences, and forged partnerships with Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Museum. In view of these developments, it made sense for the University of Munich to invite a Holocaust scholar to hold its Chair of Jewish History, if only temporarily.

Much of my teaching in Munich focused on the Holocaust. I twice taught a large lecture course providing an overview of the subject, and I offered seminars dealing with specialized topics such as the Kristallnacht, Nazi-era antisemitic scholarship, and classic early works of Holocaust research. Demand for courses in such subjects was very high, and I found my students to be highly motivated. Never once did I sense that the students found it odd or inappropriate that they were being taught about their own history in their own language by an American. In addition to my classes, I directed a large number of BA and MA theses addressing Holocaust topics. There may well be segments of German society that are suffering from so-called Holocaust Fatigue, but this was certainly not the situation at the University of Munich. I’m delighted to be back at UVM after the expiration of my visiting position, but I also look forward to a continued collaboration with my colleagues in Munich.

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**Alan E. Steinweis** is the Director of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, and holder of the Miller Distinguished Professorship, at UVM.



## News from the Faculty



**Andrew Buchanan (History)** spoke at a series of meetings on the topic of his book, *America's Grand Strategy in the Mediterranean during World War II*. These included seminars at Reading and Exeter universities and at the London School of Economics, together with a well-attended public lecture hosted by the New York Military Affairs Symposium. The New York lecture was recorded by C-SPAN and broadcast on national television.

It can be viewed at <<http://www.c-span.org/video/?322137-1/discussion-us-engagement-italy-world-war-ii>>. He continued work on his new book project, tentatively entitled "Citizen Soldiers: Universal Military Service and State Formation from the Hussites to the Meiji Restoration." He is also working on an article examining the experience of soldier-tourism during the American occupation of Italy.



**Meaghan Emery (Romance Languages and Linguistics)** submitted two articles for publication, the first on French ministers of Muslim faith and the French Republic and the second on Rachid Bouchareb's recent films "Days of Glory" and "Outside the Law" as they pertain to the French tradition of committed intellectualism. On February 12, 2015, Emery led a round-table discussion on the January 2015 terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket in Paris. It was entitled "Free Speech Rights: France as a Case in Point," and Emery along with UVM colleagues Charles-Louis Morand-Metivier in French and Ilyse Morgenstein-Fuerst in Religion addressed and heard from a number of students and community members at this well-attended event.

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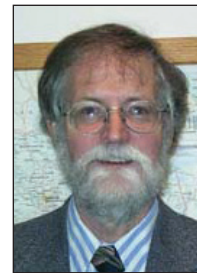
**Jonathan Huener (History)** published the article "Nazi Kirchenpolitik and Polish Catholicism in the Reichsgau Wartheland, 1939-1945," which appeared in the summer of 2014 in the journal *Central European History*. In the summer 2014 he was again a research fellow at the German Historical Institute, Warsaw, where he continued his research on the Polish Catholic Church under German occupation. While in Poland, he also attended an international symposium in Kraków

and Oświęcim (Auschwitz) on "Auschwitz as World Heritage: UNESCO, Poland, and History Politics," where he gave a lecture on "The Politics and Culture of Commemoration at Auschwitz." In February of this year he attended an international conference in Łódź, Poland on the theme "Łódź w Kraju Warty (1939-1945)–Nowe Perspektywy Badawcze" and presented a paper titled "Katholische Kirche und Kirchenpolitik im Reichsgau Wartheland und in der Diözese Łódź." Closer to home, in March he was also a guest lecturer at Milton High School, where he met with three classes of second-year students who are studying the Holocaust.



**Lutz Kaelber (Sociology)** presented a paper entitled "Jewish Children, Disability, and Nazi Medical Crimes" at the biannual "Lessons and Legacies Conference" of the Holocaust Education Foundation in Boca Raton in November 2014. A revised version will be included in the conference volume to be published by Northwestern University Press in the near future. In the context

of this research, he presently analyzes restitution records detailing the fate of "Jewish mixed-race" children who died at the Hadamar hospital in Germany. He also wrote a preface to the book *Child Murder in the Hospital: The Killing of Disabled Children in the Pediatric Clinic Rothenburgsort* by Andreas Babel (2015), which chronicles the involvement of eleven female medical residents and their post-WW II careers, and contributed an entry on "eugenics" to the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior and Society in 2014.



**Dennis Mahoney (German and Russian)** was on sabbatical during the spring semester of 2014, where his main project was the scholarly translation, with an introduction and notes, of Joseph von Eichendorff's novel *Ahnung und Gegenwart* (Presentiment and Present; 1815), with the aid of his wife Angelika, who in the process became the co-translator; this translation should be appearing with the Edwin Mellen Press in 2015, in conjunction with the 200<sup>th</sup>

anniversary of the novel's publication. During the fall of 2014, he spoke on "Imagining and Reality in Joseph von Eichendorff's *Ahnung und Gegenwart*" at the International Conference on "Imagining Worlds" organized by the Goethe Society of North America at the University of Pittsburgh, and also gave the 2014 Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm Lecture at the University of Waterloo on the theme of "Recreating Nature: German Romantic Landscapes as Cultural Ecology." In work related to his presidency of the International Novalis Society, he read and provided written assessments of the books/dissertations by younger scholars working on German and European romanticism that had been nominated for the newly created Novalis Prize, which he awarded at the May 2014 annual meeting of the Novalis Society in Oberwiederstedt, Sachsen-Anhalt, wearing the medal received at his investiture as the Wolfgang and Barbara Mieder Green and Gold Professor. Shortly before departing for Germany, he also had the honor of being the recipient of the 2014 Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education. Finally, he also served as editor of the poetry of Charlie Ballantyne, the late husband of Hedi Ballantyne; this volume of over 100 poems, entitled *Poetry of a Lifetime*, was published in the "Red Barn" series of Wind Ridge Books (Shelburne, Vermont, 2014). Both Hedi and Charlie Ballantyne were UVM graduates of the class of 1950, following Charlie's return from the army during World War II and Hedi's reunion with her father, the composer and author Richard Stoehr, who had found a position at St. Michael's College after being dismissed from his teaching position at the Vienna Academy of Music in 1938 by Nazi officials (<http://www.richardstoehr.com/>).



**Wolfgang Mieder (German and Russian)** is the author of three new books: "Wer andern eine Grube gräbt". *Sprichwörtliches aus der Bibel in moderner Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* (Wien: Praesens, 2014), "All Men and Women Are Created Equal". *Elizabeth Cady Stanton's and Susan B. Anthony's Proverbial Rhetoric Promoting Women's Rights* (New York: Peter Lang, 2014), and "Behold the Proverbs of a People". *Proverbial Wisdom in Culture, Literature, and Politics* (Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 2014). He also edited Otto Sutermeister's *Die Schweizerischen Sprichwörter der Gegenwart in ausgewählter Sammlung* (Hildesheim: Georg Olms, 2014), volume 31 of *Proverbium. Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship* (Burlington, Vermont: The University of Vermont), and *From Goethe to Novalis. Studies in Classicism and Romanticism. Festschrift for Dennis*

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F. Mahoney in *Celebration of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday* (New York: Peter Lang, 2015). Among his recent articles are “Laissez faire à Georges’ and ‘Let George do it’: A Case of Paremiological Polygenesis”, “Hamlet-Zitate in Karikatur und Werbung”, “Jeder ist sich selbst der Fernste’: Zur Sprichwörtlichkeit in Friedrich Nietzsches *Die fröhliche Wissenschaft*”, “Futuristic Paremiography and Paremiology. A Plea for the Collection and Study of Modern Proverbs”, “You Have to Kiss a Lot of Frogs (Toads) Before You Meet Your Handsome Prince’: From Fairy-Tale Motif to Modern Proverb”, “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize’: Congressman John Lewis’s Proverbial Odyssey for Civil Rights”, “Aller Anfang ist Gefahr’: Friedrich Nietzsches sprichwörtliche Aphorismen in *Menschliches, Allzumenschliches*”, “Ein in sich gespaltenes Haus hat keinen Bestand’: Zur Politisierung eines Bibelspruchworts bei Abraham Lincoln, Willy Brandt und Barack Obama”, and “M(R)ight Makes R(M)ight’: The Sociopolitical History of a Contradictory Proverb Pair.” He also presented lectures at Utah State University, University of Greiswald (Germany), University of Helsinki (Finland), University of Athens (Greece), Sorbonne University (France), and at Tavira (Portugal) and the Estonian Academy of Sciences in Tallinn (Estonia).



**Francis Nicosia (History)** saw the publication of his new book, *Nazi Germany and the Arab World* (Cambridge University Press). It appeared in the late fall of 2014. The Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University awarded Frank the “Distinguished Achievement Award in Holocaust Studies” at the biennial Lessons & Legacies conference in Florida on 31 October 2014.

He also finished the revisions for a new paperback edition of his co-edited volume (with Lawrence Stokes) *Germans against Nazism: Non-conformity, Opposition and Resistance in the Third Reich. Essays in Honor of Peter Hoffmann*. The revised paperback edition of this book, originally published in 1990 by Berg Publishers in London, will be published by Berghahn Books in July 2015. Frank has continued his work on an edited volume of more than 200 annotated documents (in German) that will be published under the title *Dokumente zur Geschichte des deutschen Zionismus 1933-1941*. It will be finished at the end of this summer or in the early autumn. The volume will appear in the Leo Baeck Institute’s series “Schriftenreihe wissenschaftlicher Abhandlungen des Leo Baeck Instituts,” published by Mohr/Siebeck Verlag in Tübingen, Germany, in late 2016. He also presented the paper “Opposition and Indifference: Zionism and Arab Nationalism in Nazi Policy, 1937-1941” at the 13th Biennial Lessons and Legacies conference in Boca Raton, Florida, in early November 2014. His co-panelists were Professors Jeffrey Herf (University of Maryland) and Norman Goda (University of Florida). The *Centre d’études et de recherches internationales (CERI) of Sciences Po* in Paris invited Frank to present a public lecture and seminar on 20 May 2015. The title of the lecture/seminar is “Zionism in Nazi Germany.” Frank continued his service as a member of the Academic Board of the Holocaust Educational Foundation at Northwestern University, and he served as the co-organizer of the 7<sup>th</sup> Miller symposium, “Responses in the Middle East to National Socialism and the Holocaust,” which took place at UVM on 18-19 April 2015.



**Nicole Phelps (History)** received a Faculty Research Support Award from the College of Arts & Sciences to facilitate her current book project on *The United States in the World: US Consuls Abroad, 1789-1924*. She presented a portion of her research at the Organization of American Historians annual conference and will be presenting at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) in June 2015. Reviews of her first book, *U.S.-Habsburg*

*Relations from 1815 to the Paris Peace Conference: Sovereignty Transformed*, have appeared in a variety of publications, including roundtable reviews on H-Diplo and in *Passport*, SHAFR’s triannual review. She published a review essay in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, as well as reviews in the *American Historical Review*, *Contemporary Austrian Studies*, and H-Diplo. In her capacity as president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter hosted by UVM, she worked with a variety of UVM staff members to create a comprehensive, accurate list of chapter members that links membership data held by the chapter, the national Phi Beta Kappa Society, the UVM Registrar’s Office, and the UVM Foundation; the chapter was founded in 1848, so the task was large and well suited to an historian. Her MA advisee, Natalie Coffmann, successfully defended a thesis on the Mormon Battalion in the Mexican War, and she is currently working with Scott Waterman on a thesis dealing with coverage of the Spanish Civil War in publications of the Communist Party of the USA.



**Robert D. Rachlin** (German and Russian) published “What Was ‘Jewish’ about the ‘Jewish Influence’ on German Law as Portrayed by Nazi Legal Theorists” in *Lessons & Legacies XI*, Northwestern University Press.



**Susanna Schrafstetter (History)** during the Fall 2014 semester held a Visiting Professorship at the University of Augsburg, which was underwritten by the guest scholar program of the Bavarian State Ministry of Research, Science, and Art. She taught classes on the deportation of the Jews from Germany and on global reparations politics. She has published an article on “half-Jewish” youths in Munich under

National Socialism, “Geltungsjüdische Jugendliche in München, 1938-1945,” *Münchner Beiträge zur Jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur* 8 (2014), and a book chapter on “Siegfried Zoglmann, His Circle of Writers, and the Naumann Affair: A Nazi Propaganda Operation in Postwar Germany,” in David Messenger and Katrin Paehler (eds), *A Nazi Past: Recasting German Identity in Postwar Europe*, University of Kentucky Press, 2015. She made presentations at a number of international conferences: “Hidden Jews as a Subgroup of German Holocaust Survivors,” at the conference “Survivors: Politics and Semantics of a Concept,” Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg and Center for Research on Antisemitism, Berlin, November 2014; “Flight Underground: Jews in Hiding in Munich and Upper Bavaria,” at the conference “The Holocaust after 70 Years: New Perspectives on Persecution, Resistance, and Survival” (Lessons and Legacies XIII), Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, November 2014; “Jews on the Run: Ordinary Germans and Jewish Flights from Deportation” at the conference “*The Holocaust and the European Societies: Social Process and Social Dynamics*,” Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, October 2014. She has completed a book manuscript titled *Flucht und Versteck. Untergetauchte Juden in München: Verfolgungserfahrung und Nachkriegsalltag*, which will appear with the German publisher Wallstein. The book examines the experiences of Jews who tried to escape deportation by going into hiding in Munich, and analyzes how conditions for surviving differed from other areas in Germany, most importantly Berlin. The book also examines the postwar lives of the survivors in hiding, detailing their struggle with German compensation legislation, and the ways in which their helpers have (or have not) been recognized. She is also looking forward to the late 2015 publication of the anthology *The Germans and the Holocaust: Popular Responses to the Persecution and Murder of the Jews*, which she has coedited with Alan Steinweis, and which will be published by Berghahn Books.

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**Helga Schreckenberger (German and Russian)** published the article “Berliner Spuren in Billy Wilder’s Film *Hold Back the Dawn* (1941)” in *Feuchtwanger und Berlin*, ed. by Geoffrey V. Davis. She presented on Holocaust victim Lili Grün and her novel *Alles ist Jazz* (1933) at the international conference “Jazz in Word: European (Non-)Fiction” at the University of Vienna. She also presented the papers “Oedipal Patterns in Wolf Haas’s Detective Novel *Das ewige Leben* (2004)” at German Studies Association Meeting and “Encounters of a Different Kind: Coincidence in Dimitré Dinev’s *Engelszungen*” at the Austrian Studies Association Conference. In addition, she participated in the international conference “Exiles and Returnees” at the Austrian Academy of Sciences with the presentation “Gelungene Heimkehr? Der Fall Karl Farkas.”



**Richard Sugarman (Religion)** has continued his research and writing on the philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas. Levinas is widely regarded as the foremost post-Holocaust Jewish thinker. Sugarman has spent the past year completing his book: *Emmanuel Levinas and the Jewish Bible: A Transcending Humanism*. The book applies the philosophy of Levinas to the Pentateuch. It does so in a manner that elucidates the 54 portions of the Pentateuch. The book can be read in its entirety or in a portion by portion manner as the Torah is read in the Jewish liturgical year. It is a book of philosophy, not theology. The book aims at showing how Levinas’ ethical metaphysics avoids the dual dangers of absolutism leading to fanaticism and relativism leading to nihilism. At the same time, it features Levinas in conversation with other classical Jewish commentators, ancient and modern, in order to surface some of the primary experiential patterns of biblical existence. It examines Hebrew scripture from the standpoint of all of Levinas’ writings both philosophic and specifically Talmudic readings. The book is now in the stage of being copy-edited, and is expected to appear in 2017 with SUNY Press.



**Alan E. Steinweis (History)** returned to UVM in January after a three-semester guest professorship at the University of Munich, where he held the Chair of Jewish History and Culture. (See the article elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.) In Munich he edited an issue of *Münchener Beiträge zur jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur* devoted to the Holocaust in Munich and Bavaria. He published two book chapters: “The Historiography of the Kristallnacht,” in *Popular Western Reactions to Kristallnacht*, edited by Nathan Wilson and Colin McCullough, and “Kristallnacht 1938: History and Memory,” in *Proceedings of the International Conference on Kristallnacht held in Kaliningrad*, November 14-17, 2013, edited by Ilya Altman, Kiril Fefermann, and Jürgen Zarusky. He also authored an essay, “Haben die Deutschen die Verantwortung für ihre NS-Vergangenheit übernommen? Ein Kommentar,” for the catalog of the new Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism. A volume co-edited with UVM’s Susanna Schrafstetter, *The German People and the Holocaust*, was accepted for publication by Berghahn and will appear in November 2015. This volume grows out of the 2012 Miller Symposium. Steinweis gave three invited talks over the past year: Comment on a panel on the role of police in the Holocaust in Greece, Poland, and Ukraine, conference on “The Holocaust and European Societies,” Institut fuer Zeitgeschichte, Munich; “Der Holocaust in Film. Erfahrungen aus dem Unterricht,” University of

Augsburg, October 2014; and “The German People and the Holocaust: New Sources, New Insights,” McGill University under the aegis of the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. Finally, Steinweis was appointed to an advisory board for the forthcoming scholarly edition of *Mein Kampf* to be published by the Institut für Zeitgeschichte, as well as to the Board of Editors of the forthcoming English edition of *Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden durch das nationalsozialistische Deutschland*, a 16-volume collection of documents from the Holocaust sponsored by institutions in Germany and Israel.



**Steve Zdatny (History)** spent the spring semester 2015 on sabbatical leave in Paris. Supported by a Fulbright Senior Scholar grant and a post as Visiting Research Scholar at the School for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Zdatny continued working on his book--a study of the history of hygiene in France in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries--while presenting his scholarship to audiences in Paris, Toulouse, and Oslo, where he spoke about the “French Hygiene Revolution of the 1950s” and about the “History of Small Business in France.”

## A Summer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

by Mariel E. Brown-Fallon, UVM Class of 2015

Near the end of my third year at UVM, I began to look into professional experiences that would allow me to further explore my passion for the field of Holocaust Studies. After waiting to hear back from multiple organizations, I was offered the unique opportunity to intern in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Branch of Oral History. Here would I not only experience a summer in our nation’s capital, but I would also be able to enrich my understanding of Holocaust-related scholarship through intimate work with Holocaust survivors and their stories.

The Oral History Branch at USHMM holds testimonies from Holocaust survivors all over the world, offering a breadth of powerful and unique stories concerning survival, anguish, and overall raw human experience during the Holocaust. At the Museum, I worked directly with the UHSM’s collection of over 64,000 oral testimonies, where I transcribed, categorized, and summarized hundreds of interviews.

It is impossible for me to express the value that working with USHMM held for me. Recently we passed the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, meaning that the number of Holocaust survivors alive today continues to dwindle. Soon, students will not have the opportunity to receive witness to the stories of those who survived through such a dark and unimaginable period in our world’s history. I am extremely lucky to have been able to engage in the study of the Holocaust in such a profound and meaningful way.



## Graduate Student News



**Mark Alexander** is finishing his MA in History and Holocaust studies at UVM this year. He has recently accepted an offer to attend George Washington University in Washington, DC this fall, where he hopes to expand the scope of his current research for his PhD dissertation. Mark is writing his MA thesis, "Nazi Collaborators and American Intelligence in the Cold War: The Case of the Byelorussian Central Council," under the direction of Jonathan Huener. This study focuses upon several of the most influential members of the Byelorussian puppet regime created by the SS in Minsk in December, 1943 and their escape from prosecution for war crimes through their cooperative relationships with American intelligence in the paranoid climate of the early Cold War. Mark has conducted research for his thesis at the National Archives and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC and the *Institut für Zeitgeschichte* in Munich, Germany.



**Nathan Gondelman** received his Bachelor's Degree from UVM in 2009, majoring in History and minoring in Economics. As a full-time staff member at UVM's ACCESS Office, Nate has continued to take seminars in History and Holocaust studies since his graduation, and became matriculated as a part-time History M.A. candidate in the Fall of 2013. Since 2009, Nate has taken seminars on the Holocaust in Poland, American/Allied Grand Strategy in the Second World War, Jewish Society in Nazi Germany, German Society and the Holocaust, Nazi Germany, and the Soviet Union in World War II. Past areas of focus and research have included the fate of Red Army POWs at the hands of the Germans, the treatment of Jewish World War I veterans in Nazi Germany, German public opinion and the Holocaust, as well as Hitler's perception of the United States. Nate's specific areas of interest include complicity by the Wehrmacht and European civilians in the Holocaust, *Einsatzgruppen* activities in the Soviet Union during 1941-42, the role of the Nazi leadership in planning and executing the Final Solution, and the relationship between German military fortunes and the trajectory of the Holocaust.



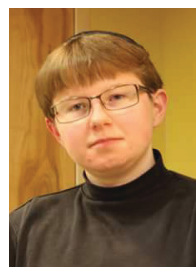
**Meagan Ingalls**, MA student in the Department of History, is currently writing her thesis "The Holocaust in Berezne, Rivnens'ka Oblast: A Case Study" under the direction of Jonathan Huener. This thesis presents a narrative account of the August 1942 massacre in Berezne where 3,680 Jews were shot in one day and buried in five mass graves, examining who the Jews of Berezne were, their experience under Nazi occupation, the motives for

Jewish extermination during the "Second Sweep," and the trajectory of the annihilation program in Rivnens'ka Oblast. In addition, this work examines the perpetrators of the massacre, examining the composition and actions of Einsatzgruppe C and their Ukrainian collaborators. Finally, the thesis addresses the complicated issue of historical memory of the Holocaust in Ukraine. Her article titled "To be or not to be? Approaches to German-Jewish Suicides During the Third Reich" was published in the Spring 2014 issue of the *UVM History Review*.



**Kassandra LaPrade Seuthe** studied at the Summer School of Polish and German offered by the Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies (ZIP) at Europa Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder in summer 2014. While in Germany she conducted archival research toward her thesis, with a working title of *Enforcing the "Racial" Divide between Germans and Polish Forced Laborers in Nazi Germany*, under the direction of her advisor

professor Jonathan Huener. She served as a research assistant to Professor Francis Nicosia in the academic year 2014 - 2015 as he completes work on a volume of documents pertaining to the history of German Zionism. During this time, she also had the opportunity to draw on prior museum exhibition experience in presenting a talk based on her research and writing on objects in the collection at the Robert Hull Fleming Museum. She presently looks forward to the publication of "*Without House and Home: The Response of Jewish Welfare to the Desolation and Dispossession of Elderly German Jews*" in the forthcoming *Vermont History Review*.



**Julia Walsh** earned a BA from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington before coming to the University of Vermont. At PLU, she won awards in the Rafael Lemkin Student Essay Contest in 2012, 2013, and served two terms as a Kurt Mayer Fellow in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from 2012 to 2014. In 2013 she had attended the International Tracing Service seminars at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Through PLU's Campus Ministry office she gave

lectures on Judaism and Jewish holidays in 2012, 2013, and 2014, and has returned to Washington several times to give lectures and talks on Judaism, Jewish history, and the Holocaust. She also served, from 2012-2014, as the deputy editor of the Undergraduate Journal of Jewish Studies, headquartered at Indiana University in Bloomington. At UVM she served as the graduate assistant to the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. She plans to use the summer to research thesis topics, both home in Tacoma and on a trip to Washington, DC in late June.



**G. Scott Waterman** is professor of psychiatry emeritus and a graduate student in history at UVM. He graduated from Harvard University in 1978 and the University of Michigan Medical School in 1982. Following post-graduate training in psychiatry, child psychiatry, and clinical research at Harvard Medical School and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, he embarked on a career in academic medicine, first at the University of Pittsburgh and, over the past 20 years, at the UVM College of Medicine. His teaching and scholarship focused most recently on neuroscience education and on philosophical problems in psychiatric diagnosis and discourse. He served for eight years as associate dean for student affairs at the College of Medicine prior to his retirement in 2012 in order to pursue his lifelong interests in history, which include modern European and American political ideologies and movements, the Holocaust, and the Cold War. He has participated in seminars on Nazi Germany, Poland, France, and the Holocaust with Professors Steinweis, Nicosia, Huener, and Zdatny, and is currently working with Professors Phelps and Buchanan on a master's thesis tentatively titled, "The Common Cause of All Advanced and Progressive Mankind: Proletarian Internationalism, Spain, and the American Communist Press, 1936-1937." His articles, "Continuities and Their Complexities: German Conquest and Genocide in Southwest Africa and Eastern Europe," "Isolationists in the 'Great Debate': The Foundations of their Movement and the Failure of their Cause," and "Red Heroes: The Origins and Nature of Left-Wing Jewish Resistance in Nazi Germany," were published in recent issues of *The University of Vermont History Review*.





## Update on the Ordinary Soldiers Project

by Jody M. Prescott, UVM Class of 1983

With the support of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, the first iteration of the Ordinary Soldiers lesson plan was taught to UVM Army ROTC cadets in the spring of 2012.\* Under the auspices of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the West Point Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, the Ordinary Soldiers lesson plan is the result of a multidisciplinary team taking a case study of a particular Wehrmacht infantry battalion in German-occupied Belarus and developing it into a modular instruction platform to teach leadership, ethics and law in the context of an illegal order to commit genocide.

In the first week of October 1941, the commander of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 691<sup>st</sup> Regiment, a rear area security unit that had yet to see combat, ordered each of his three maneuver company commanders to kill all the Jews in their respective areas of operation. One commander complied immediately. A second commander refused outright. The third commander initially avoided complying with the order, but once it was confirmed, he ordered his company's first sergeant, the senior non-commissioned officer in the company, to organize the executions, and then absented himself from the scene. One illegal order – three very different responses from three very similarly situated small unit leaders.

This spring, for the fourth year, UVM and Norwich University Army ROTC cadets conducted the Ordinary Soldiers lesson plan in evening sessions at each location. After an hour lecture on the case study, the cadets broke into small groups and discussed the factors that had led to the illegal killings, including politicization, obedience to orders, command climate and the moral compasses of the three company commanders. In the context of an Army Regulation 15-6 investigation, they then discussed the different ethical, professional and legal standards that were applicable to these factors, and explored different measures that they as young officers might take in their own units to prevent such atrocities from happening today. Each small group then briefed the others on their findings and conclusions.

In April, for the first time, the Ordinary Soldiers lesson plan was used at the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, in its human rights course for international military officers. The students represented 17 different countries from Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and South America, and were a mixture of line officers and legal advisors. As with the U.S. cadets, the officers did their work in small groups, but with a slightly different task. Rather than conducting an investigation, the international officers worked to prepare a sketch of a training program based on the lesson plan that could be used for a multinational headquarters preparing to go into a hot Chapter 7 UN-authorized operation. The four groups each came up with different plans, with one focusing on the theme of avoiding atrocities against civilians, the second focusing on the different tiers of command in the multinational unit, the third taking a functional approach in terms of the ground soldiers' actual mission, and the fourth on values and command responsibility.

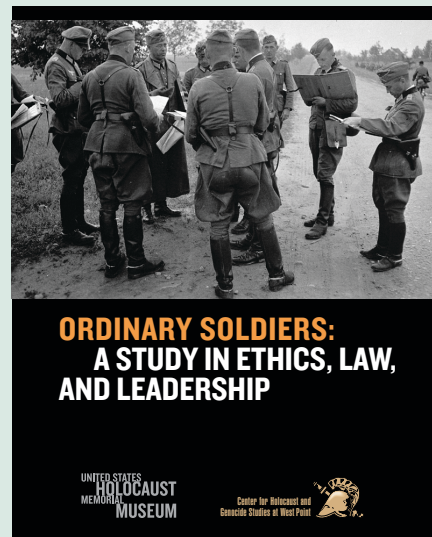
Feedback from the students on the exercise was positive, and the lesson plan is expected to be taught again in the fall of 2015 in the next human rights course iteration.

\*For background see "The Ordinary Soldiers Project" by the same author in the 2013 Bulletin, available at our website, <http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs>

**COL (Ret.) Jody M. Prescott** is an adjunct professor for the UVM Political Science Department and the Environmental Studies Program, teaching environmental politics and environmental law. In addition to being part of the Ordinary Soldiers project, his research and writing focus on three major evolving national security topics: gender, the environment, and cyber conflict. His recent work includes: "Climate Change, Gender and Rethinking Military Operations," *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* (2014); "Building the Ethical Cyber Commander and the Law of Armed Conflict," *Rutgers Computer & Technology Law Journal* (2014); and "NATO Gender Mainstreaming and the Feminist Critique of the Law of Armed Conflict," *Georgetown Journal on Gender and the Law* (2013).



The author teaching cadets at Norwich University





## The Terezin Portfolio: A Gift to UVM

Thanks to the generosity of Sanford ‘Sandy’ Plotkin ’65, UVM has come into possession of a copy of the Terezin Portfolio, a remarkable work by the New York based artist Mark Podwal. Bearing inscription “all this has come upon us,” the Portfolio is a set of 42 archival pigment prints of acrylic, gouache and colored pencil works on paper. The original work was exhibited at the Terezin Ghetto Museum from April to July 2014. The forty-two paintings and drawings, disturbing reminders of how Europe’s extensive history of “Jew-hatred” laid the groundwork for the Holocaust, have been published as archival pigment print portfolios. In addition to UVM, portfolios have been acquired by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress, the Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, Yale University, Princeton University, Columbia University, the Bodleian Library of Oxford University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the National Library of Israel, among others. At UVM the Portfolio is housed at the Special Collections Department of the Bailey-Howe Library.

The artist Mark Podwal may have been best known initially for his drawings on *The New York Times* OP-ED page. In addition, he is the author and illustrator of numerous books. Most of these works - Podwal’s own as well as those he has illustrated for others - typically focus on Jewish legend, history and tradition. His art is represented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Fogg Art Museum and the Library of Congress.

Though he always loved to draw, Podwal never pursued formal art training and eventually his parents encouraged him to become a physician. While attending New York University School of Medicine, his passion for drawing once again crept in: the tumultuous events of the 1960’s compelled Podwal to create a series of political drawings that were published as his first book *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*. These images were brought to the attention of an art director at *The New York Times*, and in 1972, his first drawing appeared on its OP-ED page. That drawing of the Munich massacre was later exhibited at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs Palais du Louvre.

Podwal is the author and illustrator of *Jerusalem Sky: Stars, Crosses and Crescents*; *A Sweet Year*; *Doctored Drawings*, among others. *King Solomon and His Magic Ring*, in collaboration with Elie Wiesel, won a Silver Medal from the Society of Illustrators in 1999 and *You Never Know*, in collaboration with Francine Prose, won a National Jewish Book Award in 1998.

*Fallen Angels*, in collaboration with Harold Bloom was published in 2007. Author Cynthia Ozick has given Podwal the Hebrew name

*Baal Kav Emet*, or “Master of the True Line.” As she explains in her essay *Ink & Inking*, “[Podwal] joins metaphysics to physics: essence to presence; ideas to real objects...The Master of the True Line is also master of hidden meanings, of symbol and metaphor.” In 1996, the French government named Podwal an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. Hebrew College, Newton Centre, Massachusetts, in 2003 awarded him a Doctor of Humane Letters honoris causa.

Beyond his works on paper, Podwal’s artistry has been employed in an array of diverse projects, including the design of a series of decorative plates for the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His work has been engraved on a Congressional Gold Medal and woven into an Aubusson tapestry that adorned the ark in the main sanctuary of Temple Emanu-El in New York. Moreover, he designed sixteen kiln cast glass panels for the United Jewish Appeal Federation Headquarters. Podwal is represented by Forum Gallery, New York and has exhibited there since 1977. His papers are archived at Princeton University.

Mark Podwal collaborated with Academy Award winning filmmaker Allan Miller on the documentary *House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague*, narrated by Claire Bloom, which was broadcast on PBS in 2009 and 2010.

In 2011, Podwal received commissions to illustrate a new Passover Haggadah for the Central Conference of American Rabbis Press; to design new embroidered textiles for Prague’s seven hundred year old Altneschul; to create a limited edition print for The Metropolitan Opera’s production of *Nabucco*; and to design Hanukkah cards for The Metropolitan Museum and The Metropolitan Opera. Also in 2011, he received the Jewish Cultural Achievement Award from the Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Podwal’s current projects are his posters for each new Metropolitan Opera season and a series on Mozart and Prague.

Podwal counts among his close friends UVM alumnus Sanford “Sandy” Plotkin ’65, who has donated the Terezin Portfolio to his alma mater. Plotkin grew up in the Bronx and graduated from UVM with a degree in history. He was a member of Phi Sigma Delta and also worked on the Vermont *Cynic*. His daughter, Amanda Werner Gomez, graduated from UVM in 1998. The great Holocaust scholar and UVM Professor of Political Science Raul Hilberg made a very strong impression on Plotkin when he was a student. So did English professor Robert Willard Cochran. Plotkin credits these professors and other UVM faculty with teaching him how to think about the world. It was also at UVM that Plotkin took his first painting class, which has fueled a lifelong love of painting. His career has included successful ventures in manufacturing and real estate in New York. He is owner of Carry Hot, an industry leader in delivery bags for hot food.



A print from the Terezin Portfolio.

## Conference Report

# *Auschwitz as World Heritage – UNESCO, Poland, and History Politics*

(Note: As a service to our readers, we are printing this report from last summer's important conference on Auschwitz, in which UVM's Prof. Jonathan Huener participated.)

Research Group (Leibniz-Competition/ SAW) Knowledge of the World – Heritage of Mankind: The History of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz, July 18, 2014.

by Elke Ackermann

The workshop “Auschwitz as World Heritage – UNESCO, Poland, and History Politics” organized by Andrea Rehling and Julia Röttjer analyzed the historical context of the inscription of Auschwitz-Birkenau on the World Heritage List and its further development as a World Heritage site. It brought together international scholars from various historical disciplines and social sciences, practitioners of conservation, and specialists dealing with the site for a discussion on the changing role of Auschwitz remembrance in a historical perspective, the implications for history politics, heritage preservation and culture politics in Poland and in an international context. A particular focus was put on the Polish nomination of “Auschwitz Concentration Camp” and its inscription on the World Heritage List in 1979. Which consequences arose for Auschwitz after the World Heritage nomination and how was the World Heritage Programme influenced by this event? Extending from this point of view the workshop addressed wider questions regarding the changing inner conceptions and outer functions of the Auschwitz State Museum, conflicts over Auschwitz-Birkenau as a UNESCO site and beyond, and the transformation of Holocaust memory and of international as well as Polish history politics in this perspective. This was connected to a contextualization of conservation paradigms and practices concerning the concentration camp, its buffer zone and its local context.

The first panel focused on “The Changing role of Auschwitz heritage in historical perspective.” JULIA RÖTTJER (Mainz) discussed the perception of Auschwitz-Birkenau as “dissonant” World Heritage since the 1970s, and analyzed different claims to this historical site and its memory over time. For this purpose she emphasized two crucial turns in the history of Auschwitz as World Heritage. Firstly, she connected the controversial nomination procedure of Auschwitz-Birkenau to the context of early Polish UNESCO proposals. To follow this argumentation she also elaborated on the role of Auschwitz for the inclusion of “negative historical values” into the World Heritage idea. Secondly, she explored the international conflicts around the site in the 1980s with a focus on the UNESCO arena. For this she zoomed in on the Carmelite conflict, which reflected these particular claims to the common heritage and their connections to the discussions around

the universal symbols embedded in this site.

JONATHAN HUENER (Burlington) discussed the politics and culture of commemoration at Auschwitz. His presentation emphasized public uses of Auschwitz and its landscapes for public events and demonstrations from the 1950s to the 1980s. He questioned in particular the political and cultural implications of the historical context of the post-war era for these processes. Thereby he highlighted the use of Auschwitz by national and international actors for different constructions of collective memory. He showed how competing narratives and practical uses entered the international public arena and changed Auschwitz commemoration over time.

In her talk HEIDE-MARIE UHL (Vienna) showed how the site Auschwitz-Birkenau developed over time as a central element for the commemoration of the Holocaust in the international realm. One main argument for this hypothesis is the history of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27th, date of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and extermination camp. Furthermore, she introduced

the idea of Auschwitz becoming the symbol of the “Other” in western civilization. She analyzed the background that stood behind this development, highlighting how the meaning given to the term “memory”, as well as to practices of memory, shifted from a nation-based to a society-based focus in the 1980s.

In his presentation MAREK KUCIA (Krakow) focused on the change of meanings given to Auschwitz by people in Poland from 1945 to the present. Using a sociological approach, he identified five “major types” of meanings, as well as five “historical periods”, within which he collocated the predominance of a specific meaning ascended to the site. He differentiated Polish national, religious Catholic Polish, International(-ist), Universalist and Jewish denotations and supported his argument through the interpretation of emblematic pictures related to practices of commemoration within the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The results of quantitative research he presented revealed the assignment of meaning given to the site in Poland in the late 2000s.

The second panel “Polish history politics and conservation of cultural heritage in an international context” focused on the interaction



*continued on Page 11*



*Auschwitz as World Heritage, continued from Page 10*

of local and global contexts in the case of the Auschwitz-Birkenau site. Two Polish specialists, who were personally involved in schemes concerning the spatial context of the World Heritage Site Auschwitz-Birkenau in an international context, presented the difficulties of combining UNESCO World Heritage, conservation paradigms and local spatial planning.

DANUTA KŁOSEK-KOZŁOWSKA (Warsaw) focused her talk on a detailed study of the areal extent of Auschwitz-Birkenau which was conducted by three Polish scholars between 1996 and 1998 in connection with the Polish branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The research group, of which Mrs. Kłosek-Kozłowska was a member, assessed the site and constructed a management proposal. This proposal was mainly focused on the difficulty of integrating the intangible values embedded in the monuments into the two spatially separated parts of the UNESCO site ("Auschwitz I" and Birkenau). She presented possible solutions for the preservation of the memorial aspects of the place, as well as for the interaction of the site with the city of Oświęcim and other surrounding communities, thus bringing the local town planning perspective into the discussion.

MAREK RAWECKI (Gliwice) based his presentation on the extended knowledge he acquired while conducting studies on defining and developing spatial management and buffer zones of the UNESCO heritage Auschwitz-Birkenau. He presented the discrepancy between the zones established for the conservation of the site from 1945 to 2014 and the space of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp during the Second World War. He also interrogated the difficulties of integrating the site in the urban context of the city of Oświęcim. He focused especially on the camp spaces situated outside of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and the particular challenges arising for local heritage conservation.

Through the course of the workshop the site of Auschwitz as World Heritage was examined via perspectives of the history of the UNESCO inscription, analyses of arising conflicts, the development of the Museum and Memorial, Holocaust commemoration, sociological research in Polish society, and architecture and spatial planning. It was discussed thoroughly, how and why meanings ascribed to Auschwitz changed in specific historical and political contexts and what the implications were for heritage policies and for the commemoration of the Holocaust. One general line was the aforementioned periodization structuring possible analyses of the Post-War Memory of Auschwitz and history politics on the one hand and the development of the Museum, the sites and monuments on the other hand. A second line of thought was the question of medial representation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, e.g. in the Museum's exhibitions, in visual media, maps, monuments, buildings and through witnesses. Concepts of authenticity, forensic proof, and projections of a legacy of the past into the future run through these representations and are worth further investigation. A third line of discussion was the analysis of historical actors and of the argumentations and motivations with which they entered the physical site as well as the international debates surrounding it in times of conflict. To research the institutional and individual actors means not only to ask for their interacting responsibilities and claims, but also to see them as vectors and carriers of memory representing at the same time the channels through which decisions

are made. The UNESCO as a political agent and at the same time "expert organization" in the UN system should be questioned in this context, leading to a reflection on the role of players within UNESCO, of heritage experts, but also of historians. The competing narratives, various claims and practical uses of this site were asserted by a variety of Polish national as well as religious or international impulses. It was discussed, how the claims to Auschwitz put forward by different groups and institutions interacted, and what function the UNESCO arena could assume. It was exemplified, how this has been connected to the construction of space, how practical heritage conservation, World Heritage paradigms and museum exhibitions mutually influenced politics of commemoration.

### Conference Overview

Johannes Paulmann (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), Welcome

Andrea Rehling (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), Introduction

*Panel 1: The Changing Role of Auschwitz Heritage in historical perspective.*

Julia Röttjer (Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz), Auschwitz-Birkenau as "dissonant" World Heritage since the 1970s.

Jonathan Huener (University of Vermont), The Politics and Culture of Commemoration at Auschwitz.

Heidemarie Uhl (Austrian Academy of Science, Vienna), From the Margins to the Center of European and Global Memory: The Transformation of Holocaust Remembrance as Historical Context of Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial.

Marek Kucia (Jagiellonian University Krakow), The Meanings of Auschwitz in Poland, 1949 to the Present.

*Panel 2: Polish history politics and conservation of cultural heritage in an international context.*

Danuta Kłosek-Kozłowska (Warsaw University of Technology), The Spirit of Place and the Place of Spirits. Auschwitz-Birkenau former Nazi Death Camps.

Marek Rawecki (Silesian University of Technology), Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum protection zones. Managing the legacy of the former death camp.

Final discussion

**Citation:** Elke Ackermann. Review of, *Auschwitz as World Heritage – UNESCO, Poland, and History Politics*. H-Soz-u-Kult, H-Net Reviews. February, 2015.

**URL:** <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=43553>

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**EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2014–2015****September 15, 2014**Lecture***The German Resistance to Hitler and the Persecution of the Jews***

Peter Hoffmann, McGill University

German Resistance leaders were motivated, in varying degrees of intensity, by all that was wrong with the regime and with the war, the general brutality, contempt for the rule of law, arbitrary arrests, secret courts, abolition of civil liberties, murder of political dissidents, mistreatment of civilians in occupied territories, and mass starvation of Soviet-Russian prisoners of war. Resistance leaders saw the persecution of the Jews as a crime of a different order. A significant number of the anti-Hitler conspirators are on record as having stated, when interrogated by the Gestapo before their execution, that their ultimate motive, from the beginning of the war in 1939, was the violent persecution and mass murder of the European Jews. An important example of this was Carl Goerdeler, before 1936 the mayor of Leipzig and a cabinet-level official, who engaged in active opposition against the persecution of the Jews from 1933 on. He was hanged for “treason” on 2 February 1945.



Peter Hoffmann is William Kingsford Professor of History at McGill University, Montreal. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal of the State of Baden-Württemberg (Germany), the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit (Germany), and the Konrad Adenauer Research Award. He is the author of books on the German Resistance including *The History of the German Resistance 1933–1945* (1977); *Hitler's Personal Security* (1979); *German Resistance to Hitler* (1988); *Stauffenberg. A Family History, 1905-1944* (1995); *Carl Goerdeler and the Jewish Question, 1933-1942* (2011); *Behind Valkyrie. German Resistance to Hitler. Documents* (2011); and *Carl Goerdeler gegen die Verfolgung der Juden* (2013).

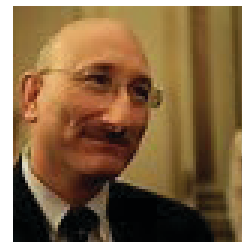
Underwritten by the Kinsler Holocaust Endowment Fund

**October 27, 2014**The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture***The Nazis, their Wars, and the Fate of the Jews, 1938-1945***

David Cesarani, Royal Holloway College, London

In his ground-breaking work *The Destruction of the European Jews*, Raul Hilberg barely mentions the fact that for most of the period under examination Germany was engaged in territorial expansion or wars of conquest. In this respect, he was not unusual amongst ‘Holocaust historians’ of his day or those who laboured in his shadow. Few of those who charted the fate of the Jews paid much attention to the course of the war, except at points when it obviously intersected with ‘Jewish policy.’ Conversely, until recently few military historians examined the impact of strategic and operational decisions on the treatment of Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe and North Africa. Gerhard Weinberg was perhaps the first to calibrate the ‘Final Solution’ to regional and global military developments. This lecture attempted to reinterpret Nazi anti-Jewish policy from the late 1930s in the light of preparations for, and conduct of, the war. The Nazi leadership allowed the alleged role of the Jews in the struggle to exert a powerful influence on their geo-strategic thinking. The lecture went further and showed how strategic and operational decisions had a decisive influence on the treatment of the Jews and their ultimate fate.

David Cesarani is research professor in History at Royal Holloway, University of London and director of the Holocaust Research Centre. His books include *Major Farran's Hat: Murder, scandal, and Britain's war against Jewish terrorism, 1945-1948* (2009); *Eichmann. His Life and Crimes* (2004), winner of the US National Jewish Book Award for history; *Arthur Koestler. The Homeless Mind* (1998); *The Jewish Chronicle' and Anglo-Jewry 1841-1991* (1994); and *Justice Delayed. How Britain became a refuge for Nazi war criminals* (1992). He has also edited or co-edited several collections of essays, including *After the Holocaust: Challenging the 'myth of silence'* with Eric Sudquist (2012), was historical consultant and associate producer for the TV documentary ‘Death Damp Treblinka: Survivors Stories’ BBC4 (2012), and has been involved in the making of other TV, radio and film documentaries. In 2005 he was awarded the OBE for his work with the Home Office unit responsible for the establishment of Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK.



**The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture is made possible through a generous gift of Jerold D. Jacobson, Esq., of New York City, UVM Class of 1962**



**EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2014–2015****November 3, 2014**Lecture***Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields***

Wendy Lower, Claremont McKenna College

Wendy Lower presented on her new book, *Hitler's Furies*, a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Jewish Book Award. Drawing from wartime documents, postwar trials, private letters, diaries and interviews, she discussed outstanding cases of women who became direct witnesses, accomplices, and perpetrators of the Holocaust. In the colonial outposts of the Nazi East, ordinary German women were an integral part of the ruling elite, and possessed extreme power over the lives of Jews and other victims of the Holocaust. Lower examined what some of these women chose to do with this new-found power during the war and how they distorted their criminal behavior after the war.

Wendy Lower is the John K. Roth Chair of History and Director of the Human Rights Center at Claremont McKenna College. She is a member of the Academic Committee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, serves on the academic advisory board of Yahad-in-Unum (Paris), and is an editor of *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust*. Lower is the author of *Nazi Empire- Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine* (2005), *The Diary of Samuel Golfard and the Holocaust in Galicia* (2011); and co- editor (with Ray Brandon) of *Shoah in Ukraine: History, Testimony, Memorialization* (2008). Her book, *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields* (2013) was a finalist for the National Book Award.



Underwritten by the Richard Ader/Paul Konigsberg Endowment for the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies

**March 9, 2015**Lecture***On the Margins of the Holocaust: Hunting Down the Jews in Poland***

Jan Grabowski, University of Ottawa

Based on his most recent book, Professor Grabowski's lecture focused on how Polish Jews who had survived the ghettos and deportations to the death camps were killed as a result of betrayal by their Polish neighbors. Using largely untapped Polish, Jewish, and German sources, he showed how this stage of the killing process in one Polish county relied on the cooperation of the local population, and how that cooperation was based on hatreds inherited from previous generations as well as opportunities provided by the Nazi occupiers.



Born in Warsaw, Poland, Professor Jan Grabowski obtained his M.A. in history from the University of Warsaw in 1986 and his Ph.D. in history from Université de Montréal in 1994. He has taught at the University of Ottawa since 1993, and has also held guest appointments at universities in France, Israel, Poland, and the United States. In 2011 Professor Grabowski was named the Baron Friedrich Carl von Oppenheim Chair for the Study of Racism, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Authority in Jerusalem. Professor Grabowski's most recent book, *Hunt for the Jews. Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland*, published by Indiana University Press in 2013, has been awarded the 2014 Yad Vashem International Book Prize.

Underwritten by the Altschuler Endowment for Holocaust Studies

Co-sponsored by the UVM Russian and East European Program

**EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2014–2015****April 2, 2015*****The Story Behind the Sandcastle Girls: The Centennial of the Slaughter You Know Next to Nothing About***Lecture by award-winning author and Vermont resident Chris BohjalianObserving the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beginning of the Armenian Genocide

Where do fact and fiction meet in a work of historical fiction? In his slide-illustrated lecture, Bohjalian explained why he structured his novel of the Armenian Genocide, *The Sandcastle Girls*, as a love story -- and where his personal family history fits in. Many of the images he shared come from his travels through the Middle East, Turkey, and Armenia.

Chris Bohjalian is the author of 17 books, including ten *New York Times* bestsellers. His work has been translated into roughly 30 languages and three have become movies. His awards include, but are not limited to, the ANCA Freedom Award for his work educating Americans about the Armenian Genocide and the ANCA Arts and Letters Award for *The Sandcastle Girls*.

His books have been chosen as Best Books of the Year by *the Washington Post*, *the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *the Hartford Courant*, *the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Bookpage*, and *Salon*. He has received numerous awards, and has written for a wide variety of magazines and newspapers, including the *Washington Post*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Reader's Digest*, and the *Boston Globe Sunday Magazine*. He has been a weekly columnist in Vermont for the *Burlington Free Press* since February 1992.



**Sponsored by the UVM Middle East Studies Program and the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies**

**April 14, 2015**Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture***Grief: A History of the World's First Holocaust Liberation Photograph***

David Shneer, University of Colorado

In January 1942, the Soviet Jewish photographer Dmitrii Baltermants became one of the first Holocaust liberator-photographers when he documented the Nazi mass murder of Jews and Sinti Roma outside the city of Kerch. The image appeared widely shortly after the site's discovery both within the Soviet Union and abroad. Twenty years later, when Baltermants brought the photograph out of his archive, it now served a very different purpose. No longer a historical document of Nazi atrocities, Baltermants, who had become one of the Soviet Union's key cultural diplomats, turned his photojournalistic document into a stunning art photograph called "Grief" to be exhibited around the world as a memorial meditation on violence. This talk focused on Grief's journey from the pages of magazines and Cold War era exhibitions to the white washed walls of the Museum of Modern Art where it appeared in the 2000s as Grief sat at the juncture of history and memory.



David Shneer is a Professor of History and Religious Studies, and is Director of the Program in Jewish Studies at the University of Colorado. His research interests include 20th century European, Russian, and Jewish history and culture. His newest book, *Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust* (Rutgers University Press, 2011), winner of the 2013 Jordan Schnitzer Prize of the Association for Jewish Studies and finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, looks at the lives and works of two dozen Soviet Jewish World War II military photographers to examine what kinds of photographs they took when they encountered evidence of Nazi genocide on the Eastern Front. His other books include *Queer Jews*, finalist for the Lambda Literary award, *Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture*, finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, and *New Jews: The End of the Jewish Diaspora*. His current project is *Redeeming Germany: Yiddish Music Between Fascism and Communism*. Shneer lectures nationally and internationally and has written for the *Huffington Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, and the *Denver Post*, as well as publications dedicated to Jewish life and culture, including *Forward*, *Pakntreger*, *Jewcy*, and *Nextbook*.

**Underwritten by the Richard Ader/Paul Konigsberg Endowment for the UVM Center for Holocaust Studies**



**EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2014–2015****April 18-19, 2015****The Seventh Miller Symposium*****Responses in the Middle East to National Socialism and the Holocaust, 1933-1945***

Organized by Francis Nicosia and Boğaç Ergene

Program**Contemporary Reactions in the Middle East to Nazism and the Holocaust: Scholarship and the “War of Narratives”**

Gilbert Achcar, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Gilbert Achcar grew up in Lebanon, has researched and taught in Beirut, Paris and Berlin, and is currently Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London. His many books include: *The Clash of Barbarisms: The Making of the New World Disorder*, published in 13 languages, and the critically acclaimed *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives*. His most recent book is *The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising* (2013, 2nd ed. forthcoming 2015).

**Rescue or Rejection: Facts and Myths about Turkey and the Holocaust**

Corry Guttstadt, University of Hamburg

Corry Guttstadt received her Ph.D. from the University of Hamburg. She has worked as a translator/interpreter for Turkish, as a journalist, and has taught at the University of Hamburg. Her main field of research is minority policies, especially towards Jews, and anti-Semitism in Turkey. She has also published on topics such as minorities and human rights in Turkey, anti-Semitism, the Kurds, the Armenians, nationalism, and migration. Her book *Die Türkei die Juden und der Holocaust* was published in 2008, in Turkish in 2012, and in English in 2013. Her latest publication, *Wege ohne Heimkehr* (2014), is an anthology of Armenian reports on the deported and the survivors in literature and memory. She is currently a research-fellow at Yad Vashem, working on a collection of documents on Turkey and its policies during the Holocaust, to be published with the Beate-and-Serge-Klarsfeld-Foundation. She is also working on a collection of life stories of Turkish Jews in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s, to be published in Turkish.

**Demon and Heretic: Intellectual Representations of Hitler and Nazism in the Egyptian Public Sphere, 1938-1945**

Israel Gershoni, Tel Aviv University

Israel Gershoni is a professor in the department of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv University. His primary field of interest is the modern intellectual history of Egypt and the Arab Middle East. Amongst his books are: *Narrating the Nile: Politics, Cultures, Identities*, (2008), co-edited with Meir Hatina; and *Confronting Fascism in Egypt: Dictatorship versus Democracy in the 1930s*, (2010), co-authored with James Jankowski. He also authored *Dame and Devil: Egypt and Nazism, 1935-1940, 2 Vols.*, (2012 in Hebrew), and edited the volume *Arab Responses to Fascism and Nazism: Attraction and Repulsion*. (2014).

**Defining the Nation and its Other: Discussing Nazi Ideology in Syria and Lebanon during the 1930s**

Götz Nordbruch, Berlin

Götz Nordbruch holds a PhD in Islamic Studies and is co-director of a German-based organization that develops civic education programs on issues related to Islam, racism and religious extremism in Germany and Europe. senior researcher at the Georg Eckert Institute for international textbook research, Braunschweig. Previously he was Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, Odense, and a post-doctoral-fellow at the Institut de recherches et d'études sur le monde arabe et musulman, Aix-en-Provence. His research interests focus on Islam in interwar Europe and Arab encounters with National Socialism. His recent publications include the books *Transnational Islam in Interwar Europe. Muslim Activists and Thinkers*, edited with Umar Ryad (2014), *Sympathie und Schrecken. Begegnungen mit Faschismus und Nationalsozialismus in Ägypten, 1922-1937*, co-authored with Israel Gershoni (2011), and *Nazism in Syria and Lebanon: The Ambivalence of the German Option, 1933-1945* (2009).



Miller Symposium continued on Page 16

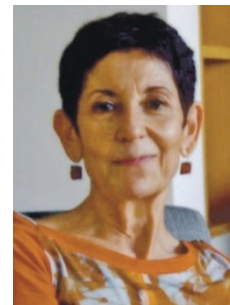
## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR 2014–2015

Miller Symposium, continued from Page 15

### The Persecution of the Jews in Germany in Egyptian and Palestinian Public Discourses: A Comparative Perspective

Esther Webman, Tel Aviv University

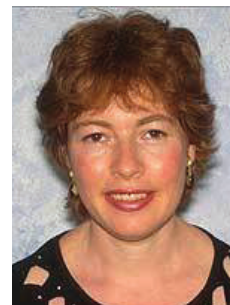
Esther Webman is the head of the Zeev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East, and a senior research fellow at the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University. Her research is focused on Arab discourse analysis, mainly Arab perceptions of the Holocaust and Arab Antisemitism. She is the editor of *The Global Impact of a Myth – The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (2011), and co-author with Meir Litvak of *From Empathy to Denial: Arab Responses to the Holocaust* (2009), which was the recipient of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy's Gold book prize for 2010. Among her recent articles are: "The War and the Holocaust in the Egyptian Public Discourse, 1945-1947," in *Arab Responses to Fascism and Nazism: Attraction and Repulsion* (2014); "Mixed and Confused - Egyptian Initial Responses to the Holocaust," in *Lessons and Legacies XI: Expanding Perspective on the Holocaust in a Changing World* (2014); and "Treading in Troubled Waters: Seeking the Roots of Muslim Antisemitism," in *Bustan. The Middle East Book Review* (2013).



### Get out of Mosul, Hajj Amin: Iraqi Elites, Iraqi Jews, and Nazism

Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago

Orit Bashkin received her Ph.D. from Princeton University in 2004. She is Professor of Modern Arab History in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Her publications include 25 book chapters and articles on the history of Arabs and Jews in Iraq, on Iraqi history, and on Arabic literature. She has co-edited the book *Sculpturing Culture in Egypt* with Israel Gershoni and Liat Kozma, which includes translations into Hebrew of seminal works by Egyptian intellectuals. She is also the author of the books *The Other Iraq – Pluralism and Culture in Hashemite Iraq* (2009) [Paperback, 2010], and *New Babylonians: A History of Jews in Modern Iraq* (2012).



The Symposium was underwritten by the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Distinguished Professorship for Holocaust Studies, and co-organized by the UVM Middle East Studies Program

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS FOR 2015–2016

Detailed information and venues will be posted on our website in August 2015

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 7:00 PM**

Lecture

*"Such Much?" Casablanca, Hitler's Refugees, and the Hollywood Screen* • Noah Isenberg, The New School

**Friday, October 16, 2015, 4:00 PM**

Seminar

*Mixed Marriages in Nazi Germany* • Maximilian Strnad, University of Munich

**Monday, November 2, 2015, 7:00 PM**

The Annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

*Daily Dilemmas: The Lives and Feelings of Jewish Refugees in Portugal, 1940-45* • Marion Kaplan, New York University

**Thursday, November 12, 2015, 4:30-7:00 PM**

Mini-Symposium

*Survival Underground: Jews in Hiding in Poland and Germany during the Holocaust*

PRESENTATIONS:

*Rescue Networks: Jews in Hiding in Eastern Galicia* • Natalia Aleksion, Touro College, Graduate School of Jewish Studies

*Jews on the Run: Ordinary Germans and Jewish Flights from Deportation* • Susanna Schrafstetter, University of Vermont

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016, 7:00 PM**

Lecture

*The Phantom Holocaust of Soviet Cinema* • Olga Gershenson, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

**Monday, April 18, 2016, 7:00 PM**

Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture

*Raul Hilberg and the Beginnings of Holocaust Scholarship* • Magnus Brechtken, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich



## Report on the 2014 Hilberg Lecture

by Nathan Gondelman

On 27 October 2014, the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies presented the annual Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture to a sizable crowd in the Waterman Memorial Lounge. Professor David Cesarani of Royal Holloway College at the University of London delivered a lecture on “The Nazis, Their Wars, and the Fate of the Jews, 1938-1945.” An accomplished author and editor, Cesarani has been involved in the production of numerous historical documentaries related to the Holocaust, and is a recipient of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his efforts in establishing a Holocaust Memorial Day in the UK.

Cesarani opened his lecture by acknowledging the powerful influence that the late UVM Professor Raul Hilberg had on him as a scholar. He also noted a few memorable personal encounters where Hilberg’s trademark dry wit was on full display. Hilberg’s *Destruction of the European Jews*, Cesarani noted, was the “bedrock” upon which all subsequent scholarship related to the Holocaust rests, but it was also emblematic of a historiographical trend toward compartmentalization in the field. Until recently, historians of the Holocaust had a tendency to detach the genocide from the larger context of the war, while military historians of the Second World War generally ignored the fate of the Jews when examining the larger global conflagration. Citing a new trend in both fields that has led to a greater integration of the Holocaust and the war in publications over the last decade or two, Cesarani segued into his talk, promising to posit some new ideas and arguments that would be presented in greater detail in a forthcoming book.

The Jews of Europe, Cesarani noted, followed the war very closely. Even in a place liked the Lodz Ghetto, known to be “hermetically sealed” from the outside world, Jews came across German military bulletins and carefully observed their everyday surroundings to ascertain information about the changing fortunes of the war. Indeed, many Jews drew upon their experience in World War I to better grasp the military situation. Most importantly, Jews kept track of the war because they understood the inextricable linkage between the military conflict and their own fate; Jewish existence hinged on operational choices—a race against time and distance. Through a series of diary excerpts from Jews around Europe, Cesarani conveyed the different ways in which European Jews thought about the war.

Initially, Jews in Poland were pleased to hear about the fighting that commenced in the West in May 1940, believing it unlikely that Germany could defeat both Britain and France. And once Germany did vanquish France and expel a prostrate Britain from continental Europe, Jews understood that the Soviet Union, and less immediately the United States, were all that stood between Germany and a challenge for global supremacy. Many Jews supposed that the signing of the Tripartite Pact in September of 1940 presaged an impending conflict between Germany and the Soviets. The boom in demand for supplies from the ghettos as well as the palpable buildup in German military strength throughout Poland during the first half of 1941 ended up corroborating this deduction.

When Operation Barbarossa did commence, Jews were initially hopeful, with many French Jews recalling Napoleon’s abortive foray into Russia in 1812. Even after the initial stunning German successes in the East, Jews were quick to recognize the slackening of the Wehrmacht advance by late summer and the subsequent impossibility that Germany could achieve victory before the onset of the Russian winter. Meanwhile, the American occupation of Iceland in October 1941, as well as the supply of the British and Soviet war machines through Lend Lease, provided tremendous encouragement for the Jews of Europe. And when the United States finally entered the war itself in December, Jews became confident that ultimate victory was certain.

Yet, as Cesarani pointed out, the reality of what an Allied victory would entail at this point of the war did not necessarily auger well for the immediate fate of Europe’s Jews. Hitler had promised before the war to exact retribution on the Jews of Europe if they “plunged” the world into another great conflagration. The entry of the United States into the war, according to Cesarani, brought the conflict to a

global scale and provided the necessary context for the realization of Hitler’s prophecy. While American involvement in the war and the halting of the German advance toward Moscow in December 1941 seemed a harbinger of Germany’s grave vulnerability, the Allied effort to roll back German successes and win the war would take time—time the Jews of Europe simply did not have. Cesarani noted the numerous German plans to colonize European Jews in distant and isolated places like Madagascar or Siberia during the heady days of 1940-1941. But Germany’s setbacks in late 1941 ended any realistic opportunity for resettlement, prompting Himmler and Heydrich to plan for the extermination of Jews across Europe—beginning with Poland in 1942.

Though Jews were anxious at renewed German advances toward the Caucasus and the Suez Canal in 1942, Cesarani found that many Jews across Europe recognized the German successes as illusory. For example, when Germany occupied the south of France following Operation Torch in 1942, Jews noticed conspicuous equipment deficiencies among the incoming German forces. Yet Cesarani found that Jews grasped all too well the danger of a protracted German defeat with the understanding that, given time, the Germans would annihilate them. This was compounded by the fact that the Allies were operating on a military timetable that simply did not account for the fate of the Jews.

The sluggishness of the Anglo-American campaign in North Africa in winter of 1942-43, which took six months to achieve final victory, as well as the plodding Soviet advance after the watershed victory at Stalingrad, only highlighted this unfortunate predicament. Italy’s fall and Mussolini’s demise in the autumn of 1943 briefly elicited hopes that a similar regime change in Nazi Germany could deliver an expeditious end to the war, but this sort of internal German collapse was not in the offing. To their great peril, Jews would have to wait until Germany’s total defeat on the battlefield for the killing to cease.

Thus, according to Cesarani, the course of the war paved the way for the descent into genocide. During the first half of the war, Cesarani argues that the Jews paid for German failure to achieve total victory; in the second half of the war, the Jews paid for the inability of the Allies to defeat Germany quickly. This disastrous circumstance was not the result of intentional Allied ponderousness. Instead, it was a consequence of the realities of coalition warfare and the need for a vast material buildup before launching offensive operations like the opening of the second front in northwestern France. Moreover, Allied strategic misapprehensions, including the belief that the Mediterranean was a “soft underbelly” that could be overrun in fairly short order, prolonged the war and provided the Germans with an opportunity to deport Italian Jews.

Cesarani ultimately concluded that, contrary to popular belief, a quick German victory might have actually prevented immediate genocide, though the long-term survival of Jews in Siberia or Madagascar after a total German victory seems inconceivable. But once Germany lost its chance to win the war by the end of 1941, Jews were entirely dependent on a swift Allied victory as their salvation. The Allies were hardly conducting the war with the expressed purpose of saving the Jews, and therefore did not strategize accordingly. The Germans capitalized on the lengthy interval between the slackening of Axis high tide and their total defeat to implement Hitler’s prewar prophecy and exterminate two-thirds of the Jewish population of Europe.

As asserted at the opening of the talk, the Second World War and the Holocaust cannot be viewed in isolation of one another. The process of genocide, from decision-making to execution, was undeniably dependent on the trajectory of the war, as Jews at the time well understood. Professor Cesarani’s fresh and unique look at this complex dynamic—one that has only recently been unpacked in great detail—was a welcome and provocative contribution to this year’s speaker program.

Nathan Gondelman is an MA student in the History Department at UVM.

## Upcoming Conference: Exil und Shoah / Exile and the Shoah

October 6-8, 2015, University of Vermont

Conveners:

Bettina Bannasch, University of Augsburg  
 Alan E. Steinweis, University of Vermont  
 Helga Schreckenberger, University of Vermont

*Below is a preliminary list of presentations.*

*For a final program and definitive schedule information, please check our website in September 2015.  
 Please note that presentations for which titles are given in German will be delivered in German.*

Noah Isenberg, The New School

**Such Much?' *Casablanca*, Hitler's Refugees, and the Hollywood Screen**

Primus-Heinz Kucher, University of Universität Klagenfurt

**Der traumatische Einbruch der Shoah ins Exil: die ersten Berichte von Vernichtung**

Renee Schlott, Zentrum fuer zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam

**Ein Exilant unter Exilanten. Raul Hilbergs frühe Jahre in den USA 1939-1961**

Douglas Morris, New York

**Write and Resist: Ernst Fraenkel and Franz Neumann on the Role of Natural Law in Fighting Nazi Tyranny**

Philipp Lenhard, University of Munich

**Friedrich Pollock and the Rethinking of Anti-Semitism in American Exile, 1939-1945**

Gerhild Rochus, University of Augsburg

**„Wir sind absolut und ganz im Exil“ – Exil als *conditio humana* in der Essayistik Margarete Susmans**

Helga Schreckenberger, University of Vermont

**„Ungerechtem gerettet“: die Shoah in der Exillyrik (Theodor Kramer, Erich Fried, Joseph Hahn)**

Birgit Erdle, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**Closures, Conclusions. Einprägungen des Wissens um die Shoah in Schriften von Siegfried Kracauer**

Mona Körte, Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin

**Re-Interpretationen *Shylocks*. Alexander Granachs Briefe aus dem Exil**

Sophia Dafinger, University of Augsburg

**Lion Feuchtwangers Deutung der nationalsozialistischen Judenverfolgung**

Doerte Bischoff, University of Hamburg

**Exilliteratur als Literatur des Überlebens: zum Beispiel Peter Weiss**

Anna Zachmann, University of Augsburg

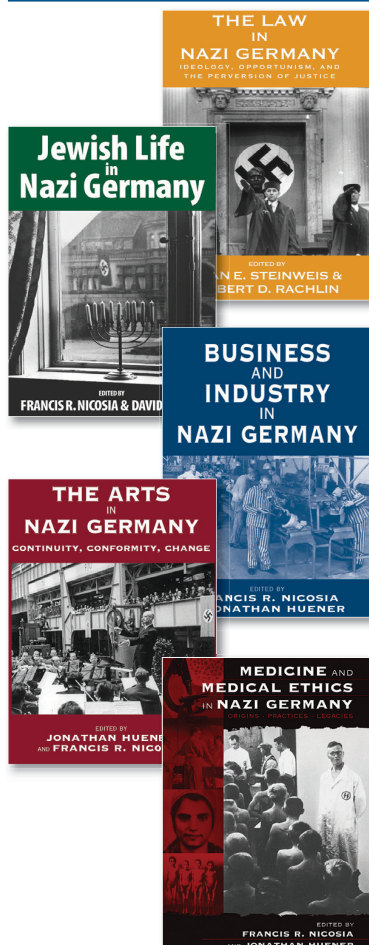
**Der mit den sechs Millionen gestorben ist...“ - Groteske Narrative der Verweigerung: Identität und Begrifflichkeiten des Exils am Beispiel Edgar Hilsenraths**

Natalie Eppelsheimer, Middlebury College

**Die Rezeption der Shoah in Stephanie Zweigs *Nirgendwo war Heimat* (2014)**



## Volumes from the Miller Symposia



### THE LAW IN NAZI GERMANY Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice

Alan E. Steinweis and Robert D. Rachlin [Eds.]

288 pages • 978-1-85745-780-6 Hardback

*"These essays offer a significant contribution to our understanding of the role of one of the most important professions in underpinning the National Socialist regime and enabling its leaders to proceed with its murderous agenda."* **Geoffrey J. Giles**, University of Florida

### JEWISH LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY Dilemmas and Responses

Francis R. Nicosia and David Scrase [Eds.]

256 pages • 978-0-85745-801-8 Paperback

*"The volume provides an excellent overview of some recent approaches and research themes. Together with the appendix of documents, it makes for a good choice for use in the classroom."* **German Studies Review**

### THE ARTS IN NAZI GERMANY Continuity, Conformity, Change

Jonathan Huener and Francis R. Nicosia [Eds.]

236 pages • 978-1-84545-359-6 Paperback

*"This slim volume accomplishes a remarkable feat. It provides concise, beautifully crafted essays that provide access to the best scholarship in Nazi cultural history even as they represent the current state of research by leading experts...supplemented with illustrations and primary sources, this work would make an ideal addition to undergraduate and graduate courses on the Third Reich, sure to provoke lively discussion and further study on the arts in Nazi Germany."* **German Studies Review**

### MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS IN NAZI GERMANY

Origins, Practices, Legacies

Francis R. Nicosia and Jonathan Huener [Eds.]

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### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN NAZI GERMANY

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176 pages • 978-0-57181-654-2 Paperback

*"With its five concise case studies, the book gives good insights into methods, trends, and results of recent research."* **Historische Zeitschrift**

## about the authors

**Francis R. Nicosia** is the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont.

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**David Scrase** is Professor Emeritus of German and Founding Director of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont (1993-2006).

**Alan E. Steinweis** is Miller Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies and Director of the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont.

**Robert D. Rachlin** is Senior Director and General Counsel of Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC, in Burlington, Vermont.



## The University of Vermont

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The Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM has established a mailing list (listserv) for members of the community who would like to receive notices about the many guest lectures and other public programs sponsored by the Center. If you would like to join the mailing list, please refer to the following directions:

To join the list, send an email message to [listserv@list.uvm.edu](mailto:listserv@list.uvm.edu) and place a subscribe command, sub chs your\_name\_here, in the body of the message. Replace "your\_name\_here" with your first and last name, for example:

sub chs Mary Smith

(You may receive a confirmation message from LISTSERV, just follow the instructions in the message.)

If you would like to consider making a gift to support the teaching, research, and community outreach activities of the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies, please contact the UVM Foundation, 802-656-2010, or [foundation@uvm.edu](mailto:foundation@uvm.edu).

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