

# The Bulletin

OF THE CAROLYN AND LEONARD MILLER CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

VOLUME 16

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

SPRING 2012

## Global Holocaust? *Memories of the Destruction of the European Jews in Global Context*

An International Project Organized by  
the Universities of Augsburg, Haifa, and Vermont

In June 2011 and January 2012, the Miller Center co-sponsored two conferences on the subject “Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of the European Jews in Global Context.” The first of these conferences was held on the campus of the University of Augsburg, Germany, and the second on the campus of the University of Haifa, Israel. A third conference on the same theme, co-sponsored by our partners in Augsburg and Haifa, will be held at the University of Vermont in the future. We are happy to reproduce the official report from the Augsburg conference and the program from the Haifa conference. The detailed report for the Haifa event was submitted in German, and can be downloaded at the link provided at the end of the printed program.



At the Haifa conference, left to right: Alan E. Steinweis of the University of Vermont, Gilad Margalit of the University of Haifa, and Philipp Gassert of the University of Augsburg.

## Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of the European Jews in Global Context (1)

Event held on the campus of the University of Augsburg, Germany • June 10-11, 2011

Sponsored by the Chair for Transatlantic Cultural History at the University of Augsburg and the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, with financial support from the Foundation for German-American Academic Relations (SDAW)

### *Co-Conveners:*

Philipp Gassert, University of Augsburg and Alan E. Steinweis, University of Vermont

### *Conference Report by Jacob Eder, University of Pennsylvania*

The memory of the victims of the Holocaust is a central element in present-day European, Israeli, and North American historical consciousness. Recent publications also point to its “global” and “universal” character. In order to test this assessment, the participants of the workshop “Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in Global Context,” which convened at Augsburg University on June 10 and 11, 2011, set out to explore whether it was justified to speak of a “globalization of Holocaust memory” or whether it was not rather a western phenomenon. For this purpose, the organizers invited a number of scholars to speak about the formation and development of Holocaust memory in the nonwestern world. The Stiftung Deutsch-Amerikanische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen (SDAW/ Foundation German-American Academic Relations) provided financial support for the workshop.

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In their opening remarks, conveners Philipp Gassert (Augsburg) and Alan E. Steinweis (Vermont) pointed to the universal significance of Holocaust memory for historical consciousness in the West, defined as the United States, Europe, some former British colonies, and Israel. Steinweis provided the historiographical framework for the workshop by outlining three phases of scholarly engagement with the history of the Holocaust and its aftermath. The actual study of National Socialist extermination policies constituted a first phase, followed by the study of Holocaust memory, especially in those countries where the Holocaust had occurred or refugees and survivors had settled. A third phase now focuses on the consequences of “Holocaust consciousness” for the relationship between the West and postcolonial societies. The workshop “Global Holocaust?” was intended to make a contribution to this field. Steinweis further outlined a series of questions for the workshop: What have been the central themes of Holocaust memory in the nonwestern world? Do nonwestern agents see it as a uniquely European event or an event with universal implications? Which institutions have been in charge of researching and teaching the Holocaust and who has funded these activities? How has the Holocaust been contextualized in the history of oppression and genocide, taking into account examples such as Apartheid, Stalinist crimes, and the Nanking Massacre?

The first panel, chaired by Francis Nicosia (Vermont), set out to explore the role of Holocaust memory in the Middle East. GILAD MARGALIT (Haifa) analyzed the concept of the “uniqueness” of the Holocaust for historical consciousness and political discourse in Israel. While this concept is still crucial for Israeli identity today, it had become increasingly contested since the early 1980s. At that time, critical voices in Israel had begun to point to the negative consequences of Holocaust memory, which had led to an uncompromising stance of Israel towards the rights of Palestinians and could, in a worst-case scenario, even threaten Israel’s existence. Opponents of such a line of argument had labeled attacks on the concept of the uniqueness of the Holocaust as political attacks on Israeli and Jewish identity. Thus, for the “Zionist mainstream,” the uniqueness of the Holocaust was inextricably linked with the justification of Israel’s right of existence. Critical voices gained some momentum during the 1990s, when Jews who had immigrated to Israel from Arab countries criticized the dominant role of Ashkenazi Jews (Jews from Central and Western Europe) in Israeli society. According to Margalit, they argued that the Ashkenazis’ claim for the uniqueness of the Holocaust served to silence any kind of criticism of social injustice in Israel. Despite such critical voices and very emotional debates, Margalit concluded, the political mainstream and the educational system in Israel are still dominated by the concept of the Holocaust’s uniqueness.

GÖTZ NORDBRUCH (Odense) shifted the focus to the Arab world. Nordbruch emphasized that during the Nazi period, sympathy for the suffering of European Jews under the Nazi regime and anti-Zionism were not mutually exclusive in the Arab world, but actually existed in tandem. After a long period of non-engagement with the Holocaust, this earlier differentiated attitude towards the Holocaust and the opposition to the state of Israel gained new popularity in the 1990s. The positive reception of publications by European Holocaust deniers in the Arab world in the mid-1990s caused a critical reaction from Arab intellectuals from abroad. While they chastised the oppression of the Palestinians, they also demanded that the Holocaust needed

to be accepted as a historical reality. Nordbruch argued that this eventually led to a “new openness” towards the study of the Holocaust in the Arab world. Even though Holocaust denial is still widespread, Arab scholars have begun a serious investigation into the history of the Holocaust and its aftermath. In the ensuing discussion, Nordbruch stated that engagement with the history of the Holocaust has actually moved from intellectual circles to the societal mainstream, although cooperation between Arab and Israeli scholars does not yet exist.

The next panel, chaired by Lutz Kaelber (Vermont), provided an assessment of Holocaust memorial culture (and its absence) in the former Soviet Union and the Ukraine. DENISE YOUNGBLOOD (Vermont) provided an overview of the development of Holocaust memory in the Soviet Union since the beginning of “Operation Barbarossa” in 1941. It was characterized, she argued, by a state-sanctioned “collective amnesia.” In official Soviet memory of World War II, German soldiers were characterized as barbaric perpetrators and the Soviet people as a whole as their victims, but the mass murder of Soviet Jews was not addressed. While no written orders about how to deal with Holocaust memory existed, a number of reasons accounted for the development: anti-Semitism, an emphasis on the unity of the Soviet people, the suppression of a specific Jewish consciousness, and the foregrounding of the Slavic role in resistance movements. Youngblood concluded with a critical assessment of the state of Holocaust memorial culture in the Soviet Union, which robbed Jews of their identity, failed to find an appropriate form of memorialization for Jewish victims, and

led to an equation of Zionism with Fascism.

The next speaker, Holocaust historian WENDY LOWER (Munich), moved the discussion to the largest former Soviet republic outside Russia, the Ukraine. Drawing from her own research in the Ukraine, Lower stated that while local memories of the Holocaust existed, there was no “collective memory” of the Holocaust in the Ukraine. As in other former Soviet states, this lack of memory also applied to the issue of collaboration with the Nazi regime, which was widely ignored. In addition, Ukrainian memory of World War II was overshadowed by the Ukraine’s history of victimization at the hands of the Stalinist regime during the “Great Famine of 1932-1933,” also known as the “Holodomor,” during which millions of Ukrainians died. With regard to Holocaust education in Ukrainian schools and universities today, a “gap between history and memory” is still apparent: while a majority of students had some knowledge of the Holocaust, they mostly perceived Ukrainians either as fighters for independence or victims of Stalinism. The discussion of both presentations mainly focused on the role of communist ideology for the formation of Holocaust memory in the former Eastern block. Yet Lower’s presentation also pointed to the lack of awareness in the West for the defining catastrophic event of the Ukraine during the 20th century, the Holodomor.

Leaving the Eurasian continent, a panel chaired by Jacob S. Eder (Pennsylvania) dealt with the memory of the Holocaust in Latin America and South Africa. Literary scholar AMALIA RAN (Nebraska/Tel-Aviv) reminded the participants at the outset of her presentation of the multitude of approaches toward the destruction of European Jews in Latin America. As Latin American societies had their own history of violence, military coups, and civil wars, Holocaust memory needed to be located in this context. The evolution of such memory has been hindered, however, by “institutionalized anti-Semitism and political racism” in the region. Nevertheless,

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*Augsburg City Hall*

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it constituted a crucial part in Latin American societies' process of coming to terms with their own history. The Holocaust has served as a universal "narration" that allowed recognition of past crimes and created demands to remember. Thus, Ran concluded, Holocaust memory in Latin America has always "vacillated between the universal and the local."

SUSANNA B. SCHRAFSTETTER (Vermont) stressed the "global" character of the lessons drawn from the Holocaust in South Africa. The country houses three successful "Holocaust and Genocide Centres" and is the only Sub-Saharan country with institutionalized Holocaust education. While research about the formation of Holocaust memory in South Africa is still a developing field, it is safe to say that the Holocaust has become a "benchmark for assessing past injustices" since the end of Apartheid. Holocaust centers draw close parallels between Nazi anti-Semitism up to 1939 and the Apartheid regime, while Germany's process of coming to terms with the Nazi past served as a precedent for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The "cosmopolitan" character of Holocaust memory in South Africa is also apparent in the activities of the centers, which offer excursions to sites of genocide in Rwanda and have invited survivors of the Rwandan genocide to ceremonies in South Africa. This allowed, according to Schrafstetter, different groups of African victims to identify with the victims of the Holocaust. The ensuing discussion centered on the coexistence of Nazi perpetrators and victims in South American societies as well as the comparability of Nazi anti-Semitism and South African racism during the Apartheid regime.

The final panel, chaired by Reinhild Kreis (Augsburg), shifted the focus onto Asia. MARIA FRAMKE (Bremen) divided her presentation into two parts. In a first step, she provided an overview of Indian Holocaust historiography. The Holocaust is not an important aspect of historical research in contemporary India, and Jewish studies mostly focus on Jewish communities in India and Indian-Israeli relations. Framke also pointed to the bizarre development of a "Hitler cult" in India: not only has *Mein Kampf* been a bestseller, but also a Bollywood movie about Hitler's love life is currently in production, entitled "My Dear Friend Hitler"! This development clearly demands a thorough scholarly analysis. In a second step, Framke shifted the focus to the prewar period and summarized the results of her research about Indian perception of German anti-Semitism up to 1939. She stated that the Indian media had followed the fate of the Jews in Nazi Germany closely and with empathy. While early reports were often ill-informed and accepted Nazi propaganda as the truth, reports of the late 1930s were much more critical of the Nazi regime.

The last speaker, JONATHAN GOLDSTEIN (West Georgia), provided a detailed overview of the development and the current state of Holocaust studies in communist China. Goldstein stressed that—in contrast to the other societies examined at the conference—China was still a totalitarian state and thus the study of Holocaust education had to be a study of state policy. Following the Soviet example, virtually no engagement with the fate of the Jews in the Holocaust had occurred in China during the first three postwar decades. However, a seminal change took place with the Sino-Vietnamese War of 1979, which brought heavy losses for the Chinese army. In the aftermath of the war, China intensified relations with Israel, which it had come to consider as a model for the modernization of its armed forces. This "marriage of convenience" led to a surprising change in attitudes towards Israel, the Jews, and the Holocaust. Since then—and with the support of American foundations and Yad Vashem—Holocaust education has been an expanding field in China.

While many important questions were raised and answered, the workshop also put more questions on the agenda. For example, Holocaust education in various national contexts demands a more

thorough analysis, as does the attitude toward Holocaust memory among minorities in the West, such as Turkish immigrants in Germany, Arabs in France, or African Americans and Native Americans in the United States. It also became clear that western scholars cannot fully assess the "global" dimension of Holocaust memory without engaging in conversation with experts on the nonwestern world. Building on previous cooperation among individual participants of the workshop as well as on the partnership between the Universities of Augsburg and Vermont, the workshop thus also served as the inaugural meeting of a transatlantic study group that will continue to meet to discuss the global dimension of Holocaust memory.

### *Conference overview:*

#### *Opening Session*

Philipp Gassert (Augsburg University) and  
Alan E. Steinweis (University of Vermont)

#### **Panel 1**

Chair: Francis Nicosia (University of Vermont)  
Gilad Margalit (University of Haifa): The Concept of the Shoah's Singularity and the Intellectual Unease it Evoked: Three Decades of an Israeli Debate  
Götz Nordbruch (University of Southern Denmark, Odense): Facing the Enemy's Sorrow: Arab Responses to the Holocaust

#### **Panel 2**

Chair: Lutz Kaelber (University of Vermont)  
Denise Youngblood (University of Vermont): Collective Amnesia? The USSR and the Holocaust  
Wendy Lower (Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich): Is There a Holocaust Memory in Ukraine Today? Recent Political, Cultural and Regional Trends

#### **Panel 3**

Chair: Jacob S. Eder (University of Pennsylvania)  
Amalia Ran (University of Nebraska/Tel-Aviv University): Nuestra Shoa: Memory and Post-Memory in Latin American Perspectives  
Susanna B. Schrafstetter (University of Vermont): "We learn about the Holocaust so that we can become more compassionate:" Holocaust Memory in South Africa

#### **Panel 4**

Chair: Reinhild Kreis (Augsburg University)  
Maria Framke (Jacobs University, Bremen): The Perception of the Holocaust in India: Preliminary Findings  
Jonathan Goldstein (University of West Georgia): Holocaust and Jewish Studies in Modern China: Functions of a Political Agenda

#### *Concluding Session*

Alan E. Steinweis (University of Vermont) and  
Philipp Gassert (Augsburg University)

**Citation:** Tagungsbericht Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in Global Context. 10.06.2011-11.06.2011, Augsburg, in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 09.07.2011, <<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3714>>. Copyright (c) 2011 by H-Net, Clio-online, and the author, all rights reserved. This work may be copied and redistributed for non-commercial, educational purposes, if permission is granted by the author and usage right holders. For permission please contact H-SOZ-U-KULT@H-NET.MSU.EDU.

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## Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of the European Jews in Global Context (2)

Event held on the campus of the University of Haifa, Israel • January 4-5, 2012

### Sponsored by:

Bucerius Institute for Contemporary German History and Society, University of Haifa  
Haifa Center for German & European Studies, University of Haifa  
Chair for Transatlantic Cultural History at the University of Augsburg  
Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont

### Co-Conveners:

Gilad Margalit, University of Haifa  
Philipp Gassert, University of Augsburg  
Alan E. Steinweis, University of Vermont

### Program

#### Greetings

Amos Morris-Reich (University of Haifa)  
Gilad Margalit (University of Haifa)

#### Opening Remarks

Philipp Gassert (University of Augsburg)  
Alan E. Steinweis (University of Vermont)

#### 1st Session: Global Holocaust Memory – Conflicting Perspectives

Chair: Amos Morris-Reich

Jacob S. Eder (University of Pennsylvania): Holocaust Angst:

The Federal Republic of Germany and Holocaust Memory in the United States

Susanna B. Schrafstetter (University of Vermont): Holocaust Memory in Great Britain

Jonathan Huener (University of Vermont): The Memory of the Shoah in Poland

#### 2nd Session: Global Holocaust Memory

Chair: Alan E. Steinweis

Amos Goldberg (Hebrew University Jerusalem): The Holocaust Witness as a Global Moral Figure

Jackie Feldman (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva): Has Holocaust Memory Really Gone Global?

Counter-Arguments from a Comparative Ethnography of Yad Vashem

#### Keynote Lecture

Greetings, Gur Alroey (Head of the History School, University of Haifa)

Keynote Speaker

Natan Sznajder (Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yafo): "The Holocaust and Memory in the Global Age" Revisited"

#### 3rd Session: Shoah Narratives of Various Israeli Groups I

Chair: Gilad Margalit

Michal Shaul (Herzog College, Gush Etzion): The Israeli Ultra Orthodox and the Shoah

Batya Shimony (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva): The Reflection of the Shoah in Writings of Second Generation Mizrahi Authors

#### 4th Session: Shoah Narratives of Various Israeli Groups II

Chair: Philipp Gassert

Sarah Ozacky-Lazar (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute): The Arab Citizens in Israel and the Shoah

Gilad Margalit (University of Haifa): Satire and Alternative Subversive Israeli Shoah Narratives

#### Round Table Discussion

A German-language summary of the conference can be found at the following:

Tagungsbericht Global Memory of the Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in Global Context (II).

04.01.2012-05.01.2012, Haifa, in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 20.02.2012, <<http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4088>>.



Jonathan Huener, University of Vermont; Sarah Ozacky-Lazar, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute; Susanna Schrafstetter, University of Vermont



View from the campus of the University of Haifa

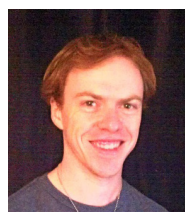
## Student News

Undergraduate **Mark Alexander** has received a David Scrase Research Grant to conduct research at the National Archives in Washington in connection with his honors thesis on a prominent Ukrainian war criminal who was admitted into the United States after World War Two. Alexander is working under the direction of Professor Susanna Schrafstetter.



**Alex Lehning** completed an MA thesis on “The ‘Jewish Question’ in German-Italian Relations, 1933-43” under the direction of Professor Frank Nicosia. Text of the abstract to his thesis: “Antisemitism, as an ideology, played a critical role in the development of European thinking and politics during the nineteenth and

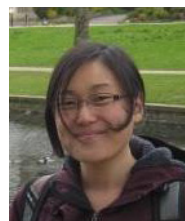
twentieth centuries. It was a defining principle of National Socialism in Germany under Adolf Hitler. Its place during Fascism under Benito Mussolini in Italy, however, was not as overt. German-Italian relations leading up to, and during the Second World War, were complex at best. Utilizing diplomatic records, memoirs, and other sources, this study examines the role of the ‘Jewish Question’ between the Axis powers. Between Mussolini and Hitler, practical political, economic, and military concerns far outweighed considerations of ideology and policy. Ever opportunistic, the Fascist government often modeled, but never directly copied, identical German anti-Jewish policy and methods, including parallel forms of civil restrictions and legislation, press campaigns, and detainment. Despite diplomatic pressure after 1942, the efforts of a number of Italian officials frustrated some German attempts to carry out the ‘Final Solution’ in occupied Europe. It was not until this late period that the ‘Jewish Question’ became a critical component of relations between Rome and Berlin, and even then, Italian Jews were safe from deportation until the collapse of Mussolini’s regime and German occupation of Italy in 1943.”



**Ben Lindsey** completed an MA thesis, “Organized Crime against Civilization: The Congressional Investigation of Liberated Concentration Camps in 1945,” under the direction of Professor Nicole Phelps.

The work examines a congressional investigation of the liberated Buchenwald, Dora, and Dachau concentration camps in April and May 1945. General Dwight D. Eisenhower requested a congressional mission and a group of newspaper editors and publishers to view firsthand the horrors of the concentration camp Buchenwald, so that the American public might be made more aware of German atrocities in concentration camps and to dispel the belief that the atrocity reports were wartime propaganda. The congressmen and newspapermen were horrified by what they saw at the German concentration camps, and many reported back to the American public about the atrocities and conditions in the concentration camps through articles, interviews, speeches, and rallies. Upon their return to the United States, the congressmen published a report on the conditions within the camps, and many of them spoke in Congress and to the public about the need to re-educate the Germans, try guilty Germans, and rebuild Germany. The congressmen, editors and publishers

brought legitimacy to the reports of American war correspondents concerning German atrocities, and their efforts contributed to constructing a political climate that allowed for and legitimized the Nuremberg Trials, the U.S. Army denazification efforts, and the rebuilding of Germany through the Marshall Plan. To examine this mission, Ben examined newspaper articles from April and May 1945, collected from thirteen American newspapers and the Times of London. Using the David Scrase Research Grant, Ben was able to conduct research in the personal collections of two of the congressmen in Boston, MA and El Paso, TX, as well as at the National Archives in College Park, MD. This study goes beyond the existing research by closely examining the congressional mission to Buchenwald, Dora, and Dachau, which, although it has been briefly mentioned in existing Holocaust literature, has never been fully examined.



**Michelle Magin** completed her MA thesis on the treatment of the Holocaust in West German school textbooks, under the direction of Professor Schrafstetter, and is now in the PhD program in German Studies at the University of Manchester, UK. The abstract to her MA thesis reads as follows:

“The purpose of this study is to examine secondary school Gymnasium textbooks that were published and distributed in West Germany from 1949 to 1989. Twenty-two textbooks were examined for their portrayals of prewar Jewish persecution, the extermination of the Jews, and perceptions of German victimhood and suffering. Textbooks were grouped by decade with roughly one chapter devoted to every decade of the postwar period. Each chapter seeks to identify omissions, distortions, inaccuracies, and examine the physical layout of each textbook. In addition each chapter along with a general background chapter offers information on the political and social climate in Germany, in order to place these textbooks within the wider context of the time. What this study found was that textbooks until the mid-1960s contained very little information on the Holocaust or the persecution of the Jews, but continued to emphasize German suffering during the war. The mid 1960s saw a great improvement in the amount of information on the Holocaust, but textbooks still lacked extensive detailed information on the persecution of the Jews. This change coincided with a deemphasizing of German suffering and a reduction in the amount of information on the impact of the Allied bombing campaign. By the late 1970s and 1980s textbooks had largely stagnated, as later editions contained barely any changes or revisions. The 1980s is marked by a variety of different textbook opinions and approaches, and a new focus on primary source documents and materials. Overall this study concludes that there is a close relationship between textbooks and the wider social discourse from the 1940s into the 1960s. This relationship begins to break up however by the 1970s, as textbooks no longer seek to incorporate changes or revisions to their content. They thus stagnate while interest and scholarship on the Holocaust continues to develop in Germany from the 1970s up to unification. By the 1980s, there are two opposing views regarding the prominence of the Holocaust in German identity, but textbooks by this time contain a plethora of different narratives that no longer reflect the larger discourse of the time.”

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**Katherine Sacks**, an undergraduate Holocaust Studies minor, graduated in December 2011. In the summer of 2011 she was awarded a scholarship by the US Holocaust Museum to participate in the Museum's summer workshop on the recently acquired collection of the International Tracing Service. Since graduation she has worked as an intern at the Museum for Jewish Heritage in

New York. For next year she has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Linz, Austria.



MA student **Michelle Sigiel** received a Scrase Grant to travel to Washington to conduct research for her thesis on "Die Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, 1938-1942: Coping with Nazi Demands in Annexed Austria," which she is pursuing under the direction of Professor Frank Nicosia. In July she will be traveling to Poland to study the history of Jewish life and the Holocaust through the Auschwitz Jewish Center's

Summer Fellowship program. She will be visiting sites of Jewish culture, and museums in Krakow, Warsaw, Western Poland, and Northern Slovakia. Along with this, she will visit Auschwitz and Treblinka. The intent of this fellowship is to provide students with a glimpse into the background of Jewish life and culture in Poland before and after the Holocaust, and to help students better understand how the Holocaust still continues to impact Jewish life today. The fellowship also includes visits to the Museum of Jewish History in New York City, and a stay at the Auschwitz Jewish Center.

**Dana Smith** completed a thesis about the Munich chapter of the Jewish Cultural League in Nazi Germany, under the direction of Professor Alan E. Steinweis, and is now in the PhD program in History at Queen Mary College, University of London, UK, where she holds the John Grenville Studentship

at the Leo Baeck Institute, London. The abstract of her MA thesis reads as follows: "The Jüdischer Kulturbund in Bayern (Jewish Cultural League in Bavaria) was founded in 1934 as a response to Nazi attempts at dissociating Jews from the Reich's cultural life. Based on the example of the Kulturbund Deutscher Juden in Berlin, the Kulturbund in Bavaria was conceptualized as a self-help organization to employ out-of-work Jewish artists and offer Jewish community members an alternative to state-run cultural events. During its four-year tenure, Bavaria's Kulturbund served ten cities and organized more than 85 cultural events. This thesis addresses the relationship between local Jewish leaders and Nazi officials, the evolution of Nazi Jewish cultural policy, and debates regarding the creation of a Jewish cultural identity in the Reich's Kunststadt. These debates, both internal and external, were reflected in thematic shifts within the Kulturbund's program, particularly in the areas of music and the visual arts. Specific attention is also given to hitherto understudied areas of Jewish cultural life under Nazism- including varying regional experiences outside of Berlin, and cultural performances particular to local traditions and customs."



*Dana Smith, MA UVM 2011 (at right), now a PhD student at Queen Mary College, University of London, presenting her work to Princess Anne, the honorary Chancellor of the College. In the center is Professor Peter Pulzer, a distinguished historian of modern German-Jewish history.*

## Holocaust Studies Courses Offered at UVM

### Fall 2011

The Holocaust through Film (Steinweis)  
The Holocaust (Huener)  
Seminar: The Holocaust in Poland (Huener)

### Spring 2012

Legacy of the Holocaust (Schreckenberger)  
History of Zionism to 1948 (Nicosia)  
Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)  
The Holocaust (Nicosia)  
Seminar: World War II (Buchanan)  
Seminar: German Society and the Holocaust (Steinweis)

### Fall 2012

Modern Germany (Schrafstetter)  
Moral and Religious Perspectives on the Holocaust (Sugarman)  
The Holocaust in the Netherlands (Barnouw)  
Seminar: Vichy France (Zdatny)  
Seminar: Nazi Germany (Steinweis)

## News from the Faculty



**Antonello Borra** (Romance Languages) is preparing to teach a new course on the Holocaust in Italian literature and film in the Spring 2013 semester. Texts by Primo Levi and Giorgio Bassani, and films by Vittorio De Sica and Roberto Benigni, among others, will be read/watched and discussed in Italian. Borra's fourth volume of poetry, *Alphabetabestiaro*, translated by Blossom S. Kirschenbaum and with artwork by Delia Robinson, appeared in 2012. He is currently working on a translation into English of selected works by medieval Italian poet Guittone D'Arezzo as well as on a new volume of original poetry.

**Andrew Buchanan** (History) published "The War Crisis and the Decolonization of India, December 1941-September 1942: A Political and Military Dilemma," in *Global War Studies*, and delivered the opening roundtable presentation on "American Grand Strategy in the Mediterranean, 1940-1945," at the Transatlantic Studies Conference, Dundee, Scotland, in July 2011. In the Spring 2012 semester he taught a seminar on World War Two.



**Robert Gordon** (Anthropology) has completed an essay entitled "Bushmen in the Extra-Territorial Sphere," which examines the pre-terrain of genocide of foragers, emphasizing the role of ecology in understanding variations. This is for a conference and volume on the genocide of foragers to be held in Cape Town and published by the University of Cape Town Press. His co-edited volume *Re-*

*Creating First Contact: Expeditions, Anthropology and Popular Cultures* has been accepted for publication by the Smithsonian Institution. It contains an important chapter on Otto Schulz-Kampfenkel who became a poster boy for the SS. In July 2012 he will commence a leave from UVM for two years to become a guest Senior Professor at the University of the Free State in South Africa, where he will be involved in, inter alia, the Center for Racial Reconciliation.

**Jonathan Huener** (History) gave an invited lecture on "Auschwitz and the Politics of Memory in Communist Poland" at the University of Washington and presented a paper on "Poland and the Memory of the Shoah" at the international symposium "Global Memory of the Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in Global Context" at the University of Haifa, Israel. He was also appointed to the editorial board of *Przegląd Zachodni*, the leading Polish academic journal on Polish-German relations and western European affairs. He will be devoting his 2012-2013 sabbatical year to research for his book on Polish Catholicism and the Polish Roman Catholic Church under German occupation during World War II. In the Fall 2011 semester he taught a lecture course on the Holocaust and a seminar on the Holocaust in Poland.



**Lutz Kaelber** (Sociology) co-edited the book *Child Murder and "Special Children's Wards" in National Socialism: Commemoration and Research*. He published an essay entitled "The Memory of NS-'Children's Euthanasia': A Case Study of the Eichberg Asylum" in the *Gedenkstätten-Rundbrief*. Of particular interest to him are biographies of

Jewish child and adolescent victims of Nazi "euthanasia" crimes, whose names are typically not (yet) included in Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names or the Memorial Book of the Federal Archives for the Victims of the Persecution of Jews in Germany.



**Wolfgang Mieder** (German and Russian) edited the 28th volume of *Proverbium: Yearbook of International Proverb Scholarship*, and authored two books: "Wie anders wirkt dies Zitat auf mich ein!" *Johann Wolfgang von Goethes entflügelte Worte in Literatur, Medien und Karikaturen* and *International Bibliography of Paremiography. Collections of Proverbs, Proverbial*

*Expressions and Comparisons, Quotations, Graffiti, Slang, and Wellerisms*. Recent articles include "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Martin Luther King's Proverbial Struggle for Equality" *Proverbium*; "The Dog in the Manger: The Rise and Decline in Popularity of a Proverb and a Fable," *Midwestern Folklore*; and "It Takes a Village to Change the World: Proverbial Politics and the Ethics of Place," *Journal of American Folklore*. He gave the keynote address on "Think Outside the Box: Origin, Nature, and Meaning of Modern Anglo-American Proverbs" at an international congress in Paris, and was the recipient of the 2012 Robert V. Daniels Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Education.

**Dennis Mahoney** (German and Russian) met the celebrated German author Barbara Honigmann and presented to her a copy of his essay about her "second generation" novel *Eine Liebe aus nichts (A Love Made of Nothing)*. He published a book chapter on "Maria Stuart Adaptations in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries: from 'Classical' Parodies to Contemporary Politics," in *Who is this Schiller Now? Essays on his Reception and Significance*. He gave the keynote address at the 2012 annual meeting of the International Novalis Society and was elected president of that society.



**Francis Nicosia** (History) saw the publication of the German edition of his recent book, *Zionismus und Antisemitismus im dritten Reich*. He also finished the archival research for his current book project on the Middle East policy of Nazi Germany, and will be on sabbatical in 2012-2013 to finish writing the book. He co-authored a paper with Christopher Browning, which they jointly

presented at the conference "Widerstand und Auswärtiges Amt" in Tutzing am Starnberger See in Germany. The paper, "Heinrich Wolff und Wilhelm Melchers: Ambivalenz und Paradox bei der Durchsetzung der NS-Judenpolitik," will be published in 2013. He gave public lectures at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and at the Holocaust Educational Foundation's first Summer Institute near London at Royal Holloway College. In the fall 2011, he taught a First Year Seminar on "Revolutionary Ideologies in the 20th Century: Marxism-Leninism, Italian Fascism, National Socialism, and Maoism." In the Spring of 2012, he taught the "History of the Holocaust" and the "History of Zionism to 1948."

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**Nicole Phelps** (History) presented a paper on “Diplomacy, Discipline, and Sovereignty: Habsburg Efforts to Secure US Compliance with the Culture of Great Power Diplomacy” at the Austrian Studies Association’s AEIOU: Global Austria conference in Long Beach, California. She was also a finalist for UVM’s Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award.

Vermont Law School Visiting Professor **Robert Rachlin** (German and Russian) co-edited, with Professor Alan E. Steinweis, a volume of essays, *The Law in Nazi Germany: Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice*, comprising, among others, papers delivered at the 2009 Miller Symposium at UVM. The book, scheduled to be published in early 2013, includes Rachlin’s essay on Nazi People’s Court President Roland Freisler. Rachlin was also invited to submit for publication his paper on the “Jewish element” in German law, as viewed by Nazi legal theorists, delivered at the 11th Lessons & Legacies conference in Boca Raton last year, the papers from which will be published by Northwestern University Press.



**Helga Schreckenberger** (German and Russian) co-edited the edition *Erste Briefe/First Letters aus dem Exil 1945-1950. (Un)mögliche Gespräche. Fallbeispiele des literarischen und künstlerischen Exil*, contributed the book chapter “Verurteilung zu raffinierter Ausweglosigkeit: Juden und Judentum in Franz Werfels Barbara oder Die Frömmigkeit” in *Judentum in Leben und Werk von Franz Werfel*, and published the following articles: “Es wär vielleicht ein neues Exil und vielleicht das schmerzlichste. Das Thema der Rückkehr in Oskar Maria Graf’s Briefen an Hugo Hartung” in *Erste Briefe/First Letters aus dem Exil 1945-1950; Egon Schwarz*” in *Deutschsprachige Exilliteratur seit 1933*; and “Erwachsenwerden im Exil: Die ungewöhnliche Bildung von Egon Schwarz” in *Weltanschauliche Orientierungsversuche im Exil/Neu Orientations of World View in Exile*. In the Spring 2012 semester she taught a course on the legacy of the Holocaust in European literature.



**Susanna Schrafstetter** (History) was a guest professor at the Universities of Augsburg and Munich in the spring of 2011, where she taught seminars on global reparations politics and on restitution and compensation for victims of Nazism. She spoke about “The Question of Compensation for Victims of Nazism in Anglo-German Relations, 1945-2000” in the Department of History’s Lecture series at the University of Augsburg. She also participated in two workshops, co-organized by the Universities of Vermont, Augsburg and Haifa on Global Holocaust? Memories of the Destruction of European Jews in Global Context. In April of 2012 she was invited to speak at a conference on “Aryanization” and Restitution in German Cities hosted by the University of Mannheim (Germany). She is working on her book provisionally titled *The Politics of Compensation: Anglo-German Relations and the Victims of Nazism*.



**David Scrase** (German, Emeritus) published the German edition of his book, *Wilhelm Lehmann. Eine Biographie* with Wallstein, and gave a talk about the book at the annual meeting of the Wilhelm Lehmann Society in Germany.

**Alan E. Steinweis** (History) finished work on *The Law in Nazi Germany: Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice*, co-edited with Robert Rachlin, which will be published in early 2013, and published the German version of his book *Kristallnacht 1938*. He discussed the latter at a book launch at the University of Frankfurt, where he was a guest professor from April through July 2011. He delivered the paper “The Humanities in Nazi Germany: New Perspectives” at the conference “The Betrayal of the Humanities: The University during the Third Reich,” at the University of Minnesota, and held a Yom HaShoah lecture at SUNY-Dutchess, in Poughkeepsie, on “Becoming a Professional Antisemite: Three Biographies from Nazi Germany.” In his capacity as Director of the Miller Center he co-convened the conferences at the Universities of Augsburg and Haifa that are described elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. He was appointed a member of the scholarly advisory committee (*wissenschaftlicher Beirat*) of the Institute for Contemporary History (Institut für Zeitgeschichte), Munich-Berlin, and was appointed to hold the L&C Miller Distinguished Professorship of Holocaust Studies at UVM. In the Fall 2011 semester he taught a course on the Holocaust through Film to 247 students, and in the Spring 2012 taught a seminar on the German People and the Holocaust, which was directly tied in to the 2012 Miller Symposium. In the Fall 2012 semester he will be teaching a seminar on Nazi Germany.

**Judith Stone** (Art) has begun work on *Easel to Edifice: Intersections in the Art, Design, and Architecture of C.R. Mackintosh and Henry van de Velde*. The book explores the impact of membership in 19th Century avant garde art movements on the modernist design and architecture of Art Nouveau masters Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Henry van de Velde. Unusual in a study of Art Nouveau are two projected chapters: the first investigates the apparently small, but nonetheless significant role played by women designers, like Anna Muthesius, and entrepreneurs, like Katherine Cranston, in the growth and direction of the movement; the second examines the links between the Dreyfus Affair, French anti-Semitism, and the mixed response on the part of the Parisian public to Siegfried Bing’s Art Nouveau showrooms, given Bing’s German Jewish origins. In early June, two large scale graphite drawings by Stone, “Latency I” and “Latency II,” will figure in an invitational exhibition at Vassar College, the artist’s alma mater.

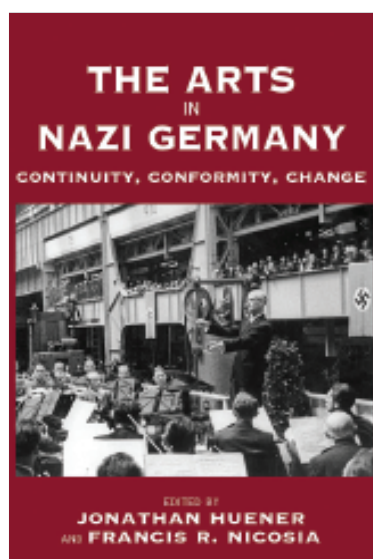
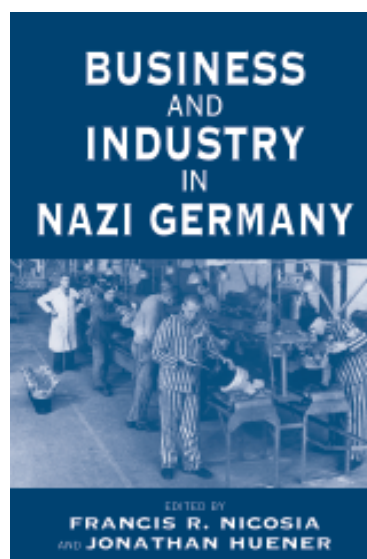
**Richard Sugarman** (Religion) has lectured and written on the religious philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, widely considered to be the pre-eminent post-Holocaust Jewish thinker. In 2010, he spoke on “The scandal of Heidegger and Levinas’ rehabilitation of continental philosophy,” in the David Blitzer series in Jewish thought and culture at SUNY Buffalo. Sugarman recently authored the following articles and/or book chapters on Levinas: “Wild and Levinas: Legacy and Promise,” *Continental Philosophy Review*; “Messianic Temporality: Preliminary Reflections on Ethical Messianism and the Deformalization of Time in Levinas” in *Recherches Levinassiennes*; “The Breakup of Totality and the Promise of Time in Thought of Emmanuel Levinas” in *Levinas autrement*. Currently, he is writing a book titled *A Transcending Humanism: Emmanuel Levinas and the Jewish Bible*. In the Fall of 2012 he will be teaching a course on Moral and Religious Perspectives on the Holocaust.



**Steven Zdatny** (History) spent the Fall 2011 semester on sabbatical leave in Paris, pursuing research for his current book on the history of hygiene in France. His article on the “French Hygiene Revolution of the 1950s” will appear in the *Journal of Modern History* in December 2012. In the Fall of 2012 he will be teaching a seminar on Vichy France.



## Volumes from the Miller Symposia



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### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Francis R. Nicosia** is the Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont. **Jonathan Huener** is Associate Professor of History at the University of Vermont where he teaches courses on the Holocaust, German history, and Polish history. **David Scrase** is Professor of German and the founding director of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont (1993–2006). **Alan E. Steinweis** is Professor of History 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.

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*See order form for details*

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## MEDICINE AND MEDICAL ETHICS IN NAZI GERMANY

### Origins, Practices, Legacies

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Edited by **Francis R. Nicosia** and **Jonathan Huener**

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**Historische Zeitschrift**

During the past decade, the role of Germany's economic elites under Hitler has once again moved into the limelight of historical research and public debate. This volume brings together a group of internationally renowned scholars who have been at the forefront of recent research. Their articles provide an up-to-date synthesis, which is as comprehensive as it is insightful, of current knowledge in this field. The result is a volume that offers students and interested readers a brief but focused introduction to the role of German businesses and industries in the crimes of Hitler's Third Reich. Not only does this book treat the subject in an accessible manner; it also emerges as particularly relevant in light of current controversies over the nature of business-state relations, corporate social responsibility, and globalization.

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## THE ARTS IN NAZI GERMANY

### Continuity, Conformity, Change

Edited by **Jonathan Huener** and **Francis R. Nicosia**

*"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**

Culture and the arts played a central role in the ideology and propaganda of National Socialism from the early years of the movement until the last months of the Third Reich in 1945. Hitler and his followers believed that art and culture were expressions of race, and that "Aryans" alone were capable of creating true art and preserving true German culture. This volume's essays explore these and other aspects of the arts and cultural life under National Socialism, and are authored by some of the most respected authorities in the field: Alan Steinweis, Michael Kater, Eric Rentschler, Pamela Potter, Frank Trommler, and Jonathan Petropoulos. The result is a volume that offers students and interested readers a brief but focused introduction to this important aspect of the history of Nazi Germany.

Available, 236 pages, photos, index, bibliog.  
ISBN 978-1-84545-359-6 Paperback **\$27.50/£16.50**  
ISBN 978-1-84545-209-4 Hardback **\$90.00/£53.00** [2006]

## FORTHCOMING IN PAPERBACK

## JEWISH LIFE IN NAZI GERMANY

### Dilemmas and Responses

Edited by **Francis R. Nicosia** and **David Scrase**

*"This fine collection of essays by leading scholars covers a broad scope of German-Jewish responses to Nazi policies ranging from self-help and everyday endurance to the Zionist alternative and racial recategorization to avoid deportation. The accessible style and continuity make this volume suitable for undergraduate or advanced classes on German or Jewish history or on the Holocaust itself. The excellent documentary annex makes the book especially helpful."*

**Norman JW Goda**, University of Florida

*"Each essay furnishes very useful, unique information about everyday Jewish life in Nazi Germany and the way in which such activities changed as conditions worsened. This approach is not often found in Holocaust scholarship..."*

**Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter**

German Jews faced harsh dilemmas in their responses to Nazi persecution, partly a result of Nazi cruelty and brutality but also a result of an understanding of their history and rightful place in Germany. This volume addresses the impact of the anti-Jewish policies of Hitler's regime on Jewish family life, Jewish women, and the existence of Jewish organizations and institutions and considers some of the Jewish responses to Nazi anti-Semitism and persecution. This volume offers scholars, students, and interested readers a highly accessible but focused introduction to Jewish life under National Socialism, the often painful dilemmas that it produced, and the varied Jewish responses to those dilemmas.

August 2012, 256 pages, 10 ills, bibliography, index  
ISBN 978-0-85745-801-8 Paperback **\$29.95/£19.50**  
ISBN 978-1-84545-676-4 Hardback **\$60.00/£35.00** [2010]

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*FORTHCOMING*  
**THE LAW IN NAZI GERMANY**  
**Ideology, Opportunism, and the Perversion of Justice**  
 Edited by **Alan E. Steinweis** and **Robert D. Rachlin**

While we often tend to think of the Third Reich as a zone of lawlessness, the Nazi dictatorship and its policies of persecution rested on a legal foundation set in place and maintained by judges, lawyers, and civil servants trained in the law. This volume offers a concise and compelling account of how these intelligent and well-educated legal professionals lent their skills and knowledge to a system of oppression and domination. The chapters address why German lawyers and jurists were attracted to Nazism; how their support of the regime resulted from a combination of ideological conviction, careerist opportunism, and legalistic self-delusion; and whether they were held accountable for their Nazi-era actions after 1945. The volume will appeal to scholars, students, and other readers with an interest in Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the history of jurisprudence.

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## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

October 10, 17, and 24, 2011

### Perpetrators and Victims: Reassessing the “Final Solution”

Three lectures by

**Christopher R. Browning**

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill



No historian has done more to enhance our understanding of the Holocaust than has Christopher R. Browning. In this series of lectures, Professor Browning summarized the findings of three of his most influential books, explained how he sees them relating to the evolving historiography of the field, responded to some of his critics, and pointed to opportunities for future research on the Holocaust.

Christopher R. Browning is the Frank Porter Graham Professor of History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Before taking up this position in the fall of 1999, he taught for 25 years at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. Browning received his B.A. degree from Oberlin College in 1967 and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1968 and 1975 respectively. He is the author of eight books: *The Final Solution and the German Foreign Office* (1978), *Fateful Months: Essays on the Emergence of the Final Solution* (1985), *Ordinary Men: Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (1992), *The Path to Genocide* (1992), *Nazi Policy, Jewish Workers, German Killers* (2000), *Collected Memories: Holocaust History and Postwar Testimony* (2003), and *The Origins of the Final Solution: The Evolution of Nazi Jewish Policy, September 1939-March 1942* (2004), and *Remembering Survival. Inside a Nazi Slave Labor Camp* (2010). He is also co-editor of *Every Day Lasts a*

*Year: A Jewish Family's Correspondence from Poland* (2007).

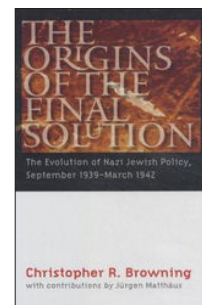
Browning has served as the J. B. and Maurice Shapiro Senior Scholar (1996) and Ina Levine Senior Scholar (2002-3) at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. He has been a fellow of the Institutes for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey, and on the campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has also received Fulbright, Alexander von Humboldt, DAAD, and Woodrow Wilson Foundation fellowships. He has delivered the George Macaulay Trevelyan Lectures at Cambridge University (1999) and the George L. Mosse Lectures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2002), as well as the lectures of the Bertelsmann Visiting Professorship at Mansfield College, Oxford University (2007). He is a three-time recipient of the Jewish National Book Award—Holocaust Category, for *Ordinary Men*, *The Origins of the Final Solution*, and *Remembering Survival*. Browning has served as an expert witness in “war crimes” trials in Australia, Canada, and Great Britain. He has also served as an expert witness in two “Holocaust denial” cases: the second Zündel trial in Toronto in 1988 and in David Irving’s libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt in London in 2000.

#### Lecture One: Monday, October 10, 2011

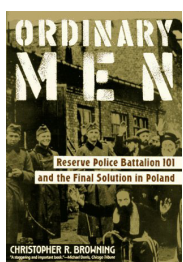
##### Adolf Hitler and the Decisions for the Final Solution

How and when the Nazi regime decided to solve its self-imposed “Jewish problem” through the systematic and total mass murder of every last Jew—man, woman, and child—within its grasp has been the subject of one of the most central and long-running debates among Holocaust historians. This lecture sought to explain 1) why this issue has been important to historians; 2) what the course of the debate has been over both the timing of and Hitler’s role in the decision-making process; and 3) the reasons and evidence behind my position in this debate.

Underwritten by the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship in Holocaust Studies



#### Lecture 2: Monday, October 17, 2011



The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture

##### Revisiting the Holocaust Perpetrators: Why Did They Kill?

In this lecture Professor Browning looked at a variety of Holocaust perpetrators, including ideologues (“true believers”), technocrats and bureaucrats (the “managers” of genocide), and rank-and-file executioners (“grass roots killers”). He examined the variety of explanations that scholars have offered concerning motivation that culminated in the so-called “Goldhagen debate,” and then discussed subsequent evidence and insights that have emerged.

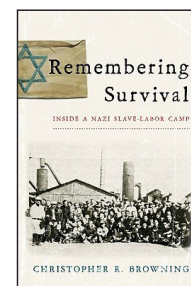
The Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture was made possible through a generous gift from Jerold D. Jacobson, Esquire, of New York City, UVM Class of 1962.

#### Lecture 3: Monday, October 24, 2011

##### Holocaust History and Survivor Testimony: The Case of the Starachowice Factory Slave Labor Camps

This lecture examined two issues. First, what are the general methodological issues and concerns involved in using survivor testimony to write Holocaust history? Second, in a close examination of 292 survivors of the Starachowice factory slave labor camps, what can we learn about German policies and personnel on the one hand, and the survival strategies and internal dynamics of the Jewish prisoner community on the other?

Underwritten by the Leonard and Carolyn Miller Distinguished Professorship in Holocaust Studies



## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

October 28, 2011

## Research Seminar

## “Holocaust Angst”: The Federal Republic of Germany and Holocaust Memory in the United States

Jacob S. Eder, University of Pennsylvania



Eder discussed his project on German cultural diplomacy in the United States and its relevance for the formation of transnational Holocaust memory. His research focuses on this topic from three angles: the exponentially growing interest of American society in the Holocaust and its impact on German-American relations since the late 1970s, efforts in the United States on the part of the Federal Republic to (re-)claim the power of interpretation over the history of the Holocaust, and the reception of such policies in the United States by governmental or private institutions and individuals.

Jacob S. Eder is a Ph.D. candidate in history at the University of Pennsylvania and an associate member of the graduate school of the Jena Center 20th Century History, Germany. During the 2011-12 academic year, he is a Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellow at George Washington University. He holds M.A. degrees from Penn and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he spent an academic year on a Fulbright Scholarship. He is the author of “Holocaust-Erinnerung als deutsch-amerikanische Konfliktgeschichte” in *Universalisierung des Holocaust? Erinnerungskultur und Geschichtspolitik in internationaler Perspektive*(2008) and the recipient of numerous academic grants and fellowships, including doctoral fellowships from the Gerda Henkel Foundation, the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the USHMM, and the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. *Underwritten by the Henry and Lili Altschuler Endowment*



November 3, 2011

## The Jews of Montreal: A Community in Transition

Pierre Anctil, University of Ottawa

Montreal Jewry is unique in many respects, not only vis-à-vis the other major Jewish communities in Canada but even in the North American sphere. This is reflected in many ways. Montreal Jews are highly concentrated residentially, their community exhibits a high degree of institutional completeness and they themselves tend to cultivate a strongly defined Jewish identity both in the cultural and religious spheres. To a large extent these features can be attributed to the fact that the Montreal Jewish community is the oldest and most established in Canada, that it has received relatively little outside immigration in the last two or three decades, and that it is somewhat sheltered from American social norms. Montreal ranks very high in the world with regards to the presence of Holocaust survivors, who form almost a quarter of the population over 56 years of age, or nearly 6,800 individuals. With their descendants, they account for nearly a third of the community, their experience in Europe having colored many of the Jewish perceptions locally. Montreal Jews must also come to terms with a broader Francophone community that is itself at odds with the mainstream Anglo Canadian components and forms a distinct society. In negotiating a balance between all these factors, including Quebec nationalism and the rise of a new vibrant Francophone culture, the Montreal Jewish community has gained features which point to a separate destiny in the larger Canadian Jewish ensemble.



Pierre Anctil is Professor of History at the University of Ottawa. He has written at length on the history of the Jewish community of Montreal and on the current debates on cultural pluralism in that city. Among his contributions are translations from Yiddish to French of memoirs written by Jewish immigrants to Montreal in the first half of the twentieth century. He was the director of the Institute of Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa until July 2008. Before that date, he was president of the Conseil des relations interculturelles of the Government of Québec, 2002-2003, and has held different positions in the Québec civil service in the domain of immigration (1991-2004). He was a guest researcher in 1999-2000 at Musée Pointe-à-Callière, for the conception of an exhibit on boulevard Saint-Laurent (2002) and for an international exhibition on the Bible and the Dead Sea Scrolls (2003). He was also director of the French Canadian Studies Program at McGill University (1988-1991) and researcher at the Institut québécois de recherche sur la culture (1980-1988). *Underwritten by the Kinsler Endowment for Holocaust Studies at UVM. Co-Sponsored by the UVM Canadian Studies Program*

April 2, 2012

## The Harry H. Kahn Memorial Lecture

## Primo Levi, Tadeusz Borowski, and the Historical Auschwitz

Jonathan Huener, University of Vermont



As the largest center for the annihilation of European Jews, Auschwitz stands as the most prominent symbol of the Holocaust, but its symbolic value has often led to an oversimplification and distortion of its history. Among the many well-known authors who have brought Auschwitz into the public eye, survivors Primo Levi, an Italian Jewish inmate, and Tadeusz Borowski, a Polish political prisoner, have emerged as voices of both authority and insight. Reflecting on his use of these authors in the classroom, Professor Huener considered the writings of Levi and Borowski as historical sources, emphasizing how the evidence and interpretations they provide not only challenge conventionally-held views of Auschwitz, but also lead to a more nuanced and accurate understanding of its complex history.

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## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

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Joining the University of Vermont faculty in 1996, Jonathan Huener earned his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. An affiliate of the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies at UVM, he teaches courses on the Holocaust, Polish history, German history, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century Europe. His research has focused on public memory in post-World War II Poland, Polish-Jewish relations, Auschwitz, and German policy in the occupied Polish lands. Huener is author of the book *Auschwitz, Poland, and the Politics of Commemoration, 1945-1979* (Ohio University Press, 2003), which was awarded the 2004 Orbis Books Prize in Polish Studies from the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, and was a finalist for the Pro Historia Polonorum award of the Polskie Towarzystwo Historyczne (Polish Historical Association) for the best foreign-language book in Polish history. In addition, he is co-editor, with Francis R. Nicosia, of *Medicine and Medical Ethics in Nazi Germany: Origins, Practices, Legacies* (Berghahn, 2002), *Business and Industry in Nazi Germany* (Berghahn, 2004), and *The Arts in Nazi Germany: Continuity, Conformity, Change* (Berghahn, 2006). His current research is on Polish Catholicism and the Polish Roman Catholic Church under German occupation. *Sponsored by the Department of German and Russian*

April 4, 2012

### Grounds for Murder: The Local Participation of The German Army in the Holocaust

Waitman W. Beorn, Loyola University, New Orleans

This lecture addressed the participation of the Wehrmacht in the Nazi genocidal project on the ground in Belarus. Rather than simply crediting the military with “complicity” in the Holocaust, this presentation sought to concretely describe and explain how and why German soldiers became agents in the Holocaust in the Soviet Union. It examined, among other questions: the connection between an imaginary anti-partisan war and military collusion in anti-Jewish killings; the incremental nature of the process of increasing participation in the murder operations; sexual violence against Jews; theft of Jewish property by German soldiers; and rare but instructive instances of Wehrmacht soldiers attempting to assist Jews.



Waitman W. Beorn is currently Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Loyola University in New Orleans. Next year he will join the faculty of the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he will be Assistant Professor of History and holder of the Louis and Frances Blumkin Professorship of Holocaust and Genocide Studies. He is a 2000 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, a former Army officer, and a veteran of the war in Iraq. After leaving the military, he earned his PhD in German History in 2011 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under the direction of Christopher R. Browning. Dr. Beorn has received Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships. In addition to articles in scholarly journals, he has completed a book manuscript, tentatively titled *Marching into Darkness: The Local Participation of the Wehrmacht in the Holocaust, 1941-42*. Aside from his scholarly activities, Dr. Beorn consults with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, where he assists with its Civic and Defense Initiatives missions. He works with cadets and midshipmen from the military academies using the Holocaust to help teach ethical military decision-making. *Organized in cooperation with Army ROTC at UVM, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.*

Thursday, April 19, 2012

### Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Two Presentations by  
Henry Greenspan, University of Michigan

#### How Survivors Became Fashionable: Holocaust Survivors in the American Imagination

Holocaust survivors moved from relative obscurity to near celebrity status in American popular consciousness in the late 1970s. Various explanations have been offered. This talk suggested that it is essential to consider a wider preoccupation with disaster and surviving extremity that emerged as central themes in American popular culture forty years ago (and which remains with us today). It argued that survivors' new visibility has not meant that their recounting has been more thoughtfully engaged.

#### Remnants

REMNANTS is a voice play based on twenty years of the author's conversations with Holocaust survivors. The piece was originally produced for radio and broadcast on National Public Radio stations across the United States. As a stage play, Greenspan has performed REMNANTS as a one-man presentation at more than two hundred venues throughout the U.S., Canada, and Europe, including the Magdeburg Barracks Theatre in the former Theresienstadt camp – a space used for performances during the Holocaust itself. Both the radio and staged versions of REMNANTS have received more than a dozen awards. Professor Alvin Rosenfeld, Chair of the committee on academic programs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, notes, “REMNANTS says more about the Holocaust in fewer words than just about anything I know. Its lean, minimalist format is powerfully affecting. This is Holocaust theatre at its best.”



Henry Greenspan is a psychologist and playwright at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who has been interviewing, teaching, and writing about Holocaust survivors since the 1970s. He is the author of *On Listening to Holocaust Survivors: Beyond Testimony*, now in its second edition; with Agi Rubin, *Reflections: Auschwitz, Memory, and a Life Recreated*; along with numerous chapters and articles on Holocaust survivors and their retelling. His play, *Remnants*, also based on his extended conversations with survivors, was first produced for National Public Radio in the United States and has been staged at more than 200 venues worldwide. In 2011, he co-led the Hess Seminar for Professors of Holocaust Courses at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. He is currently the Fulbright Visiting Research Chair at Concordia University in Montreal. *Henry Greenspan's visit was underwritten by the Ader/Konigsberg Endowment for Holocaust Studies at UVM, and organized in cooperation with Temple Sinai, Ohavi Zedek Synagogue, Ahavath Gerim Synagogue, and UVM Hillel.*

## EVENTS OF THE PAST YEAR

Sunday, April 22, 2012

The Sixth Miller Symposium

The German People and the Persecution of the Jews

Over 100 students, members of the community, and UVM professors attended the day-long Miller Symposium, held in the North Lounge of the Billings Library on the UVM Campus. The volume based on the symposium will be edited by UVM Professors Susanna Schrafstetter and Alan E. Steinweis, and will appear in the Miller Symposium series published by Berghahn Books. The volumes from previous Miller Symposia are featured elsewhere in this newsletter and are available for purchase at a significant discount.

Program

*The Popularity of Antisemitism in Germany, 1890-1933*, Richard S. Levy, University of Illinois at Chicago

*German Responses to the Persecution of the Jews as Reflected in Three Collections of Secret Reports*,  
Frank Bajohr, Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte, Hamburg

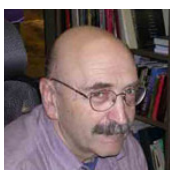
*Babi Yar, but not Auschwitz: What did Germans Know About the "Final Solution"?*  
Peter Fritzsche, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Indifference, Participation or Protest? Berliners and the Persecution of the Jews 1933-45*,  
Wolf Gruner, University of Southern California

*Where Did All "Our" Jews Go? Germans and Jews in Post-Nazi Germany*, Atina Grossmann, Cooper Union

*Comment and Concluding Discussion*, Doris Bergen, University of Toronto

Presenters:



**Richard S. Levy** has taught German history and the history of the Holocaust at the University of Illinois in Chicago since 1971. He is author of *The Downfall of the Antisemitic Political Parties in Imperial Germany*, and editor of *Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts*, *Antisemitism: Historical Encyclopedia of Prejudice and Persecution*, and, with Albert Lindemann, *Antisemitism: A History*.



**Frank Bajohr** is senior researcher at the Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte (Research Center for Contemporary History) in Hamburg, and teaches in the Department of History at the University of Hamburg. His many books include "Aryanisation" in Hamburg. *The Economic Exclusion of Jews and the Confiscation of their Property in Nazi Germany*, *Parvenüs und Profiteure. Korruption in der NS-Zeit*, "Unser Hotel ist judenfrei". *Bäder-Antisemitismus im 19. und 20. Jahrhundert*, *Der Holocaust als offenes Geheimnis. Die Deutschen, die NS-Führung und die Alliierten* (with Dieter Pohl), *Volksgemeinschaft. Neuere Studien zur Gesellschaft des Nationalsozialismus*, (ed., with Michael Wildt), and *Fremde Blicke auf das "Dritte Reich". Berichte ausländischer Diplomaten über Herrschaft und Gesellschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945*.



**Peter Fritzsche** has taught history at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for the last 25 years. His many books include *Life and Death in the Third Reich* and *The Turbulent World of Franz Goell: An Ordinary Berliner Writes the Twentieth Century*. He is currently at work on a study of the struggle for meaning in World War II, a cultural history of comprehension in German-occupied Europe.

continued on Page 17



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**Wolf Gruner** holds the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and is Professor of History at the University of Southern California. Among his many books is *Jewish Forced Labor under the Nazis: Economic Needs and Nazi Racial Aims*. He has recently completed a book manuscript on the state discrimination against indigenous people in 19th century Bolivia, and is currently working on a study of individual Jewish defiance and protest against Nazi persecution.



**Atina Grossmann** is Professor of History in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Cooper Union in New York City where she teaches Modern German and European History, and Gender Studies. Her books include *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950*, and *Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany*. Her current research, supported by the Diane and Howard Wohl Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, focuses on “Transnational Jewish Refugee Stories: Soviet Central Asia, Iran, and India as Sites of Relief and Refuge for European Jews during World War II.”



**Doris L. Bergen** is the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto. Her books include *Twisted Cross: The German Christian Movement in the Third Reich*, and *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust*. Her current projects include a book on Germany military chaplains in the Nazi era and a study of definitions of Germanness as revealed in the Volksdeutschen/ethnic Germans of Eastern Europe during World War II and the Holocaust. She is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U. S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

## PREVIEW OF FALL 2012 EVENTS

The following public events are being planned for Fall 2012. Please be sure to check our website for scheduling information and details about topics and speakers.



Lecture by Henry Rousso: One of the leading French scholars in the history of Vichy France and French anti-Semitism, Professor Rousso is Senior Researcher at the Institut d'histoire du temps présent (CNRS, Paris) and professor at the University of Paris-Ouest Nanterre. In Fall 2012 he will be based at Yale University.



Two lectures by David Barnouw: A senior member of the staff at the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, David Barnouw is the co-editor of the definitive scholarly edition of the diary of Anne Frank, as well as the author of numerous works on the Dutch experience in World War Two. During the Fall 2012 semester he will be based at UVM, where he will teach a course on the Holocaust in the Netherlands.



Raul Hilberg Memorial Lecture by Robert P. Ericksen: Holder of the Kurt Mayer Chair of Holocaust Studies at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, Professor Ericksen is a leading authority on the history of the universities and the churches in Nazi Germany. He sits on the Board of Editors of *Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte* and on the Church Relations Committee of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Look for further details on our website:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs/?Page=events.html&SM=submenunews.html>

## World Premiere of David Neiweem's Remembrance Cantata

*On November 19, 2011, the Burlington Choral Society (BCS) performed the world premiere of the Remembrance Cantata by its Music Director, David Neiweem, who is also Professor of Music at UVM. The performance received financial support from the Carolyn and Leonard Miller Center for Holocaust Studies. The following story appeared on the website of the BCS, and is reprinted here by permission.*

"Never forget. Never again."  
— David Neiweem, 8/22/2011

BCS Music Director David Neiweem talks about how he came to write this cantata honoring Holocaust survivors

(Working title) "The Choir Invisible" A Cantata, remembering victims of the Holocaust, in five movements. Duration c. 18 minutes.

First movement: (working title) Call to Remembrance  
Second movement: Shattered Windows  
Third movement: The Gate is Barred  
Fourth movement: Lullaby  
Fifth movement: Oh, May I Join the Choir Invisible

This cantata was conceived and composition was begun during a sabbatical leave from the University of Vermont in the spring of 2008. The first performance of part of the work was held at the Pitten International Music Festival in Austria, during August, 2008. The work was substantially revised in 2011 for a performance with the Burlington Choral Society of Burlington, Vermont in November, 2011. Joining the BCS are the Essex Children's Choir (Essex, Vt.) and the Burlington High School Chorus (Burlington, Vt.). It is dedicated to the survivors of The Holocaust. They were the last eyes to witness the monumental human crime of the mid-20th century. They survived to tell us "Never forget. Never again." May we carry on these words to future generations, in their names.

How I came to write this work:

In 2007, a long retired, revered colleague at the University of Vermont died. Professor Raul Hilberg had taught at Vermont since 1955 until his retirement in 1991. Prof. Hilberg made monumental contributions to the study of the Holocaust and the destruction of European Jews in the 20th century. Part of his legacy at Vermont is the program in Holocaust Studies.

Prof. Hilberg's memorial service took place in Ira Allen Chapel shortly after his death. I played music for the service on the chapel organ. The memorial service provided an opportunity for the academic community from Vermont and abroad to pay tribute to this articulate witness to the human crime that has resounded through a couple of generations.

The occasion of Prof. Hilberg's memorial service provided me an opportunity to reflect a bit about my own awareness of that period. As a post-World War II baby, what I know about it was explained entirely and greatly tempered by the many survivors of the war that were everywhere in my life on both sides of the Atlantic. My parents, uncles, aunts. Neighbors. My dad's war buddies. My friend's parents. Teachers and journalists. People, whom as I matured, became my friends.

Some of the people I knew were Holocaust survivors - the director of the music school when I was a little kid who encouraged my musical studies, the piano tuner who tuned in our home several times each year while drinking coffee and chatting up a storm, my friends' grandparents, the head of the family I came to be part of when I first lived and studied in Germany as a 19 year old. Some of those people shared a lot of their experiences with me. Many exposed conflicting feelings about an unhappily remembered past. But they had survived to tell a story and were witnesses to the Holocaust. They have always asked us to listen to the story and to remember it. Their message: "Never forget. Never again."

During Prof. Hilberg's memorial service, I decided to write a musical work that would encourage discourse between generations that required some understanding of the Holocaust. The work should not be gruesome. It does not tell the history of the Holocaust. It should help to inspire an initial confrontation of aspects of the emotional content of this great human tragedy. I wanted a work that would be meaningful for young people and old people to share with each other, to help each side develop an emotional vocabulary to respond to the feelings of desperation, fear, helplessness, hate, outrage, weakness, heroism and transcendent love that are all part of this story.



*David Neiweem*



*Raul Hilberg*

# The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

*We thought that our readers might be interested in this report on a fascinating and important development now taking place in Europe. -Ed.*

by Giles Bennett, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

In October 2010, a group of 20 institutions from 13 European countries and Israel started work on EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure. This four year collaborative project is being funded by the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program of the European Union in the amount of seven million Euro. The goal is to connect Holocaust research centers as well as archival institutions holding Holocaust-related collections.

While the EHRI consortium currently consists of twenty research, cultural heritage and e-Science institutions, these will act as liaisons to other organizations holding Holocaust-related collections in order to create a future EHRI community which will undoubtedly comprise more than a hundred cultural, scientific and educational institutions. Together they will form a Holocaust research community on a world-wide scale.

## Members of the EHRI Consortium

NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (the Netherlands), which coordinates the entire EHRI project;  
 CEGES-SOMA. Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society (Belgium);  
 Jewish Museum in Prague (Czech Republic);  
 Institute for Contemporary History, Munich – Berlin (Germany);  
 Yad Vashem. The Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Authority (Israel);  
 Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide (UK);  
 Holocaust Memorial Center (Hungary);  
 HL-Senteret. Centre for Studies of Holocaust and Religious Minorities (Norway);  
 National Archives of Finland (NAF) (Finland);  
 Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute (Poland);  
 King's College London (UK);  
 Georg-August-Universität Göttingen (Germany);  
 Athena – Research and Innovation Center in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies (Greece);  
 Shoah Memorial, Museum, Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation (France);  
 International Tracing Service (ITS) (Germany);  
 Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, Berlin (Germany);  
 Terezin Memorial (Czech Republic);  
 DANS Data Archiving and Networked Services of the Royal Dutch Academy of the Sciences (Netherlands);  
 Beit Theresienstadt (Israel);  
 VWI, Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (Austria).

## What is Being Developed

Work within the EHRI project is divided into 20 work packages (WPs). Some of these are administrative in nature, such as WP1, which conducts the overall management of EHRI. Similarly, WP9 is developing strategies to ensure the sustainability of the overall results of EHRI, while WP7 works on expanding EHRI. WP8 provides publicity and dissemination strategies. Others are developing the necessary data integration infrastructure, portal and virtual research environment (WP19, WP20). To properly inform the choices made in the other work packages, some are investigating user requirements (WP16) by way of surveys, the results of which then inform the necessary standards and guidelines development (WP17). To ensure that EHRI follows the necessary data protection laws, WP3 is creating an overview of the access, privacy and copyright policies in the approximately 40 European countries being covered by the project.

A key component for the portal will be a database of archives holding Holocaust-related material as well as descriptions of Holocaust-related collections at these institutions. These are being identified and investigated by WP15, which will also provide national reports on the Holocaust history and archival situation of the approximately 40 countries directly touched by the Second World War and the Holocaust. Searching this core database will be facilitated by a multilingual keyword thesaurus, which is being prepared by WP18.

Similarly, two trans-institutional research guides are being prepared in order to virtually connect dispersed collections (WP2). A first such guide will cover collections relating to the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Ghetto, parts of which are being kept by different institutions in the Czech Republic and in Israel. A second research guide will cover Central European Jewish community archival material.

## What EHRI Offers Now

*Expert meetings / international workshops / e-newsletter*

These are being organized by WP6. Previous conferences included a workshop on "Recording the Names" at Yad Vashem in July 2011, "The Holocaust and the (Digital) Photographic Documentation" at NIOD in September 2011, and "Truth and Witness" in Holocaust testimonies at the Wiener Library between 30 April - 2 May 2012.

A call for papers is open for the international workshop "Early Attempts at the Historical Documentation of the Holocaust" to be held at the Holocaust Memorial Center, Budapest, Hungary on 27-28 November 2012. More details can be found at the EHRI website. The deadline of the call is June 1, 2012.

The results of these international workshops are being documented in e-newsletters available at the EHRI website. These e-newsletters represent an additional complementary networking channel in addition to the physical workshop meetings.

## Yearly Fellowship Program

EHRI's WP4 organizes transnational access to leading European Holocaust research institutions within its EHRI Fellowship program. Each year twelve researchers will be invited to stay for a period of four weeks to two months at an EHRI partner institute (two EHRI fellows at the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich, two at the Jewish Museum in Prague, four at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris, two at NIOD in Amsterdam and two at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem).

In 2011, over 75 researchers from 22 countries applied, and twelve Fellows were chosen by an international panel of experts. Details about the topics and biographies of the twelve EHRI Fellows, who cover a diverse range of topics and come from a variety of countries and backgrounds, are available at the EHRI website. There you will soon also be able to find details about the upcoming call for applications for the 2013 EHRI Fellowships.

## Community Hub / Surveys

The Community Hub, which will form the backbone for collaborative projects by Holocaust researchers on the EHRI platform, is open for registration. Once registered, you can explore profiles of other members with similar interests, access documents and other project outcomes developed by EHRI as they become available, and (in the near future) create and participate in community groups. Community groups will bring together individuals that share an interest in a particular theme related to the Holocaust. Creators and members of such groups can virtually collaborate by, for instance, posting news, announcements and discussion posts, soliciting comments on such posts, or share documents with each other.

At the EHRI website, you can also find surveys which will help improve the final results of EHRI's efforts.

## Training Program (in development)

EHRI's WP5 is currently developing a curriculum for four summer schools for PhD students working on Holocaust topics. The summer schools will last three weeks each and will take place in Munich and in Paris in 2013 as well as in Amsterdam and Jerusalem in 2014. Additionally to these summer schools, accompanying online course material aimed at PhD students investigating issues of historiography and the critical appraisal of sources is in development and will be made generally available. Watch out for the call for applications to the 2013 summer schools later this year at the EHRI website.

For more information on EHRI, please visit the EHRI website:

**[www.ehri-project.eu](http://www.ehri-project.eu)**



## The University of Vermont

CAROLYN & LEONARD MILLER  
CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES  
Old Mill, Room A301  
94 University Place  
Burlington, VT 05405-0114

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### How to Join Our E-Mail List

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).

### Contact Information

*Carolyn & Leonard Miller  
Center for Holocaust Studies  
Old Mill, Room A301  
94 University Place  
Burlington, Vermont  
05405-0114*

**Website:**  
[www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs](http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmchs)

**Telephone:**  
802-656-1492

**Fax:**  
802-656-1497

**Email:**  
[Holocaust.Studies@uvm.edu](mailto:Holocaust.Studies@uvm.edu)

**Director:**  
Prof. Alan E. Steinweis

**Staff Assistant:**  
Nancy Hayes