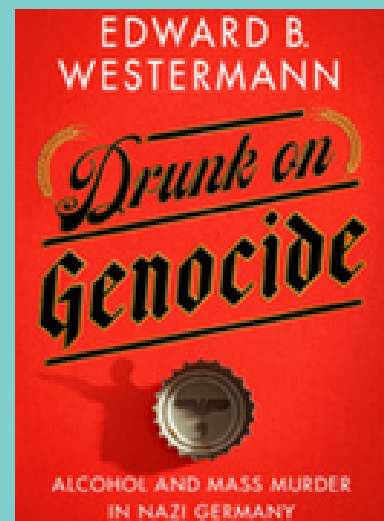
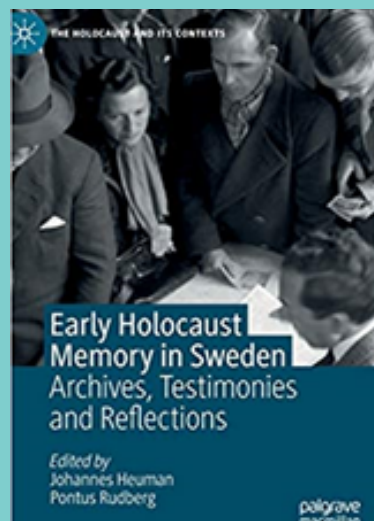
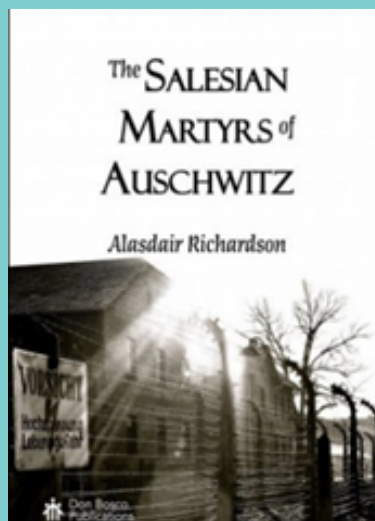
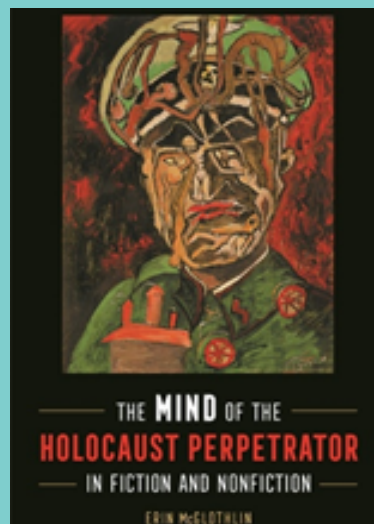
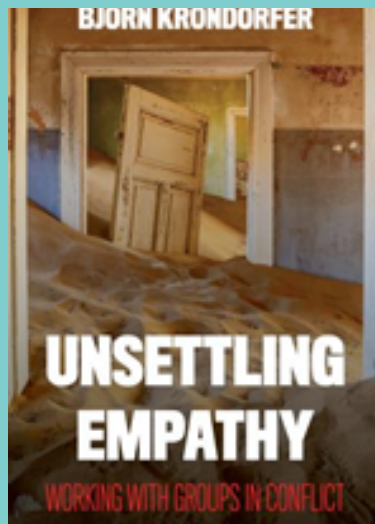
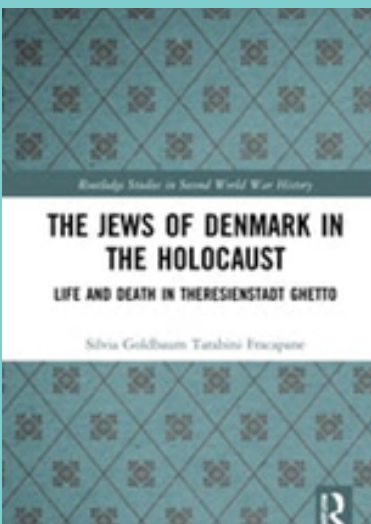
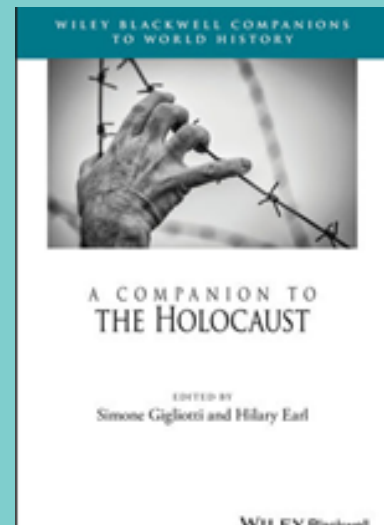
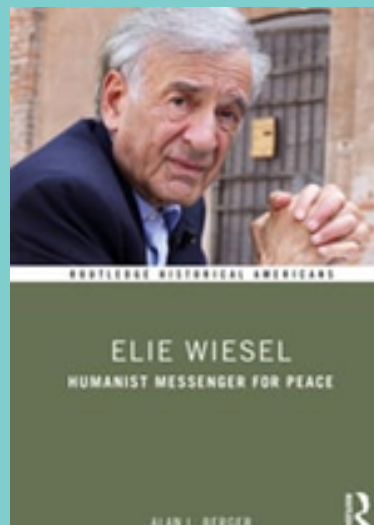
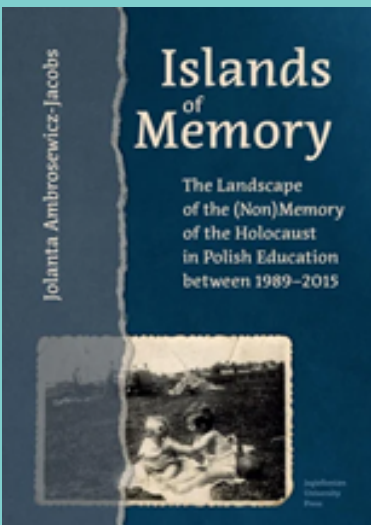




# Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University

FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

3-4



## PROFILE: WENDY LOWER

5-7



## FEATURED REPORT: ROBIN BULLER

8-10



## FEATURED REPORT: LUKAS MEISSEL

11-12



## HEFNU EVENTS

13



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS / IN MEMORIAM

14-22



## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE HEFNU COMMUNITY

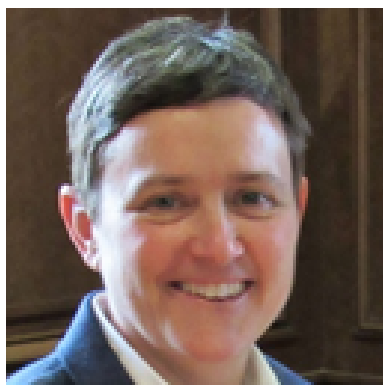
23



## PUBLICATIONS BY THE HEFNU COMMUNITY

24-29

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I write with the cautious hope that we will be able to meet in person this coming year to network, to discuss scholarship, and to learn from and grow with each other. One of the biggest challenges of the past 18 months has been how to foster community without the spontaneous interactions and discussions that emanate from in-person gatherings. While HEFNU took the decision to postpone the Lessons and Legacies Ottawa Conference for yet another year [now it will be held 12-15 November (Saturday-Tuesday) 2022], we are pleased to be holding six in-person interim Regional Meetings this fall to share scholarship and offer networking opportunities, particularly for early career scholars. The [call for papers](#) remains open until August 9.

HEFNU also established a mentoring program to support early career scholars. This program continues and will become a permanent program of HEFNU. Visit our [website](#) for information and to schedule a meeting with a mentor.

We also took some of our programs online. We held three lectures this year, that because of their online setting, reached a much greater audience than possible with on-campus lectures. [Erin McGlothlin](#) gave our annual fall lecture, co-sponsored by the [Chabraja Center](#). [Anna Hájková](#), in conversation with Jennifer Evans, gave a book talk. And [Eva Hoffman](#), in conversation with Phyllis Lassner, and introduced by Deborah Cohen, gave the annual Theodore Zev Weiss Lecture in Holocaust Studies. More than 100 people attended each lecture and all were characterized by excellent discussion and questions from participants and attendees. Thanks to the broad HEFNU community for deep engagement with these wonderful speakers.

After cancelling last year's Summer Institute, this summer we held the Institute remotely with 16 participants and a lineup of outstanding faculty. The Institute was a great success; still, we hope to return to an in-person format on the Northwestern campus next year. We will issue the call for applications in the fall with a deadline in early February. We also co-sponsored a special "taster" Summer Institute with [The Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway in London](#). They too aim to return to an in-person meeting next summer.

HEFNU increased to six the number of [Sharon Abramson Research Grants](#) it will award each year. This year featured another outstanding group of scholars and projects. Applications for SARG open in the fall with a deadline in early February. HEFNU also awarded \$20,000 in [teaching grants](#) to support the



## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

development of courses in the field of Holocaust Studies in the US and abroad. Applications for teaching grants open in the fall with a deadline in early December.

The pandemic also prompted us to think about how to bring experts in the field of Holocaust Studies into university classrooms without the expenditure of time and energy of bringing them to campus. This resulted in the development of our Virtual Speakers Bureau. This program will become a permanent offering of HEFNU.

We also look forward to the return of Regional Institutes. Two will be on offer in the coming academic year. In December, HEFNU will offer a Regional Institute in cooperation with Duke University, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University in Charlotte in December 2021. In April, HEFNU, in cooperation with Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona will host a Regional Institute in Tempe. We look forward to working with other colleges and universities in the future to bring Institutes of this kind to all regions of the United States and various regions of the world.

Our mission relies not only on the scholarly support, but also the financial support of our community. For more information on how to make a contribution, see the last page of this newsletter or link [here](#).

I wish you all a productive and relaxing summer. I also hope that we (collectively and individually) maintain our energized focus on racial justice, advancing peace and equity, and supporting democracy through our Holocaust educational work.

With respect and gratitude,

Sarah M. Cushman  
Director





## PROFILE: WENDY LOWER



Wendy Lower is the John K. Roth Chair of History, George R. Roberts Fellow, and Director of the Mgrublian Center for Human Rights at Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California. Lower served as Director of the Visiting Scholars Program and Acting Director of the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC (2000-2004; 2016-2018). She is co-chair and founder of the National Consortium of Directors of Human Rights, Holocaust and Genocide Studies Centers. Lower's areas of expertise include the history of Germany and Ukraine in World War II, the Holocaust, colonialism, women's history, human rights, and comparative genocide studies. She has authored *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press and USHMM, 2005), *The Diary of Samuel Golfard and the Holocaust in Eastern Galicia* (Lanham MD: Altamira/Rowman and Littlefield and USHMM, 2011), and *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields* (Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013). Lower co-edited *The Shoah in Ukraine: History, Testimony, Memorialization* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2008) with Ray Brandon. Her book *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine* (2005) was recognized as a Choice Outstanding Academic Title and received the Baker Burton Award for Best First Book in European History from the Southern Historical Association in 2007. *Hitler's Furies* (2013) is a National Book Award and National Jewish Book Award finalist. It has been translated into twenty-three languages.

Lower connected with the Holocaust Educational Foundation toward the end of her graduate studies in 1999. Then—as now—HEF was the only scholarly conference or professional association for Holocaust scholars to regularly convene in a conference setting to discuss and present their work. Thinking back to the first conference she attended, Lower remembers being dazzled by the opportunity to interact with luminaries of the field: “They were all there, it was amazing to see everybody there, and there was so much...energy. The open critique could get really intense, but always in the spirit of collegiality. We all were there with a common passion and mission. I love that collegiality and I hadn't experienced that before. Zev [Theodore Zev Weiss, HEF Founder] was always really great about trying to involve the junior scholars and graduate students. He understood early that [senior scholars] had a mentoring role to play for the larger community—not just their doctoral students.” Together, Zev and Alice Weiss cultivated an environment that felt equal parts academic conference and family reunion. Since then, Lower's participation and service to the HEFNU community has included: presenting, moderating, and chairing sessions at Lessons & Legacies Conferences; serving as conference co-chair with Alan Berger for Lessons & Legacies XII (Northwestern, 2012); serving as faculty for the Summer Institute (2015); and co-hosting, with Jonathan Petropoulos, Lessons & Legacies XIV (Claremont McKenna College, 2016). She co-edited *Lessons and Legacies: New Directions in Holocaust Research and Education* with Lauren Faulkner Rossi (Northwestern University Press, 2017); and is a member of HEFNU's Virtual



Speakers Bureau.

Lower's work is strongly driven by discovery in the archive. "My training is as an empiricist, primarily in empirical history. I don't embark on projects to really develop new theories as such and I never quite get to the theoretical by the time I finish my project," Lower says wryly. "I like a more concrete approach. That's what really stimulates my curiosity." At the heart of Lower's newest book, *The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, a Holocaust Massacre Revealed* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2021) is a photograph which captures the murder of a Jewish family—a mother and two children—by German and Ukrainian soldiers on October 13, 1941 in Miropol, Ukraine. "I didn't think, 'Oh, I want to write a book about photography.' It was the discovery of the photograph that propelled the actual project," a sprawling five-country, ten-year forensic and archival investigation into the identities of the people in the photograph, the photographer, and the forces that drew them into a single frame.

Lower's first "archive" of note was the city of Vienna, where she studied during a junior year abroad in 1985/86 when Kurt Waldheim was running for President of Austria. "Suddenly this small country was in an international spotlight because of the war crimes record of the presidential candidate, which he had concealed when he was UN Secretary General." The media coverage and then, "feeling the presence of the war... the bullet holes in the buildings, the tours of the camps, and talking to veterans of the war [about] their time in the East and the atrocities" helped Lower realize that "we are, in the scheme of history in the 'aftermath,' and we talk about 'aftermath studies,' but we actually exist in the aftermath: the witnesses are still around us, the architecture is still there, the bones can be excavated, the court cases are still happening... the history you're interested in, is very much in the present and that propels you forward."

Lower pursued doctoral studies in European History at American University, where she studied with Richard Breitman. Her dissertation became the basis of her book, *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine* (2005). It was in graduate school that she first "started to see [Ukraine] as another center of the Holocaust outside the camp system." However, the Nazi eastern front really came to life for Lower during a summer spent in the archives in Kiev. Reading original German documentation of the 'Holocaust by bullets' in light of a burgeoning interest in post-colonial studies in the field, Lower realized that Germans "were envisioning their legacy" in the region "as an imperial European mission, a civilizing mission. It was not 'an occupation,' it was a demographic revolution... This was an imperial colonial genocidal endeavor and the Holocaust was part of that."

In *Hitler's Furies* (2013), Lower reconstructed the role of German women in that colonial genocidal endeavor. To that point no one had accounted for the 500,000 young women on the Nazi eastern front, because they weren't 'supposed' to be there. "If you buy into the perception that women stay at home during war, then they are kind of free and innocent of the crimes of the war. But in this case, they weren't innocent." Not only did German women work in the camps and occupation administration, but—against the imagined distance and putative 'innocence' of the domestic sphere—almost all of the worst violence perpetuated by German women against Jews on the eastern front occurred in settler homes. This was not, Lower notes, unlike white women's violence on southern plantations in the US.

"One reaction to *Hitler's Furies* was disbelief that women could do this." Lower's hunch is that "there is hope" in the resistance to understanding atrocities and genocides as 'women's work.' The presumed



‘innocence’ of women protects the conscience against the possibility that humans have a general proclivity to depraved acts of violence. Lower’s argument is not that people are violent in general—this conclusion trades one cognitive occlusion for another—but that people are mutable. We make choices within the historical limits of our circumstances and those choices change us. Human agency is powerfully revealed in the choices we make as we respond to circumstances in real time. Our task is to pay attention to those choices and chart that transformation for better or worse.

It is not only people who have agency. Lower explains that “source materials also have a certain agency [which] sets things in motion—in teaching and research, in our awareness of the past, in the production of knowledge. I’m fascinated that a photograph that I looked at in 2009, I published a book about 2021. Usually, you publish a book and you get feedback – negative or positive – or expressions of gratitude or criticism. But I’m getting emails everyday—from a geneticist from Hebrew University, a ground penetrating radar scientist from Madrid, descendants of family members who died in the Holocaust, college students. They see this photograph and they want to participate in this process with me. They want to do something more, and now I’m putting them in touch with each other. I think it’s fascinating.”

It is this kind of relationship to source materials and passion for Holocaust Studies that Lower wishes to invest in her students. Having mentored and taught undergraduates in Holocaust Studies for two decades, Lower finds that students are coming to the classroom with a “larger awareness of human rights, human rights abuses, and social justice issues, whether it’s Black Lives Matter or anti-Asian racism, xenophobia, or white supremacy,” but a waning historical sensibility. Students, many of them encountering the Holocaust for the first time, are no less “shocked and stunned and mystified,” no less “affected emotionally and intellectually and challenged by the material,” than earlier generations of students. “But they come with different questions. They want to understand the bigger complex of human rights and mass atrocities or genocide. They’re coming at it from different personal experiences and backgrounds, and they’ve got other puzzles to solve - perhaps the Holocaust can help them understand themselves and their identity.” Lower embraces these highly energized students. The problem is sustaining their focused interest in the field. “You get this young person who is open and eager to learn,” but the community is grappling with new realities—beyond the shrinking of the humanities—that “make it more difficult to grab the attention of would-be scholars.” The feeling of presence that Lower experiences in the archives is confronted now by “the reality of fading history, fading memory, the survivors that have passed.” Having set off into scholarship as an undergraduate in the electric aftermath of the Holocaust in Vienna, Lower wonders: “Who is going to staff the museums? Who will be writing the next studies? That’s probably the biggest challenge right now: to keep young people at critical junctures in their lives interested in the Holocaust, not only that they are aware of it and remember it” but so that they “maybe even make that leap into a professional commitment.”

*Profile by Eda Uca.*

Eda Uca is a graduate student in the department of Religious Studies at Northwestern University, concentrating in American religious history and Orientalism, with secondary concentrations in religion and media, popular culture, and digital humanities. She is currently serving as a graduate assistant for the Holocaust Educational Foundation. Her advisor is Robert Orsi.





Mathilde Hasson was still an infant in 1929 when her parents, having grown tired of the Greek nationalist regime that followed the Ottoman collapse, uprooted their lives from Salonica. Immigrating to France seemed a natural choice; they spoke the language and had relatives who had resettled in Paris. Because her family was secular, it was not until the Second World War that Hasson understood Jewishness to be a marker of difference when her friend, a child of Russian immigrants, came to class with a yellow star stitched onto her coat. Hasson, not wearing one herself, assumed that it was a requirement reserved for Eastern European Jews. Jews from Greece, according to Hasson's memory, were different.

In the interwar decades, France's Jewish population grew dramatically from 150,000 to nearly 350,000, largely due to immigration. Most Jewish newcomers were Eastern European Ashkenazim who fled poverty and persecution and were drawn to France by liberal immigration policies as well as idealization of the Republic as the birthplace of Jewish emancipation. The cultural mark that they made on interwar Parisian Jewish life as well as their disproportionate persecution at the hands of Nazis and French collaborators during the Second World War have been extensively documented.

But how does the understudied community to which Mathilde Hasson and her family belonged—Sephardi Jews from the recently dismantled Ottoman Empire, whose population in Paris alone numbered upwards of 35,000 at the outbreak of World War II—fit into this master narrative? When embarking on my research journey, I hypothesized that their history would force a re-evaluation of how we understand the realities of Jewish immigrant communities in interwar and Second World War France for several reasons. First, the presence of Franco-Jewish educational organizations around the Mediterranean basin made French a dominant Sephardi language alongside Ladino, or Judeo-Spanish. Their familiarity with French culture upon arrival, I thought, would afford Sephardic Jewish immigrants access to relationships and opportunities closed to non-French speakers. Further, Sephardim often had extraterritorial privileges, vestiges of the imperial era that offered foreign protection beyond conventional national purviews. Many carried multiple passports as protégés of British, Italian, or Spanish consulates and citizens of Greece, Turkey, or France—coveted documents that were often held concurrently and heritable through generations.

Several key questions drove my research, which was generously funded by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University's Sharon Abramson Research Grant, and which took me to twelve archives in six countries. How, I asked, did cultural characteristics and legal ties that Sephardim brought from the Ottoman Empire to France shape interwar processes of settlement and





integration? How did social connections and cultural institutions from the interwar period impact experiences of persecution during occupation? How did relationships with foreign institutions create or limit options for survival during the Holocaust?

With help from the Sharon Abramson Research Grant, and that my research took place in a pre-COVID-19 world that we all miss dearly, I found crucial information in collections around the globe about how the Holocaust unfolded for Ottoman Sephardi immigrants. At the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris, I located survivor testimonies as well as perpetrator files from French wartime authorities and the Gestapo. These confirmed that in the early years of German occupation, Ottoman Sephardi immigrants were spared from some anti-Jewish legislation, due in part to the complexities of their national origins and legal ties. Seeing coreligionists' businesses confiscated and apartments plundered under Nazi and Vichy "Aryanization" laws, Ottoman Sephardim contacted consulates that had protected them in the past. They evoked expired passports and protégé papers, hoping for some sort of legal protection. Ostensibly neutral foreign actors, including Argentina, Portugal, Spain, and Turkey, eagerly stepped in to prevent the transfer of their subjects' enterprises to French administrators, and appointed "temporary operators." Their actions were likely motivated by a mix of economic and humanitarian factors.

At the Archivo General de la Administración in Madrid, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, and the Yad Vashem Archives in Jerusalem, I found documents showing how some Ottoman Sephardim were able to manipulate transnational ties as a means of escaping occupied France altogether. Bernardo Rolland de Miota, the Spanish Ambassador to Paris in the first years of the war, helped over eighty Ottoman Sephardi families to be repatriated to Spain. While most of these people had most likely never set foot on the Iberian Peninsula, their forebears had had access to Spanish protection under Ottoman rule. On August 10 of 1943, they boarded a train in Perpignan destined for Barcelona. All 304 passengers survived the war, and de Miota, who had defied orders not to save these Jews, was removed from his post and sent back to Madrid.

Despite these notable instances of exemption and rescue, Ottoman Sephardi immigrants were ultimately persecuted alongside other Jews in wartime France. Indeed, I found that several roundups carried out in Paris between 1942 and 1944 specifically targeted Jewish immigrants from Greece and Turkey. In the end, my findings reveal that victims, perpetrators, and bystanders alike saw Ottoman Sephardim as a community apart from other Jewish groups in France. While scholars have shown that legislation distinguished French from foreign Jews, I argue that divisions were more intricate. Ottoman Sephardim relied on their own institutions and networks for protection, were persecuted separately from Eastern European Jewish immigrants, and formed their own memory culture in the decades after genocide. These distinctions were at different times beneficial and detrimental, as shifting wartime alliances meant that Jews with Greek and Turkish affiliations transitioned from being protected to expendable subjects. As I work to turn my dissertation into a book, these sources—which connect the interwar legal and cultural characteristics of Ottoman Sephardi immigrants in Paris to their experiences of both persecution and survival during the Holocaust—will form the foundation of my arguments.



## FEATURED REPORT: BULLER

*Robin Buller received her PhD in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2021 with a dissertation titled, Ottoman Jews in Paris: Sephardi Immigrant Community, Culture, and Identity, 1918-1939. Dr. Buller is currently a lecturer at Sonoma State University and will be a Tandem Postdoctoral Fellow in the History of Migration at the German Historical Institute's Pacific Regional Office in Berkeley beginning next fall. Her article, "Salonican Jews in Auschwitz: Language, History, and Memory," appeared in the December 2018 issue of Yad Vashem Studies. Dr. Buller has received numerous fellowships in addition to the Sharon Abramson Research Grant including the Association for Jewish Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, the Claims Conference's Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies, the American Association for Jewish Research's Graduate Research Fellowship, as well as grants from the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and the UNC Chapel Hill Graduate School.*





In November 2012, after receiving a BA in general history, I embarked on my first trip as an aspiring historian beyond the University of Vienna, my academic home at the time. I had the honor of presenting a paper at the 12th Lessons and Legacies conference held at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. My research dealt with topics that remain the focus of my research. The conference provided an opportunity to connect with scholars from different backgrounds and academic traditions and introduced me to an array of perspectives that shaped my studies since. The input and perspectives I gained at Lessons & Legacies encouraged me to pursue and to expand my research interests.

My current PhD project deals with the history of Nazi perpetrators and how to integrate them into Holocaust education. Austria is a society shaped by denial of historical guilt, post-war integration of Nazis into postwar society, and a thriving far-right political landscape. Dealing with Nazi perpetrators is not a purely academic endeavor and in many ways remains taboo.

After completing my Master's degree in Contemporary History and working as a historian for the Jewish Community of Vienna, I enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Haifa. I began writing a dissertation about photographs taken by SS men at Nazi concentration camps, aiming to investigate not only what these images show, but also to analyze how Nazi perpetrators documented their deeds. In addition, I am curious about what functions these photos fulfilled. In order to achieve a chronological overview of the development of photography at camps and to establish a representative base of sources from various concentration camps, it was necessary to visit memorial sites in Germany and to conduct research in institutes that store historical perpetrator photographs. HEFNU's Sharon Abramson Research Grant proved to be of vital importance to conduct these trips and allowed me to expand the range of my sources. I saw the grant as a continuation of my exposure to international Holocaust Studies at the Evanston conference. It not only enabled me to travel to memorial sites and archives but also to engage with a variety of colleagues. Exchange with scholars and experts and the development of those exchanges into friendships are as important as the analysis and collection of sources. Without the Sharon Abramson Research Grant, neither archival research nor collegial exchanges would have been possible.

During the 2020 summer semester, I was a lecturer in the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Vienna. Thanks to the Sharon Abramson Research Grant, I was able to travel to Israel to conduct further research in photo archives to complement the base of sources for my study. The grant also provided funding for a final trip to the archives at the Buchenwald Memorial in Weimar and the



Sachsenhausen Memorial near Berlin. These two trips were especially significant, as they enabled me to collect all relevant sources, including a multivolume collection consisting of documents about photography at the Buchenwald concentration camp. This holding added survivor testimonies to my study that proved to be of exceptional importance in the analysis of visual perpetrator sources. The stories of survivors enabled me to explore the experience of those who were photographed in order to understand more about the circumstances of the production of pictures in the camps, the intention of SS photographers, and to explore that which was not photographed.

The essential documents collected during my research trips expand beyond the frame of the perpetrators' camera and allow me to sharpen my arguments towards understanding the SS photos as representations of the 'perpetrators' gaze. The grant enabled me to follow my aspiration that was rooted in the 2012 Lessons & Legacies conference in Evanston: to conduct research and teaching in Holocaust Studies on an international scale and to engage with an international community of Holocaust scholars.

*Lukas Meissel is a PhD candidate in Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa. His PhD project analyses photographs taken by SS men at concentration camps. Prior to his studies in Israel, he worked as a historian in the Jewish community of Vienna, while serving as deputy chairperson for GEDENKDIENST, a Vienna-based NGO in the field of Holocaust Education. Lukas has worked on projects on behalf of Yad Vashem, and has guided numerous study trips to memorial sites in various countries since 2008. He received fellowships in Israel, the US, Germany and Austria and published on visual history, Holocaust Studies/Education and antisemitism. Currently, he is a Junior Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) in Vienna, Austria.*







### Annual Spring Theodore Zev Weiss Lecture

In “Coming After: The Wand of Transmission,” Eva Hoffman reflected on the role and perspective of the post-Holocaust generation in extending our understanding of that history-altering event. As the generation of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust passes on, the task of both their direct heirs, and the larger “second generation” is to move from personal memory to the investigation of history on the one hand; and at the same time, to incorporate our knowledge of more recent developments and events into our attempts to grapple with the causes of collective atrocity, and its possible prevention. Watch the event [here](#).

Eva Hoffman grew up in Cracow, Poland, before emigrating in her teens to Canada and then the United States. After receiving her doctorate in literature from Harvard University, she worked as senior editor and literary critic at *The New York Times*, and has taught at various British and American universities. Her books, which have been translated widely, include *Lost in Translation*, *Exit Into History*, *After Such Knowledge* and *Time*, as well as two novels, *The Secret* and *Illuminations*. She has written and presented programs for BBC Radio and has lectured internationally on subjects of exile, historical memory, cross-cultural relations and other contemporary issues. Her awards include the Guggenheim Fellowship, Whiting Award for Writing, an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters and Prix Italia for Radio. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and holds an honorary doctorate from Warwick University. She is currently a Visiting Professor at UCL and lives in London.

On April 20, 2021 HEFNU presented a virtual book event with featured author, Anna Hájková (University of Warwick), in conversation with Jennifer Evans (Carleton University; member of the College of New Scholars, Royal Society of Canada), on *The Last Ghetto: An Everyday History of Theresienstadt* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020). *The Last Ghetto* is the first in-depth analytical history of a prison society during the Holocaust. Rather than depict the prison society which existed within the ghetto as an exceptional one, unique in kind and not understandable by normal analytical

methods, Hájková argues that such prison societies that developed during the Holocaust are best understood as simply other instances of the societies human beings create under normal circumstances. Challenging conventional claims of Holocaust exceptionalism, Hájková insists instead that we ought to view the Holocaust with the same analytical tools as other historical events. Watch the event [here](#).

Anna Hájková is Associate Professor of Modern European Continental History at the University of Warwick. Hájková’s research explores everyday life and how it was affected by life in extremis, as well intersections of sexuality and violence and the erasure of certain sexualities from the Holocaust canon.



Lawrence Baron, Professor Emeritus, San Diego State University, offered a lecture by Zoom, "Rebels with an Aryan Cause: White Supremacists in American Feature Films," for Gratz@home on February 16, 2021. He compiles a weekly list titled "B'nai Binge" of streaming Jewish Studies lectures and programs (including many about the Holocaust) that appears in daily segments on the main page of the Association for Jewish Studies website under the tab for Events in Jewish Studies.

John R. Barruzza, Postdoctoral Fellow, Martin-Springer Institute, Department of Comparative Cultural Studies, Northern Arizona University, received his PhD in history from Syracuse University in December 2020. His dissertation, *The Good Italian, the Bad German, and the Survivor: Narratives and Counter-Narratives of the Shoah in Italy*, explores the history and memory of the Holocaust in Italy primarily through the lives, voices, and experiences of survivors. For the 2021 calendar year, he is on a postdoctoral fellowship with the Martin-Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University, where he is teaching courses on the Holocaust through the Department of Comparative Cultural Studies and preparing his dissertation for book publication.

Judy Tydor Baumel-Schwartz, Director, The Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University Ramat Gan Israel. Since the pandemic began the Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research moved its events to written and Zoom platforms with great success. In November we held a webinar to commemorate the 82nd anniversary of "Kristallnacht" devoted to our newly published volume *Her Story, My Story? Writing About Women and the Holocaust* (Bern: Peter Lang Publishers, 2020). To commemorate the 10th of Tevet, the General Day of Kaddish, we held a webinar in December together with the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University. Ayala Nedivi, a Spiegel Fellow at the Institute, discussed the artist Yehuda Bacon and we held the first presentation of the Krumholtz Prize, given by Dr. Ronit Fisher in memory of her parents Zvi and Augustine Krumholtz. We marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27) with "Writing the Unwritable: An Inter-disciplinary Approach to Holocaust Postmemory," a Zoom conference initiated by Dr. Rony Alfandary, in cooperation with the Department of Social Work, Bar-Ilan University, and the Department of Social Work at the University of Haifa. In March, the Institute, the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, and the Israel Police Heritage Museum held a webinar marking the 60th anniversary of the Eichmann trial with a panel discussion on the "Eichmann Trial in Historical Perspective." The Institute and the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry held a webinar commemoration of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) in April. Tehila Darmon Malka, a Spiegel Fellow at the Finkler Institute, discussed "Missing Holocaust Victims" in Israeli Films and we presented the annual Plager-Ziskind prize. In lieu of the annual Spiegel Forum Conference, Itzik Pass, Institute and Forum coordinator, initiated a weekly Zoom lecture series given by members of our "Spiegel Fellows" Forum. In June we held a webinar, "Jews in the Service of the Nazis" –collaboration, forced cooperation, and everything in between. The Poland Forum held a four-part zoom conference in the spring, initiated by Lea Ganor, the Forum's coordinator. We added members to most forums; 560 research and public fellows are now associated with the Finkler Institute. Our website, run by Media Coordinator, Aliza Adelman, is our gateway to the public and is bursting with new activity, including our own YouTube channel on which we uploaded our first Zoom conference "Women in Auschwitz and During the Holocaust," held with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York and its Auschwitz Exhibition in June.



Following the success of our first volume based on Forum activities, *Her Story, My Story? Writing About Women During the Holocaust*, we have been hard at work on four new volumes. *All Our Brothers and Sisters: Jews Saving Jews During the Holocaust*, edited by Judy Baumel-Schwartz and Alan Schneider, was published in April by Peter Lang Press in cooperation of the World B'nai B'rith Organization in Jerusalem. *Researchers Remember: Research as an Arena of Memory for Offspring of Holocaust Survivors, A Collection of Academic Autobiographies*, edited by Baumel-Schwartz and Shmuel Refael-Vivante, will be published by Peter Lang in 2021 in cooperation with the Salti Institute for the Study of Ladino, the Dr. Zorach Warhaftig Institute for the Study of Religious Zionism, and the Sal Van Gelder Center for the Study of Holocaust Education. A Hebrew edition will be published by Yediot Aharonont-Sifrei Hemed. A third volume, *Their Words, Our Lives: Holocaust Literature and Representation*, is being edited by Phyllis Lassner and Baumel-Schwartz. *Unto Your Children and Your Children's Children: A Multidisciplinary Perspective on Offspring of Holocaust Survivors*, will be edited by Baumel-Schwartz and Amit Shrira.

Chad S.A. Gibbs, PhD Candidate, Department of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, has accepted a position as assistant professor of Jewish Studies and director of the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies at the College of Charleston.

Laure Guilbert, Independent researcher, Associate member of the Centre d'histoire des mondes contemporains, Université Paris 1 - Panthéon Sorbonne is currently researching dance practices and uses in the ghettos and camps of the Third Reich as well as exile of the German speaking choreographic avant-garde (1933-1950). Past research focused on dance under the Third Reich.

John-Paul Himka, Professor emeritus, Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta, announces that his book *Ukrainian Nationalists and the Holocaust: OUN and UPA's Participation in the Destruction of Ukrainian Jewry, 1941-44* has been accepted by ibidem-Verlag.

Anna Holian, Associate Professor, School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies, Arizona State University, has received a National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship for her book project "Setting Up Shop in the House of the Hangman: Jewish Economic Life in Postwar Germany."

Barbara Krasner, Adjunct Professor, Holocaust & Genocide Studies, The College of New Jersey Director, Mercer County Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Center (Mercer County Community College, NJ) Adjunct Professor, Liberal Arts, Mercer County Community College Adjunct Professor, English & History, William Paterson University PhD candidate, Holocaust & Genocide Studies, Gratz College, was appointed January 1, 2021 as Director, Mercer County Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Center housed at Mercer County Community College in New Jersey. She presented in March 2021 on "Holocaust Memorial Books as Folk Objects" at the 2021 Northeast MLA Conference and will be presenting "Storyquake: The Convergence of Historical and Narrative Truths in Yizkor Books" in July



2021 at the annual Memory Studies Association. Her middle-grade novel in verse, *37 Days at Sea: Aboard the MS St. Louis, 1939* (Minneapolis: Kar Ben/Lerner Publishing, 2021) debuted on May 1 and will be featured as a book club selection of PJ Our Way. In May 1939, nearly one thousand German-Jewish passengers boarded the M.S. St. Louis luxury liner bound for Cuba. They hoped to escape the dangers of Nazi Germany and find safety in Cuba. In this novel in verse, twelve-year-old Ruthie Arons is one of the refugees, traveling with her parents. Ruthie misses her grandmother, who had to stay behind in Breslau, and worries when her father keeps asking for his stomach pills. But when the ship is not allowed to dock in Havana as planned--and when she and her friend Wolfie discover a Nazi on board--Ruthie must take action. In the face of hopelessness, she and her fellow passengers refuse to give up on the chance for a new life. On April 7, she joined USHMM retired director Scott Miller and survivor Hans Fisher in a Yom Hashoah commemoration event about the MS St. Louis. Krasner has also published "I, Divided," in *Consequence* 13 (September 2021). "I, Divided," is a short story about a Holocaust survivor and his split personality between his prewar Srul and Holocaust Israel as he participates in a series of oral history interviews.

Robert Krell, MD announces the publication of his memoir, *Sounds from Silence: Reflections of a Child Holocaust Survivor, Psychiatrist and Teacher* (Oegstgeest: Amsterdam Publishers, 2021), which should be available by August.

Björn Krondorfer, Director, Martin-Springer Institute and Endowed Professor of Religious Studies, Northern Arizona University, was awarded the Regents' Professorship at Northern Arizona University, an "honored position reserved for faculty scholars of exceptional ability who have achieved national and international distinction." The description continues: "The Regents' Professor serves as recognition of the highest academic merit and is awarded to faculty members who have made a unique contribution to the quality of the University through distinguished accomplishments in teaching, scholarship, research, or creative work."

Susan J. Landau-Chark, Associate Director, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, reports that Carleton University signed an MOU with Gratz College in December. The ZC is very excited to be working with Gratz College on behalf of Carleton University. Jacques Shore, a donor and past chair of Carleton University's board of governors and its executive committee, spoke about his mother's relationship with Gratz College. Lena Allen-Shore was the founder and director of the Lena Allen-Shore Center in Philadelphia, where she taught for more than 30 years. Shore noted, "Today's MOU gives Gratz, a leader in university e-learning, and Carleton, an unbelievable opportunity to work together and to engage students and faculty around the world." In February after five years of fruitful cooperation, ZC and the Centre for Holocaust Education and Scholarship (CHES) are entering a new phase in their relationship. CHES intends to expand its programming capabilities and operate independently as a registered charity. The two centres will continue to collaborate on a variety of Holocaust Education programs in pursuit of mutual goals. Holocaust and Antisemitism scholarship are central to the ZC's mission and it will continue to





## PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL NEWS

provide leadership in Holocaust scholarship and education through a variety of programs and initiatives on campus and in the broader community. Events continue to be held online. In January, for International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27), Hillel Ottawa, Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program, Embassy of Israel in Canada, and ZC hosted a panel discussion on the documentary *Glass Negatives* directed by Jan Borowiec. The theme of the panel discussion was “Lost Memory, Forgotten Lessons? Holocaust Education & the Challenge of Antisemitism Today.” In February, Dr. Rohee Dasgupta spoke on “Cosmopolitics and Holocaust Education” and the importance of teaching the Holocaust in multicultural societies. Recordings of these two events can be found [here](#). Also in February, as part of Black History Month, the movie *Shared Legacies* was aired, followed by a panel discussion (see [here](#)). This event was sponsored by ZC, Department of History at Carleton, Temple Israel, and the US Embassy. In March, Dr. Mary Jane Ainslie spoke on “Challenging Antisemitism in Contemporary Malaysia: Countering Malay nationalist forces through pro-Israel expressions.” In April, prior to Yom HaShoa, the Zelikovitz Centre hosted Emanuel Rosen, author of *If Anyone Calls, Tell Them I Died*. Through this memoir, Rosen is seeking to understand how his grandfather, Hugo Mendel, managed to escape to Israel with his family in 1933, but killed himself one afternoon in Tel Aviv in 1956, shortly after his return from Germany.

Phyllis Lassner, Professor Emerita, Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies, Gender Studies and Writing Programs at Northwestern, participated in several Zoom events, including a forum on post-Holocaust Polish films for the Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Society (JAHLIT) and presented a paper at the Assoc. for Jewish Studies (AJS) on films dealing with intermarriage under the Third Reich. She also Zoom lectured on “Remembering the Kindertransport” for Case Western University. Lassner co-organized a Seminar for the April 2021 American Comparative Literature Association on the subject of women's wartime diaries and co-organized a Seminar on “The Visual Turn in Holocaust Representation” for the 2021 Lessons and Legacies Conference (postponed to 2022). She is organizing panels at JAHLIT and the Assoc. for Israel Studies commemorating Rachel Brenner.

Holli Levitsky, Professor of English and Director of Jewish Studies at Loyola Marymount University, has a book forthcoming with ibidem-Verlag: *Ukrainian Nationalists and the Holocaust: OUN and UPA's Participation in the Destruction of Ukrainian Jewry, 1941-1944*.

Erin McGlothlin, Professor of German and Jewish Studies, Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Washington University in St. Louis, has been appointed Vice Dean of Undergraduate Affairs in Arts & Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, effective June 1, 2021. In this capacity, she is responsible for the university's liberal arts and sciences curriculum, which serves all Washington University undergraduates, the majority of whom major or minor in an Arts & Sciences discipline. The Perpetrator Studies Network featured a [book launch](#) of Erin McGlothlin's monograph *The Mind of the Holocaust Perpetrator in Fiction and Nonfiction* (Wayne State University Press, 2021). It featured a presentation by McGlothlin along with comments by discussants Gary Weissman and Katharina von Kellenbach. The event took place on Monday, June 10. See [here](#) for more information.



Paul Morrow, Postdoctoral Fellow, Human Rights Center, University of Dayton, became a member of the antisemitism committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Dayton in February 2021. His article "The Meaning of Mass Atrocities Beyond 'Our Moral Fate'" appeared in the journal *Analyse & Kritik* this spring. In June, Morrow will co-present research conducted with a UD undergraduate on Holocaust-related TikTok videos at Ben Gurion University's virtual conference "Digital Holocaust Memory from the Margins."

Golan Moskowitz, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies, Tulane University, on Wednesday, May 5 at 3:00pm EST, participated on a panel for Liberation75 called "Belonging Differently: Queer Identities Among the 2nd & 3rd Generations." Moskowitz was also a participant in "The Search for Humanity After Atrocity," the NEH-funded faculty seminar hosted by Kean University in June.

Jonathan Petropoulos, John V Croul Professor of European History at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California, is currently a William Rosenberg Senior Scholar, Yale University, Spring 2021 (on sabbatical for one semester), affiliated with the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies.

Erika Quinn, Professor of History, Eureka College, was appointed to the Illinois State Commission on Holocaust and Genocide in January 2021.

Alasdair Richardson, Senior Lecturer, Institute of Education, University of Winchester (UK), has a new mobile exhibition on the 22 Salesian priests sent to Auschwitz, the story he tells in his recent book, (see pg. 27). The exhibition is due to go into local schools and parishes once Covid restrictions allow. For further information, or to book the exhibition, contact [alasdair.richardson@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:alasdair.richardson@winchester.ac.uk).

John K. Roth, Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy Claremont McKenna College, as a member of the Holocaust Educational Foundation's speakers bureau, taught at the University of Virginia on November 5, 2020. In late January 2021, he made two presentations for the Living History Forum, Stockholm, Sweden. Roth lectured on "Ethics and the Holocaust" for the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach on February 16, 2021. On February 25, 2021, he participated in the UMass Amherst/Stockton University roundtable on Advancing Holocaust Studies. On March 10, 2021, Roth delivered the first annual Eva Fleischner lecture at Seton Hill University, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Melanie Carina Schmoll, PhD, Research Fellow, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University, Israel, and independent author. Schmoll received her doctorate from the University of Hamburg, Germany. She holds an MA and BA degree in the fields of Political Science, History and Philosophy. Her main research focuses on Israel, specifically security issues and Holocaust Education. She works for different schoolbook publishing houses in German-speaking countries as an author and expert for history classes, as well as for political science, geography, law and social studies classes. In January 2021, she published her essay on "Israel and the ripeness of the moment: Negotiations with Arab / Muslim countries." In March, Schmoll presented first results of her study on "Holocaust Education in Israel and Germany: What Israel and Germany might learn from each other" at the Western Jewish Studies Association conference in Las Vegas.



## PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL NEWS

Arthur B. Shostak, is retired since 2003 from 43 years (1961-2003) as a Sociologist and has been a Holocaust Scholar ever since. Shostak is completing a package of 165 Powerpoint Slides that provide middle and high school students with a cogent introduction to the Holocaust, one that includes the Help as well as the Harm Story (available on request). He is writing a new book tentatively entitled *Holocaust Woke: A Call for an Inspiring Reset in the Holocaust Narrative*, and seeks a publisher. He is also completing a book review for employ in a European journal of ideas on a 2019 edition of one of the first survivor memoirs, *I was a Doctor in Auschwitz*, authored by Dr. Gisella Perl, whose recall is gripping, quite distressing, and yet finally uplifting.

Therkel Straede, Professor of Contemporary History, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark, in an online lecture presented by the New York City Museum of Jewish Heritage on March 11, 2021, presented results of his ongoing research on networks of rescue and Jewish agency during the October 1943 Nazi persecution of the Jews of Denmark. The STUTTHOF MARITIME EVACUATIONS PROJECT, conducted by Therkel with colleagues from the University of Southern Denmark and the Neuengamme Memorial Museum in Hamburg, Germany, was successfully concluded. The final Academic Report (to be published later) accounts for all barges that took part in the April/May 1945 evacuation of prisoners from the Stutthof concentration camp to Danish and German harbors in the Western Baltic Sea, and for the atrocities committed during the operation with massacres at Lauterbach, Neustadt/Holstein and at high sea. The report was presented to the Grant Committee of the co-sponsoring International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance together with ideas for a follow-up project aimed at the dissemination of research results to wider audiences like schools, local communities, and Stutthof survivors and their relatives. Also, the U. Southern Denmark project on THERESIENSTADT: TOPOGRAPHY OF MEMORY, led by Therkel, continued its activities with a Czech version of the successful [website](#) to be launched within the next months in cooperation with the Památník Terezín Museum, and a German version forthcoming. Follow the activities of the project and of project supporter Ib Katznelson, Danish economist and child survivor of Ravensbrück and Theresienstadt, on Instagram: @danish.jews.in.theresienstadt!

Edward B. Westermann, Regents Professor of History Texas A&M University-San Antonio, was named Regents Professor of History by the Texas A&M Board of Regents, the system's highest academic honor, in November 2020. He has been involved with a number of book talks based on his recently published monograph *Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany* (Cornell, 2021) including talks for Yahad-In Unum, the Wiener Holocaust Library, and the Holocaust Museum of Houston among others.



## IN MEMORIAM

Jonathan Steinberg (1934-2021) Cambridge University and University of Pennsylvania, is with us no more. Born in 1934 in New York, he was the son of Rabbi Milton Steinberg of the Park Avenue Synagogue. Jonathan died in Cambridge, where he had spent the bulk of his academic life, on 4th March 2021, a few days short of his 87th birthday. His razor-sharp mind succumbed to Alzheimer's Disease in his last years. He began his career as a banker with the Warburg Bank in New York, but then, as he told me: "One day I woke up and decided I wanted to be a historian." And so it was. With a B.A. from Harvard, he came to Cambridge University as a graduate student, where his Ph.D. supervisor at St. John's College was Harry Hinsley, one of the legendary cryptanalysts at top-secret Bletchley Park during the war. He then remained at Cambridge as a research fellow of Christ's College from 1963-1966, where the historian, Jack Plumb, another Bletchley Park codebreaker focusing on the cyphers of Hitler's navy, was a mentor and friend. This was a period of some indignation in the college over the none too thinly veiled caricatures of the fellows (and notably Plumb) in C.P. Snow's novel, *The Masters*. No surprise, perhaps, that Jonathan's first book in 1965 concerned the German navy. After the Second World War, the attention of historians of Germany was directed at unraveling the workings of the Third Reich. But among the mountains of paperwork captured by the Allies was the German Naval Archive prior to the First World War. No-one had paid much attention to that until Jonathan Steinberg made it the focus of his research. *Yesterday's Deterrent* was not a title that would make you dash to the nearest bookshop, and the publisher changed it after a while to the perhaps more appealing *Tirpitz and the Birth of the German Battle Fleet*. It was a careful and readable analysis of the formidable growth of the German navy, leading up to the First World War, at the hands of master propagandist, Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz.

Cambridge University then appointed Jonathan as Assistant Lecturer in 1966, and he moved to a full fellowship a few streets away at Trinity Hall. Although teaching European and American history there for the next 33 years, the parsimonious appointments system at Cambridge never made Dr. Steinberg a Professor, though he did progress to the distinguished rank of Reader in European History. Escaping Cambridge's mandatory retirement age, he left for an endowed chair at the University of Pennsylvania in the year 2000 and finally became the Walter Annenberg Professor of Modern History. He thought it the perfect career move at that time of his life: "Half the teaching and twice the salary," he chuckled. Throughout his career, he proved as dependable at marshaling people and institutions as with documents from archives. He was co-editor of *The Historical Journal* from 1990-2000, Vice-Master of Trinity Hall from 1990-94, and later chair of the History Department at Penn.

Wags in Cambridge greeted the publication in 1975 of *Why Switzerland?* with the question, "Yes, Jonathan, why?" but he had the last laugh. This much-acclaimed history of that oft-neglected country has been in print ever since, its third edition appearing forty years later in 2015. As interest in the Holocaust grew, his 1990 book, *All or Nothing: The Axis and the Holocaust, 1941-1943*, took a broader view than works that focused on Germany alone, by comparing Italian Fascist and German Nazi attitudes and policies toward the Jews during the war. And in 1999 Jonathan's background as a banker came to the fore in *The Deutsche Bank and its Gold Transactions during the Second World War*, contributing to the discussion about the financial secrets of Nazi Germany.

I suppose that Jonathan must have chosen as a banker to ignore the idea of risk aversion. Other-wise, why would he have taken on this graduate student as a Ph.D. candidate in history, who had not even attempted a G.C.E. 'O' level in history, having given up that boring subject at school at age 14 for the opportunity to learn German instead? But Jonathan was enthusiastic at our very first meeting about my research proposal to investigate the infiltration of National Socialism into German





## IN MEMORIAM

universities in the 1930s and quickly agreed to be my supervisor. I thought I was applying to work toward a doctorate in German, my undergraduate degree, but Cambridge University ruled that it was to be in History. Clearly, I had a lot of catching up to do. Jonathan let me on a long leash, yet I was still rather terrified of him, and arrived sweating for my supervisions in those early days, after clambering up the many flights of stairs to his study in college at attic level. However, Jonathan made me feel comfortable in his graduate seminar on “The Nazi Seizure of Power”. The assigned readings included the massive, multi-hundred-page tomes of the latest German scholarship—Matthias & Morsey (800 pages) and Bracher/Sauer/Schulz (1,800 pages)! I was rather intimidated by being the only person there without a B.A. in History. But then I realized that I was also the only student in the room who was really fluent in German, even though the sesquipedalian verbiage of German scholarly texts was still a bit daunting to me.

Once I was in Germany to conduct my research, our contact was mainly by letter, and Jonathan was repeatedly excited by my progress. A couple of his other students with me in Hamburg basically sat in the archives all day long. Jonathan encouraged me, however, to venture out and talk to eyewitnesses from the academic world of the Third Reich, now that relatively affordable, portable, reel-to-reel tape recorders were coming onto the market. He was amused by my trick to win over the first Nazi rector of Hamburg University, by appearing on the old man’s doorstep in bowler hat and furled umbrella to be greeted as “a genuine Englishman”, demonstrating that I was not one of those nasty Marxist historians who were taking over the academy at the time. He applauded my success in tracking down for interviews all the former (and unrepentant!) national Nazi student leaders. And he was thrilled that I became good friends with Albert Suhr, a surviving member of the Hamburg branch of the White Rose Resistance group against Hitler. Not least, we chortled together over the devious subterfuge by which I had tricked the Hamburg State Archives into delivering to my desk some crucial records of the Nazi student association, about the existence of which they had flatly lied to me for the previous eighteen months. I always had the impression that Jonathan wished he were right there with me in Hamburg, and that feeling of empathy and support meant a lot to me.

And he was always ready to help you make connections. In December 1973 I received as a Brit the unexpected permission to work in the East German State Archives in Potsdam, the application for which was invariably met with a brusque refusal for my American fellow graduate students. Jonathan told me I simply had to go and see Harry Hinsley before I disappeared behind the Iron Curtain. I was duly briefed by the great man in his study in the tower at St. John’s, at the end of which he clapped his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eye, and said, “Good luck, Giles!”, as though I, too, were on some sort of top-secret wartime mission and might never make it back again! In later years Jonathan and I enjoyed catching up whenever I visited Cambridge, where we both taught at different summer schools in the long vacation for several years. I think he rather reveled in some of the cloistered privileges of Cambridge, though in a totally non-snobbish way. He was never one with whom you would go for a pint of beer in a pub, but there was always a ready invitation for a quiet lunch with the fellows at Trinity Hall, or tea at the rather grand University Combination Room.

Jonathan was far from being a lonely scholar in the ivory tower. He sparkled when lecturing and was never happier than when invited to give a talk on BBC Radio. And in 2011, his great biography, *Bismarck: A Life*, made him something of a celebrity, after Henry Kissinger wrote a glowing review for the New York Times, calling it “the best study of its subject in the English language.” He embarked upon book tours and noted with amusement that for a few weeks the book leapt ahead of comedian Tina Fey’s memoir, *Bossypants*, in Amazon’s bestseller list! He loved to ignite sparks of interest in history among as wide a public as possible, and happily recorded a series of lectures on prominent



## IN MEMORIAM

figures in European history for the “Great Courses” series. This, too, brought him fan mail. He commented wryly: “A long-distance truck driver e-mailed me that he listened to the biographies as he drove. Bismarck on Route 66!”

Jonathan’s interest in the Holocaust remained strong, and he attended several of the Lessons & Legacies conferences of the Holocaust Educational Foundation. The last time I saw him at the German Studies Association’s annual conference a few years ago, he did not recognize me until I explained who I was. But then his face lit up with the familiar sparkle. At the time I did not realize that Alzheimer’s was beginning to descend upon him.

We have all attended many lectures where our eyes droop and we struggle to stay awake. No-one ever felt sleepy during one of Jonathan Steinberg’s seminars. You stayed as wide awake and attentive as he was. And you didn’t dare let your mind wander, because the next penetrating question about this week’s topic might well be shot across the room at you! Jonathan was an engaging teacher and a caring mentor. I always felt that his greatest gift to me as a graduate student was to let me get on with things on my own, to make my own way, albeit perhaps floundering here and there, without his breathing down my neck the whole time. He was always there to help if I needed him, but for the most part I struggled, oh how I struggled, to repay the trust he had placed in me. And I believe that made me a stronger historian. Let us hope that other historians like Jonathan will continue the tradition and imperative to inspire as he did. -Emeritus Professor Geoffrey J. Giles



## UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE HEFNU COMMUNITY

Björn Krondorfer, Director, Martin-Springer Institute and Endowed Professor of Religious Studies, Northern Arizona University, announces that this year, the Martin-Springer Institute, founded by Holocaust survivor Doris Martin (nee Szpringer) and her husband, celebrates its 20th anniversary at Northern Arizona University. We have offered public educational programming for students and the community alike for twenty years—on local, regional, national, and international levels. If pandemic restrictions allow, we will host an international symposium in Flagstaff on "Post-Auschwitz and Post-Gulag Legacies: Building Blocks for an Ethics and Theology of Responsibility" in October 2021.

Susan J. Landau-Chark, Associate Director, Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, announces that November in Ottawa is Holocaust Education Month and the ZC is in discussion with the Azrieli Foundation to jointly launch the book, Escape From The Edge, a Holocaust Survivor story by Dr. Morris Schnitzer. Stay tuned!

Holli Levitsky, Professor of English and Director of Jewish Studies at Loyola Marymount University, announces the 26th Annual Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium will take place October 24-27, 2021. Call for papers and more information [here](#).



Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs has published *Islands of Memory: The Landscape of the (Non)Memory of the Holocaust in Polish Education from 1989 to 2015* (Jagiellonian University Press, Krakow 2020). "This work by Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs is a fascinating contribution to the studies of Polish memory of the Holocaust, and particularly how it is shaped by the educational process. It is almost entirely based on results of quantitative and qualitative research conducted among young people in Poland in 2008. The goal was to assess students' knowledge of the Holocaust, their attitude towards Jews and the scale of antisemitic convictions amongst them. The respondents replied to questions raised following the publication of *Neighbors* by Jan Tomasz Gross, which resulted not only in stormy debate on the participation of some Poles in the Holocaust, but also in new research on this subject. Have these new findings about the dark pages in Polish history permeated the curricula and content of school textbooks? Have they found their reflection in the consciousness of young people? Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs answers these questions in this insightful work which explores the numerous meanders of education about the Holocaust in Poland. *Islands of Memory* may be seen as an endorsement of non-conventional forms of educating about the Holocaust, of the local initiatives to commemorate it and the educational efforts undertaken beyond the school walls by teachers and volunteers who act as guardians of memory. We might not find their names in the headlines, but this book is very much about them." (Review by Piotr Forecki, professor of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

Betsy Anthony's *The Compromise of Return: Viennese Jews after the Holocaust* (Wayne State University Press, 2021) explores the motivations and expectations that inspired Viennese Jews to reestablish lives in their hometown after the devastation and trauma of the Holocaust. Elizabeth Anthony investigates their personal, political, and professional endeavors, revealing the contours of their experiences of returning to a post-Nazi society, with full awareness that most of their fellow Austrians had embraced the Nazi takeover and their country's unification with Germany—clinging to a collective national identity myth as "first victim" of the Nazis. Anthony weaves together archival documentation with oral histories, interviews, memoirs, and personal correspondence to craft a multilayered, multivoiced narrative of return focused on the immediate postwar years.

Lawrence Baron has written "Kristallnacht on Film: From Reportage to Reenactments, 1938-1948," in *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*, Volume 16 (2020). It was updated in March 2021.

John R. Barruzza has written "Genocide and Indifference at Milano Centrale Station: A Microhistorical Analysis of the Holocaust in Italy" in *Deportations of the Jewish Population in Territories under Nazi Control*, edited by Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (Forthcoming) and "Countering Memory with Memorial: Remembering Indifference at the Shoah Memorial of Milan," in *Camps of Transit, Sites of Memory*, edited by Fondazione Ex-Campo Fossoli (Pieterlen and Bern: Peter Lang, Forthcoming, 2021).

Alan L. Berger's *Elie Wiesel: Humanist Messenger for Peace* (Routledge Press, May, 2021. Historical Americans Series) analyzes Wiesel's transformation from a pre-Holocaust God-fearing youth to a Shoah survivor left with questions for both God and humanity. An unofficial advisor to American presidents of both political parties, his nearly 60 books voiced an activism on behalf of oppressed people everywhere. The book illuminates Wiesel's contributions in the areas of religion, human rights, literature, and Jewish thought to show the impact he has had on American life.





Hilary Earl and Simone Gigliotti announce the publication of their new edited collection, *A Companion to the Holocaust*, published by WILEY Blackwell in 2020. The volume contains 36 essays by scholars from the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Norway, and Israel. The volume is currently available in hardcover as well as electronically, and will be published in paper in the coming years. Details about purchasing are available [here](#).

Silvia Goldbaum Tarabini Fracapane announces the publication of *The Jews of Denmark in the Holocaust. Life and Death in Theresienstadt Ghetto* (Routledge, 2021). Based on never previously explored personal accounts and archival documentation, this book examines life and death in the Theresienstadt ghetto, seen through the eyes of the 470 men, women, and children that were deported to the ghetto from Denmark. Through a micro-historical analysis of everyday life, it describes various aspects of social and daily life in proximity to death. In doing so, the volume illuminates the diversity of individual situations and conveys the deportees' perceptions and striving for survival and 'normality'.

Laure Guilbert's recent publications include "The Micro-Gestures of Survival: Searching for the Forgotten Traces", in Naomi Jackson, Rebecca Pappas, Toni Shapiro-Phim (eds.), *Oxford Handbook of Jewishness and Dance in Contemporary Perspective* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021); "Dancers under Duress. The Forgotten Resistance of Fireflies," in Ruth Eshel, Judith Brin Ingber (eds.), *Mahol Achshav/Dance Today, The Dance Magazine of Israel* (Tel Aviv: 09/2019, No. 36); "Choral Dance: Staging of the 'People's Community'. 1936-1945," in Patrick Primavesi, LIGNA (eds.), *Körperpolitik, Bewegungschöre/Body Politics, Movement Choirs* (Leipzig: Spector Books, 2019); "The Fallout of Choreographic Signs/Der Nachlass von choreographischen Zeichen," in Zasha Colah, Steirischer Herbst (eds.), *Body Luggage. Migration of Gestures/Migration von Gesten* (Catalogue of the exhibition, 09/2016-01/2017) (Graz: Kunsthaus, Steirischer Herbst Festival, Berlin: Archive Books, 2016).

Laura J. Hilton has published "Memorialization, Reconciliation, & Reflection: Teaching the Aftermaths of Genocide in Postwar Europe and Rwanda," in *The History Teacher*, Volume 54 (2), 2021: 271-295.

John-Paul Himka's *Ukrains'ko-ievreis'ki vzaïemny: vid istorii do pam"iati* [Ukrainian-Jewish Relations: From History to Memory] (Kyiv: Dukh i Litera, 2019) is a collection of essays and articles on the Holocaust in Ukraine. The texts were originally written and published in English and translated into Ukrainian.

Stanislav Kolar has published "Ordinary Stories in Extraordinary Times: Marcie Hershman's Tales of the Master Race," in *American and British Studies Annual* 13 (2020): 108-118. This article examines the categories of perpetrators, bystanders and victims as represented among the characters of Marcie Hershman's short story cycle *Tales of the Master Race*. The main focus is on the characters of perpetrators, as it is predominantly from their perspectives that Hershman depicts life in a small German town during the Third Reich.

Barbara Krasner has published a review of *Reframing Holocaust Testimony* by Noah Shenker, in *The Oral History Review* 47, no. 2 (September 2020): 339-340.



Björn Krondorfer published in 2020 *Unsettling Empathy: Working with Groups in Conflict* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers). It is an in-depth reflection and analysis on why and how unsettling empathy is a crucial component in reconciliatory processes. Located at the intersection of memory studies, reconciliation studies, and trauma studies, the book is at its core transdisciplinary, presenting a fresh perspective on how to conceive of concepts and practices when working with groups in conflict. The book makes an important contribution to seeking fresh pathways toward an ethical practice of living together in light of past agonies and current conflicts. In 2021, he published the peer-reviewed article, "Hunger: Testing Testimonial Limits in the Gray Zone" in *Humanities* 10/21.

Phyllis Lassner's recent publications include "Double Jeopardy: The Fate of Intermarriage and Justice in the Films *Redemption Road* and *Max and Helene*" in *Humanities* 2021, 10, 6 and "The Cinematic Haunting of British World War II Memory: Genghis Cohn" in *The Space Between Journal: Literature and Culture 1914-1945* Special issue: International Cinema in the Long 1930s. Vol. 16 (2020).

Erin McGlothlin's *The Mind of the Holocaust Perpetrator in Fiction and Nonfiction* (Wayne State University Press, 2021) examines texts that portray the inner experience of Holocaust perpetrators, transforming them from archetypes of evil into complex psychological subjects. Employing narrative theory methodologies, Erin McGlothlin analyzes these unsettling depictions, which manifest tension regarding the ethics of representation and identification. Such works endeavor to make transparent the mindset of their violent subjects; yet they also invariably contrive to obfuscate its disquieting character. Part I focuses on portraits of real-life perpetrators in nonfictional interviews and analyses from the 1960s and 1970s. These works provide a nuanced perspective on the mentality of those who implemented the Holocaust via the interventional role of the interviewer or interpreter in the perpetrators' performances of self-disclosure. Part II investigates more recent fictional texts that imagine the perspective of their invented perpetrator-narrators. Demonstrating that such fiction employs strategies derived from earlier nonfictional portrayals, McGlothlin establishes not only a historical connection between these two groups of texts, whereby nonfictional engagement with real-life perpetrators gradually gives way to fictional exploration, but also a structural and aesthetic one.

Paul Morrow has published "The Meaning of Mass Atrocity Beyond Our Moral Fate," Contribution to Symposium on Allen Buchanan's *Our Moral Fate*, in *Analyse & Kritik* 42:2, 467-484.

Golan Moskowitz has published "Like Daughter, Like Grandson: Queering Post-Traumatic Memory" in *Memory Studies* (January 2021), doi:10.1177/1750698020982017.



Jonathan Petropoulos announces his fifth monograph was published in January 2021. *Goering's Man in Paris: The Story of a Nazi Art Plunderer and His World* (Yale University Press, 2021) explores the life and career of Dr. Bruno Lohse, who looted art in Paris during the war and then revived his career starting in the 1950s. The book explores the networks of old Nazi dealers and how they insinuated themselves in the respectable art trade in the postwar period--often using Switzerland and Liechtenstein to their strategic advantage.

Irina Rebrova has published *Re-Constructing Grassroots Holocaust Memory: The Case of the North Caucasus* (Berlin-Boston: De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2020).

Blake W. Remington has published "Dialogical Memory and Immemorial Poetics: The Ethical Imperatives of Holocaust Literature" in *Humanities* 10, no. 1 (2021), a special issue of the journal subtitled "The Literary Response to the Holocaust."

Alasdair Richardson's recent publications include *The Salesian Martyrs of Auschwitz* (Bolton, UK: Don Bosco Publications, 2021). This book tells the story of 22 Polish Catholic priests sent to Auschwitz under Nazi persecution of the Church in Poland. All were members of the Salesians of Don Bosco (an Italian order of priests founded to work with young people). The first Salesians arrived in Poland at the end of the 19th Century, taking over a derelict church in the small town of Oświęcim. They could not have known the significance of that place. 40 years later the Salesians had communities, parishes and schools throughout Poland. When the Nazis invaded in 1939, they occupied the town of Oświęcim and renamed it 'Auschwitz'. Among the many priests who would be imprisoned in the camp there would be 22 from the Salesian family, several of whom had been pupils or teachers in the town before the war. Only 6 of the Salesians survived the war. This story tells the story of all 22 of the Salesians who were imprisoned in Auschwitz and reminds us of the wider story of the persecution of Polish Catholics in Poland under the Nazis. Richardson has also published "Lighting Candles in the Darkness: An Exploration of Commemorative Acts with British Teenagers at the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum" in *Religions* 12, no. 29 (2021) ([open access](#)) and "Touching Distance: Young People's Reflections on Hearing Testimony from a Holocaust Survivor" in *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* (2021). These articles explore two significant aspects of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme (a UK government-funded initiative that enables two post-16 students from any state-funded school to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum as part of a four part-programme). The first article considers the memorial act that takes place at the end of the day, from the point of view of the students and the accompanying educators. It offers suggestions for good/future practice in holding such events as this and similar sites. The second article considers students' reflections on hearing from a survivor at their orientation seminar prior to visiting Poland. Again, the article considers good practice and the nature of the 'educative moment' that occurs between the students and the survivors.

John K. Roth announces the publication of "Scholars Talk Writing: John K. Roth," an interview with Rachel Toor, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 23, 2020.

Pontus Rudberg, Johannes Heuman & Pontus Rudberg announce the publication of *Early Holocaust Memory in Sweden: Archives, Testimonies and Reflections* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021). This book investigates the memory of the Holocaust in Sweden, concentrating on early initiatives to document



and disseminate information about the genocide during the late 1940s until the early 1960s. As the first collection of testimonies and efforts to acknowledge how the Holocaust contributed to historical research, judicial processes, public discussion, and commemorations in the universalistic Swedish welfare state, the chapters analyse how and in what ways the memory of the Holocaust began to take shape, showing the challenges and opportunities that were faced in addressing the traumatic experiences of a minority. In Sweden, the Jewish trauma could be linked to positive rescue actions instead of disturbing politics of collaboration, suggesting that the Holocaust memory was less controversial than in several European nations following the war. The book seeks to understand how and in what ways the memory of the Holocaust began to take shape in the developing Swedish welfare state and emphasises the role of transnational Jewish networks for the developing Holocaust memory in Sweden.

Melanie Carina Schmoll published her new book, *Israel – mehr als Krise und Konflikt* in March 2021. This book offers German-language teaching materials for the classroom, including copy templates, links, video clips, and background materials, as well as solutions for each exercise and homework. For more information, please see [here](#).

Arthur B. Shostak has completed for the Jewish Book Council a book review published in May entitled “My Name is Selma: The Remarkable Memoir of a Jewish Resistance Fighter and Ravensbruck Survivor” (available on request). He is the author of *Stealth Altruism: Forbidden Care as Jewish Resistance in the Holocaust* (Routledge, 2017).

Liat Steir-Livny has published “The Illegals: a unique but overlooked historical documentation of illegal immigration,” in *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* (2020), doi: 10.1080/14725886.2020.1853322.

Nikolaus Wachsmann published “Lived experience and the Holocaust: spaces, senses and emotions in Auschwitz” in *Journal of the British Academy*, volume 9 (2021), pp. 27–58. This open access article examines lived experience during the Holocaust, focusing on Auschwitz, the most lethal Nazi concentration camp. It draws on spatial history, as well as the history of senses and emotions, to explore subjective being in Auschwitz. The article suggests that a more explicit engagement with individual spaces—prisoner bunks, barracks, latrines, crematoria, construction sites, SS offices—and their emotional and sensory dimension, can reveal elements of lived experience that have remained peripheral on the edges of historical visibility. Such an approach can deepen understanding of Auschwitz, by making the camp more recognizable and by contributing to wider historiographical debates about the nature of Nazi terror.

Edward B. Westermann's recent publications include *Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany* (Cornell University Press with the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2021); “Words and Wars of Conquest: The Rhetoric of Annihilation in the American West and the Nazi East,” in *German and United States Colonialism in a Connected World: Entangled Empires*, ed. Janne Lahti (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021), 277-300; “Using Primary Sources for Blended Learning in the Holocaust Classroom” in “Unusual Approaches to Teaching the Holocaust,” *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* XXXIII (2020/published 2021), 80-117; “Icarus Meets Mars: A Case for Teaching Airpower History in Academe,” in *Educating Air Forces: Global Perspectives on Airpower Learning*, ed. Randall Wakelam and David Varey (Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2020), 222-231; and “Tests of Manhood:



## PUBLICATIONS BY THE HEFNU COMMUNITY

Alcohol, Sexual Violence, and Killing in the Holocaust,” in *The Holocaust and Masculinities: Critical Inquiries into the Presence and Absence of Men*, ed. Björn Krondorfer and Ovidiu Creanga (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2020), 147-169.







## Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University

FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS

The mission of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU) is to advance Holocaust education at institutions of higher learning around the world. To achieve this mission, HEFNU aims to develop professors qualified to teach Holocaust courses, grow the number of colleges and universities that offer Holocaust courses, and thereby increase the number of students who study the Holocaust.

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