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Director’s Letter

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The final few months of 2023 brought great tragedy with the Hamas attack on 7 October and the war on Gaza. These events and other conflicts around the world continue to threaten civilians. I write to you in hopes that the year ahead brings peace and the prospect of a better world.

The terror attack and the wars in Ukraine and Israel/Gaza have elicited numerous Holocaust references. In an effort to untangle the complicated situation in the Middle East and in other areas plagued by conflict, HEFNU launched a new series of scholarly conversations: “Holocaust Studies, Terror, and War.” The first conversation in November dealt with questions about historical frameworks for understanding the outbreak of violence in Israel and Gaza. Nearly 250 scholars registered for and over 100 joined the conversation and the subsequent Q/A session. The series continues February 11th with a conversation titled, “The Fraught Use of the Term Genocide Since 1945.” For more information, visit this link. We welcome topic suggestions for our upcoming discussions.

HEFNU’s mission is to advance university-level Holocaust education. We conduct several programs meant specifically to support emerging scholars or scholars in other fields who want to teach about the Holocaust. We are currently accepting applications for The Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. All scholars interested in teaching a Holocaust course are welcome to apply. Deadline: February 26, 2024.

This spring, we are launching a workshop series in which emerging scholars can learn from and support other emerging scholars (those working on or within two years of completing their doctoral studies). More information will be available soon. We are also accepting appointments for our spring line-up of mentors in our Virtual Mentors Program. Visit this link to book.

HEFNU is proud to support Holocaust scholarship. We recently closed submissions for the Sharon Abramson Research Grant. We award six fellowships of $4,000 annually.

We are also preparing for the next Lessons & Legacies Conference, which will take place November 14-17, 2024, at Claremont-McKenna College and University of Southern California. Program information will be available soon.

HEFNU hosts two Regional Institutes this year. The first takes place February 18-19 in Austin in cooperation with the University of Texas and Texas A&M on the topic, “Borders/Borderlands and the Holocaust.” The second takes place April 17-19 in Bellingham, WA in cooperation with Western Washington University’s Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes against Humanity, with support from the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Victoria on the topic, “Witness: Mediating Holocaust Testimony in the Arts.”

Historically, HEFNU has hosted two lectures each year on the Northwestern University Campus. This year, we held the inaugural annual Winter Lecture in Holocaust Studies, featuring Phyllis Lassner, Northwestern Professor Emerita, who spoke about “The Art of Betrayal: French Holocaust Film, Art Collecting, and the Mystery of French Jewish Identity.” We are also thrilled to welcome Stefan Ionescu, the Theodore Zev and Alice R. Weiss—Holocaust Educational Foundation Visiting Associate Professor in Holocaust Studies, who will give the annual Theodor Zev Weiss Lecture in Holocaust Studies in May. Ionescu will speak about Aryanization and Restitution of Property in Romania. More information will be available soon.

HEFNU continues its work to advance research, teaching, and learning about the Holocaust. We thank you for your efforts to keep this important history in the view of students and the public. We wish you all the best in 2024 and beyond.

Sarah M. Cushman Ph.D, Director
And the HEFNU Team
The Lessons & Legacies conference took place in Prague from November 6–9, 2023. This marked the conference's second occurrence in Europe, following the 2019 Munich conference. Notably, it was the first time that East-Central Europe, a region where Nazi occupation and racial policies intersected with conflicting nationalisms, shifting borders, and the establishment of new nation-states, hosted one of the foremost gatherings of Holocaust scholars. The conference was a collaborative effort, co-organized by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Charles University. Generous support for the event was provided by the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, the Czech Foundation for Holocaust Victims, and the Czech node of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure.

In the second year of the Russian-Ukrainian war, and notably, one month after the horrific attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, it is unsurprising that the opening speeches all addressed the tumultuous times during which the conference took place. Expressing solidarity and support for colleagues directly affected by these events was particularly important for conference organizers and participants.

The conference aimed to explore intersections across diverse boundaries, including national and group histories and various scholarly disciplines. It integrated both thematic and methodological tracks to encourage academic discourse on the intricate divides and connections within Holocaust studies. The opening roundtable facilitated a dynamic discussion among participants from outside the field of Holocaust Studies, exploring the challenges of interdisciplinary research and how Holocaust inquiries can enrich their respective fields. The conversation also explored avenues for incorporating interdisciplinary insights into Holocaust Studies.

The conference program offered over 130 presentations in three days. Topics reflected interdisciplinarity as among others they covered artistic modes in testimonies, environmental history, sexual violence, data-driven approaches, data visualization, medical history, social networks, and forensic methodology. The conference also explored geographical diversity, as alongside the conventional locations, presentations delved into the relationship between the Vatican and the Holocaust, the Western colonial world, and the Global South.

Accompanying excursions to Lidice and Terezín (Theresienstadt), Lety u Písku, the former camp for Roma and Sinti, and thematic walks in Prague as well as the keynote lecture all directly reflected the conference venue. In a riveting keynote lecture, Benjamin Frommer, Professor of History at Northwestern University, and former director of HEFNU, presented a thought-provoking talk titled “Building the Ghetto without Walls: The Holocaust in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia,” which shed light on a crucial historical moment in the summer of 1939. As Europe stood on the precipice of uncertain peace, the Interior Ministry of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia enacted “Measures concerning relations of the Jewish population with the rest of the population” to eliminate the pretext for mounting antisemitic demands and violence by the Nazi occupiers and native Czech fascists. This pivotal action metaphorically laid the foundation stones of what Miroslav Kárný termed the “ghetto without walls.” Jews in Bohemia and Moravia faced increasing prohibitions on access to social establishments, public spaces, private businesses, and transportation, with “Jews Prohibited” signs becoming a ubiquitous part of the streetscape. Particularly significant was Frommer’s exploration of the collaboration of officials in Prague and throughout the territory in devising and implementing segregation measures. This contrasted starkly with one of the most concerted acts of local opposition to anti-Jewish persecution during the occupation. Frommer’s insightful presentation brought to light the complexities and nuances of this historical chapter.

The conference’s crescendo unfolded with a compelling roundtable discussion featuring early and mid-career scholars. It provided a platform for younger scholars to reflect on their experiences and the unique opportunities presented. The discussions focused on trends, innovative
tools, and ideas reshaping scholarly approaches to understanding the Holocaust. The conference's commitment to inclusivity and diversity was emphasized, with participants expressing appreciation for the prominence given to those at the outset of their careers. The conference also highlighted the critical role of Holocaust scholars in responding to ongoing conflicts, particularly the Ukrainian-Russian and Hamas-Israel wars. The call to action was to leverage their expertise in interpreting events and weighing consequences.

The Lessons & Legacies conference in Prague served as a vital nexus for scholars grappling with the complex historical narratives of the Holocaust. The event showcased the diversity of perspectives and methodologies within Holocaust studies. The Lessons & Legacies community left Prague inspired and reinvigorated, poised to contribute further to explaining historical events and assessing their significance.

Report by Ildikó Barna

Ildikó Barna is a sociologist - an Associate Professor at ELTE University, Faculty of Social Sciences, Budapest, where she also serves as Head of the Department of Social Research Methodology. Her research topics include antisemitism, post-Holocaust studies, quantitative research on archival sources, and memory politics. She is the co-leader of the Research Center for Computational Social Science (Link).

Prague Lessons & Legacies Program Committee

From left to right: Amy Wlodarski, Sarah Cushman, Ildikó Barna, Florian Zabransky, Hana Kubátová, Michal Frankl, Anna Ullrich
Profile: Hilary Earl

A long-standing member of the HEFNU community, Hilary Earl is a Professor of History in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the History Graduate Program Coordinator at Nipissing University, North Bay, Ontario, Canada. Earl is a historian of the Holocaust focusing on perpetrators, their crimes, and on the visual representation of Nazi atrocities. Her current book and film project, *Murder on the Beach*, explores the history and representation of the 1941 Einsatzgruppen violence perpetrated in Liepāja, Latvia, documented in and narrated through photographs, film, and the testimony of perpetrators, survivors, and witnesses.

From her student years, Earl was driven by an intellectual and moral urge to answer the most challenging, provocative, and unsettling questions. She began her study of the Holocaust from the perspective of Jewish history but was so “tormented by the memoirs of Holocaust survivors,” she decided to shift perspectives and explore the perpetrators, especially their actions, their attitudes, and their motivations for the atrocities they committed. Whereas the victims essentially embody humanity, perpetrators have been represented as the epitome of the inhuman - evil incarnate. Forgetting that perpetrators were also people -- rationally minded, responsible, and accountable for their actions -- is a dangerous position to adopt, as it leads to simplistic understandings of genocidal violence. In her research, Earl seeks to understand the circumstances, the contexts, and the consequences of state violence. She contextualizes the historical pretexts that enabled violent predisposition of human behavior. “I was warned not to embark on perpetrator history for it can be construed as forgiveness,” Earl recalls. “Then, I thought to myself: it is not up to me to forgive. My job is to understand.”

Understanding people in their context, analyzing the limits of agency, and bringing together different viewpoints are key principles of Earl’s methodology. She believes that historical events should be explained through the prism of individual experiences and witness accounts. Historians must juxtapose the subject of their research with disciplines outside history, such as psychology, anthropology, and sociology. Hence, Earl defines herself as “a bit of a historian, a bit of an anthropologist, and a bit of a psychologist.”

Earl approaches oral and visual forms of witnessing as equally important in research and teaching, particularly because “photographs and film are always biographical, they are narratives in their own right and artifacts with their own fate.” Earl started incorporating photographs into her Holocaust history classes when she observed how several scholars and presenters, Holocaust survivors included, misuse visual materials in their work. Therefore, she considers it her professional duty to teach her students to think about photographs as documents that need to be questioned, analyzed, and explained.

In her two-semester-long class on Holocaust history, one of the best enrolled and highly rated at Nipissing University, Earl avoids using any visual material until very late in the course. Before having students look at atrocity images, she spends almost two semesters teaching them how to look: responsibly, ethically, critically. “A picture is, in fact, more emotionally triggering than the written word,” she notes, “therefore, I do not want to assault my students with visual images which they cannot assess either critically or emotionally.” In a Holocaust class, it is crucial to educate students’ emotions and use emotional content in a proper and ethical manner. Not using any visual documents helps Earl, counterintuitively, to achieve her pedagogical goals. She maintains that “a genocide class with zero visual material is an unforgettable experience. And because students will never forget it, they will use it as a skill in their own future work.”

Earl considers the responsible approach to teaching visual documents especially relevant today when images are constantly manipulated to create...
politically and ideologically distorted narratives of current and past events. She invites her students to think about how they use and interpret images and visual information in their daily lives outside the classroom. She points to the limits of using visual resources for educational purposes. She is particularly concerned with technologically advanced visual practices at Holocaust museums: “Turning people into holograms historicizes their stories in time and place of the recording. It is dangerous to believe that a hologram may serve as a replacement for a living human memory.”

The growing generational distance from the Holocaust and the diminishing numbers of Holocaust survivors pose a major challenge to the future of Holocaust studies. Earl fears that once survivors are gone, the Holocaust will become historicized, like any other event of the past. This might radically change the entire dynamics of Holocaust education and research, and greatly challenge the individual-based relationship with Holocaust history and histories. Earl seeks to maintain this human relationship between her students and the subject they study by taking students on field trips to the recently established Toronto Holocaust Museum, where students meet and talk to Holocaust survivors.

HEFNU has been instrumental for Earl’s career. Since her student years, she hasn’t missed a single Lessons and Legacies conference, she organized one of them, and she co-edited one of the Lessons and Legacies volumes. She recalls: “I participated in HEFNU’s activities as a graduate student, a young faculty member, and now as a senior scholar. Colleagues whom I met throughout these years at HEF’s multiple venues have now became my close and dear friends and advisors.” Earl defines HEFNU, which “feels much like home,” as a “bedrock of Holocaust Studies in the West” and considers HEFNU’s educational mission essential for the future generation of scholars and teachers. Earl continues to actively support HEFNU’s mission. In summer 2024, she will join the faculty of the HEFNU Summer Institute to teach a course on war crimes, trials, and postwar justice.

Profile by Anastasiia Simferovska

Anastasiia Simferovska is a Ph.D candidate at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and a Jewish Studies Cluster fellow at NU. She is working towards her dissertation on image migration in artistic and literary Holocaust texts in Eastern Europe. Anastasiia also holds a Ph.D in Art History from Lviv National Academy of Arts, Ukraine. In 2022, Anastasiia was the recipient of the HEFNU Teaching Grant.
Anika Walke is the Georgie W. Lewis Career Development Professor and Associate Professor of History at Washington University in St. Louis. She is on the faculty of the Departments of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Jewish, Islamic, and Middle Eastern Studies, and participates in the Global Studies program. Originally from Chemnitz, East Germany, Walke’s interest in the Holocaust stems from an environment where Jewish history and memory had been “a blind spot which everyone knew of, but nobody spoke about” and from a critical view of German memory politics, in the GDR and “reunified” Germany. Coming to the field of Holocaust studies from “perpetrator” society, Walke perceives her scholarship and teaching as a way to take responsibility for historical injustice and to work toward repair, knowing that genocidal damages can never be undone.

Walke’s academic path has always been connected to communal outreach and political activism. In the early 2000s, Walke participated in several German initiatives pushing for immigrant rights and compensation for victims of Nazi persecution in Eastern Europe. During a study abroad year in St. Petersburg (Russia), Walke pursued postwar justice working with organizations of survivors of ghettos and concentration camps. Alongside her coursework, she gathered and translated oral testimonies of Holocaust survivors. This was a crucial undertaking since “in order to receive often woefully inadequate amounts of compensation, survivors had to prove that they had been persecuted, deported, hurt, or exploited by the Nazi regime.” Most of the organizations’ members were Soviet Jews from Belarus, who had moved to Leningrad after World War II. Their stories of survival in German-occupied Soviet territories became the focus of Walke’s dissertation and subsequently her monograph *Pioneers and Partisans: An Oral History of Nazi Genocide in Belorussia* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

A specialist on war and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Walke considers fieldwork, direct communication with members of the societies that are at the center of scholarly inquiry, and openness to different perspectives and viewpoints as the foundation for her research and analysis. However, the ongoing war in Ukraine and the wave of political repression and censorship following the fraudulent presidential election in 2020 in Belarus have posed new challenges. For example, state instrumentalization of history, a return to Soviet-era rhetoric in narrating history and memory of war and genocide, and the persecution of independent scholarship have forced local Holocaust scholars and memory activists into exile: “They had to leave behind everything, both personally and professionally. Much of what had been accomplished regarding the commemoration of Jewish victimhood and the preservation of Jewish memory over the past three decades, has been undone.” New Belarusian laws criminalize scholarly research and analyses that question “genocide of the Belarusian people” or emphasize Jewish victimhood. And they have hampered Walke’s current book project, *Bones, Dirt, and Ash: Holocaust Testimony Matters in Belarus*, which focuses on long-lasting legacies of the Holocaust, by limiting her ability to visit Belarus, access archives, and work directly with local survivors and scholars.

Walke introduces her research strategies into her teaching. She invites students to think about the Holocaust not just as a distinct past event, but also as a complex historical phenomenon that continues to shape modern societies. “We must teach the Holocaust within a broader social, historical, political, and cultural context,” states Walke. “Students often enroll in my class because they are interested in the history of human rights. Many of them are unaware of the crucial role that the Holocaust has played for the evolution and definition of the term.” Walke tries to balance an in-depth exploration of the ideological foundations and historical dynamics that facilitated Nazi genocide with the study of the political and social dynamics of violence, the connection between systems of violence, and their legacies and memory.
In Fall 2023, Walke taught a first-year seminar on the history, memory, and representation of the Holocaust. It is part of a year-long program which Walke and her colleague Erin McGlothlin developed with the support of a HEFNU Teaching Grant in 2015. As part of the course, students travel to Germany and Poland, where they visit former ghettos, Jewish cemeteries, sites of mass atrocities, and so-called perpetrator sites including the House of the Wannsee Conference or the Topography of Terror. Walke notes that incorporating such trips into a year-long course allows students “not only to engage in intellectual dialogue, but also to build a sense of community with their peers.” For her, the experiential learning inherent to visiting relevant history and memory sites is a crucial teaching strategy that opens important questions about the impact of the Holocaust on contemporary European societies.

Over the past decade, Walke has been engaged in many of HEFNU’s academic and educational activities as organizer and participant, including Lessons & Legacies Conferences in St. Louis (2018) and Ottawa (Canada, 2022) and the 2023 HEFNU Regional Institute “The Year of the Holocaust: Thirty Years Later” in St. Louis. Walke highlights the outstanding role of HEFNU in establishing inter-disciplinary professional networks in the field of Holocaust studies and in “providing learning and professional growth opportunities, especially for colleagues who work at smaller or geographically isolated institutions.” HEFNU creates a diverse and inclusive environment for educators and scholars, who teach and research the Holocaust using different perspectives and approaches. Walke cultivates such intellectual openness in her own approach to teaching and research and considers it pivotal for the present and future of Holocaust Studies.

Profile by Anastasiia Simferovska

Anastasiia Simferovska is a Ph.D candidate at the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and a Jewish Studies Cluster fellow at NU. She is working towards her dissertation on image migration in artistic and literary Holocaust texts in Eastern Europe. Anastasiia also holds a Ph.D in Art History from Lviv National Academy of Arts, Ukraine. In 2022, Anastasiia was the recipient of the HEFNU Teaching Grant.
The HEFNU Sharon Abramson Grant allowed me to carry out my research project on survivors’ photography books that depicted the Holocaust and its aftermath. My aim was to study how Jewish victims attempted visually to depict their own experience and share it with the wider public. Consulting rare and largely heretofore undigitized collections at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC), I discovered the postwar books and pamphlets that were part of an even greater culture of intense image-making. As different scholars in the field have claimed, while a proliferation of postwar photography displayed atrocity across the news, many of those efforts sought to universalize suffering, present Nazism as a crime against the civilized world, rather than against particular groups. To counter-argue such interpretation, I explore how Jewish victims centered their own persecution and Jewish mass murder by creating vernacular photographic texts such as photobooks.

The first published photos that visualized the Holocaust appeared during the war, often through grassroots initiatives prompted by Jewish victims themselves. In 1943, when the news media were still reluctant to show atrocity photographs, organizations such as the Anti-Nazi League and the American Federation for Polish Jews presented the public with graphic images of murder, forced labor, starvation, and life in ghettos. These images were organized in the form of photobooks and distributed across the globe. In the immediate postwar years, through networks of international aid as well as historical commissions, survivors published stories of their survival amid the Nazi genocide. Often, those published stories were supplemented by visual documents, such as perpetrator images, propaganda photos, as well as clandestine victim-authored snapshots. Such compilations offered a multi-lingual and multi-perspective narrative on persecution and murder of the Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe. Works such as the 1945 *Extermination of Polish Jews* and 1946 *Our Destruction in Pictures* were cases in point. As I uncovered, these photobooks greatly influenced subsequent Holocaust films, appearing directly in documentaries like “Night and Fog” (1956) as well as authenticating design material in movies such as “The Pianist” (2002). The photobooks have been incorporated into ever larger and more sophisticated illustrated histories of the Holocaust, new editions of which continue to get published.

The research I carried out with the help of the HEFNU Sharon Abramson Grant greatly substantiated two of my final dissertation chapters centering on these photographic volumes. I continue to explore these sources for my book project which analyzes how photographs helped to author Jewish history in the twentieth century. This research has also enhanced my teaching. I use the photos I have gathered to show students how Holocaust survivors have long created visual histories of their experiences, and how those narratives compose a familiar, visual fabric that they recognize. The pictures and documents I discovered and gathered demonstrate that our current understanding of the Holocaust is the product of sustained efforts of Holocaust survivors who collected, edited, and distributed their stories so as not to let them be forgotten.

**Steven Samols** is currently a Rothschild Hanadiv Europe Postdoctoral Fellow at University College London’s Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies. He received his doctorate in History at the University of Southern California in 2023 and holds an Ms. C. in European Studies from the London School of Economics (2016), and a B.A. in History from New York University (2012). In addition to the HEFNU Sharon Abramson Grant, Steven was the recipient of a Mandel Center Residency at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (Washington, DC), a Sandwich Scholarship at Tel Aviv University (Israel), and a Leo Baeck Institute Studienstiftung (London, UK).
I have been involved in research of Nazi crimes and the Holocaust for over a decade. After finishing my MA thesis on the White Rose resistance movement against the Nazi regime, I earned my Ph.D. from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG, Brasil) in April 2023. In my dissertation, I focused on Nazi perpetrators’ self-narratives during the Nuremberg Trial.

In 2019, together with my colleagues Anna Viana and Bárbara Deoti, I co-founded the Brazilian Center for Nazism and Holocaust Studies (NEPAT). Since then, the Center has become a pioneering women-led institution which promotes the study of Nazi crimes and the Holocaust in Brazil. The Center reaches out through academic venues and online platforms. In addition to our efforts to make Holocaust studies part of Brazilian academic curricula, NEPAT’s mission is to educate public historians and the broader public outside academia. Through our social media initiatives and podcasts, we make our work accessible for the wider Brazilian audience by translating and disseminating works in Portuguese that were previously available exclusively in English.

Teaching at public and private universities in Brazil since 2015, I have often been the only one to offer courses on Nazism or related topics. It was evident to me that there is a growing public demand for the study of Nazi Germany and the lingering influence of Nazis in post-World War II Brazil, particularly due to the current proliferation of Neo-Nazi groups and far-right discourses in the country. Despite the demand, Holocaust Studies remain neither researched nor taught regularly at Brazilian colleges. As a result of such marginalization of the study of Nazism and the Holocaust, little has been written in, or translated into, Portuguese. There is also a lack of investment, funding, and research opportunities for local scholars working in the field. Our initiative addresses these issues and seeks to create resources for both scholars and the broader public. Despite the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, NEPAT hosted its inaugural international academic event in 2021 allowing me to establish new professional connections in the field of Holocaust Studies. This is how I came to know Director Sarah Cushman and learned about the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU). In 2022, NEPAT was awarded the HEFNU Sharon Abramson Research Grant for the project investigating the reasons behind the lack of a Holocaust memory culture in Brazil.

My journey with HEFNU continued at the 2022 Lessons and Legacies Conference in Ottawa, where I presented my paper on teaching the Holocaust at Brazilian universities. For the very first time I was surrounded by Holocaust scholars from diverse disciplines and was able to discuss topics I have been researching in almost complete isolation for the past ten years. In June 2023, I participated in the HEFNU Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. Reflecting on the two weeks spent with my colleagues, now cherished friends, I am astounded by the breadth of knowledge to which I was exposed. The syllabus workshops and classes that delved into Public History inspired me to introduce new strategies into my own teaching. The concept of Public History significantly broadened my perspective on educational content delivery. The Institute not only enriched my academic toolkit but also granted me the opportunity to visit two of the largest and most prominent Holocaust museums in the US: the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, IL, and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC.

Sarah Cushman’s visionary work and HEFNU’s innovative approach to Holocaust education resonate deeply with me. The Foundation’s commitment to decolonizing Holocaust Studies is not mere rhetoric but a tangible investment in scholars from diverse corners of the globe. HEFNU empowered me as a representative of the Global South, to share my voice in realms that once seemed beyond reach.
Maria Visconti
Continued

As we work towards a more diverse field of Holocaust Studies, HEFNU’s commitment to embracing different perspectives instills hope for scholars from less privileged regions and institutions.

Maria Visconti is co-founder and coordinator of the Brazilian Center for Nazism and Holocaust Studies (NEPAT). She holds a Ph.D. in History (2023) from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and is a member of The Perpetrator Studies Network. She holds an MA in History from UFMG (2017). She also studied the history of Nazi Germany as an exchange graduate student at Friedrich-Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany (2013). Her research interests are post-war trials, perpetrators, and public history.

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Announcements

Henry "Hank" Greenspan, oral historian and playwright, lecturer emeritus, University of Michigan, will present a reading of his new play, "Death / Play, or the Mad Jester of the Warsaw Ghetto," at Penn State in April 2024. He is also working on a new book that will include the script of his award-winning play REMNANTS, a series of memoir-essays on writing and performing the play, and audience responses from over thirty years. In the book, Greenspan will reflect on the popular understanding of the Holocaust and share memories from his “life among survivors,” especially those represented in the play.

Samuel D. Gruber, president of the International Survey of Jewish Monuments, presents an online database, “Holocaust Memorial Monuments,” a joint project of The Center for Jewish Art, Hebrew University; the Miller Center, University of Miami; and the International Survey of Jewish Monuments. The database documents Holocaust memorial monuments worldwide through standardized mapping, photography, description, and historical research. Currently, the database lists over 700 Holocaust memorials from 30 countries and is updated weekly. To learn more about the project, please visit: https://cja.huji.ac.il/hmm/browser.php?mode=main.
Eileen M. Angelini, Ph.D, was invited by the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies to participate in the Jack and Anita Hess Faculty Seminar, “Jewish Responses to the Holocaust: Dispossession, Restitution, and Reconstructing the Home,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC, January 8-12, 2024. Dr. Angelini began her new role as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Le Moyne College on July 1, 2023.

Elizabeth Baer, Professor, English and African Studies, Gustavus Adolphus College (St. Peter, MN), gave an invited lecture "German Genocide in Africa and the Third Reich: Imperialism, Race, and Sexual Violence" at the "Africa and the Holocaust" Conference, Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA) in October 2023. Dr. Baer currently serves as a volunteer at the Senior Historian's Office of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.

Jocelyn Barrett, Program Coordinator, Mandel Center, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, has successfully defended her dissertation entitled "Social Identity and Recognition: Developing a Model for Genocide Education" and obtained her Ph.D. from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution, George Mason University.

Suzanne Brown-Fleming, Ph.D. will start her new position as Senior Project Director at the USHMM's Mandel Center on March 1, 2024. In this new role, Brown-Fleming will direct special projects that originate in the Mandel Center and often include other Museum offices, particularly in the international realm. She presented her research at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome, October 2023), Lessons and Legacies Europe Conference (Prague, November 2023), and the AHA (SFO 2024).

Laure Guilbert, visiting researcher, Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Center for the History of Emotions (Berlin), research fellow, Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah (Paris), interviewed the choreographer and dancer Susanna Egri, who went into hiding in Budapest during WWII. Guilbert conducted the interview for the USHMM in Turin, in July 2023. In October 2023, she won a short-term writing grant from the Centre Chorégraphique National of Caen (CCN Caen, France) for her research on dance in ghettos and camps. She will present her work in Paris at the EHESS Research Seminar on the Cultural History of Dance in January 2024.

Patrick Henry, Cushing Eells Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Literature, Whitman College, served as an academic advisor for the 2023 documentary Resistance: They Fought Back, where he also appears briefly.

Barbara Krasner, Adjunct Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Gratz College/College of New Jersey, Director of the Mercer County Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center, Mercer County Community College, presented a new interdisciplinary framework for teaching Holocaust youth literature (Coalition of Holocaust Lit., Antwerp, June 2023), perpetrator redemption in young adult (YA) Holocaust literature (JAHLLT, Florida, November 2023), and YA World War II literature (Assembly of Literature for Adolescents of NCTE, Ohio, November 2023). Krasner joined the adjunct faculty of Gratz College's Holocaust & Genocide Studies programs in August 2023.
Björn Krondorfer, Regents’ Professor, Director of the Martin-Springer Institute, endowed Professor of Religious Studies, Comparative Cultural Studies Department, Northern Arizona University, has been reelected for a new 3-year term to chair the "Consortium of Higher Education Center for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies" together with Mark Celinscak. Krondorfer joined the Advisory Planning Committee for the Holocaust Museum in Phoenix, AZ; the Advisory Board of the Arizona "Genocide Awareness Week"; and the Honorary Committee for the establishment of the Social Museum of Jewish History and Heritage of Kielce.

Erin McGlothlin, Professor of German and Jewish Studies, Vice Dean of Undergraduate Affairs, Washington University in St. Louis, is the 2023 Recipient of the Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize for her book *The Mind of the Holocaust Perpetrator in Fiction and Nonfiction* (Wayne State UP, 2021). The prize was awarded by the German Studies Association for the best book on the Holocaust and Nazi Germany published in 2021 and 2022.


Nicholas Osita Okolie, Assistant Professor, School of General Studies, Federal University (Dutse, Nigeria) has been a lone voice for Holocaust Studies in Nigeria for the last 15 years. Africa remains understudied in Holocaust research. Participating in the 2023 Prague Lessons and Legacies Conference was his biggest win after more than a decade of independent research. In Prague, Okolie presented a paper on Holocaust education in Nigeria.

Nicholas Ostrum, Ph.D, former instructor at Xavier University of Louisiana, the University of New Orleans, and Clark State College, has started his new position as Assistant Professor of History at Kent State University.

Anna M. Parkinson, Associate Professor, Department of German, Critical Theory Program, Jewish Program, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Northwestern University, delivered the 2023 Werner Grilk Lecture in German Studies, titled "Contrapuntal Humanism: Anachronism in Post-Holocaust Diasporic Writing," at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 10, 2023.

Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies, Professor of History, History Department, Northwestern University, gave two interviews to Dr. Anna Medvedovska on Holocaust related topics. His interview “Babyn Yar: Distorting the Context” analyzing Serhii Loznitsa’s documentary “Babi Yar: Context” appeared in French (*Desk Russe*, 2023), English (*Krytyka*, 2023) and Ukrainian (*Holocaust Studies: A Ukrainian Focus*, 2022). Petrovsky-Shtern’s interview ”Devils among Us” analyzing the sequel ”Devil next Door” on Ivan/John Demyaniuk, was published in Ukrainian in *Holocaust Studies: A Ukrainian Focus*, December 2023.
Stephani Richards-Wilson, Associate Professor of Business and Management, Alverno College, was invited to present at a symposium sponsored by the Archdiocese of Munich and Freising and the White Rose Institute. She presented on her second dissertation that focused on Willi Graf of the White Rose, a student resistance group in Nazi Germany. Her work contributed to the opening of an investigation into sainthood. Milwaukee's Catholic Herald published an interview with Richard-Wilson on October 12, 2023, the 80th anniversary of Graf’s execution.

John K. Roth, Edward J. Sexton Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, Claremont McKenna College, gave the 2023 Kristallnacht address, "Kristallnacht and Endangered American Democracy," at Manhattan College’s Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center.

Ariane Santerre, researcher, Canada Research Chair in Music and Politics, Université de Montréal, was interviewed on her book La Littérature Inouïe for the Montreal radio program "Notre histoire en tête" (Radio Ville-Marie, 91.3 FM). She also presented the paper “For Every Life Saved Another Must Be Sacrificed’: Chava Rosenfarb’s Literary Depictions of the Grey Zone” at the International Conference “Chava Rosenfarb and Jewish Female Writers of the 20th Century,” University of Łódź (Poland), October 18-20, 2023.

Melanie Carina Schmoll, editor, author, advisor, speaker, and research fellow at The Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University, Israel, is working on a project called: “Israel, Judaism and the Holocaust in Canadian Curricula and School Textbooks.” She is the external chief editor at leading German publishing houses for history school textbooks, online learning platforms, and encyclopedias. She is a senior advisor and developer for a new Political Science degree program at the SRH Fernhochschule, The Mobile University.

Edward Westermann, Regents Professor of History, 2023 Piper Professor, Texas A and M University, received the 2023 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for his book Drunk on Genocide: Alcohol and Mass Murder in Nazi Germany (Cornell, 2021). He gave the following presentations: "Intoxication, Masculinity, and Mass Murder," University of Vermont; “Policing in Nazi Germany: The Ideology of Annihilation,” Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center; and “Propaganda over Pints,” Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Research Center of Milwaukee.

Laurien Vastenhout, researcher, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, MA Program Coordinator Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands), received the 2023 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research for her book Between Community and Collaboration: "Jewish Councils" in Western Europe under Nazi Occupation (Cambridge UP, 2022).

Christin Zühlke, Ph.D, began her Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Holocaust Literature at Washington University in St. Louis in August 2023. During her postdoc, she will co-edit the "Cambridge History of Holocaust Literature" alongside Erin McGlothlin, McKenna Marko, Diane Otosaka, and Stuart Taberner. She will also co-edit "New Approaches to Teaching Holocaust Literature" with McGlothlin and Otosaka and help organize a public engagement program with HEFNU and the Wiener Library in London among others.
**In Memoriam**

**Carolyn Kay** passed away in December 2023. In a thirty-two-year teaching career at Trent University, Kay taught courses in Modern German History and Holocaust Studies, and mentored hundreds of students. Kay served as the Principal of Lady Eaton College and the Chair of the History Department where she earned many prestigious teaching and research awards. Kay played a pivotal role in initiating the Max Eisen Lecture in Holocaust Studies, which honors her friend Max Eisen, a Holocaust survivor and human rights advocate.

**Lawrence L. Langer** passed away on January 29, 2024. He was Professor of English Emeritus at Simmons University. Langer was a leading Holocaust scholar, whose research and teaching shaped the field. He was one of the first to engage critically with witness and survivor testimony and with artistic representation of the Holocaust. He looked unsparingly at the devastation the Holocaust caused individuals, families, and communities, observing in video recordings of oral histories the psychological impact of genocide on those who survived. Langer earned the HEFNU Distinguished Achievement Award in 2016.

**Francis Nicosia**, recipient of the HEF Distinguished Achievement Award in 2014, passed away in November 2023. He authored *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question* (1985), *Zionism and Antisemitism in Nazi Germany* (2008), and *Nazi Germany and the Arab World* (2014) and co-authored with Donald Niewyk, *The Columbia Guide to the Holocaust* (2003). He was the first holder of the Raul Hilberg Chair of Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont.


Sarah Phillips Casteel, Professor of English, Carleton University, published *Black Lives Under Nazism: Making History Visible in Literature and Art* (Columbia UP, 2024). Casteel’s study identifies a range of largely overlooked literary and artistic works that challenge the invisibility of Black wartime history. Emphasizing Black agency, the book examines both testimonial art by victims of the Nazi regime and creative works that imaginatively reconstruct the wartime period.

Richard E. Frankel, Professor of History, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, published the book *Antisemitism Before the Holocaust: Re-Evaluating Antisemitic Exceptionalism in Germany and the United States, 1880-1945* (Routledge, 2023). The book examines the history of antisemitism in America and Germany in a novel way by placing the two countries side by side for a sustained comparison of the anti-Jewish environments in both societies from the 1880s to the end of the Second World War.

Simone Gigliotti, Reader in Holocaust Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London (UK), recently published the digital forward and open access book project, *Restless Archive: The Holocaust and the Cinema of the Displaced* (Indiana University Press, 2023) via the Manifold Digital Publishing platform. *Restless Archive* embeds 100+ media resources and includes customized StoryMaps that track actual and cinematographic trajectories of Jewish refugees and displaced persons between 1933 and 1949. The book’s preoccupations and related events calendar are also profiled in a Digital Discovery Infosite.

Wolf Gruner, Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies, Professor of History, Founding Director of the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California, published his book *Resisters. How Ordinary Jews fought Persecution in Hitler’s Germany* (Yale University Press, 2023). An account of individual Jews who resisted persecution in Nazi Germany, the book expands the concept of Jewish resistance and upends the notion of passive Jews, recovering countless surprising examples of Jewish agency, including those of women and the elderly. (Link)


Sheila E. Jelen, Zantker Professor of Jewish Literature, Culture and History, Director of Jewish Studies Program, University of Kentucky, submitted for publication her book *Testimonial Montage: A Family of Testimonies About the Cracow Ghetto Resistance* (Lexington Books, forthcoming in 2024). The book explores interconnected testimonies of four Holocaust survivors who participated in the Cracow ghetto resistance. Through the lens of literary analysis, the author teases out the contours of personal narrative from the collective voices.

Robin Judd, Associate Professor of History, Ohio State University, published *Between Two Worlds: Jewish War Brides after the Holocaust* (North Carolina University Press, 2023). The book tells the stories of the Jewish Holocaust survivors who met and married American, British, and Canadian military personnel after the war and then immigrated to their spouses’ homes.

Barbara Krasner, Adjunct Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Gratz College/College of New Jersey, Director of the Mercer County Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center, Mercer County Community College, published her third historical novel in verse *Facing the Enemy: How a Nazi Youth Camp in America Tested a Friendship* (Calkins Creek/Astra Books for Young Readers, 2023). The novel chronicles the unraveling and restoration of friendship between a Jewish and a German-heritage teen in Newark, NJ when the German American Bund camp, Camp Nordland, opens in 1937.
Björn Krondorfer, Regent’s Professor, Director of the Martin-Springer Institute, Professor of Religious Studies, Comparative Cultural Studies Department, Northern Arizona University, published a review essay “White Christian Nationalism” in *Theologie. Geschichte: Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kulturgeschichte*, 18 (2023): 1-21. ([Link](#))


Alexis Lerner, Assistant Professor of Political Science, US Naval Academy, together with Andrew Gelman (Columbia University) published “In Pursuit of Campus-Wide Data Literacy: A Guide to Developing a Statistics Course for Students in Nonquantitative Fields” in the *Journal of Statistics and Data Science Education*. The article examines the topic of teaching the Holocaust through a data science lens. ([Link](#))

Stuart Liebman, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Queens College, CUNY and the CUNY Graduate Center, published “‘Four Sisters’ and Claude Lanzmann’s Holocaust Film Project” in Michael G. Levine and Jared Stark, eds., *Yale French Studies* No. 141 (Spring 2023): 85-98. “Four Sisters,” a suite of four films, was the last work Lanzmann produced from the interviews he collected in the 1970s/1980s. Liebman’s article examines and defends Lanzmann’s rationale for delaying extended reflections on women’s experiences during the Holocaust and argues that Lanzmann’s project as a whole is likened to creating a Renaissance altarpiece.

Douglas T. McGetchin, Associate Professor in History, Florida Atlantic University, co-edited a book with Eric Kurlander and Bernd-Stefan Grewe, *Modern Germany: A Global History* (Oxford University Press, 2023). The book places the history of German-speaking Central Europe in a global perspective, from 1500 to the present. It presents the German-speaking lands in relation to global and transnational linkages and interdependencies, including immigration, emigration, and commerce. Focusing on marginalized groups, it problematizes German identity and its transformation.

**Anna M. Parkinson**, Associate Professor, Department of German, Critical Theory Program, Jewish Program, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Northwestern University, submitted for publication “Revisiting the ‘Talking Cure’: The Capture of Children’s Wartime Experiences through Hans Keilson’s Work on Sequential Traumatization” in *European Holocaust Studies*, forthcoming 2024.

**Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern**, Crown Family Professor of Jewish Studies, Professor of History, History Department, Northwestern University, co-edited the volume *Miron Petrovsky and his Epoch* (Dukh i Litera, 2023), (in Russian and Ukrainian). Petrovsky-Shtern was a scholarly editor of the book by Iryna Kotlobulatova, *Jewish Photographers and Photo Studios in L’viv/Lwow/Lemberg, 1860-1939* (The Old Lion Publisher, 2023), and for the book by Yuri Biryulov, *Lviv Jewish Architectural Legacy, 1550-1939* (The Old Lion Publ., 2022, 2nd edition, 2023).


**Ariane Santerre**, researcher, Canada Research Chair in Music and Politics, Université de Montréal, published “Environmental Violence and Natural Symbolism in Chava Rosenfarb’s ‘The Tree of Life’: An Ecocritical Approach to Holocaust Memory” in the special issue “Spatial, Environmental, and Ecocritical Approaches to Holocaust Memory” of the peer-reviewed journal *Environment, Space, Place* vol. 15, no 2 (2023), 136-162.

**Melanie Carina Schmoll**, Research Fellow, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar Ilan University, Israel, is an external chief editor for history books at Duden/Brockhaus. Her edited volumes *Misinformation about Israel and Antisemitic Views in School Textbooks? The Case of Germany* and *Einführung in die Politikwissenschaft und das politische System der Bundesrepublik Deutschland* are forthcoming in early 2024.
Sara Sewell, Professor of History, Virgina Wesleyan University, published “‘The whole language was a scream’: The German Language during the Seizures of Jews” in Rolf Goebel ed., A Companion to Sound Studies in German-Speaking Cultures (Camden House, 2023) and “Sonic Experiences in the Night: The Case of the Falling Bunk at Auschwitz-Birkenau” in Frédéric Bonnesoeur, et al., New Microhistorical Approaches to an Integrated History of the Holocaust (De Gruyter, 2023).


Anna Wylegala, Associate Professor, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences, co-edited together with Sabine Rutar and Małgorzata Łukianow a collective monograph No Neighbors’ Lands in Postwar Europe: Vanishing Others (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023). (Link)

TEACHING RESOURCES

TEACHING GRANTS
Teaching Grants help faculty at two- or four-year colleges and universities launch or improve resources for Holocaust related courses, particularly at institutions with few or no such courses.

VIRTUAL SPEAKERS BUREAU
Professors can use the Speakers Bureau to connect with over 70 distinguished Holocaust scholars from an array of disciplines, who will prepare a tailor-made virtual lecture or classroom session in their area of expertise.

REGIONAL INSTITUTES
HEFNU partners with regional host institutions to connect experts on Holocaust-related topics with professors who want to teach or improve a Holocaust course and to develop regional networks of university-level Holocaust educators.

SUMMER INSTITUTE ON THE HOLOCAUST AND JEWISH CIVILIZATION
This intensive two-week seminar in Holocaust Studies, taught by experts in the field, supports college faculty, advanced graduate students, and museum staff to broaden their interdisciplinary perspective and develop and refine Holocaust courses.

RESOURCES FOR SCHOLARS

LESSONS & LEGACIES CONFERENCE
The premier intellectual gathering in the field of Holocaust Studies. Lessons & Legacies is held biennially in North America and every four years in Europe.

SHARON ABRAMSON RESEARCH GRANTS
Grants of $4,000 support research related to the Holocaust. Doctoral candidates nearing completion of their dissertations and faculty from all disciplines are eligible.

VIRTUAL MENTORS PROGRAM
Early career scholars can network and meet with distinguished scholars in the field of Holocaust Studies for "one-off" online meetings. Topics include career opportunities and development, research topics and sources, and work-life balance.
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.

If you wish to support our mission, there are two ways to make a tax-deductible contribution:
1. To make an online contribution, click here.
2. To contribute via mail, please send a check or money order payable to “Northwestern University” Memo: Holocaust Educational Foundation, to: ARD; 1201 Davis Street; Evanston, IL 60208; Attn: Jill Smith. Please let us know a check is on the way via email at hef@northwestern.edu.