

Jewish Mixed-Race" Minors in the "Education Center" at Hadamar (1943-45) and their Jewish parents: Death and Survival

Presenter: Lutz Kaelber

About 40 minors died in the so-called "education center" in Hadamar between 1943 and 1945. They were "Jewish Mischlinge" with two Jewish grandparents as defined in the Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935. By analyzing medical and administrative files as well as newly available state care (Fürsorgeerziehung) and restitution files, the life histories of many of these minors can be reconstructed. Their exclusion from majority society, here a "national community" defined on the basis of the construct "race," was related to the persecution of the Jewish parents, which is also discussed. The paper describes the beginnings and operations of the "Education Center" at Hadamar. It provides a statistical overview of the minors and traces the processes of exclusion and marginalization of these children and youths in Nazi Germany. The paper also provides a profile of their parents: 31 of the 33 minors' Jewish parents are identifiable by name, and 15 of them were still alive in the summer of 1945. Based on the analysis of compensation claims by survivors it can be shown that their persecution under National Socialism often led to impoverishment and permanent cognitive and physical impairments, before, during, and even in the post-war period. Only recently have the victims been commemorated. The paper addresses diverse forms of commemorations of these victims.