

Where Wartime Europe and the Caribbean Meet: Historical and Aesthetic Perspectives on Refugee and Exilic Journeys

Situated at the intersection of Holocaust studies and Caribbean studies, this interdisciplinary panel explores often unrecognized connections between wartime Europe and its Caribbean colonies. The panel does so in a multidirectional fashion by tracing the trajectories of both European refugees who fled to the Caribbean and Caribbean expatriates in Europe who were caught up in the war. The biographies and oeuvres of these European and Caribbean exiles, many of them intellectuals and artists, suggest how metropolitan and colonial geographies became intimately bound up with one another, as did the historical traumas of colonialism and Nazi persecution.

Spanning the disciplines of history, literary studies, and art history, the four papers also extend across the British, French and Dutch Caribbean. Taken together, the papers help to decolonize Holocaust studies by illustrating the value of attending to "exotic" spaces that have traditionally fallen outside the field's frame.