

## (Re)Framing Memories of Sexual Violence during the Holocaust: Visual and Verbal Representations

A topic that was once shrouded in shame, taboo, myth, and outright denial, sexual violence during the Holocaust has come to be recognized by many scholars as a legitimate and necessary area of study. Given this shift, this is an opportune moment to reconsider the paradigms within which we research sexual violence during the Holocaust. Scholars who specialize in this field have considered why this topic long remained at the margins or non-existent in Holocaust scholarship, one reason being the limitations inherent in the existing sources.

To contribute to this body of work, the proposed panel will introduce an expansive and novel array of primary sources including atrocity photographs, wartime diaries, and oral history interviews. Panelists will approach these previously neglected sources through feminist and other interpretive methodological frameworks. Taken together, the source bases of the three presentations span forty years, which provides an additional opportunity to discuss the multidimensional and shifting memories of sexual violence. We seek to initiate further conversation about how narratives and other representations of sexual violence have changed over time, specifically from the perspectives of different historical actors. We will engage with such questions as: How do power dynamics –whether implicit or explicit –shape how narratives or images of sexual violence are mediated? How have notions of “off-limits” or “taboo” topics affected the ways survivors described or omitted memories of sexual violence at different points of time? To what extent does the particular medium through which evidence is transmitted impact scholars’ methodological and narrative choices? The panel engages earlier pioneering work on gender and the Holocaust while also seeking to push the extant interpretive paradigms further.