

STRASSLER
CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
STUDIES

AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

2011 - 2012
YEAR END REPORT



“Whoever fails to increase knowledge,
decreases knowledge.”

—THE WISDOM OF THE SAGES

Dear Friends:

“Education is a kind of continuing dialogue,” Robert Hutchins, educational philosopher, president of the University of Chicago from 1929 to 1945 and, later, head of the Ford Foundation, remarked. He went on to explain, “and a dialogue assumes, in the nature of the case, different points of view.” Hutchins’s vision of wide-ranging perspectives and rich interdisciplinarity captures the education we offer at the Center and characterizes the symposia and conferences we host.

Indeed, our identity as a site of Holocaust and genocide studies gives concrete expression to that idea. Our groundbreaking conference, *Beyond the Armenian Genocide: The Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review*, held in November 2011, shone bright as a case in point. Focusing on the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the Native American Genocide, eminent scholars examined questions of post-conflict justice: the return of stolen art and artifacts; the restitution of personal and communal property; and how postwar agreements and treaties shape discussions about compensation. If these are historical matters, they are also hotly contested current events. Bringing the perspective of each historical case on these problems fostered fresh insights and fruitful avenues for future action.

The concept of education as a continuing dialogue among different points of view is stamped into our doctoral students’ DNA, as the Second International Graduate Student Conference proved. Building upon the success of the first-ever graduate student conference specifically in Holocaust and genocide studies, envisioned and mounted by the Center’s doctoral students in 2009, the second conference once again provided a forum for junior scholars around the globe to present original research papers to an audience of peers and scholars. Attended by 47 students from 16 countries, the Second International Graduate Student Conference addressed a range of topics from a plethora of disciplinary perspectives. Participants found that connections between their subjects abounded, crossing geographic borders and time periods. Equally important for the future of the field, they formed a cadre of emerging scholars eager to establish a community with shared intellectual interests.

Listening to the next generation of Holocaust and genocide scholars deliver papers, comment on each others’ work, and share sources prompted me to ponder

the mission of the Strassler Center. The education we offer seeks to lay bare the underlying social processes and political, bureaucratic, and economic structures of genocide and mass murder. By drilling down on events at specific times and places, the foundational skeleton of genocide (enactment, responses, resistance) emerges. And this knowledge, we trust, will help us identify



systems and processes that will spur change. We may not be able to alter how human beings wish to act, but we may well be able to alter the conditions that prompt those wishes or allow them to be actualized. That would be good enough. Actually, that would be great.

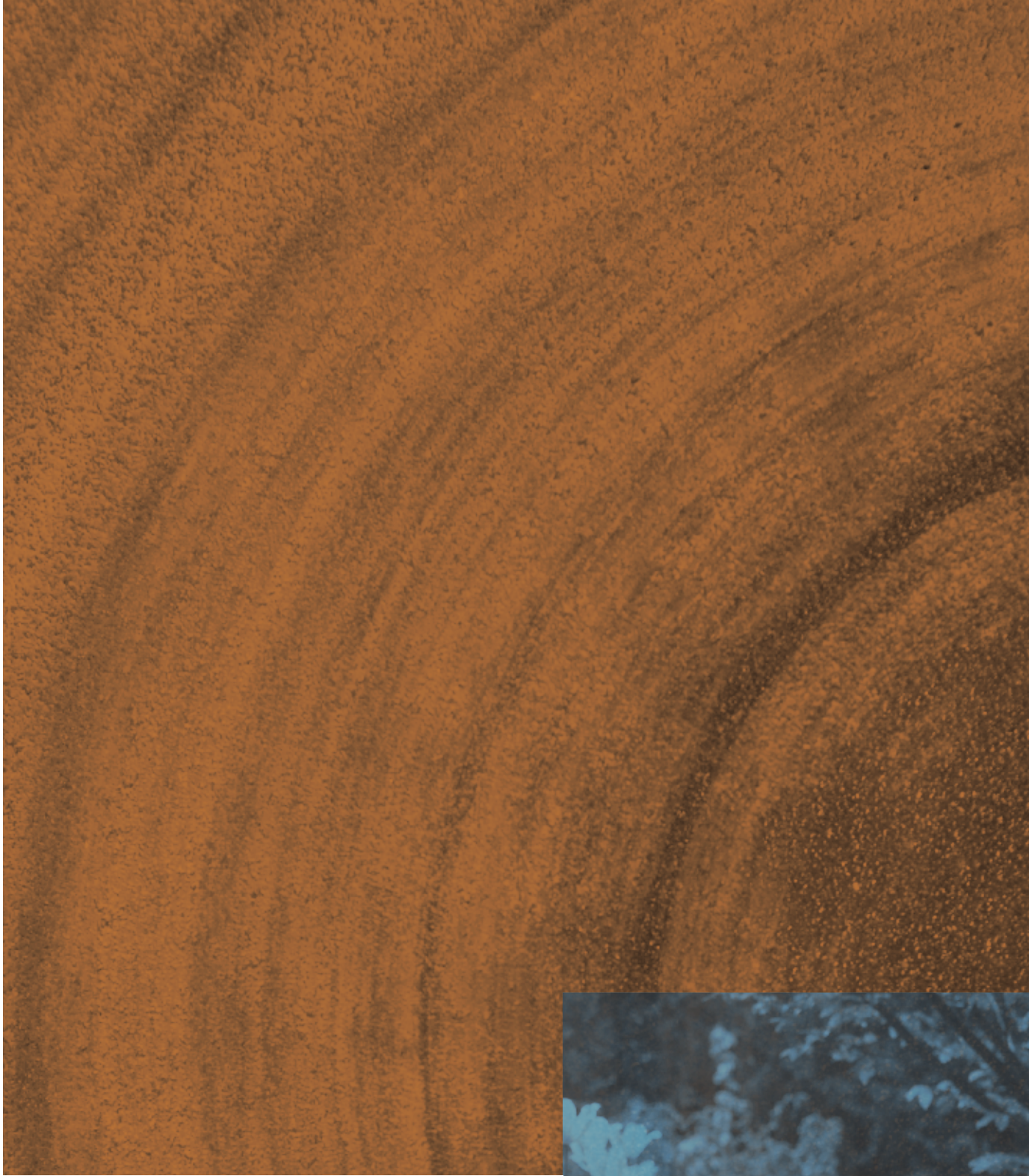
In his landmark study of universities, the great American educator Abraham Flexner underscored the importance of that institution. Writing in 1930, just a dozen years after World War I and well before World War II loomed, although it was but nine years distant, Flexner remarked, “Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war.” Yet, he observed, “no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization.” And he concluded, “We must make our choice; we cannot have both.”

We need your financial support. Please give as generously as you can.



Debórah Dwork

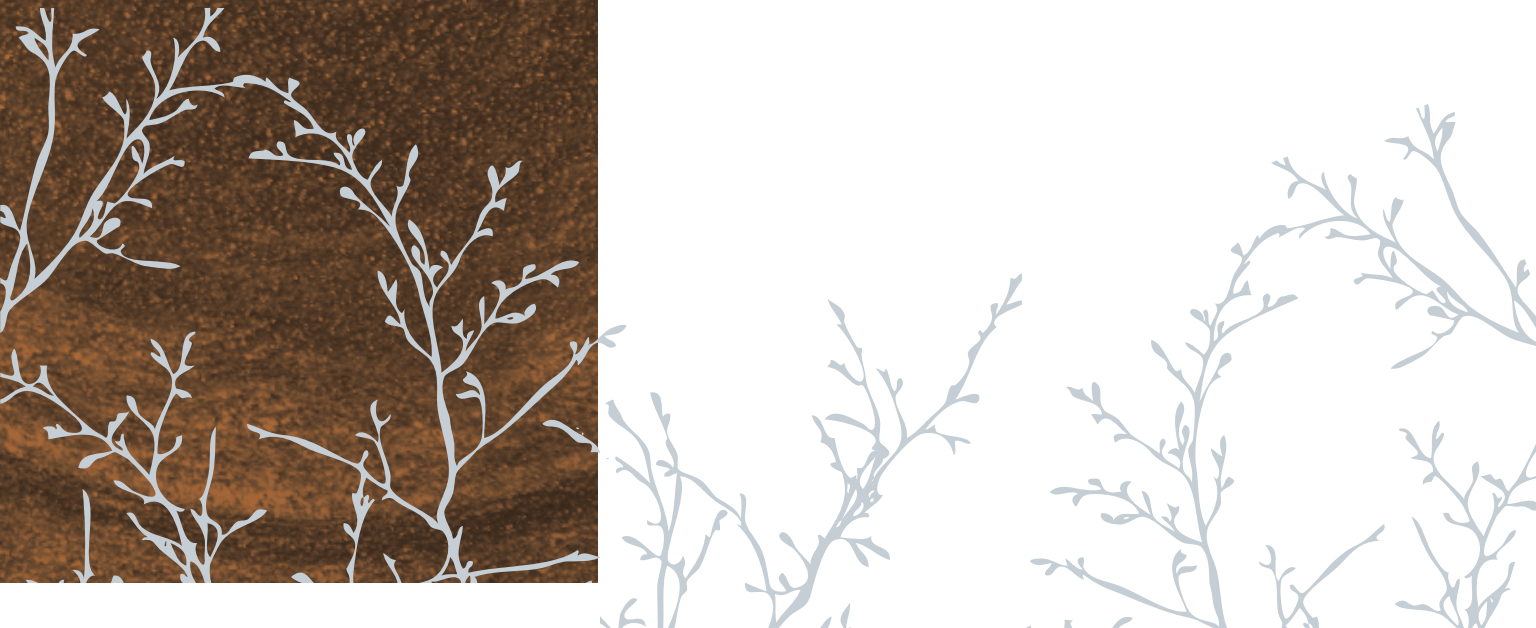
Rose Professor of Holocaust History
Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust
and Genocide Studies





EVENTS & LINKAGES

Cohen-Lasry House opened in 1999 as the Center's home. Planted beside the magnificent Rose Library addition, in a corner cleverly designed by architect Julian Bonder, a graceful Japanese maple has flourished. As the program has grown and thrived, so too has the tree. Its roots are in the earth of the library, its trunk reaches past the Center's seminar room, and its branches and leaves extend toward the offices of our graduate students. In years to come, student research will drop down as books to our library where they will educate future generations.





INFORMED ACTIVISM: ARMED CONFLICT, SCARCE RESOURCES, AND CONGO

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2011

“We have no guns but we have our microphones!” With these words Chouchou Namegabe highlighted her mission as a Congolese journalist and human rights advocate: to bring the plight of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the forefront of national and international consciousness. The founder of the South Kivu Women’s Media Association, Namegabe’s keynote speech addressed sexual violence in Congo and served as a call to action for the one thousand people in attendance. Her talk opened the international summit *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo* hosted by the Strassler Center, in partnership with Jewish World Watch, and supported by philanthropist Al Tapper. Students, activists, academics, community members, and representatives from government and nongovernmental organizations gathered at Clark for an unprecedented opportunity for coalition building between individuals and organizations that seek to end the conflict in the DRC.

Introducing Namegabe, Clark University President David Angel announced that the University has approved a pur-

chasing policy that favors companies which have adopted a process certifying that their electronic devices use conflict-free minerals. Clark is at the forefront among universities in approving such a policy thanks, in part, to Naama Haviv ’00, MA (ABD) ’06. Speaking at the Strassler Center in fall 2010, Haviv inspired Clark undergraduates from STAND (the student division of the Genocide Intervention Network) to lobby the University to avoid the purchase of products that contribute to mass atrocities in Congo.

Addressing, as Clark Professor Cynthia Enloe phrased it, “the convergence of the politics of minerals and the politics of sexual violence, together, and at the same time,” a diverse group of activists, bureaucrats, and academics took to the lectern. Many spoke in broad terms about the horrific crimes associated with mining. George Weiss, founder and CEO of Radio La Benevolencija Humanitarian Tools Foundation, by contrast, suggested a seemingly simple step for implementing feasible and peaceful change on the ground. To de-escalate the violence, he recommended that the Congolese government pay the salaries of their civil servants. “Pay the civil servants,” he advised, “and peace will become a more viable reality.” Chloe Schwenke, a Senior Advisor at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), asked the audience for solutions, encouraging them to reach out to USAID with thoughts on how to intervene, act, and implement change in Congo.

Congolese activist Fidel Bafilemba from the Enough Project called for a “zero tolerance” corruption policy, mirroring successful efforts in Rwanda, to eradicate the culture of “help yourself” in Congo that perpetuates violence. Adam Keith, Desk Officer for the Africa Great Lakes at the US State Department, pointed to the mineral trade in Congo as the main driver of conflict but also the entry point for action, citing five components of US government policy aimed at addressing the violence. And Naama Haviv, Assistant Director of Jewish World Watch, urged action instead of hollow words, emphasizing the gap between US government policy and actions on the ground.

The last speaker of the morning, Saleem Ali, offered a scholarly explanation of the multi-causal association between minerals and the violent competition for control of them in the DRC. Ali, Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, encouraged less reliance on regression models used to build associations between variables, as they fail to address multi-causality. Looking at the range of summit participants, Ali reflected, “we are all activists.” And rightly so, as “neutrality favors the oppressor.”

Sara E. Brown

Chouchou Namegabe, Founder, South Kivu Womens' Media Association



INFORMED ACTIVISM: ARMED CONFLICT, SCARCE RESOURCES, AND CONGO

23-25 SEPTEMBER 2011

The international summit, *Informed Activism*, began with a public panel presenting to a one thousand-strong audience. It continued into the afternoon, as more than five hundred previously registered participants deepened their knowledge in breakout groups organized around key aspects of the subject of conflict minerals and sexual violence. Students, leaders from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, and politicians attended these thirty-two workshops. The purpose of these closed meetings was to recognize the complexity of the issues, to foster dialogue across diverse groups, and to delve deeper into ideas raised in the public session earlier in the day. Many participants noted that they had rarely had the opportunity to gather in such productive discussions. The workshops created spaces, both formal and informal, for participants to expand their knowledge and ground their aspirations for activism in a range of perspectives facilitated by experts, many with direct experience in Congo.

The vision for the summit was achieved thanks to an organic organizing process. Indeed, *Informed Activism* set a new standard at Clark for capturing faculty and student imagination and participation. Professors from across campus voted with their feet, and urged their students to attend the summit.

The problems addressed in the breakout workshops defy easy solutions. They included the complexities of consumer boycotts; sexual violence and war crimes; humanitarian aid interventions; and international law and human rights norms. (For the full program, see www.clarku.edu/departments/holocaust/conferences/informed/). Directors of organizations operating around the world participated, including leaders from the Enough Project, Friends of the Congo, USAID, International Rescue Committee, and Women for Women International. The sessions integrated discussions of next steps, practical solutions, and debates about best practice in promoting advocacy. And they proved inspiring. As Taylor Krauss, Director of Voices of Rwanda, commented, “Among the hundreds of students [who attended the summit] a great many will commit themselves to this movement in a very tangible way as a result of what they observed.”

Policy makers, including representatives from city, state, and national government, were invited to a closed-door meeting where they discussed matters such as what the U.S. and other stakeholders can do to foster democratic transformation in Congo. They considered, too, how American legislation can have a positive impact, and puzzled candidly about other relevant issues. After the session, Adam Keith, the U.S. State Department Representative for the Great Lakes Region, reflected, “It was a great set of participants and panelists. I appreciate you giving us at the State Department the chance to participate and learn from the many stakeholders.”

After a day and a half of back-to-back workshops, informal brainstorming, and productive networking, the summit culminated with a lively gathering designed to present volunteer opportunities to interested students. This NGO fair was a perfect chance to introduce undergraduates to opportunities that align with Clark’s LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice) initiative. Thirty-three organizations showcased the work they do on the ground in Africa. One group brewed fair-trade coffee from Congo and another distributed tee shirts. The more than 500 students who traveled to Clark to attend the summit and hundreds of Clark students benefited from informal conversations with NGO directors and leaders. The promise of *Informed Activism* was realized as participants deepened their understanding of the crisis in Congo and confirmed that activism can be grounded in data and shaped by critical analyses.

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland



Kambale Musavuli, Friends of the Congo and Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service

In the age of twitter and celebrity activism, it’s difficult to get people to focus on much besides the sound bites and slogans that mobilized them in the first place. Activism around DRC has very much fallen victim to this. Your breakout sessions, however, did what breakout sessions are meant to do but so often do not—and that is to drill down into the issues discussed in plenary. You helped advance the conversation about the needs of Congo and its people in a meaningful way and in so doing made all of our jobs a bit easier.

—**Tatiana Carayannis**,
Deputy Director, Conflict Prevention
and Peace Forum, Social Science
Research Council

JAMES RUSSELL: ON ARMENIAN HISTORY AND CULTURAL SURVIVAL

8 SEPTEMBER 2011

Professor James Russell led the Strassler Center's graduate students on a roller-coaster ride through 3,000 years of Armenian history at a "lunch and learn" session in the Kent seminar room. In his warm introduction, Professor Taner Akçam recalled that when they first met in 1999, Russell spoke to him in Turkish. Indeed, Turkish is just one of more than twelve languages and dialects, ancient and modern, known to Russell, who is the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University. A renowned Armenologist, his books include *Bosphorus Nights: The Complete Lyric Poems of Bedros Tourian*; *The Book of Flowers*; *The Heroes of Kasht: An Armenian Epic*; and *Hovhannes Tlkurantsi and the Medieval Armenian Lyric Tradition*.

Russell's presentation was ambitious in scope and depth. He summarized the history of the Armenian plateau from the Urartians in the 12th century B.C.E. to Armenian Kingdoms, Seljuk and Mongol invasions, the Ottoman Empire, Armenian independence movements, and the Armenian Republic. A noteworthy aspect of Armenian history has been a stubborn attachment to religious features, including the perseverance of pre-Christian Zoroastrian elements in Armenian Christianity, which continue today in fire and light motifs. The Armenians were the first Christian nation and, in their ancestral homeland, they persisted as such amid a sea of Muslim states. Moving beyond the heartland, Russell

Mt. Ararat and the Armenian Christian monastery of Khor Virap



explored Armenian diasporic existence, referencing Armenian merchants of Djulfa who crisscrossed the world from London to China, the printing of the first Armenian bible in Amsterdam, the first newspaper in Madras, and Worcester as first home to Armenian cultural life in America.

Russell's presentation dwelled on salient features of Armenian life: attachment to the homeland; diaspora communities knit closely through ties of religion, language, and culture; and a dedication to hard work and productivity even in the most hostile of environments. Russell noted that the "better than X" paradigm stands prominently in Armenian history, as Armenians have consistently sought to stand out and succeed. Armenians excelled wherever they went thanks to their "portable crafts," and eagerness "to acquire new skills: commercial, diplomatic, military," he stressed. Wherever they went, cultural and religious ties kept them together. All too often, this triggered a hostile response. Still, as Russell emphasized, Armenian culture was worth the "high price Armenians paid for its preservation." Indeed, their cultural survival offers lessons for any small people in a world of increasing homogenization.

Russell underlined that the "creative and philosophical spirit instilled in learned members of the [Armenian] community a capacity to become patriotic" long before the nineteenth century—the period highlighted by the emergence of what Benedict Anderson calls "imagined communities" constituting the bedrock of national cohesion. Even when Armenia was ravaged by competing empires, Armenians in fringe regions like Karabakh, Pinkian, and Zeitun "preserved islands of freedom, struck their own coins, tilled their own soil, and never bowed their heads."

Russell concluded with the words of prominent Armenian American writer William Saroyan: "I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose history is ended, whose wars have all been fought and lost, whose structures have crumbled, whose literature is unread, whose music is unheard, whose prayers are no longer uttered. Go ahead, destroy this race. Let us say that it is again 1915. There is war in the world. Destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them from their homes into the desert. Let them have neither bread nor water. Burn their houses and their churches. See if they will not live again. See if they will not laugh again."

Khatchig Mouradian

BOOK DISCUSSION: THOMAS KÜHNE, BELONGING AND GENOCIDE: HITLER'S COMMUNITY 1918-1945

18 OCTOBER 2011

The Strassler Center community celebrated Professor Thomas Kühne's first book in English, *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community 1918-1945* (Yale University Press, 2010) with a panel discussion about issues his text raises. Kühne presented an overview followed by responses and critical comments from three panelists representing different disciplinary and scholarly perspectives. Center Director Debórah Dwork introduced the discussion by describing *Belonging* as an eloquent book that draws on scholarship from diverse fields "with effortless grace -- which requires great effort."

In *Belonging*, Kühne engages two issues about the Holocaust often posed by scholars and the general public: why did a highly "civilized" and cultured society such as Germany turn to genocide? And why was there no opposition? In addressing these questions, Kühne considers the entire German population: men and women, civilians and those in uniform. In a departure from previous scholarship which typically focuses on individual actions, Kühne trains his lens on the society, which ultimately cultivated, supported, and assisted in perpetrating genocide. He considers the wide social dynamics that fostered and supported the Nazi regime and its genocide against Jews and other groups.

According to Wendy Lower, the John K. Roth Professor of History at Claremont McKenna College and a Strassler Center affiliate, *Belonging* yields a "group shot" or "rogues' gallery" for understanding collective behavior. She praised Kühne's work as an original contribution to perpetrator studies as he provides an analysis of group violence that goes beyond questions of hate and greed to show the joy of togetherness. She offered the example of Gustav Wilhaus, commander at the Janowska camp in Ukraine, and his wife Liesel who liked to shoot prisoners from her balcony. Female participation added the varnish of civilization to the criminal society built by the Nazis and gave couples like Liesel and Gustav the opportunity to create new identities as Nazi elites.

Alexander Alvarez, Professor of Sociology at Northern Arizona University, elaborated on the significance of community. In the aftermath of World War I, German society sought to foster a sense of community based on comrade-

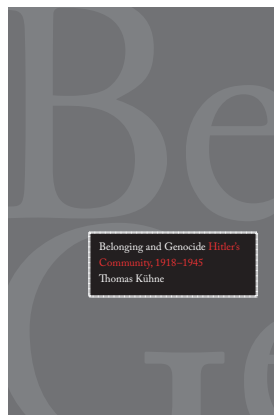
ship by defining those who belonged and those who did not. Bolstered by the warped ethics of Nazi Germany, which created and legitimized a moral framework that demanded and justified criminal behavior, German society acquiesced to and supported Nazi ideology. As Nazi activity became

increasingly radical, the community, bound through love and solidarity, experienced pangs of guilt. But instead of weakening the group, guilt brought the community closer together through shared involvement and complicity in crime. Kühne refers to this process as "community building by criminal means." Communal bonds implicated the whole society as all members jointly subscribed to "Nazi ethics."

While the panelists readily acknowledged the important contribution of *Belonging*, questions nevertheless emerged. Columbia University Professor Volker Berghahn pointed out that while the Nazi regime was based on consensus, it was a modern dictatorship that exercised its power through terror and coercion. He cited executions carried out against German resisters. Nazi Germany was a police state that demanded conformity and obedience from the population; according to Berghahn, this political terror is absent from Kühne's work. Professor Alvarez continued this thread, pointing out that while we know how messages of the *Volksgemeinschaft* and antisemitism were delivered to the German people, we cannot speculate on how these messages were received and why individuals acted upon them. Thus, Kühne's work demonstrates the societal context for the genocide but not necessarily why it succeeded. Kühne's book deepens our understanding of genocide through its investigation of social construction and communal relationships that not only allowed, but encouraged complicity in violence and hate, in the name of the group.

Belonging and Genocide raises new questions about the implementation and execution of genocide. While the answers are both disturbing and enlightening, Kühne's work advances perpetrator scholarship and challenges us to reassess the culpability and role of the community in carrying out genocide.

Kimberly Allar



SYMPOSIUM: BEYOND THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE: THE QUESTION OF RESTITUTION AND REPARATION IN COMPARATIVE REVIEW

27-28 OCTOBER 2011

Organized by Professor Taner Akçam, the interdisciplinary symposium, *Beyond the Armenian Genocide: The Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review* was presented in partnership with NAASR, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (Ethel Jafarian Duffett Fund), and Eric Weitz, then Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Professor at the University of Minnesota. (now Dean of the Humanities and the Arts at CUNY, City University of New York). The symposium gathered a small but diverse group of scholars, legal experts, and practicing lawyers to discuss the continuing search for justice following genocide.

The symposium opened with a keynote address, "A Comparative Perspective on Reparations for Historical Injustices," by sociologist John Torpey of the Graduate Center, CUNY, examining the concept of reparation in a sociologically constructed framework. Torpey, author of *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics* (2006), is known for his work on collective memory and its impact on reparations. His examination of historic injustices in the American context revealed patterns which hold in the study of other reparations cases. In conclusion, Torpey explained that "a spirit of resolution and reconciliation will have to prevail on both sides for the wounds between Armenians and Turks to heal."

Sessions in the Center's Rose Library deepened the discussion among experts, scholars, and doctoral students. Comparative discussions of the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the Native American Genocide gave structure to the panels, each dedicated to a distinct aspect of compensation. The participants mapped out, case by case, the evidence and rationale for the return of stolen art and artifacts; the restitution of personal and communal property; and how postwar agreements and treaties shape discussions about compensation.

Among the many symposium highlights, Lee Boyd, a lawyer currently litigating cases in California, described how Armenian compensation efforts are modeled on the Holocaust restitution movement of the 1990s. She described her case against the Getty Museum to recover four pages of a 13th century illuminated manuscript of religious significance to Armenians: the pages were excised during the genocide. Wesley Fisher, representing the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany, gave a comprehensive overview of Holocaust restitution, emphasizing that the process began with research not lawsuits. Carolyn Rapkiewicz of the National Museum of the American Indian described how objects in the museum's collection live through use.

Berj Boyajian, a lawyer from California where many of the

Armenian cases are tried, cited litigation against the Turkish Central Bank and Ziraat Bank. Constantin Goschler, Professor at Bochum University, considered the legitimate heirs of heirless Jewish property. Allison Dussais, Professor at the New England School of Law, described the connection between Native land claims and religious practice. Michael Bazyley, Professor of Law at Chapman University, explored how defeated Germany and Japan used postwar treaties to confront restitution claims. And Turkish scholar and human rights activist, Dilek Kurban, discussed the policies of the Turkish republic vis-à-vis the properties of community foundations representing non-Muslim Turkish communities.

In the concluding panel, Vartkes Yeghiayan, a distinguished lawyer from California, observed that the economic dimensions of reparation differ from its social and political scope. The conference closed with participants acknowledging that it takes a war chest to fight for justice. University of Nebraska Professor Bruce Johansen noted that casino-owning tribes came forward with money and lobbied for a congressional apology to Native Americans. Similarly, Wesley Fischer noted that the philanthropist Ronald Lauder funded the Center for Art and Recovery which seeks the return of Nazi looted artwork. The costs of Armenian litigation are extremely high, and the opposition is well funded by Turkish denialists. In suggesting that it would be beneficial to create a fund to sustain the legal battles seeking compensation in the Armenian case, many looked expectantly toward NAASR director Marc Mamigonian. The conference closed with rich and lively discussion and with shared hope for more comparative work.

Ümit Kurt

Professor John Torpey, Graduate Center, City University of New York



MARK ROSEMAN: THE MURDERERS FROM NEXT DOOR: GERMAN JEWS AND GERMAN PERPETRATORS

Mark Roseman began his presentation by raising a blind spot among Holocaust historians: “Can we better understand the perpetrators by looking at how the victims saw them?” This approach, in Roseman’s view, is a first step toward an integrative history merging scholarship on victims and perpetrators; at the same time, he conceded that he has been unable to achieve such integration in a single narrative. His lecture was a passionate argument in favor of including the voices of survivors; victims of National Socialist persecution, as he powerfully demonstrated, offer a key perspective on German murderers.

Roseman, the Pat M. Glazer Professor of Jewish Studies at Indiana University, has written on a wide range of topics, including Jewish survivors of the Holocaust, Nazi policy and perpetrators, resistance against National Socialism, and the social impact of total war. His publications include a biography of German-Jewish survivor Marianne Ellebogen, *A Past in Hiding* (2000), winner of four major international prizes; *The Villa, the Lake, and the Meeting* (2002), considered a standard work on the Wannsee conference that has appeared in 11 international editions; and *Documenting Life and Destruction: Jewish Responses to Persecution, 1933-1946. Volume I*, co-edited with Jürgen Matthäus (2010).

Roseman’s lecture focused on German-speaking Jews. This group, he stressed, “witnessed the Nazis longest, spoke their language, and had the most intimate knowledge of the values and mores of the world which shaped their tormentors.” Studying survivor accounts of highly educated and cultured German Jews, Roseman found that descriptions of the perpetrators are limited or absent. National Socialism, he explained, created a distance between Germans and Jews. The Nazis relied on a system of intermediaries and auxiliaries to organize the Holocaust. At the outset, fear prevented Jews from writing about their tormentors. In the ghettos, there was relatively little contact between the victims and their oppressors, and in the camps scant opportunity to write. Contemporary chroniclers worried that the Nazis would discover their writings, and “even after liberation, the perpetrators often remained such fearful presences in the survivors’ imagination that it was impossible to write about them.”

German Jews experienced oppression beginning in 1933; they met their tormentors “at a time when the anti-Jewish assault operated through laws and societal-administrative pressures, and was as much about social and cultural exclusion as physical removal.” Jewish witnesses reflect on this phase of Nazi persecution as a societal phenomenon rather than as the result of the actions of a particular group of Na-



Mark Roseman, Pat M. Glazer Professor of Jewish Studies, Indiana University

tional Socialists. Their accounts reflect the social and economic exclusion of Jews, highlight low-level agency, and “the mixture of opportunism, cowardice, adaptability and conviction that prompted participation or acquiescence in the machinery.” After deportation, the fate of German Jews resembled that of other European Jews; absorbed by the system of mass murder, their survival depended solely on luck. During this phase of Nazi persecution, postwar survivor accounts highlight the perpetrators’ cruelty. The victims distinguish between different perpetrators, speculate about their motives, and observe certain rules of behavior. Survivors’ testimonies, Roseman concluded, thus draw a differentiated and subtle picture of Holocaust perpetrators.

Roseman’s talk provoked lively debate. Third-year doctoral student Khatchig Mouradian questioned how the experience of German Jews differed from that of other Jews; Thomas Kühne related the German-Jewish perspective to the self-perception of perpetrators; and Debórah Dwork pointed out that the lecture referred almost exclusively to testimonies by male adults. In Roseman’s presentation, women had little and children no voice. Despite challenging questions, the audience appreciated Roseman’s argument. “Historians and academics rarely look at how the victims of the Holocaust see their perpetrators,” undergraduate Charles Romanow ’14 noted, “but looking at it in such a way allows us to see things from the perspective of a primary and direct source.”

Michael Nolte

JOLANTA AMBROSEWICZ-JACOBS: THE HOLOCAUST AND COMING TO TERMS WITH NATIONAL HISTORY AND IDENTITY IN EDUCATION AND BEYOND IN POST-1989 POLAND

12 MARCH 2012

Dr. Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, Director of the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland, values teachers as key persons for helping Poles come to terms with the past. An authority on antisemitism and Holocaust education in Poland, she advises the Minister of Education and is a delegate to the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. As the 2011-2012 Ina Levine Invitational Scholar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ambrosewicz-Jacobs conducted research for her project “Landscapes of (non) Memory: The Holocaust and Coming to Terms with National History and Identity in Education in Post-1989 Poland and the Wider World.” At the Strassler Center, Ambrosewicz-Jacobs discussed developments in research on antisemitic attitudes in Poland.

Poland must deal with the spiritual and historical remnants of the Holocaust, according to Ambrosewicz-Jacobs. Some 80 percent of all Jews murdered during the war were killed in Poland, and 90 percent of Poland’s pre-war population of 3 million perished. Since World War II, Polish antisemitism has persisted in hostile beliefs about Jews, individually and collectively. Researchers continue to monitor these phenomena, but understanding antisemitism in comparative perspective is challenging. Different definitions and different methodologies yield a paucity of comparable data. Thus, western Europe leads Europe in antisemitic acts because data collection there is more robust than in central and eastern Europe. This makes it difficult to draw conclusions.

As a social scientist, Ambrosewicz-Jacobs does not speculate without data. Surveys she conducted in 2008-2010 on attitudes among Polish youth toward Jews and the Holocaust reveal the existence of traditional and modern antisemitism. Nearly a quarter of respondents agreed that modern Jews bear responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus. Asked if they agree with the statement that Jews have too much influence in Polish political life, the economy, media, or that Jews have too much influence in the world, 16 percent assented to one statement, 5 percent to two statements, 4 percent to three statements, and 5 percent to four statements.

Memory of Jewish victimhood is perceived as a threat to Poles unable to recognize qualitative differences between Polish and Jewish suffering. Ambrosewicz-Jacobs described victimhood as the core of memory and offered reasons for



Dr. Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, Director of the Center for Holocaust Studies, Jagiellonian University

Polish disregard for the Jewish experience: narratives about Polish martyrology, focus on damage done by the Nazis to Poles, and the wish to avoid difficult topics such as collaboration, indifference, and cases of individual or group cooperation in the Holocaust. In the past, silence about Jewish subjects in Polish schools, the media, the Church, and in families, shaped collective and individual memory of the Holocaust. The destruction of Jewish districts in Warsaw, Lublin, and numerous other Polish towns and cities also made it easy for Poles to elide the history of the Jews. The 2002 publication of *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* by Jan Gross shocked the country, prompting personal and collective memories that polarized attitudes. His narrative describing “Poles killing Jews” led some to become more antisemitic and others to become anti-antisemitic.

Ambrosewicz-Jacobs ended by acknowledging that most Polish youngsters are eager to learn about the Holocaust. Continued research and new initiatives, such as the Museum of the History of Polish Jews due to open in Warsaw, will secure the future of memory about Polish Jews and the Holocaust in Poland. And strong interest in the Center for Holocaust Studies at Jagiellonian University, the program Dr. Ambrosewicz-Jacobs directs, confirms that a half century of silence has ended.

Mihai Poliec

OMER BARTOV: WAR AND GENOCIDE: THE HOLOCAUST AS A WAR GOAL OR AN OBSTACLE TO VICTORY

29 MARCH 2012

Eminent Holocaust historian Omer Bartov opened the Second International Graduate Student Conference with his keynote address, “War and Genocide: The Holocaust as a War Goal or an Obstacle to Victory.” Bartov, the John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History at Brown University, has published widely on such topics as the ideological indoctrination of the German army, the relation between the mass murder of the Jews and warfare, and Holocaust memory. In his forthcoming volume, *The Voice of Your Brother’s Blood: Buczacz, Biography of a Town*, Bartov continues to deepen Holocaust scholarship by elucidating the local dimensions of genocide.

Bartov focused his thought-provoking lecture on a long-established question about the relationship between the Holocaust and Nazi warfare: “Did the mass murder of the Jews hamper victory by diverting resources and distracting attention from the Reich’s war effort?” Or “was it, rather, a primary war goal, whose accomplishment was seen as part and parcel of what would ultimately constitute a German victory?” Citing Peter Longerich’s *Holocaust: The Nazi Persecution and Murder of the Jews*, Bartov pressed the latter position. The desire to annihilate the Jews was vital to German policies. Tying the network of Nazi agencies together, the Holocaust shifted the balance of power in favor of the SS and radical party forces. “It was precisely when the tide began to turn against the Third Reich that the Holocaust emerged in the minds of Nazi policymakers not as an obstacle to victory but as the glue that kept Germany and its

empire together.”

In recent years, influential scholars have questioned the extent to which the Holocaust is central to understanding National Socialism. Nazi policies, these historians argue, should be understood in the context of the European colonialist and imperialist tradition, as well as against the backdrop of the conflict between the Soviet Union and Third Reich. Bartov regards this development as a retrograde movement to the postwar decades when the Holocaust hardly featured in the historiography of Nazism and World War II. In the 1980s and 1990s, the Final Solution was seen as integral to German internal and expansion policies, but this view has diminished lately.

Bartov illustrated this historiographic trend with reference to specific scholars. In *Hitler’s Empire: Nazi Rule in Occupied Europe*, Mark Mazower holds that the Holocaust was a result, rather than a goal, of National Socialism. “What happened to the Jews of Europe,” he writes, “grew out of the circumstances of the war and fluctuated according to its fortunes.” Historian Adam Tooze interprets the Holocaust through an economic lens, considering how the Nazi war effort was shaped in part by the ideology of genocide but also by the pragmatism of murderous forced labor. Rejecting Nazi antisemitism as unprecedented, Donald Bloxham locates the Holocaust in a long history of wars, imperial conflicts, and colonial endeavors. He sees “Hitler’s geopolitical aims” as “a hybrid of the imperial colonial designs of a great power and the irredentist expansionism of the young European nation-state.” In *Bloodlands*, Timothy Snyder integrates the Final Solution into a history of totalitarian crimes. Snyder contends that the Nazi and Soviet regimes goaded each other to commit ever worsening atrocities on the Eastern Front.

Bartov countered Snyder, arguing that Nazi warfare in general and the war against the Soviet Union in particular, targeted enemies identified with Jews. Another reason why genocide is linked to war is that mass murder is inevitably conducted as a military operation. “The unleashing of violence entailed in any war,” Bartov concluded his lecture, “and the perceived need to first dehumanize those one is ordered to kill, always contain the potential for targeting entire populations. In this sense, genocide has always been an instrument of war in the hands of those who wish to use it. Even as wielding it may hasten the road to defeat, its implementation can appear to those who employ it as their last victory.” The question session commenced with a comment by genocide scholar Adam Jones who declared the lecture “a magisterial talk.” A perfect summation. *Michael Nolte*



Professors Taner Akçam, Omer Bartov, and Thomas Kühne

SECOND INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

29 MARCH – 1 APRIL, 2012

Presented in partnership with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the Second International Graduate Student Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies provided a forum for students to present original research. Historiography has developed greatly in recent decades and new directions for genocide studies abound. Students from seventeen countries who research a range of topics eagerly joined the three-day conference to discuss their work and learn from peers and mentors.

Student organizers and faculty adviser Thomas Kühne aimed to repeat the success of the first International Graduate Student Conference. Fresh from his recent book publication, Carroll Kakel, a presenter at the first conference, returned to the second proclaiming, “As a doctoral student, I presented in 2009. As a result of feedback from senior scholars, I published my Ph.D. thesis as a book, *The American West and the Nazi East: A Comparative and Interpretive Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan 2011). In many ways, the 2009 conference constituted my critical professional break in the field.” Once again, the involvement of eminent scholars was crucial to a format designed to build rich connections among participants. Experts in comparative genocide studies and Holocaust history and memory Omer Bartov, Brown University; Marianne Hirsch, Columbia University; and Adam Jones, University of British Columbia, joined faculty from Clark University and senior researchers from DIIS as mentors and panel discussants. Bartov, Hirsch, and Jones closed the conference with a panel discussion that identified important themes and summarized the conference results.

The doctoral student participants discussed historical, legal, social and socio-psychological aspects of survival, rescue, refuge, and perpetrators, the aftermath of genocide, as well as post-genocide memory and education in the context of nation-building. Their topics covered research on the Holocaust, genocides against Native Americans and Armenians, and mass violence in Guatemala and the Balkans. Memory and questions of post-genocide identity were illuminated by analyses of memoirs, exhibitions, governmental policies, popular culture, music, literature, photography, architecture, and memorial sites. The dominant themes suggest that questions about memorialization, reconciliation, education, and prevention are gaining purchase among genocide scholars.

Adam Jones commenced the closing panel with a call for more comparative research on the Holocaust and other genocides. But he warned against stretching the comparative framework too far by highlighting a unique feature of Nazi ideology that targeted Jews with little attention to benefits that are typically part of a colonialist worldview. Jones emphasized psychological mechanisms as an essential factor that genocides share and pointed to David Deutsch’s

fascinating presentation on intimacy and extimacy in mass murder among neighbors. In conclusion, he underlined the shared quest for knowledge, understanding, and commitment to prevention as crucial characteristics among genocide scholars.

Marianne Hirsch called attention to two trends she observed among the papers. Micro-histories focus on a specific case but have large implications. The other trend focuses on the after effects of genocide and encompasses studies of memorialization and education. Hirsch reminded the audience to ask what the stakes are in the questions we raise and how context shapes our work and its possibilities. Finally, she cautioned against inappropriate use of the word comparative while acknowledging her own training as a comparative scholar.

Omer Bartov urged students to integrate testimonies within historical analysis. In his view, personal accounts offer a much more detailed, multidimensional, and immediate access to historical events than many other documents. Bartov also warned against recent forms of denial that pit one victimhood against another, as has emerged in some post-Soviet societies. Praising the participants’ scholarship, Bartov noted how “refreshing it is to encounter probing young minds, true commitment, and serious, potentially highly influential research among a new generation of scholars-in-training.”

The participants, for their part, praised the whole conference. Kara Critchell, from the University of Winchester, England who addresses the Holocaust and antisemitism in the field of education, enjoyed the motivating, energetic, lively, yet encouraging environment of the conference. Speaking for many, she concluded, “I am eager to return to my research and to explore areas which I have never considered before!” Such a gathering is sure to have a positive impact on future research in Holocaust history and genocide studies.

Kathrin Haurand



Partners from the Danish Institute for International Studies: Drs. Anne Wahrens, Johannes Lang, Cecilie Stokholm Banke

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE, KRAKÓW, POLAND: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS WORKSHOP

As a Fulbright Fellow to Poland in the 2011-12 academic year, I conducted research for my dissertation and became immersed in Polish academic and cultural life. The Fulbright mission calls for fellows to participate in cross-cultural, communal activities in the host country and requires grantees to present their research to a wide audience. A fellow Fulbrighter, Dara Bramson asked, "Why not organize a forum at the JCC?"

Dara and I had joined the Kraków Jewish Community Centre (JCC), upon our arrival in the city. An inviting and vibrant organization, the JCC is home to social, cultural, religious, and educational programs for all age groups, and brings together Jews and non-Jews. The JCC attests to the flourishing, multilayered Jewish life in Kraków in particular, and in Poland in general: a fitting venue for our workshop. We pitched the idea to JCC director Jonathan Ornstein, who was instantly supportive, and we began to plan.

A week prior to the event, tragedy hit Poland. Several people were killed in a train crash, among them, Maja Brand, a doctoral student in the Holocaust Studies program at Jagiellonian University and a member of the JCC. The decision to dedicate the workshop to Maja was obvious. Jonathan Ornstein agreed that it would be meaningful to honor Maja in this way; indeed, we hope to hold an annual workshop in her memory. The JCC International Students Workshop took place on 1 March 2012 and attracted students from the College of Vocational Education in Oświęcim, fellow Fulbrighters who traveled from all over Poland, and students from Kraków's colleges and universities. The papers presented, all works-in-progress, benefited from the workshop format. Participants discussed the papers informally, allowing for a rich exchange of ideas, feedback, and suggestions.

First on the program, Michael Newmark (Ph.D. candidate, University Toronto) presented "What Makes a Krakovian? A History of the Republic of Kraków." He argued that nationalism, societal divisions, and the absence of a recognized Polish state in the years 1815-1846 led many Poles (including Jews) to identify in regional terms, as Krakovian. My presentation followed. In "Sketching Prewar Jewish Childhood in Kraków," I examined religion, family, language, education, identity, and antisemitism to create a picture of Jewish child life prior to World War II and to illuminate inter-ethnic relations in Kraków, as seen through children's eyes. In the section on postwar Polish-Jewish history, Rachel Rothstein (Ph.D. candidate, University of Florida) discussed "Reactions to 1968 from Abroad." She looked at how American Jewish organizations responded to the 1968 antisemitic campaign in Communist Poland, showing their level of

awareness, range of activities, and success in confronting it. Dara Bramson (MA candidate, Columbia University) used an anthropological perspective to explore the ideas and history behind souvenirs and artwork representing Jews in her presentation, "An Interactive Reactive Workshop." Moving to the field of art history, Lola Arellano-Weddleton (MA candidate, Courtauld Institute of Art) presented "The Use of Photography within Site-Specific Museums." She explored institutions that function as both museums and memorials, and discussed the purpose of the photographs they exhibit. In the final presentation, Lyudmila Sukhareva (affiliate, Jagiellonian University) offered a grassroots perspective comparing Jewish life in Poland and Ukraine. Her presentation, "Paradisus Iudaeorum 2.0: How the interest in Polish Jewish past helps build a Polish Jewish future," examined Jewish-themed activities in Poland, the reasons for burgeoning interest in Jewish heritage, and the possibility for similar processes to occur in neighboring Ukraine.

Ornstein's vision of an annual workshop will materialize. Encouraged by the success of the first workshop, Dara and I plan to return to Kraków in spring 2013. We look forward to organizing the next multi-disciplinary workshop.

Joanna Sliwa

Ralph and Shirely Rose Fellow Joanna Sliwa





LINKAGES

Mounting academic conferences, workshops, panels, and other events with partner institutions has become a hallmark of Strassler Center programming. Linkages ensue as leading scholars and practitioners come into contact with Center students and faculty. Participation in conferences, research projects, publications, and mentoring, as well as fellowships and faculty visits, are some of the tangible products of these activities. The Strassler Center partnered with diverse and far-flung institutions throughout the 2011-2012 academic year. Evidence of those collaborations appear throughout this report; highlights follow.

The international summit *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo* started a year rich with global linkages. Jewish World Watch, our partner in hosting the summit, prompted the participation of many activists who work on the ground in Congo. The three-day summit concluded with an NGO fair attended by representatives from more than 30 organizations. The purpose aligns with Clark's new LEEP initiative: to connect students from Clark and 38 other colleges and universities with volunteer opportunities. Future cooperation with these groups will strengthen the Center's focus on mass violence and genocide in Africa.

The fall workshop *Beyond the Armenian Genocide: The*

Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review, more modest in scope, commanded a similarly global perspective and international participation. Material and intellectual support came from the University of Minnesota and especially Eric Weitz, then Arsham and Charlotte Ohannessian Professor. As in past programs hosted by Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), under the inspired leadership of director Marc Mamigonian, was a generous partner, active in all aspects of the program.

The Danish Institute for International Studies, thanks to funding and foresight provided by the Kulin family, is a regular co-sponsor of the triennial International Graduate Student Conference. In its second iteration, faculty advisor and Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne welcomed the interest and cooperation of the International Association for Genocide Studies. Such organizations help to carry forward the Center's mandate to increase global involvement. And this ambition is consonant with Clark University's focus on nourishing programs that are international in scope.

The many institutions listed here have contributed in ways great and small to the exciting activities reported in these pages. We are grateful for their interest and participation.

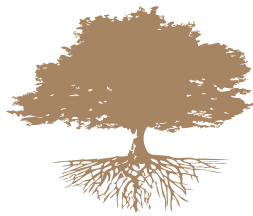
Mary Jane Rein



Participants in the Per Ahlmark Foundation Symposium, *The New Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities*: (front row) Abdullah Hamidaddan, Professor Debórah Dwork, Dr. Abel Monem Said Ali, Proventus Chairman Robert Weil, (back row) Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer, Shulamit Bahat, Ambassador Aziz Mekouar, M.P. Mbarka Bouaida, Professor Taner Akçam, Honorable Robert Wexler



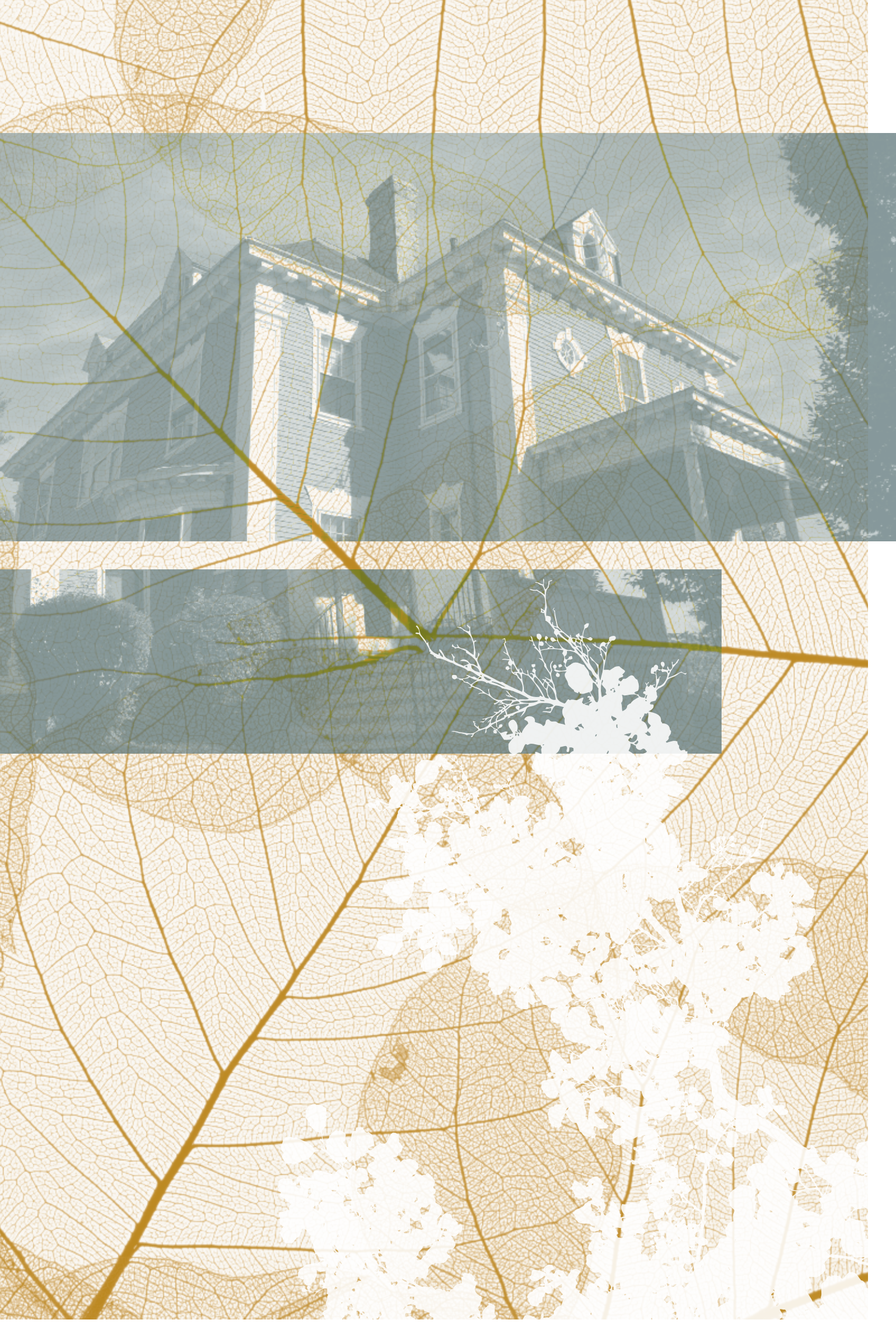
Anatolian College, Thessaloniki
Anti-Defamation League
Armenian National Institute
Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
Conference on Material Claims Against Germany
Danish Institute for International Studies
Facing History and Ourselves
The Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation
Genocide Intervention Network
German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.
Hadassah Brandeis Institute
Haigazian University, Beirut
Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Institute for Contemporary History, Munich
Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg
International Association of Genocide Scholars
International Network of Genocide Scholars
The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
Jewish World Watch
Leibniz University, Hannover
Leo Baeck Institute
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich
Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University
The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
Per Ahlmark Foundation, Stockholm
Radio La Benevolencija
Research Center for Contemporary History, University of Hamburg
Salzburg Global Seminar
Shoah Foundation Institute
Swedish Institute for International Affairs
Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research
United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum
University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair
Worcester Jewish Community Center
Yad Vashem, Jerusalem
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



FACULTY NOTES

Center faculty create the core intellectual community our students enjoy. Looking to the future, we aim to grow our scholarly reach with the addition of faculty working in synergistic areas as our doctoral program branches into new areas of inquiry.





DEBORAH DWORK

With five hundred students from colleges across the country attending the Center's kick-off international summit, *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo*, hundreds of Clarkies, and a lively community presence, the only space large enough on campus to accommodate the thousand-person audience was the gym. Dwork was delighted to thank the 70 student volunteers who helped mount the event. But they would have none of it. "Thank YOU," they responded. "I am proud to help."

Informed Activism was a milestone in the Center's forward trajectory. Tapping into keen student interest about unfolding events in the world today, the symposium staked new intellectual ground in genocide studies for the Center. As Dwork explained, the title, *Informed Activism*, captures the mission of the Strassler Center. "We research and teach, confident that knowledge informs our understanding of current problems and provides the tools to shape the world we envision. With its focus on the violence-inducing trade of minerals destined for electronic devices – a critically important, unfolding catastrophe – *Informed Activism* expresses our aim to deploy scholarship in the public arena."

Dwork sees Holocaust history and comparative genocide studies as twinned endeavors. "I came to *Informed Activism* as a Holocaust historian. And if I have learned anything from history, it is that citizen activism such as we saw at that symposium could have shaped a very different course. I have heard people say about Congo, or Sudan, 'Silence reigns because this violence occurs in the heart of Africa. If millions of people were murdered in the heart of Europe, action would be taken.' And they are correct: NOW. But we all know that millions of people were murdered in Europe seventy years ago, and silence reigned then. So: Now is the time to raise our voices. Now is the time to chart a way forward."

One of the summit speakers, Ian Smillie, architect of the 49-government Kimberly Process to halt the traffic in conflict diamonds, returned to campus to accept an honorary degree in May. Dwork was on the commencement platform with Smillie – to present her student Adara Goldberg to President Angel to be awarded a doctoral degree. Dedicated to the PhD program, Dwork revels in the robust stream of top-notch graduate students making their way through coursework and their dissertations.

In Dwork's view, credit for the students' success rests with them, and with the scholars who offer directed readings courses for them and sit on their oral comprehensive

examination and dissertation committees. Her model of leveraging great scholarship scattered across academia and the museum and NGO worlds to build a doctoral program that transcends institutional boundaries has grown to a network of some fifty renowned experts actively engaged with Strassler Center PhD students. This year alone, generosity of spirit and intellect spurred David Simon (Yale University) to work with Sara Brown; Cemal Kafadar (Harvard University), Ara Sanjian (University of Michigan), and Raymond Kevorkian (AGBU Nubarian Library, Paris) with Khatchig Mouradian; and Wendy Lower (Claremont McKenna) and Peter Black (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) with Kim Allar. Frank Bialystok (University of Toronto) and Richard Menkis (University of British Columbia) shone bright as generous and careful readers of Adara Goldberg's dissertation. Members of her committee, they tracked her progress closely and offered key suggestions and insights.

Dwork does a lot of mentoring herself. She enjoyed advising thirteen doctoral students this year, ten of whom are ABD, as well as Hanna Schmidt Holländer, visiting from the University of Hamburg. "Lots of dissertation chapters to read, and lots of grant applications," she observed. "And lots of great results!" Dwork delights in the students' progress. Indeed, so committed is she to their success that she taught an extra-curricular weekly Graduate Student Skills course. And they appreciated it. "Dr. Dwork is the epitome of a professor," one participant wrote to the administration. "The University should turn to her to teach other professors how to teach."

Dwork does not consider herself an expert in teaching practice, but she eagerly shares her knowledge with teachers of all stripes. "I find educators inspirational. It is through their magic that scholarship is transformed into class lessons and museum tour talks." The publication of *A Boy in Terezín: The Private Diary of Pavel Weiner, April 1944-April 1945* (Northwestern University Press, 2011) afforded her the opportunity to speak about children's experiences to a number of audiences, from gallery educators at the Museum of Jewish Heritage (NY), to participants in the Advanced Seminar for Teachers run by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, to teachers and public alike at Facing History and Ourselves (Brookline, MA). Tailoring topic to institutional need, Dwork drew from her book, *Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews 1933-1946* (Norton, 2009), to develop a full day of presentations on the postwar experience to



teachers at the Illinois Holocaust Museum (Skokie).

The subject of Jewish refugees' wartime and postwar experiences interested many, from the general public in Skokie to the scholars who attended the annual conference of the Netherlands and the Belgium-Luxembourg American Studies Associations, at which she delivered a keynote address. Dwork was particularly pleased to offer an author's talk on *Flight from the Reich* in the M on the Bund's Literary Salon series in Shanghai. The event was the brainchild of Mark Johnson, a teacher who had studied with her, and now lives and works in Shanghai. "It was an amazing experience for me to speak in a city about which I'd researched and written, but never seen. I know certain photographs of Shanghai as well as I know photographs of my own family, and now I moved from the celluloid into the street. Walking through town, I had a leg in two eras: the early 1940s and 2011." Broadband interest in Jewish refugees was reflected in the 2012 publication of *Flight* in French (Calmann-Lévy), selected as a Grand Livre du Mois, and in Dutch (Uitgeverij Elmar).

As the Center's roots grow and its branches multiply with its students' successes, Dwork's perspective on the field of Holocaust history and genocide studies at the university level is in ever-greater demand. "Happily, the Center has gained purchase for Holocaust history and genocide studies in academia," she observes. She delivered a keynote address on "University Education and the Holocaust Paradigm" at a conference at The Hague, a plenary presentation on "The Challenges of Teaching the Holocaust at the University" at an educators' conference hosted by Yad Vashem, and an opening roundtable address on "Holocaust Education at the University" at the Salzburg Global Seminar (SGS). Invited to join the SGS in 2010, Dwork has returned each year to participate in the continued international discussion about Holocaust education in many contexts and on several continents. If she feels like a regular at the SGS, she was a newcomer to the 31-member state International Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research (ITF). Invited to join the American delegation, Dwork attended her first meeting in November. "I assumed that I'd take a back seat to start, but there's a lot of work to be done!" she observed.

The ITF is but one of the organizations to which Dwork lends her considerable energy and intellect. She relished her work with fellow Per Ahlmark Foundation (Sweden)



Rose Professor and Strassler Center Director Debórah Dwork

trustee, Shula Bahat. With the warm and unflagging help of Lina Sjöquist and Carina Sjögren (at Proventus in Stockholm), Bahat and Dwork planned an international symposium on *The New Middle East: Challenges and Opportunities*. Co-hosted by the Glasshouse Forum and the Swedish Institute for Foreign Affairs, and co-sponsored by the Strassler Center, *The New Middle East* brought together a stellar group of experts – including the Center's own Kaloosdian/Mugar Professor, Taner Akçam – to analyze and interpret unfolding events and to contemplate future options and opportunities in the region. Dwork serves too on the Advisory Board of the International Research Institute on Jewish Women (Brandeis University); the Planning Board for a Center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Political Violence (Hebrew University, Jerusalem); and the JFR's Board of Trustees. She reviews grant and fellowship applications for foundations on both sides of the Atlantic. And she joined the advisory team for an exhibition planned by the Museum of Jewish Heritage on American Jews who helped rescue Jewish refugees during the war. The exhibition dovetails with Dwork's current book project, *Saints and Liars*, which follows Americans (Unitarians, Jews, Quakers, secular people) who traveled to Europe to aid and, if possible, rescue imperiled Jews. "They perceived possibilities for action where others saw none, and their history reveals how rescue activities unfolded, step by step." How she carves out time to write books is a mystery to all. Rumor has it that there are more than 24 hours in a Dwork day.

Mary Jane Rein



TANER AKÇAM

Two books published in one year might tire an ordinary scholar, but Taner Akçam is extraordinary and he added to that with other publications and a host of conferences and lectures delivered around the globe during the 2011-2012 academic year. Media outlets, both print and broadcast, routinely seek his comments; his television and radio interviews, editorials, and comments reach multiple audiences. Akçam holds the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Professorship. His new books, *Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire* (Princeton University Press, 2012) and *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*, co-authored with Vahakn Dadrian (Berghahn Books, 2011), highlight the value of primary documents. A pioneer in the use of Ottoman sources, Akçam is training a new generation of scholars in research methods. They will be prepared to explore neglected and previously unavailable sources that bring knowledge of the Armenian Genocide and other Ottoman genocides to a new level.

In *Judgment at Istanbul*, Akçam published, for the first time in English, the indictments and verdicts of the Turkish Military Tribunals held at the end of World War I. The records of these tribunals are replete with information about the genocidal actions carried out by Turkey's wartime cabinet ministers, Young Turk party leaders, and local officials. To research his latest book, *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity*, Akçam gained unprecedented access to previously secret documents from the Ottoman archives of 1913 onward. These sources address the factors that set the stage for the Armenian Genocide and elucidate their full historical significance, including the government's commitment to demographic engineering, forced conversion and assimilation of Armenian children, and seizure of Armenian property.

Akçam's scholarship and activism have a tremendous impact on both the scholarly realm and the human rights arena. In a *New York Times* opinion piece, "Turkey's Human Rights Hypocrisy" (20 July), he called on Turkey to acknowledge the genocide in order to serve as a legitimate champion for human rights in the Middle East. His insistence, grounded in meticulous research, that the murder of Armenians constitutes genocide, and his calls for Turkey to face that genocidal past, have infuriated Turkish ultranationalists. Finding himself the subject of numerous legal actions and the target of death threats and intimidation by such people, and fearing prosecution by the Turkish government under the infamous Article 301, which criminalizes use of the term genocide, Akçam sued Turkey in the European Court of Human Rights. The court ruled in his favor: his freedom of expression had been violated.

The court agreed that he faced risk of prosecution despite recent amendments to the Turkish law. The judgment compels Turkey to change the law prohibiting the word genocide to describe the systematic destruction of the Armenian population by the Ottoman Empire before World War I. The court's ruling was immediately hailed as a major human rights victory and a significant contribution to freedom of speech.

Interested in fresh approaches to studying the Armenian Genocide, Akçam organized the interdisciplinary workshop, *Beyond the Armenian Genocide: The Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review*, held 27-28 October 2011 (see page 8). Presented in partnership with NAASR (the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research), and Eric Weitz, then the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Professor at the University of Minnesota, the conference gathered a small, diverse group of scholars, legal experts, and practicing lawyers to discuss the continuing search for justice following genocide. As with his activities to support human rights, Akçam is committed to practical outcomes. His invitation to discuss economic forms of justice for Armenian victims and their descendants focused attention on current cases in US courts and abroad. The economic implications of genocide are central to his next book, which I look forward to co-authoring, on the confiscation of Armenian properties.

Ümit Kurt



Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam

THOMAS KÜHNE

Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne prizes his work mentoring and training doctoral students. He was thus pleased to assume the role of Director of Graduate Studies at the Strassler Center during the 2011-2012 academic year. In this position, he is responsible for advising first year students and recruiting applicants to the doctoral program. And he reprised his role as convener of the Second International Graduate Student Conference, a highlight of the academic year (see page 11). His dedication to teaching and advising students shone through the entire process of mounting the conference. Concomitantly, Kühne enjoyed a prolific year publishing book chapters, articles, book reviews, and edited volumes as well as delivering lectures and conference presentations.

Kühne's knowledge of military history and his expertise in perpetrator studies is essential to his work directing theses and doctoral dissertations. Chair of Robin Krause's MA thesis committee, he was pleased that she successfully defended her study of German opposition to the Herero genocide. He also serves as chair of five doctoral dissertation committees. In spring, Kim Allar sat her comprehensive examinations and defended her dissertation proposal, both under Kühne's supervision. Allar deals with the training of Nazi camp guards in Dachau, Ravensbrück, and Trawniki, and she has benefited from Kühne's enthusiasm for diverse perspectives including cultural and gender studies, psychology, and sociology.

In fall, Kühne introduced his book, *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community, 1918-1945* (Yale University Press, 2010), to the Center community and friends as part of a stimulating panel discussion (see page 7). Well-received by

Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne



the participating scholars, the book was met with enthusiasm by Center colleagues and students. According to historian Dennis Showalter (Colorado College), "Kühne... has a distinguished record of achievement in contextualizing the Holocaust in the social and cultural history of modern Germany. This volume summarizes and epitomizes his approach and conclusions. Slim in length, it is an intellectual heavyweight, with a perspective even informed readers may initially find shocking." Italian and Polish translations are currently in preparation, due to be published in 2013. Discussions continue for publishing the book in other languages as well. Kühne also served as co-editor of two books, *Globalizing Beauty: Body Aesthetics in the 20th Century* (Palgrave-Macmillan, planned for 2013) and *The Holocaust and Local History* (Vallentine-Mitchell, 2011). The latter publication comprises a selection from the proceedings of the First Graduate Student Conference held at the Strassler Center in April 2009.

Kühne's "Great Men and Large Numbers: Undertheorizing a History of Mass Violence," a critical analysis of Timothy Snyder's popular book *Bloodlands*, was published in the journal *Contemporary European History*. He also wrote book chapters for *The Oxford Handbook of Modern German History* (Oxford University Press, 2011) and for the volume *Pleasure, Power and Everyday Life under National Socialism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011). He reviewed several books, including works on Hitler's *Wehrmacht*; the history of death in modern Germany; the language of the Holocaust, and not least *The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies*.

Conference presentations and invited lectures comprised another important component of Kühne's academic year. He delivered a paper on "Practicing Democracy - But Which Sort?" at the 35th Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association, Louisville, KY in September and chaired a panel, "Gender and Nazi Violence: Historical-Anthropological Perspectives," at the same conference. He also chaired a panel, "Constructive Side of Mass Violence," at the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago in January 2012. Invited by Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany, in December 2011 and Williams College in April 2012, he delivered lectures on nation building and male bonding in the Third Reich during the Holocaust.

Kühne served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Hannover, Germany during the summer. And he embarked upon a new scholarly initiative exploring the relationship between German colonialism and the Holocaust even as he continues work on his research project on the history of racism and body aesthetics. We look forward to learning more about both projects this year. *Khatchig Mouradian*



Michael and Lisa Lefell Professor Olga Litvak

OLGA LITVAK

A thirst for intellectual connections characterizes the teaching and scholarship of Olga Litvak, Michael and Lisa Lefell Professor of Modern Jewish History. Not one to shy away from conceptual questions, she is perennially interested in getting students to see the larger context and broader meaning. Whether in her well-liked lecture class “Introduction to Russian History” or in her seminar course “Jewish Popular Culture,” Litvak pushes intellectual and conceptual boundaries. Third-year doctoral student Ümit Kurt, who works on the Armenian Genocide and took Litvak’s course “East European Jewish Diaspora,” values her insights on Russian history for his work on late Ottoman Turkey. He admires her ability to “pay attention to the specifics and peculiarities of historical events. She is a brilliant historian. Able to contextualize the sequence of historical events, she avoids falling into the traps of anachronism and ahistoricism. She is a paramount model for those who strive to be good historians.”

Kurt’s enthusiasm for Litvak’s teaching is shared by students who took her new course “Russian Visual Culture,” which strengthens the interdisciplinary range of history offerings while attracting students with diverse interests. They raved that it was beyond every expectation. The course examines iconic Russian modern art and visual culture and makes connections with Russian history. How does learning about revolutionary politics and Bolshevik ideology inform how to look at a Russian painting, photograph, film, or novel? What is the connection between avant-garde theory of world creation and totalitarian art? Litvak equips students with conceptual tools for understanding art and history in new and imaginative ways.

Litvak brings these innovative approaches to her own scholarship. Currently writing *Uncivil Union: Modern Jewish Yiddish Literature and Russian Middle-Class Culture* she makes the conceptual link that is often missing in common narratives of Yiddish literature. Shining a bright light on the question of class, and on middle-class actors in particular, she aims to deepen our knowledge of everyday life. Her two recently published book chapters make similar connections: “In the Evil Kingdom of Things: Sholem-aleichem and the Writing of Everyday Life in Russian-Jewish Literature,” published in *Violence and Jewish Daily Life in the East European Borderlands: Essays in Honor of John D. Klier* (Academic Studies Press, 2012) and her chapter “Found in Translation: Sholem-aleichem and the Myth of the Ideal Yiddish Reader” in *Translating Sholem Aleichem: History, Politics and Art* (Legenda, 2012). In these examples of scholarship, Litvak’s careful attention to everyday life and culture is matched by her commitment to embrace larger philosophical questions.

Her forthcoming book, *Haskalah: The Romantic Movement in Judaism*, due to be published by Rutgers University Press in December 2012 is in the series *Keywords in Jewish Studies*. The term Haskalah, commonly translated as the “Jewish Enlightenment,” is closely associated with Jewish modernity. Litvak persuasively argues that Haskalah is best understood in relation to East European Romanticism and did not originate from Western Europe as has previously been understood. Using primary sources, she establishes East European intellectuals and artists at the forefront of a Jewish Romantic revolution, challenging and expanding the classic view of the position and meaning of the Haskalah. In so doing, Litvak persuasively argues for the need to reinterpret some fundamental assumptions about Jewish life and culture in early 20th century Europe.

As a scholar, intellectual, teacher, and mentor, Olga Litvak brings life and energy to the Strassler Center. She provides tools for students and colleagues to develop richer understandings about the life and culture of the Jews of Europe - more often explored in the context of destruction and genocide. And she does so in a uniquely brilliant and compelling way.

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland

FACULTY GUEST PROFILE: KEN MACLEAN

Trained as an anthropologist, experienced as an NGO worker, and deeply knowledgeable about the intersection of human rights abuses and natural resource issues in South East Asia, Professor Ken MacLean brings important new perspectives to the intellectual life of the Strassler Center. And happily, he gladly volunteers to advise and mentor Center students, and to chair and co-sponsor events. A primary example: MacLean served as faculty co-chair of the organizing committee for the fall conference *Informed Activism* (see pages 4 and 5). In this capacity, he helped to conceptualize the conference, recommended expert participants, and chaired a panel, *The Politics of Protection: The Possibilities and Limits of Humanitarian Action*. The intellectual substance of the conference fit neatly with his work on resource extraction, child soldiers, forced migration, violence against women, and the involvement of non-local interests in conflict zones. Much of his research on these issues has unfolded in Burma where violence against ethnic minorities in the eastern part of the country continues despite encouraging political developments of the past year.

In addition to Burma, MacLean's field work in conflict torn regions of South East Asia includes Cambodia and Vietnam. Fluent in Thai and Vietnamese, he has worked as an activist throughout the region, researched in archives, consulted on natural resource matters, and spoken and published widely on his findings. His book manuscript, *Governing Documents: Bureaucracy, Illegibility, and the Politics of Mistrust in Socialist Vietnam*, is to be published by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Press series: *New Perspectives in Southeast Asia*. Forthcoming articles and book chapters include "Lawfare and Impunity in Burma since the Ban on Forced Labour," *Asian Studies Review*; "Audit Regimes and the Rituals of Compliance in Contemporary Vietnam," *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*; "General Trần Đō: The Life and Death of a Public Intellectual," *Journal of Vietnamese Studies*; "The Enterprising Cadre (*Cán Bō Dáng Lām*)" in *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity: Vietnam*, eds., Erik Harms, John Barker, and Johan Lindquist (2012); and "Bodies in Perpetual Motion: Struggles over the Meaning, Value, and Purpose of Fuzzy Labor on the Eve of Collectivization," in Hue-Tam Ho Tai and Mark Selden, eds. *Property Rights and Social Values: State, Society and the Market in Vietnam* (2012).

Second-year doctoral student and Stern Fellow Sara Brown asked to serve as a professor-in-training for MacLean's course, "Trafficking: Globalization and its Illicit Commodities." He is the kind of teacher she hopes to become. "Ken MacLean is brilliant. He's a hands-on instructor who always manages to pose questions that provoke meaningful discussions. I learned a lot from the way he incorporates a mixed media approach and often puts the class in groups to sort out the challenges they raise in discussion.



Center Executive Director Mary Jane Rein, Professor Ken MacLean, Academic Program Liaison Officer Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland

He is approachable, knowledgeable, and a strong mentor." Undergraduate HGS concentrator Shelby Margolin values his intellectual incandescence. "Professor MacLean has encouraged me to think in completely new ways by showing me how to ground my theoretical questions into concrete examples, while pushing me to theorize about seemingly mundane assumptions. His vast knowledge, palpable love of teaching, and keen sense of humor have cultivated my love of learning and helped me develop my critical thinking skills."

Serving as discussant for the panel "Transnational Memory of Mass Violence" at the Second International Graduate Student Conference (see page 11), his insights were extremely valuable, particularly in commenting on "The Hiroshima-Auschwitz Peace March and the Globalization of Victimhood" where his knowledge of Asia and activism came to the fore. MacLean's blend of skills, experience, and expertise enrich the Strassler Center community and help to advance its growth and development in significant new directions.

Mary Jane Rein

SHELLY TENENBAUM

As Chair of the Department of Sociology and Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities (CUA) for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Professor Shelly Tenenbaum plays a major role at the Strassler Center. And it is no surprise that she remains a top-rated professor, perennially popular with students. Despite her demanding schedule, she maintains an open door policy for Clark students, encouraging them to approach her with queries, ideas, and concerns.

Tenenbaum is especially dedicated to pedagogy and undergraduate education. As chair of the Association for Jewish Studies Pedagogy Working Group, she helped to organize sessions on methodological and pedagogical issues in the field of Jewish Studies. In December, she chaired a session on “Modern Jewish Politics in the College Classroom” at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference. At Clark, Tenenbaum has carefully shaped the Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS) undergraduate concentration and she continues to persuade colleagues across the campus to offer new classes to enrich it. Partnering with English Professor Betsy Huang with whom she received a Higgins School grant, they developed the course “Telling Lives: Race, Genre and Autobiography,” to be jointly taught this fall.

Tenenbaum organizes the annual Especially for Students Lecture series. These lectures, often held in connection with HGS courses, are designed to inspire student activism. In fall 2011, Cheryl Hamilton '01 performed her one-woman play *Checkered Floors*, which relates the autobiographical experiences of a recent college graduate whose life is changed by a wave of Somali immigration into Lewiston, Maine. In spring, she collaborated with Toby Sisson, Assistant Professor of Visual and Performing Arts, to host three simultaneous art exhibitions across campus as part of *Voice to Vision*, a collaborative project that endeavors to translate genocide survivor experiences into visual arts. The Siff gallery at the Strassler Center was one of the exhibition sites. David Feinberg, the project director and an Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Minnesota, discussed the power of art to draw out the stories of survivors in the Rose Library.

Overseeing undergraduate HGS internships is a highlight of Tenenbaum’s work with the concentration. She especially enjoys advising students about opportunities to serve as interns in programs across the country and around the world. I know because, as a Clark undergraduate, I approached her in 2004 with a goal to intern in Rwanda. Another professor might have raised an eyebrow at my determination to land such a difficult placement. But Tenenbaum helped

me secure an especially meaningful summer internship, developing training curricula for Gacaca court personnel in Kigali and Kibuye, Rwanda. The Gacaca courts were in their pilot phase, about to begin nationwide trials against suspected perpetrators in that year, the 10th anniversary of the genocide, and that internship opportunity shaped my life as a genocide scholar with a focus on Rwanda and Congo. Nearly 10 years before Clark launched LEEP, the Strassler Center had developed the concept and I benefited from the foresight of visionary faculty. Tenenbaum then invited me to give the fall 2004 Especially for Students Lecture to report on my experience. HGS concentrator Anna Voremberg '13 assisted Tenenbaum with the concentration this spring and also received funding for a summer internship with the Consortium of Gender, Security and Human Rights in Boston, MA. “My employer and advisor, Professor Tenenbaum, has provided me with endless advice. She encouraged me to get involved with the international summit *Informed Activism*, helped me follow up with keynote speakers, and was there to congratulate me when I landed a very important internship.”

Tenenbaum has developed a comprehensive list of national and international internships available to all Clark students, not solely those in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies undergraduate concentration, creating what can only be called a clearing house of internship opportunities. Shelly Tenenbaum continues to serve as my standard for best practices in teaching and mentoring. *Sara E. Brown*



Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities

JAAN VALSINER

Fruitful collaboration between the Strassler Center and Psychology Department underlies Professor Jaan Valsiner's efforts to advance the academic training and research pursuits of students enrolled in both programs. Valsiner is a cultural psychologist who works within a semiotic frame to understand the cultural organization of psychological processes and phenomena. A frequent world traveler, he also promotes international cooperation by speaking and teaching abroad and by hosting a steady flow of visitors from Estonia, Russia, Columbia, Brazil, Portugal, Japan, Norway, Germany, and Italy, among other countries. Fostering global connections, Valsiner brings a creative spirit and methodological originality to his research.

Valsiner inspires his students through his distinctive ability to think abstractly and to expand their critical analytical skills. Weil Fellow Cristina Andriani credits him for shaping the direction of her dissertation, pushing her to think outside the box to develop her ideas. Kenneth Cabell '11, a psychology student who has worked with Valsiner, describes him as an adviser who cultivates an egalitarian environment that nurtures collaborative relationships with students. Valsiner is as well-known for the fertile academic culture he promotes as for his impressive research and publication record. In the academic year 2011-2012, he collaborated with research groups around the world and published widely in book series and journals. His journal article productivity is matched by the many books he edited or co-edited. And he serves as editor-in-chief of the journals *Culture and Psychology* and *Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Sciences*.

Valsiner's most recent book, *A Guided Science: History of Psychology in the Mirror of its Making* (Transactions Publications, 2012), examines the development of psychological ideas by tracing key figures in the cognitive, comparative, and developmental areas of psychology, and analyzing their social context. A landmark publication in the field of cultural psychology, *The Oxford Handbook of Culture and Psychology*, edited by Valsiner, (Oxford University Press, 2012) synthesizes diverse disciplinary perspectives such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, archaeology and history, and provides valuable insights into cross-cultural psychology, culture and conceptions of the self, as well as semiotics. In this volume, Valsiner advances the ultimate goal of cultural psychology to explain the ways in which human cultural constructions, such as meanings, stereotypes, and rituals, inform human acting, feeling, and thinking in different social contexts. Together with Ana Cecilia Bastos and Kristina Uriko, Valsiner co-edited *Cultural Dynamics of Women's Lives* (Information Age Publishers, 2012), which explores various landscapes in women's struggles for their personal and social identities and lives. It examines the interaction between biology and culture, destiny and choice, and tradition and modernity for women.

Through his many publications and generous mentoring, Jaan Valsiner has influenced the intellectual evolution of many students, encouraging them to explore an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the multiple layers of meaning in social spaces. "An exceptional academic, Professor Valsiner's authoritative scholarship is testament to his intellectual energy, constant generosity, and ability to challenge and inspire colleagues and students alike," observes Tapper Fellow Jody Russell Manning, whose research in the field of memory studies is shaped by Valsiner's theoretical ideas. Jaan Valsiner is clearly a valued contributor to the Strassler Center program, its students, and faculty.

Mihai Poliec



Professor Jaan Valsiner



JOHANNA RAY VOLLHARDT

Johanna Ray Vollhardt, an accomplished Assistant Professor at the Francis L. Hiatt School of Psychology, is an affiliated faculty member with the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Over the past three years her teaching and mentoring have enhanced the Strassler Center community, while her cutting edge research has shed light on the psychology of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders during genocide and in its aftermath. Her work illustrates how the fields of psychology and genocide studies are mutually enriched through innovative and practical scholarship.

Vollhardt contributes to an unprecedented radio program intended to promote reconciliation and democracy in Burundi, Rwanda, and Eastern Congo. The program, conceived in the format of a soap opera, helps listeners to understand and overcome unresolved trauma and violence within their society. Together with her colleague Professor Rezarta Bilali (UMass Boston) and in collaboration with the international NGO Radio La Benevolencija, Vollhardt has been working on evaluation studies trying to understand the outcome and effects of such reconciliation programs in these three distinct contexts; the results will contribute to future media interventions that promote non-violent resolution of ongoing conflicts and reconciliation in the aftermath of mass violence. This work has been funded by the 2012 Psychology beyond Borders Mission Award and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. The positive response to the radio programs and their popularity in Burundi, Rwanda, and Eastern Congo reveal the practical value of such interdisciplinary and transnational research collaborations.

Encouraged by the insights and knowledge gained from this project, Vollhardt continues to research psychological needs, particularly of victims, following genocidal violence. Her research will aid the development of strategies that improve intergroup relations among former victims and perpetrators, and thus contribute to democratization and reconciliation. Her latest project, funded by a Visionary Fund Grant from the American Psychological Foundation, entails focus group interviews with members of four populations targeted by ethnic violence - Armenian Americans, Jewish Americans, and Burundian and Nepali-Bhutanese refugees. This innovative research will shed light on psychological needs in the aftermath of mass violence and strategies to promote solidarity between victim groups.

With her interdisciplinary and transnational research view point, Vollhardt's work dovetails with the latest developments in Holocaust History and Genocide Studies. She is also a devoted teacher and mentor dedicated to advising undergraduate research, MA, and doctoral theses. This spring, she offered the capstone seminar "The Social and Cultural Psychology of Genocides," with undergraduate and graduate students from different disciplines. Vollhardt observes that their diverse perspectives contribute to lively discussions. Her engagement with students extends to a research group she oversees that is open to volunteers. They meet regularly to work on experiments, surveys, and interviews and these meetings introduce students to the latest research on intergroup conflicts and cooperation strategies.

Vollhardt is committed to building an international network among scholars working on the psychological dimensions of intergroup mass violence and its aftermath. To that end, she partnered with Professor Michal Bilewicz, Warsaw University, to organize the conference *Advancing the Psychology of Genocide and Ethnic Conflict: Integrating Social Psychological Theories and Historical Data*, held in Luxembourg in August 2012 and funded by the Henry J. Leir Luxembourg Program-Clark University.

Her research projects, interdisciplinary bridge building, and international outlook contribute important perspectives and broaden the accomplishments of the Strassler Center. Her contributions throughout the 2011-2012 academic year align with the Center's goals: to develop a sophisticated understanding of genocide while maintaining a commitment to engaged participation in training and educating students.

Kathrin Haurand



Professor Johanna Ray Vollhardt



PROGRAM FACULTY

The following faculty from nine academic departments participate in the Center's life and programs. We are grateful to each for their contributions of scholarship, expertise, and teaching.

Michael Addis Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology
Professor of Psychology

Taner Akçam, Ph.D., History Department,
Kaloosdian Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History

Paul Burke, Ph.D., Foreign Languages and Literatures Department,
Professor of Classics

Debórah Dwork, Ph.D., History Department,
Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies,
Rose Professor of Holocaust History

Jody Emel, Ph.D., Graduate School of Geography,
Professor of Geography

Anita Fábos, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment,
Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change

Everett Fox, Ph.D., Foreign Languages and Literatures Department,
Director, Jewish Studies Concentration,
Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies

Thomas Kühne, Ph.D., History Department,
Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

Olga Litvak, Ph.D., History Department,
Michael and Lisa Leffell Professor of Modern Jewish History

Wendy Lower, Ph.D., Claremont McKenna College
John Roth Professor of History
Affiliate Professor, Strassler Center

Ken MacLean, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change

Marianne Sarkis, Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change

Toby Sisson, M.F.A., Department of Visual and Performing Arts,
Assistant Professor of Studio Art

Srinivasan Sitaraman, Ph.D., Political Science Department,
Associate Professor of Political Science

Valerie Sperling, Ph.D., Political Science Department,
Professor of Political Science

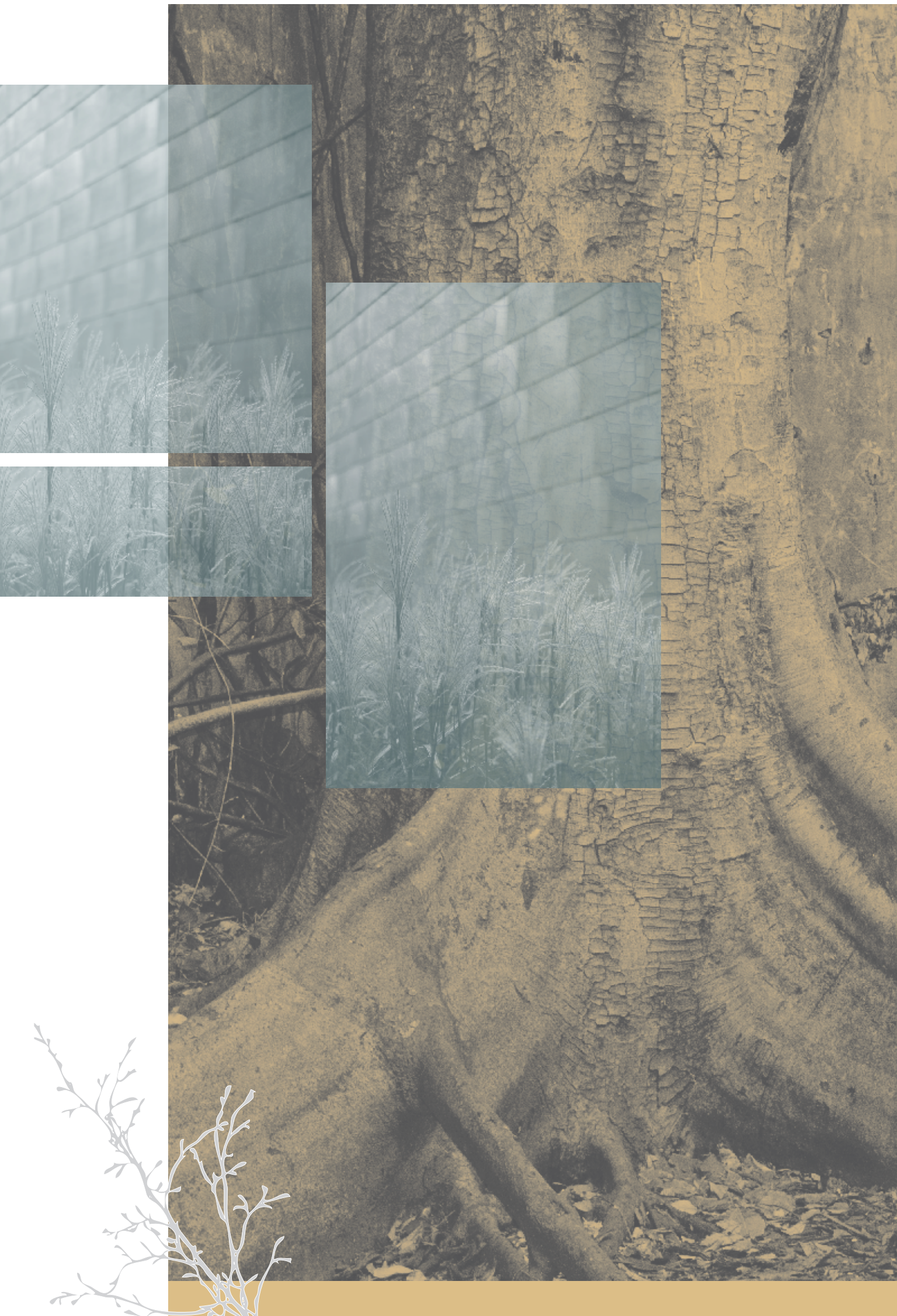
Shelly Tenenbaum, Ph.D., Sociology Department,
Coordinator of Undergraduate Activities,
Professor of Sociology

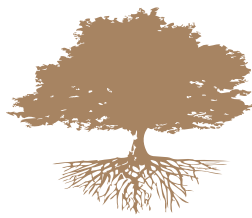
Robert Tobin, Ph.D., Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures,
Henry J. Leir Professor in Foreign Languages and Cultures

Jaán Valsiner, Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology,
Professor of Psychology

Johanna Ray Vollhardt, Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology,
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Kristen Williams, Ph.D., Political Science Department,
Professor of Political Science





STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Students in the Strassler Center program bring unique perspectives with different accents. As a result, discussions are complex, diverse, and fruitful.

Center graduates are now making their mark upon the field. Their scholarly excellence and engagement with public education highlight the success of the program.



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

The dissertation projects of Center students exemplify significant intellectual trends in Holocaust history and genocide studies including the economic consequences of genocide, the transnational nature of specific genocidal initiatives, memory studies, gender theory, refugee issues, the psychology of perpetrators and victims, and victimhood in post-genocidal societies. These themes are explored in student research on the Holocaust and its aftermath in Austria, Iran, Israel, Italy, North Africa, Poland, Romania, and Ukraine; the Armenian Genocide in Syria and Turkey; and genocide in Burundi, Congo, and Rwanda. Doctoral student activities and research, carried out in the academic year 2011-2012 and reported here, attracted exceptional support and interest. And our students, intellectually curious and determined, traveled far and wide to collect material and discuss their findings.

KIMBERLY PARTEE ALLAR

Richard M. Cohen, MD '71 fellow Kimberly Allar tackled her comprehensive exams and dissertation prospectus defense on a single day. She passed these doctoral milestones with aplomb and turned to fulltime research on her dissertation, *Lessons in Terror and Death: Comparative Studies in the Training of Holocaust Perpetrators*. Her comparative study of concentration camp guards in Germany and Poland, specifically the Ravensbrück Aufseherinnen, the Trawniki Wachmannschaften, and the Dachau Totenkopfverbände will define the similarities and differences between men and women, Germans and non-Germans, by examining Nazi guard training and their experiences in the camps. She is interested in the social and psychological aspects underlying the transition from civilian to political soldier, specifically the differences that arose due to gender and "race."

Invited to participate in the *Seventh Annual Danyliw Seminar in Contemporary Ukrainian Studies* at the University of Ottawa, Allar's paper, "Ukrainian Collaboration on Trial: The Case of the Trawniki Men. Delivering Justice and Writing History," raised issues of collaboration in the Holocaust, the role of justice, the creation of international courts, law, and memory. Allar's first professional publication, "Evil or Ordinary Women: the Female Auxiliaries of the Holocaust," appeared in an e-book, *The Evil Body* (ed. April Anson), which features gendered interpretations of evil women. Her essay, "Holocaust Tourism in a Post-Holocaust Europe: Anne Frank and Auschwitz," to be published in *Dark Tourism and Place Identity: Marketing, Managing and Interpreting Dark Places*, edited by Leanne White and Elspeth Frew (Routledge, 2013), synthesizes work she completed as an undergraduate at Amherst College and graduate coursework.

During the summer, Allar examined documents pertaining to postwar trials at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Selected to participate in a USHMM seminar, "Poland and Ukraine during and after World War II in the Records of the International Tracing Service Collection," Allar researched the Trawniki men and other Ukrainian collaborators who ended up in Displaced Persons camps. Finally, in Germany she studied documents pertaining to the training of camp guards.

CRISTINA ANDRIANI

Co-mentored by Holocaust Professor Thomas Kühne and Psychology Professors Jaan Valsiner and Johanna Vollhardt, Weil Fellow Cristina Andriani is blazing a path as the Strassler Center's first doctoral student in Psychology and Genocide. Her dissertation, *A Weapon of War or a Tool for Peace? Holocaust Collective Memory Meaning Making within the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*, employs surveys and narrative interviews as tools for data collection. Approved by the Institutional Review Board for Research on Human Subjects, she gathered over 350 survey responses from Jewish-Israelis residing in Israel. During a winter trip to Israel, she interviewed 37 Jewish-Israelis living in settlements, kibbutzim, and cities throughout Israel. She is now in the process of developing models and conducting in-depth analyses of the interviews. By identifying patterns and themes in her data, Andriani hopes to develop theories that shed light on societal responses to genocide and mass violence.

Andriani's research investigates the mutual impact of Holocaust trauma and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict on Jewish-Israeli understanding and experience of past and present. Two questions lie at the center of her project: How does meaning making of past Holocaust trauma affect Jewish-Israelis' current understanding and experience of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict? And, how does the experience of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict affect Jewish-Israeli meaning making of collective Holocaust memory? The Jewish-Israeli subjects of her research are a mixed group, with varying views on the peace process. By comparing narratives and identifying themes, she hopes to differentiate how Holocaust memory is constructed among those who are hawks and doves.

ELIZABETH ANTHONY

Elizabeth Anthony, the Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow, is now based in Vienna where she is writing her dissertation, *Return Home: Holocaust Survivors Reestablishing Lives in Postwar Vienna*. Long interested in the lives of survivors, and aided by knowledge gained as Deputy Director of Survivor Affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (1998-2004), her dissertation explores the experi-

ences of survivors who returned to Vienna. She continues to maintain ties to the survivor community by facilitating a weekly English conversation group at Vienna's Jewish nursing home, the Maimonides Zentrum.

Anthony began the academic year as the Barbara and Richard Rosenberg Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where she conducted research in the archives, delivered a public presentation at a Fellows' meeting, and lectured on the postwar Jewish community of Vienna to the German Club at Howard University. She attended the German Studies Association annual conference (Louisville, KY) with the support of an Austrian Cultural Forum travel grant and presented, "Protecting the Beneficiaries: Advocating for the Retention of 'Aryanized' Property in Postwar Austria." A DAAD research fellowship funded her work at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City in October. In December, she attended a conference hosted by the German Historical Institute-Warsaw and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland and presented, "The Return of Jewish Concentration Camp Survivors to Vienna in the Immediate Postwar Period," which will be published in the conference proceedings. At the January conference, *Beyond Camps and Forced Labour*, held at the Imperial War Museum (London), Anthony presented "Jewish Communist Return to Postwar Austria: Expectation and Reality." A prestigious fellowship from the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture affirms the high regard her dissertation engenders.

SARA E. BROWN

Stern Fellow Sara E. Brown, the Center's first doctoral student to focus on Africa, studies the role of women during the Rwandan Genocide. While much has been written about the victimization of women, the literature does not examine female rescuers or perpetrators. During war, genocide, and forced population transfers, women are traditionally cast as victims. This gender-based characterization elides females who exercised agency. Though few in comparison to the number of men who participated in the genocide, the female perpetrators and rescuers Brown researches will address this blank spot in the existing scholarly discourse. In Rwanda in January, she interviewed survivors and women incarcerated in Muhanza district. Throughout March, in the U.S. District Court in Concord, NH, Brown observed federal proceedings against Beatrice Munyenyezi, accused of lying about her role in the genocide to gain entry to the United States.

An active conference participant, Brown travels widely to speak about her research. At the conference *UNSPOKEN* (Utica, NY), she presented "The Community and Refugee Impact Survey: Measuring the effect of the '1972' Burundians on Vickery Meadows" for a panel on refugee resettlement agencies. Brown gave a paper, "Memory and Memorialization: A Comparative Analysis of Israel and Rwanda" at the SIT symposium *Conflict, Memory and Reconciliation: Bridging Past, Present, and Future* in Kigali. At the International Studies Association annual meeting, her talk "Female Perpetrators of the Rwandan Genocide" was part of a panel she initiated, "Female Perpetrators of War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing, and Genocide," which included leading feminist scholars Galia Golan, Kristen Williams, Laura Sjoborg, and Cynthia Enloe. Brown also served as discussant for the pan-

el "Gender Issues in Human Rights: Are We Making Progress?" Finally, at a Worcester State University panel to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, she discussed, "Female Agency during the Armenian and Rwandan Genocides,"

Recipient of a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Brown studied Kinyarwanda at Boston University during the summer.

EMILY DABNEY

Claims Conference Fellow Emily Dabney continued work on her dissertation, *Forced Labor in the Maghreb*. Dabney dug deeply into archival collections from France, Morocco, and the United States (Archives Nationales d'Outre-Mer in Aix-en-Provence, France, the Red Cross archives from Geneva, and the Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine in Paris) that provide evidence about camps in North Africa during the years 1941-1943. Having explored records at the USHMM that shed light on Vichy era persecution of Jews in Morocco and Algeria, she needed material on Tunisia to complete the picture of North Africa.

Initially deterred by last year's upheavals in the Arab world, Dabney traveled to Tunisia in spring to conduct archival research. She studied documents related to the administrative functions of the Tunisian bureaucracy at the Archives Nationales and the Institut Supérieur d'Histoire du Mouvement National. Her findings add to her understanding of the situation for Jews in Tunisia following the institution of anti-Jewish laws in 1940, but she was stymied by the lack of material related to the French Foreign Legion or Jewish refugees in North Africa. Was evidence destroyed? Are the documents stored elsewhere? Or did internment camps and forced labor function differently in Tunisia or not at all?

Earlier in the year, Dabney conducted research in Paris and discovered a wealth of archival information in the Archives de l'Armée de Terre in Vincennes. The material she found relates primarily to the French Foreign Legion, the Méditerranée-Niger company, and the army, all topics central to her dissertation research. The evidence suggests that, while all foreigners were targeted for internment, Jews were unable to secure release through resources or connections.



Elizabeth Anthony (ABD), Raz Segal (ABD), Mikal Brotnov '10 MA '12, Emily Dabney (ABD), Adara Goldberg Ph.D. '12

MICHAEL GEHERAN

Michael Geheran, who held the Tapper Fellowship, relocated to Germany for the year to gather primary source material for his dissertation on German-Jewish World War I veterans under the Nazis, *Betrayed Comradeship: German-Jewish World War I Veterans under Hitler*. With additional support from a Fulbright fellowship, he plumbed several important German archives. His first three months were spent at the Federal German Military Archives (Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv) in Freiburg and Berlin, which house documents relevant to Jews' service in the German armed forces and Jews' participation in post-WWI veterans associations. During the winter months, Geheran worked in the state archives in Würzburg examining local police reports, military documents, and a large collection of Gestapo records at state and city archives. He concluded his research in Germany exploring the records of Jewish former soldiers and officers in the Bavarian military archive in Munich and in state archives in Dresden.

Geheran's focus on local archival sources has yielded material that sheds light on the perspectives of individual victims, perpetrators, witnesses, as well as regional institutions. This localized approach will allow him to reconstruct the persecution and murder of the region's Jewish veterans from "the ground up." An example of Geheran's individualized perspective is his examination of the writings of the diarist Victor Klemperer; his article, "I am fighting the hardest battle for my Germanness now: Internal Dialogues of Victor Klemperer," was published in the December 2011 edition of *Psychology and Society*.

The Society for Military History recognized Geheran by awarding him an ABC-Clio grant to support his archival research in Germany. At the USHMM this fall, Geheran holds the Shapiro Fellowship. His research is also funded by an award granted by the German Historical Institute.

KATHRIN HAURAND

Claims Conference Fellow Kathrin Haurand plans a dissertation on Jewish refugees who fled to Iran, and their reception by the Iranian Jewish and Muslim communities. In Israel during winter break, Haurand researched the Yad Vashem archives and found biographies and testimonies of refugees and documents that relate to their flight from Nazi Germany and refuge in Iran. She conducted further research in the Political Archives of the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin where she discovered unpublished material and documents from the German embassy in Iran. These findings create a picture of the political situation in Iran and the Middle East between 1930 and 1945 that will underlie the opening chapter of her dissertation.

Haurand conducted her first interviews with Jew-

ish immigrants from Iran, gathering several hours of audio recording. These testimonies describe the situation of the Jewish community in Iran during the Holocaust; they deal with refuge, migration, cultural and religious life, and the social challenges of Jewish life in Iran over the last century.

An unexpected dimension of her research is the experience of Jewish soldiers in the Iranian army under the Pahlavi dynasty in the aftermath of the Holocaust. She viewed rarely seen photographs and documents in the archives of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the German Foreign Ministry, World ORT, and Yad Vashem. She presented her findings in a lecture on the lives of Iranian Jews during the Pahlavi Period at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University.

During the summer, Haurand conducted research in New York and Germany. She supplemented these primary source findings with additional interviews with Jewish Iranian refugees in Germany, Israel, and the U.S. Most importantly, she studied Farsi in order to interview eye witnesses and survivors in Israel, and to read Iranian Jewish community newspapers, official documents, and general public newspapers.

ALEXIS HERR

Alexis Herr, recipient of the Richard M. Cohen, MD '71 Fellowship for her fifth year of doctoral study, focuses on the Holocaust in Italy. Her dissertation, *Fossoli di Carpi, 1942-1952* provides an in-depth study of the largest deportation camp in Italy during and after the Holocaust. Drawing upon archival documents, trial proceedings, memoirs, and testimonies, Herr investigates the use of Fossoli as a prisoner-of-war camp for Allied soldiers captured in North Africa (1942-43), a deportation camp for Jews and political prisoners (1943-44), a prison for Nazi and Fascist perpetrators

Claims Conference Fellow Kathrin Haurand





Kathrin Haurand, Khatchig Mouradian (ABD), Hannah Schmidt Holländer, Sara E. Brown, Mihai Poliec, Ümit Kurt, Jamie Sedgwick, Alexis Herr (ABD)

and displaced persons (1945-7), and a Catholic orphanage (1947-52). She examines victims, perpetrators, resisters, and local collaborators to produce a case study depicting how the Holocaust unfolded through the ties between a major transit camp and a small neighboring town. A social history of a key ten-year period, Herr traces the victimization, internment, and deportation of Italian Jews, illuminates the textured history of local participation in the Holocaust, and analyzes the postwar conditions that have obscured the narrative of Italian participation in the persecution of Jews. Awards from the L'Istituto Nazionale per la Storia del Movimento di Liberazione and the Center's Al and Hilda Kirsch fund supported her travel to Milan for archival research on wartime resistance around Fossoli. Recipient of the prestigious Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship for Advanced Holocaust Studies for fall 2012, she plans to complete her dissertation with its support.

Herr also consults for RefugePoint, a Cambridge, MA-based non-profit organization that helps refugees missed by the net of humanitarian assistance. She utilized her expertise as a genocide scholar to organize a conference on children forcibly displaced by genocide and atrocity, *Displaced and at Risk: Forced Migration and its Impact on Children*. She invited academics, NGO leaders, survivors, refugees, and philanthropists to participate, and this multi-voiced and multi-perspective approach strengthened the conversation.

ÜMIT KURT

Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow Ümit Kurt researches the involvement and attitudes of local and provincial elites during the Armenian Genocide. Focusing on Aintab (Gaziantep), in southeast Turkey, he explores the economic, political, and ideological motivations of the local population and the extent of their support for the genocidal policies of the Union and Progress Party. Official Turkish historiography claims that Unionist cadres and their extensions in the Turkish Republic carried out the deportations and genocide without grassroots participation and social legitimacy. Interviews with local people whose grandfathers described the Armenian deportation from Aintab challenge the state-sponsored narrative. Archival research in Istanbul and Aintab has yielded financial documents, including property records from the department of revenue in the Aintab governorship and auctioneer reports published in a 1934

newspaper. The auctioneers' reports list movable and fixed properties of Aintab Armenians purchased by Muslims. An investigation of title deeds in the Aintab Land Registry will establish the ownership history of Armenian properties.

It was a fruitful year for Kurt; he published his first book (in Turkish only at present) on the roots of Turkish nationalism, with a forward by Taner Akçam. A second book, to be published in English and Turkish and co-authored with Akçam, pertains to confiscation of Armenian properties. It elucidates how Turkish laws and regulations allowed for the "legalized" seizure of Armenian properties in the aftermath of deportation and genocide. Kurt's article, "The Past is Not Death, It is Not even Past!," published in the 2012 *Journal of Sarajevo International and Comparative Law Review* explores how Turkish official historiography frames Turkish history. A second article, "Harbinger of Armenian Genocide: Ideological Premises of Early 20th Century Turkish Nationalism and Its Racist Aspect" appeared in *Armenian Weekly Magazine*. His article "Holocaust and Its Perpetrators: Who are the Killers?" will be published in the peer-reviewed Turkish journal *History and Society*.

During the summer, Kurt studied Armenian at Haigazian University in Beirut. He also taught "Early 20th Century Proto-fascism in Europe and the Ottoman Empire," at Sabanci University, an English-language university in Turkey.

NATALYA LAZAR

In Ukraine and Romania for the year, Hevrony Family Fellow Natalya Lazar conducted research in the Ukrainian State Archives at Chernivtsi and Vinnytsia. Recipient of a Black Sea Link fellowship, she visited New Europe College (NEC) in Bucharest and worked in the Romanian national archives. Her dissertation, *Czernowitz Jews: Genocide and Memory in Bukovina*, encompasses three periods: Soviet rule (28 June 1940 - 22 June 1941), Romanian occupation, Holocaust, and war (1941-1944), and finally Red Army liberation and return to Soviet rule (1944-1945). Lazar analyzes the dynamics of interethnic relations and explores how Czernowitz's multiethnic composition shaped collaboration and rescue. Documents of the Nazi-allied Romanian occupational authorities elucidate the ideological justification for the deportation policies to Transnistria. Seeing the Jewish population as Communist agents, the Romanian gendarmerie investigated their activities and political leanings.

Lazar studied denunciations, police reports, expropriation records, lists of properties nationalized by Soviet authorities, educational materials, and oral histories. According to an Einsatzgruppe D report, approximately 35,000 Jews from Bukovina and Bessarabia were in the first wave of deportations to Transnistria. Working with Special Commission reports, Lazar encountered evidence of the first mass execution of some 1,000 Bukovina Jews near the town of Yaruga on 28 July 1941. The records detail suicides, collaboration, resistance, survival tactics, and relations among internees.

Lazar enjoyed a busy year of professional activity. The Slovakian Memory Institute in cooperation with Comenius University in Bratislava organized *Anti-Semitic Legislation in Slovakia and in Europe*, at which she presented "From Anti-Jewish Policies to Genocide: The Fate of Bukovina Jewry." At a conference of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Lazar

discussed “Restoration of the Soviet rule in Bukovina and Jewish Survivors (1944-1947).” Both papers will be published in conference proceedings. At the Berlin conference *Region-State-Europe. Regional Identities under Dictatorship and Democracy in East Central Europe*, she gave the paper “Deconstruction and Revival of the Past: Remembrance, Memory, and Identity in Bukovina”. Lazar presented “Politics of Memory and Holocaust Remembrance in postwar Chernivtsi” at the NEC conference “*Good bye, Lenin!*” *Rethinking Culture, Politics, History and Space in the Black Sea Region*. Lazar described post-soviet Ukrainian narratives of WWII, the Holocaust, Holodomor and competing victimhoods as part of the panel “Rewriting History: From the Communist Historiography towards Nationalist Historiography.”

JODY RUSSELL MANNING

Fromson Fellow Jody Russell Manning continued writing his dissertation, *Living in the Shadows of Auschwitz and Dachau: Memorial, Community, Symbolism, and the Palimpsest of Memory*, which analyzes the relationship between two Holocaust memorials and their local communities through a socio-cultural comparative study of the towns of Oświęcim and Dachau. Manning’s dissertation elucidates the long history of these cities, their Nazi period, and the postwar struggle to rebuild. Exploring the variation between local, national, and global memories about Auschwitz and Dachau, his research foregrounds how both towns attempt to contain “unwanted heritage” within the confines of their memorials. Yet, city and memorial are intricately mixed and residents continue to negotiate with the past.

Focusing on individuals who live in close proximity to the memorials, Manning interviewed a multi-generational family confronting the past in their everyday lives. Klemens Krzemień and his family were expelled from the Polish village of Brzezinka in 1941. Relocated across town, their home was dismantled to build the Auschwitz II: Birkenau complex. During forced labor, he was charged with sabotage, arrested, and incarcerated in Auschwitz. Attempting to live an ordinary postwar life, he returned to Brzezinka, built a home, and raised a family. Manning’s research exposes how such memories continue to affect these communities several generations later.

Manning welcomes opportunities to discuss his research. At the conference *Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution* held at the Imperial War Museum (London) he gave a paper, “Postwar Societies and Memorials: Tension Between Local and Global Memory in Dachau and Oświęcim,” detailing how the strain of local and international memorialization plays out in the cities surrounding Auschwitz and Dachau. In Oświęcim, Manning met Eckerd College Professor Jared Stark who invited him to participate in the program, *Holocaust Memory in the Present*. The theme of postwar his-

tory and memory development around the globe closely fits Manning’s research focus. At the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage: The Museum of Diversity and Tolerance in Beachwood, Ohio he participated in a panel on “The Resurgence of Jewish Culture in Poland.”

KHATCHIG MOURADIAN

Having passed his comprehensive exams with distinction, Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow Khatchig Mouradian moved on to the successful defense of his dissertation proposal, *Destruction and Agency in Der Zor, 1915-1916*. Mouradian examines the fate of Armenian deportees in the Syrian desert during the second phase of the Armenian Genocide. Archival research for this project continued apace throughout the year, with research trips to Lebanon, the Armenian General Benevolent Union Nubar Library in Paris, and Turkey where he reviewed Ottoman documents in the Prime Minister’s archives.

Ever productive, Mouradian juggled research with extensive professional commitments, chief among them serving as editor of the *Armenian Weekly*. He co-taught a spring seminar on the Armenian Genocide with Professor Taner Akçam. Most impressively, he delivered more than 40 lectures and presentations at universities, research centers, high schools, and community centers. A few examples: a talk on “Raphael Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide in Light of New Research,” delivered at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR); his presentation, “Confronting Truth, Delivering Justice: Turkey and the Armenian Genocide,” at a grassroots activism conference in Los Angeles organized by the Armenian National Committee Western Region, was attended by some 500 people; the Providence Armenian Revolutionary Federation invited him to discuss the confiscation of Armenian church property and destruction of churches during the genocide.

Speaking engagements quickened throughout April in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Among other events, he delivered the History Department April Colloquium lecture at Clark University, “Monsters, Ink, and Sand: The Second Phase of the Armenian Genocide;” he took part in a panel discussion on rape and sexual slavery during genocide, held at Worcester State University, organized by the Philosophy Department and co-sponsored by the Worcester “Aram” Gomideh of the ARF, the ANC of Central Massachusetts, and NAASR. He was honored to deliver the keynote address at the Massachusetts State House Armenian Genocide Commemoration, held in the House of Representatives Chamber. And, while accustomed to addressing large audiences, the 700-strong crowd, including several Congressmen, at the Armenian Genocide commemoration in Encino, CA, exceeded the usual.

Appointed Program Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Con-

flict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, Mouradian will also hold a year-long appointment as Visiting Scholar.

MICHAEL NOLTE

Michael Nolte, who holds a Claims Conference Fellowship, researches death zones in Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, and Bergen-Belsen during the last months of National Socialism. Moving along chronological and geographic lines, he compares killing sites to explore shifts within the mass murder system. He considers how bureaucratic structures, military conditions, civil society, and individual agency, as well as economic and ideological considerations, influenced the system of mass murder and shaped zones of death. Auschwitz and Ravensbrück were large complexes with a system of sub-camps, companies, and transportation hubs. Nolte trains his lens on how death zones, absorbing prisoners from the entire complex, were crucial to the satellite network. During the last phase of National Socialism, killing spread to the subcamps as the Nazis transformed them into death zones.

Exploring the relation between death zones and developments in German society, Nolte examines how killing areas were connected to the state, the Nazi movement, and extant social structures. The war effort taxed the National Socialist system. Yet, even as communication lines crumbled, Nazi bureaucracy remained effective on the local level. Stepping up efforts to mobilize the population in support of the war, the Nazis recruited hundreds of thousands of civilians to fight and guard concentration camp prisoners. During the last months of National Socialist rule, the authorities brutally crushed any sign of internal unrest.

Nolte examines how prisoners' existence in the camps changed during the months before liberation. While many inmates of the Birkenau annihilation camp believed the Germans were going to murder them before liberation, accounts from other areas of the Auschwitz complex reflect greater ambivalence, according to research he conducted in the USHMM archives. Having collected material on Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, Nolte researched survivor accounts during a summer research trip to the Ravensbrück Memorial Museum. The memorial also holds testimonies that address conditions in the adjacent Uckermark camp that was transformed into a holding pen for prisoners marked for death.

To aid his study of survivor testimonies, Nolte studied Yiddish during the summer at Tel Aviv University. While in Israel, he researched archive collections at Yad Vashem and the Ghetto Fighter's House Museum.

MIHAI POLIEC

Supported by a Claims Conference Fellowship, Mike Poliec researches civilian participation in anti-Jewish actions in the regions of Bessarabia and Bukovina in his dissertation, *Civilian Collaboration during the Holocaust in Romania*. He explores why civilians went from bystanders to perpetrators and became complicit in the Holocaust. By the time Romania entered the war in June 1941, siding with Nazi Germany against the Soviet Union, Romanian Jews had already endured systematic social exclusion as a result of antisemitic



Hausrath Fellow Khatchig Mouradian at the Massachusetts State House

legislation and were victims of popular violence. From October 1941, the Jewish population of Bessarabia and Bukovina, approximately 120,000 people, were deported to Transnistria. Tens of thousands died or were killed during the deportations or in concentration camps. Assisting the Romanian army in anti-Jewish actions, local gentiles participated in the search for Jews, plundered their properties and possessions, and escorted them to places of internment or execution.

The USHMM contains extensive archival material on questions Poliec endeavors to answer about the collaboration of local gentiles. He seeks to understand why Romanian civilians acted against their Jewish neighbors: were they under the influence of traditional anti-Jewish hostility? Or was it due to Romanian Army rumor-mongering incriminating Jews for pro-Soviet views and subversive actions against the troops? He began to research these documents during the summer, looking at reports of the Romanian army, official government documents, and transcripts of war crimes trials.

In addition to archival research, Poliec participated in the Auschwitz Jewish Center's Fellows Program. Based in Poland, primarily at Auschwitz, the program gathered advanced students to gain first-hand knowledge of the most important Holocaust sites in Poland.

RAZ SEGAL

Returned to his native Israel, Simon and Eve Colin Fellow Raz Segal made excellent progress on his dissertation, *The Disintegration of a Borderland Society: Genocide and Mass Violence in Subcarpathian Rus'*. Ever productive, Segal continued to publish widely. His first book, *Days of Ruin: The Jews of Munkács during the Holocaust*, published in Hebrew in 2011, is slated for English translation by Yad Vashem. Segal's article, "Imported Violence: Carpatho-Ruthenians and Jews in Carpatho-Ukraine, October 1938-March 1939," will appear in the 2013 issue of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*. And an invitation from the Center of Jewish Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences led to a chapter, "Interethnic Relations, Multi-Layered Mass Violence: Jews and non-Jews in Subcarpathian Rus' during World War II," in a forth-

coming book (Aposztróf Publishing House, Budapest, 2013).

Committed to fostering research in Israel, Segal is engaged in planning a research center for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Political Violence in collaboration with several universities and institutes. He participated in organizing an International Symposium on the Holocaust and Genocide in September 2012 at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities to assess the state of the field, to evaluate paradigms that have framed research so far, and to consider how to move the field forward.

Segal traveled widely to participate in conferences. He was invited to Berlin and Potsdam, Germany for the Experts Roundtable of the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter Initiative on the World War II Period in Ukraine. At the Yad Vashem/USC International Workshop for Ph.D. candidates from the US and Israel, he discussed the territorial and ethno-national designs of the Hungarian state to create a “Greater Hungary” with a marked Magyar majority under cover of war. Violent population transfers, targeting Jews, Gypsies, and Carpatho-Ruthenians, advanced this goal. Viewing the persecution and destruction of Jewish communities in Subcarpathian Rus’ through this lens challenges straightforward explanations about “antisemitism” and, indeed, the over-generalized usage of this term. Lecturing about his book at Jerusalem College, Segal stressed the need to study the history of Jews in Europe in the context of the mass violence that claimed millions of lives, Jewish and non-Jewish, during World War II. To that end, Segal secured a Harry Frank Guggenheim Fellowship, a prestigious award supporting research on violence and intergroup conflict.

JOANNA SLIWA

Recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship in Poland and proud to serve as Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow, Joanna Sliwa spent a productive year affiliated with the Polish Center for Holocaust Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences. Gathering materials for her dissertation, *Oppression and Agency: A Social History of Jewish Children in German-Occupied Kraków*,

she examined archival collections at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the National Archives in Kraków, and the Institute of National Remembrance in Wieliczka. Her subject attracted support from a wide range of Polish institutions and individuals. The director at the Schindler Factory Museum granted her access to interviews conducted with Kraków area rescuers deemed Righteous Among Nations and to the museum’s vast photo archive; the director of the Galicia Jewish Museum allowed her to view its testimonies of gentile rescuers and rescued Jews; two convents permitted research in their archives, and Sliwa awaits permissions to investigate the archives of other religious orders. Jonathan Ornstein, director of the Kraków Jewish Community Center, introduced Sliwa to the Kraków branch of the Association of Children of the Holocaust, affording her the opportunity to record the oral histories of rescuers and Jewish survivors, some of whom had not told their stories before.

Eager to discuss her research, Sliwa engaged in a range of professional activities. Jagiellonian University Professor Krzysztof Zamorski invited her to his doctoral seminar to speak about her dissertation. At the conference *Truth and Witness: An International Workshop on Holocaust Testimonies* at the Wiener Library in London, her paper, “Testimony in Postwar Trials of Accused Collaborators in Poland,” introduced the little known collection of witness testimonies collected for postwar trials in Poland and housed at the Institute of National Remembrance. A member of the Polish Jewish Student Organization ZOOM, she participated in a 3-day seminar organized with Yad Vashem to train educators teaching about the Holocaust. Beyond the university, she translated texts for the Virtual Shtetl and the Righteous Project – both managed by the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. And she continued to study Hebrew and Yiddish at the Kraków JCC.

Sliwa returned to the United States as Shapell Fellow at the USHMM. Finally, with her Fulbright grant renewed, she will return to Poland in 2013 to complete her research.

NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

At the leading edge of the growing field of genocide studies, the Strassler Center continues to develop its doctoral program by incorporating additional cases of genocide and mass violence. Five students enter the doctoral program in 2012 and their interests encompass new areas of research and training. They begin their studies having already worked as scholars, activists, researchers, and volunteers for organizations or institutions that address the Armenian and Assyrian Genocides, the Holocaust, and the genocide in Rwanda.

- Sabri Atman**, Assyrian Genocide Studies Fellow
- Dotan Greenwald**, Simon and Eve Colin Fellow
- Shannon Scully**, Cummings Fellow in Comparative Genocide
- Jason Tingler**, Claims Conference Fellow
- Wolf-Gero Westhoff**, Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow

Mary Jane Rein

Tapper Fellow Jody Russell Manning and Simon and Eve Colin Fellow Raz Segal





Undergraduate student workers Anna Voreberg '13, Shelby Margolin '13, (both HGS concentrators) and Hannah Berry '12

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Widespread undergraduate participation in the international summit *Informed Activism* (see pages 4 and 5) set the pace for a busy and engaged year among students involved in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Volunteering in mass, undergraduates in dark green *Informed Activism* tee-shirts dedicated many hours to the summit. Leaders from STAND, the student chapter of the Genocide Intervention Network, were instrumental in organizing Clark volunteers and in sustaining inspiration from the summit throughout the year.

STAND hosted (fall 2011) a discussion about the political situation in Syria and a discussion on Burma (spring 2012). Globally curious, and eager to ground their activism in knowledge, they hosted a lecture by Professor Taner Akçam on genocide denial in March. Akçam emphasized that denial goes beyond lack of recognition; it undermines awareness and action. Akçam discussed how state-sponsored denial, from the Armenian genocide to Sudan, compromises the protection of minority groups around the world. Inspired by Akçam, STAND organized a letter writing campaign on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. Students wrote some 200 letters urging U.S. Representatives to co-sponsor the Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act and appealing to President Obama and other officials to publicly recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Three HGS concentrators awarded summer internships, Shelby Margolin '13, Danielle Osterman '14, and Anna Voreberg '13, share STAND members' dedication to action coupled with knowledge. Funded by endowments established by Debra and Jeffrey Geller, Ina Gordon, and the Belfer family, competitive internships support students seeking to research, study, or work at Holocaust or genocide

organizations around the globe. Shelby Margolin interned at the Hayward, CA office of Facing History and Ourselves under the supervision of Jack Weinstein. She helped plan and implement two week-long teacher workshops-- on "Holocaust and Human Behavior" and "Race and Membership." In preparation for writing her senior honors thesis with Professor Ken MacLean, she also conducted independent research on Holocaust perpetrators.

Danielle Osterman participated in the Cambodian Studies Study Abroad Program and learned about justice and reconciliation in a post-conflict country by observing the ongoing Khmer Rouge tribunal. In connection with her classes, "Cambodian History" and "Culture and Nation-building After the Khmer Rouge," she visited the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek and the Tuol Sleng (S-21) prison. Osterman reflected, "I applied for the program in Cambodia because of my interest in genocide and post-conflict studies. This program allowed me to experience, first-hand, how a country deals with its horrific past and then moves beyond it."

Inspired by her experience as an intern for *Informed Activism*, Anna Voreberg interned at the Consortium of Gender, Security and Human Rights in Boston, MA. Voreberg felt "star struck" by Consortium Director Carol Cohn, a featured speaker at the summit, and sought to carry forward the goals of *Informed Activism* when choosing her internship. She worked with Consortium Assistant Director Sandra McEvoy on research for her book exploring the intersection between policy, LGBTQ populations, and academia.

This year's Especially for Students Lectures explored new means of expression by sponsoring a play and exhibition. In fall, Cheryl Hamilton '01 performed her acclaimed one-woman show, *Checkered Floors*, about a recent college graduate who returns to Maine amid the arrival of 2,000 Somali migrants. Deemed "brave, funny, and honest" by reviewers, the show packed the Little Center theater. In spring, David Feinberg, Assistant Professor of Art at the University of Minnesota, lectured about the exhibition *Voice to Vision*, a project that helps Holocaust and Genocide survivors convey their experiences through art. A carefully curated selection of art made by survivors was mounted in the Siff gallery at Cohen-Lasry House from January to April.

Center faculty and staff hosted a reception for HGS concentrators who spoke about internships, study abroad, and STAND. The students' remarks reflected their global and internationally curious viewpoints. Most striking was how committed they are to intellectual goals -- which speaks to the depth of learning they enjoy.

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland



LIFE AFTER THE CENTER

PROFILE: BETH COHEN, PH.D. '03

As Center alumni demonstrate, doctoral training in Holocaust History and Genocide Studies prepares students for careers as educators, activists, professors, and non-government professionals, formulating and implementing international and human rights initiatives and educational programs. In their professional work, Center graduates are engaged with curriculum development, teacher training, and school programs at Holocaust and genocide organizations around the United States. They are committed to generating new scholarship that advances the field and enhances the education of teachers, students, and the public. A member of the first class of Center doctoral students, Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03 is achieving these professional goals in multiple domains.

In the sphere of curriculum and teacher education, Cohen has been associated with the international non-profit educational organization Facing History and Ourselves. As Jewish Education Project Leader, for the past three years she has supervised a pilot project at four Jewish day schools in Los Angeles to integrate the Facing History approach to teaching the Holocaust and civic engagement across the curricula. This initiative has afforded her the opportunity to utilize her training in a variety of ways, from helping educators prepare students for trips to Poland to programmatic collaborations with organizations such as the Museum of Tolerance and the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust.

At the same time, Cohen has enjoyed teaching at Chapman University (Orange, CA) as the Weinstein Gold Visiting Professor of Holocaust History. In spring, she taught "Holocaust in Film," a new topic for her. She was well prepared, having studied the subject at the Center with Visiting Professor Rona Sheramy who challenged her to think about questions of Holocaust representation in film. In fall, she returns to California State University at Northridge (CSUN) to teach "Religious Responses to the Holocaust." A former CSUN student invited her to serve as a reader for an MA thesis on Displaced Persons' Camps. And Cohen turned to fellow CHGS former student Beth Lilach, now Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial of Nassau County, who provided valuable suggestions for her research.

On the scholarly front, Cohen continues to pursue new research, present at conferences, and publish. Attending the triennial conference *Current Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution* in January at the Imperial War Museum (London), she was thrilled to find a number of Clark grads giving papers as well as Debórah Dwork, a mentor who has encouraged and supported her work well beyond graduation. At the Melbourne, Australia Jewish learning festival Limmud-Oz, she gave several presentations about her work



Adara Goldberg Ph.D. '12 and Alexis Herr, Richard M. Cohen M.D. '71 Fellow

on Holocaust memory. She recently contributed a chapter on the memorialization of child survivors for a forthcoming book, *Children, Childhood, and Cultural Heritage*, edited by Kate Darian-Smith and Carla Pascoe (Routledge Press, *Key Issues in Cultural Heritage Series*). Cohen published her dissertation in 2007 as *Case Closed: Holocaust Survivors in Post-War America* (Rutgers University Press). Her second book project, *The Last Remnant: Child Survivors after the Holocaust*, now in progress, is eagerly awaited.

Cohen forged a successful path as a doctoral student and Ph.D. recipient, the first ever in Holocaust history. And her scholarly work has served as a model for colleagues at Clark and elsewhere. A case in point: newly minted Ph.D. Adara Goldberg whose dissertation, "We Were Called Greenies: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Canada," explores the resettlement, integration and acculturation experiences of Holocaust survivors. She examines the relationships between survivors in Canada, Jewish social service agencies, and the Jewish lay community. Goldberg's dissertation, like Cohen's before, was enthusiastically received. Their work, taken together, demonstrates that receiver communities need to do more to help genocide survivors and points to practical measures to pursue. And that is a lesson for scholars, social service agencies, governments, and others to heed.

VISITING STUDENT: HANNA SCHMIDT HOLLÄNDER

"Do you know Clark University? You really should apply to visit the Strassler Center!" That query and bit of advice from a fellow student in Germany set Hanna Schmidt Holländer on the path to a year-long appointment as a Visiting Student Scholar beginning in January. Indeed, the Center, already well-known to her for its unique doctoral program and its broad, interdisciplinary approach to the study of genocide, is internationally recognized. Enrolled as a doctoral student at the University of Hamburg since 2010, Schmidt Holländer was keen to experience American-style mentoring. Given her research focus on the role that education played in Jewish ghettos during the German occupation of Eastern Europe, she contacted Center Director Debórah Dwork whose work on children during the Holocaust is seminal. As Schmidt Holländer well knew, Dwork's path-breaking study

Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03, Weinstein Gold Distinguished Visiting Professor of Holocaust History, Chapman University

Sara Cushman Ph.D. '10, Director of Youth Education, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Tiberius Galis (ABD), Executive Director, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Adara Goldberg Ph.D. '12, Director of Education, Vancouver Holocaust Education Center

Naama Haviv MA '06, Assistant Director, Jewish World Watch

Stefan Ionescu (ABD), Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellow for Advanced Shoah Studies

Jeffrey Koerber (ABD), Research Associate and Holocaust History Fellow, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

Robin Krause MA '12, Social Studies Teacher, South Oldham High School, Crestwood, Kentucky

Beth Lilach (ABD), Director of Education, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Ilana F. Offenberger Ph.D. '10, National/International Program Coordinator, Facing History and Ourselves; Adjunct Professor, University of MA, Dartmouth

Christine Schmidt Ph.D. '03, Adjunct Professor, MA Program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Gratz College; Associate Professor, University of Maryland University College

Lotta Stone Ph.D. '10, Director of Educational Outreach, Holocaust Documentation and Education Center and Museum, Hollywood, FL

Children With A Star is the first work to give the children of the Holocaust a voice in a scholarly way. And she notes, "Professor Dwork is amazing. If someone establishes a Center like this, you assume she is someone you ought to know!"

Warmly welcomed by Center faculty and doctoral students, Schmidt Holländer was given a desk in the Tobak graduate student offices and assigned to serve as a professor-in-training for Professor Thomas Kühne's course, "Revolutionary Europe." If Dwork has mentored her research and scholarship, Kühne has trained her in how to engage students in a lecture. "Professor Kühne elegantly weaves current issues into his lectures on European history. He teaches that history is shaped by ideas." And the faculty-student admiration was mutual. According to Kühne, "Hanna is one of those remarkable students who make a difference. She is a wonderful enrichment of the Center community, and she leaves no doubt that she is a born teacher."

Truly integrated into the life of the Center by faculty and students, Schmidt Holländer took advantage of every opportunity. In addition to entering the meeting rotation as

one of Dwork's advisees and teaching with Kühne, she chaired one of the panels at the Graduate Student Conference. The conference reaffirmed the broad approach to genocide she had observed throughout the spring semester at the Strassler Center, "We learn through comparison," she observes, "and Center students and faculty confront the reasons and causes for mass violence with a frank intention to learn free of politics."

Schmidt Holländer returned to Hamburg for the summer and turned to dissertation writing invigorated by fresh skills she learned at the Center. "Professor Dwork has been unbelievably generous in sharing her expertise. A gifted writer and teacher, she is able to teach writing as a craft and to show others how to write readable prose." Schmidt Holländer put these skills to good use in writing about how the education system in the ghettos served as a tool to create a shared Jewish identity among the people who were deported there from many different local and social backgrounds. Widening her lens to include Jewish education in Poland before the war, she shows the continuity of a rich, multifaceted Jewish cultural life even under the harshest conditions. This work intersects fruitfully with that of fourth-year student Joanna Sliwa, in Poland for the year researching her dissertation about *Jewish Children in Nazi-Occupied Kraków*. Electronically introduced by Dwork, they are planning several panels on children in the ghettos for upcoming academic conferences.

Schmidt Holländer resumes her visit at the Strassler Center during the fall semester. And the knowledge she has gained and the professional relationships she has forged will last well beyond her year as a Visiting Student.

Mary Jane Rein

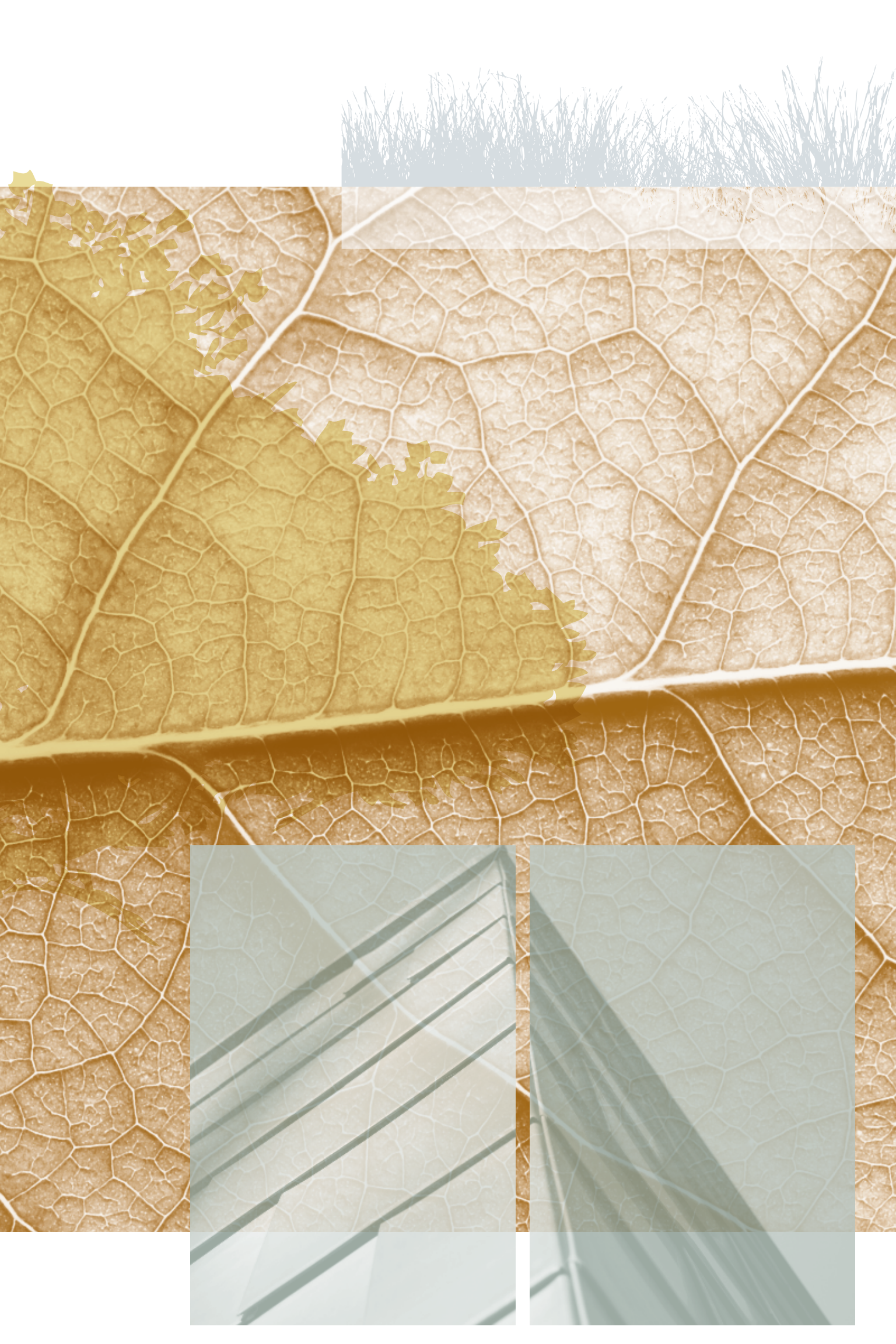


Hannah Schmidt Holländer, doctoral student, University of Hamburg



GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Center's tree, located beside the Rose Library, and its graduate student offices are dedicated to the memory of Holocaust survivor Henry Tobak. A plaque relates a Talmudic tale that explains the significance of these gifts. A young girl asks an old man planting a carob tree how long it will take to bear fruit. Seventy years, he explains. Will he live to enjoy its fruit? she asks. No, he responds, but just as he has enjoyed trees planted by those before him, he hopes to do the same for those to come. And so it is with our tree. Education, research, and greater human understanding, the fruits of our program, will accrue to the benefit of future generations.





GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Gifts to the Strassler Center converge around student enterprises and especially projects that benefit our unique doctoral program. Donors recognize that our students, committed to the arduous task of earning their Ph.D. degrees, require adequate funding. Financial support ensures that the most talented students will attend and permits students and faculty to pursue new avenues for research. A case in point: a new fellowship devoted to study of the Assyrian Genocide and funded by a group of donors.

The Second International Graduate Student Conference is a bright example of an initiative that benefits our students (see pages 11 and 12). Support from the Louis and Ann Kulin Fund (endowed by Dr. Howard and Hanne Kulin) funded the participation of scholars from the Danish Institute for International Studies, which served as partner and co-organizer. Robin Moss and the Buster Foundation graciously sponsored the keynote address in honor of Dr. Richard '71 and Libby '72 Cohen. And generous friends contributed additional funding that ensured that the conference met the goals of its student organizers. The Asher Family Fund, Judi '75 and Lawrence MA '76 Bohn, Dianne Parrotte, Debra Raskin and Michael Young, and our dear Rosalie Rose (in memory of Sidney Rose) answered the call for donations.

The fall summit, *Informed Activism: Armed Conflict, Scarce Resources, and Congo*, held special appeal for Clark students at both the undergraduate and graduate level (see pages 4 and 5). And it drew the interest of non-Clark students as well. Five hundred gathered on campus from 38 different colleges and universities to deepen their understanding of mass violence in Congo and the lucrative, conflict-generating, and illegal trade of minerals destined for electronic devices. Planning for the conference and its ultimate success were made possible by the prompt and generous enthusiasm of Al Tapper to serve as sponsor.

Doctoral fellowships remain the Center's greatest priority. The Graduate Student News section identifies the donors whose gifts support each student. And the section on New Students notes the names of the most recent funders. The Cummings Foundation, through the One World Boston Grant Program, pledged a fellowship for a student whose focus is Comparative Genocide. Thanks to this pledge, a new student will join our Stern Fellow in pursuing research about genocide on the African continent. They will benefit from Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professor Dyan Mazurana, whose spring 2013 seminar will deal with a topic on comparative genocide.

Another exciting new focus is study about the Assyrian Genocide. Committed to the effort to investigate mass violence and genocide carried out against Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire, Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam has recruited a doctoral student with a specific focus on the persecution of the Assyrians. Thanks to the energy and leadership of Elias Hanna, a coalition of Assyrian individuals and community groups has pledged to fund the Assyrian Community Fellowship in Assyrian Genocide Studies. Work in this area will help to build a more complete picture about genocide in Ottoman Turkey, a topic already pursued by our two Agnes Manoogian Hausrath fellows.

Research trips to archives around the globe, participation in international conferences, and visits to memorial sites are costly but necessary aspects of doctoral training. Penny '68 and Bruce '66 Wein endowed a fund in memory of Hilda and Al Kirsch, and they continue to contribute toward it, to help offset such expenses. Fifth-year students Alexis Herr and Raz Segal benefited from their selection as this year's recipients of the Kirsch Award. A new research fund, endowed by Ernest Rubenstein in memory of Samuel and Anna Jacobs, will fund the research expenses of a similarly deserving student. We are grateful to these donors and others like the Colin, Hevrony, Moss, Stern, and Strassler families for their continued support of doctoral fellowships.

The activities pursued throughout the academic year 2011-2012 and detailed in this report depend upon the generosity of our donors. We are grateful to them all.

Mary Jane Rein



Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam and Robert Aram Kaloosdian '52



Roman and Hannah Kent

DONOR PROFILE: HANNAH AND ROMAN KENT

Students, faculty, and guests to Cohen-Lasry House know the Kent seminar room as the gracious setting for many of the Strassler Center's educational programs. Classes, seminars, guest lectures, dissertation defenses, and doctoral comprehensive exams unfold within this light filled space. Newcomers to the program and visitors often comment on the dignity of Center events -- a tone set, in part, by the gifts of Hannah and Roman Kent. Lunch talks, dinner receptions, and coffee-fueled debates are imbued with style thanks to the lovely china service they bestowed. When they funded the Kent seminar room, Hannah and Roman could not have envisioned the full scope of discussions that would animate the space, but they knew they valued learning and study about the Holocaust and other genocides. The topics raised in the seminar room may be difficult, but the discussions are conducted in comfort thanks to the Kents' generosity.

Hannah and Roman Kent have devoted themselves to remembering, commemorating, and assisting the Jewish victims of Nazism. Survivors of the ghetto in Lodz, Poland where they were raised and educated, Hannah and Roman came to the United States, separately, as orphans. They had endured years of Nazi persecution and the cruelties of work and death camps. Determined to resume lives interrupted by persecution and suffering, Hannah and Roman welcomed opportunities that offered them purpose and meaning. Their story is well known thanks to Roman's 2008 autobiography, *Courage was My Only Option* and his charming tale for children about his beloved pet, *My Dog Lala*. Devoted to family, work, and community, the Kents epitomize success achieved against all odds.

Roman's autobiography recounts a "rags to riches" story. Arriving in the United States with nothing, Roman sought education. Upon graduation, he found his niche in international trade, primarily textiles, and ran Namor International Corporation, based in New York City, for nearly 45 years. Business and personal success allowed him to assume pioneering leadership roles with a host of Holocaust survivor and other organizations including the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, and the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States. In November 2011, President Obama appointed him to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. As treasurer for the Claims Conference, Roman has argued annually for the importance of doctoral education and his advocacy has benefited a cohort of Center doctoral students who have held Claims fellowships. According to their friend of long standing Professor Debórah Dwork, "Hannah and Roman bring multiple perspectives to their engagement with the many organizations they support: they are survivors, compassionate human beings, knowledgeable contributors, and supremely committed individuals who enhance the many causes they embrace."

At the United Nations for the fall 2011 opening of the exhibition *The Face of the Ghetto: Pictures Taken by Jewish Photographers in the Lodz Ghetto, 1940-1944*, Roman spoke with authenticity and insight about the ghetto. Seven decades and countless presentations have not dimmed the power and value of his first-person observations. The Strassler Center has been enriched by the gifts Hannah and Roman have contributed but, more importantly, the greater community of survivors, students of Holocaust history, and the public at large share the benefits of their unflagging commitment and intelligence to so many valuable causes.

Mary Jane Rein



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Top: Elliot Salloway and David Feingold

Middle: Hripsime Parsekian

Bottom: Professor Taner Akçam, Hausrath Fellow Khatchig Mouradian, William F. Hausrath '53, and Dr. Raymond Kevorkian, Nubarian Library, Paris



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granddaughter*

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Kathy Grosz-Zaltas and Fred Zaltas

**Deceased*





CALL TO ACTION

Research and activities carried out at the Strassler Center range beyond the boundaries of academe and the university. Our programs seek to use scholarship to address current problems stemming from the murderous past and to engage the world in which we live by providing an educated voice in the public arena. The forthcoming international symposium, *Policy and Practice: Pedagogy about the Holocaust and Genocide*, to be held in April 2013 epitomizes how the Strassler Center can guide discourse on issues of importance to the public.

Experts from around the globe will consider what constitutes effective education about the Holocaust and other genocides in diverse societies. The symposium will establish the parameters of the subject: how do history, politics, and culture influence whether and how societies teach about genocide? A central case is Holocaust teaching in the United States and Europe. Elsewhere societies recovering from genocide face the daunting task of educating the children of perpetrators, victims,

and bystanders in the same classrooms. How to teach history in such countries is deeply problematic, especially when there is no consensus on a national narrative about the past. Lessons learned may influence curriculum experts, policy makers, scholars, and teachers in many different countries.

Policy and Practice will gather eminent scholars with expertise in Holocaust history, genocide studies, pedagogy, comparative politics, transitional justice, and human rights. Our call to action: pledge a contribution to support this important initiative and to disseminate the results to key individuals and representatives of organizations that develop and use curricular materials. Donate by phone or online and specify that your contribution is for *Policy and Practice* so that we can recognize you in the symposium program.

By phone: 508.793.8897

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- Other: _____

Make your check payable to Clark University. Gifts are tax deductible by law.

CENTER IN THE MAIL

The Second International Graduate Student Conference was thoroughly enjoyable and incredibly informative - it has moved my own research into areas I hadn't previously considered and for this I am grateful. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of both the established academics in attendance and the other graduate students in this harrowing field of study.

Emily Stiles, doctoral student, Winchester University

Someone ought to do a Harvard Business School case on what you have accomplished at Clark - totally unlikely, totally unpredictable, and totally fantastic.

Douglas Greenberg, Executive Dean, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Jeff Koerber gave an excellent lecture this evening to an audience of close to 200 people. As you might expect, his lecture was meticulously prepared and offered great insight into how growing up Jewish in two different areas, Grodno and Vitebesk, shaped identity and influenced survival during the Holocaust. Many survivors from LA made a special effort to be there and many of Jeff's students, very loyal to him, also attended. It was the sort of event—community, faculty, students, donors and supporters—that really defines what a university is all about. At any rate, I am very proud of Jeff and wanted to let you know. He is proving to be a fine teacher and exceptional mentor of our students.

Marilyn J. Harran, Director, Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education and Stern Chair in Holocaust History, Chapman University to Professor Debórah Dwork

I read your book with great interest. Words cannot describe the emotions I felt as I read about my family history, their lives in their hometown, and with great sorrow, the tragic loss of those lives. Our parents did not impart to us their account of the events that occurred during the final days of their families. Your book helped bring to light much in our present lives, since our lives are but projections from those beginnings. I sent a number of copies of your book to cousins of mine and in their name and my own, we would like to thank and commend you on your work. I feel that your venerable undertaking will prove invaluable for generations to come.

Dr. Judith Richter to doctoral student Raz Segal

Thank you very much for sharing your *Year End Report* with us. I congratulate the Strassler Center on a very inspiring year of work. The depth of new scholarly research that is coming out of the Center is very impressive. I wish I lived closer so that I, too, could attend some of the wonderful seminars, lectures and conferences you hold.

Tali Nates, Director, Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre

Great news: I was offered an internship at the U Mass Boston Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights with its director Carol Cohn! Thank you for the opportunity *Informed Activism* provided and all the skills I garnered from working with you. The work I accomplished with you will be forever helpful.

Anna Voreberg '13 to Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, Academic Program Liaison Officer

Words cannot begin to tell how grateful I am for our discussion and your article and book, *Belonging and Genocide*. Both are very thoughtful, well researched and written. Excellent work and answered some disturbing questions I have had regarding motivation of the perpetrators. Your article is already circulating among our faculty here in the Department of Command and Leadership.

Your study will be of great interest to my military officer-scholars as we analyze the topic in my seminar on genocide and mass atrocities and the military role of identification, prevention, and intervention.

Professor Charles E. Heller, Department of Command and Leadership, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne

Informed Activism had a great set of participants and panelists, and I appreciate you giving us the chance to participate and hear from the many stakeholders - we don't get many opportunities to hear from students or local government in particular.

Congratulations on a successful event with a nuanced message.

Adam E. Keith, State Department to Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland, Academic Program Liaison Officer

The entire advocacy community is buzzing loudly about Clark University in general and the Strassler Center in particular. I've been fielding phone calls and emails from what feels like the entire known universe about how perfectly organized, thoughtfully planned, and seamlessly executed the *Informed Activist* conference was. Through planned meetings, deep discussion, and informal, hallway chats, the advocacy community had the opportunity to really gel in a way that has never happened before - and in a way that is already spurring greater coordination and coalition. The impact on building an inspired, informed and deeply motivated grassroots movement for Congo was truly profound this weekend.

Naama Haviv '00 MA '06, Assistant Director, Jewish World Watch



2012-2013 EVENTS

13 SEPTEMBER

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

Book Discussion: **Taner Akçam**, *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*
Professors Eric Weitz (CUNY) and Dirk Moses (European University Institute in Florence) discuss Professor Akçam's latest book and archival evidence about the Armenian Genocide.

15 OCTOBER

3-6 pm, Rose library

Panel Discussion: Sexual Violence during the Holocaust

Regina Mühlhäuser (Hamburg Institute for Social Research) and **Professor Pascale Bos** (University of Texas, Austin) discuss representations of sexual violence during the Holocaust. **Professor Dagmar Herzog** (The Graduate Center, The City University of New York) serves as discussant.

14 MARCH

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall

Book Discussion: **Daniel Blatman**, *The Death Marches: The Final Phase of Nazi Genocide*

Professor Daniel Blatman (The Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University) discusses his award-winning book. Co-sponsored by the Worcester JCC Cultural Arts

20 MARCH

4 pm, Rose Library

Especially for Students Lecture: Making and Unmaking Multi-Ethnic Nations: The Origins of Genocide and Non-Genocide in Rwanda, Sudan, Mali, and Beyond

Professor Scott Straus (University of Wisconsin-Madison) speaks about his new research.

4 April

7 pm, Jewish Community Center

Book Discussion: **Debórah Dwork**, *A Boy in Terezín: The Private Diary of Pavel Weiner*

11 APRIL

7:30, Tilton Hall

International Symposium: Policy and Practice: Pedagogy about the Holocaust and Genocide

Margot Stern Strom (Facing History and Ourselves), **Freddy Mutanguha** (Kigali Genocide Memorial Center) and **Ayşe Gül Altınay** (Sabanci University) discuss how history, politics, and culture influence whether and how societies teach about genocide.

APRIL 25

7pm, Tilton Hall

Panel Discussion: The Use and Misuse of History in Turkey: Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide

Professors Corry Guttstadt (University of Hamburg) and **Laurent Olivier Mallet** (Paul Valéry University) examine the policies held by the Turkish Government during the Holocaust and its aftermath. **Professor Seyla Benhabib** (Yale University) serves as discussant.

CLARK UNIVERSITY

Cohen-Lasry H

STRASSLER FAMILY CENTER
AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

**Authors**

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The Italians say that gratitude is the memory of the heart. They are right. And my heart has a long memory. After many years of outstanding service to the Center, administrative assistant Margaret Hillard left to pursue a new avenue in life. We will miss her, even as we welcome Cynthia Fenner most warmly. A former Clark employee, Cynthia has returned to the university as the Strassler Center administrative assistant. A happy homecoming! She joins the amazing staff who run the Center and its many events and initiatives with imagination, creativity, and (not least) efficiency. It is a pleasure to thank, in alphabetical order, librarian Robyn Christensen for her thoughtful ideas as libraries transition from traditional printed books; Academic Program Liaison Officer Dr Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland for her enthusiasm and expertise; Executive Director Dr Mary Jane Rein for her brilliant ideas and unflagging focus on the forward trajectory of the Center; and accountant Angela Santamaria-Hough for the superior professionalism she has brought to the Center's books and the accounting education she has offered to me.

Nor does my heart's memory fail me with regard to my Clark colleagues. I am utterly grateful to Taner Akçam; Anita Fabós; Thomas Kühne; Olga Litvak; Ken MacLean; Marianne Sarkis; Srinivasa Sitarman; Valerie Sperling; Shelly Tenenbaum; Jaan Valsiner; and Johanna Vollhardt. They are the center of the Center, and their generosity glitters as brightly as their scholarship. I thank, too, my many colleagues at other institutions and organizations, who have given the gift of their time as well as their knowledge to our graduate students. To them I quote Dag Hammarskjöld, "For all that has been, thanks. And for all that will be, yes."

As these pages report, we soared from event to event in 2011-2012. Our calendar in 2012-2013 is equally rich. Each unfolds seamlessly thanks to infrastructural support provided by departments across the Clark campus. I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank Terri Guttormsen and Jim Cormier in Media Services for their unfailing and warm-hearted help; Brenda Nieszewski in Physical Plant for her cheerful response to our heavy demands; Kim McElroy in Dining Services for keeping our hundreds of guests well fed (and thus happy); Cheryl Turner Elwell in Information Technology Services for her inspired work with the Digital Commons, and her eye for detail; Keith Carville in Marketing and Communication for his beautiful graphic design of our posters and postcards; and Jane Salerno in the same department for her dedication to public outreach. I am incredibly lucky to have this community of support, and I know it.

I am lucky, too, to have the support of Clark senior leadership: Dean of Research Nancy Budwig (to whom I report), Provost Davis Baird, and President David Angel. They express their appreciation of the Center's mission in word and deed, and I am grateful.

This *Year End Report* was designed by Kaajal Asher. Production is to the credit of Mary Jane Rein, who serves as Editor-in-Chief, Production Editor, and Copy Editor.

My thanks to all!

Debórah Dwork





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