

## **Daan de Leeuw**

*B.A., History (Cum Laude), University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2011*

*Research M.A. (MPhil equivalent), History (Cum Laude), University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2013*

Claims Conference Fellow **Daan de Leeuw** received research support from the Hilda and Al Kirsch award to pursue his doctoral project, *The Geography of Slave Labor: Dutch Jews and the Third Reich, 1942-1945*. He investigates how Dutch Jewish slave laborers experienced the frequent relocations through the concentration camp system, following them through time and space. The movement of Jewish slave laborers from camp to camp was a central feature of the Holocaust, as the Germans moved prisoners to places where the war industry needed them. Each relocation shattered the prisoners' networks and social structure as it affected the bonds that inmates created among themselves.

De Leeuw focuses on 9 of the 103 trains that ran between the Netherlands and German concentration and death camps between July 1942 and September 1944. Drawing on survivor testimonies and administrative records such as ITS (International Tracing Service) documents, he maps the routes of individual deportees and follows their journeys through the concentration camp system. He applies geographic information system (GIS) and manual cartography to visualize the paths of individuals and groups of deportees to open a fresh perspective on the plight of Dutch Jewish slave laborers, social dynamics of concentration camp inmates, and the German effort to win the war through the ruthless exploitation of prisoners.

De Leeuw has utilized Holocaust survivor video testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation and the Freie Universität in Berlin. These witness accounts shed light on the lives of Jewish slave laborers and reveal why and how Jews were relocated from camp to camp. In fall 2021, de Leeuw began a Junior Fellowship at the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, Germany. He conducts research in the institute's archive, focusing in particular on the Nazi bureaucracy that drove forced and slave labor in the concentration camps and beyond. After Munich, de Leeuw will travel to the Netherlands to conduct research at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies and the Dutch National Archives with additional support from a Conny Kristel Fellowship granted by the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). In spring 2022, he will begin a fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.