

STRASSLER CENTER

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE
STUDENT CONFERENCE ON
HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE STUDIES
16 – 19 OCTOBER 2023

PROGRAM GUIDE



In cooperation with the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, and the Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Fifth International Graduate Student Conference on Holocaust and Genocide Studies. This multi-day conference gathers an outstanding cohort of thirty-three advanced doctoral students and early post-doctoral scholars from fifteen countries who have travelled to the Clark University campus to present their research projects. Selected from a competitive pool of applicants, the participants represent the next generation of scholars and leaders who will advance Holocaust and genocide research for generations to come. Their paper topics hint at the future of the field and gesture toward new areas of inquiry and methodological approaches.

The impetus for this series originated with Howard and Hanna Kulin who funded a cooperation with the Danish Institute for International Studies that led to the first three conferences, beginning in 2009. The current iteration is presented in partnership with the International Institute of Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem, and the Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research, University of Southern California. We are grateful to Professors Dan Michman and Wolf Gruner and their colleagues for their collegiality and expertise in planning the program. The latter stayed late, and the former started early to attend productive zoom sessions that easily achieved consensus on how to best organize the program. We readily agreed, among other decisions, that Professor Wendy Lower should deliver the keynote address.

The Strassler Center staff, including program manager Robyn Conroy, administrative assistant Alissa Duke, and budget coordinator Kim Vance, have been responsible for transforming our plans into reality. They graciously attended to the many small details that are necessary to mount such a program. David and Sandra Shulman have sponsored the conference in recognition of Derrek '90 and Beth Shulman, long-time friends of the Strassler Center. Their lead gift, in combination with generous contributions made to our Israel Academic Exchange, has made possible this ambitious gathering. Thanks to Dr. Jeffrey Kraines, the William P. Goldman and Brothers Fund has underwritten the keynote address in memory of Linda Kaplan. New research, rich debates, opportunities for networking, and the exciting exchange of ideas await us.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kühne, PhD
Director, Strassler Center
Strassler Colin Flug Professor of Holocaust History

Mary Jane Rein, PhD
Executive Director, Strassler Center

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Wendy Lower



Wendy Lower (*John K. Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College*) chairs the academic committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Lower is the author of *Nazi Empire-Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine* (2005), *The Diary of Samuel Golfard and the Holocaust in Galicia* (2011); and co-editor (with Ray Brandon) of *Shoah in Ukraine: History, Testimony, Memorialization* (2008). Her book, *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields* (2013), was a finalist for the National Book Award and has been translated into 23 languages. *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed* (2021) received the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category, was shortlisted for the Wingate Prize and longlisted for a PEN award. Lower's next book on Heinrich Himmler, *The Holocaust and The End of Terror* is forthcoming in 2026 and will be co-authored with Jonathan Petropoulos.

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

5:30 p.m.

KEYNOTE

Higgins Lounge/Dana Commons

INTRODUCTION

Lauren Ashley Bradford, Clark University, U.S.A.

SPEAKER

A PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Wendy Lower, Claremont McKenna College, U.S.A.

Keynote address sponsored by the William P. Goldman and Brothers Fund in memory of Linda Kaplan

7:00 p.m.

RECEPTION

TUESDAY 17 October

8:45 a.m.

WELCOME

Higgins Lounge/Dana Commons

Thomas Kühne, Clark University, U.S.A.

Conference sponsored by David and Sandra Shulman in recognition of Derrek '90 and Beth Shulman

Panel I

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

BEYOND THE HOLOCAUST: RWANDA AND GUATEMALA

CHAIR: **MK Speth**, Clark University, U.S.A.

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Forced Indigenous Perpetrators: The Civil-Defense Patrols in Guatemala, 1981-1996

Vasken Markarian, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Narrative (de)Construction in Rwandan Classrooms

Jillian LaBranche, University of Minnesota, U.S.A.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Historicizing Body Stories of Rape in Genocide through the Feminist Concept of Agency

Julie Hurst-Whitehouse, University of Leicester, U.K.

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **BREAK**

Panel II

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **PASSING AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

CHAIR: **Robert Rozett**, Yad Vashem, Israel

10:45 -11:15 a.m. The Shoah in North Brabant. The Effect of Social Integration on Survival Rates
Frank van Doorn, Tilburg University, Netherlands

11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Identity Passing as a Jewish Response to Persecution during the Nazi Period
Hana Green, Clark University, U.S.A.

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. ‘Always One Step Away from Death, and Always Afraid’: Jewish Women who ‘Passed’ as Polish-Christian Forced Laborers in Germany
Lauren Fedewa, University of Toronto, Canada

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH**
Tilton Hall / University Center

Panel III

1:45 – 3:15 p.m. **CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH**

CHAIR: **Martha Stroud**, University of Southern California, U.S.A.

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. “He has earned the Zionist idea unprecedented honor & respect”: Jewish Youth Groups, Zionism, and Otto Komoly during the Holocaust in Hungary
Barnabas Balint, University of Oxford, U.K.

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Drawing the Gas Chamber: Holocaust Testimony and Children’s Lives in Birkenau
Jonathan Lanz, Indiana University, U.S.A.

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. “I Was Born on the Way Home!” – Family History of the DP Born “Babies”
Serafima Velkovich, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

Panel IV

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **FOOD, HUMOR, AND RITUAL**

CHAIR: **Ken MacLean**, Clark University, U.S.A.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Normality re-imagined: Humor and Laughter in the newly established ‘Jewish district’ (November 1940-January 1941)
Nicolas Garraud, University of Oxford, U.K.

- 4:00 – 4:30 p.m. A Wedding amongst the Graves: Rituals, Spiritualism, and the Jewish Cemetery
Alison Curry, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.A.
- 4:30 – 5:00 p.m. “It seems pretty materialistic”? Food and Social Relations through the eyes of two Jewish diarists from Germany and the Netherlands
Ayana Sassoon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- 5:30 p.m. **DINNER**
Tilton Hall / University Center

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

Panel V

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. **A MOSAIC OF INQUIRIES**
CHAIR: **Jessa Sinnott**, Clark University, U.S.A.
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Village Elders and the Evolution of Anti-Jewish Policy in the Lublin Countryside, 1939-1942
Miranda Brethour, City University of New York, U.S.A.
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Looted Art: Racially Motivated Transfers of Artworks and their Post-war Restitution
Zuzana Löbling, Charles University, Czechia
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Eugenic Architecture: From Transnational Ideology to Local Contexts
Alexandra Masgras, Duke University, U.S.A.
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **BREAK**

Panel VI

- 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. **SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABORTION**
CHAIR: **Sandra Grudić**, Clark University, U.S.A.
- 10:45 -11:15 a.m. A Matter of Life and Death: Jewish Women Who Chose Abortion during the Holocaust
Morgan Morales, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.A.
- 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Sexual Violence in Nazi Concentration Camps: Buchenwald, Mauthausen, Auschwitz, Gross-Rosen, and Neuengamme
Rotem Taitler, Tel Aviv University, Israel

12:15 – 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH**
Strassler Center

Panel VII

1:45 – 3:15 p.m. **PERPETRATORS**
CHAIR: **Nicole Toedtli**, Clark University, U.S.A.

1:45 – 2:15 p.m. Leadership Styles and Peer Relations in the *SS-Einsatzgruppen*
Maayan Armelin, Clark University, U.S.A.

2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Women in Nazi War Crimes Trials: Representation and Symbology in Legal and
Political Discourse and Popular Consciousness
Rebecca Cordony, University of New South Wales, Australia

2:45 – 3:15 p.m. The Trauma Lens in Perpetrator Studies
Bart Nauta, Utrecht University, Netherlands

3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **BREAK**

Panel VIII

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. **ART, VISUALITY, AND GRAFFITI**
CHAIR: **Frances Tanzer**, Clark University, U.S.A.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m. Propaganda as Holocaust Testimony: Visual Strategies of the Judenrat in the
Albums from the Łódź Ghetto
Paweł Michna, Jagiellonian University, Poland

4:00 – 4:30 p.m. Between Liberation and Oppression: Sociological Approach to the Official Art
Created by Inmates of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau
Agata Stepnik, Jagiellonian University, Poland

4:30 – 5:00 p.m. Diversion and Amusement in Graffiti in Nazi Concentration Camps and Ghettos
Jennifer Putnam, University of London, U.K.

5:30 p.m. **DINNER**
El Basha Restaurant
256 Park Ave

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

Panel IX

- 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. SPACE AND MOVEMENT**
CHAIR: **Wolf Gruner**, University of Southern California, U.S.A.
- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Environmental Influences on Human Agency during the Holocaust
Maja Kruse, University of Maine, U.S.A.
- 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. The German Concentration Camp System through the Lens of Jewish Slave Laborers' Experiences
Daan de Leeuw, Clark University, U.S.A.
- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. The Violent Order of Space: Spatial Structuring and Dynamics of Violence Using the Example of the Gusen Concentration Camp
Lukas Nievoll, University of Linz, Austria.
- 10:30 – 10:45 a.m. **BREAK**

Panel X

- 10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES**
CHAIR: **Diana Hayrapetyan**, Clark University, U.S.A.
- 10:45 -11:15 a.m. The Ethiopian Jewish Community under Italian fascist rule
Matteo D'Avanzo, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy & INALCO, France
- 11:15 – 11:45 a.m. Responses to the Holocaust in the Ashkenazi Community in Mexico
Tamara Gleason Freidberg, University College, U.K.
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. The Nation in the Camp: Norwegian Jews and National Identity in Buchenwald, April 1945
Karianne Hansen, University of Leicester, U.K.
- 12:15 – 1:45 p.m. **LUNCH**
Tilton Hall / University Center

Panel XI **Grace Conference Room/First Floor, University Center**

- 1:45 – 3:15 p.m. REFUGEES AND RESCUE**
CHAIR: **Nathan Lucky**, Clark University, U.S.A.

- 1:45 – 2:15 p.m. Modelling the Military. The Greek-Jewish Refugee Movement and its Dependence on Military Evacuation Structures
Julia Fröhlich, Vienna University, Austria (**via Zoom**)
- 2:15 – 2:45 p.m. Beyond Europe: Jewish Refugee Journeys and Humanitarian Aid in Japan (1931-1953)
Niamh Hanrahan, University of Manchester, U.K.
- 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. Transiting the British Colonies: Jewish Refugee's Experiences of Hong Kong and Singapore (1938-1941)
Ryan Sun, University of British Columbia, Canada

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

BREAK

Panel XII

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

ROUNDTABLE: ARCHIVES AND GENOCIDE STUDIES

CHAIR: **Wendy Lower**, Claremont McKenna College, U.S.A.

Taner Akçam, University of California at Los Angeles, U.S.A

Dan Michman and Robert Rozett, Yad Vashem, Israel

Wolf Gruner, University of Southern California, U.S.A.

5:30 p.m.

DINNER

Tilton Hall / University Center

BIOGRAPHIES



Taner Akçam is the inaugural director of the Armenian Genocide Research Program of the Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA and Senior Research Scholar at the Strassler Center. He previously held the Stephen and Marian Mugar and Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian '52 Chair in Modern Armenian History and Genocide at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. Akçam is widely

recognized as one of the first Turkish scholars to write extensively on the Ottoman-Turkish Genocide of the Armenians in the early twentieth century. His latest book is *Killing Orders: Talat Pasha's Telegrams and the Armenian Genocide* (Palgrave 2018). He is the founder of Krikor Guerguerian Online Archive.



Maayan Armelin holds a BA in history and psychology and an MA in Social Psychology from the University of Haifa, where she worked at the Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research and on the editorial board of *The Journal of Holocaust Research*. She earned her PhD from the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University in 2023. Armelin is the recipient of fellowships from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies in Vienna, the Claims Conference, the European Holocaust Research

Infrastructure, and the Austrian Agency for Education and Internationalisation. For her dissertation, Armelin studied the *SS-Einsatzgruppen*, mobile paramilitary units that murdered between one and two million Jewish and non-Jewish civilians. Utilizing historical and social psychological methods, Armelin's research characterizes leadership styles and peer relations in the Einsatzgruppen, and explores how these patterns of social relations enhanced members' compliance with mass murder.



Barnabas Balint is a PhD candidate in history at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. For his DPhil thesis exploring what it meant to be young and Jewish during the Holocaust in Hungary, he holds fellowships from the University of Southern California and the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure. He completed his undergraduate degree in History at the University of Exeter where he received the Jean Henderson Prize for the finalist with best academic performance in European History. His MA thesis, “Competing for the Youth: Jewish Scout Identity, Religion and Gender during the Holocaust in France” is forthcoming in *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*. Balint’s multi-lingual research combines the history of childhood, gender and identity to develop age as an intersectional category of analysis for Jewish youth responses to persecution during the Second World War.



Lauren Ashley Bradford is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. Prior to her doctoral studies, she earned a BA in History and German Studies at Gettysburg College and an MA in European History, Politics, and Society from Columbia University. Her doctoral research takes a feminist comparative approach to women as perpetrators of violence in Nazi Germany and Jim Crow America. She centers her research around certain public settings and acts of violence, such as riots, lynching, and pogroms.



Miranda Brethour is a PhD Candidate in Modern European history at the City University of New York's Graduate Center. She will spend 2023-2024 as the Alexander Grass Memorial Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Previously, she completed her BA and an MA in history at the University of Ottawa and she has worked as a teaching fellow in the History Department at Brooklyn College. Her dissertation, which has been funded through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, traces the Holocaust in the countryside of the Lublin region as

narrated through the relationship between Jewish residents, gentile villagers, and local village elders.



Rebecca Cordony is a PhD candidate at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. She holds an MA in History from Macquarie University and an MA in Modern History (research) from the University of New England. Her doctoral research examines Holocaust female perpetrators. She seeks to broaden understandings of the multifarious way in which women were complicit and active in the crimes of the Third Reich, as well as to interrogate subsequent representations of these women. Her analysis encompasses war crimes trials, popular culture, press, museums and memorials. As a research fellow at the 2023 Holocaust Educational Foundation Summer Institute at Northwestern University, Cordony advanced her broad interest and teaching skills in Holocaust and genocide studies.



Alison B. Curry is a PhD Candidate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She earned her MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Gratz College and a Graduate Certificate in Digital Public Humanities from George Mason University. Her dissertation examines the ritual, spatial, and functional uses of the Jewish cemetery in Poland during the interwar period (1918-1939) and the Second World War (1939-1945). She is currently a Claims Conference Saul Kagan Fellow in Advanced Shoah Studies. Curry's research has also been supported by the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, the

Carolina Center for Jewish Studies, the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.



Matteo D'Avanzo is a PhD candidate in History at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa and INALCO (National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations), Paris. He is a fellow of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and Yad Vashem. In 2022/2023, D'Avanzo was a Knapp Doctoral fellow at the Vidal Sassoon Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and in spring 2023 he was a visiting fellow of the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway University of London. He works as teaching assistant in history of the Middle East and North Africa at

the University of Milan. His research deals with the history of Ethiopian Jews from the period of Italian fascist rule to the official recognition by the State of Israel.



Daan de Leeuw is a PhD Candidate at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University. He holds a BA and MA in History from the University of Amsterdam. In his dissertation, he analyzes Jewish slave labor during the Holocaust, researching the victims' experiences from a spatial perspective. De Leeuw has held fellowships at Yad Vashem, the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ), the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust

Studies. He is the recipient of a Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies from the Claims Conference.



Frank van Doorn is a PhD-candidate at Tilburg University, Netherlands who holds BA and MA degrees in history from Utrecht University. He currently works as a historian at the *Brabant Historical Information Centre* (BHIC) in 's-Hertogenbosch. Previously, he made a digital monument dedicated to the more than 2,100 fallen soldiers of North Brabant from World War II to the present. His research on the Holocaust in the Dutch province of North Brabant, funded by the Mondriaan Foundation and the Mastboom Brosens Foundation, examines the extent to which social integration impacted survival rates. In 2022, he was a Conny Kristel Fellow of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure and conducted

additional research at Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, Belgium.



Lauren Fedewa is a PhD Candidate in the Department of History and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. She earned a BA in History and Germanic Studies from the University of Maryland, College Park and an MA in History from the University of Vermont. Her dissertation is tentatively titled *'Always One Step Away from Death, and Always Afraid': Jewish Women who Passed as Polish-Christian Forced Laborers in Germany during the Holocaust*. Fedewa was a visiting fellow at the *Leibniz-Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung* and is a current recipient of the Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies from the Claims Conference.



Julia Fröhlich is a PhD candidate in Turkish Studies in the department of Oriental Studies at Vienna University. Her dissertation examines the refugee movement of Greek Jews fleeing across the Aegean to Turkey and intertwines a variety of perspectives, focusing on the individual and collective as well as corporate entities determining the external structures within which individuals acted. Previously, she earned a BA in history and MA in education. Fröhlich is editorial manager of the academic journal *Diyâr*, focusing on the Ottoman Empire and its successor states, Turkey, Central Asia, Iran, and the Caucasus. She has contributed to publications on Turkish-Jewish relations and the *'Türkei-Deutschen'*, the German (minority) group living in Turkey (especially in the 19th – mid 20th century). She is recipient of the Doctoral Fellowship Programme of the Austrian Academy of Sciences.



Nicolas Garraud is a PhD Candidate in History at Exeter College, University of Oxford. He currently holds a Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah studies. Previously, he was a Doctoral Fellow of the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah and secured grants from the University of Oxford and the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure. Drawing on first-hand Polish and Yiddish diaries, notes, and letters found in the Ringelblum Archive, he explores the meaning and significance of humor and laughter in the everyday life of Jews living under Nazi occupation in the Warsaw ghetto. Borrowing from methodological tools found in the practice of social and cultural history, the history of emotions and micro-history, Garraud looks beyond the idealized conception of humor as a weapon of cultural and spiritual resistance to

understand the fragmentation, hopes, fears and concerns of a plural Jewish community.



Tamara Gleason Freidberg is a PhD candidate at University College London who studies the Yiddish press in Mexico, its sources and its unique role in the communication of news about the Holocaust as it developed. Her work includes publications on Mexican Yiddish literature and the Jewish Left in Mexico. She received a Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture fellowship in support of this project. She published a book on the Bundist group in Mexico, *Di Shvue, los bundistas en y su participación en la comunidad judía* (2016). Freidberg,

who facilitates Yiddish sessions at the Holocaust Survivor's Centre, is an active organizer of the Yiddish Open Mic (London) and Yiddish House London.



Hana G. Green is a PhD candidate at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She earned a BA in history from the University of Florida and an MA in Holocaust Studies from the Weiss-Livnat Program at the University of Haifa. Her doctoral research examines the phenomenon of Jewish identity passing as a persecution response during the Nazi period. Using a diverse source base of material from the prewar through the postwar period, Green traces the ways that Jews developed and employed passing strategies in response to ever-worsening social conditions and carried them into, through, and beyond wartime persecution. She is currently a 2023-2024 *Sosland Foundation Visiting Fellow* at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.



Sandra Grudić is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She is conducting a micro historical study of the Bosnian town Bosanski Novi, during the Bosnian war and genocide between 1992 and 1995. Her dissertation, *Neighborliness and Neighborhood Violence in Bosanski Novi*, draws on survivor testimonies and archival materials to document interethnic relations and tensions during the conflict. The interviews reveal that despite violence between neighbors of different ethnic groups, many Bosniak, Serb, and Croat neighbors remained friendly, and some

nurtured these relationships throughout the war and after.



Wolf Gruner is the founding director of the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research and holds the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California. The author of eleven books and around 80 articles and book chapters on the Holocaust, Central European Jewish history and other instances of mass violence and state discrimination, his publications include *Jewish Forced Labor under the Nazis. Economic Needs and Racial Aims, 1938-1944* (2006), *Parias de la Patria. El mito de la liberación de los indígenas en la República de Bolivia, 1825-1890* (2015) and the prizewinning book *Holocaust in Bohemia and Moravia: Czech Initiatives, German Policies, Jewish Responses* (2019). His new book *Resisters: How Ordinary Jews fought Persecution in Hitler's Germany* (2023) challenges our understanding of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust by focusing on forgotten widespread acts of individual defiance and protest of German and Austrian Jews. He is a member of

the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and co-founder of the National Consortium of Higher Education Centers for Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.



Niamh Hanrahan is a PhD candidate in the Humanitarianism and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester. Her PhD project is titled *Beyond Europe: Jewish Journeys and Humanitarian Aid in Japan (1931-1953)*, examines the history of movement by Jewish refugees from Europe to Japan. Niamh was the postgraduate representative to the British and Irish Association for Holocaust Studies in the 2022/23 academic year. She has published research in blogs for the academic website *Refugee History* and for *The Holocaust Centre North* and has been awarded fellowships to conduct research in the USA, Germany, Japan, and Australia.



Karianne Hansen is a PhD candidate at the Stanley Burton Centre for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide at the University of Leicester. Her doctoral thesis examines lived experiences and identities of Norwegian political and Jewish prisoners in Nazi concentration camps during the Holocaust. She holds an MSc in Contemporary History from the University of Edinburgh and an MRes in History from Birkbeck College, University of London. In 2023, she served as an external adviser to the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies in Oslo. Her interests include transnational approaches to the Nazi concentration camps and prisoner societies, spaces considered the periphery of the Holocaust, and the question of national identities in contemporary European history.



Diana Hayrapetyan is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She researches Turkey's post-genocidal period and the return of Armenian genocide survivors as a conflict resolution strategy in the process of Turkish nation-state formation. According to different calculations, approximately 250,000 Armenians returned to Turkey in the aftermath of Genocide. Her dissertation, *The Foundation of Turkish Republic and the problem of Armenian returnees, 1918-1938*, will examine the process related to the reestablishment and re-socialization of the Armenian community at both the

individual and communal levels, and the role of ethnic and racial markers during the period of re-integration.



Julie Hurst-Whitehouse is a PhD Candidate at the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Leicester. She earned an MA in Global Development at the University of Leeds, UK with a dissertation on gender and genocide in Rwanda and Darfur, and after having worked as a volunteer in Rwanda for the Kigali Genocide Memorial and as a Development Manager for the Holocaust Centre in the UK. Her PhD project, *Changing Spaces for Women's Voices in Oral Testimonial Collections of the Rwandan Genocide Against the Tutsi*, examines two NGO collections in an historical context by looking at how women articulate their experience of sexual violence in their own words.



Sharon Kangisser Cohen is the editor-in-chief of *Yad Vashem Studies* and the director of the Diana and Eli Zborowski Centre for the Study of the Aftermath of the Holocaust at Yad Vashem. She also teaches at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her research and publications focus on Holocaust survivors and survivor testimony. She is the author of *Finding their Voices: Child Survivors of the Holocaust in Israel: Social Dynamics and Post-war experiences* (2005) and *Testimony and Time: Holocaust Survivors remember* (2015). She is currently working on the publications of the post-war diaries of Yehuda Bacon.



Maja Kruse is an interdisciplinary PhD candidate at the University of Maine. She earned a BA and MA in German and Geography from the University of Southern Denmark and the University of Copenhagen. She has worked as a research assistant on two projects led by Anne Kelly Knowles: *The Holocaust Ghettos Project* and *Placing the Holocaust*. These projects investigate the spatial characteristics of camps and ghettos and the experiences of place in survivor testimonies. Kruse's dissertation on the environmental history of the Holocaust uses GIS and survivor memoirs to investigate influences of the landscape on victim agency and perpetrator actions.



Thomas Kühne is the Strassler Center Director and Strassler Colin Flug Professor of Holocaust History at Clark University. He researches war, genocide, and society, long-term traditions of political culture and political emotions in Europe, and the problem of locating the Holocaust and Nazi Germany in the continuities and discontinuities of the 20th century. He has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, the Center for Contemporary History in Germany, and the German Research Foundation. His recent books include *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler's Community, 1918 – 1945* (2010) and *The Rise and Fall of Comradeship: Hitler's Soldiers, Male Bonding and Mass Violence in the Twentieth Century* (2017). Kühne is currently working on a comprehensive book on Holocaust perpetrators, their mindsets, their interactions, and the way they have been looked at since the time of the Holocaust.



Jillian LaBranche is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Minnesota. She currently holds the National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship. She earned a BA in International Studies from Rhodes College, an MA in International Human Rights from the University of Denver, and an MA in Sociology from Brandeis University. Her doctoral research examines how parents and teachers in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, who experienced mass violence, educate younger generations about their nation's sensitive history. During her doctoral program, she has served as a research assistant for Alejandro Baer and the Center for Holocaust and

Genocide Studies on a project that examines the possibility of education serving as reparative justice in Manitoba, Canada and Minnesota. She has broad interests in Genocide Studies, Comparative Methods, and Memory Studies.



Jonathan Lanz is a PhD Candidate in History and Jewish Studies at Indiana University. He received an MA in European History from Indiana University and an AB in World History from Georgetown University. His dissertation examines the history and memory of the Theresienstadt Family Camp in Birkenau through the eyes of 89 boys who survived the camp's destruction in July 1944. He also has written on comparative approaches to children's experiences in genocide and the relationship between the Holocaust and colonialism. His research has been supported by the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich and a Saul Kagan

Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies. He currently holds a Gerda Henkel Stiftung PhD Scholarship.



Zuzana Löbling is a graduate from the Law Faculty of Charles University in Prague. She works as Head of Legal in the National Gallery in Prague, where she actively participates in the decision-making process regarding Holocaust Restitution of looted art. At the same time, she studies historical and recent legal regulation of Looted Art in the course of a PhD Study Program at Charles University and give lectures and publishes articles in the Czech Republic and abroad. She is the recipient of a SYLFF Fellowship.



Nathan Lucky is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. His dissertation, *Resistance with Words: The Jewish Telegraph Agency during the Holocaust*, charts how the Jewish Telegraph Agency used their news agency and its more than 150 employees in bureaus around the world to spy on the Nazis and resist fascism on a global scale. Lucky analyzes the intertwined histories of news and espionage, the connections between the press and the Holocaust, and the vulnerability of diasporic networks.



Ken MacLean is a Professor of International Development and Social Change and a core faculty member at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Clark University. He researches state-sponsored violence, humanitarian affairs, dissident politics, and human rights. His recent book, *Crimes in Archival Form: Human Rights, Fact Production, and Myanmar* (2022) explores the many ways in which human rights “facts” are produced rather than found. Such conversations are urgent in an era when the perpetrators of large-scale human rights violations exploit misinformation, weaponize disinformation, and employ outright falsehoods to undermine the credibility of those who document abuses and demand that they be held accountable for them in the court of public opinion and in courts of law.



Vasken Markarian obtained a PhD in Latin American History from the University of Texas, Austin. He previously earned a BA in History and Spanish at CUNY Queens College and an MA in history at the University of Texas, Austin. His research centers on experiences of forced recruitment and forced participation in violence during Guatemala’s internal armed conflict and genocide of the 1980s. He specializes on the topics of state violence and genocide, revolution and counterinsurgency, indigenous communities, and trauma and memory studies. Markarian has a broad interest in the comparative work of genocide studies and has taught the introductory course, Introduction to Holocaust and Genocide Studies.



Alexandra Masgras is a PhD candidate in Art History at Duke University. Her research examines the rise of eugenic architecture in interwar Romania. Her dissertation foregrounds the built environment as an essential source for understanding how eugenics shaped the lives of diverse social and ethnic groups living under fascism. She examines Romania's increasingly racialized public health agenda, which accompanied the state's progressive turn towards fascism and closer ties to Nazi Germany. Her broader research interests include the relationship between architecture, politics, and violence, as well as the interplay between architectural and medical discourses in the 20th century. Masgras holds a first-class honors degree in Art History from the University of Glasgow, Scotland and an MA in Art History from Duke University.



Dan Michman is head of the International Institute for Holocaust Research and holds the John Najmann Chair in Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem. He is also Emeritus Professor in Modern Jewish History, and former Chair of the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research and holder of the Abraham and Edita Spiegel Family Chair in Holocaust Research at Bar-Ilan University. Michman has published numerous books and articles in a variety of languages on various aspects of the Shoah including historiography, ghettos, the Judenräte and Jewish leadership, Jewish religious life, problems of Jewish refugees and migration, resistance, Western Europe, survivors, the impact of the Shoah on Israeli society and religious Jewry; he also published on the history of Dutch and Belgian Jewry, and on Israeli society. He is a member of editorial boards of several scholarly journals and of academic boards of institutions in Israel and abroad.



Paweł Michna is a PhD Candidate in the Department of Anthropology of Literature and Cultural Studies at Jagiellonian University in Kraków. For his dissertation, he is working on a project about the visual documents created in the graphics office of the Łódź Ghetto. He earned an MA in Art History from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. His research interests focus on politically and socially engaged art, from interwar avant-garde to contemporary art and Holocaust Studies, particularly art and visual documents created in ghettos. Michna has held fellowships from Yad Vashem, and he received the Joseph Kremen Memorial Fellowship in Eastern European Jewish Arts, Music and Theater from the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.



Morgan Morales is a PhD candidate at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and currently holds the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies Dissertation Fellowship. She earned a BA in History from the University of California, Irvine and dual MAs in History and Jewish Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her research examines the intersection of gender, class, and race through the lens of abortion and reproductive health care for Jewish women during the Holocaust. Her work has been funded by the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.



Bart Nauta is a PhD student at Utrecht University and an interdisciplinary researcher at ARQ National Psychotrauma Center in Amsterdam. His doctoral research examines trauma in perpetrators of genocide and crimes against humanity, through the study of primary sources and interviews. As a researcher at ARQ, he has gained extensive experience interviewing traumatized victims of mass violence. He earned a BA in History and an MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University

of Amsterdam and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Nauta has published articles on the Auschwitz Sonderkommando, the humanitarian interventions after the Rwandan genocide, and the psychological burden of moral injury.



Lukas Nievoll studied English and History at the Karl-Franzens-University Graz and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He previously participated in the research project Digital Landscape of Remembrance, Persecution and Resistance under National Socialism - Documenting and Mediating at the Center for Jewish Studies at Karl Franzens University Graz. He is currently a university assistant at the

Institute for Modern and Contemporary History at the Johannes Kepler University Linz where he is working on his doctoral thesis on the topic of space and violence at the Gusen concentration camp. He was a Junior Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and is currently a doctoral fellow at the Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah in Paris.



Jennifer Putnam is the DPAA (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency) research fellow at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans and an European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Conny Kristel Fellow. She recently received her PhD from Birkbeck College, University of London, where her research was funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the Bonnart-Braunthal Trust. She researches contemporary graffiti in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos in order to better understand prisoners' daily lives and prisoner agency, as well as elevating non-survivor testimony. She holds an MPhil in Linguistics from Trinity College Dublin and an

MA in Contemporary History and Politics from Birkbeck College.



Robert Rozett is Senior Historian in the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem. He has been at Yad Vashem since 1981 in various capacities, including 25 years as director of the Yad Vashem Libraries. He earned his MA and PhD from the Hebrew University, where he studied with Yehuda Bauer. His dissertation was about Jewish Rescue and Revolt in Slovakia and Hungary. His scholarly publications included *Conscripted Slaves, Hungarian Jewish Forced Laborers on the Eastern Front During the Second World War* (2013), which was a runner up for the US National

Jewish Book Award in the category of Holocaust Research. His most recent books are *After So Much Pain and Anguish, First Letters after Liberation*, edited with Iael Nidam Orvieto (2016) and *Jewish Solidarity* (2022) edited with Dan Michman. His most recent articles are: "Competitive Victimhood and Holocaust Distortion," *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs* (2022); and "Information About the Holocaust in Hungary Before the German Occupation, Revisited," *The Journal of Holocaust Research* (2022). Rozett serves as historical adviser to the Echoes and Reflections educational program. He is a member of Israel's delegation to IHRA and chairman of the IHRA Academic Working Group for 2023



Ayana Sassoon is a PhD candidate in the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is currently a George L. Mosse Fellow at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She earned her BA in Bible and Jewish studies and an MA in Jewish history at the Hebrew University, as well as a teachers' certificate. For her MA thesis, she focused on the Jewish perspective on the yellow star during the Holocaust. Her PhD project is titled *'Life Today Revolves Around Food': Food, Eating, Identity and Social Relations among Jews in Germany and the Netherlands during the Holocaust*. She considers materialistic, social and symbolic questions regarding food, drawing on diaries and letters written by Jews during this period of scarcity and hunger.



Jessa Sinnott is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She earned an MA in European Studies at NYU. Her dissertation project, a microstudy on neighborhood and pogrom violence in Nazi occupied Poland, demonstrates how anti-Jewish, neighborhood aggression fits into the totality of occupation violence. In summer 2022, Sinnott was an European Holocaust Infrastructure Fellow at the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. She spent the past academic year in Warsaw with the support of the American Councils Title VIII Combined Research and Language Training Program.



MK Speth is a PhD candidate in Genocide Studies at Clark University. She researches the intersection between genocide, tourism, and transitional justice. Her dissertation project focuses on Rwanda and the ways in which tourism serves as a space in which state-produced discourses around conflict/reconciliation, neo-colonial imaginaries of otherness, and personal trauma narratives converge. She aims to understand the ways that illegible sites of power relations inherent to tourism relate to and influence extensive and ongoing transitional justice efforts, including nation-building, reconciliation, peacebuilding and both societal and personal healing.



Agata Stępnik is a PhD student at the Jagiellonian University Doctoral School in the Social Sciences. She obtained an MA in Jewish Studies and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from the Jagiellonian University. For her doctoral research on the phenomenon of art created by inmates of Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau at the request of the camp authorities, she conducted archival research at the Arolsen Archives. Among others, she received the award of the Director of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum *If not for those ten...* Her research interests include various issues in the history of KL Auschwitz-Birkenau, with particular emphasis on the female perspective, as well as issues such as the propaganda mechanisms of the

Third Reich and the discourse of contemporary antisemitism.



Martha Stroud is the Associate Director of the USC Dornsife Center for Advanced Genocide Research. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Center, which advances innovative interdisciplinary research on the Holocaust and other genocides and promotes use of the Visual History Archive in research and teaching. She earned her PhD in Medical Anthropology at UC Berkeley. An anthropologist with special interests in the anthropology of genocide, psychological anthropology, and Indonesia, Stroud's research focuses on the Indonesian mass killings and detentions of 1965-1966, their aftermath, and the

ways in which the events of 1965-1966 continue to emerge in daily life in Indonesia today. Stroud is also co-directing a research project that explores the psychosocial impacts of engaging with testimony of Holocaust and genocide survivors.



Cheuk Him Ryan Sun is a PhD candidate in the History Department at the University of British Columbia. His doctoral project focuses on the entangled histories of the British Empire and the Holocaust, focusing specifically on the experiences of Jewish refugees in the British colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore. His transnational project expands the geography of Jewish exile outside Europe and beyond Shanghai, and onto the British colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore. Additionally, he is interested in the ship- and train-journeys as 'in-between spaces' that facilitated Jewish refugees' temporary communities and as an introduction to Asia and non-European peoples.



Rotem Taitler is a PhD candidate in the Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University. A graduate of the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies at Haifa University, Taitler researched the daily lives of Auschwitz prisoners in search of their motivation to survive. Her doctoral research focuses on mapping the wide range of sexual and sexualized violence perpetrated and facilitated by the Nazi regime against its persecuted populations including Jewish women and men as well as non-Jewish women and men in five Nazi concentration camps: Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Gross-Rosen, Mauthausen, and Neuengamme.



Frances Tanzer is the Rose Professor of Holocaust Studies and Modern Jewish History and Culture at Clark University. She writes histories of modern Europe that focus on the paradoxical but crucial roles of refugees and minorities in shaping the continent's identities and cultures. Her forthcoming book, *Vanishing Vienna: Philosemitism, Modernism, and Jews in a Postwar City*, sheds new light on the crucial role philosemitism and Jewish remigration played in the cultural reconstruction of Vienna after 1945. Her second book project, *Klezmer Dynasty: An Intimate History of Modern Jewish Culture, 1880 – 2019*, examines her own family, the Brandwein klezmer musicians of Habsburg Galicia.



Nicole Toedtli is a PhD candidate in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. Prior to her doctoral studies, she worked at the Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial and as the head of reference services at the Arolsen Archives. For her dissertation, she researches fluid actors who cannot be categorized clearly as either victims, perpetrators, bystanders, or rescuers, but fall into the gray zone between these categories. Her comparative project examines the concept of the victim-perpetrator in the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide and the civil war in

Sierra Leone. Her research challenges the dichotomy of victim versus perpetrator. She has received the Conny Kristel Fellowship from the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure to support her archival research.



Serafima Velkovich is a PhD candidate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the head of the Family Roots Research section at Yad Vashem. The title of her dissertation project is *The next chapter: DP born baby boomers in search of their identity*. Her research interests include the microhistory of Holocaust survivors' families in DP camps, the DP baby boom, Holocaust memory, former DP babies' personal and group identity. She was a European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Fellow at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. She published "Polish Citizenship as a Way to

Freedom: How Soviet Jews Escaped Totalitarian Regime Using Polish Documents" in K. Friedla and M. Nesselrodt, *History and Memory of Polish Jews in the USSR*, (2021).

