

## Graduate Student News

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### SPRING 2025

3 April | 5:30 p.m. EST  
 Speaker: Elyse Semerdjian  
**Excavating Women's Testimony of the Armenian Genocide**

#### FALL 2025

6-9 November  
**Lessons & Legacies of the Holocaust Emerging Scholars Conference**

For more information about and to register for these events, please visit the [Strassler Center Events Page](#).



Fifth-year student and Albert M Tapper Fellowship and MJR Memorial Research Award recipient **Lauren Ashley Bradford** has made significant strides in advancing her dissertation research on women perpetrators and bystanders in Nazi Germany and Jim Crow America through archival work and engagement with key primary sources. She presented

her research progress in June 2024 at the Ludwig Maximilian University's summer colloquium series.

Since becoming ABD, **Hana Green** has carried out both in-person and remote archival research across Europe, Israel, and the United States. She has discovered myriad unpublished testimonies, letters, and supporting



documents of Jewish passers across Europe. Such sources provide astonishing insight into the day-to-day life of Jewish passers and underscore several critical themes, including the significance of movement, gender, luck, and the development of social networks. Her research contributes to an entangled history of passing as a Jewish response to ostracism, persecution, and genocide.

Second-year student and Howard Fromson and Jeffrey and Debra Geller Endowment recipient, **Janda Barazi** is exploring the ways in which gender permeates and informs the genocidal logic of ISIS, unpacking the political, strategic, economic and ideological motivations behind the 2014 Yazidi genocide. She seeks to reconcile the historical dilemma that surrounds the contextualization and historicization of the Yazidi community.





Third-year student and Claims Conference Fellow **Nathan Lucky** presented a draft of his article, *“Passing in Print: (Non) Jewish News in the Mainstream Press during the Holocaust”* at the Making Space: Peopling and Placing the Matter of Jewish Studies conference at Cornell University.

Nathan published two articles in the last year: “A Voice Behind the Headlines: The Public Relations of the Canadian Jewish Congress during the Holocaust,” in the *Journal of Holocaust Research* and “(New) Media and the Circulation of Knowledge: A Historical Framework for The Conversation Canada,” co-authored in *Information & Culture* with Gene Allen.

Fifth-year student Charlotte Calfaian and Samuel and Anna Jacobs Endowed Doctoral Research Award recipient **Diana Hayrapetyan** 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. She presented her research findings at the ninth INoGS International Conference, which took place on June 23-26, 2024, at the USC Shoah Foundation. The paper was based on the materials she has obtained so far, providing insights into the outcomes of her archival research. Moving towards defending her dissertation, Diana will identify the groups involved, their moral justification, and individual motivations for their return.



Fifth-year student and Rose Doctoral Studies award recipient **Sandra Grudic** examines the motives and dynamics of neighborhood violence in Bosanski Novi/Novi Grad during the 1990s war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Sandra argues that in Bosanski Novi/Novi Grad, as long as Serb and non-Serb neighbors could continue their regular patterns of interacting—at work, as neighbors, or socializing—friendly and solidary behaviors extended to all individuals regardless of ethnicity. However, mandatory and enforced social separation - through curfews and cutting off the phone lines for most non-Serbs in Bosanski Novi that followed the initial violence - forced interruption in regular face-to-face contact leading to psychological distancing. Over time, this resulted in a near complete loss of interethnic solidarity. As of September 2024, Sandra has entered the final stages of completing the first draft of her dissertation.

First-year student and Claims Conference Fellow **Andrew Burnstein** researches the intellectual history of the idea of the Shtetl. Inspired by his own family history, Burnstein aims to trace how the Shtetl, the popular understanding of which exists more as an idea than a historical reality, is discursively constructed over time. Burnstein is designing this project to be a global cultural history, spanning a transnational geography that includes Russia, Galicia, the former Hapsburg Empire, the United States, and Israel. He hopes to turn his analysis on himself and interrogate his own romanticization of the Shtetl and understand how the shame and pride of his family’s own *shtetlekh* origins have helped fuel their own understandings of their identity.



## Undergraduate Student News



Center student assistant Henry Hoey-Wasow '25 continues his work with the Kalmar Diary Collection housed in the Center archives. Written in German, the collection contains 39 diaries (dated 1913-1993) belonging to the Kalmars, a Jewish family living in Vienna, Austria. Parents Margarethe (Pollak) Kalmar, and Karl Kalmar were murdered in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Their sons, George and Paul, escaped to the United States.

Henry, a history major and dual Genocide & Human Rights and Jewish Studies Concentrator, is researching the family and translating the diaries in preparation for a Spring 2025 exhibit in the Center's Siff Gallery displaying the diaries and introducing the visitor to life in Vienna leading up to World War II.

The Center's fall 2024 intern, Meridian Stiller '26, continues researching the Barry Hoffman Postcard Collection. These Nazi-produced propaganda postcards can be viewed on the [Strassler Center's Website](#).

Postcards were an extension of the Nazi's propaganda department to boost morale, glorify their military and political heroes, and commemorate special events and anniversaries. Postcards were easier to disseminate than posters. The Nazi government saw in postcards a way to use visual imagery that could express opinions and rally citizens around common causes inexpensively and effectively.

Meridian is a double major in International Development and Geography and is natively fluent in German.

Their work is being funded by the Ina and Haskell Gordan Endowed Fund.



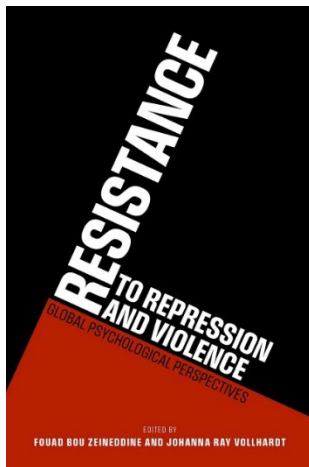
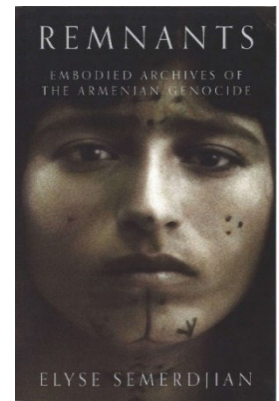
## Faculty News and Notes



Rose Professor of Holocaust Studies and Modern Jewish History and Culture, **Dr. Frances Tanzer's** new book, *Vanishing Vienna: Modernism, Philisemitism, and Jews in a Postwar City* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024) traces the reconstruction of Viennese culture from the 1938 German annexation through the early 1960s, revealing continuity in Vienna's cultural history across this period and a framework for interrupting Viennese culture that relies on antisemitism, and a related discourse of Jewish presence and absence.

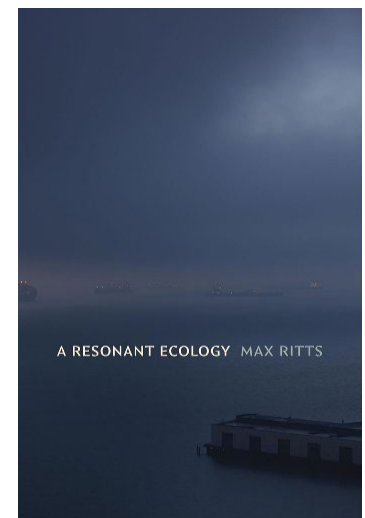
In May 2024, Dr. Tanzer was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. Just prior to this publication, she received the Hodgkins Junior Faculty Award. The Award is presented annually to "tenure-track faculty who personify the Clark ideal of combining excellence in teaching, scholarship, and engagement with the Clark community." Congratulations, Frances!

**Dr. Elyse Semerdjian**, the new Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair of Armenian Genocide Studies, has a new book, *Remnants: Embodied Archives of the Armenian Genocide* (Stanford University Press, 2023). It offers a feminist reading of the Armenian Genocide. She explores how the Ottoman Armenian communal body was dismembered, disfigured, and later re-membered by the survivor community. Gathering individual memories and archival fragments, she writes a deeply personal history, and issues a call to break open the archival record in order to embrace affect and memory. *Remnants*: was awarded the prestigious Association of Middle East Women's Studies (AMEWS) Book Award for 2024.



Edited by Associate Professor of Psychology and Strassler Center affiliated faculty member **Dr. Johanna Vollhardt**, *Resistance to Repression and Violence: Global Psychological Perspectives* (Oxford, 2024) explores the psychology of resistance in violent and repressive contexts. This edited volume presents the current state of knowledge as well as new research and theorizing on these questions about the psychology of resistance in violent and repressive contexts. The chapters in this volume represent a broad range of diverse contexts and contemporary as well as historical experiences of repression, violence, and resistance in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America—from cyberwars to civil wars, from police and state repression to pogroms and genocide.

In *A Resonant Ecology* (Duke University Press, 2024), **Dr. Max Ritts**, Assistant Professor, Geography and Strassler Center affiliated faculty member, traces how sound's integration into the environmental politics of Canada's North Coast has paved the way for massive industrial expansion. While conservationists hope that the dissemination of whale songs and other nature sounds will showcase the beauty of local wildlife for people around the world, Ritts reveals how colonial capitalism can co-opt sonic efforts to protect the coast.



## Event Reports



### ANTISEMITISM: A Conversation with Susannah Heschel, Lisa Leff and Thomas Kühne

**15 March 2024**

Strassler Center director Thomas Kühne invited renowned Jewish studies scholar Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College, and Lisa Leff, director of the Mandel Center at the USHMM, for a conversation on the past and present of

antisemitism, its causes, its manifold emanations, and efforts to fight it. As Kühne said, “Xenophobia, racism and antisemitism have been on the rise and have materialized not only in the minds of people, but more violently than you may have thought a few years ago.” If that prospect is frustrating, and frightening, Kühne said, “We cannot give up on what we as academics are trying to do, which is trying to understand and explain why these things happen, how they happen, what their consequences are, and what one might do to fight them.”

### Sexual Violence in Russia’s War against Ukraine: Nature, Effects and Responses

**29 February 2024**

Speaker: Marta Havryshko (*Dr. Thomas Zand Visiting Assistant Professor in Holocaust Pedagogy and Antisemitism Studies, Clark University*)

Havryshko’s lecture examined wartime rape and explored the causes, patterns, and consequences of sexual violence in Russia’s war on Ukraine. It also considered how Russia’s toxic masculinity, militarized culture, and state homophobia contribute to sexual violence.



### ***Kwibuka 30: Making Memory and Legacy in Rwanda***

**11-12 April 2024**

The workshop, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the genocide, gathered diverse voices and perspectives that highlighted scholarly work grounded in rigorous fieldwork in the Rwandan and Great Lakes region to consider the Rwandan past and future trajectories.

Keynote: Prosecuting Justice in Rwanda: Recollections and Reflections

**Hassan Jallow** (*former prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Hague residual mechanism judge and Gambian chief justice*)



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Robyn Conroy, Associate Director  
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## **Student Assistants**

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Henry Hoey-Wasow '25