

CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015



Our work is motivated by the hope to inspire future generations to fight hatred and strengthen democracy, thus ensuring a more peaceful and just world.

PROMOTING ACADEMIC RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE SHOAH, OTHER GENOCIDES AND CURRENT FORMS OF MASS VIOLENCE

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings from the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, which continues to grow and develop, now in our 19th year.

Over the 2014-2015 academic year and summer we honored our mission to provide premiere academic programs and to cultivate the essential connection between scholarly inquiry, education, and outreach. We have completed a very active year filled with events ranging from lectures and workshops to timely community and arts events. Students, educators, scholars and community members have found in CHGS a welcoming learning and sharing space with academically rigorous, intellectually challenging and professionally enriching programs.

Our success this past year was catalyzed by the involvement of our distinguished affiliate faculty, the help of engaged graduate students, our co-sponsors both inside and outside the university, and a valued community of participants and donors.

Thank you for your interest in and support of CHGS. We look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Alejandro Baer

Stephen C. Feinstein Chair and Director

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz and conclusion of WWII in Europe

- January 26 “Bearing Witness” exhibit of portraits by artist Felix de la Concha, video testimonies of Minnesota survivors, and Q&A with the artist at the Weisman Art Museum. Attended by over 180 guests.
- May 8 international symposium “War, What is it Good For?” with keynote lecture by sociologist Daniel Levy.

“Can One Laugh at Everything? Satire and Free Speech after Charlie” in response to the attack on the magazine Charlie Hebdo

- Co-organized CLA panel on January 29: discussion with scholars and experts from the Twin Cities including Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist Steven Sack. Attended by an engaged audience of over 120 students and community members.

Armenian Genocide Centennial

- Spring 2015 1-credit course, “The Armenian Genocide: Disrupted History, Fractured Identities.”
- April 23-25 events: keynote lecture by scholar Bedross Der Matossian; student conference with 11 young scholars from around the world; and teacher workshop with K-12 educators.



Student conference participants on guided tour of Bdote, sacred Dakota site, April 25.

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CO-SPONSORSHIPS & PARTNERSHIPS

Strong partnerships and intellectual collaborations yield rewarding experiences for audiences and organizers. We thank the institutions that helped to make 2014-2015 so successful:

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair
 Center for Austrian Studies
 Center for German & European Studies
 Center for Jewish Studies
 College of Liberal Arts
 Confucius Institute
 Department of Anthropology
 Department of Art History
 Department of English
 Department of French & Italian
 Department of German, Scandinavian & Dutch
 Department of History
 Department of Sociology
 Department of Spanish & Portuguese
 Department of Political Science
 European Studies Consortium
 Government of Finland / David and Nancy Speer
 Visiting Professorship
 The Graduate School
 Hillel: The Jewish Student Center
 Human Rights Program
 Institute for Advanced Study
 Institute for Global Studies
 Minnesota International Relations Colloquium
 Program in Human Rights and Health
 Religious Studies Program
 School of Journalism and Mass Communications
 Silha Center for the Study of Media Ethics and Law
 Weisman Art Museum

COMMUNITY

Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education (St. Cloud State University)
 Children of Holocaust Survivors of Minnesota (CHAIM)
 Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
 Ohanessian Endowment Fund for Justice and Peace Studies at the Minneapolis Foundation
 Rimom: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council, an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation
 Sabes Jewish Community Center
 Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival

INTERNATIONAL

Centro Sefarad-Israel (Spain)
 Centro Internacional de Estudios de Memoria y Derechos Humanos (Spain)
 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance



Educators participating in "Holocaust Education in a Global Context" Teacher Workshop, June 15-19.

FOSTERING FUTURE SCHOLARS, EDUCATORS AND ACTIVISTS

CHGS guides and mentors undergraduate and graduate students by organizing courses and workshops, offering fellowships and providing unique opportunities for interaction with leading experts in the field.

HGMV Interdisciplinary Graduate Group

The Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Violence (HGMV) group is an active collaborative of graduate students, faculty, and invited scholars. CHGS co-facilitates the workshop series with the Human Rights Program. Our 2014-2015 presentations provided opportunities for students to engage in the development of research projects by providing and receiving constructive feedback. Tangible results include conference presentations and travel awards, sponsored by the U of M Graduate School, to the following students:

STUDENTS

- Paula Cuellar: "Genocide in El Salvador: Where Ethnicity and Politics Collided" as the Salvadoran Ombudsperson (San Salvador, El Salvador; February 5).
- Joe Eggers: "The Role of Nationalism in the Armenian and Native American Genocides" at the International Association of Genocide Scholars conference (Yerevan, Armenia; July 8-12).
- Satty Flaherty-Echeverria: "A Voz da Raça: Race, Power and Transnational Discourses of Black Elites in 1930s" at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association (San Juan, Puerto Rico; May 28-31).
- Yagmur Karakaya: "Remembering to Forget: Holocaust Memory Politics in Spain and Turkey" at the American Sociological Association's annual conference (Chicago, IL; August 22-25).
- Amber Michel: "Countering Violent Extremism: Islamophobia, the Department of Justice and American Islamic Organizations" at

the 6th annual International Islamophobia Conference (Berkeley, CA; April 23-25).

- Erma Nezirevic: “Goytisolino in Bosnia: The Problem of Writing the Witness” at Intercultural Poetics (Braga, Portugal; June 18-19).

Badzin Fellowship

For the past three years, CHGS and the Department of History have awarded the Bernard and Fern Badzin Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies to graduate students in the College of Liberal Arts. This award pays the cost of tuition and health insurance, and a stipend of \$18,000. Paula Sofia Cuellar (PhD candidate, Department of History, minor in Human Rights) was awarded the fellowship for 2014-2015, and Wahutu Siguru (PhD candidate, Department of Sociology) had an extension of his fellowship from the previous year for Spring semester 2015. Cuellar spent the year preparing for her preliminary exams and writing her dissertation prospectus, titled “Defining Mass Atrocities in El Salvador: The Scorched Earth Operations during its Civil War and the Question of Genocide.” She also ran a Friday film series for CHGS during Fall semester, “A Cinematic Look at Political Violence in Latin America.” Siguru travelled during the spring to Kenya and Nigeria to collect data for his dissertation on media coverage of the atrocities in Darfur and other instances of mass violence on the continent. Siguru is the author of the CHGS Newsletter series “Eye on Africa.”

Student Conference

100 Years of Genocide: Remembrance, Education, Prevention (April 24, U of M)

On April 23-25 the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, along with the Human Rights Program, Institute for Global Studies and the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, marked the centennial of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 with a series of events. This in-



Fern Badzin and Badzin Fellow Paula Cuellar at Bearing Witness event on January 26 at the Weisman Art Museum.

cluded a keynote lecture by Middle East scholar Bedross Der Matossian, a teacher workshop, and an international student conference. The student conference brought together 11 young scholars from Armenia, Hungary, the UK, and the US, and was moderated by Der Matossian and U of M professors Joachim Savelsberg, Barbara Frey, and Alejandro Baer. Session topics included the causes and prevention of genocide, responses to the Armenian genocide, Armenian-Turkish relations, and the psychological effects of genocide and post-traumatic stress in Armenia, clearly identifying inherited trauma as an effect.

Conference participants were treated to a guided tour the following day of the Bdote sacred Dakota site at Ft. Snelling State Park, led by Professor Iyekiyapiwin Darlene St. Clair (St. Cloud State University). Commonalities and differences between genocidal events were highlighted.

2014-2015

Course Offerings

Fall 2014

SOC 4090 and GLOS 4910: Never Again! Memory and Politics after Genocide (Alejandro Baer)
SOC 4104: Crime and Human Rights (Joachim Savelsberg)
HIST 3729: Nazi Germany and Hitler's Europe (Gary Cohen)

Spring 2015

HIST 3727: History of the Holocaust (Adam Blackler)
GLOS 5900: The Armenian Genocide: Disrupted History, Fractured Identities (Artyom H. Tonoyan, Baylor University)



Student participants of the 100 Years of Genocide conference, April 24, Humphrey Center for Public Affairs.

SCHOLARLY LECTURES AND PUBLIC EVENTS

September 18, 2014

"Convert or Die: Christian Persecution and the Rise of the Islamic State"

Round table discussion with French author Richard Millet

September 22, 2014*

"Our Mothers, Our Heimat, Our Holocaust: 'Ordinary' Nazis on German Television, 1984-2014"

Lecture by Offer Ashkenazi (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

October 22, 2014*

"Classical Rhetorics, Technical Communication, the Holocaust, and the Object Beyond"

Lecture by Steven Katz (Clemson University)

November 1 & 2, 2014*

The German Friend (*Der Deutsche Freund*), and 24 Days (*24 Jours: La Verite sur l'affaire Ilan Halimi*)

Film Screenings at the Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival

November 3, 2014*

"Just A War Theory? American Public Attitudes on Proportionality and Distinction"

Lecture by Benjamin Valentino (Dartmouth College)

November 20, 2014

"Surviving Forced Disappearance: Identity and Meaning"

Lecture by Gabriel Gatti (University of the Basque Country)

November 24-26, 2014

"Bystanders, Rescuers, or Perpetrators? The Neutrals and the Shoah: Facts, Myths, and Counter-Myths"

Conference in Madrid, Spain

January 26, 2015

"Bearing Witness 70 Years after the Liberation of Auschwitz" featuring artist Felix de la Concha's "Portraits and Conversations with Survivors of the Shoah" and honoring Holocaust survivor participants from Minnesota

January 29, 2015

"Can One Laugh at Everything? Satire and Free Speech after Charlie"

CLA Panel with William Beeman, Jane Kirtley, Bruno Chaouat, Anthony Winer (William Mitchell College of Law) and Steven Sack (Minneapolis Star and Tribune)

March 4, 2015

"Bringing the Dark Past to Light: The Reception of the Holocaust in Post-Communist Europe"

Keynote Lecture by John-Paul Himka (University of Alberta)

March 6, 2015*

"Heideggerian Ontology and the Holocaust:

Piotr Rawicz's *Le Sang du ciel*"

Lecture by Sven-Erik Rose (University of California, Davis)

March 10, 2015

"Action and Body Knowledge:

A Sociological Perspective on Torture"

Lecture by Katharina Inhetveen (University of Siegen, Germany)

April 10, 2015

"A Usable Body: Coaxing the Body Into and Out of Captivity at Black History Museums"

Lecture by Robyn Autry (Wesleyan University)

April 14, 2015

"The Insatiable Pursuit of Art: Nazi Art Looting – Perpetrators, Victims, Provenance Researchers"

Lecture by Yehudit Shendar (Yad Vashem, Israel)

April 20, 2015*

"Curating Memories in Conflict: new ethnography in an old museum"

Lecture by Erica Lehrer (Concordia University, Montreal)

April 21, 2015*

"What Does History Know of Nail Biting?"

Minneapolis video project premiere by artist Francesc Torres

April 23, 2015*

Panel with "Shanghaianders" featuring Manny Gabler and Ellen Wiss, who lived in Shanghai as Jewish refugees during the Holocaust; moderated by Alejandro Baer

April 23, 2015

"We are going to pick Potatoes' Norway and the Holocaust, the Untold Story"

Lecture by Irene Berman, Holocaust survivor and author

April 23, 2015*

"The Armenian Genocide Historiography on the Eve of the Centennial: from Continuity to Contingency"

Keynote lecture by Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)

May 8, 2015

"The Past: Between History and Memory" as part of international symposium, "War, What is it Good For? Uses and Abuses of Second World War History"

Keynote Lecture by Daniel Levy (Stony Brook University)

* Denotes event organized by outside entity with CHGS co-sponsorship.

CHGS supports educators through workshops and seminars, facilitated by leading experts in Holocaust and genocide education.

Educators at the WWI and the Armenian Genocide Teachers Workshop on April 25.



Educator Outreach

This spring and summer, CHGS partnered with the Institute for Global Studies to offer two professional development opportunities to educators. Both events were generously supported by a grant from the Ohanessian Endowment Fund for Justice and Peace Studies of the Minneapolis Foundation.

World War One and the Armenian Genocide

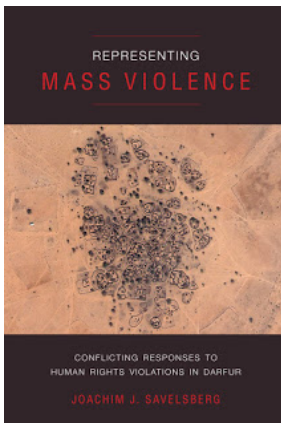
On Saturday, April 25, as part of three days of CHGS events in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, nearly 50 educators gathered for a one-day workshop taught by U of M faculty and graduate students. Gary Cohen, Director of the Center for Austrian Studies (co-sponsor of the event), gave an excellent introduction to the onset of World War One. Session topics included an overview of the Armenian Genocide by renowned Middle East scholar Bedross Der Matossian, who also gave the annual Ohanessian Chair talk on the preceding Thursday (a recording of the talk is available on the CHGS YouTube channel) and served on a panel for the Friday student conference (see page 3). Lou Ann Matossian also spoke about Minnesota ties to the history and memory of the Armenian Genocide, driving home a sense of connection with the material for local educators.

“I was stunned to hear about how far-reaching the Armenian Genocide was. My understanding of that history is limited so this workshop was a great way to be introduced to the history of the genocide.”

Holocaust Education in a Global Context

For four days beginning on June 15, CHGS and the Institute for Global Studies hosted a summer institute workshop with 18 educators from across the Midwest. Sessions were led by Adam Blackler (PhD candidate, History), Elizabeth Baer (Gustavus Adolphus College), and Alejandro Baer, with topics including colonial genocides, gender and memory in Holocaust literature, and the sharing of best practices in Holocaust and genocide education. The group also took a field trip to Bdote, the sacred site of the Dakota creation stories and the location at Fort Snelling where many Dakota were imprisoned and died. In conjunction with the workshop, six licensed educators were enlisted to attend the workshop and create lesson plans, resources, and information which will aid in teaching about the Armenian Genocide, the Rwandan Genocide, the Cambodian Genocide, the Dakota War, and the Holocaust. As a direct outcome of the summer institute, these educators will be presenting their materials in an upcoming daylong workshop on November 7, 2015, open by registration to educators.

EDUCATORS



RECENT BOOK PUBLICATIONS BY CHGS AFFILIATE FACULTY

Savelsberg, Joachim J. *Representing Mass Violence: Conflicting Responses to Human Rights Violations in Darfur*. University of California Press, 2015.

Hilbink, Lisa. *Jueces y Política en Democracia y Dictadura: Lecciones Desde Chile*. Trans. Felipe Milan Zapata. FLASCO, 2015. (Spanish translation of the award-winning book, *Judges beyond Politics in Democracy and Dictatorship: Lessons from Chile*.)



CHGS collaborates and shares expertise and resources with centers, departments, and individual faculty members at the University, across the United States and with international academic institutions.

Conferences and Symposia

Bystanders, Rescuers, or Perpetrators? The Neutrals and the Shoah: Facts, Myths, and Counter-Myths (November 24-26, Madrid, Spain)

CHGS partnered with the Memorial de la Shoah (Paris), Topographie des Terrors (Berlin) and Centro Sefarad-Israel (Madrid) on the organization of the three-day conference held in Madrid, Spain. This conference was co-funded through a grant from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

Contested Past, Contested Present: Social Memories and Human Rights in Post-Communist Europe (March 4-6, U of M)

The symposium, organized by the IAS Collaborative “Reframing Mass Violence” and sponsored by the Human Rights Program and CHGS, opened with a keynote lecture by Prof. John-Paul Himka, who spoke about the reception of the Holocaust in post-Communist Europe, especially its legacies in Poland and Ukraine. Following sessions covered different aspects of contested memories in post-Communist European countries; from depictions in theater, museums, and film to transitional justice policies and the Ukraine conflict. Overall, the event foregrounded issues of how long a transition lasts, what are ways contested pasts are conceptualized and dealt with legally, commemorative, and artistically, and how memories can be and are at times used for political purposes. The symposium

also highlighted a need to balance contested memories and interpretations of the past with long-term policies that are not merely cosmetic and mechanistic but often demand a true reevaluation of a country's history.

War, What is it Good For? Uses and Abuses of Second World War History (May 8, U of M)

The one-day symposium addressed the usage of war history in both international and domestic politics. For the international sphere the main focus was on the use of the war in contemporary European politics, especially in Russia, Central and Eastern Europe, the West, and in relations between them. Are history politics just a continuation of war by other means or can war history be used to build peaceful relations between former enemies? In the domestic sphere WWII history is mostly used to construct unified nations, but in the symposium participants analyzed how war history has been or could be used in emancipatory ways to empower marginalized groups within societies.

SELECTED AFFILIATE FACULTY RESEARCH IN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES

Kirk Allison, Human Rights and Health

- “Organ harvesting in China: Legal and cultural context, human rights, medical standards & responses,” Hinkley Forum, Hinkley Institute of Politics, University of Utah, September, 2014.

Alejandro Baer, Dept. of Sociology

- “Ghosts of the Holocaust in Franco’s Mass Graves. Cosmopolitan Memories and the Politics of Never Again.” (co-authored with Natan Sznajder) *Memory Studies* 5(2), 2015.

Bruno Chauat, Dept. of French and Italian

- “Post-Holocaust French Writing: Reflecting on Evil in 1947.” *Post-Holocaust France and the Jews (1945-1955)*. Ed. Sean Hand and Steven Katz. NYU Press, 2015.

Gary Cohen, Dept. of History

- Review of Jana Vobecká. *Demographic Avant-Garde: Jews in Bohemia between the Enlightenment and the Shoah* (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2013). In *The American Historical Review* 119, no. 5 (Dec. 2014): 1809-10.

Leslie Morris, Dept. of German, Scandinavian and Dutch

- Faculty Fellow with IAS, Spring 2015, to work on hybrid memoir about family Holocaust history.

Karen Painter, School of Music

- 2014-2015 Visiting Scholar, Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Harvard University. Spent the year writing a book under the working title *Music and Mourning in Germany, 1914-1945*.

Joachim Savelsberg, Dept. of Sociology

- “Trials, Collective Memory, and Prospects of Human Rights.” 2014. Pp. 117-136 in *Tribunals*, edited by W. Gephart. Frankfurt: Vittorio Klostermann.

Daniel Schroeter, Dept. of History

- 2014-2015 Ina Levine Invitational Scholar at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC. He presented two seminars on the Spanish and French Protectorates of Morocco and the Jews during World War II.

AFFILIATE FACULTY

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Karen Painter

Associate Professor, School of Music

Joachim Savelsberg

Professor, Department of Sociology, and Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair

Daniel Schroeter

Professor, Department of History

2014-2015 Staff (left to right): Wahutu Siguru, Erma Nezirevic, Arta Ankrava, Paula Cuellar, Alejandro Baer, Yagmur Karakaya, Joe Eggers, Jennifer Hammer (Jodi Elowitz not pictured).



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Jodi Elowitz Content Coordinator

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Wahutu Siguru PhD candidate, Department of Sociology

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Erma Nezirevic PhD candidate, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

CHGS E-NEWSLETTER

CHGS produces a bi-monthly newsletter, featuring center and community events, links to relevant videos on our YouTube channel, a book of the month recommendation, film reviews, and original articles including the recurring feature "Eye on Africa." The newsletter is distributed to an engaged readership of over 1,500.

Affiliate faculty member Joachim Savelsberg and Ohanessian Chair lecture guest Bedross Der Matossian on April 23 at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.



Your generous support is key to maintaining the important work of the Center. Donations help us continue to promote the highest quality of scholarship and provide the programs and resources we have created over the years. Generous annual gifts help to fund public events, undergraduate and graduate research, academic conferences and exhibitions. Endowments established by major contributors fund the ongoing operations of CHGS.

For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact:

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David and Anita Kunin with Alejandro Baer at Yehudit Shendar's lecture on April 14 at the Weisman Art Museum.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO OUR 2014-2015 DONORS:

Lindsay R. Blahnik, Dr. Tina S. & David Edstam, Neal Joffe & Tanya Joffe Feldberg, Neal M. Gendler & Marjorie P. Wasserman, Stephen & Pamela Gruber, Donald A. & Rhoda W. Mains, Dr. Aaron L. Mark, Drs. Judith L. & Todd Marshall, Adela Peskorz, Michael L. Rose, Walter & Anita Schwarz, Morton D. & Artice E. Silverman, Jack Stuart, Brian J. Traxler, Theresa M. Vertuno.

CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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