



CHGS News | January International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016

From the Director

Lest we forget...

In 1999 Joschka Fischer, Germany's Foreign Minister and a member of the Green Party with strong pacifist roots, used the phrase "Never Again Auschwitz" to support German military intervention during the Kosovo crisis. In 2005, at the main ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz camp, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised the Red Army for "liberating Europe" (an assertion that obviously did not resonate positively among Poles). In the summer of 2014 Turkish President Recep Erdoğan slammed Israel for betraying the memory of the Holocaust by "acting like Nazis" during the operation against Hamas in Gaza. At the same time Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu invoked the Holocaust to warn the world of a nuclear Iran.



Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp

The destruction of European Jewry has been accepted across cultures and nations as a global symbol of ultimate evil. Consequently, Never Again has become an omnipresent moral imperative, even a universal call to concrete action. However as the examples above show, there are many disputed lessons of the Holocaust contained in its remembrance.

A headline from exactly a year ago read, "[Survivors urge a troubled Europe not to forget.](#)" The phrase has not lost its relevance, but the interpellation "not to forget" seems to have little to do with retaining the facts of history and more with the interpretive prisms by which that history is made meaningful in the present.

What are the lessons from Auschwitz for the heads of state

assembled today at the former concentration and extermination camp? What does Auschwitz represent for the [1.7 million people who visited the camp in 2015](#)? And what does it mean for people whose own histories do not intersect with the history of the Holocaust?

The risk is not that the Shoah will be forgotten, rather how and for what purpose it will be evoked. Holocaust Remembrance Day should be a date spent honoring the victims and the survivors. Beyond that, it should also be a day to reflect on the dangers of divisive Holocaust rhetoric in our own time.

Alejandro Baer
Director and Stephen C. Feinstein Chair

Reflecting on a Year with CHGS

by Jennifer Hammer, CHGS Program Coordinator

I began working with CHGS just over a year ago, a newbie to Holocaust and genocide studies. It was an intense start, landing right into the fray of final preparations and coordination of the [Bearing Witness event](#). As you may recall, this event fell on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day last year, and was an exhibition of portraits of and recorded interviews with MN Holocaust survivors, followed by discussion with the artist, Felix de la Concha, and talk by Auschwitz survivor, Dora Zaidenweber. Following close on the heels of Bearing Witness, just a few days later, was the [panel event](#) organized in response to what were then the very recent attacks in Paris at the offices of Charlie Hebdo.



Students on a guided tour of Bdote Dakota site with Iyekiypewin in Darlene St Clair in 2015

Those events seem ages ago. I feel I've come a long way with CHGS. I have now observed many very intensely engaged audiences, been inspired by colleagues, and am myself eager to return to and advance the conversation. I am particularly excited to revisit Fort Snelling State Park this spring for a tour of Bdote and discussion with Iyekiypewin Darlene St. Clair on the local history and atrocities committed against the Dakota people. It seems to me that of the lessons learned from the Holocaust, coexistence, acceptance, acknowledgement, and respect are most effectively applied locally.

For this reason I am proud of the work we do at CHGS. Over the last year we have reached [educators](#) (and by extension our youngest learners), [young scholars](#), the greater community, and partnered with units and organizations inside and outside the University to present excellent events (such as [this](#), [this](#), [this](#), and [this](#)).

For Holocaust Remembrance Day 2016, we are pleased to announce a new exhibit on view at the Sabes JCC. This [exhibit of displaced persons](#) is to me timely in its connection with current

affairs. We are pleased to introduce our [new blog](#), a place for sharing scholarship, collections, reflections, and editorial perspectives. We are proud to take a critical leap in [migrating our web content](#), making our collections findable through UMN Libraries.

I am looking ahead to a [great season to come](#) and an exciting approach of events and programming to commemorate our upcoming 20th anniversary: plans for 2016-2017 include a course on Holocaust Art by Yehudit Shendar, a talk by historian Timothy Snyder, a scholarly symposium on Comparative Genocide Studies and the Holocaust, a returned focus on exhibiting our art and object collections, a continuation of our digital collection development, a new website, and much, much more.

CHGS Art Collections: New Opportunities to Inspire and Educate

CHGS is proud to maintain collections of art and historical objects that originated with founding director Stephen Feinstein's work in Holocaust art. These collections include visual artworks, such as the paintings of Fritz Hirschberger, as well as historical objects, including postcards and badges from Nazi Germany.

CHGS has stewardship over these important pieces of history and artistic expression. Our goals are to care for these objects through best museum practices and extend their educational impact through physical and digital exhibition.



Wearing of the Yellow Star
Lucien Philippe Moretti
now available on [UMedia Archive](#)

We are collaborating with Deborah Boudewyns, UMN Art and Architecture Librarian, and instructor of a UMN course, [Workshop in Art](#), in which students learn the skills of curating and exhibiting, using CHGS collections as the foundation of their work. These students will end the semester with an exhibition featuring CHGS art and objects, to be held in Wilson Library from April 29 - May 12, 2016, with an opening reception on April 29.

In an effort to keep our art collections vital we have migrated the CHGS owned exhibitions to the University of Minnesota Archive. Our website, which includes resources in the study of Holocaust visual history, is being updated. Our imagery and art research is in the process of being made available online through [UMN digital archives](#), enabling greater functionality, flexibility, and reach. We are working with the University's physical archives to document CHGS history as we near our 20th anniversary in 2017.

Welcome Malak Shahin and Dana Queen, CLA Freshman Researchers

CHGS is excited to be working with two very bright young students this spring, Malak Shahin and Dana Queen, who are participating in the Dean's Freshman Research Program.

Malak is interested in human rights, and will be researching

reactions to mass atrocities. She will attend our HGMV workshop meetings to learn about current graduate student research, and will survey existing resources and research relating to local public response to the Holocaust as expressed in newspapers and other media. Dana is planning to study history and anthropology and is interested in museum work. She will create supporting materials and texts for exhibition and will learn more broadly about various aspects of maintaining and promoting collections through work with CHGS art and objects.



Dana Queen and Malak Shahin

Announcing the CHGS Blog

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is excited to announce the launch of its new blog, chgs-blog.org. The new site will feature research and news from scholars and students at the University of Minnesota and around the world. In addition to new exclusive content, the blog will include an archive of many past CHGS newsletters, including a complete archive of the Eye on Africa series, film reviews and books of the month. New articles will be posted regularly, so be sure to check back often!

CHGS Spring 2016 Programming

Wednesday, January 27

[Sabes Jewish Community Center](#)

Holocaust Remembrance Day

MAXINE RUDE, UNRRA Photographer

Displaced: Photos and Remembrances of Maxine Rude, 1945-1946
A Newly Curated Selection of Rude's Photojournalism from UNRRA Displaced Persons Camps on view in the Eiger-Zaidenweber Holocaust Resource Center at the Sabes JCC. Please see the front desk for access to this educational space. Additional programming to be announced.

Wednesday, February 3, 3:00 PM

325 Nicholson Hall

DANIEL SCHROETER, University of Minnesota

On the Margins of the Holocaust: Jews and Muslim in the Colonial Maghreb During World War II

Thursday, February 18, 4:00 PM

710 Social Sciences Building

PEDRO CORREA, Research Fellow, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Spanish Paradox: Spain as a Passive Accomplice and 'Savior' to the Holocaust

Wednesday, February 24, 1:00-2:30 PM

25 Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Film Screening and Discussion on PRETTY VILLAGE (68 min.): a film about a Bosnian village and what happens to a society torn apart by conflict

KEMAL PERVANIC, Film Producer (joining via Skype)

Wednesday, March 9, 2:30-4:30 PM

120 Elmer C. Andersen Library

Panel Event: Antisemitism in Today's Europe: Between Neo-Nationalism and Global Terrorism

- KENNETH MARCUS, Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human

Support CHGS

Your [generous support](#) is key to maintaining the important work of the Center. Gifts help to fund public events, student research, and academic conferences and exhibitions.

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Holocaust Remembrance Day

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- Rights Under Law
- GÜNTHER JIKELI, Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, Indiana University
- BRUNO CHAOUAT, Department of French and Italian, University of Minnesota
- Moderated by PATRICIA LORCIN, Department of History, University of Minnesota

Sunday, April 3

(shuttle bus from campus to Fort Snelling State Park)
 IYEKIYAPEWIN DARLENE ST. CLAIR, St. Cloud State University
[Guided Tour of Bdote Dakota Site at Fort Snelling State Park](#)

Thursday, April 14, evening

2016 Ohanessian Lecture
 PETER BALAKIAN, Colgate University
 The Armenian Genocide and Cultural Destruction

Wednesday, April 20, 6:30 PM

1210 Heller Hall
 ARLENE STEIN, Rutgers University
 Reluctant Witnesses: Survivors, Their Children, and the Rise of Holocaust Consciousness

Wednesday, April 29

Wilson Library
 Exhibit Opening: CHGS Art and Historical Objects, Curated by Students in Deborah Boudewyn's Workshop in Art Course

Thursday, May 5, 4:00 PM

710 Social Sciences Building
 Holocaust Memorial Day
 SIDI N'DIAYE, United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum
 The Role of Historical Hate Representations in the Murder of Neighbors in Rwanda (1994) and Poland (World War II)

Sunday, May 15, 3:00 PM

Sokol Czech Slovak Community Center
 Performance of the Musical Drama Broucci (Fireflies), based on the Czech folktale and performed at the Terezin / WWII Jewish camp-ghetto of Theresienstadt

Monday-Thursday, June 20-23

[Summer Educator Workshop: Teaching about Genocide in Africa: Rwanda and Darfur](#)

Community Events

Wednesday, January 27, 11:30 AM

In recognition of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, [Minnesota Public Radio's](#) Tom Weber will interview local Auschwitz survivor Eva Gross and Laura Zelle of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakota's [Transfer of Memory exhibit](#).

Thursday, February 18, 7:00-9:00 PM

Mitchell Hamline School of Law Kelley Board Room
[Victims, Perpetrators, Prosecutors, and Judges: Women at the International Criminal Court](#)
 Presented by World Without Genocide
 Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellows Michelle Johnson, Megan Manion, and Sarah Schmidt will discuss the roles of women in the International

[Semitism warning](#)

['Wear-A-Kippah' campaign launched in Brussels to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day as anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe](#)

[Holocaust victims honored 71 years after Auschwitz liberated](#)

[Survivors to address UN on International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)

[UNESCO events: "From Words to Genocide" theme of International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust](#)

In the News

[Angela Merkel Opens Major Holocaust Art Exhibit](#)

[Israel, Germany, Rwanda, & Other Nations Commemorate Shoah](#)

[Former SS Officer to the Tried under Mass Murder](#)

[New Edition of Mein Kampf to be Published in Germany](#)

[Nazi-Era Film Digitized](#)

[Archives of the French Vichy Regime Opening](#)

[EU Official to Recognize ISIS Killings as Genocide](#)

[Former Burundi Presidents asking for Genocide Prevention](#)

[Rwandan Man Arrested Over 1994 Genocide](#)

[Survivor and Nazi Hunter Commemorated in Film](#)

[Former Guatemalan Military Leaders Arrested in Connection with Massacres](#)

[How The Holocaust Changed German Literature Forever](#)

Criminal Court and the Court's evolution and commitment towards 'gendering justice.'

Follow Us!



Opportunities for Students

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. Meetings provide opportunities for students to engage in the development of research projects by providing and receiving constructive feedback.

Meetings for Spring 2016 will take place on Thursdays at 4:00 PM in 710 Social Sciences. For more information or to get on the mailing list, see the [CHGS website](#).

Badzin Fellowship

The University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Department of History invite applications from current doctoral students in the UMN College of Liberal Arts for the Bernard and Fern Badzin Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The Badzin Fellowship will pay a stipend of \$18,000, the cost of tuition and health insurance, and \$1,000 toward the mandatory graduate student fees. Call for applications usually posted the beginning of Spring Semester.

Application deadline: Friday March 11th, 2016

For more information see the [CHGS website](#)

Transatlantic Summer Institute (TASI) Graduate Student Fellowship Program

Universität Bayreuth, Germany

June 12-19, 2016

Bernt Schnettler (U. Bayreuth), and Alejandro Baer (UMN)

This Summer Institute's objective is to explore the particular developments and transnational entanglements of memory discourses in societies revisiting their legacies of large-scale political violence. This entails processes of re-interpretation, renaming and reframing of a) the atrocities themselves and b) the (often questioned) transitional justice mechanisms that were adopted in their aftermaths. We place special emphasis on the analyses of practices, rituals and social events that help creating, supporting and disseminating social memories related to mass violence.

Application deadline: Friday March 11th, 2016

For more information see the [CHGS website](#)

Call for Applications

[Call for Applications for USHMM Workshop on Oral Testimonies: Soviet Experiences of the Holocaust](#)

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites applications for a workshop focused on the use of testimony in the study of the Holocaust in the former Soviet Union, to be held from August 1-12, 2016 at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Deadline for submission: February 14, 2016

Calls for Papers

[Information Communication Technologies \(ICT\) for Mass Atrocities Research and Response](#)

International Association of Genocide Scholars Special Publication
Deadline for submission: July 1, 2016

[Dialogues on Historical Justice and Memory Network Working Paper \(WP\) Series](#)

Rolling deadline

Upcoming Conferences

- [Life in the Aftermath - Displaced Persons, Displaced Children and Child Survivors on the Move](#) (Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum, Dachau, May 31-June 1, 2016)
- [International Association of Genocide Scholars Biannual Conference](#) (Sleuk Rith Institute, Phnom Penh, July 2017)
- [Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Violence](#) (University of Southern California, October 11-12, 2016)
- [The Holocaust in the 21st Century: Relevance and Challenges in the Digital Age](#) (Claremont Mckenna, CA, November 3-6, 2016)

CHGS Film Review: Films on the Holocaust, new releases

by Jodi Elowitz

Son of Saul (2015)

In theaters now

The Hungarian film by director Laszlo Nemes, is a powerful cinematic experience that does not use traditional methods of film narrative to tell the story of its main character Saul, who is a member of the Sonderkommando at Auschwitz. The camera is always on him whether it is through close up upon his face, or behind him. We are on his journey, with the horrors of Auschwitz only suggested to us through a cacophony of voices and sounds with the actual horrors out of focus, so that we can only imagine the unimaginable.

[Read film review on the CHGS blog](#)



Every Face has a Name (2015)

This is a powerful documentary from Sweden by director Magnus Gertten, which made its Minneapolis debut at the 2015 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival. The documentary focuses on Gertten's quest to find the names of survivors of the German concentration camps filmed arriving in Malmo, Sweden on April 28, 1945. The film footage of the arrival and interviews with some of the survivors (who are asked to watch and identify others in the film) are juxtaposed with the arrival of Syrian refugees in Italy to seeking new lives. The more powerful

part of the film resides with the historic acceptance of refugees in Sweden in the aftermath of WWII and the reaction that these survivors have to seeing footage of themselves.

[Trailer](#)



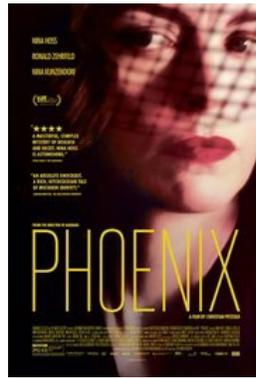
Phoenix (2014)

New on Netflix

This is a highly recommended film dealing with the struggle to find one identity and voice amongst the ruins of Berlin in the aftermath of

the Holocaust. The film that takes cues from Hitchcock's Vertigo to tell the fictional story about an Auschwitz Survivor's struggle to return to life. Directed by German filmmaker Christian Petzold, who made the notable film Barbara (2012) about a doctor in East Germany in the 1980's (also streaming on Netflix) brings us a study on post war Germany and its reaction to welcoming those who survived the Holocaust back into society.

[Trailer](#)

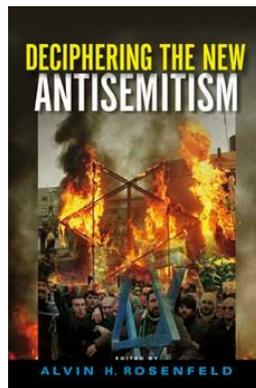


Jodi Elowitz is an adjunct professor of the Humanities at Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Arizona and the Content Coordinator for the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Elowitz's area of expertise is artistic representation of the Holocaust in the visual arts.

Books of the Month

[Rosenfeld, A. Deciphering the New Antisemitism](#)

The book is comprised of 18 essays written by an international group of scholars, including CHGS affiliate faculty member Bruno Chaouat, titled: "Good News from France: There Is No New Antisemitism." The book addresses the increasing prevalence of antisemitism on a global scale. Antisemitism takes on various forms in all parts of the world, and the essays in this wide-ranging volume deal with many of them: European antisemitism, antisemitism and Islamophobia, antisemitism and anti-Zionism, and efforts to demonize and delegitimize Israel. The book comprises a wide range of topics about the increasing occurrences of antisemitism around the world.



[Hitler, A. Mein Kampf, A Critical Edition](#)

On December 31, 2015, 70 years after Hitler's death, the copyright expired on his book Mein Kampf. The Institute for Contemporary History in Munich has presented to the public an annotated critical edition of this work. Central in critical commentary are the deconstruction and contextualisation of Hitler's book. How did his theses arise? What aims was he pursuing in writing Mein Kampf? What social support did Hitler's assertions have among his contemporaries? What consequences did his claims and asseverations have after 1933? In the view of the powerful symbolic value still attached to Hitler's book, this task of demystifying Mein Kampf is conceived by the editors of the new edition as a contribution to historical information and political education.

In Memoriam

[Jordan Krimstein](#), artist and teacher, [died October, 2015](#). CHGS offers condolences to his family. Krimstein produced a series of watercolors for a film on resistance during the Holocaust. A trailer can be found [here](#). Artwork is available [here](#).

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