

CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST  
& GENOCIDE STUDIES

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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

December 2019

## Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies News

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### From the Director

What characterizes the difficult times we are living in is not only the horror of the incitement and violence but also the confusion. How do we make sense of the somber news that assaults us with such pace and intensity?

The Center's goal is to turn perplexity into knowledge as an active force for change. The keywords that inspire our work are: remember, understand, disseminate.



Last month, more than 120 students attended our panel discussion on [the Great Replacement conspiracy theory](#). The past teaches us to take outlandish myths seriously. Academic rigor is central to dismantling the foundations of, and thus countering, the spread of falsehoods and their toxic effects. An educator workshop followed the panel, in which Prof. Riv-Ellen Prell expanded on the link between White supremacy and antisemitism in US history, providing ideas and resources for use in the classroom.

In the fall of 2019, the Center also launched a new curriculum, based on the project "[From the Sioux Massacres to the Dakota Genocide](#)," which examines how the U.S.-Dakota War has been remembered over time and space -- with passing generations, and across Minnesota. We created the curriculum to help educators better teach about this painful period of our state's history, and we were thrilled that more than 350 have already downloaded this material from our website.

This fall, we started a new research project supported through the [Minnesota Model Grand Challenge](#) initiative, which builds on and expands the research in Minnesota and now also includes our neighbors in Manitoba. The question underlying this work is if and how education can serve as a form of reparative justice.

In October, we hosted "[Treasures of Memory & Hope](#)," an exhibit from St. Sahag Armenian Church in St. Paul that highlighted the descendants of the Armenian genocide through photography and written memories.



The event served as a kick off of our year-long project, "Bridges of Memory", where we'll be connecting survivor communities in the Twin Cities with the university and, more importantly, each other. Already we've had several meaningful conversations with our community neighbors and look forward to more.

We also commemorated the anniversary of the Nazi "Kristallnacht" pogroms with a beautiful performance and reflections by distinguished cellist Janet Horvath. And I was honored again this semester to bring wonderful Rosanne and [Dora Zaidenweber](#) to my class (see photo above). A student wrote: *"hearing her testimony and experience was one of the most impactful experiences of my life so far."*

[The Holocaust Genocide and Mass Violence \(HGMV\) workshop](#) had another full semester of meetings to discuss graduate student research. We also continued to engage even broader audiences through our [blog](#), responding to media inquiries and writing commentary articles on recent events (see below).

As we close out 2019, I want to express my gratitude to our partners and friends in the community and campus on behalf of the CHGS team. With your continued support, we can fulfill the mission of the Center.

Alejandro Baer  
Stephen C. Feinstein Chair & Director

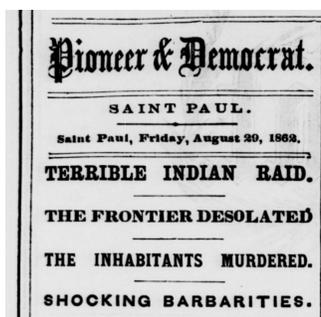
## Support CHGS with Your End of Year Giving

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.

To learn how, visit [z.umn.edu/SupportCHGS](http://z.umn.edu/SupportCHGS)

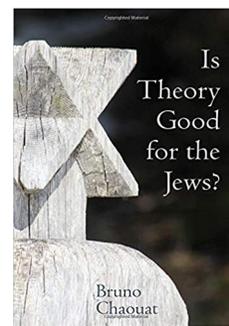
### From the Blog

From the "Sioux Massacre" to the "Dakota Genocide": A Sixth-Grade Social Studies Curriculum on the Legacy of the U.S.-Dakota War



### Featured Book by CHGS Faculty

Is Theory Good for the Jews?: French Thought and the Challenge of the New Antisemitism



I acknowledge that the University of  
Minnesota Twin Cities stands on Miní Sóta  
Makhóche...

[Continue Reading](#)

By Bruno Chaouat

[Learn more](#)

## Spring 2020 Event Preview

Friday, February 28

"[Double Amnesia: Zionism and Human Rights in 1948 and Today](#)" lecture by James Loeffler, University of Virginia; presented by the *Center for Jewish Studies*.

Wednesday, March 4

"*Auschwitz, Hiroshima and the Origins of Global Memory Culture*" lecture on the intersections in commemorations of the Holocaust and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, by [Ran Zwigenberg, Penn State](#).

Thursday, April 9 - Sunday, April 11

Conference on "[Threats to Democracy in Times of Populism and Racial Nationalism](#)" with panels to include responses to far right extremism in Minnesota and nationwide, and the rise of right wing populism in Europe; supported by various UMN entities, in partnership with Howard University, Spelman College and Morehouse College.

## CHGS in the News

- [The Enduring Impact of Anne Frank's Diary](#) Star Tribune - September 30, 2019
- [New Projects Aim to Improve Relations Between Surrounding Communities and CLA](#) MN Daily - October 14, 2019
- [Europe's Last monument to Fascism and Spain's Memory Problem](#) MinnPost - October 23, 2019
- [Abstention on Armenian genocide vote vexes supporters of U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar](#) Star Tribune - October 30, 2019
- [U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar's 'present' Vote on Recognizing Armenian Genocide is Distressing](#) Star Tribune - October 31, 2019
- [Voting 'present': Ilhan Omar's Disheartening Response to the Problem of Genocide](#) MinnPost - October 31, 2019
- [UMN Panel Addresses White Supremacist Myth](#) MN Daily - November 5, 2019
- [The pox of Vox: The spread of far-right populism in Spain](#) MinnPost - November 18, 2019

## Student Opportunities

### [Spring 2020 Courses](#)

Here's a list of relevant undergraduate courses students might be interested in at the University of Minnesota.

See a complete list of student  
opportunities

## The Genocide Education Outreach Project

The Center's GEO program, [Genocide Education Outreach](#), is taking knowledge and expertise from the university directly to classrooms across the state.

## CHGS Annual Report

The [CHGS Annual Report](#) features a review of last year's public lectures, partnerships, research, and opportunities for students and educators.

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