

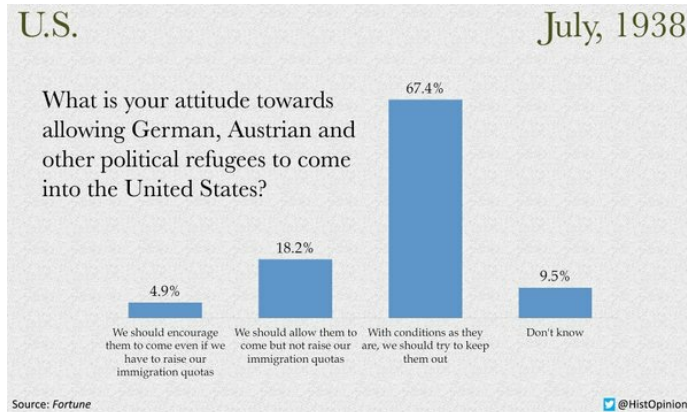


CHGS News | December 2015

From the Director

"We should try to keep them out."

The Twitter account [@HistOpinion](#) recently reminded us of the prevailing opinion on raising the immigrant quota for refugees who were fleeing Nazi Germany. Two-thirds of the respondents polled by [Gallup's American Institute of Public Opinion in July 1938](#) agreed with the proposition that "with conditions as they are we should try to keep them out."



Comparisons to the Holocaust and the events that led to it have become commonplace when we examine our current events. Although historical events and contexts always have distinct features that make them unique and thus hard to compare, analogies can indeed provide valuable insight into and perspective on the reality in which we are immersed. This is clearly the case for present-day attitudes toward refugees, particularly in the United States. The number of resettled refugees whom the United States has pledged to receive is dismal in comparison with Canada and most European countries. In terms of percentages, the situation is even worse. And immigration restrictions may get even tighter in response to a state of public opinion shaped by the xenophobic language of presidential candidates in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. Here, denigration of an entire group - defined by ethnicity or religion - and identification of the group as a threat also echo the discourses of the historical period we often consider in this newsletter (both in Europe and in the United States, with the wave of racism, prejudice, and ignorance surrounding Japanese Americans during World War II).

Analogies that bridge past and present are also pertinent to the discussion of the long inaction vis-à-vis the atrocities

perpetrated by the Islamic State. For more than two years, ISIS has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity with respect to civilians, and genocide against religious minorities in the territories under ISIS control. The international community has a moral and legal responsibility to protect the victims of these crimes - and the upcoming 67th anniversary, on December 9, of the UN Genocide Convention is an explicit reminder. However, it seems that plans for a coordinated operation against ISIS, involving the possible elimination of its stronghold in Syria and Iraq, are taking shape only now, after its terror has struck the heart of Europe.

Refusal to admit more refugees and passivity in the face of genocide seem to be recurring themes across historical periods. What the past teaches the present will always be a disputed matter. But we will certainly draw a correct lesson from the past if we now endeavor to "keep out" the incendiary language of hatred, fear, and suspicion.

Alejandro Baer
Director and Stephen C. Feinstein Chair

Spring 2016 Educator Training

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

W 5:30-7:30pm

Wahutu Siguru and Nancy Ziemer

This weekly seminar, sponsored by the African Studies Initiative Title VI grant, will take a comparative approach to the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. Participants will gain content knowledge about the origin and legal ramifications of the term genocide, and how various groups, such as the United Nations and the Media, addressed the two genocides. Each session will include engaging activities that can be used in secondary and post-secondary classrooms. By the end of the semester, participants will have a collection of materials for their classrooms, including resources, teaching methods, and teaching units.

Spring 2016 Holocaust and Genocide Courses

[HIST 3729/JWST 3729: Nazi Germany and Hitler's Europe](#)

Spring Semester: Tu/Th 9:45-11:00am

Gary Cohen

This course examines the rise of the Nazi movement in Germany, the development of the domestic and foreign policies of the Nazi government, and the career of Adolf Hitler. Special attention is given to reasons for the failure of the Weimar Republic's democratic government, the reasons for the growth of extremist nationalist politics and Hitler's success, the origins and developments of the Nazi racial policies, and the causes and character of the Nazis' war for territorial expansion and racial supremacy.

[SOC 4315/GLOS 4315: Never Again! Memory and Politics after Genocide](#)

Spring Semester: M/W 1:00-2:15pm

Alejandro Baer

This course focuses on the social repercussions and political consequences of large-scale political violence, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Students learn how communities and states balance the demands for justice and memory with the need for peace and reconciliation and addresses cases from around the globe and different historical settings. These will include the Holocaust, the legacies of State terror in Latin America, the aftermath of Stalinist mass violence in Eastern Europe

and American First Nations' struggles for memory and justice.

[ARTS 1490/3490: Workshop in Art](#)

Spring Semester: W 1:25-2:55pm

Deborah Boudewyns

This studio-intensive course covers Curatorial Theory and Practice. Students will learn about the theoretical and hands-on practices involved in curating exhibits through field trips, guest speakers, and creating a gallery show and online exhibit using Omeka. Course works in collaboration with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, using CHGS historical and artistic collections. Formal opening reception will be announced in Spring 2016.

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. The Fall 2015 series concludes with the following upcoming session:

Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 PM

710 Social Sciences

MARIA HOFMANN (German, Scandinavian, and Dutch):
"Recent Genocide Documentaries between Return and Respite of Trauma"

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

Transatlantic Summer Institute (TASI) Graduate Student Fellowship Program

Universität Bayreuth, Germany

June 12-19, 2016

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

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](#)

Applications Invited for Fall 2016 Inaugural Master of Human Rights Class

The Human Rights Program is pleased to announce that the University of Minnesota is now accepting applications for the inaugural Master of Human Rights (MHR) class. This interdisciplinary degree is designed to provide students with the diverse substantive and methodological approaches necessary for the study and practice of human rights. Throughout the program, students will be able to draw upon and develop these theoretical and

practical tools in a wide range of courses, internships, and field experiences available with leading global scholars and activists in human rights. To further cultivate students' professional skills, the program also includes a wide range of concentrations in the field of human rights. Whether it is NGO management or the rights of refugees and asylum, students will be able to support their individual expertise and interests as they complete their Master of Human Rights.

Students interested in the MHR should download a [brochure](#) and visit its new [website](#) for further information and to apply. Please do not hesitate to contact the admissions office (hhadmit@umn.edu) or the Coordinator of the Master of Human Rights, Mary Curtin (mtcurtin@umn.edu), with any questions.

Funding for Holocaust Studies Research

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany is offering a limited number of fellowships for Ph.D and postdoctoral candidates conducting research on the Holocaust. The application deadline is January 4, 2016 for the academic year of 2016-2017. Maximum award amount: \$20,000 per year. For application information, please visit fellowships.claimscon.org.

Calls for Papers

[The International Criminal Court and Africa: A Discussion on Legitimacy, Impunity, Selectivity, Fairness and Accountability](#)

Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration, Accra

Conference dates: March 17-18, 2016

Deadline for proposals: January 5, 2016

[The Holocaust and the Struggle for Civil Rights](#)

University of Sussex

Conference dates: April 14-15, 2016

Deadline for proposals: January 7, 2016

[Intersections: Holocaust Scholarship, Genocide Research, And Histories of Mass Violence](#)

Fifth Global Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars, Jerusalem

Conference dates: June 26-29, 2016

Deadline for proposals: January 15, 2016

[Trauma, Memory and Healing in the Balkans and Beyond](#)

Sarajevo

Conference dates: July 12-14, 2016

Deadline for proposals: January 15, 2016

[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

- [The Politics of Memory: Victimization, Violence and Contested Narratives of the Past](#) (Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University, New York, December 3-5, 2015)
- [A Research Introduction to the Holocaust in the Soviet Union](#) (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C., January 4-8, 2016)
- [Life in the Aftermath - Displaced Persons, Displaced Children and Child Survivors on the Move](#) (Max Mannheimer Studienzentrums, Dachau, May 31-June 1, 2016)

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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In the News

['This is a Genocide': On ISIS Destruction of Cultural Heritage](#)

- [International Association of Genocide Scholars Biannual Conference](#) (Sleuk Rith Institute, Phnom Penh, July 2017)
- [A 'Conflict'? Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala](#) (University of Southern California, September 12-14, 2016)
- [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)

Eye on Africa

Will we only care about Burundi if it is called a genocide?

by Wahutu Siguru

A few things have been happening in Burundi this year. The president, Pierre Nkuruzinza, circumvented the constitution and ran for a third term, resulting in on-going conflict since April. Turmoil in Burundi is not entirely a surprise: journalists I spoke with earlier this year all stated that regional coverage had pointed to something being afoot [as early as last year](#). Nonetheless, here we are with an unfolding atrocity, including a number of deaths and ever-growing numbers of displaced people. And plenty of hand-wringing by the international community.

[Continue reading on the CHGS website...](#)

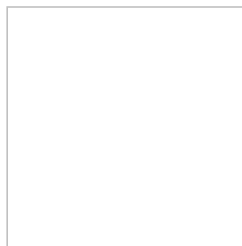
Wahutu Siguru is Badzin Fellow in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and PhD candidate in the Sociology department at the University of Minnesota. Siguru's research interests are in the Sociology of Media, Genocide, Mass Violence and Atrocities (specifically on issues of representation of conflicts in Africa such as Darfur and Rwanda), Collective Memory, and perhaps somewhat tangentially Democracy and Development in Africa.

Interview with Visiting Scholar

Interview with Sam Grey, Fulbright Scholar

by Joe Eggers

This year, the University of Minnesota Department of Sociology is hosting Sam Grey, a Fulbright Scholar from Canada. Sam comes to campus to continue her research in the field of reconciliation, specifically in settler-colonial states. While in Minnesota, Sam will be exploring the resistance to reconciliation in Minnesota a century and a half after the Dakota conflict of 1862.



Coming from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Sam is well suited to exploring Minnesota's relationship with its indigenous communities. Her doctoral research focuses on political theory and comparative politics, primarily from a non-western political perspective. Sam's research interests have included, in addition to indigenous rights, gender equality, food politics and solidarity politics.

As a Canadian scholar in Minnesota, Sam is in a unique position to compare Canada's recently completed Truth and Reconciliation process with the United States' own attempts to understand its own relationship with its indigenous population.

Continue reading on the [CHGS website...](#)

Joe Eggers is a second year student in the University of Minnesota's Masters of Liberal Studies program, studying human rights from a sociological perspective. His working thesis topic explores the cultural genocide experienced by Native American peoples.

CHGS Film Review

[Can Democracy and Genocide Co-Exist in Burma?](#)

[Netanyahu, Hussein and the historians](#)

[Yes, the Islamic State's attacks on the Yazidis constitute genocide, new report says](#)

[Tales of the Super Survivors](#)

[Meet the World's First 3-D Interactive Holocaust Survivor](#)

[Only 35% of Americans Are Aware There was an Armenian Genocide](#)

[Thousands of WWII Registry Forms for Budapest Jews Found Slashed in Wall of House Near Hungarian Parliament](#)

[Honoring The Memory Of A Soviet Genocide](#)

[957 Testimonies Added in USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive](#)

Follow Us!



Minneapolis Film Society Screens *Pretty Village*

by Erma Nezirevic

On Saturday, October 17th, 2015, the Minneapolis Film Society screened "Pretty Village" at St. Anthony Main theater, a documentary depicting the experience of Kemal Pevranc and his village during the war in Bosnia (1992-95). Pevranc, the main

subject of the film, is also the producer and a human rights activist who works to raise awareness and to rebuild his community in Bosnia by working on reconciliation efforts, particularly with young people of all three ethnicities in Bosnia. The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies co-sponsored the film screening event, in which I participated as the moderator of the post-screening discussion.



Pretty Village is a powerful documentary centered on Pevranc's home village of Kevljani located in Northern Bosnia in the municipality of Prijedor.

[Continue reading on the CHGS website...](#)

Erma Nezirevic is a Ph.D. candidate in Hispanic Literatures and Cultures at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She specializes in 20th and 21st century Iberian literatures and cultures. Her dissertation studies the way Spain evokes the Balkan Wars of the 1990s in literature and other cultural production such as photography, and how in turn that provides a political, social and cultural understanding of Spain itself. Erma currently works in affiliation with the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, where she coordinates the HGMV Workshop.

CHGS Video New Releases



[The Last Jews: Intermarried Families in the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia](#)

Benjamin Frommer, Northwestern University

(recorded September 16, 2015)



[Memory, media, and art: Roundtable discussion featuring the work of Artist Daniel Blaufuks](#)

UMN scholars Gary Cohen, Paula Rabinowitz, Alice Lovejoy, and Leslie Morris; David Harris (RIMON: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council, an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish

Federation) and international artist Daniel Blaufuks

(recorded October 13, 2015)



[The Great Fire at Smyrna and the genocide of the Ottoman Greek and Armenian population](#)

Lou Ureneck, Boston University

(recorded October 21, 2015)

[Embodying Empathy: Canadian Settler-Colonial Genocide and the Making of a Virtual Indian Residential School](#)

Adam Muller, University of Manitoba



(recorded November 18, 2015)

[Portraying Dora Zaidenweber](#)

Artist Felix de la Concha paints and interviews local survivor Dora Zaidenweber, who joins the [full group of 40 survivors](#) who have participated in the project so far (8 others from Minnesota).



(recorded January 25, 2015)

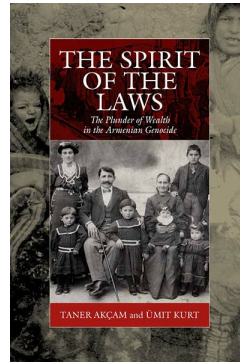
Book of the Month

[The Spirit of the Laws:](#)

[The Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide](#)

Taner Akçam and Umit Kurt, Translated by Aram Arkun

Pertinent to contemporary demands for reparations from Turkey is the relationship between law and property in connection with the Armenian Genocide. This book examines the confiscation of Armenian properties during the genocide and subsequent attempts to retain seized Armenian wealth. Through the close analysis of laws and treaties, it reveals that decrees issued during the genocide constitute central pillars of the Turkish system of property rights, retaining their legal validity, and although Turkey has acceded through international agreements to return Armenian properties, it continues to refuse to do so. The book demonstrates that genocides do not depend on the abolition of the legal system and elimination of rights, but that, on the contrary, the perpetrators of genocide manipulate the legal system to facilitate their plans.



The Spirit of the Laws

Taner Akçam holds the Kaloosdian and Mugar Chair of Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University. He is the author of many books, including: The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire (Princeton University Press, 2012), which received the Middle East Studies Association's Hourani Book Prize and was listed by Foreign Affairs as "Best International Relations Books of 2012."

Umit Kurt is a Ph.D. Candidate in the History Department of Clark University. He is the author of The Great, Hopeless Turkish Race: Fundamentals of Turkish Nationalism in the Turkish Homeland 1911-1916 (Iletisim Publishing House, 2012).

Community Events

Nostra Aetate Commemorative Celebration

Wednesday, December 2

6 PM Social Hour

7 PM Dinner and Program

Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot

Joining the many worldwide celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, and to encourage further solidarity among people of all faiths, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is hosting a community banquet in partnership with the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas, with support from

the Catholic diocese of Minnesota, the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, and the Jay Phillips Center for Interfaith Learning.

Keynote reflection by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

For more information please call Margaret Slawin at 651-290-1610.

Commemoration of Ukraine's Genocide Famine
Saturday, December 5, 2-4 PM
Minnesota History Center

Events include:

- *The Great Ukrainian Famine and the Cost of Forgetting* - Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk, St. Thomas University
- *My Grandmother: Thoughts on Survivor's Account of the Holodomor* - Stefan Waskewycz
- *Remembering Holodomor Victims, Honoring Euromaidan Heroes* - Valerie Brukhis
- Candle Lighting Ceremony

[More information and event details.](#)

In Memoriam

[Mary Ackos Calof](#) (1939-2015) was born in Athens, Greece, and passed away on November 24, 2015.

Mary and members of her family survived the Holocaust in Greece. She was featured in the JCRC's "[Transfer of Memory](#)" exhibit, and her testimony is [preserved](#) in the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Mary's daughter, Laura Zelle, is the director of Tolerance Minnesota, and author of the documentary, "In the Shadow of the Acropolis," where she chronicled her family's narrative. We send condolences to the family of Mary with best wishes for comfort in their time of grief.

[Hyman Berman](#) (1925-2015), UMN history professor and [political commentator](#), passed away this weekend.

Hy studied history at Columbia with pioneers in academic Jewish history in America. As UMN professor in the 1970's, he and his colleagues furthered the discipline of Jewish history as an area of study. Hy continued to work in Jewish history, while becoming a [renowned voice](#) in Minnesota political history, teaching classes on the American labor movement, Minnesota history and the Jewish labor movement. We send our condolences to his wife Betty and family.

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