



## CHGS News | September/October 2015

### From the Director

Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel stated at a remembrance ceremony that there is something worse than the tragedy of a messenger who is unable to deliver his message: when the messenger has delivered the message and nothing has changed. Wiesel's words strongly resonate in a world where genocide and mass violence continue to take a devastating toll. How do we face this challenge? What is our role as a public research university?

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) has made its mission to provide premiere academic programs and cultivate the essential connection between scholarly inquiry, education, and outreach. This fall semester the Center continues to meet this mission with a full schedule of lectures, film screenings and workshops that bring discussion and understanding of genocide and mass violence to the university and community.

While Wiesel's call can be disheartening, we see our role as both modest and vital. Those willing to make a change -- students, educators, scholars and community members -- will find in CHGS a welcoming learning and sharing space with academically rigorous, intellectually challenging and professionally enriching programs.

We look forward to seeing you in this new academic year!

Alejandro Baer  
*Director and Stephen C. Feinstein Chair*

### 2014-2015 Annual Report

The [2014-2015 CHGS Annual Report](#) is now available! Check it out to review the activities and accomplishments from the last academic year, as well as the people and partners who made it all possible.

### Welcome Demetrios Vital, CHGS Outreach Coordinator

CHGS is very pleased to welcome Demetrios Vital as CHGS Outreach Coordinator.

Demetrios comes to us as an educator at Beth Jacob and Talmud Torah, and with experience in preservation and exhibition of art and museum collections (Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York Academy of

Medicine, Jewish Theological Seminary). Demetrios is a U of M alum, having received his B.A. in Jewish Studies before going on to get his M.A. in art history at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.



Demetrios Vital

One of Demetrios' first projects is to care for and promote CHGS art and object collections. He looks forward to collaborating with the community in the development of programs, activities, and events that are mutually engaging and sure to be great. Please come meet Demetrios at one of the [events scheduled with artist Daniel Blaufuks](#) in mid-October at the Weisman. Or, look for him in the community -- he will be around!

## CHGS Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, September 29**

4:00 PM

[120 Elmer L. Andersen Library](#)

MICHIKO HARADA, hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor)

[Peace Talk](#)



Michiko Harada

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of WWII, and to celebrate the 60th anniversary of close local ties between St. Paul and Nagasaki, we are pleased to welcome Ms. Michiko Harada, a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor) *kataribe* (storyteller), who will travel from Japan to talk about her experience with the atomic bomb and why she speaks for peace.

**This event is free and the public is encouraged to attend.**

Check out related events:

[FROM WAR TO RECONCILIATION: 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP, 70 YEARS OF PEACE BETWEEN US](#)

*Event organized by CHGS with co-sponsorship from the Department of History and the Human Rights Program, in conjunction with the [St. Paul Peace](#) exhibits and events at the Landmark Center in St. Paul.*

**Tuesday, October 13**

5:30 PM

[Weisman Art Museum](#)

[Artist DANIEL BLAUFUKS in discussion with Twin Cities scholars](#)



Daniel Blaufuks

Internationally renowned artist Daniel Blaufuks has been exploring the relations between public and private, and individual and collective memory and history in photography, film, and book art. Born in Lisbon to German Jewish refugees, recent projects have included found footage and current shots of the Nazi concentration camp in Theresienstadt.

**Thursday, October 15**

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Weisman Art Museum

[Coffee with the artist](#)

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Weisman Art Museum  
[Screening of Blaufuk's film installation "Als Ob / As If"](#)

*Als Ob / As If* is a monumental 4-hour film installation, creation of memory through media.

In *Als Ob*, Blaufuks combines footage he shot in 2014 in the Czech city of Terezin, which was formerly the Jewish ghetto of Theresienstadt, with footage from Nazi propaganda films.



Screenshot from [Als Ob / As If](#)

### Wednesday, October 21

3:30 - 5:30 PM

[120 Elmer L. Andersen Library](#)

LOU URENECK, Boston University  
[The Great Fire at Smyrna and the Genocide of the Ottoman Greek and Armenian Population](#)



Lou Ureneck

**3:30 PM** - Exhibition of archival material from the [Kautz Family YMCA Archives](#) and light reception

**4:00 PM** - Introduction by Professor Catherine Guisan (Political Science, UMN), and discussion with the author

**5:00 PM** - Book signing

*Book will be available for purchase at the event.*

### Wednesday, November 18

4:00 PM

[710 Social Sciences](#)

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



Adam Muller

This presentation introduces and reflects on some of the key challenges facing researchers involved with the multidisciplinary critical and creative Embodying Empathy project now underway at the University of Manitoba. Embodying Empathy seeks to construct a digital representation of a Canadian Indian Residential School (IRS) using virtual and augmented reality technologies.

## Opportunities for Educators

### Saturday, November 7

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

[Teaching Genocide: Lessons, Resources, Experiences - a workshop for educators](#)

Six licensed educators attended the Institute for Global Studies summer institute, Holocaust Education in a Global Context on June 15-18, 2015. The following two weeks, these six educators worked to accumulate 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. These teachers, led by Dr. Alejandro Baer from the CHGS at the U of MN, will be talking about their experiences and presenting their materials in the daylong workshop.

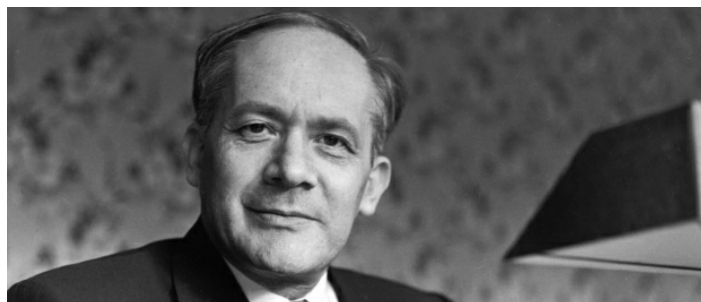
[More information and event registration here.](#)

## Opportunities for Students

**CHGS and the Center for Jewish Studies are pleased to announce a Spring 2016 one-week, one-credit seminar**  
**[GLOS 5900: Genocide and Holocaust: The History of Events and Concepts](#)**

Taught by NATAN SZNAIDER (Professor of Sociology, Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo, Israel)

Before the concept of the Holocaust existed, a Polish Jewish lawyer, Raphael Lemkin, gave the world the concept of genocide. After that, "genocide" took on an intellectual and conceptual life of its own. Clearly, it was and is related to the destruction of European Jewry (later called the Holocaust), but today it also means more than that. The relationship between the concepts of "Holocaust" and "genocide" is the relationship between a concept that indicates uniqueness, and one that points to generality.



Raphael Lemkin

This seminar engages in a close reading of two seminal texts in the study of political violence. Lemkin's classic study that has now reached legendary proportions as the foundational writing in genocide studies: *Axis Rule in Occupied Europe: Laws of Occupation, Analysis of Government, Proposals for Redress* and Hannah Arendt's *Origins of Totalitarianism*, published seven years later but conceived, prepared and thought out around the same time as Lemkin's work.



Hannah Arendt

More information on the [CHGS website](#).

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## 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](http://fellowships.claimscon.org).

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## Calls for Papers

[Seminar for Advanced Undergraduate, MA, and Early PhD Students](#)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC  
Seminar dates: January 4-8, 2016  
(Application deadline: October 11)

[Life in the aftermath - Displaced Persons, Displaced Children and Child Survivors on the move](#)

Max Mannheimer Studienzentrum (MMSZ), Dachau  
Workshop dates: May 30-June 1, 2016  
(Deadline for submission: October 15)

[Comparative Analysis of 20th Century Genocides](#)

International Association of Genocide Scholars Special Publication  
(Deadline for submission: October 31)

[Lessons and Legacies Conference on the Holocaust](#)

Claremont McKenna College, California  
Workshop dates: November 3-6, 2016  
(Deadline for submission: December 1)

[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)

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## 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

## Holocaust, Genocide, and Mass Violence 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.



Yagmur Karakaya and Erma Nezirevic, HGMV members

### 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

Meetings generally take place on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM in 710 Social Sciences. An active and robust schedule is in place for Fall 2015:

- **Wednesday, September 30, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** JOE EGGERS, Liberal Studies (UMN)  
*What's in a name? Exploring How We Define Genocide from Lemkin to International Law*
- **Wednesday, October 7, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** DEEPIKA UDAGAMA, University of Peradeniya (Sri Lanka)  
*Human Rights Law*
- **Wednesday, October 14, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** DANIEL BLAUFUKS, artist  
*The Creation of Holocaust Memory in Media*
- **Wednesday, October 21, 3:30 PM 120 Andersen Library** LOU URENECK, Boston University:  
*The Great Fire at Smyrna and the genocide of the Ottoman Greek and Armenian population*
- **Wednesday, October 28, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** SAM GREY, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Sociology (UMN)  
*Memory, Affect, and Retributivism after Genocide: Resistance to Forgiveness-Reconciliation in Dakota Homeland*
- **Wednesday, November 4, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** WAHUTU SIGURU, Sociology (UMN)  
*What African Media? Rethinking research on representations of atrocities in Africa by Africa's Press*
- **Wednesday, November 18, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** ADAM MULLER, University of Manitoba  
*Embodying Empathy: Canadian Settler-Colonial Genocide and the Making of a Virtual Indian Residential School*
- **Wednesday, December 2, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** OFELIA FERRÁN, Spanish and Portuguese, and LISA HILBINK, Political Science (UMN)  
*Legacies of Violence in Contemporary Spain: Exhuming the Past, Understanding the Present*
- **Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 PM 710 Social Sciences** MARIA HOFMANN, German, Scandinavian, and Dutch (UMN)  
*Recent Genocide Documentaries between Return and Respite of Trauma*

For more information or to get on the mailing list, see the [CHGS website](#).

## In the Field: Articles by Young Scholars

**Srebrenica: What Remains 20 Years Later**  
by ERMA NEZIREVIC

Recently I laid over at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, at which the Delta Airlines security agent checked my U.S. passport prior to boarding the plane to Minneapolis. Upon seeing my name and place of birth (Bosnia and Herzegovina), he asked in Serbian if I spoke "our language." I responded with a "yes, of course," and he completed the rest of the security procedure in 'our language,' revealing that he is a Serb who escaped to the Netherlands in 1991 because he did not want to have to fight the Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims) or the Croats, as they are all "my people, our

exhibitions.

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### In the News

[Accused Nazi War Criminal's Son Weighs in On Shelved Investigation](#)

[Article by Alejandro Baer and Paula Lopez in El Pais: "Antisemitismo sin Antisemitas"](#)

[USC Shoah Foundation profile of Alejandro Baer](#)

[New Petition Proclaims ISIS is Guilty of Genocide](#)

[TV station uses Nazi symbol in story on Jewish holiday](#)

[Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre Opens in South Africa](#)

[What the "Auschwitz Showers" Fiasco Teaches Us About Holocaust Tourism](#)

[Our boat is nowhere near full,' German volunteers tell refugees](#)

[Sacramento Student Clashes with Professor over Native American Genocide](#)

[Survivor Video Testimonies Recount Horrors of Guatemalan Genocide](#)

[USC Shoah Foundation and FAFG Co-Launch Project to Shine Light on Guatemalan Genocide](#)

people."



Srebrenica Memorial

Coincidentally, this random interaction occurred only two days after the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, which took place on July 11, 1995. It made me ponder the use of the word 'our' in this brief conversation. We all clearly still have a lot in common: the primary, and perhaps strongest, connection being the language. 'Our' language, as the security agent used it, refers to Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. However, in 'our' language, there is still a contention over what happened in Srebrenica. Recently, Russia, Serbia's ally, had vetoed the UN Security Council measure that labeled Srebrenica a genocide. Killing people based on their identity is a very basic definition of genocide, and denying that is to politicize it once again, and take away from the core of what this event should represent 20 years later, which is healing and hope for the future...

[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.*

### 2015 IAGS Conference in Review

by JOE EGGERS

In July, I had the privilege of presenting at the [International Association of Genocide Scholars'](#) twelfth meeting in Yerevan, Armenia. The conference's theme of comparative analysis of twentieth century genocides brought experts from around the world to Armenia's capital city for five days of presentations, learning, and networking. More than 180 attendees, representing more than two dozen countries, shared their research and insight into many of the twentieth century's most infamous atrocities...

[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.*

Follow Us!



## An Undergraduate's perspective on HIST 3727, History of the Holocaust, and a class visit by Holocaust Survivor IRENE BERMAN

By JOSHKIN SEZER

My name is Joshkin Sezer. I am a history major who is starting his third year at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. In the Spring Semester of 2015, I enrolled in History of the Holocaust, instructed by Adam Blackler. Near the end of the semester, we got the chance to hear a [talk from a Holocaust survivor, Irene Berman](#). She had just published a book detailing her experience as a child in Norway during the Holocaust and how her family managed to survive.



Irene Berman, visiting Adam Blackler's HIST 3727 class on April 23, 2015

After taking some time to think about Irene Berman's talk to my class, I continue to be intrigued by what I learned about the Norwegian Jewish population and their struggles during the Holocaust. It is not a topic that comes up very often (if ever) in the United States. It was not until I enrolled in the History of the Holocaust at the University of Minnesota that I developed a better sense of what life was like for Jews who lived outside of Eastern and Central Europe...

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

## Eye on Africa

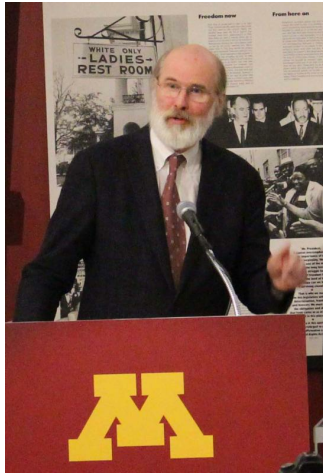
Interview with **JOACHIM SAVELSBERG**, Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota and Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, and author of the recent book, [Representing Mass Violence: Conflicting Responses to Human Rights Violations in Darfur](#)

By WAHUTU SIGURU

**Wahutu Siguru:** What was the main motivation behind this current book, *Representing Mass Violence: Conflicting Responses to Human Rights Violations in Darfur*?

**Joachim Savelsberg:** Part of the original design was to do a comparative study of eight countries. Even though the





Professor Joachim Savelsberg

International Criminal Court (ICC) is a global institution, the kinds of messages that it sends out, the kinds of representation of events that it offers are filtered by national institutions -- they are reinforced ... in one country, but less so in another country. They find more receptive audiences in a country that has maybe dealt with mass atrocities in the past than in another country that hasn't.

So that was the main motivation, to understand how interventions ... affect the representation of

Darfur in the public sphere. Initially I only thought of news media, that's why we did a comparative analysis of newspapers in eight countries. And then, in the course of the research, I became aware that representations do not just differ by country but also by social fields. I was interested from the beginning in how human rights activists, and I selected Amnesty International as an example, talk about Darfur. ... I also ended up targeting a humanitarian aid NGO (non-governmental organizations), for which I picked Doctors without Borders. I additionally interviewed diplomats from foreign ministries ... and I saw that different fields talk in quite different terms about the violence in Darfur. Just as I was interested in the country-specific conditions that lead to a selective communication of ICC representations, so I became interested in the field-specific conditions that affect communication about Darfur.

**WS:** Previous work has not done this much data collection or analysis. From what you have said, the data collection and analysis seems like a really important part of how you wanted to do this project. Why was it important for you to do the interviews, to do the content analysis of news reports and travel to all of these countries?

**JS:** It was important for a number of reasons. The first reason is that we know that global institutions of justice like the ICC are extremely modern. Human history hasn't really known them. We've known ad hoc courts in the twentieth century, but not a permanent international criminal court. ... It would be desirable of course to measure the effect of ICC interventions on the future likelihood of genocide and crimes against humanity and war crimes. That would be a very tall order, and we will have to tackle this at some point. I wasn't able to go that far, but one interim step is to think about how these interventions affect the way the world thinks about mass atrocities. It is not at all for granted that people in different countries take note of what is going on. Even if institutions like the ICC intervene, there is a long history of denial, of closing one's eyes, especially if atrocities occur in a far-away place in the world. So it was very important to me to begin to systematically measure the effects of these sorts of interventions in a cautious way, by first looking at the impact they have on the degree to which and the way in which mass atrocities are represented and perceived.

**WS:** What would you say was one of the most surprising findings that jumped out at you?...

[See full article on the CHGS website.](#)

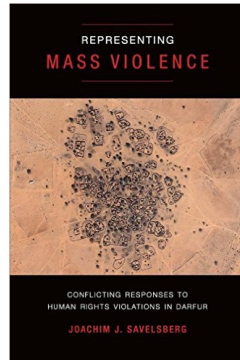
*Wahutu Siguru is Badzin Fellow in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and PhD candidate in the Sociology department at the University of Minnesota. Siguru's research interests are in the Sociology of Media, Genocide, Mass Violence and Atrocities (specifically on issues of representation of conflicts in Africa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

## Book of the Month

### [Representing Mass Violence: Conflicting Responses to Human Rights Violations in Darfur](#)

**By JOACHIM SAVELSBERG (Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, and Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair)**

How do interventions by the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court influence representations of mass violence? What images arise instead from the humanitarianism and diplomacy fields? How are these competing perspectives communicated to the public via mass media? Zooming in on the case of Darfur, Joachim J. Savelsberg analyzes more than three thousand news reports and opinion pieces and interviews leading newspaper correspondents, NGO experts, and foreign ministry officials from eight countries to show the dramatic differences in the framing of mass violence around the world and across social fields.



[Representing Mass Violence](#) by Joachim Savelsberg

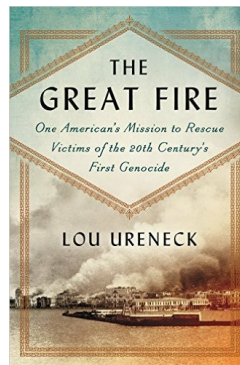
**The book is hot off the presses and is also [available in its entirety online](#).**

*Professor Joachim Savelsberg is a professor of sociology at the University of Minnesota, the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanessian Chair, and affiliate faculty to the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.*

### [The Great Fire: One American's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide](#)

**By LOU URENECK**

The harrowing story of a Methodist Minister and a principled American naval officer who helped rescue more than 250,000 refugees during the genocide of Armenian and Greek Christians—a tale of bravery, morality, and politics, published to coincide with the genocide's centennial.



[The Great Fire](#), by Lou Ureneck

**[Please Join Us on Wednesday, October 21](#) for discussion with the author and a book signing.**

*Professor Ureneck (Journalism, Boston University) conducted much of his research in writing the book in the U of M Library's extensive [Kautz Family YMCA Archives](#), highlighting the University's unique ability to place historic events in context, and provide primary sources*

for study and scholarship.

## Community Events: Films at the Twin Cities Jewish Film Festival

### **Diplomacy**

Sunday, October 11  
7:30 PM  
Sabes JCC

As the Allies march toward Paris in the summer of 1944, the city of light is held by General Dietrich von Choltitz, who has been ordered to destroy the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame, and all of the Seine's bridges, leaving the beloved city as "a field of rubble." Swedish Consul General Raoul Nordling steals into German headquarters to begin a tension-filled game of cat and mouse as he tries to persuade Choltitz to abandon his destructive plan.

Directed by Volker Schlöndorff  
France, 2014. French and German with English subtitles  
General Audiences: Suggested ages 16 - adult  
85 minutes

*Reception to follow.*

[FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION](#)

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### **To Life (A La Vie)**

*Sabes JCC Midwest Premiere*  
Sunday, October 25  
12:30 PM  
Sabes JCC

Auschwitz survivor Helene rebuilds her life in postwar Paris while searching for her friends Lily and Rose. When the three women are reunited, they holiday at a seaside resort in northern France, enjoying the intimacies of life, love, and faith. This emotionally complex film about the sustaining power of friendship was inspired by the director's mother and her annual vacation with the friends she made in the camps.

Directed by Jean-Jacques Zilbermann  
France, 2014. French with English subtitles  
Mature Audiences - Nudity  
104 minutes

[FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION](#)

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