



## CHGS News | June 2016

### From the Director

#### Berlin's Message to Ankara: Learn From Us

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II, on May 8th 1985, German President Richard von Weizsäcker addressed the country's parliament with the following words: "All of us, whether guilty or not, whether young or old, must accept the past. We are all affected by the consequences and liable for it. We Germans must look truth straight in the eye - without embellishment and without distortion."

Will a Turkish statesman ever deliver a similarly courageous pronouncement about the country's horrific past vis-à-vis the Armenian and other Christian minorities? The German Parliament's recent declaration recognizing the Armenian genocide by its name might actually bring that moment a bit closer.

[Read full article in the CHGS Blog...](#)

*Alejandro Baer is the Stephen Feinstein Chair and Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.*

### Spring Events Review

#### 2016 Ohanessian Chair Lecture

Thursday, April 14, 7:00 PM

McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities



Video of the 2016 Ohanessian Lecture by Peter Balakian

In April, the University of Minnesota welcomed Pulitzer Prize winning author Peter Balakian to campus for the 2016 Ohanessian lecture. The event was organized by Ohanessian Chair Ana Forcinito, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Studies, and sponsored in part by the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Dr. Balakian spoke about the cultural destruction that occurred during the Armenian Genocide

to an engaged audience of students and community members.

## Professor Joachim Savelsberg gives talk in Yerevan, Armenia, at Genocide Commemoration

April 23, 2016  
Yerevan, Armenia



Savelsberg speaking on a panel at the Genocide Commemoration event



Delegates at the Remembrance Ceremony

Joachim Savelsberg, UMN Professor of Sociology and Ohanessian Chair, was invited by the President of the Republic of Armenia to speak on the occasion of the 101st anniversary of the Armenian genocide in Yerevan, Armenia's capital. The event included a Global Forum against the Crime of Genocide on April 23, with addresses by President Sargsyan, Foreign Minister Nalbandian, activist and actor George Clooney, genocide survivors, and scholars. Professor Savelsberg spoke on the issue of "Humanitarian Aid and Human Rights in the Context of Genocide." Events of April 24, the official memorial day, included a wreath laying ceremony at the

Armenian Genocide Memorial and the Inaugural Ceremony for Awarding the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. On May 15, Professor Savelsberg reported about the events to the Armenian community of Minnesota.

## CHGS Art Exhibit at Wilson Library

April 21 - May 24, 2016  
Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

*Displaced: The Semiotics of Identity*, was an ambitious exhibition of art and historical artifacts that explored diverse aspects of the displacement of people and things and its many repercussions. On display at the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota, this sprawling exhibit



Melissa Boric, "Syrianna"

inhabited walls throughout the first and the fourth floor, as well as having an online component. The exhibit's theme was to explore the meaning made of a person's or object's identity in different spaces and times. The topic was in-and-of-itself huge, but the process whereby the show developed was why it is so ambitious: *Displaced* was curated by students.

... The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies has an art

and historical artifact collection which served as the foundation of the exhibit. CHGS collections provided a basis for the students in formulating ideas about how to present art and make choices about the display and information associated with each piece. For example, the sensitive nature of the swastika as a symbol brought forth the question of how to display a knife from World War II Germany with a swastika emblazoned on it.

[Continue Reading on CHGS Blog](#)

*This exhibit was co-sponsored by the CHGS, the University Libraries, and the Department of Art.*

## CHGS Blog Review

The CHGS Blog continues to have a lot of traffic, with readers who visit and stay to read more. Check out these recent articles on the important developments concerning the recognition - and lack thereof - of the Armenian Genocide.

Stay to read other articles, to keep learning more!

[Another Genocide Declaration: This One Matters](#)

[101 Years of Denial: How Turkish Policy Keeps the Pain of Genocide Alive](#)

## Congrats to Fellowship and Award Winners

### **Congratulations to Miray Philips, Bernard and Fern Badzin Fellow for the 2016-2017 Academic Year**



Fern Badzin and Miray Philips

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Department of History are pleased to announce the 2016-2017 Bernard and Fern Badzin Fellow in Holocaust and Genocide Studies, [Miray Philips](#).

Miray was born in Egypt, raised in Kuwait, and moved to Michigan to pursue a college education. She graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor with a BS in Psychology and Sociology. She then moved to Minnesota to begin her PhD in Sociology, with a focus on violence, collective memory, and the Middle East and North Africa. She is broadly interested in the experiences of ethnic and religious minority groups within the Middle East and North Africa, specifically as it pertains to persecution, discrimination and violence.

Miray's current research is focused on understanding how the Coptic Christian community in Egypt and the diaspora makes sense of their present day experiences in light of a long history of suffering and persecution, and in turn how that history informs their present-day experiences. While Copts in Egypt face persecution and discrimination at the hands of the state and civil society, Copts in Kuwait are at the difficult intersection of being a religious minority and also expats. Copts in the US, however, experience relative privilege in a predominantly Christian country. During the fellowship year she will be completing course work and interviewing Copts in Egypt, Kuwait and the US.

## Congratulations to the 2016 Undergraduate Human Rights Award Winners



Lisa Paul with Inna Meiman Award winner Anant Naik



Bruce and Elissa Peterson with Sullivan Ballou Award winner Ricardo Bennett Guzman

Each spring, the Human Rights Program and the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies celebrate the tremendous work of students in human rights. This year we congratulate [Anant Naik and Ricardo Bennett Guzman](#), recipients of the Inna Meiman Award and Sullivan Ballou Award, respectively.

## Upcoming Events

### DAAD Transatlantic Summer Institute [Reframing Mass Violence in Europe and the Americas](#)

June 12-19, 2016  
Bayreuth, Germany

Very soon, 14 graduate students and 5 guest faculty from Europe, the US, Israel and Canada will meet at the University of Bayreuth for an intensive seminar on the topic of memories of mass violence in transnational and comparative perspective.

Coordinators of the Institute are Bert Schnettler (University of Bayreuth) and CHGS Director Alejandro Baer. In addition to participant presentations, lectures and guest workshop sessions, the group will transit the layered topographies of memory in the city of Richard Wagner and the *Festspiele*, the Memorium of the Nuremberg Trials and the Documentation Centre at the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds in Nuremberg.

*The TASI is sponsored by the Center for German and European Studies through a grant of the DAAD.*

### Upcoming Educator Workshop [Teaching about Genocides in Africa: Rwanda and Darfur](#)

June 20-23, 2016  
609 Social Sciences, West Bank

## 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

[UMN Badzin Fellow Paula Cuellar will conduct](#)

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

This week-long 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 the United Nations and the media have 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 seminar, participants will have a collection of materials for their classrooms, including resources, teaching methods, and teaching units.

Institute leads: James Wahutu, PhD Candidate in Sociology at the UMN, and Nancy Ziemer, high school teacher

*The 2015 Holocaust Summer Institute is made possible by the Ohanessian Endowment Fund for Justice and Peace Studies of the Minneapolis Foundation.*

## CHGS 20th Anniversary Event Preview

### Yehudit Shendar course and public lectures on Holocaust Art

April 18 - May 16, 2016  
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities



Shendar at at previous [visit to UMN during Spring 2015](#)

In the Spring 2017 semester, CHGS will bring world-leading scholar of Holocaust art, Yehudit Shendar, to the Twin Cities for a series of events. Central to the program is a three-week course with components to include two public lectures, one panel discussion, and an Educators Workshop. These events will be cosponsored by the Center for Austrian Studies, the Center for Jewish Studies, and supported in part by a UMN Imagine Grant.

Shendar is former Deputy Director and Senior Art Curator at Yad Vashem (Israel), where she founded the International Holocaust Art Research Center. Currently she is a member of the Schwabinger Kunstfund, the international task force comprised of experts researching provenance of the Cornelius Gurlitt cache of Nazi-looted art found in Munich in 2013.

We are thrilled to welcome Yehudit Shendar back to campus to share her expertise with the UMN and Twin Cities communities!

## Sneak Peek of Upcoming 2016-2017 Programming

As we close out the 2015-2016 academic year, and dive into summer, we wanted to share a preview of next year's highlights.

In the Fall we will have a panel discussion on [Mass Grave Exhumations in the Age of Human Rights](#) and presentation of the volume *Necropolitcs* with anthropologists Anthony Robben

[research at the Shoah Visual History Foundation on Guatemalan Survivor Testimony](#)

[Clash Over Armenian Genocide Recognition](#)

[IHRA Adopts Working Definition of "Antisemitism"](#)

[Commemoration of 41st Anniversary of Genocide in Cambodia. More information at the Documentation Center of Cambodia](#)

Follow Us!



(University of Utrecht) and Francisco Ferrandiz (Spanish National Research Council). In Spring, we are planning an exhibition of Holocaust art with Minneapolis and St. Paul Jewish Community Centers in lead-up and complement to [Yehudit Shendar's Spring 2017 visit](#), and we are pleased to be organizing an International Symposium on "Comparative Genocide Studies and the Holocaust" with Ohanessian Chair Joachim Savelsberg, and collaborating also with the University of St. Thomas on this project to present keynote address and 2017 Ohanessian Chair Lecture by [Timothy Snyder](#), historian, public intellectual, and author.

All this in addition to the roll-out of our new website and collections and archives migration projects, and more collaborations, exhibitions, and talks TBA. Stay tuned for more to come!

## Upcoming UMN Courses & Student Opportunities

### Fall 2016 Courses

[AFRO 3436 - Contemporary African Conflicts: From Somalia to South Africa](#)

Instructor: Allen Isaacman

[GLOS 3401W - International Human Rights Law](#)

Instructor: Barbara Frey

[HIST 3729 - Nazi Germany and Hitler's Europe](#)

Instructor: Igor Tchoukarine

[JWST 3601: Fleeing Hitler: German and Austrian Filmmakers Between Europe and Hollywood](#)

Instructor: Rick Mc Cormick

[POL 4465 - Democracy and Dictatorship in Southeast Asia](#)

Instructor: Teri Caraway

[SOC 4461: Sociology of Ethnic and Racial Conflict](#)

Instructor: Ron Aminzade

[SPAN 3221 - Interpreting Colonial Latin America: Empire and Early Modernity](#)

Instructor: Raul Marrero-Fente

**Upcoming deadlines for conference proposals and paper submission are posted on the [CHGS website](#).**

## Eye on Africa

### Is "Genocide" Still A Scary Label?

by Wahutu Siguru and Fata Acquoi

The conflict in Darfur has widely been recognized as the first "genocide" of the twenty-first century. Though this recognition is well-known, the 2008 joint United Nations and African Union peacekeeping mission to Darfur failed to stop the genocide, and more specifically the ethnic-cleansing program enacted by the current regime in Darfur. This included rape and torture of women and children. According to the Sudan Democracy First Group, a coalition of civil society organizations, there are about two million Internally Displaced Persons in Darfur, of which over 200,000 were displaced in 2015 alone. This suffering is widely felt throughout Darfur, and has not diminished, though it seems that concern for these people by the international community certainly has diminished...

[Read the full article on the CHGS Blog...](#)

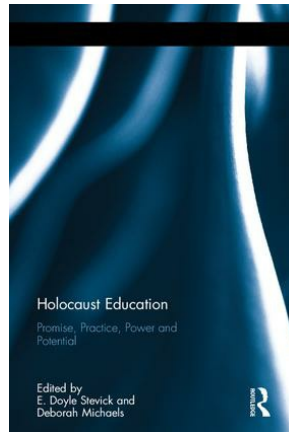
This month's contribution is by Fata Acquoi, who recently graduated with a double major in Sociology and Political Science at the UMN. She intends on pursuing a graduate degree in Human Rights. Her contribution is a snippet of a class assignment that focused on the role of the international community in dealing with alleged perpetrators of genocide and mass atrocity.

## Book of the Month

### [Holocaust Education: Promise, Practice, Power and Potential](#)

Edited by E. Doyle Stevick and Deborah L. Michaels

*Holocaust Education: Promise, Practice, Power and Potential* provides timely studies of some of the most pressing issues in teaching and learning about the Holocaust around the world. Europe is experiencing both anti-Semitic attacks, many by radicals claiming the banner of Islam, and the resurgence of right wing movements that are openly hostile to minority rights, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups like the Roma/Sinti, and Muslim refugees.



Can

Holocaust education, an encounter with the most extreme racial ideology to afflict the continent, reduce violence and prejudice against Jewish and other minority groups? The important studies in this volume address these and other pressing issues for the field, including the progress of Central and Eastern European countries that experienced both Soviet hegemony and Nazi terror in grappling with the history of the Holocaust. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Intercultural Education*.

## Film Review

### **Making Germany Great Again: Hitler returns, in Look Who's Back**

by Jodi Elowitz



Look Who's Back, 2015.

The idea of reviving a historical figure to return from the dead to our own time period is not new. Many novels and films have dealt with this premise, though usually they focus on the return of someone likable. In the German film "Look Who's Back" (*Er ist wieder da*) we get Adolf Hitler in Berlin circa 2014.

Billed as a comedy, "Look Who's Back" opens in the clouds, reminiscent of

Leni Riefenstahl's 1935 propaganda masterpiece, "Triumph of the Will." At first, *Look* plays like a science fiction film around the return of the deceased. It turns into a buddy-road picture, as Hitler and the recently fired, down-on-his-luck filmmaker Fabian Sawatzki

(played by Fabian Busch) drive about Germany in Fabian's mother's floral delivery van. They film people's reactions to Hitler in the hopes that Fabian can get the footage on the air at the TV station that fired him. (These scenes are actual reactions of unsuspecting people on the street to Hitler as played by the actor Oliver Masucci.) Is it a comedy? Yes. Is it funny? Yes. There are laugh-out-loud moments, several moments of uncomfortable laughter, as well as a few cringe-inducing scenes...

[Read full review on the CHGS Blog...](#)

*Jodi Elowitz is an adjunct professor of the Humanities at Gateway Community College in Phoenix, Arizona and the former Program 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 with an emphasis on work done in the camps and ghettos.*

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