

SURVIVORS' TOIL
*The First Decade of Documenting
and Studying the Holocaust*

2.-4.11.2022

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for
Holocaust Studies (VWI)
1010 Vienna, Rabensteig 3

SIMON
WIESENTHAL
CONFERENCE

WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (VWI)



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and Studying the Holocaust***

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In December 1945, in the introduction to the first edition of his monograph *The Destruction of the Jews of Lwow*, Philip Friedman expressed his sense of urgency for Holocaust scholarship – an urgency due in part to the growing number of trials of war criminals. As a trained historian and Holocaust survivor, Friedman hoped that every new publication addressing the crimes against Jews would fight fascism ‘putting a nail in the coffin of this religion of hatred and ideology of genocide.’ During his time as director of the Central Jewish Historical Commission in Poland, his understanding of the importance of Holocaust scholarship was shared by other survivor scholars all throughout Europe. Working in diverse political frameworks and relying on communal support, these men and women helped build the foundations of documentation and research centres, developed methodologies, examined primary sources, and reflected on some of the challenges of the emerging field.

This conference seeks to open a discussion about the crucial first decade of institution building, methodological experimentation, and political negotiations around the study of the Hurban as a European Jewish catastrophe. It will follow up on recent research that surveys pioneering scholars, collective projects, institutions, and publications. The conference will focus on the historical contexts of survivors’ initiatives, their

entanglements, their modes of communication within the Jewish community and beyond, their search for an appropriate language and methodology, and their efforts to preserve and create historical sources and their exploring of different disciplinary approaches. It is the aim of the conference to reformulate these questions in an extended and comparative perspective of the European aftermath of the Second World War.

In particular, this conference builds on the 2012 Simon Wiesenthal International Conference *Before the Holocaust Had Its Name: Early Confrontations of the Nazi Mass Murder of the Jews*, which brought together scholars working to uncover networks and practices in early Holocaust scholarship. Also in 2012, Laura Jockusch's compelling study *Collect and Record! Jewish Holocaust Documentation in Early Postwar Europe* was published, which examined the efforts of a diverse community of Holocaust scholars working in the Jewish historical commissions. Now, ten years later, this conference will provide an opportunity to revisit, sharpen and broaden those findings.

Wednesday, 2 November 2022

13:00 **WELCOME**

JOCHEN BÖHLER

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

ÉVA KOVÁCS

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

NATALIA ALEKSIUN

(University of Florida)

13:15–14:00

Keynote

LAURA JOCKUSCH *(Brandeis University, Massachusetts)*

Survivors' Toil and Aftermath Histories: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead

Chair: **JOCHEN BÖHLER**

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

14:00 Coffee Break

14:30–16:30

The Ethics of Documenting

Chair: **ÉVA KOVÁCS**

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

14:30 **DAN STONE** *(Royal Holloway, University of London)*

Survival through Stupor: Eddy de Wind and Early-Postwar Psychoanalytic Studies of the Nazi Concentration Camps

14:55 **CHRISTINE SCHMIDT** *(The Wiener Holocaust Library, London)*

VICTORIA MARTINEZ *(Linköping University, Sweden)*

Survivor-Interviewers as Companions of Misery: A Comparative View from Post-war Sweden and England

- 15:20 **DIMITRIOS VARVARITIS** (*University of Vienna*)
 “And yet they did not all perish”: Isaac Matarasso and the
 Early Accounts of the Shoah in Greece
- 15:45 **DANIEL SCHUCH** (*Friedrich Schiller University Jena*)
 “A man-made holocaust”: David P. Boder’s 1946 Audio Re-
 cordings as Pioneering Research on Trauma
- 16:10 Discussion

16:30 Coffee Break

17:00–19:00

Building Documentation Networks

Chair: **MICHAEL L. MILLER**

(*Central European University – CEU*)

- 17:00 **EWA KOŹMIŃSKA-FREJLAK**
 (*The International Institute for Holocaust Research, Yad Vashem*)
 Who Were They? Employees and Associates of the Jewish
 Historical Commission in Poland: A Collective Portrait
- 17:25 **RITA HORVÁTH** (*Vienna*)
 The First Historical Studies about the Holocaust in Hungary
 Prepared by The National Relief Committee for Deportees
- 17:50 **SARA BUDA**
 (*Jewish Contemporary Documentation Center Foundation – CDEC, Milan*)
 Massimo Adolfo Vitale and the Research Committee on Jew-
 ish Deportees Contribution to Historiography
- 18:15 **KATA BOHUS** (*University of Tromsø, Norway*)
 “This mystery will be hard to solve”: Hungarian Holocaust
 Survivors, Diplomacy, and the Transnational Aspects of
 Raoul Wallenberg’s Early Memory
- 18:40 Discussion

THURSDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2022

9:00–10:00

“Simon Wiesenthal in Linz” – A Guided Tour of the VWI Archives

KINGA FROJIMOVICS & SANDRA WEISS

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

10:00–12:00

Politics of Holocaust Documentation and Research

Chair: PHILIPP ROHRBACH

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

10:00 **MÁTÉ ZOMBORY** *(ELTE University, Budapest)*

The Crucial Fifties: Jenő Lévai in the International (Political) Field of Holocaust Documentation

10:25 **DANIELA OZACKY STERN**

(Western Galilee College & Bar Ilan University, Israel)

Fighters and Documenters: Former Jewish Partisans' Activity in the Immediate War Years

10:50 **SABINA FERHADBEGOVIĆ** *(Friedrich Schiller University Jena)*

Albert Vajs, the State Commission, and the Documentation of the Holocaust in Yugoslavia

11:15 **ALEXANDER WALTHER** *(Friedrich Schiller University Jena)*

An Early Attempt of an Integrated History? Helmut Eschwege and Holocaust Research in the GDR

11:40 Discussion

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00–15:00

The Making of Holocaust Research Institutions

Chair: STEPHEN NARON

(Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University & Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

13:00 **STEFANIA ZEZZA** *(Tor Vergata University, Rome)*

“Tell This to the Living” – Isaac A. Matarasso

- 13:25 **MALENA CHINSKI** (*Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, Paris*)
Shmerke Kaczerginski (1908–1954), Independent Researcher
and Collector of Holocaust Songs
- 13:50 **JUSTYNA MAJEWSKA** (*Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw*)
The Ringelblum Archive from 1940 until Today
- 14:15 **OLGA KARTASHOVA** (*New York University*)
The International Networks and Polish Jews' Efforts to Pro-
secute Nazi Criminals
- 14:40 Discussion
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15:00 Coffee Break

15:30–17:30

The Culture of Testimonies

Chair: **MARIANNE WINDSPERGER**

(*Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI*)

- 15:30 **ELENI BEZE** (*University of Thessaly, Greece*)
Early Female Voices on the Shoah in Greece
- 15:55 **THOMAS CHOPARD** (*INALCO & CEF, Paris*)
CLAIRE ZALC (*CNRS & EHESS, Paris*)
Linking Memorial Books, the Holocaust and Post-war Com-
munities: the Case of Lubartów
- 16:20 **NATALIA ALEKSIUN** (*University of Florida*)
Pages of Jewish History as a Testimony: The Making of
Bleter far geschichte
- 16:45 **HENRIETTE-RIKA BENVENISTE** (*University of Thessaly, Greece*)
Marriage and Emigration in the Early Post-Shoah Corre-
spondence of Greek Jewish Survivors
- 17:10 Discussion
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17:30 Coffee Break

18:00–19:00

My Father Szymon Datner –

An Evening Talk With Helena Datner (*Warsaw*)

Chair: **NATALIA ALEKSIUN** (*University of Florida*)

FRIDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 2022

9:00–10:30

The Challenges of Methodology and Terminology

Chair: **JULIE DAWSON**

(Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, Paris)

9:00 **PHILIP SCHWARTZ** *(Polish Academy of Sciences)*

Elye Spivak's 1946 Study about the Soviet Yiddish Discourse on War and Holocaust

9:25 **KATRIN STOLL**

(Imre Kertész Kolleg, Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

Documentary Truth: Nachman Blumental's in situ Study of "Vernichtungswissenschaft" in Poland, 1944–1950

9:50 **AURÉLIA KALISKY** *(Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin)*

At the Crossroads of Disciplines: Unclassifiable Knowledge and Pioneer Methodologies

10:15 Discussion

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00–13:00

Material Culture of Documentation

Chair: **ZUZANNA DZIUBAN**

(Austrian Academy of Sciences - ÖAW)

11:00 **DÓRA PATARICZA** *(Szeged Jewish Community, Hungary)*

The Return to Szeged (Hungary) in the Lights of the Survivors' Report Cards of the Szeged Jewish Archives

11:25 **VIKTÓRIA BÁNYAI** *(Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest)*

The Parchments of Remembrance: Megillot for the Tomb of the Unknown Jewish Martyr in Paris, 1956

11:50 **RACHEL E. PERRY**

(University of Haifa, Weiss Livnat Graduate Program in Holocaust Studies)

Not by Word Alone: The Graphic Album as Medium of
Holocaust Memory

12:15 **ALINA BOTHE**

(Center for Research on Antisemitism, Berlin)

CHRISTOPH KREUTZMÜLLER

(Arolsen Archives & House of the Wannsee Conference, Germany)

Saving Pictures – The *Last Seen* Project

12:40 Discussion

13:00–13:30

Closing Remarks

NATALIA ALEKSIUN

(University of Florida)

ÉVA KOVÁCS

(Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)

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
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