

EINLADUNG

SIMON WIESENTHAL LECTURE

CHRISTOPHER R. BROWNING

HOLOCAUST HISTORY AND SURVIVOR

TESTIMONY: THE CASE OF THE STARACHOWICE

FACTORY SLAVE LABOUR CAMPS

Donnerstag, 18. Oktober 2012, 18.30 Uhr
Dachfoyer des Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchivs
1010 Wien, Minoritenplatz 1

WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (VWI)



The factory slave labour camps of Nazi Germany have been an understudied phenomenon of the Holocaust. The large collections of survivor testimonies have been an underutilised source for writing Holocaust history. Through examining the post-war testimonies of 292 survivors of the factory slave labour camps in Starachowice, Poland, given between 1945 and 2008, Browning attempts to examine both the considerable benefits and potential pitfalls that such sources hold for the Holocaust historian. At the same time, through a case study of a single complex of factory slave labour camps, he attempts to illuminate wider issues concerning the Nazi exploitation of Jewish slave labour, the complicity of German industrialists, the conflict between ideologically-driven mass murder and wartime economic necessity within the Nazi regime, the internal dynamics of the slave labour community, and the survival strategies they pursued.

Christopher R. Browning is the *Frank Porter Graham Professor of History* at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has delivered the George Macaulay Trevelyan Lectures at the University of Cambridge and the George L. Mosse Lectures at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research has focused on Holocaust perpetrators and the decision-making process that led to the "Final Solution". Among his books published in German are *Ganz normale Männer, Die Entfesselung der Endlösung,* and *Die Endlösung und das Auswärtige Amt.* He has also served as an expert witness in the Holocaust denial trial of Ernst Zündel in Toronto in 1988 and David Irving's libel suit against Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books in London in 2000.

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