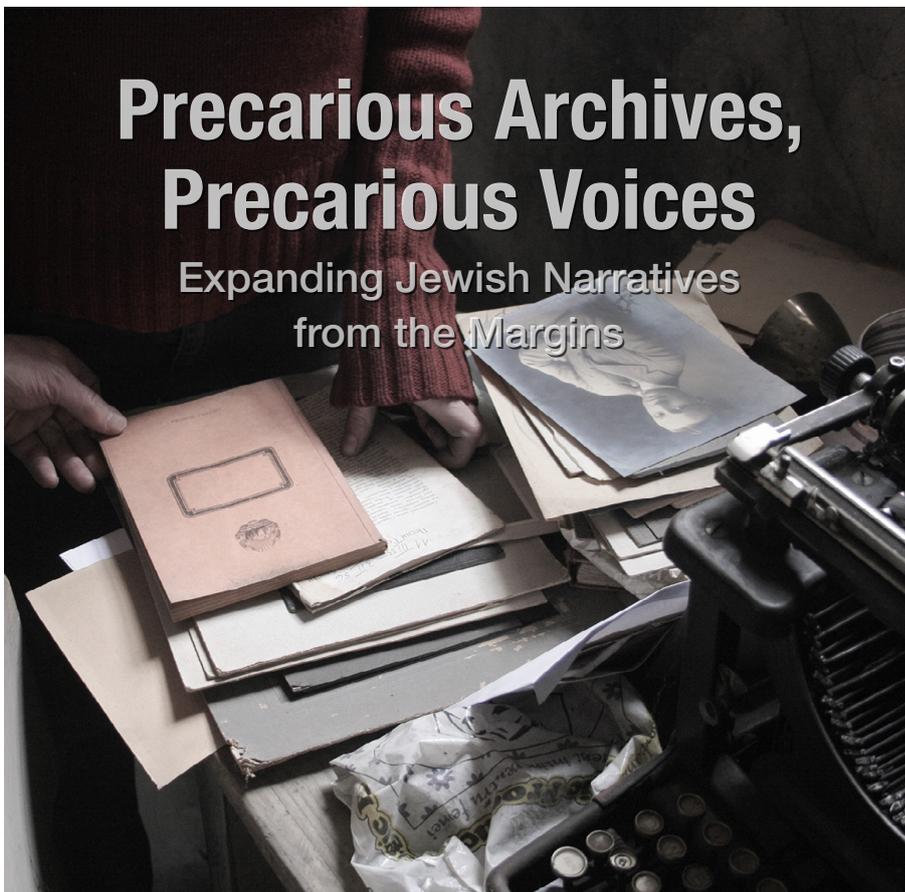


Precarious Archives, Precarious Voices

Expanding Jewish Narratives
from the Margins



Workshop

Vienna, 17–19 November 2021

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)

1010 Vienna, Rabensteig 3

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Marianne Windsperger (VWI) studied Comparative Literature and Romance Languages (Spanish and French) at the University of Vienna. Since March 2018 she is a research assistant at the VWI. From 2014 to 2017 she worked as a predoctoral assistant at the Institute for German Studies (University of Vienna). She is a member of the executive board of the Theodor Kramer Society for Exile Studies in Vienna. Research interests: literary representations of the Holocaust, Yiddish literature, and memory studies. Most recent publications: (together Olaf Terpitz, Ed.) *Places and Media of Encounter. Transfer, Mediality and Situativity of Jewish Literatures, Leiden* (2021); *Preserving Lived Contexts. Yizker bikher as Portable Archives from Transgenerational Perspective* (2021); (together with Konstantin Kaiser, Irene Nawrocka, Corina Prochazka, Ed.), *Jahrbuch Zwischenwelt 15 Lebenspuren. Autobiografik von Exil, Widerstand, Verfolgung und Lagererfahrung, Klagenfurt/Celovec* (2020).

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Mirjam Wilhelm (VWI), studied art history and curatorial studies at Trier University and Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. She holds a PhD from the Institute of Art and Visual Culture at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg and joined the VWI in January 2021 as a project collaborator for the EU-funded EHRI project. Previously, she has worked as a research assistant at Yale University (2018) and at the interdisciplinary Frankfurt Humanities Research Centre (FZHG) curating the digital image database for the project "Erinnerungspolitik und Bildgebrauch" (2015-2016). She has received several fellowships, for instance, from the German Academic Scholarship foundation and from the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. Her research interests encompass: the Visual History of the Holocaust, Jewish Women Artists under Nazi persecution, Digital Humanities as well as Gender and Queer Studies. Most recent publication: "Vjera Biller (1903-1940) and the Neo-Byzantine – A Jewish avant-Gardist in Budapest, Berlin, Belgrade and Beyond", in: Renate Hansen-Kokoruš and Olaf Terpitz (eds.), *Jewish Literatures and Cultures in Southeastern Europe. Experiences, Positions, Memory*. Vienna: Böhlau (2021), 197-213.

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Gábor Kádár, PhD, is the Director of the Yerusha Project, a digital humanities initiative by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe and a recurrent visiting professor of the Jewish Studies Program of the Central European University (Budapest – Vienna). He is former Senior Historian of the Hungarian Jewish Archives, Budapest. He is the author and co-author of six monographs and numerous studies, articles and encyclopedia entries regarding various aspects of the history of Jews in Hungary as well as the history of genocide and ethnic violence in Central Europe. He has led and participated in archival research projects for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem. Dr Kadar is also a member of the Digital Forum Advisory Board of the European Association of Jewish Studies.

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Johanna Gehmacher (Women's and Gender History Research Group of the University of Vienna) has been teaching at the Institute of Contemporary History since 1998. Since 2001 she is extraordinary university professor at the University of Vienna. She has held a number of university functions (including head of department (2012-2014)) and is currently speaker of the key research area women's and gender history at the Faculty for Historical and Cultural Studies. In the academic year 2018/19, she was the Gerda Henkel Visiting Professor at the German Historical Institute London and at the London School of Economics. She is a member of the interdisciplinary network 'Biographieforschung' co-editor of the Austrian Journal of Historical Studies (OeZG).

Panel 1: Gendered Experiences of the Holocaust: Between Violence and Resistance

Wednesday, 17 November 2021
14:00-15:15

Chair: Helga Amesberger (Institute of Conflict Research, Vienna)

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Helga Amesberger (Institut of Conflict Research) is a social scientist and long-term member of the institute. Her research focusses on Women under Nazi persecution, the Politics of Prostitution and Violence against Women. She received the Käthe Leichter award in 2011 and, most recently, she was awarded with the Margaretha Lupac Award from the Austrian parliament for her studies in social history. Most recent publications: Helga Amesberger & Brigitte Halbmayr (2021): "Der lange Weg. Weibliche Häftlinge im KZ-System Mauthausen", in: Alexander Prenninger et al. (eds.): *Deportiert nach Mauthausen. Europa in Mauthausen*, Vol. 2, Vienna/Cologne/Weimar: Böhlau, 457-490; Helga Amesberger, Brigitte Halbmayr & Elke Rajal (2020): *Stigma asozial. Geschlechtsspezifische Konstruktionen, behördliche Routinen und Orte der Verfolgung im Nationalsozialismus*, Vienna.

Hanna Abakunova
(Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

Patterns of Memory: Jewish and Roma Women's Self-Rescue and Resistance During the Nazi Occupation in Ukraine

The voices of Jewish and Romani women are still marginalized, particularly when it comes to the topics of resistance and self-rescue. Regarding the Holocaust in Ukraine, the gender factor very recently started to be examined by western scholars but not within the topic of self-rescue or resistance. Nevertheless, Jewish and Romani women had had that driving power to self-rescue and rescue their children during the Nazi occupation of Soviet Ukraine and found out numerous ways and methods for this purpose. Some of the women joined the partisan movements of Soviet Ukraine and in this way tried to self-rescue. Others tried to escape, to bribe occupiers, to hide themselves and their children and several other methods to self-rescue while demonstrating a lot of courageous, persistence and strong will. The most difficult way to rescue her own child for Jewish women was handing her/him over to non-Jewish adults. It occurred usually when the ghettos were supposed to be liquidated and Jewish women understood that they can save only children (or a child) and had to make uneasy decision.

The narrations about these and other situations were revealed in testimonies of Jewish and Romani women who survived the Holocaust. The patterns of women's traumatic memory as self-rescuers such as decision making, methods employed for self-rescuing or/and resisting, and transmitting the mother role to older daughters will be discussed during the conference. A special attention will be drawn on a comparative perspective of Jewish and Romani women's recollections as well as on recollections recorded by organisations (such as Yahad in-Unum, YIVO, and the USC Shoah Foundation) and recorded during the author's fieldworks in Ukraine, Moldova and Israel that included ethnographic and case studies methods.

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Hanna (Anna) Abakunova currently is a postdoctoral researcher at Yad Vashem (Israel). She was a recipient of several research fellowships at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, EHRI (Bundesarchiv), Yahad-in Unum (Paris), and others. She is the co-author of the *The Genocide and Persecution of Roma and Sinti: Bibliography and Historiographical Review* published by IHRA (2016). Abakunova's research interests include the rescue and self-rescue of Jews and Roma in Ukraine in a comparative perspective, inter-ethnic relations in Transnistria and southern Ukraine, and memory about the persecution of Roma and Jews.

Gideon Reuveni

(The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies)

The Spoken, the Hidden, and the Historical: Personal Compensation Claims from Germany and the lost Voices of Jewish Women

On the 10 of September 1952 the State of Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany signed a reparations settlement, also known as the Luxembourg agreement, according to which Germany was to pay Israel the costs for “the heavy burden of resettling so great a number of uprooted and destitute Jewish refugees from Germany and from territories formerly under German rule.” The agreement also included a supplemental in which West Germany acknowledged the right of Holocaust survivors to claim personal compensation for deprivation of liberty, losses of livelihood and property resulting from Nazi persecution. German archives hold today around 5 million such claims that were made since the beginning of the 1950s, and the process is still ongoing. The claims contain testimonies as well as supporting evidence of all kinds, providing much information on Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust. This is probably the largest still untapped Holocaust related archive we have. Focusing on one case study of a compensation claim by a woman named Chaya Lea Weiz, my paper will explore the multifaceted interplay between the spoken, what is hidden, and the historical, revealing the ways in which historical subjectivities are shaped and transformed by structures imposed on survivors. Born in Kalisz to an Orthodox family in 1900, we know very little on the life of Lea Weiz before September 1939. Most the information we have on Weiz is from her compensation claim, which unveils a dramatic life story of resilience and resourcefulness. The paper will thus suggest that more research on personal compensation claims could help us gain a better understanding of changing conceptions of historical selfhood as well as to give us access to lost voices of men and women that otherwise did not leave many traces from their lives.

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Gideon Reuveni is director of the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex. In his scholarly work Reuveni have sought out the fringes of the historical discipline, to reach those areas of research and theory where the historical method meets literature, anthropology, cultural studies, and economics. He has published widely on such diverse topics as historiography, sport, reading culture, Jewish economic history, and the First World War. His most recent monograph is *Consumer Culture and the Making of Jewish Identity*, which was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. This book received the National Jewish Book award the following year. Reuveni is currently working on the topic of personal compensation to Holocaust survivors and with Daniel Siemens is developing a large-scale research project on the history of The United Restitution Organization (URO), a Jewish legal aid organization founded in London in 1948.

Marta Havryshko
(Center for Holocaust Studies/IfZ Munich)

Rape on Trial: Voices of Jewish Women during the Soviet War Crimes Trials

After proclaiming Ukrainian Independence in 1991, the documents of the Soviet Security Service (former KGB archive) become gradually available to historians and the broader public. The most liberal access to the archives was made possible only in recent years. Those rich materials contain a lot of documents of Soviet War Crimes Trials. Those materials show that some of the defendants were accused of sexual violence perpetrated during the Second World War. But in most cases, there were only Jewish and non-Jewish witnesses who talked about this. Only a small number of cases contain rape survivor's testimonies, mostly women. The primary reason is that many likely victims of sexual violence did not survive the Holocaust. And among those who survived, not everyone was probably willing to testify about sexual violence for various reasons. But those testimonies given by female Holocaust survivors are very powerful. The women described sexual violence they underwent both from actual defendants and Germans and their accomplices who were not directly involved in any investigations. This presentation will address the following questions: How the legal procedures and investigators' identity influenced women's willingness to speak up or keep silence about their traumatic experience? What could we learn about women's sexual victimization during the Holocaust from these materials? Could we hear women's voices through this type of source, considering that all testimonies are written by Soviet investigators, not by witnesses themselves? How Soviets instrumentalized women's testimonies about wartime rape for political purposes?

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Marta Havryshko was trained as a historian at the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. She holds a Ph.D. in History. She is a Research Associate at the I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. Also currently, Havryshko is a Gerda Henkel Research Fellow at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies. Her research interests are primarily focused on sexual violence during the Holocaust and World War II in Ukraine, women's and gender history, Ukrainian nationalism, and oral history. In 2020-2021 she was a postdoctoral fellow at the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem. Besides, Havryshko was a recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including those from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Monash University, German Historical Institute in Warsaw, German Academic Exchange Service, and Yahad-In Unum. Recent publications: *Overcoming Silence: Women's War Stories* (Kharkiv, 2019, in Ukrainian).

Panel 2: Methods and Materials: Digital Approaches

Wednesday, 17 November 2021
15:30-17:10

Chair: Gábor Kádár (Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe)

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Gábor Kádár (Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe), PhD, is the Director of the Yerusha Project, a digital humanities initiative by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe and a recurrent visiting professor of the Jewish Studies Program of the Central European University (Budapest – Vienna). He is former Senior Historian of the Hungarian Jewish Archives, Budapest. He is the author and co-author of six monographs and numerous studies, articles and encyclopedia entries regarding various aspects of the history of Jews in Hungary as well as the history of genocide and ethnic violence in Central Europe. He has led and participated in archival research projects for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem. Dr Kadar is also a member of the Digital Forum Advisory Board of the European Association of Jewish Studies.

Excavating Voices in a Cross-Archival Approach: DEGOB Testimonies Aligning to ITS Documentation

In our presentation, we will first introduce the documenting operation of the Hungarian National Committee for Attending Deportees (DEGOB). In Holocaust historiography, DEGOB is mainly remembered for its creation of the invaluable database consisting of recorded personal stories of almost 5,000 Hungarian Holocaust survivors between 1945 and 1946. Next to conducting interviews with survivors, the main tasks of the organization also included offering aid to the recently arrived deportees, documentation of all obtained information, and sending expeditions to previous concentration and displaced persons camps in order to bring back survivors to Hungary. Therefore, taking the transnational objectives of DEGOB operations into consideration, we find it important to link their findings with external sources that talk about the very nature of their inquiry in order to follow survivor routes and information pathways to and from Hungary. We will do so by examining the content of those DEGOB protocols that recorded survivor testimonies related to DP camps, which we then cross-examine with matching results to ITS documents in the Arolsen Archives. The Arolsen (then International Tracing Service) Archive was opened to the public in 2007. The Archive contains invaluable materials connected not only to the Holocaust but also its aftermath. Through such research we aim to understand the movements of Hungarian Holocaust survivors, their aims and efforts in movement, and the thus learnt priorities that were articulated when interviewed. Besides aiming to expand on the social historical understanding of survivors through tracing them transnationally, our approach will further speak to the methodology of integrating multiple archival depositories and sources for the same set of questions.

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Ildikó Barna is a sociologist. She is an Associate Professor and the Head of the Department of Social Research Methodology at ELTE University Faculty of Social Sciences, Budapest. Her research topics include antisemitism, Jewish Holocaust survivors, and quantitative research on archival sources. She is the co-leader of the Research Center for Computational Social Science (rc2s2.elte.hu/en), where she is the principal investigator of the Digital Lens project. In the project, we analyze Hungarian Jewish Holocaust survivors' immediate post-war testimonies conducted by the National Committee for Attending Deportees (DEGOB) using the tools of computational social science and computational history.

Alexandra M. Szabó is a PhD student at Brandeis University in the field of Holocaust history. Her dissertation research focuses on fertility events and experiences that translate to sexual violence among Hungarian persecuted Jewish and Roma women. She is also the researcher of the Digital Lens project under the Research Center for Computational Social Science, analyzing immediate postwar survivor testimonies with the tools of computational social science and computational history. Alexandra is the recipient of the Crown Fellowship at Brandeis University, the Dr. Elemér and Eva Kiss Scholarship at the Hungarian American Coalition, and the 2021 Conny Kristel Fellowship of EHRI.

Anastasia Felcher

(Vera & Donald Blinken Open Society Archives, Budapest/CEU, Vienna)

Documenting Jewish Lives in the Cold War. Evidences From Behind the Iron Curtain and beyond

The paper reviews an extensive and diversified archival collection on Jewish lives in Central and Southeast Europe held at the Blinken Open Society Archives at CEU in Budapest. The Blinken OSA has been preserving and collecting archival materials on Central and Southeast European Jewish history since the Archives were established in 1995. Today, the collection contains circa 2100 folders/items in 366 archival containers, covering the early 1930s and the Hungarian Holocaust from 1941-1945 through the post-1989 decade. The collection uniquely includes samizdat documents and pairs facts with knowledge production about the Jewish populations. The collection brings together official and underground primary sources of Jews as an ethnic, religious, and intellectual community. Originally compiled by the Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Research Institute and the Open Media Research Institute (OMRI), the collection contains news agency releases, research reports, national radio and television monitoring transcripts, radio broadcast transcripts, as well as newspaper clippings from Central, Southeast European [including Soviet] and Western press. The material covers information on Jews as a minority group, anti-Semitism, nationalism, Jewish associations, societies, unions and organizations, Judaism, religious holidays, Zionism, emigration, refuse-niks, protests, Jewish samizdat and Jewish revival in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union. Reviewing the thematic and geographic distribution of the Judaica collection, the paper addresses the principles, according to which the RFE/RL and OMRI collected and labeled the documents on Central and Southeast European Jewish lives after WWII. By doing so, the paper highlights major, but also overlooked narratives that are to be found in the Blinken OSA Judaica collection. The paper also informs on the latest efforts of the archival specialists at the Blinken OSA to re-analyze and re-catalog the Judaica collection to make it more accessible for students, researchers, professionals, genealogists, and Jewish organizations worldwide.

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Anastasia Felcher specializes in the cultural history of East European borderlands. Currently, she is employed as the Archivist responsible for the Slavic Collection at the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives at the Central European University in Budapest. She holds a PhD in Cultural Heritage Management and Development from the Scuola IMT Alti Studii Lucca (2016). Anastasia has received fellowships at the German Historical Institute in Moscow (2017), the Leibniz Institute for History and Culture of Eastern Europe in Leipzig (2019), and the Center for Advanced Studies Sofia (2019–2020). In addition, she worked as a country expert for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, EHRI (2018–2019). She has published on the heritage of minorities in pluralistic societies, dilemmas of Jewish heritage in the post-Holocaust age, and literature and politics in Eastern Europe.

Heléna Huhák (Research Centre for the Humanities, Budapest)

András Szécsényi (Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security, Budapest)

The Holocaust Memorial Center's Collection and Its Contexts

Since the early 2000s, there has been increasing interest in the ego documents of the victims of the Holocaust in the international academic discourse, however, these sources have stayed underrepresented in Hungarian historiography. Recent works on the Holocaust in Hungary—with some exceptions—are rarely based on subjective sources, the dominance of archival and press materials featured the field. This inquiry would like to contribute to reveal the history and collecting practices of the most significant collection of private sources on the Hungarian Holocaust. We focus on the collections that were established by the Committee for the Persecuted of Nazism and the Hungarian Auschwitz Foundation during and after the Communist regime. These sources donated by survivors and their relatives became the basis of the collections of the Holocaust Memorial Museum, which was established in 2002, Budapest as a public foundation. The first part of the presentation gives an overview of the development of the collections from 1957 to the transition that embedded in the ambivalent attitude of the Kádár regime to the memory of the Holocaust. After that, we point out what changed in the position of the collection by the establishment of the Holocaust Memorial Center and how the professional archiving work begun. Secondly, we demonstrate how the lack of professional collecting and archiving practices affected the integrity of the collection and the value of the sources as “data carriers”. However, many practices have changed for the last two decades, several problems (the ignorance of important topics and social groups) are present today, this collection offers the basis of research projects which follow a social historian, “bottom-up approach” and highlighted the victim's perspective and gender dimensions. Finally, we show some unique legacies or donations that had ended up in the collection in recent years despite the deficiencies of collection management.

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Heléna Huhák is an assistant research fellow in the Institute of History of the Research Centre for the Humanities (Budapest) and got a Ph.D. degree at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) in 2021. She had been working as a museologist in the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest between 2010 and 2017. She was co-writing and co-editing the *Holocaust Memorial Center Budapest Collection Catalog* (with András Szécsényi), which was published in Hungarian (2015) and English (2019) languages. She is currently working on a monograph on the history of the Hungarian Jewish deportees of Bergen-Belsen (with András Szécsényi). Her recent publications are: *Place Attachment in a Concentration Camp: Bergen-Belsen. The Hungarian Historical Review*, 9/3 (2020) 430–451.; *The Role of the Forest in Margit Holländer's diary. Narratives Offered by a Cowberry Stem*. In: *Micro-Historical Perspective on an Integrated History of the Holocaust*. Berlin: Center for Research on Antisemitism, Technical University, Berlin and DeGruyter, (forthcoming 2021).

András Szécsényi is a research fellow in the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security (Budapest) and got a Ph.D. degree at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) in 2015. He had been working as Head of Collections in the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest between 2005 and 2017. He was co-writing and co-editing the *Holocaust Memorial Center Budapest Collection Catalog* (with Heléna Huhák), which was published in Hungarian (2015) and English (2019) languages. He is currently working on a monograph on the history of the Hungarian Jewish deportees of Bergen-Belsen (with Heléna Huhák). He is the author or coauthor of three books, co-editor of four books, as well as app.100 studies, articles, and online exhibitions. His recent publications are *Hilliersleben: Spatial Experiences of a Hungarian Jew in a German DP Camp, 1945. The Hungarian Historical Review* 9/3 (2020) 470–490. (coeditor of the Thematic issue with Alexandra M. Szabó); *Hungarian Refugees in Sweden: The Liberated Hungarian Deportees of Bergen-Belsen in Sweden (1945–1946)* In: *Hinter verschlossenen Toren. Die Internierung von Geflüchteten*. Ed. Gabriele Anderl. Vienna, Theodor Kramer Society. (forthcoming, 2021)

*Georg Vogt, Alexander Rind, Theresa Eckstein, Birgit Peter, Clemens Baumann
(RegioBioGraph, FH St. Pölten)*

RegioBioGraph – Forgotten Stories, Stories of Survival Conveying Local History Using Digital Means

The RegioBioGraph project explores the potential for local history education that has emerged as a result of ongoing digitalisation. Based on biographies and their regional context, the project explores narrative forms that combine elements of time-based media with data visualization. The resulting “RegioBioGraph” combines media and information elements based on visitor interaction and outputs them as narratives.

In the course of the project, new methods for presenting biographies are developed based on two case studies:

Case study I deals with the historical Jewish community of the Lower Austrian town of Groß-Enzersdorf. Here, relatively little detailed biographical information is available, but there exists a great deal of contextual information affecting all biographies.

Case Study II includes specific biographies that form the core of the film documentary „Über Weiter Leben“. These narrative interviews are available as a film.

At the beginning of the use cases and in-depth research, dramaturgical and narrative concepts are examined and adapted using the possibilities offered by data visualisation. Data formats are standardized and a prototypical visualization design is developed. Based on the data collected in two case studies, the prototype is evaluated in a regional museum and concrete guidelines for the narrative presentation of biographical information are derived. Thus, RegioBioGraph uses a transdisciplinary dialogue to develop the foundations of a new narrative form. The project results in a prototype of a „RegioBioGraph“ which is capable of constructing narratives based on specific questions. This prototype is tested in the environment of a local history museum. RegioBioGraph promotes knowledge about the mediatisation of history on an epistemological level and provides a dramaturgy for the digital means currently available following Hayden White’s understanding of history as a narrative act.

Project Webpage: <https://research.fhstp.ac.at/projekte/regiobiograph>

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Georg Vogt is a researcher, author, editor, filmmaker, and curator. He researches and teaches at St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences and Vienna University. He obtained his PhD in 2017 with a study on Camp aesthetics in German Cinema and is the coeditor of books on animation movies, Ferry Radax, the Eurovision Song Contest and Camp aesthetics. <https://icmt.fhstp.ac.at/team/georg-vogt>

Alexander Rind is a researcher at St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences. He focusses on methods of information visualization and Visual Analytics for embedding heterogenous time-oriented data derived from biographical sources (human work and life contexts). <https://icmt.fhstp.ac.at/team/alexander-rind>

Theresa Eckstein has studied theatre, film, and media studies at the University of Vienna and is a research member of RegioBioGraph. Her research focusses on Jewish actors and actresses in Theresienstadt. In 2017, she worked as a project assistant for the exhibition Völlig fraglich. Vergessene Geschichte des Archivs und der theaterhistorischen Sammlung des Instituts für Theater-, Film- und Medienwissenschaft der Universität Wien, 2017–2019. She developed, directed, and produced the film project Über Weiter Leben. Geschichten aus Wien. In 2020, she served as a guest curator for the exhibition Wir bitten zum Tanz! Der Wiener Cafetier Otto Pollak at the Jewish Museum Vienna. [https://ucris.univie.ac.at/portal/en/persons/theresa-eckstein\(1a7c553e-a74d-49d0-b819-06184f9d2ee0\)/publications.html](https://ucris.univie.ac.at/portal/en/persons/theresa-eckstein(1a7c553e-a74d-49d0-b819-06184f9d2ee0)/publications.html)

Birgit Peter has studied theatre studies and philosophy at the University of Vienna. She is the director of the archive and collections of the Department of Theatre, Film and Media Studies at Vienna University. Her research interests and publications encompass: Forgotten and Repressed Theatre History, The History of the Theatre, Nazi-Theatre, Circus and the History of Popular Media in Vienna. [https://ucris.univie.ac.at/portal/en/persons/birgit-peter\(e625c37b-28b5-4827-b834-55fb3119780e\)/publications.html](https://ucris.univie.ac.at/portal/en/persons/birgit-peter(e625c37b-28b5-4827-b834-55fb3119780e)/publications.html)

Clemens Baumann is a research assistant at the Institute of Creative Media/Technologies (IC/M/T) at the St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences. His research focusses on audiovisual media, storytelling, and virtual reality. Currently, he is engaged in the RegioBioGraph project as well as the „Immersive Media Lab“, which connects technical expertise on augmented and virtual reality with interdisciplinary research on immersive storytelling.

Natalia Aleksium
(Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Florida)

Keynote: When Fajga Left Tadeusz. Precarious Voices on Wartime Relationships

This lecture examines the post-war correspondence between Fajga Ginsburg, a Polish Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust in Lwów (today Lviv in Ukraine), and Tadeusz Kobyłko - a Pole who hid her and her niece. Their letters offer competing interpretations of intimate lives and individual dilemmas during the German occupation and its aftermath. Divided across several archives, these personal documents represent precarious voices which negotiate the complex history of their relationship. Fajga's letters express the emotional trauma of Jews who survived the Holocaust and show the lasting effects of post-war choices made by the survivors. Her letters also reveal how differently Faiga and Tadeusz understood their relationship and subsequent separation, in part due to their addressing different audiences whilst writing. While Fajga wrote personal letters to her husband, Tadeusz's letters were sent to various Jewish and Polish institutions and were more official in nature. His letters clearly echoed his anger at the "Jews" whom he blamed for the breakdown of his family, but they are also permeated by a sense of threat of post-war antisemitism in Poland, as he himself experienced it after Fajga's departure. Although the exchange of letters between Fajga and Tadeusz is rich and full of understatement, it refutes the stereotypes of a "nationalist Pole" and a "self-conscious Jew". Indeed, both categories turn out to be an oversimplification that does not reflect the complexity of the relationship, especially the one initiated under the duress of the Holocaust. The story that these documents tell, then, is also shaped by their broader archival context of Holocaust collections.

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Natalia Aleksium is Professor of Modern Jewish History at Touro College, Graduate School of Jewish Studies, New York. She has published widely on the social, political, and cultural history of East European and Polish Jewry and the Holocaust. In addition to her *Conscious History: Polish Jewish Historians before the Holocaust*, she is the author of *Dokąd dalej? Ruch syjonistyczny w Polsce, 1944–1950*. She published a critical edition of *Gerszon Taffet's Załoga Żydów żółkiewskich* and coedited volumes 20 and 29 of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* as well as *European Holocaust Studies (Places, Spaces and Voids in the Holocaust)*. She serves as co-editor of *East European Jewish Affairs*.

Chair:

Éva Kovács (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies – VWI)

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Éva Kovács (Prof. Dr., sociologist) is the Deputy Director (Academic Affairs) of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (Academic Affairs). Kovács studied sociology and economics at the Corvinus University in Budapest, PhD 1994, Habilitation 2009. She is also a Research Professor in the Institute of Sociology at the Center for Social Sciences in Budapest. Her research fields are the history of the Holocaust in Eastern and Central Europe, research on memory and remembrance, and Jewish identity in Hungary and Slovakia. She has authored five monographs, edited ten volumes, published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals, co-curated exhibitions in Budapest, Berlin, Bratislava, Krems, Prague, Vienna, and Warsaw. She is the founder of the digital audio-visual archive "Voices of the Twentieth Century" in Budapest. Her current research projects include the topography of the Hungarian Jewish forced labor in Vienna (1944/45).

Panel 3: Gendered Experiences of the Holocaust: Women's Voices

Thursday, 18 November 2021
09:30-10:45

Chair: Michael L. Miller (Central European University)

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Michael L. Miller (Central European University) is an associate professor in the Nationalism Studies program at Central European University in Budapest, and co-founder of its Jewish Studies program. He received his B.A. from Brown University, where he specialized in European History and Old World Archaeology and Art. He received his PhD in History from Columbia University, where he specialized in Jewish and Central European History. His research focuses on the impact of nationality conflicts on the religious, cultural, and political development of Central European Jewry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His articles have appeared in *Slavic Review*, *Austrian History Yearbook*, *Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook*, *Múlt és Jövő* and *The Jewish Quarterly Review*. Miller's book, *Rabbis and Revolution: The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation*, was published by Stanford University Press in 2011. He is one of the authors of *Zwischen Prag und Nikolsburg: Leben in den böhmischen Ländern* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2019), which will appear in English as *Prague and Beyond: Jews in the Bohemian Lands* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021).

Lauren Cantillon
(King's College London)

Dis-covering Overlooked Narratives of Sexual(ised) violence: Jewish Women's stories of 'Body Searches' in the Ghetto Spaces of Occupied Hungary during the Holocaust

Much of the literature on sexual(ised) violence during the Holocaust notes the rarity of women's first-hand recounting (Ringelheim 1997; Tec 2003; Chatwood 2008; Hedgepeth and Sidel 2010; Dror and Linn 2010; Gelbin 2013; Mühlhäuser 2016; Waxman 2017) and so has focussed on second-hand storytelling, the presence of silence, perpetrator narratives, or cultural representations of these assaults as depicted in film, museum exhibitions, art, and literature. My research so far suggests this is not the case; having conducted a large-scale survey of the holdings of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, I have identified over 400 women who disclose a first-hand account in a Holocaust 'testimony' narrative context. These overlooked narratives offer us new insight into hitherto unrecognised sites of systematic sexual(ised) violence against Jewish women and girls. Some of the most disturbing stories emerge from women's narratives of their time in the ghetto spaces of occupied Hungary, particularly regarding sexual assaults that scholars and the Visual History Archive euphemistically term/index as 'body searches' (Halbmayr 2010; Levekron 2010; Mailänder 2017; Mühlhäuser 2017), and the collaborative involvement in these assaults by state actors and local citizens. Why have these stories remained at the margins for so long?

Drawing on an interdisciplinary framework, this paper will explore the vocabulary employed by this group of women to communicate their stories of assault to an interviewer (and implied audience). What thematic discourses emerge as vehicles when the women '[speak] private memory to public power' (Theresa de Langis, 2018)? How may a researcher de-code these in an ethical manner, mindful that a woman may have chosen to locate her story at the margins? This paper will also reflect on why incorporating histories of archival material into analysis is a vital part of questioning problematic systems of knowledge production.

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Lauren Cantillon is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Culture, Media, and Creative Industries at King's College London, and was the USC Shoah Foundation Centre for Advanced Genocide Research 2020/21 Katz Research Fellow in Genocide Studies. Her PhD explores the ways in which Jewish women recount first-hand, personal memories of sexual(ised) violence during the Holocaust as part of Holocaust 'testimony' narratives. She is interested in how Jewish women communicate their stories of sexual assault, particularly their use of 'covert-overt' narration and other forms of coding, and the emotion(s) involved in recounting.

Justina Smalkytė
(Sciences Po, Paris)

Gender and Materiality in Jewish Anti-Nazi Resistance in German-occupied Lithuania: Sources and Research Problems

The twentieth-century's total wars were marked by an unprecedented scale of destruction of human bodies and material objects. Recent studies on mass violence have paid a particular attention to the material aspects of experiencing violent conflict and displacement. However, despite some pioneering works in the field, the material culture approach has been rarely used in the scholarship on Jewish experiences in the ghettos, concentration camps and anti-Nazi resistance movements. This paper takes a perspective centered on materiality and gender in order to explore the experiences of Jewish partisans in the Generalbezirk Litauen (1941-1944). A few hundred Jews who escaped the Vilnius and Kaunas ghettos fought the Germans and their local collaborators in the ethnically mixed borderland regions of Southeastern Lithuania. Based on archival sources (German and Lithuanian police reports, Communist Party directives, personal letters, testimonies), oral testimonies, wartime Soviet and Lithuanian press accounts and survivor objects, the paper examines the ways material objects, including partisans' own bodies, were used to carry out resistance activities, to enhance one's social status within a partisan unit and to perform violence. The paper pays a thorough attention to the corporality of partisan warfare by addressing such issues as fatigue, injuring, hunger, hygiene, and disease. The goal of the paper is twofold. Firstly, I aim to show how the emphasis on materiality and gender can suggest new ways of reading the history of Jewish resistance in Lithuania. My second goal is to share some considerations about how even highly politicized postwar testimonies (especially those published in Soviet Lithuania after the war) can become valuable sources for researching the mundane and the quotidian in the resistance. This paper emanates from my doctoral research, which explores materiality, gender and inter-ethnic relations in various anti-Nazi resistance movements in German-occupied Lithuania.

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Justina Smalkytė is a PhD candidate at the Center for History at Sciences Po Paris where she is preparing a dissertation on materiality (space, objects, and bodies) in anti-Nazi resistance movements in German-occupied Lithuania. She holds a double MA in European History from Paris Diderot University and Humboldt University of Berlin and a BA in History from Vilnius University. Her research has been supported by research grants of the Sciences Po graduate school, the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, and the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem.

Nathaniel Parker Weston
(Seattle Central College)

Early Holocaust Testimonies and the Prospects for Microhistory: A Viennese Woman's Care and Maintenance Form

This presentation analyzes the Care and Maintenance (CM/1) form of Paula Bettauer, who completed it in Vienna in 1950 as an application to the International Refugee Organization for assistance with resettlement to the United States. CM/1 forms are available through the online archive of the International Tracing Service and include applicants' personal statements, chronologies of work histories and vital documents, as well as other biographical information. Although some provide more details than others, each operates as an early testimony that promises the possibility for a microhistory. There are nearly 3,000 such applications from Vienna and several of them were completed by female survivors, thus offering insight into their experiences in and memories of the Holocaust. Paula Bettauer's CM/1 form illustrates aspects of her life before the 1938 Nazi annexation of Austria as well as the drastic changes she endured immediately afterward. It offers evidence of her unsuccessful attempts to emigrate to the United States during the war, living in hiding in Vienna, and haunted memories of her husband's murder in Auschwitz. It also reveals elements of the postwar period and her efforts to put the broken pieces of her life back together. There are several gaps in her story as well, some of which may be supplemented with additional source material. Ultimately, Bettauer's CM/1 form presents a poignant view of Vienna following the Nazi take-over and later deportation of the vast majority of the city's Jewish population. Other CM/1 forms from Vienna show women escaping Austria for other European countries, Palestine, and Shanghai, going into hiding, or surviving deportation to Theresienstadt, Auschwitz, Ravensbrück, Flossenbürg, Mauthausen, and other camps. Like Bettauer's, many also include information about the losses of Viennese women's loved ones in the Holocaust.

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Nathaniel Parker Weston earned a Ph.D. in German history from the University of Washington. His master's thesis examined discourses on Jewish identity in the life and work of the Viennese author Hugo Bettauer. His dissertation analyzed the construction of race and nationalism in German colonial anthropologies. He is an instructor of history at Seattle Central College, where he is preparing a course on Holocaust history and memory. He has also taught classes on the Holocaust, modern Germany, and European history at the University of Washington. He is currently working on a study of Holocaust survivors in postwar Vienna based on their Care and Maintenance (CM/1) forms—documents which allowed them to obtain status as Displaced Persons by the International Relief Organization, making them eligible for material support and possible resettlement.

Panel 4: New Methods and Materials: Between Art And Archive

Thursday, 18 November 2021
11:00-12:40

Chair: Magdalena Baran-Szoltys
(RECET / University of Vienna)

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Magdalena Baran-Szoltys holds a PhD in Literature and Cultural Studies. For her current Postdoc project *Stories Of/ In Transformation – Transformations und Ungleichheitsnarrative im postsozialistischen Polen* at the Research Center for the History of Transformations (RECET) and the Institute for Contemporary History at Vienna University she received a Herta and Paul Amirian Award from the FWF. Her doctoral studies were undertaken at the interdisciplinary PhD-collegium “Das österreichische Galizien und sein multikulturelles Erbe” at Vienna University. She was a visiting scholar at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute and has taught German language courses as well as courses on literature at the University of Sydney. She is a project collaborator for the „(Multi)national Eastern Galicia in the Interwar Polish Discourse (and its Selected Counter-Discourses)” project (2019-2021) at the Department of Modern and Contemporary Literature at Warsaw University

„Wie schön wäre es, wenn mich der Blumenduft im Schlaf getötet hätte.“
Teresa Feodorowna Ries, 2. März 1951, Lugano-Paradiso

Wie über etwas schreiben, das nicht mehr existiert? Wie etwas zeigen, wenn vieles verschwunden ist? Vieles wurde schon gezeigt, war bekannt und in berühmten Ausstellungen zu sehen. Neben namhaften Künstlern, die zur damaligen Zeit eine hohe künstlerische Anerkennung erhielten. Sie aber, wurde fast vergessen. Kaum einer spricht noch über sie. Und doch gab sie alles für die Kunst, für ihre Kunst. Ihr Name ist zu finden in den Katalogen der Secession, der Biennale di Venezia, des Künstlerhauses und des Glaspalastes in München. Doch der Glaspalast in München steht nicht mehr. Er ist verbrannt und verschwunden. Und auch sie ist verschwunden. Sie musste verschwinden. Und mit ihr, ein ganzes Leben. Der Name der Künstlerin: Teresa Feodorowna Ries. Unsere Forschung rund um das Leben, das Wirken und die Werke dieser jüdischen Künstlerin laufen bereits über zwei Jahre. Wir haben viel geforscht, vieles aufgeschrieben, viele Photos gemacht und auch gefilmt. Künstlerische Arbeiten sind entstanden. Warum? Es gilt ein Zeichen zu setzen, um Etwas dem Vergessen entgegenzustellen. Es geht um Identität, die Position als Frau, als Künstlerin - damals und heute, die Rolle der Mutter, aber auch um Gerechtigkeit und um Solidarität. Entstanden ist nun ein Archiv - ein Archiv ohne Zuhause. Das Archiv - ein zentraler Aspekt dieser künstlerisch-wissenschaftlichen Forschung. Erst durch die Auseinandersetzung entsteht ein neuer Raum für Gedanken, Ideen und deren Realisierung. Was kann und was soll man zeigen? Wie geht man damit um? Wie geht man mit dem handschriftlichen Testament aus dem privaten Nachlass der Künstlerin um? Was passiert, wenn ein Testament ein Ausstellungsobjekt wird? Und was zeigt man daneben? Eine Skulptur - die Hexe? Die Sonnenambule? Eva? Oder die Frau ohne Kopf? Eva hat Narben von den Bombensplittern des Zweiten Weltkrieges. Das Dokument mit der Notiz über die Verletzung durch Bombensplitter gibt es ebenfalls. Im Oktober 2021 wird anlässlich der Wiedereröffnung des Akademiegebäudes am Schillerplatz die Ausstellung „Un Paradiso amaro/Bitter paradise“ stattfinden. Eine klare Botschaft, die sagt: „Wir kümmern uns darum - im Sinne des Wortes curare.“

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Valerie Habsburg is an artist and lecturer at the Academy of Fine Arts and lives and works in Vienna. In her works she reflects and processes themes such as memory(s), time, and temporality(ies) and their relation to space and place. The archive forms an important basis for her artistic works, which show themselves with the media photography, video, objects, and installations. Her works have been shown at INDUSTRA Gallery, Biennale for Contemporary Photography ZEPHYR, Arte Laguna Venice, Gallery TSEKH Pskov, PRAGOVKA Gallery, Parallel Vienna or at Krinzingger Projekte.

Anna Bochkova is a visual artist based in Vienna and Hamburg. She works mostly sculptural with the focus on space, dramaturgy within the space, where characters are her sculptures. Usually through such narratives Bochkova reflects to the themes of memory, solidarity, migration, society, and its structure. Her latest projects include solo and group shows in Kunstraum Lakeside, Exile gallery, Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof, Einstellungsraum, Palais Lichtenstein, Pragovka Gallery, etc

Viktória Bányai (ELTE University, Budapest)

Rita Horváth (independent)

Testimonial Drawings as Schoolwork in the Immediate Aftermath of the Holocaust

We propose to analyze a recently surfaced collection of 25 drawings created by Holocaust survivor Jewish girls in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust. The girls were asked to create testimonial drawings about their experiences during the Holocaust and right after liberation as part of their schoolwork in two Budapest schools. The drawings were created in June 1945, a few months after the liberation of Budapest, during the first and special schoolyear after the war. We aim at demonstrating how crucial these drawings as historical sources are, even though, these kinds of sources have been routinely viewed as marginal sources of historical information. These kinds of sources are taken as marginal, mainly because they are visual and had been created by young teenagers. We also aim at examining how an additional marginalizing factor, viz. that all of these drawings were created by females, appear in the chosen subject matter.

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Viktória Bányai is a senior research fellow at the Institute for Minority Studies, Center for Social Sciences, and an assistant professor at the Hebrew Studies Department, Eötvös University, Budapest. Her research field is Hungarian Jewish history and culture in the pre-modern and modern times. Her publications include *History of Jewish Education in Hungary, 1780-1850* (in Hungarian) and she co-authored *Jewish Budapest: Monuments, Rites, History*. Her current project, on which she has published several articles, examines the experiences of Jewish children in the immediate postwar period Hungary.

Rita Horváth, literary scholar and historian, has been a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Waltham, since 2010. Her fields of research include the history of the Holocaust in Hungary, Holocaust literature, trauma and literary theory. In 2003, she received her PhD from Bar-Ilan University (Israel). She was a research fellow at, among others, the International Institute for Holocaust Research in Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Waltham. She has taught at McDaniel College Budapest, Bar-Ilan University (Ramat Gan, Israel) and Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest, Hungary). Her publications include *Previously Unexplored Sources on the Holocaust in Hungary* (2007, together with Anna Szalai and Gábor Balázs); »*Never Asking Why Build—Only Asking Which Tools.*« *Confessional Poetry and the Construction of the Self* (2005) and *The History of the National Relief Committee for Deportees, 1944–1952* (1997). Some relevant studies: Rita Horváth, “Children’s Memory: The Experiences of Hungarian Jewish Children as Forced Labourers in Vienna and its Vicinity in 1944/1945.”

Zsuzsi Flohr
(Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna)

Wounded Narratives

I engage in arts-based research, a non-traditional, interdisciplinary methodology developed in the last decade. I am a member of the Third Generation, originally from Hungary, now living in Vienna. Most of my family perished in the Shoah, leaving behind almost no traces, their memory forgotten, their names unknown. This means that I had to create a non-existing “family archive” from the anecdotes that I heard as a child, and later, from the photographs and scattered documents that I found hidden away in the family apartment. I also conducted a series of interviews with my father and aunt, both of them born after the Holocaust. The eyewitnesses, like my grandfather, are no longer alive, so I relied on my father’s and aunt’s childhood memories, which I supplemented with additional research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Arolsen Archives, Yad Vashem, and other archives. As I discovered, these oral and written sources are often misleading, and sometimes contradictory and I constantly have to navigate between the different truths. The fundamental disagreements between my aunt and father are typical in Hungary and other parts of Eastern Europe, where memory work from the Second Generation, the generation of post memory, is frequently lacking. In my father’s and aunt’s narratives, a backpack plays an important role. This object is a “ghost,” functioning as a magical object, a vessel of the family fable. I recreated this backpack, giving me newfound access to my father and aunt, who knew little more than ten sentences about their own father’s Holocaust experiences. The backpack helped me push aside the taboo on speaking about the Holocaust, opening up an active dialogue, an act of re-teaching and mutual learning. As a result of the democratization or decolonization of the archive, which requires a liberatory praxis, my research has gone through various stages. I had to empower myself to work with my non-existing archive, liberate it from the western Holocaust discourse, and bring together comparative and interdisciplinary approaches through visual art. This intellectual and artistic move seeks to give credit where credit was not given before, for those narratives which were never listened to earlier.

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Zsuzsi Flohr is a Hungarian artist and a researcher living and working in Vienna. She is a PhD candidate at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, where she is writing her dissertation on the role and relevance of art in the realm of memory politics with special reference to the “Third Generation” after the Holocaust. She has taught at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, and the University of Fine Arts, Budapest. Flohr is a member of the Memory Studies Association.

Sonia Gollance

(Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London)

“You have written something powerful”: Building an ‘Archive’ of Playwright Tea Arciszewska’s Life, Work, and Critical Reception

Tea Arciszewska’s play *Miryeml* is a modernist work that deftly integrates twentieth-century history and Jewish folklore into a narrative about children’s response to trauma. Although the playwright (c. 1890-1962) herself is forgotten today, she was very involved in Yiddish cultural production in Warsaw in the 1910s and 1920s. After surviving World War II, she moved to Paris and finished her play *Miryeml*, which she had begun before the war. In 1954, *Miryeml* received the Alexander Shapiro Prize for best Yiddish drama from the World Jewish Culture Congress. *Miryeml* is a dramatic cycle about the Holocaust from the perspective of children, who make sense of their circumscribed reality through games and stories about Hasidic rebbes. The play takes its name from the character *Miryeml*, an orphaned 13- or 14-year-old whose father was a judge in a religious court. She suffers from a mental illness and often disturbs the other children with her morbid comments, which are frequently delivered in rhyme. By the end of the play, *Miryeml* becomes a prophet-like figure, who leads the children from the Warsaw Ghetto to Jerusalem. This talk will discuss my efforts to recover information about Arciszewska’s life and work, and my larger project of creating a corpus in English translation (a biographical essay, a critical edition of her play, and a selection of texts by her contemporaries about her reception) that would help flesh out our understanding of the contributions of this neglected writer. This book-length project builds upon my endeavors as Managing Editor of Plotting Yiddish Drama, the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project’s database of English-language synopses of Yiddish plays, to locate and include works by women. In a context in which plays by women in Yiddish have been almost completely overlooked and important discussions about the reception of Yiddish women writers are largely inaccessible to those who are unable to read the (at times condescending) reviews in the original language, this book project could serve as a kind of “archive” and an accessible, authoritative tool for students in Holocaust Studies classes.

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Sonia Gollance is Lecturer in Yiddish at University College London. She previously taught at the University of Vienna, The Ohio State University, and the University of Göttingen. Author of *It Could Lead to Dancing: Mixed-Sex Dancing and Jewish Modernity* (Stanford UP, 2021), she received a 2020-21 Yiddish Book Center Translation Fellowship to support her translation of Tea Arciszewska’s *Miryeml*. Her work has appeared in publications including *Austrian Studies*, *Dance Chronicle*, and *Jewish Social Studies*. Gollance is Managing Editor of *Plotting Yiddish Drama*, an initiative of the Digital Yiddish Theatre Project.

Panel 5: Hidden Heritage, Endangered Archives

Thursday, 18 November 2021
14:00-15:40

Chair: Frank Mecklenburg (Leo Baeck Institute, New York)

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Frank Mecklenburg (Leo Baeck Institute, New York) is Director of Research and Chief Archivist at Leo Baeck Institute, a research library and archive that documents the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry, primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries, but also including documents dating back to the Middle Ages. LBI was founded in 1955 as a repository for the books, papers, photos, and documents that were salvaged from Central Europe after World War II and donated to the Institute. As Chief Archivist, Dr. Mecklenburg is responsible for overseeing the acquisition of new collections for the Institute's extensive archival holdings. In this capacity, he works closely with community organizations to identify potential donors and liaises directly with donors and their families to arrange the gift of their personal papers and artifacts. As Director of Research, he oversees the award of grants to scholars through the Institute's various fellowship programs. Dr. Mecklenburg is also responsible for ensuring the preservation of the Institute's archival holdings and expanding access to them. Dr. Mecklenburg played an instrumental role in the conception, development, and implementation of the Institute's digitization project, called DigiBaeck, which put the majority of LBI archival holdings online by 2012. He joined Leo Baeck Institute in 1984 as an archivist and took on his current role in 1996. He supervises the Berlin Branch of the LBI Archives at the Jewish Museum in Berlin, and he represents LBI New York in the LBI International Executive Committee, which coordinates the efforts of the international Leo Baeck Institutes.

Julie Dawson

(Institute for Contemporary History, University of Vienna/Leo Baeck Institute, New York/Berlin)

Agency or Atrocity? The Jewish Federation's Demolition of Rural Transylvanian Synagogues in Postwar Romania

This presentation will provide an overview of the Transylvanian Jewish community archives surveyed in the course of the Leo Baeck Institute's archival survey project in Transylvania and Bukovina and then explore potential research routes in two sister collections in more detail. After mapping out extant collections found in the region, I will introduce the contents of two postwar collections in Sighet and Satu Mare. These two towns, generally known today for their Hasidic courts in the pre-war period, came under Hungarian administration following the Second Vienna Award in 1940. Accordingly, the Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz in spring and summer of 1944. Few survivors returned and the postwar Jewish Federation was confronted with the complex issue of handling countless derelict synagogues in the rural regions of Maramureş and northern Transylvania.

The two collections discussed contain folders created by the regional "properties department" of the Jewish Federation and outline the systematic demolition of almost all of the village shuls in the region. The documents are at once a testimony to the erstwhile ubiquity of Jews in rural space which constituted the region and is largely forgotten today, as well as a launching pad for inquiries into postwar Jewish experience: the demolitions, spearheaded and pursued with gusto by a Hungarian Jewish man who must himself have been a survivor, are met alternately with ambivalence, dismay, and fury, by the few survivors of the communities. This captured moment of the deliberate destruction of Jewish built heritage is unsettling today, not less so because of the portrait that emerges of a man caught between agency and post-Shoah cynicism, opportunism, and pragmatism. The potential for scholars in these collections is manifold: from geographic surveys of once existing Jewish communal spaces, to local artistic interventions, to explorations of postwar Jewish identity and experience, the documents represent a unique source for future researchers.

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Julie Dawson is a doctoral candidate at the University of Vienna's Institute for Contemporary History. She holds degrees from Columbia University, New York (MA) and Northwestern University, Evanston (BA, BM). Dawson worked for the Leo Baeck Institute from 2010-2019, directing their archival survey of Transylvania and Bukovina (jbat.lbi.org) from 2012-2019. From 2016-2019 she was researcher-in-residence in Mediaş (Romania) for the EU Horizon 2020 project *TRACES: Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts*. She held a Fortunoff Fellowship at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute from 2020-2021. She has published in *European Holocaust Studies Vol. 3: Places, Spaces and Voids in the Holocaust*; *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History* (forthcoming); *S.I.M.O.N. – Shoah: Intervention. Methods. Documentation* (forthcoming), amongst others. Her research interests include Jewish Bukovina, communist Romania, women's history, trauma, and memory studies.

Gábor Kádár

(Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe)

The Endangered Jewish Community Archives Project

The goal of the Endangered Jewish Community Archives Project of the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe is to systematically map, survey and digitize community records that are not held by professional heritage institutions, such as archives, libraries, and museums. There are many neglected Jewish community archives all across Europe. They capture and record various aspects of a community's life offering insight into centuries of Jewish presence in various European regions – information that will be forever lost in the coming decades unless these archives are explored, described, and digitally preserved. The presentation will outline the main findings of the Project's preparatory phase and will address methodological and practical questions.

Hidden Heritage, Endangered Archives

Thursday, 18 November 2021, 14:20

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Gábor Kádár, PhD, is the Director of the Yerusha Project, a digital humanities initiative by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe and a recurrent visiting professor of the Jewish Studies Program of the Central European University (Budapest – Vienna). He is former Senior Historian of the Hungarian Jewish Archives, Budapest. He is the author and co-author of six monographs and numerous studies, articles and encyclopedia entries regarding various aspects of the history of Jews in Hungary as well as the history of genocide and ethnic violence in Central Europe. He has led and participated in archival research projects for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem. Dr Kadar is also a member of the Digital Forum Advisory Board of the European Association of Jewish Studies.

Andreas Lehnardt
(Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz)

Genizot in Germany

In the past decades several Genizot have been discovered in Germany – most of them in its southern part and only one north of river Moselle in the Rhineland. After the expulsion of the Jews from the larger cities in the 15th and 17th centuries until the beginning of the 20th century Jews in Germany dwelled scattered throughout smaller villages and towns and therefore it is not surprising that we find remnants of Jewish life in the most remote and inaccessible parts of Germany – some of them even today not easy to reach or to conduct systematic research on Jewish history there. All the more important are the remains of Jewish culture found in several Genizot in Germany, most of them beneath the roofs of synagogues that survived the demolition during the Nazi period or earlier stages of neglect and destruction. The presentation will discuss several methodological problems with regard to the new findings in places like Alsenz, Weisenau, Ediger-Eller and Freudental, where larger Genizot have been analyzed and presented in a web-catalogue or in printed publications.

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Andreas Lehnardt (PhD 1999, Free University Berlin) is professor for Jewish Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, department for Protestant Theology. His main interests are: Jewish manuscripts and fragments, Rabbinic literature, Haskala, Jewish tombstones, Samaritans, and Jewish philosophy. Executive committee of the German association for Jewish Studies. He is head of a project on Hebrew binding fragments in Germany called 'Genizat Germania'. He is the author of *Die Kasseler Talmudfragmente* (Kassel: University Press 2007); *Ta'aniyot. Fasten (Übersetzungen des Talmud Yerushalmi II/9)* (Tübingen: Mohr 2008); author of *Hebräische Einbandfragmente in Frankfurt am Main. Mittelalterliche jüdische Handschriftenreste in ihrem geschichtlichen Kontext (Frankfurter Bibliotheksschriften 11)* (Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann 2011); *Katalog der hebräischen Einbandfragmente in der wissenschaftlichen Stadtbibliothek Trier* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2017); *Die Genisa aus der ehemaligen Synagoge Freudental. Dokumentation der Funde* (Freudental, 2020).

Lenka Uličná
(Jewish Museum, Prague)

In the Attics of Bohemian and Moravian Synagogues

Genizah is an oxymoron, it is a kind of archive and library not intended for a long-term preservation. But local gnizot are far more than repositories of “sacred trash” of worn-out Torah scrolls, prayer books and ritual textiles. All kinds of archival materials connected to the life of the local Jewish community, as well as dishes and cutlery, bottles, clothes and especially shoes found their way to this storage area, protected, closed and publicly inaccessible. In a genizah, sacred, profane, and impure meet in one place and affect the character of the space around, usually a synagogue. This presentation seeks to shed some light on the dark attics of Bohemian and Moravian synagogues and offer an ethnological approach to the concept and current state of research of countryside gnizot. The value of these local gnizot is not determined by the number of ancient manuscripts and rare printed books that have been found there, but rather it should be approached as a manifestation of Jewish community life.

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Lenka Uličná, Ph.D., is a curator of manuscripts and genizah papers at the Jewish Museum in Prague. She teaches Hebrew, literature and material culture at the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Centre for Jewish Studies at the Palacký University in Olomouc. In her research she focuses on Jewish material culture and Jewish languages and language contacts in Central Europe. She co-authored a Czech monograph on Canaanite Glosses in Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts Related to the Czech Lands (2015) and recently published couple of articles on Bohemian and Moravian gnizot.

Marianne Windsperger (VWI) & Lívia Erdősi (Arolsen Archives) with Joseph Moser

Roundtable Discussion: Jonny Moser and His Private Archive. A Pioneer of Early Holocaust Research in Austria

In 1945, Holocaust survivor Jonny Moser returned to Vienna, where he would spend the rest of his life and where he immediately began researching the persecution of Jews, at a time when still only a few historians took notice of this topic in the immediate aftermath of the war. Jonny Moser contributed largely to the documentation of Nazi crimes in Austria starting with a small unpublished essay titled „Die Budapester Judenverfolgung“, which he had already sketched in his notebook shortly before the end of the war. In 1966, Moser published the comprehensive volume “Die Judenverfolgung in Österreich 1938-1945”. The vast array of documents from his personal research were collected and preserved in Moser’s small council-house apartment over the span of 50 years. Without an academic position and supported by his job as a tobacconist, Moser followed his own dedicated research. He was one of the founding fathers and early board members of the Austrian *Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstands* (DÖW). In addition, Moser served at the District Council in the inner city of Vienna for over 30 years. He collected sources documenting the deportation of Vienna’s Jews and in 2011, shortly before his death, he was able to finish his manuscript on the Nisko transports, during which Jews were deported for the first time from Vienna in October 1939. In this roundtable talk Joseph Moser will shed light on these Nisko-documents and other sources from Jonny Moser’s private archive. Even though Jonny Moser was in close contact with early Holocaust researchers as well as many Holocaust witnesses, his private archive was met with little interest in the early years. From the 1980s onward and with the founding of several international Holocaust Research Centers, Jonny Moser became even more of a hidden figure. Nevertheless, he continued his dedicated research until his very last years.

Joseph W. Moser is Associate Professor of German at West Chester University of Pennsylvania and serves as the book review editor for the *Journal of Austrian Studies*. As a Germanist, he has published on Thomas Bernhard, Lilian Faschinger, Franz Kafka, Robert Schindel, Andreas Pittler, Ruth Beckermann, Czernowitz writers, the Austrian Contemporary Novel, and Franz Antel’s *Bockerer* film series. In Holocaust Studies, he has published on his father’s Jonny Moser’s biography.

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Marianne Windsperger (VWI) studied Comparative Literature and Romance Languages (Spanish and French) at the University of Vienna. Since March 2018 she is a research assistant at the VWI. From 2014 to 2017 she worked as a predoctoral assistant at the Institute for German Studies (University of Vienna). She is a member of the executive board of the Theodor Kramer Society for Exile Studies in Vienna. Research interests: literary representations of the Holocaust, Yiddish literature, and memory studies. Most recent publications: (together Olaf Terpitz, Ed.) *Places and Media of Encounter. Transfer, Mediality and Situativity of Jewish Literatures*, Leiden (2021); *Preserving Lived Contexts. Yizker bikher as Portable Archives from Transgenerational Perspective* (2021); (together with Konstantin Kaiser, Irene Nawrocka, Corina Prochazka, Ed.), *Jahrbuch Zwischenwelt 15 Lebenspuren. Autobiografik von Exil, Widerstand, Verfolgung und Lagererfahrung*, Klagenfurt/Celovec (2020).

Lívia Erdősi (Arolsen Archives) is the project manager in the Archives Department at the Arolsen Archives and represents the Arolsen Archives at the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, where she also leads the work package on micro-archives. She holds degrees in Cultural and Social Anthropology with a minor in Jewish Studies from the University of Vienna and in Public Policy from Tel Aviv University. She is currently pursuing a degree in curating, educating and managing at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. Her research revolves around historical and political education as well as sociopolitical practices in museums.

Panel 6: Gendered Experience of the Holocaust: LGBTIQ*

Friday, 19 November 2021
09:30-10:30

Chair: Chair: Mirjam Wilhelm (VWI)

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Mirjam Wilhelm (VWI), studied art history and curatorial studies at Trier University and Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. She holds a PhD from the Institute of Art and Visual Culture at Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg and joined the VWI in January 2021 as a project collaborator for the EU-funded EHRI project. Previously, she has worked as a research assistant at Yale University (2018) and at the interdisciplinary Frankfurt Humanities Research Centre (FZHG) curating the digital image database for the project “Erinnerungspolitik und Bildgebrauch” (2015-2016). She has received several fellowships, for instance, from the German Academic Scholarship foundation and from the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg. Her research interests encompass: the Visual History of the Holocaust, Jewish Women Artists under Nazi persecution, Digital Humanities as well as Gender and Queer Studies. Most recent publication: “Vjera Biller (1903-1940) and the Neo-Byzantine – A Jewish avant-Gardist in Budapest, Berlin, Belgrade and Beyond”, in: Renate Hansen-Kokoruš and Olaf Terpitz (eds.), *Jewish Literatures and Cultures in Southeastern Europe. Experiences, Positions, Memory*. Vienna: Böhlau (2021), 197–213.

Julia Noah Munier & Karl Heinz Steinle
(Department of Modern History, University of Stuttgart)

Methodische Herausforderungen und Lösungsansätze in der historiografischen Forschung zu Lebenswelten und Verfolgungsschicksalen homo- und bisexueller Männer

In den Stadt- Staats- und Landesarchiven Südwestdeutschlands findet sich eine ungeahnte Fülle hegemonialer Quellen zur staatlichen Verfolgung homo- und bisexueller Männer, die auf die behördlich ausgerichtete Sammlungsgeschichte zurückzuführen ist. Doch was vermögen uns diese Dokumente – gerade in der tendenziellen Abwesenheit dort verwahrter Egodokumente oder bewegungsgeschichtlicher Quellen – über Lebenswelten homo- und bisexueller Männer in bestimmten Kontexten zu vermitteln? Es erscheint befremdlich, durchaus problematisch und möglicherweise auch wenig ergiebig, das Konzept der Lebenswelten verwenden zu wollen, wenn Lebenswelten vorwiegend auf der Grundlage von archivalischen Nachlässen der Verfolgungsbehörden und -institutionen dokumentiert und rekonstruiert werden. Der geplante Beitrag blickt aus der Perspektive einer kulturwissenschaftlich informierten historiografischen Forschung auf die Schwierigkeit Lebenswelten homo- und bisexueller Männer anhand von Quellen von Verfolgungsinstitutionen dokumentieren zu wollen. Doch worüber genau geben diese Quellen Auskunft, und können sie zur Erforschung von Lebenswelten homosexueller Männer fruchtbar gemacht werden? Wie vermögen es diese Quellen Einblicke in Lebenswelten zu geben? Und wie muss eine historiografische Forschung konzeptualisiert sein, die es vermag vermittels dieser archivalischen Nachlässe der Verfolgungsorgane Lebenswelten homo- und bisexueller Männer zu erforschen? Der Beitrag schlägt vor, eine cross-mediale, kulturwissenschaftliche Perspektive zur Analyse von Lebenswelten und Verfolgungsschicksalen homo- und bisexueller Männer zur Anwendung zu bringen. Um der genannten Problematik methodisch zu begegnen, gilt es die Lebenswelten homo- und bisexueller Männer aus einer akteurszentrierten praxeologischen Perspektive in den Blick zu nehmen. Um dem Dilemma einer ausschließlich viktimisierenden Perspektive zu entgehen, gilt es zudem neue Quellen auch vermittels einer netzwerkorientierten Public History zu erschließen. Der geplante Beitrag besteht aus einem theoretischen Teil zu methodischen Herausforderungen und Lösungsansätzen sowie einem Teil zur Quellengenerierung im Feld der Public-History. Die Forschung zu Lebenswelten und Verfolgungsschicksalen homosexueller Männer in Baden und Württemberg 1919-1969 ist angesiedelt im Projekt „LSBTTIQ in Baden und Württemberg. Lebenswelten, Repression und Verfolgung im Nationalsozialismus und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland“ (Universität Stuttgart, Historisches Institut/ Abt. Neuere Geschichte).

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Julia Noah Munier holds a PhD in Art and Culture Studies. Since 2016, she is a member of the research project “LSBTTIQ in Baden und Württemberg. Lebenswelten, Repression und Verfolgung im Nationalsozialismus und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland” at the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Stuttgart. Her research focusses on state repressions under the notorious §175 in Baden-Württemberg. Previously, she held a doctoral fellowship at the DFG doctoral collegium “Selbst- Bildungen. Praktiken der Subjektivierung in historischer und interdisziplinärer Perspektive“ at the Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg. Most recent publications: Julia Noah Munier: *Sexualisierte Nazis. Erinnerungskulturelle Subjektivierungspraktiken in Deutungsmustern von Nationalsozialismus und italienischem Faschismus*. Bielefeld: Transcript 2017. And Julia Noah Munier: *Lebenswelten und Verfolgungsschicksale homosexueller Männer in Baden und Württemberg im 20. Jahrhundert*. Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2021. As well as Julia Noah Munier; Karl-Heinz Steinle: „Die Polizeiordner der Kripo Stuttgart: ein Repressionsapparat der frühen Nachkriegszeit“. In: Martin Cüppers; Norman Domeier (eds.): *Späte Aufarbeitung. LSBTTIQ- Lebenswelten im deutschen Südwesten. Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg*, Stuttgart 2018, 165–179. And Julia Noah Munier: „Die Homophilenbewegung im deutschen Südwesten der 50er und 60er Jahre als Akteur der Anerkennung“. In: *Invertito – Jahrbuch für die Geschichte der Homosexualitäten*. 22. Jg. (2020). 77–112.

Karl-Heinz Steinle, M.A. is a historian, slavist and researcher for Public History within the project “LSBTTIQ in Baden und Württemberg. Lebenswelten, Repression und Verfolgung im Nationalsozialismus und in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland” at the University of Stuttgart. His research encompasses, amongst others, studies on homosexuality in Russia and the former Soviet Union. From 2009-2013, he served as the director of Schwules Museum* Berlin. As a historian, he is involved in the exhibition project “Queer durch Tübingen” and works for the *Archiv der anderen Erinnerungen* (Bundesstiftung Magnus Hirschfeld).

Roseanna Ramsden
(University of Leeds)

Reanalysing Familiar Narratives: Representations of Queer Relationships in Women's Published Testimonies of the Holocaust

Using queer theory as a hermeneutic tool with which to reread women's published, English-language Holocaust testimonies against the grain of heterosexist Holocaust discourses, this paper argues for and models the power of conducting the historical and literary analysis of survivor accounts in this radically new manner. It demonstrates that queering Holocaust studies can draw out elements of women's camp relationships and their representation that have thus far remained excluded from the written historical narrative. While, in most other scholarly literature on Holocaust testimonies, references to queerness and queer relationships are cursory and anecdotal, in this paper they are explicitly engaged with and given the space of analysis. The paper's aim, in doing so, is both to bring the footnotes of history into the main body of the text, and to supply a dramatically novel approach to the reanalysis of familiar Holocaust narratives that allow new insights of historical significance to be gleaned. Examining the memoirs of Austrian, German, Polish, and French women, both Jewish and non-Jewish, this paper explores how the authors use coded and ambiguous language, double meaning and connotation in their memoirs to allude to and acknowledge their own sexualities, sexual anxieties and sexual responses to queerness. It builds on the small body of secondary literature devoted to examining representations of eroticism and sexuality in Holocaust memoir, and seeks to demonstrate how, and in what ways, the women here studied conceptualise their sexuality through language. In its readings, this paper operates with a critical consciousness about the manner in which scholars' assumptions of heterosexuality exclude certain representations of Nazi institutions during the Holocaust from the traditional historical narrative; ultimately, it works to give voice to these silences.

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Roseanna Ramsden is a Holocaust scholar, with interests in testimony, gender, and queer history. She completed her doctorate at Northumbria University in 2021, before being appointed as the Montague Burton Research and Teaching Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Leeds in September 2021. She has published articles on gender and testimony and queering Holocaust studies, and her current book project focuses specifically on an interdisciplinary rereading of women's testimonies of the Holocaust.

Panel 7: Narratives Of The Marginalized: Recovering Micro-Histories

Friday, 19 November 2021
10:30-13:00

Chair: Wolfgang Schellenbacher (VWI/Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance – DÖW)

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Wolfgang Schellenbacher (VWI/DÖW) studied history at Vienna University. From 2010 to 2019, he was employed at the Jewish Museum in Prague, where he worked primarily for EHRI as well as for the editorial project *BeGrenzte Flucht*. Since 2018, he has worked on projects relating to Jewish refugees in Central Europe in the 1930s as well as on a mobile web application on the history of the Holocaust in Prague at the Masaryk Institute and the Archive of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He also works at the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW), where he heads the digital archival project *Memento Wien*, which makes information about the victims of the Nazi dictatorship in Vienna visible on mobile devices. At the VWI, he has been collaborating on the project EHRI-3 since September 2020, for which he is currently working on online editions as well as curating the EHRI Document Blog.

Kinga Frojimovics
(VWI)

They Survived. The Family and Social Situation of Jewish Survivors in the Szeged Region in the Light of Their Applications for Aid Submitted to the National Jewish Relief Committee in 1949

The National Jewish Relief Committee (Országos Zsidó Segítő Bizottság) was established in Hungary in the summer of 1945 by the Joint (JDC,) the Hungarian Zionist Federation and the central bodies of the Hungarian Neolog and Orthodox movements. In fact, the Joint distributed aid to Jews in Hungary through this organisation. From 1945 onwards, the National Jewish Relief Committee provided assistance on an individual basis (personal or family) to needy survivors returning from deportation, among others. The social workers of the organization checked the social and family situation, housing and working conditions of survivors applying for social assistance at the survivor's place of residence. They reported on their visit in a report, which in most cases also summarised the survivor's fate during the Holocaust. A collection of such personal petitions and related reports can be found in the archives of the Szeged Jewish Community from 1949. In my lecture I will analyse this collection in order to gain an insight into the daily lives of hundreds of Holocaust survivors, who lived in poverty, often in a serious physical and mental condition, mostly alone or with surviving family members. Four years after their liberation, their survival remains an open question. They continued to struggle day by day to survive, with the active help of Jewish relief organisations.

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Kinga Frojimovics, Ph.D. archivist and historian. Former director of the Hungarian Jewish Archives (Budapest, Hungary) and former head of the Hungarian Section of the Yad Vashem Archives (Jerusalem, Israel). Currently she is project leader at The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (Vienna, Austria) of the project entitled "The History of Hungarian Jewish Forced Labour in Vienna, 1944/45" (project I 4666-G of the Austrian Science Fund).

Frank Grelka

(Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies, European University Viadrina)

Voices of the Jewish Poor from Forced Labor Camps in the General Government

In his “History of Social Aid in Warsaw during the War” Emanuel Ringelblum pointed most prominently to Jewish Councils’ discrimination against Jewish poor in the General Government. Taking Ringelblum as a starting point, the paper elaborates on a new approach toward Holocaust research. It argues from the perspective of the needy strata of Eastern European Jewry and contextualizes the poverty-stricken legacies of Jewish poor within the recruiting system of the Tsarist Army in 19th century Poland. Traditionally, Jewish elites representing the Kahal, or the Council tried to overcome crisis. However, as this proposal claims, they usually did so at the expense of Jewish residents belonging to the precarious strata of their communities. The paper unfolds this hypothesis along the example of the scarcely known story of thousands of young adults in water drainage camps in the Lublin district since 1940. Recently, the Jewish Historical Institute published letters from these young adult workers asking the Councils and their families in the ghettos for help. The proposal discusses female and male worker narratives, and wants to explore: What do these largely marginalized voices tell us about their surviving strategies, how do they reflect on their personal status within their communities and the camps, and how do these sources contribute to a social history about Forced Labor during the German occupation? During my presentation, I show original letters from the camps, photographs depicting female workers in the swampy area of peripheral camps as well as short video testimony by female workers recorded by the Shoah Foundation. Eventually, making largely use of archival evidence by and about the poorest of the poor of the Polish-Jewish population, this paper hopes to provide new interpretations about the dynamics of the genocide beyond the much later extermination camps.

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Frank Grelka is a historian specializing in twentieth century East Central European political history. He studied theater, film and television studies and history in Cracow and Bochum. Here Grelka received his Ph.D. in history with a book about the Ukrainian national movement under German occupation in both World Wars. At the Center for Interdisciplinary Polish Studies he is currently researching for a monograph about the significance of public labor deployment in the Lublin district for the Holocaust. Grelka also conducts provenance research, especially about the origins of artefacts captured in Germany and transferred to the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II.

Dóra Pataricza
(*Jewish Archives Szeged*)

A Jar of Jam and Two Kilograms of Split Pea - Newly Discovered Holocaust-related Documents from the Archives of the Szentes Jewish Community

Szeged's Jewish community in Hungary has a rich cultural and historical heritage hearkening back two centuries. Like most Jewish cities in Europe, much of the Szeged Jewish population vanished in the Holocaust. However, incredibly, its synagogue and most of its archive stayed intact. In 2018-19, the community's archival material was catalogued, indexed, and partly digitised in a two-year project. As part of this project, the Jewish archival material of nearby towns was also mapped. Szentes, a small town near Szeged, had a Jewish population of approximately 500 people in 1941. In May 1944, the Jews of Szentes first had to move to a ghetto, and a couple of weeks later, they were taken to Szeged, and from there, they were deported partly to Auschwitz, partly to Strasshof near Vienna. Several documents were written in May-June 1944 on the ghettoization, including even lists with the quantity and type of food that the Szentes Jews were allowed to take to the ghetto. This material includes a detailed list of the Jewish population of Szentes, their family trees and origins, and documents written by the local authorities in which they recorded which previously Jewish-owned apartments should be distributed to which non-Jewish residents of Szentes according to their needs and wishes. These records, owned by the last Jewish resident of Szentes, are unpublished and unprocessed.

The proposed paper aims at presenting and analyzing the fates of the Jewish deportees and returnees of the Holocaust in Szentes through this collection of unpublished private documents.

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Dóra Pataricza, PhD, is a post-doctoral researcher in History. Dóra worked at the Szeged Jewish Community (Hungary) as a project manager (2018-19) and at the Helsinki Jewish Community (Finland, 2018) as a project worker. Both projects included the indexing, cataloguing and digitization of the communities' Jewish archives. Currently, she is working as a part-time post-doctoral researcher at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, Finland, in a project entitled "Boundaries of Jewish Identities in Contemporary Finland". Since January 2020 she has also been a project manager in the Jewish community in Szeged, financed by the Claims Conference and IHRA, to reconstruct the fate of Hungarian and Bačka-Serb victims of the Holocaust, ca. 10,500 people deported from Szeged in April/June 1944.

Michal Frankl

(Masaryk Institute and Archives of the CAS, Prague)

Stateless Voices. Reconstructing Views and Claims of Marginalized Holocaust Refugees from Austria

This paper scrutinizes the sources which help overcome the marginalization of stateless or foreign Jewish refugees in the history of the Holocaust in Austria. Tens of thousands of Jewish migrants and refugees found themselves in the Austrian nation state after the First World War and, as existing research clearly demonstrated, most of them never obtained Austrian citizenship. Following the *Anschluss*, they were often the first to be attacked, expropriated and expelled and many were directly driven to the border. Their persecution was a partial continuation of earlier practices of marginalization and deportation of mostly poor and destitute foreigners. The desperate emigration attempts of Austrian Jews, especially to Western countries, and the illegal flight to Palestine, have been thoroughly documented in the historiography. But the expulsion and escape of thousands of “Eastern Jews”, mostly with Polish citizenship or stateless, has been barely noticed. Their case illustrates how migration trajectories, statelessness and social status reinforced the marginalization, during the Holocaust and in later research. The views and experience of these refugees were only rarely recorded in oral history collections or other forms of testimonial documents, published or unpublished. Examining their case connects to research on marginalization of other groups of socially disadvantaged migrants.

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Michal Frankl is a senior researcher at the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences. He is the author of „*Prag ist nunmehr antisemitisch*“ (2011), a history of Czech antisemitism at the end of the 19th century and together with Miloslav Szabó of *Budování státu bez antisemitismu?* (Building of a State With No Antisemitism?, 2015), an analysis of the role of antisemitism in the transition from the Habsburg Empire to the Czechoslovak nation state. With Kateřina Čapková, he wrote *Unsichere Zuflucht* (2012), a critical history of Czechoslovak refugee policy in the 1930s. He is the principal investigator of the ERC Consolidator project “Unlikely refuge? Refugees and citizens in East-Central Europe in the 20th century”. He participates in the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) as work package leader and national coordinator of its Czech node.

Ion Popa

(Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Manchester)

Forgotten Archives, Forgotten Stories – The Persecution of Zionists in Communist Romania in the Context of Jewish Dissidence (1945-1955)

Although the persecution and physical destruction of the Jewish community stopped with Romania's decision to join the Allies, antisemitism continued to manifest itself in various forms after 23 August 1944. Grassroots violence against Jews, intolerance, marginalization, and various forms of prejudice were common in the first decade after the war. However, the most problematic and scarcely explored form of antisemitism was that promoted by the communists themselves. My paper examines the peak of this form of political antisemitism – namely the persecution of Zionist groups in 1951-1955, when hundreds of Zionists, including Abraham Leib Zissu, Misu Benvenisti, Jean Cohen, Benjamin Haber, Erich Haas, Stefan Kuhn, Mela Iancu, and Carol Reitter were imprisoned and tried. I also explore the forgotten roots of this persecution, which became evident as early as 1945. In one episode, in October 1945, Vasile Luca, one of the three main leaders of Romania in the immediate post-war years, used the “danger” of Zionism to promote old tropes of nation building antisemitism. In February 1949 the main communist newspaper, *Scântea*, blamed Jews for their own destruction during World War II and claimed that Zionists, in collaboration with British and American imperialists, were preparing another Holocaust. The story of the Zionists' oppression in communist Romania and how that could be included into the context of Jewish dissidence is largely a marginal subject. My paper analyses the various stages in the persecution of Zionists and provides an insight into the forgotten archives that contain documents on this topic. These include the archives of the National Council for the Study of Former Securitate Archives (which became available to researchers only in the last fifteen years), and the archives of the Centre for the Study of Romanian Jewish History (which became available after 1989).

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Ion Popa is currently a Research Associate working for an AHRC project, based at the University of Manchester, and examining Jewish Dissidence in the Eastern Bloc. He is the author of *The Romanian Orthodox Church and the Holocaust* (Indiana University Press, 2017), which was co-winner of the 2018 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research. His second book, tentatively titled *A Few Good Men: The Vatican, The Catholic Church in Romania and the Holocaust* is in the process of publication. Dr Popa is a specialist on Modern European History, with a focus on the Holocaust, religion and politics, and Jewish-Christian relations.

Stephen Naron
(Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University / VWI)
Closing Remarks

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Stephen Naron (Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, Yale University/VWI) has worked as an archivist/librarian since 2003, when he received his MSIS from the University of Texas, Austin. He has worked with the Fortunoff Archive for more than 12 years, as archivist, consultant, and now Director. Stephen pursued a Magister in Jewish studies at the Freie Universitaet Berlin and history at the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, TU, and has a BA in History from the University of Kansas. He is currently a PhD student in Judaic Studies at Brandeis University. As the director of the Fortunoff Archive, Stephen works within the wider research community to share access to the collection, and presents about the Archive at conferences, symposiums, and sessions of Yale University classes. Stephen is responsible for encouraging innovative use of the collection, including documentary films, podcasts, and digital humanities projects. His research interests include the history of Holocaust testimony, archives and “archivalism,” and memory studies.