

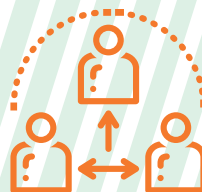


Ackerman
Center for Holocaust Studies
at The University of Texas at Dallas

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2020 – 2021

TEACHING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE



ISSUE 04



Ackerman
Center for Holocaust Studies
at The University of Texas at Dallas

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Special thanks to the Ackerman Center faculty, staff, and students
who contributed to the creation of our 4th Annual Newsletter.

Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

at The University of Texas at Dallas



TEACHING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE

Founded by Holocaust scholar and survivor Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth in 1986 with the mission of *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*, the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas has earned an international reputation for excellence.

The Ackerman Center is a distinguished and publicly-engaged academic center that offers a multi-disciplinary view of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies within a dedicated facility. We provide an educational, engaging, and transformative experience for our diverse students, who

carry our mission with them as educators, professionals, and leaders in America and around the world. By advancing a continuous engagement with the past, the Ackerman Center will be a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world.

Learn more about the Ackerman Center and watch a short video through the link in this QR code.



www.ackerman.utdallas.edu



DIRECTOR'S LETTER



“Thanks to the teamwork, creativity, and dedication of the Ackerman Center faculty and staff, we hosted an unprecedented forty-five events, reaching a record number of people. Speakers and audiences joined us from forty-two countries across six continents.”

—Dr. Nils Roemer

The 2020-2021 academic year was one of extraordinary contrasts. It was marked by unprecedented challenges, unforeseen opportunities, and growing hope. It began at the height of the pandemic, but ended with the much-anticipated return of our faculty, staff, and students to campus. We have had several high points this year.

I am particularly proud of everything that our campus community has done to support one another through these past several months. The Ackerman Center was no exception; our faculty and staff volunteered and donated their personal time and resources to help our students.

An important part of the growth of our outreach programs has been the collaborative relationships that we have fostered with other institutions and organizations around the globe.

We have been able to continue our mission of *“Teaching the Past, Changing the Future”* due to the steadfast support of our friends both within the University and the larger community. With the launch of the *New Dimensions* Campaign, we begin a new and exciting chapter in the three-decades long story of the Ackerman Center. We look forward to the new possibilities that this campaign will provide, and plans are already underway to take this opportunity to expand the Center’s virtual presence, physical footprint, and global impact.

Nils Roemer

DR. NILS ROEMER

Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

“I enrolled at UTD for the sole purpose of studying the Holocaust under the direction of the professors at the Ackerman Center. I never imagined at that time that I would be afforded the opportunities to participate in the ASC, to work as a research assistant at the Center, or to be awarded fellowships. These opportunities, along with the instruction and encouragement I have received from faculty and peers, beyond teaching me have shaped me. The Ackerman Center has not merely added to my experience at UTD, it has been central to my experience.”

—Philip Barber, PhD Candidate



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A DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC CENTER

THAT OFFERS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY VIEW OF THE
HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES



TEACHING



RESEARCH



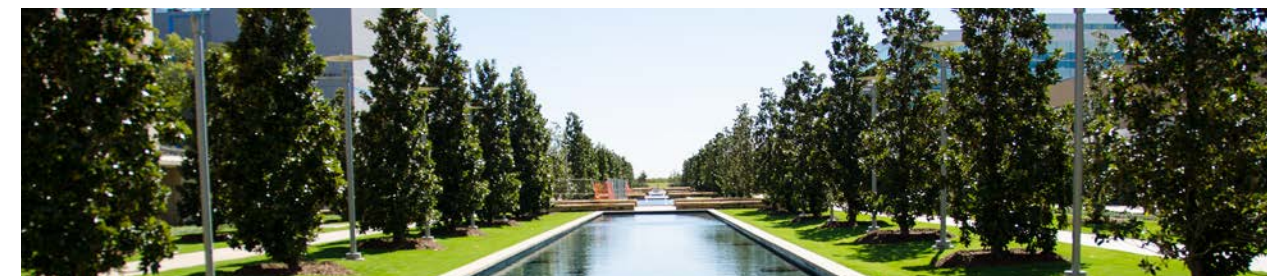
OUTREACH

ADVISORY BOARD

The members of our Advisory Board are active participants in helping us to pursue our mission of “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future.” They generously donate their time by attending events, guest speaking to our classes, and sharing their valuable insight and personal connections and experiences with the Holocaust.

David B. Ackerman, Chairman	Hill A. Feinberg	Sally Belofsky Perryman
Selwin Belofsky, Past Chairman	Alan Feld	Stan Rabin
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Eddie Ackerman	Marlene Gorin	Bert Romberg
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**of blessed memory*



UTD THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Founded in 1969, The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) began as a modest collection of research stations in a North Texas cotton field. Today, UT Dallas’ footprint is vastly different, serving the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the State of Texas as a global leader in innovative, high quality research and education. Its mission is to

1) produce engaged graduates who are well-prepared for life, work, and leadership; 2) advance excellent educational and research programs in the natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, business, and arts and humanities; and 3) transform ideas into actions that benefit the economic, social, and cultural lives of the people of Texas.



TEACHING

The Ackerman Center provides an educational, engaging, and transformative experience for our diverse students, who carry our mission with them as educators, professionals, and leaders in America and around the world.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING



“Nils Roemer always offered interesting content classes and he brought in unique perspectives utilizing a cross-disciplinary approach. He always brought a wider humanities view to each and every class I had with him by incorporating art, literature, and historical study into the subject matter.”

“Dr. David Patterson was/is my favorite professor because of his knowledge in his field of scholarship, his accessibility to his students, and the example he sets as a kind and caring person.”

“I took every class [Dr. Pfister] offered that I could fit into my schedule. She was such a good lecturer and provided first hand knowledge from things her family experienced.”

“I enjoyed Dr. Kerner’s class because the discussions were engaging and interesting. She also dedicated time each class to discuss practical graduate student concerns and questions. She was both knowledgeable about her subject matter as well as willing and able to provide invaluable guidance for the graduate program and future careers in the field.”

“Dr. Gonzalez opened my eyes to scholars from the Global South and changed the trajectory of my studies. He also taught our class with kindness and understanding in a time when both were greatly needed.”

“Dr. Valente offered a fresh approach to difficult topics. I learned a great deal in her classes and benefited from the multi-disciplinary perspectives from which she taught.”



A HISTORY OF EXCELLENCE

Professor emerita, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, founded the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas in 1986. Since then, the program and the faculty have grown exponentially. Today, the Ackerman Center has an unprecedented five endowed faculty positions, which are complemented by additional part and full-time professors and lecturers. The Center offers a unique multi-faceted learning environment supported by a research library housing the prestigious Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection.



TEACHING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE

LEAH AND PAUL LEWIS CHAIR OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES

The chair was endowed in 2003 in honor of Leah and Paul Lewis by their daughter and son-in-law, Miriam Lewis Barnett and Mitchell Barnett, with the support of many family members, friends and admirers of their path-breaking work to raise awareness about the Holocaust. It was held by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth from 2003–2020.

HILLEL A. FEINBERG DISTINGUISHED CHAIR OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Hillel A. Feinberg and Mr. and Mrs. John H. Massey established the endowed position in November 2007, which supports the scholarly, educational and community outreach activities of an internationally recognized scholar of Holocaust studies, including related aspects of European and American history. This includes literature, culture and politics that form the context of the Holocaust. This chair has been held by Dr. David Patterson since 2010 and was elevated to distinguished chair in 2019.

STAN AND BARBARA RABIN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

A donation from the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation in November 2007 created the professorship, which supports the scholarly, educational and community outreach activities of an internationally recognized scholar of Holocaust studies and the related aspects of European and American history, including literature, culture and politics that form the context of the Holocaust. This professorship has been held by Dr. Nils Roemer since 2010 and was elevated to distinguished chair in 2019.

JACQUELINE AND MICHAEL WALD PROFESSORSHIP IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Jacqueline and Michael Wald created the professorship in 2017 to increase knowledge of the Holocaust and to promote the understanding, avoidance and elimination of anti-Semitism, genocide, bigotry and similar societal malfeasance. Dr. Amy Kerner became a fellow of the Wald Professorship in 2020.

MIRIAM LEWIS BARNETT CHAIR IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

The Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair was established in 2020 by longtime supporters of the Center, Mitchell L. and Miriam “Mimi” Lewis Barnett.

FACULTY

Dr. Nils Roemer

Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies

Interim Dean, School of Arts and Humanities and School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication

Dr. David Patterson

Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies

Dr. Amy Kerner

Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies

Dr. Debbie Pfister

Research Assistant Professor

Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018 – 2021

Assistant Professor of Instruction, 2021 – present

Dr. Sarah Valente

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018 – 2021

Dr. Emily-Rose Baker

Visiting Assistant Professor, 2021 – present



STAFF

Holly Hull Miori

Senior Director of Development

Cindy Seton-Rogers

Academic and Outreach Events Manager

Bonnie Gordon

Administrative Assistant



HILLEL A. FEINBERG DISTINGUISHED CHAIR OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dr. David Patterson

Jewish thought, antisemitism, and the Holocaust

The academic year 2020 – 2021 was busy, as usual, for the Ackerman Center’s Professor David Patterson. With teaching students as his primary goal, Dr. Patterson taught the two foundational courses for the Graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies: *The Holocaust* and *Literature of the Holocaust*. He also taught an undergraduate course on the Holocaust, for a total of 63 students during the academic year. In addition, he worked with 34 graduate students on independent research projects as a member of their field exam or dissertation committees.

This past year was also an active one for Dr. Patterson and his publication projects. In June SUNY Press published his latest book, *Portraits: The Hasidic Legacy of Elie Wiesel*, and he was the guest editor of a special issue of the journal *Humanities* on the subject of The Literary Response to the Holocaust. He completed manuscripts titled *Shoah and Torah* and *Judaism, Antisemitism, Holocaust: Making the Connections*, which will be published by Routledge and Cambridge University Press respectively in 2022. The



book to be published by Cambridge will be his 40th book publication, including translated and edited volumes.

Dr. Patterson also had several articles and book chapters appear over the past academic year. Most recently his chapter “Sonderkommando Photograph 4 and the Portrayal of the Invisible” appeared in *Conceptualizing Mass Violence*, edited by Navras Aafreedi.

In addition to his publishing activities, Dr. Patterson gave several invited lectures in 13 international forums, most over Zoom, due to the pandemic. These included presentations for the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, based in Oxford; a Podcast interview for *Proclaiming Justice to the Nations*; an interview for the documentary film *The History of Antisemitism*, produced by French filmmaker Jonathan Hayoun; and lectures for Haifa University, the Elie Wiesel Foundation, the International eConference on Religion and the Holocaust, and the Tulsa Jewish Federation. Dr. Patterson also gave 10 invited lectures in the Dallas area, which served to promote not only his own research but also the activities of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies in the Dallas community.

One of Dr. Patterson’s mentees through the Witness Institute, Juliana Taimoorazy, was nominated for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

STAN AND BARBARA RABIN DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dr. Nils Roemer

Holocaust, human rights, and German and Jewish cultural and intellectual history

Dr. Nils Roemer is the Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies and a recipient of the Eternal Flame Award. He has been with UT Dallas since 2006 and was appointed as the director of the Ackerman Center in 2015. Additionally, he is a board member of the Leo Baeck Institute in London, co-editor of *Germanic Review*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Cultural Encounters, Conflicts & Resolutions*.

As part of his commitment to advancing the field of Holocaust Studies, Dr. Roemer continues to lead the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project, which he started in 2018. This collaborative project brings together a diverse group of faculty, students, and alumni from various disciplines to introduce new ways of remembering and visualizing the Holocaust (*read more on page 27*).

This past year, Dr. Roemer has presented several lectures, appeared as a guest on podcasts, and is a member of a number of academic organizations. He currently serves on the Organizing Committee for the 8th Annual International Conference on Genocide, which the Ackerman Center is co-sponsoring at the Memory and Tolerance



Museum in Mexico City in June 2022.

Dr. Roemer has been actively working to develop and foster collaborations with organizations both within the US and globally. This summer he travelled to Colorado Springs to visit the United States Air Force Academy as part of our growing partnership with them (*see page 67 for further details*).

Teaching and mentoring students remain at the heart of Dr. Roemer’s work at UT Dallas, and he continues to teach courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His research interests cover a wide range of topics, which has allowed him to supervise students from a variety of fields and disciplines.

In addition to his courses, Dr. Roemer supervised numerous graduate students, with several of those students earning their masters and doctorate degrees this past academic year.

Dr. Roemer has served as the Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities since 2019. In 2021 he was also named as the Interim Dean of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication.



FELLOW OF THE JACQUELINE AND MICHAEL WALD PROFESSORSHIP IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dr. Amy Kerner

Assistant Professor in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies

Dr. Kerner joined UT Dallas and the Ackerman Center in March 2020, bringing research and teaching expertise in Jewish Latin America, language politics, and global Holocaust memory. She developed new seminars, including *Genocide in Latin America*, on the indigenous history of the region, *Genocide Past & Present* — on twentieth-century genocides and international legal responses — and *Race and Ethnicity in Modern Latin America*. On campus remotely, Dr. Kerner had the pleasure of speaking with McDermott scholars by request on the US role in the Guatemalan genocide, and presented one of the Ackerman Center's annual Spring lectures on how the living memory of Argentine Yiddish was inflected by the national trauma of the Dirty War.



the “Racial Anxieties of Yiddish” in the journal *Jewish Social Studies*; and a review of Mariusz Kałczewiak's recently published book on Polish-Jewish immigrants, *Polacos in Argentina*.

Dr. Kerner is currently revising her book manuscript, *Bridge to Nowhere: Yiddish in Argentina from Mass Migration to the Dirty War*, which examines the local and transnational politics of Yiddish in twentieth century Buenos Aires. In Spring 2022, she will offer a new graduate seminar on oral history, in which students examine the European and Latin American lineages of the method in post-atrocity societies. The class will look closely at established projects, considering their histories, uses, and limitations, and students will learn to navigate special oral history collections to which UT Dallas has access, including the genocide testimonies collected by the USC Shoah Foundation.

This spring, Dr. Kerner enjoyed the thrill of welcoming a new family member with the birth of her daughter.

She presented on the history of Yiddish during and after the last Argentine dictatorship at the annual conference of the Jewish Studies Association, and will have three new publications in print or forthcoming: a University of Michigan Frankel Institute Annual article on the meaning of the Yiddish word “yishev”; a peer-reviewed article on

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Debbie Pfister

History and Representation of the Holocaust

Dr. Pfister is a Research Assistant Professor of Holocaust Studies at the School of Arts and Humanities. A triple alum from UT Dallas, she specializes in the Holocaust and World War II. Her ongoing research includes literature, history and philosophy of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the history of antisemitism and the Holocaust, Jewish art and Holocaust representation in film, war in art, Jewish war veterans, and combat photography and literature. She is currently pursuing research on the history of Jewish military service in America as well as the role of Jewish combat photographers during World War II.



Recently, she has helped foster a relationship between the Ackerman Center and the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), which has resulted in several new initiatives thus far between the two institutions including a planned joint conference in fall 2023, an annual summer USAFA cadet internship, and a visiting research scholar program (see page 67).

In addition to current projects, Dr. Pfister organizes and hosts a workshop each summer for teachers to help instill middle and high school educators with the knowledge and tools required to teach the

Holocaust in the classroom. These annual multi-day workshops are immensely popular and feature renowned Holocaust scholars as well as lectures from the Ackerman Center's endowed professors and graduate student presentations.

As a dedicated educator herself, Dr. Pfister has taught various undergraduate classes on the Holocaust, war and atrocity in the twentieth century, and related topics. Many students who have taken her classes have been inspired to further their study of the Holocaust at the graduate level. This year, she taught courses dedicated to the history and legacy of the Holocaust as well as others exploring the representation of war in art, literature, film, and photography. In addition, she has written the Department's core curriculum for the *History of the Holocaust* and developed courses on more specific topics related to the Shoah such as *Nazism, Ethics and Culture* and *Looting, Operation Barbarossa, Holocaust and the Reich*.

Since the beginning of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, Dr. Pfister's classes have grown in both size and popularity. This academic year, she taught a record number of students in her largest undergraduate class to date.



VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, 2018 – 2021

Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona

Human rights, Latin American intellectual history and antisemitism, and the Holocaust

Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona was accepted as a fellow in the 2021-2022 Alliance for Historical Dialogue and Accountability program at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University. He will be working — with other human rights educators, journalists, government officials, and advocates from around the world — on issues pertaining to mass violence, memory, and policy-making. In May 2021, he concluded the curation and hosting of a 10-part comparative seminar series on antisemitism in Latin America sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy.



are planning a series of presentations that will take place virtually as part of a larger program of online education for high school and first-year college students in the United States and Latin America. Dr. Gonzalez established an academic relationship with scholars from the Autonomous University Benito Juarez in Oaxaca (UABJO). He received an invitation to lecture for students and faculty of the recently-created doctoral program on Education, Arts, and Culture on the transformation of the idea of human rights and its relationship with torture. On May 27, 2021, he presented his paper “The Disappeared in

Mexico: Memory Lacunae and the Eternal State of Exception” at the panel *Enforced Disappearances and Grassroots Collective Resistance of Women in Mexico* within the Latin American Studies Association 2021 Conference.

The International Network of Genocide Scholars (INoGS) will hold its 8th annual conference in Mexico City, and Dr. Gonzalez is part of the organizational committee. For the 2022 conference INoGS will focus on voices and perspectives from the Global South. This collaboration stems from an international agreement signed between the Ackerman Center and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City.

Dr. Gonzalez has strengthened his relationship with Holocaust survivor Pieter Kohnstam with whom he has presented for audiences in San Antonio, Texas, and Guatemala. Mr. Kohnstam and Dr. Gonzalez

Dr. Gonzalez was hired as an assistant professor of instruction by the School of Arts and Humanities beginning in the fall 2021 semester. He has also been appointed as the assistant to the director of the Ackerman Center.

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, 2018 – 2021

Dr. Sarah Valente

Jewish history, literature, and memory in Latin America

In the fall and spring semesters, Dr. Sarah Valente developed new courses on Jewish history, literature, and memory in Latin America. Her course *Women and the Holocaust* highlighted the importance of Gender Studies within Holocaust Studies. She also taught a single-author literature course focused on Brazilian literary giant Clarice Lispector. Her course *Literature and Dictatorship* focused on Latin American writers whose novels were influenced by their experiences under military dictatorships and memories of the Holocaust.



She presented at the Latin American Comparative Seminar hosted by the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, where she lectured in Spanish about Iberian anti-Judaism in colonial Brazil. Dr. Valente presented her paper, “Holocaust Podcast: A New Platform for Teaching and Remembrance” at the Esther and Sidney Rabb Center for Holocaust and Revival Studies’ international conference at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. She also published a new article, “Post-World War II Brazil: A New Homeland for Jews and Nazis?” in *Comparative Cultural Studies-European and Latin American Perspectives* by Firenze University Press.

Dr. Valente was involved in various

community outreach events, moderating and participating in lectures, author talks, and workshops. In the spring, she was featured by the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum in conversation with PhD student Jane Saginaw for a Lunch & Learn event about “Women in the Holocaust: An Exploration Through Original Poetry.”

Dr. Valente hosted the Ackerman Center’s Annual Translation Workshop and produced a video featuring various translations created by students and faculty. With a passion for sharing knowledge through educational podcasts, Dr. Valente was featured as a field expert in several episodes

of the iHeartMedia podcast *Good Assassins: Hunting the Butcher*, which tells the untold story of Mossad’s secret mission to hunt down an escaped Nazi in Brazil. She also produced twelve new episodes of the *Ackerman Center Podcast*, launching a new chronological series “A Year in the Third Reich.”

Dr. Valente was honored to be selected as a 2021 Fellow of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University’s Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilizations. Dr. Valente is currently working on a book project about Holocaust memory in Brazil.



GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE COURSES



Ackerman Center courses offer an interdisciplinary structure giving students the opportunity to study from multiple perspectives.

2020-2021 Graduate Courses

THE HOLOCAUST

DR. DAVID PATTERSON

An interdisciplinary approach to one of the most problematic events of human history: the Holocaust. The aim is to address the questions of good and evil, of divinity and humanity, of truth and responsibility that arise from this event, so that we may better understand its singular significance for human life.

LITERATURE AND THE HOLOCAUST

DR. DAVID PATTERSON

A graduate seminar exploring literary responses to the Holocaust in the genres of fiction, drama, and poetry, as well as theoretical issues surrounding the literary representation of the Holocaust.

GENOCIDE IN LATIN AMERICA

DR. AMY KERNER

Interrogating the concept of genocide through a historical lens, students looked at indigenous histories from conquest through the 19th Century, Guatemalan genocide, and after. Gaining both a critical introduction to genocide as a historical and scholarly category, and a broad historiographic view of indigenous history in Latin America, the

course helped students to independently evaluate the variety of ways in which the genocide concept is or is not applicable to Latin American history.

DECOLONIALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS

DR. PEDRO J. GONZALEZ CORONA

Violent phenomena, emerging as a result of coloniality, can be observed throughout multiple periods in Latin American history. This course examines the components of the colonial condition, and the variety of efforts implemented to liberate the victims from such an oppressive system from a perspective of human rights.

WOMEN AND THE HOLOCAUST

DR. SARAH VALENTE

Exploring topics related to women's experiences during the Holocaust from an interdisciplinary approach, the course addressed deeper questions of how the war affected the lives of women differently from the men. Through the study of a variety of primary sources, online archives, literary texts, and artistic representations, students gain a multifaceted view of this topic, which merges the fields of Holocaust Studies and Gender Studies.

2020-2021 Undergraduate Courses

THE HOLOCAUST

DR. DAVID PATTERSON

The purpose of examining this topic with an interdisciplinary approach is not simply to gather information or to arrive at some explanation; nor is it to be overcome with despair or anger or outrage. The aim, rather, is to address the questions of good and evil, of divinity and humanity, of truth and responsibility that arise from this event, so that we may better understand its singular significance for human life.

“Although initially, it was the teachers that really piqued my interest in Holocaust studies, the way the courses are geared really keeps me interested and wanting to delve further into the important discussion of remembrance and memory of the Holocaust.”

—John Doud, Undergraduate Student

HOLOCAUST MEMORY IN LATIN AMERICA

DR. AMY KERNER

Structured in three parts, this course defines “Holocaust memory,” covers contemporary responses in and from Latin American to World War II, and looks at the impact the Holocaust has had on popular conceptions of political violence and injustice in places like Argentina, Guatemala, and Chile, which have their own histories of traumatic violence.

MODERN GENOCIDES PAST AND PRESENT

DR. AMY KERNER

What is genocide, and what are the contexts in which it unfolds? This course examines histories of racially and politically motivated mass killing in the twentieth century in relation to imperialism and colonialism, war, and political revolution.

HISTORICAL INQUIRY

DR. AMY KERNER

As an introduction to the theory and practice of history, students engage in history's key questions, approaches, and skills, largely through examples on the theme of race and ethnicity in modern Latin American history.

NAZISM, ETHICS, AND CULTURE

DR. DEBRA PFISTER

Nazism, Ethics and Culture focuses on the ways in which the mythic vision of *Volksgemeinschaft* (people's community) was disseminated throughout the country, and later, to occupied territories after the war began. Through an examination of law, looting, and science during the Third Reich,



GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS ENROLLED

the impact of this Völkisch thought and its eliminationist philosophy ultimately led people to follow its Führer into the crime of mass murder and genocide, which resulted in the deaths of millions.

HOLOCAUST & REPRESENTATION

DR. DEBRA PFISTER

Exploring the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts of the Holocaust, this course examines its depiction and representation in art, literature, poetry, and film. The inquiry is constructed around three major themes: why did this mass murder happen, how did it run its course, and how can we articulate the enormity and horror of this event in the various modes of artistic expression.

THE HOLOCAUST

DR. DEBRA PFISTER

This course explores the background of the Holocaust, as well as the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts which gave birth to this tragic event. Constructing our inquiry around two major questions: why did this mass murder happen, and how did it run its course. We will examine the development of ancient anti-Semitism, as well as the emergence of nationalism and scientific racism in nineteenth-century Europe.

OPERATION BARBAROSSA

DR. DEBRA PFISTER

The course considers several key battles of the Operation Barbarossa attack and the mass murders committed during this period as well as factors contributing to Hitler's decision to move to the east, and Stalin's response to the long assault.

“My first semester at UTD was filled with wonderful professors. I've had the pleasure of taking courses from Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Pfister. These faculty members have been nothing but wonderful to learn from.”

—Nolan Whitley, Undergraduate Student



WAR, LIBERATION, AND REPRESENTATION

DR. DEBRA PFISTER

Using a multidisciplinary approach, "War, Liberation, and Representation" examines the nature of major conflicts in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the formulation of national foreign policy, and the ways in which society was impacted by its role as liberator—not only by media reports and first-hand accounts, but also by the art, literature, and film of the time.

LATIN AMERICAN CIVILIZATIONS

DR. PEDRO J. GONZALEZ CORONA

A survey of Latin America from its pre-Columbian past to the present. Themes include political, social, and cultural developments, the role of Latin America in the world, and the region's transition from colonial societies to independent nations.

RACISM IN MEXICO & ARGENTINA

DR. PEDRO J. GONZALEZ CORONA

This course analyzes the ways in which religious perceptions about the Jews evolved into complex historical elements present in the Latin American collective imagery, powerful enough to have molded immigration policies, racialized political persecution, and sensibilities towards the State of Israel.

HUMAN SECURITY VS. HUMAN RIGHTS IN LATIN AMERICA

DR. PEDRO J. GONZALEZ CORONA

This course analyzes the cases of some countries in Latin America in which human rights failures engendered the state-sponsored atrocities that produced a lack of human security in the region. Such a precarious situation in terms of human rights also fueled resistance and alternative responses to violence from civil society.

WOMEN & THE HOLOCAUST

DR. SARAH VALENTE

Addressing deeper questions of how World War II affected the lives of women differently from men, this course analyzes women's lives in ghettos, concentration camps, death camps, in hiding, and in resistance, including specific experiences of diverse voices.

SINGLE AUTHOR - CLARICE LISPECTOR

DR. SARAH VALENTE

The greatest Brazilian writer of the twentieth-century, Clarice Lispector (1920-1977), was a Ukrainian-born Jewish infant refugee who grew up in northern Brazil. Lispector is a literary giant who remains a powerful presence in contemporary international literature.

LITERATURE AND DICTATORSHIP IN LATIN AMERICA

DR. SARAH VALENTE

This course focuses on literary works written during the various Latin American dictatorships of the twentieth century. Through a comparative approach, students learn about writers, poets, and artists whose works were censored, published in exile, or used as tools of resistance against the military dictatorships.

IN ONE YEAR, THE ACKERMAN CENTER OFFERED 21 COURSES



SIXTEEN UNDERGRADUATE FIVE GRADUATE



ENDOWED STUDENT SUPPORT

The Ackerman Center has three endowed fellowships that attract the best and brightest graduate students. Under normal conditions, our students travel across the country and the globe to conduct and present their original research. *(See page 26 to learn about funding student research.)* Generous support makes the following endowments possible.

THE SELWIN BELOFSKY GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES endowment was established in 2007 and provides cash distributions to support graduate students in the School of Arts and Humanities who are pursuing a degree on a topic consistent with the mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies. This fellowship positively impacts students and research at UT Dallas. It enables outstanding students to realize their potential and begin careers that will have a significant impact upon the field of Holocaust studies. Recipients for the 2020–2021 fellowship are:



KATIE FISHER is a PhD student in the School of Arts and Humanities focused on visual and performing arts. Her fields of interest include the environmental humanities, trauma and landscapes, as well as the practice of studio-based research. As a visual artist, she is pursuing a creative dissertation project.



SHEFALI SAHU pursued an MS in the Management Science program at the Jindal School of Management with a concentration in analytics and visualization. She graduated in Spring 2021 and is currently working as a Business Intelligence Analyst at Patrick Engineering.



AMAL SHAFEK is a PhD candidate in the School of Arts and Humanities. Her fields include Feminist Film Studies, Diaspora Studies and Holocaust Studies. She is pursuing a creative dissertation in the form of a documentary film on Egyptian Jewish communities in the diaspora and the specificity of their food culture.

ANGIE SIMMONS is a PhD student in the School of Arts and Humanities. Her field of study is in the History of Ideas. Her research focuses on the connection between Early Modern western democratic thought and genocidal mass violence. She explores the Utopian motivations and political philosophies behind violent ideology and the role of memory in creating the conditions for violence.



CHRISTINA STANFORD is a PhD student in the School of Arts and Humanities. Her research interests include the origins, development, and implementation of the Final Solution in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust. Her doctoral research considers how cinema-mediated representations of Nazism play an important role in the formation of national memory and identity in relation to the Second World War



THE MALA AND ADOLPH EINSBRUCH FELLOWSHIP FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES endowment, established in 2012, provides support to graduate students enrolled in Holocaust Studies classes. The recipient for the 2020–2021 fellowship is:

ERIC SAMPSON, a PhD candidate and fellowship recipient, is researching and writing his dissertation on German Jewish thought and its German philosophical context. His field of study is Jewish studies and German philosophy. Most recently he has begun work on his field examinations.

THE MIKE JACOBS FELLOWSHIP IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES endowment was established in 2013 to support students studying at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies in the School of Arts and Humanities at UT Dallas. Recipients for the 2020–2021 fellowship are:

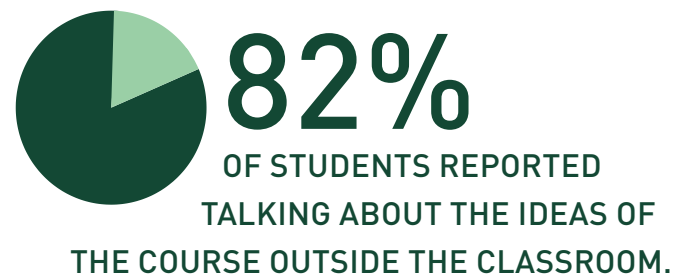
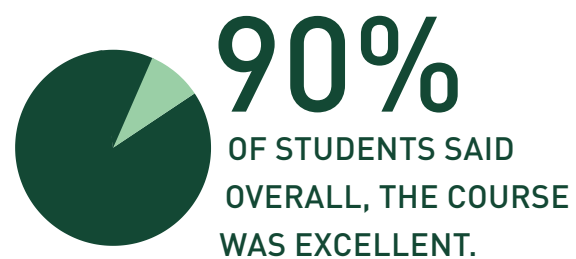
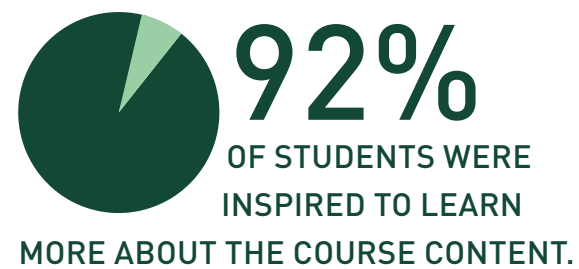
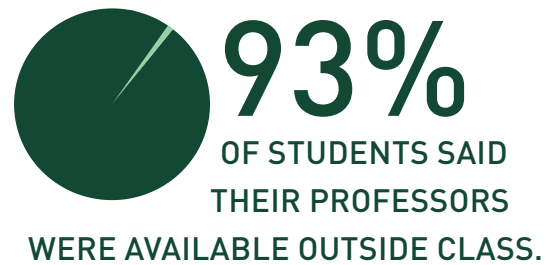
BRIANA BACON GOTHAM was enabled to complete her dissertation research because of the funding provided by the Mike Jacobs Fellowship for 2020-2021. She researched the material and social development of the Venetian Ghetto from its founding in 1516 until the Risorgimento in 1866. Additionally, the fellowship’s funding was instrumental in acquiring the necessary archival images from Venice and Florence that were indispensable in the completion of Briana’s doctoral dissertation. UTD conferred the Doctor of Philosophy degree in May 2021.

SARAH SNYDER is currently conducting research and writing her dissertation entitled “The Historical Complexities of Time Constructs in Relation to the Term ‘Post-Holocaust.’” In her research she is analyzing various forms of Holocaust literature and how time orients our understanding of survivorship.

REFLECTING ON THE LAST YEAR

We are proud of how well both our faculty and students adjusted and worked together to have a successful year, despite the challenges posed by being forced to teach classes online.

DURING THE PANDEMIC



“Initially, there was a certain discomfort in teaching in front of a screen. Then, we learned to appreciate the opportunity to still be able to communicate using new technologies.”

— Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona



COMETS HELPING COMETS

Ackerman Center faculty, staff, and students were active this past year by volunteering their time and making donations to help support UT Dallas students.



The Comet Cupboard is a UT Dallas food pantry initiative dedicated to helping students in need. Those needs have grown substantially during the pandemic, and our campus community has risen to the challenge to raise funds and donate food and personal care items. Even with the majority of the academic year being remote, the Comet Cupboard still served more than 4,000 students.

Cindy Seton-Rogers (above) and Katie Fisher (below) are photographed dropping off food during Comets Giving Days.



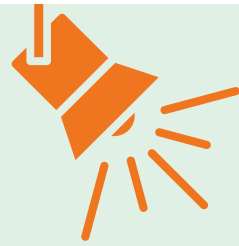
UT Dallas opened a vaccination site on campus in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center, which was operated by UT Southwestern and administered more than 49,000 doses and utilized more than 1,000 volunteers from the community.



Dr. Nils Roemer (above) and Holly Hull Miori (below) are photographed volunteering at this clinic.

UT Dallas established a Student Emergency Financial Assistance fund to help students with unanticipated expenses. Thanks to the generous support of our friends both on and off campus, this fund was able to raise \$1.4 million to help our students during the pandemic.





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

SARAH SNYDER, PHD CANDIDATE

Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies

Sarah Snyder is a PhD candidate studying the History of Ideas. In 2018, Snyder earned the Holocaust Studies certificate through the Ackerman Center. She is currently conducting research and writing her dissertation entitled “The Historical Complexities of Time Constructs in Relation to the Term ‘Post-Holocaust’” in which she is analyzing various forms of Holocaust literature and how time orients our understanding of survivorship.

Snyder has accepted the position of Director at the Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach (HERO) Center located in Farmington, Connecticut. She has been



tasked with upholding the Holocaust and genocide mandate for the state of Connecticut. Through her new position, she has had the opportunity to present at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as a part of the Belfer Conference, expand the genocide curriculum, teach a course on Holocaust Denial, and is working toward publishing a survivor cookbook.

In addition to her new role and completing her PhD, Snyder has been elected a member of the Advisory Board for the International Association of Genocide Scholars. Previously, she was a member of the Emerging Scholars Board and filled the position of liaison to the executive board for organizing its international conference. In

the summer of 2021, Snyder participated in Royal Holloway’s virtual taster, Auschwitz’s Summer Institute, and presented at an educator’s workshop in Tulsa. In the summer of 2020, Snyder was a member of the cohort of the Summer Institute at Bergen-Belsen.

It is with great hope that she will be able to continue her work with LivingStones Association on organizing a Jewish cemetery in Lipcani, Moldova. This project stemmed from work conducted with the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where

Snyder published a brief memoir of Holocaust Survivor Frieda Tabak whose mother is buried in Lipcani.

Prior to her current work, Snyder earned her Master’s from the University of Buffalo in Cultural Anthropology. During that time, she conducted original research in museology at Auschwitz-Birkenau where she received the award “If Not for Those Ten.” She is also a 2019 Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellow through which she completed a three-week intensive study tour in Poland. Snyder was invited to attend the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau in January of 2020. Additionally, in 2018 she became a Mary Warren Fellow with the Houston Holocaust Museum.



STUDENT VOICES



WHAT DREW YOU TO UT DALLAS?

“I learned about the Ackerman Center before I became a student here. I was drawn to the center by an interest in the Holocaust, Judaism, and eastern Europe more generally. I have attended events there and my participation in Ackerman events led me to audit a class on the Holocaust with Dr. Patterson. That led to my enrolling at UT Dallas for a graduate degree.”

—*Graduate Student*

“I am really interested in genocide studies and I appreciate that UTD has a center dedicated to it and hosts several courses dedicated to genocide studies and the Holocaust. I think this is a very unique part of A&H that other schools may not have. I also enjoy the events!”

—*Undergraduate Student*

“I love the depth of knowledge of the professors and content of the courses.”

—*Undergraduate Student*

“As an undergrad, I chose to enter the fast track program where I enrolled myself in Dr. Patterson’s *Literature and the Holocaust* class. The next semester, I enrolled in his *History and the Holocaust* course and, now in my final semester, I have the privilege of working along side Dr. Patterson through an independent study, which focuses on Holocaust memoirs.”

—*Graduate Student*

“I found the courses to be interesting and the professors to be very qualified. They are very passionate and that comes off every day.”

—*Undergraduate Student*

“The summer teacher workshop is what really made me realize that I absolutely had to go to school at UTD.”

—*Graduate Student*

HAS YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH THE ACKERMAN CENTER ADDED TO YOUR EXPERIENCE AT UT DALLAS?

“This center is why I applied to UTD. It is why I’m here.”

—*Graduate Student*

“I have honestly learned so much about the Holocaust. I look forward to sharing what I have learned with the high school students I work with.”

—*Graduate Student*

“The Ackerman Center provides a much-needed institution within the University that reiterates the importance of this nation’s heritage. Every individual needs access to the center and our University stands out because we have it.”

—*Graduate Student*



CELEBRATING THE FIVE NEW ACKERMAN CENTER PHD GRADUATES

Having graduated an unprecedented five PhD students for the 2020 – 2021 academic year, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies continues to build on its international reputation for excellence in Holocaust Studies research. Anyone who has completed a doctoral dissertation knows the immensity of the task, regardless of the subject matter. When the matter at hand is the Holocaust, however, an even greater measure of devotion

is demanded of the student. These students have not only completed an arduous program of research—they have answered a summons to bear witness to the meaning and dearness of human life. Their research is a remembrance of the highest order, their work a testimony to what is higher in higher learning. The Ackerman Center’s scholars and teachers who worked with them honor them, for they bring honor to all of us.



DR. BRIANA BACON GOTHAM *The Venetian Ghetto-*

An Experiment in Containment, 1516-1866

“Briana’s dissertation on the Venetian ghetto combines literary and urban studies to understand policies of containment and formation of visible and invisible social and ethnic borders in the formation of Jewish and Christian spaces. I very much enjoyed working with her on this project.”

—Dr. Roemer

DR. CHRISTINE MAXWELL *The Book as Provocative Artifact:*

A New Relevancy for Holocaust Literature in the 21st Century

“Dr. Christine Maxwell’s doctoral dissertation on “The Book as Artifact” in research on Holocaust literature is truly original, indeed, groundbreaking. Combining her knowledge of digital search engines and technologies with her expertise in Holocaust literature, Dr. Maxwell has opened up not only new research data, but also new research methods that will benefit scholars for years to come.”

—Dr. Patterson



DR. LINDA NEGRON

The Value of Life and Moral

Courage: How Jewish Prisoner Physicians Practiced Medicine Behind Barbed Wire

“It was a pleasure to work with Linda. Her dissertation, inspired by her own medical training and religious convictions, explores the moral courage of Jewish physicians who practiced medicine in the Warsaw and Lodz ghettos and in the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Her research is a testament to the ‘heroic page in the history of medicine’ written by these Jewish prisoner-physicians.”

—Dr. Roemer



DR. KARL SEN GUPTA *Otherwise, Then Being:*

Kenosis in the Thought of Emmanuel Levinas

“In Spring 2021 Dr. Karl Sen Gupta successfully completed his dissertation on one of the great philosophers of the 20th century: Emmanuel Levinas. Karl’s thesis is the result of several years of tireless devotion to the study of the profound religious and ethical implications of the Holocaust. Karl is truly a soul on fire, and working with him was a great blessing for me.”

—Dr. Patterson



DR. TERIN TEHAN *Forbidden Games:*

Representations of the Holocaust in Video Games

“It was truly a learning experience for me to work with Dr. Terin Tehan as she completed her dissertation. Her thesis truly embodies the highest in interdisciplinary studies, bringing together the many facets of Holocaust studies, social media, and the complexities of the internet. Her research marks a truly original and important contribution to these fields.”

—Dr. Patterson



RESEARCH

Collaborative research remains at the heart of the Ackerman Center's mission with ongoing projects advancing the scholarship of Holocaust studies and related fields.

The Center's staff, research assistants, and faculty all office within a 3,500 square-foot dedicated facility located in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center. This allows the students to have greater access to our resources and professors, which is another of the many benefits that the Center offers to its students.

THE JAFFE LIBRARY READING ROOM AND COLLECTION



The Jaffe Library Reading Room located within the Ackerman Center provides access to many of the core texts and videos from the Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection, the majority of which is housed in the McDermott Library. This collection provides access to roughly 6,000 books and videos as well as to digital and archival resources, including the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive with more than 3,000 video testimonies of survivors.

FUNDING STUDENT RESEARCH

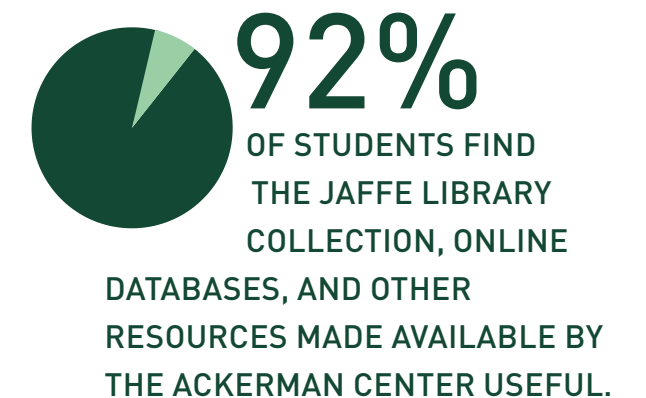
The following endowments were created to help students present their original research in conjunction with the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

*Charles M. Schwarz
Endowment in Holocaust Studies*

*Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family
Endowment in Holocaust Studies*

"I was able to access resources through the Jaffe Collection that were not available in other libraries in the area. Being able to sit down with a book and discover others on a similar topic in the reading room at the Ackerman Center directly impacted papers I have written for my coursework."

—Katie Fisher, Graduate Student



The following endowments were created in 2016 as part of *An Evening with Zsuzsi* to help students in perpetuity to conduct original research in archives and libraries and to attend and present that research at conferences.

The Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund

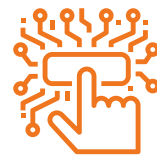
Herman Abrams Research Fund

*The Max and Florence Wolens Research Fund
in honor of Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth*



DIGITAL STUDIES OF THE HOLOCAUST

RESEARCHING FOR THE FUTURE USING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO PRODUCE TOOLS THAT ENHANCE RESEARCH AND EMBRACES DIGITAL STUDIES



The students and faculty at the Ackerman Center who make up the team working on the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project aim to introduce new ways of seeing and remembering the Holocaust. The results of the project create an interactive and user-friendly tool that analyzes larger shifts in the pattern of deportations across Europe while visualizing the experience of individual victims.

CASE STUDIES

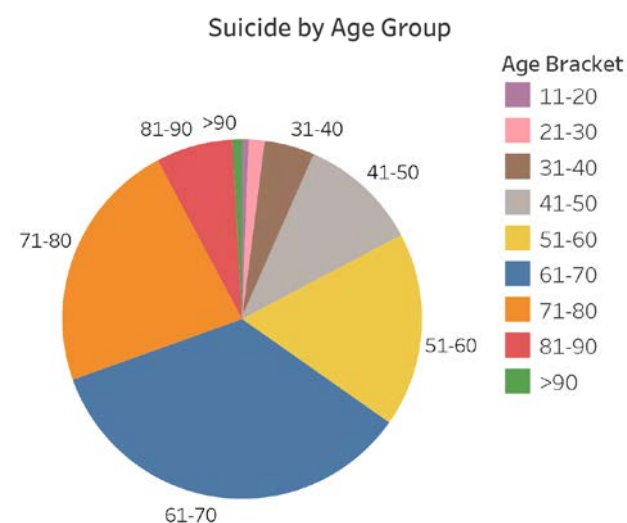
Continuing with the work to create digital resources for remembering and seeing the Holocaust, Dr. Roemer and Belosfsky Fellow Shefali Sahu produced three case studies. Each of these studies focuses on analyzing data available from Yad Vashem and uses the Tableau program to create a dashboard showing relevant statistics. Digital Studies in the Holocaust also sheds light on the all-encompassing nature of the Holocaust by expanding the scope of experiences beyond those of European populations to include other victim groups from all over the globe. Here are three excerpts from the case studies which are available on the Ackerman Center website.

DIGITAL STUDIES OF SUICIDES OF JEWS IN HAMBURG DURING THE HOLOCAUST

Today many historical documents serve the process of remembrance and are important sources for our study of the Holocaust. Local memorial books of German

Jewish communities hold a wealth of information about Jewish victims. Based on deportation lists and other sources, the Memorial Book of Jews of Hamburg, for example, recalls not only victims of the Holocaust, but in its digital format opens up new avenues of study. The Hamburg memorial book entails information about suicides. The social, economic, and physical assault on Jews, which commenced once Hitler came to power in 1933, created a atmosphere of fear and despair, where ending one's life was potentially driven by a desire to preserve individual dignity and agency while at other times an act of hopelessness.

Moreover, predominantly older individuals took their lives, which is less surprising considering that the average age of remaining Jews steadily increased. Age stands out particularly for the height of suicides between 1941 and 1942. Of the over 200 individuals who took their lives during this



period, 130 men and women were between 61 and 80.

DIGITAL STUDIES REVISTING THE DIVERSITY OF VICTIMS IN MARSEILLE ON THE EDGES OF THE HOLOCAUST

In the interwar period, Marseille, France's second largest city, was a provincial port at the edge of the Mediterranean and functioned, as Sheila Crane's excellent book suggests, as a "Mediterranean crossroad" between the French empire and its colonies. The ebb and flow of colonial subjects had rendered the port city already a transient space before the rise of Hitler Germany. During the 1930s,

Marseille became the destination of refugees. Along many Jewish refugees were many others according to Alma Werfel's diary, "The city swarmed with refugees. They had been Germans, Austrians, Czechs, Poles; now most of them were stateless, many without passports, some without any papers, all wanting only to get out, to go far away."

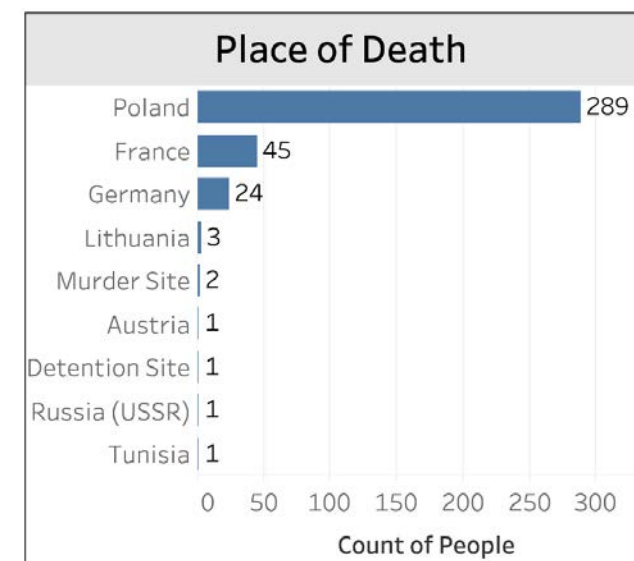
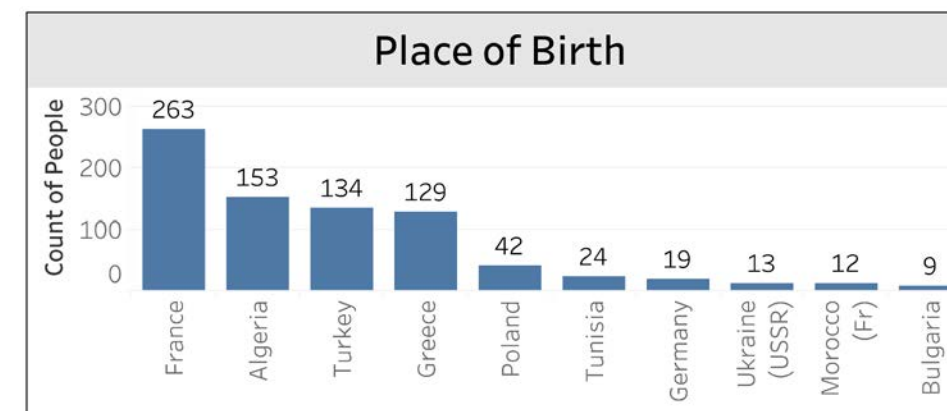
Contrary to our oft held view of Marseille as an escape route of famous Jewish and non-Jewish refugees, Marseille was also home to many foreign Jews, who were deported to the East. Statistical evidence suggest that they had decidedly different fates in comparison to those who escaped. Amongst the deportees from Marseille were

those born in Algeria, Greece, and Turkey who outnumbered French-born Jews 416 to 263. Moreover, while Marseille had become the destination for many German and even Polish Jews, their total combined only 61 in comparison to 416 natives from Algeria,

Greece, and Turkey. Natives of Tunisia and Morocco added another 36 deportees to the count of foreign-born Jews, who were deported from Marseille.

DIGITAL STUDIES: CONVOY 77

The beginning of the end of the Third Reich was shaped by June to September 1944. The landing of the Allies in Normandy on June 6 and the Soviet's Operation Bagration between June 23 and August 19 infused new meaning to these summer months. The imminent



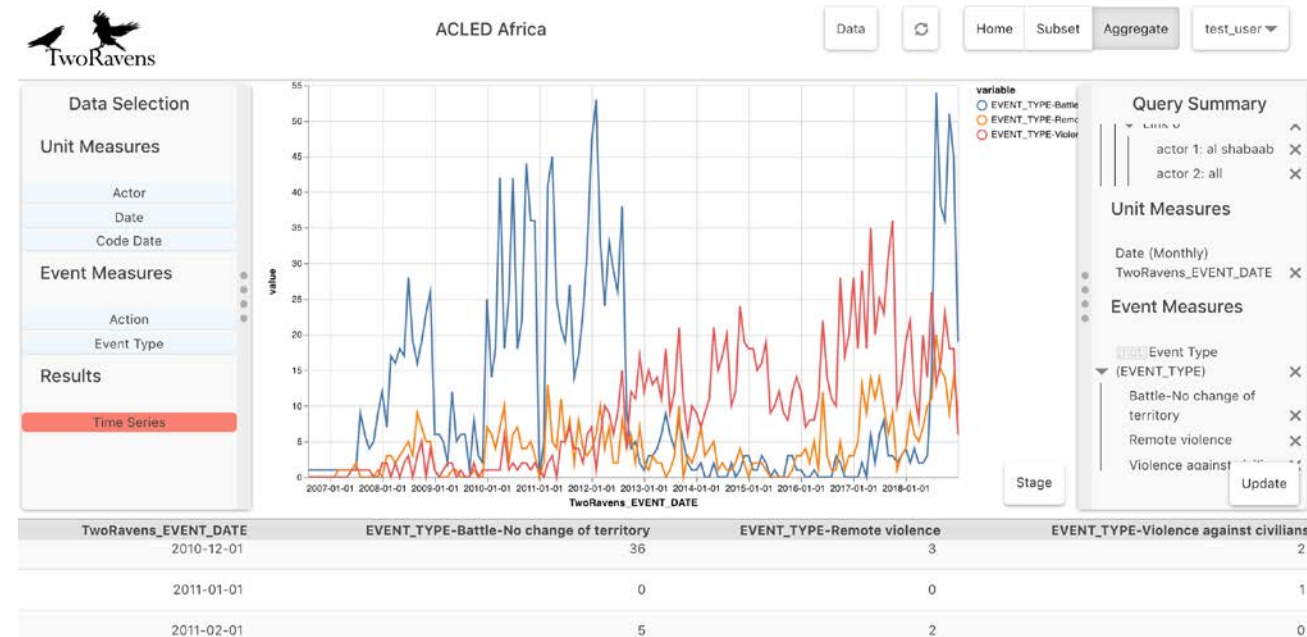


Many acts of violence, from hate crimes to ethnic war and genocide, are rooted in beliefs that some group is better than another, or ought to be privileged over another. These sorts of beliefs manifest different types of violence, often simultaneously. Consequently, the violence we observe is frequently part of broader societal trends and is difficult to understand in isolation. Professors Nils Roemer and Vito D’Orazio of UT Dallas, and Soham Das, a UTD alumnus and assistant professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs in India, are collaborating to better understand these trends.

“This project is on the cutting edge. We are trying to understand how social, economic, and political factors create a culture of violence. We want to better understand how crime rates, domestic violence, and violence against foreigners relate to each.”

— Dr. Nils Roemer

The goals of the project are (1) to gain new insights into the causes of violence, (2) to create a collection of data resources for understanding violence, and (3) to develop the TwoRavens web application to allow the exploration of this data on violence by the public.



TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

The Ackerman Center holds annual workshops with students and faculty to translate key Holocaust poems into several languages. This year the workshop was held online and used breakout rooms to facilitate collaborative work. The group translated “Shemá” by Primo Levi into more than a dozen languages along with a visual translation. The translators of the English version shown below noted, “This poem is based on the principal Jewish prayer, ‘Hear, [Shemá] O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One.’” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Numbers 15:37-41). Primo Levi reworks some of its major ideas, making it possible to incorporate the experience of the Holocaust into the Jewish religion.

SHEMÁ

English translation by Ruth Feldman & Brian Swann

You who live secure
In your warm houses,
Who return at evening to find
Hot food and friendly faces:

Consider whether this is a man,
Who labours in the mud
Who knows no peace
Who fights for a crust of bread
Who dies at a yes or a no.
Consider whether this is a woman,
Without hair or name
With no more strength to remember
Eyes empty and womb cold
As a frog in winter.

Consider that this has been:
I commend these words to you.
Engrave them on your hearts
When you are in your house, when you walk
on your way,
When you go to bed, when you rise.
Repeat them to your children.
Or may your house crumble,
Disease render you powerless,
Your offspring avert their faces from you.

SHEMÁ

Translated into Spanish by Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona

Ustedes que viven seguros
En sus cálidos hogares,
Ustedes que encuentran, al retornar por la tarde,
La comida caliente y rostros amigables:

Consideren si esto es un hombre
Quien trabaja en el fango
Quien no conoce la paz
Quien lucha por la mitad de un panecillo
Quien muere por un sí o un no.
Consideren si esta es una mujer
Quien no tiene cabellos ni nombre
Ni más fuerza para recordarlo
Vacía la mirada y frío el regazo
Como una rana en invierno.

Piensen que esto ha sucedido:
Yo les ordeno estas palabras.
Tállenlas en sus corazones
Estando en casa, andando por la calle,
Al acostarse, al levantarse;
Repítanlas a sus hijos.
O que su casa se derrumbe,
Que la enfermedad los disminuya,
Que sus descendientes les nieguen la mirada.

A special video created using these translations can be viewed through this QR code.





OUTREACH

Our new virtual platforms allowed for an increased connectedness outside of our local communities, and our audience grew exponentially not only in size but geographical scope as well.

Our academic program is complemented by a substantial outreach program that includes free public events such as teacher workshops, film screenings, and lectures from distinguished scholars. With the recent rise of anti-Semitism and human rights violations, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever in the 21st century. By advancing a continuous engagement with the past, the Ackerman Center will be a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world.



THE ACKERMAN CENTER HOSTED 45 EVENTS WITH SPEAKERS AND ATTENDEES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.



REACHING PEOPLE IN 42 COUNTRIES
AROUND THE WORLD



HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS CALENDAR

- SEPT. 24 Race and Antisemitism: Contemporary Global Perspectives
- SEPT. 30 From Darkness into Light: My Journey through Nazism, Fascism, and Communism to Freedom
- OCT. 18 Bridge to Nowhere: Yiddish in Argentina from the Holocaust to the Dirty War
- OCT. 29 Film Screening and Panel Discussion: *The Silence of Others*
- NOV. 10 Remembering Kristallnacht: “The Night of Broken Glass”
- OCT. 25 Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture
“Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials”
- JAN. 26 Author/Filmmaker Heather Dune Macadam, *999*
- FEB. 11 Jewish Identifiers: Reflections on Latin American Jewish Identity
- FEB. 17 Film Screening and Discussion: *Who Will Write Our History*
- MAR. 3 51st Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches
- MAR. 7 Mending Fragments of Time: How the Lives of Jewish Merchants Shape Our
- MAR. 21 Understanding of the Medieval Islamic World
- MAR. 24 Conversations on Mestizaje, Transculturation, and Anti-Black Racism in Latin America
- MAR. 31 Language and Trauma: Yiddish in Post-Dictatorship Argentina
- APR. 8 Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration
- APR. 14 Memories of Social Engineering
State-Sponsored Violence in Mexico and Argentina
- APR. 28 The Holocaust & Dictatorship in Brazilian Literature
- JUN. 23-24 Teacher Institute “On the Brink: Saving Jews during the Holocaust”

COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

- SEPT. 13 From the Spanish Inquisition to the Present: A Search for Jewish Roots
(Presented with the Southwest Jewish Congress)
- OCT. 8 Infectious Diseases, COVID-19 and Antisemitism
(Presented with the ADL - Texoma)
- DEC. 6 Sephardic Jews and the Third Reich
(Presented with the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies)
- APR.30 Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil
(Presented with the School of Arts and Humanities)
- AUG. 4 Film Screening and discussion, *Passage to Sweden*
(Presented with the Southwest Jewish Congress)

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
RACE AND ANTISEMITISM:
CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVES

Dr. Nils Roemer welcomed guests and presenters on Thursday, September 24th for an academic workshop to present contemporary and global perspectives on race and antisemitism. This was the fifth in a series of workshops hosted by the Ackerman Center that brings scholars from different fields and backgrounds together to discuss this important topic.

Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona
Visiting Assistant Professor,
The University of Texas at Dallas

Dr. Gonzalez, who organized the event, introduced the topic, and presented background information using examples of how the idea of race obscures the international and local perception of the Mexican people as persons with the capacity for self-determination. The notion of a certain national “Being” becomes an obstacle, for foreigners and locals when it is necessary to think about Mexico as a modern, multi-national, and linguistically diverse country.

“All American Antisemitism through
 Replacement Feminism”

Dr. Amy Elman
Weber Chair of Social Science
and Professor of Political Science,
Kalamazoo College

Conventional considerations of antisemitism rely on antiquated notions of “left” versus “right” with an occasional mix of “jihadist” antisemitism and



overlook the frequently overlapping themes and alliances. Dr. Elman's presentation examined, in brief, the cooptation of the women's movement by reactionary forces within and beyond the United States and the dangers posed by this shift.

“Challenges Teaching about the Intersecting Phenomenon of ‘Racism and Antisemitism’”
Dr. Katya Gibel Mevorach
Professor of Anthropology & American Studies,
Grinnell College



The discourse of whiteness and privilege, coupled with lived experiences of acts of violence and definitions of pedagogic microaggression pose challenges in creating syllabi and conversations in both

the classroom and everyday conversation. Dr. Gibel Mevorach's talk focused on ways to address this as well as the persistent obsession with the relationship of Jews and Blacks.

“The Impact of the Hindu Caste System on Abrahamic Religious Communities in India”
Dr. Navras J. Aafreedi
Assistant Professor of History at Presidency
University, Kolkata

79.8 % of India's total population of 1.3 billion is considered Hindu. The Hindu society is divided into four varnas (classes) in a hierarchy in which the Brahmins (priests) are at the top. Each of these four varnas is further subdivided into several jatis (castes). Those who are not considered part of any of these classes are seen as falling out of the class



system and have been subjected to the worst forms of social discrimination for centuries to



the extent that they were considered untouchables. Untouchability is prohibited in modern India and is punishable by imprisonment, yet

it has not ended. The discriminatory caste system has left a strong impact on the social structures of all three Abrahamic religious communities in India.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
**FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT:
MY JOURNEY THROUGH NAZISM,
FASCISM, AND COMMUNISM
TO FREEDOM**

Hungarian Holocaust Survivor, Robert Ratonyi, joined us to discuss his newly released memoir, *From Darkness into Light: My Journey through Nazism, Fascism, and Communism to Freedom*.

Robert and his wife Eva, also a survivor from Hungary, previously delivered the Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture as part of the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference in March of 2020. Eva, a UT Dallas alumna, introduced Robert during this live event, which was attended by people from around the world. Dr. Nils Roemer served as a moderator for the event, asking Robert questions about his life, memoir, and his motivation to tell his story.

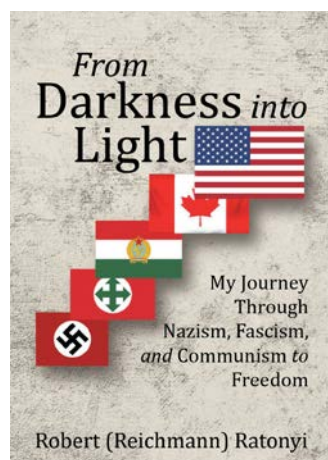
From *Darkness into Light* is structured in five chronological chapters based on what Ratonyi describes as his "journeys." In the first chapter, "A Holocaust Childhood," Ratonyi narrates his family's situation in Budapest in 1944 as they were navigating air raids, resettlements in ghettos and persecution by the anti-Semitic Hungarian government. As a six-year-old boy, Ratonyi did not understand the significance of the order to wear the Yellow Star, but he was aware of his father's absence after being conscripted into a labor battalion,



and later missing his mother as she was marched on foot to Austria together with several thousand Jewish women.

In his second journey, Ratonyi discussed growing up in a working-class family under communism and how his mother

struggled to provide for him as a single parent working in a factory. However, despite the harsh conditions of living under totalitarian dictatorship, Ratonyi talked about the positive impact of belonging to a loving family and of being surrounded with several influential characters such as his uncle Laci and his Rabbi, Dr. Kálmán. For Ratonyi's bar mitzvah, Rabbi Kálmán wrote a heartwarming letter and addressed it to Robert Reichmann. The change



of the last name from Reichmann to Ratonyi was motivated by the desire to "blend into my new society at the University without telling everyone that I am Jewish," says Ratonyi.

As a young college student in Hungary, Ratonyi experienced his third journey, "The Hungarian Uprising of 1956." In December of that year, he made the life-changing decision to flee Hungary and he entered his fourth journey, "The Escape." In his fifth and final journey, "Immigrant Years," he discussed his search for a new home country, first in Canada and then finally in the United States. Ratonyi's book is an intimate historical narrative of the Holocaust in Hungary, of growing up under communism, and of life as a Jewish immigrant in North America.

OCTOBER 18, 2020
**BRIDGE TO NOWHERE: YIDDISH IN
ARGENTINA FROM THE HOLOCAUST
TO THE DIRTY WAR**

Dr. Amy Kerner, Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies, presented "Bridge to Nowhere? Yiddish in Argentina from the Holocaust to the Dirty War," in which she traced the history of the Yiddish language in Argentina from the Holocaust to the so-called "Dirty

War" of 1976-1983 and its aftermath.

Dr. Kerner discussed what it means to face the history of the Yiddish language decades after the Holocaust, a period that is often considered to represent a decline in



A group of survivors just arrived in Buenos Aires from Paris, 1952. Archivo Mark Turkow, Buenos Aires.

Yiddish. With the destruction of most Eastern European centers of Yiddish life that resulted from the Holocaust, we may find it surprising to find the existence of a thriving modern Yiddish culture in cities like Buenos Aires. From the 1890s to the 1920s, many Russian Jews fled the Pale of Settlement and were among the first Yiddish immigrants to arrive in Argentina; by 1945, the Jewish Argentine population numbered around 300,000. Yiddish speakers founded many of the all cultural institutions in Buenos Aires, and many publications and social networks were created. It became a major center of postwar Yiddish publishing, and the community welcomed survivors and promoted

community-sponsored memorial projects focused on Holocaust remembrance, with the goal of educating all Jewish Argentines about the Holocaust.

She focused on three challenges that threatened the continuity of the Yiddish language in Argentina. In the 1950s, President Juan Perón led a government-sponsored initiative to combat the spread of communism—the preconceived notion that associated Jewishness with communism led to the targeting of the Jewish community.

Diplomatic relations between Argentina and Israel after 1948 caused further challenges. Israeli government officials promoted Hebrew as the preferred national language and encouraged publishing in Hebrew rather than in Yiddish. In the 1960s many young Jewish Argentines became active in left-leaning political and cultural organizations. In 1966, a right-wing authoritarian government was established in Argentina by a military coup. Violent protests and guerilla warfare erupted after the government banned all other political parties and organizations. In this climate of political repression and rebellion, many young Jewish Argentines came to resent the use of Yiddish, claiming that it was a marker of weakness and represented the tradition of their parents, which they wanted to distance themselves from.

In the aftermath of the “Dirty War,” a state-led campaign between 1976 and 1983 that left some 30,000 dead, it was discovered that Yiddish at times operated as a language of communication for use by the underground and other activist groups to record and correspond with the outside world.

Dr. Kerner concluded that the story

of the Yiddish language in Argentina it is not only about the story of cultural, historical, or linguistic survival. Three generations of Jewish immigrants saw the Yiddish language as a distinct marker of Jewish identity.

OCTOBER 29, 2020
FILM SCREENING AND PANEL
DISCUSSION: THE SILENCE OF OTHERS

The award-winning documentary, *The Silence of Others*, reveals the struggle for justice by the survivors and victim family members who suffered under the 40-year dictatorship of General Francisco Franco in Spain, a struggle that continues to the present day. Drs. Amy Kerner, Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona, and Sarah Valente moderated a panel discussion about the documentary film.

Dr. Gonzalez emphasized the importance of understanding the historical background to the political situation both prior to and during the Franco regime. Against this chronology, it becomes possible to ascertain a consistent pattern of conservative fascist trends in Spain’s history. In the “1898 Disaster,” Spain lost the colonies of Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines to the United States. This disturbance in global power dynamics was a catalyst to turmoil, creating fertile ground for the emergence of the far-left. The monarchy’s publicly promoted “cordial” transfer of power to the Franco regime in July of 1936, was actually a coup perpetrated by regime forces. The “War after the War,” was a transitional period following the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1938. A considerable portion of the population was forced into exile, fleeing either to Mexico or France. Many returning exiles suffered

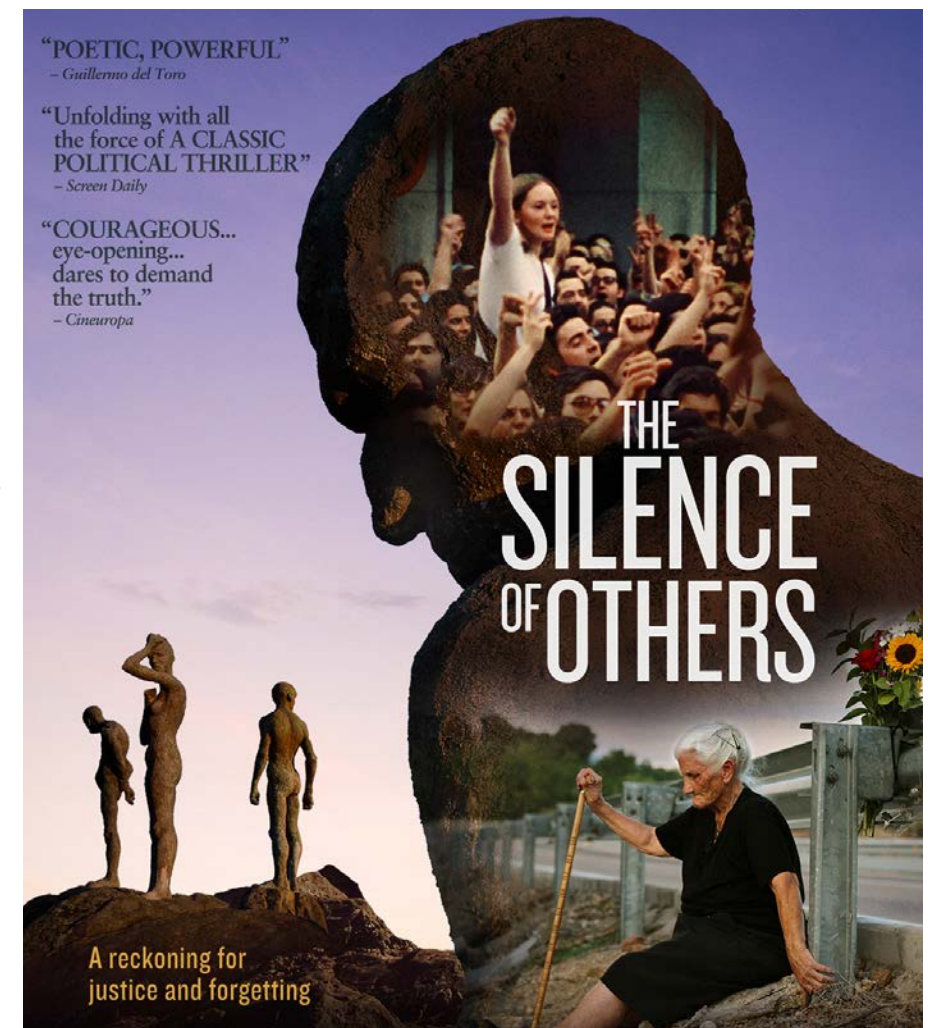
imprisonment, torture, and execution for allegedly “republican” ideals.

Dr. Kerner discussed the international legal and juridical aspects of the film. She focused on the importance of the transnational dynamic to the demand for justice by victims of the Franco regime. The film follows a 2010 lawsuit as it traveled between Argentina and Spain. The international legal framework used by the case emerged in very recent history. Prior precedents in international criminal prosecution were established at Nuremberg after WWII. In Argentina, the experience of recovering from the so-called “Dirty War” of the 1970s and 1980s created a framework for legal concepts that were applied in the case of Spain. It was not until 2010 that an investigation was opened concerning these crimes committed by the Spanish government, and even

more surprising, charges were brought by prosecutors in Argentina, not Spain. In Spain, survivors and the families of victims seeking justice were met with continuous resistance at every level of government. This shows the importance of grassroots organizations,

including victims’ rights groups who publicly advocated bringing the crimes and their perpetrators to justice on an international stage.

Dr. Valente discussed how the film represented the question of memory—characterizing it as a “fight for memory.” Spanish officials verbally attacked memory



and spoke in allusions as they refuse to discuss the subject. This tension between those who have suffered and those who are in power is a continuing struggle that is evident in the film. The experience is akin to exile—characterized by massive numbers of displaced peoples. The



film shows the power of collective narrative by those who have suffered under the regime, and at the forefront of this narrative is the importance of witnessing. These collective memories by the people themselves have become a substitute for the justice that they never received.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020
REMEMBERING KRISTALLNACHT:
THE NIGHT OF BROKEN GLASS

To mark the anniversary of Kristallnacht, faculty and students of the Ackerman Center participated in an online event that consisted

of several presentations pertaining to various aspects of the historical event. Dr. Roemer began the evening with a brief introduction on the history and significance of Kristallnacht, highlighting the effects of the tragic event on the Jewish population in Germany. Following his general introduction, both graduate students and faculty contributed their presentations beginning with Philip Barber, Ackerman Center graduate research assistant. He spoke on the incidences of suicide following Kristallnacht as the Jewish people's final act of defiance in resistance of the Nazis. After Phillip, Dr. Sarah Valente, visiting assistant professor, shared diary entries from a young man, Klaus Langer, who witnessed the events



Germans pass by the broken shop window of a Jewish-owned business that was destroyed during Kristallnacht. Photo Source: National Archives and Records Administration, College Park

of Kristallnacht firsthand. Graduate research assistant, Angie Simmons, also contributed a newspaper article from *The Times* illustrating the visibility of the event on the world stage and reactions from that outside of the country. The next presenter was Dr. David Patterson who provided a detailed testimony of a friend and survivor, Emil Fackenheim, Jewish philosopher, and Rabbi. His presentation was followed by Amal Shafek, a PhD candidate, who spoke on the role of testimony and memory in history using media, particularly digital archives of survivors. In the same vein, the evening concluded with a presentation by Dr. Roemer and Shefali Sahu of the Digital

Humanities project, the Memory Book. Each of the presentations provided unique and differing perspectives in commemoration of the "Night of Broken Glass."

BURTON C. EINSPRUCH

HOLOCAUST LECTURE SERIES

Open to the public, this forum encourages audiences to gain insight into ground-breaking research.



OCTOBER 25, 2020
BURTON C. EINSPRUCH
HOLOCAUST LECTURE
"COMMEMORATION OF THE
75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
NUREMBERG TRIALS"

This year's Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series featured topics related to the enduring legacies of the Nuremberg Trials with a contemporary focus. The series was presented in two parts: Part I was a pre-recorded interview with Benjamin Ferencz, the chief prosecutor for the United States Army at the Einsatzgruppen Trial in Nuremberg. Part II was a live panel presentation with Michael Bazylar (Professor of Law and The 1939 Society Scholar in



Benjamin Ferencz during the trial.

Holocaust and Human Rights Studies, Dale E. Fowler School of Law at Chapman University), Michael S. Bryant (Professor of History and Legal Studies, Bryant University), and Kristen Nelson (Assistant Managing Editor – European Court of Human Rights Module for Oxford Reports on International Law, and Adjunct Professor at Gratz College).

Benjamin Ferencz
U.S. Chief Prosecutor of the Einsatzgruppen
Trial in Nuremberg

Ferencz recalled his experiences as the U.S. Prosecutor at the Einsatzgruppen Trial in Nuremberg, Germany, where he brought charges against 24 of the highest-ranking officers of the Einsatzgruppen, the mobile killing squads of specialized German police battalions responsible for the murder of over one million Jews in Eastern Europe, who shot men, women, and children into mass graves.

Ferencz described his shock when he discovered the meticulous documentation kept by the Einsatzgruppen kommandos that





chronicled their daily activities, including participant names, locations of actions, and numbers of Jews killed. Outraged at the atrocities he had found, he immediately gathered as much evidence as he could and took it to General Telford Taylor, who initially told him that they did not have the resources to hold any additional trials than the 12 that had been authorized. Ferencz persisted in his determination to bring the Einsatzgruppen to trial and was given permission by General Taylor to indict 24 of the highest-ranking Einsatzgruppen officers involved in the actions in the East. Though there were over 3,000 members of the killing squads, only 24 defendants were allowed to be selected because that was the number of seats they had in the dock.

The trial began on September 29, 1947 and concluded on April 10, 1948. All 24 men were found guilty, but Ferencz stressed that the sentencing of such a small number of individuals responsible for such heinous



Chief prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz presents documents as evidence at the Einsatzgruppen Trial. Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Benjamin Ferencz

crimes could not make an impact in any meaningful way for the future, and with this in mind, he asked the panel presiding over the proceedings to set a jurisdictional precedent for the future prosecution of such crimes. Ferencz’s “Plea of Humanity to Law,” the speech he made before the court, marks a watershed moment in both the history of the Holocaust as well as in law studies and has implications that are still relevant today.

Michael Bazylar,
Professor of Law

Law professor Michael Bazylar, during his lecture, “Testimony and Evidence Presented on the Holocaust,” explained how, despite direct documentary evidence referring specifically to the targeted and systematic extermination of the Jews, prosecutors were able to establish the guilt of the defendants during the war crimes trials conducted after WWII.

Professor Bazylar also highlighted the type of “double-talk” that characterized the testimony of Nazi defendants, explaining that the defendants would often vehemently deny any acknowledgment of extermination as official policy towards the Jews, while contradicting themselves under cross-examination.



Michael S. Bryant
*Professor of History and Legal Studies,
Bryant University*

Professor Michael S. Bryant discussed

the history of the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg (IMT), which was responsible for the persecution of major war criminals after WWII. The roots of the IMT, he explained, can be traced to the spring and summer of 1942, when the first reports of the Final Solution made their way to the Western allies. The awareness of the Nazi atrocities provoked a series of warnings threatening repercussions for those responsible for them.

Delegates from each of the Allied Powers, including the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union, convened to address the post-war prosecution of high-ranking Nazi party members involved in all spheres of activity: military, bureaucratic, and others. He discussed the debate between the prosecutorial heads about how to classify the crimes with which they were being charged. The result was a four-category system that



concentrated on the types of crimes of which the individual was accused and depended on their level of involvement, and in which locations their crimes were committed. Professor

Bryant did emphasize the fact that crimes against humanity did not include genocide. The reason for this, he explained, was that at the time it was thought that the term genocide was altogether too new, and with no prior precedent, it would be difficult to employ in a jurisdictional manner. It is for this reason that the charge of genocide was referred to as crimes against humanity.

During the trial, Bryant explained, the defendants were prohibited from retreating

to a “superior orders” defense, which means that they could not escape their individual accountability with the defense that they were merely “following orders.” The Nuremberg Trials represented the first International Tribunal formed by blending both Anglo American and European law traditions in the manner of addressing prosecutorial conduct.

Kristen Nelson
Gratz College

Kristen Nelson presented the lecture, “Nuremberg Shaped our Modern Understanding of Justice,” in which she explained how the Nuremberg Trials have influenced jurisdictional issues since the end of the Second World War. Nelson called attention to the generation of scholars that emerged from the 80s and 90s, for whom the history of the post-war proceedings has influenced contemporary prosecutions of war crimes. Stressing the importance of the precedents that were set by these trailblazing legislative agents is still being used today, she provided examples of how the events that took place in Nuremberg informed criminal court tribunals for the prosecution of war crimes in Rwanda and Bosnia/Herzegovina.



*In case you missed it:
the recordings of both parts
of this event can be accessed
through this QR code.*





JANUARY 26, 2021
AUTHOR/FILMMAKER
HEATHER DUNE MACADAM, 999

On January 26, 2021, the Ackerman Center hosted Heather Dune Macadam, acclaimed author of the international bestseller *999: The Extraordinary Young Women of the First Official Jewish Transport to Auschwitz*. In her presentation, Ms. Macadam spoke of her documentary film project, titled 999, which is based on her bestselling book about the young women who were a part of the first official transport to Auschwitz.

Her presentation, which consisted of documentary footage of survivor interviews as well as recently uncovered photographs and documents, included both the stories of survivors she met with and whose stories she recorded as well as the stories of their



friends who were killed during their time in the camp. She emphasized that these women, whose stories she had chronicled and preserved, were mere teenagers at the time of their experiences.

During her presentation she detailed the stories of these girls in the days leading up to their transport to the camp, as well as their experiences after their arrival and through their eventual liberation as well. It was apparent that Ms. Macadam was passionate about sharing their stories, and this translated into a very engaging and interesting presentation of a little-known story.

FEBRUARY 11, 2021
JEWISH IDENTIFIERS:
REFLECTIONS ON LATIN AMERICAN
JEWISH IDENTITY

Special guest speaker Dr. Deby Roitman, Strategic Advisor at Universidad Hebraica, Mexico, and Advisor at the Museo Judio Interactivo de Chile presented her intriguing lecture “Jewish Identifiers: Reflections on Latin American Jewish Identity,” where she discussed the multifaceted aspects of Latin American Jewish identity.

Divided into two sections, the first part of the discussion focused on the key concepts of identity and identifiers and the elements of each term helped to shape a particular collective distinctiveness. Defining identity as the capacity by which groups differ and are differentiated from

others, Dr. Roitman emphasized identity as a dynamic process that is constantly changing. Identifiers describe specific characteristics shared by a collective group. Dr. Roitman highlighted five distinct identifiers of Jewish identity—religion, tradition, peoplehood,

Israel, and the Shoah.

In this context religion is an element with several universal precepts. Tradition encompasses Jewish education, community life, Hebrew language, and a sense of belonging. Likewise, peoplehood has similar elements to tradition in terms of focus on community and Jewish education, but the key difference in this respect is a shared sense of belonging as the cornerstone of understanding and extends to the entire group as a ‘family.’ Israel represents the promised land, aliyah, and Zionism. The Shoah forms the foundation of collective Jewish memory and identity by preserving the memory of the Holocaust and promoting solidarity through the endeavor to ensure “Never Again.”

The second portion of Dr. Roitman’s lecture reflected on Latin American Jewish identity and included a brief summarization of the historical origins of Latin American Jewish communities. Broadly speaking, Latin American Jewish identity can be described as “ethnic/community groups” that originated from three different ethnicities—the Askenazism from Eastern Europe, the Sephardim, expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in the 15th century, and the Edot Amig Roch (Eastern Jews) from North Africa and the Middle East.

Dr. Roitman outlined three central elements of Latin American Jewry and three elements which influence this identity, ethnic origin, and culture. Communities of ethnic origin focus on geographic locations and familial ties. Culture places the utmost importance on Jewish education. This led to the development of cultural institutions, including Jewish day schools and youth movements form the core of this element. National identity focuses on



Israel and aliyah. Many institutions in Latin America are founded on Zionist ideology, and Zionist youth movements have increased in size and popularity.

Dr. Roitman concluded her lecture by emphasizing that cultural recognition is a determining factor that defines the specific features of Latin American Jewish collective identity.

FEBRUARY 17, 2021:
FILM SCREENING AND
DISCUSSION: WHO WILL WRITE
OUR HISTORY

The powerful documentary, *Who Will Write Our History*, is based on diary excerpts taken from the Oneg Shabbat archive. Dr. Emanuel Ringelblum, an esteemed historian, initiated the archiving project by recruiting members from the ghetto to collect and record documentation from eyewitnesses chronicling the everyday life of the Jews in the Warsaw ghetto.

The Ackerman Center hosted a virtual screening of the documentary film. Viewers were given the opportunity to watch free of charge for two weeks prior to a special online discussion. On February 24th, Dr. David Patterson, held an in-depth discussion about the film. He emphasized a closer reading of the film through a lens of a Jewish perspective. Teaching and tradition are both crucial for developing a deeper understanding about the metaphysical dimensions of the Holocaust.

The discussion started with calling attention to the significance of the film’s title, which raises questions that are central to the essence of the annihilation. The first two parts of the question concern the physical

destruction of the Jewish people, concerning both who will write and who will transmit Jewish history? The second part of the question itself has a negative connotation, one that implies an unspoken understanding surrounding the question of who will be written out of history. The members of Oneg Shabbat recognized these questions and saw the urgency in recording and collecting every piece of documentation that they could in order to prevent this history from being forgotten.

The urgent need felt by the One

Shabbat to keep records that chronicle events in the Warsaw Ghetto testifies to the nature of the Nazis' assault on the Jews. At the foundation, the assault attached Jewish theological traditions and teachings. Dr. Patterson pointed to religiosity as one central theme of the film. Nazis scheduled attacks, roundups, and deportations on Hebrew holy days. Additionally, Nazis continued their destruction through assaulting rites and rituals of death. Dr. Ringelblum's diary entries noted that a constant presence of death haunted every specter of ghetto life—tormenting many of the Oneg Shabbat writers. Dr. Patterson characterized the ghetto as "the landscape of death." The horrific scenes documented by the archivists show that the ghetto itself was an instrument of extermination.

Dr. Patterson concluded drawing attention to the Jewish narration of the film which allowed the Jewish voices to speak for themselves. In consideration of rising global antisemitism and a growing tendency to de-Judaize the Holocaust, Dr. Patterson left the audience with the question "Who will write Jewish history now?" The transmission of testimonies, like those from the Oneg Shabbat archive, implicates us as witnesses. As the receivers of this sacred testimony, we are entrusted with a sacred obligation to respond to the outcry of suffering that fell on deaf ears during the Holocaust. In doing so, we assume the responsibility of protecting these memories. It is the witnesses' endeavor to ensure—just as the members of Oneg Shabbat did—that the Jews and Judaism are not written out of history.



THE 51ST ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

ON THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES

THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES at THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

MARCH 7, 2021
51ST ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE ON THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES

The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches was founded in 1970 by Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke. The ASC provides an invaluable forum for scholars to discuss and advance Holocaust research, ensuring the valuable lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant for today's world.

This year marked a watershed moment in the history of the ASC, as the first time it was hosted virtually allowing audiences from around the globe the opportunity to attend. Rather than a traditional multi-day conference, the 51st Annual Scholars' Conference featured three distinguished speakers that addressed the past, present, and future of Holocaust studies.



PROVIDING AN INVALUABLE FORUM FOR SCHOLARS TO DISCUSS AND ADVANCE HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

ACKERMAN CENTER DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: "DENIAL AND DISTORTION OF HOLOCAUST MEMORY"

DR. YEHUDA BAUER

Professor Emeritus of History and Holocaust Studies at the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Academic Advisor to Yad Vashem.

Preeminent Holocaust historian Dr. Yehuda Bauer, who attended the inaugural ASC in 1970, presented the first of three lectures of the day with the Ackerman Center Distinguished Lecture, "Denial and Distortion of Holocaust Memory." Dr. Bauer discussed issues surrounding the history of denial and distortion of Holocaust memory that emerged both during and after the Second World War. He emphasized that the denial and distortion of memory should be at the center of concern for the post-Holocaust world for this and future generations.

Holocaust Denial

Dr. Bauer pointed out that the earliest form of Holocaust denial originated during the Holocaust when the Nazis taunted Jewish prisoners by asserting that even if they survived that no one would believe them. Dr. Bauer argued that politics motivated the rise of Holocaust denial in the West. He remarked that the challenges that arose in the postwar period stemming from the efforts to establish democratic governments in formerly Nazi-controlled territories now under Allied occupation significantly impacted the construction of national narratives that



required historical revision to move forward.

Dr. Bauer highlighted a crucial moment in the history of Holocaust denial. In 1999 the court's verdict set a legal precedent declaring that "the Holocaust was a proven fact." This verdict resulted from legal proceedings initiated by infamous Holocaust denier David Irving who brought a libel suit against renowned Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt. Lipstadt listed Irving as a prominent Holocaust denier in one of her books.

Holocaust Distortion

Dr. Bauer described distortion as a fundamentally different phenomenon that is utilized by various national collective groups to disavow them of any culpability in the perpetration of the genocide of the Jews. He further clarified that these groups do not deny that the Holocaust happened, nor do they dispute the extermination of the Jews, but that they differ from denial in how they define their collective agency of involvement in such crimes. Dr. Bauer outlined some of the common features that characterize Holocaust distortion narratives, including publicly sanctioned and professed specific national wartime roles that promote a collective identity based on stories of heroism, resistance, revolt, and rescue in terms of a united opposition to the Nazi invaders and in their efforts to save their Jewish population from extermination. Dr. Bauer argued that Holocaust distortion is significantly concerning for its deliberate omission of the participation of the local governments and populations in Nazi-occupied territories, of which without their collaboration the Final Solution would not have been possible.

Dr. Bauer concluded by emphasizing the importance of opposing Holocaust denial

and distortion whenever it appears, and that the only way we can do so is to continue our commitment to Holocaust education, research, and the freedom of expression that freely allows public discourse about the history of the Holocaust.



**MICHAEL AND ELAINE JAFFE
LECTURE:**

"SHOAH THROUGH MUSLIM EYES"

DR. MEHNAZ AFRIDI

*Director/HGI, Holocaust, Genocide & Interfaith
Education Center, Manhattan College*

Dr. Mehnaz Afridi, presented this year's Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture, based on her book, Shoah Through Muslim Eyes, where she discussed her research concerning the complexities of the perception of memory involved in the history of the Holocaust.

Dr. Afridi began the discussion by outlining her academic approach to studying the Holocaust as one that crosses multiple disciplines, which provides new ways of looking at the event from different historical perceptions and geographical areas. She highlighted the importance of exploring

the geographies of the Holocaust that have often been overlooked in comprehensive histories of the subject. By expanding the traditional European territorial boundaries into North Africa and the Middle East it provides a better understanding of the different realms of victimhood through a more inclusive history of the period.

Dr. Afridi concluded her lecture by emphasizing the importance of exploring understudied parts of perspective and collective memory that have been overlooked in the historiography of the Holocaust.



lives multiple times to avoid being captured by the Nazis. His remarkable story of survival began before he was born when his father was forced to flee Germany for Amsterdam after being denounced as a producer of degenerative art. The experience of his parents highlights the radically changing circumstances for German Jews taking place in Germany prior to Hitler's assumption of power in 1933.

An especially interesting portion of Kohnstam's discussion involved the relationship between his family and the family of Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank, who posthumously gained worldwide attention when Otto published her famous diary. The Kohnstam and Frank families resided in the same apartment building and developed a close relationship, visiting each other almost daily.

In 1942, when conditions worsened for the Jews of Amsterdam, both the Kohnstam and Frank families faced the difficult decision to flee, go into hiding, or report for deportation. While the Franks prepared to move into the Secret Annex, which would become their new home and hiding place, the Kohnstam family decided to leave Amsterdam, embarking upon an unimaginable journey that spanned through the Netherlands traveling south mostly on foot until they reached safety in Argentina.

**MITCHELL L. AND MIRIAM
LEWIS BARNETT
LECTURE:**

**"A CHANCE TO LIVE: A FAMILY'S
JOURNEY TO FREEDOM"**

PIETER KOHNSTAM

*Holocaust survivor and member
of the Board of Directors for The Anne Frank
Center for Mutual Respect*

Pieter Kohnstam shared his own experiences of growing up as a Jewish child fleeing Nazi



persecution during the Holocaust as well as those of his immediate family that detailed his harrowing journey to freedom after being forced to flee for their

*In case you missed it:
the recordings of these three
lectures can be accessed
through this QR code.*



MARCH 21, 2021
**MENDING FRAGMENTS OF TIME:
 HOW THE LIVES OF JEWISH
 MERCHANTS SHAPE OUR
 UNDERSTANDING OF
 THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD**

In the 19th century, researchers discovered over 300,000 loose-leaf medieval papers, comprised of various documents including legal, educational, prose-poetry, and both



Islamic and Jewish scriptural texts that provide further information regarding everyday lives and interactions of medieval society. These varying manuscripts contain minute details about the cultural, social,

political, and other aspects of the period that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Dr. Ali Asgar Alibhai lectured on how the discovery of a variety of rare maps, documents, and manuscripts from the medieval period illuminates Islamic and Jewish social, cultural and historical aspects.

This discussion started with the *Book of Curiosities*, a detailed 11th-century manuscript containing rare color schematic maps that do not exist anywhere else in the world. He remarked that these maps are both intriguing and unique for their non-Eurocentric, apolitical, and



Panel from a Torah Shrine, ca. 1040.

non-religious perspective views of the world at the time. Dr. Alibhai discussed some of the map depictions in detail, calling attention to the extensive geographies of trade networks, and highlighting major trade routes of mercantile operations that represent the importance of both trade and travel to a medieval understanding of the world.

Dr. Alibhai concluding that what these maps and various other documents provide is a broader understanding of the medieval Islamic and Jewish world. Through a lens focused on trade, travel, and economic variables, he showed that “mending fragments of time” illustrates how different perspectives of understanding emerge from exploring these rare artifacts. Viewing them as individual components that are part of a much larger contextual frame offers a chance to perceive medieval Islamic and Jewish culture through a lens of material culture.

MARCH 24, 2021
**CONVERSATIONS ON MESTIZAJE,
 TRANSCULTURATION, AND ANTI-
 BLACK RACISM IN LATIN AMERICA**

The Ackerman Center hosted its Annual Race Workshop organized and moderated by Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona. The workshop included a panel discussion between Dr. Jose Espericueta, University of Dallas, and Dr. Mónica Moreno Figueroa, University of Cambridge. The participants examined the history and present-day implications of anti-black racism in Mexico. The panel emphasized the importance of the history of racialized perceptions in Mexico, bringing epistemological origins and corresponding social and cultural implications to the forefront of the conversation.

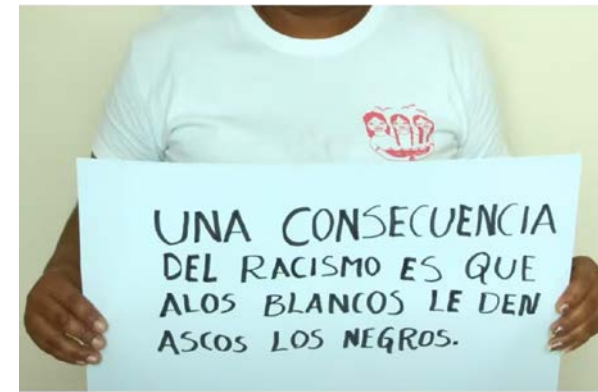
Dr. Gonzalez opened the discussion by exploring the meanings of the terms “Mestizaje,” “Mestiza,” or “Mestizo” in Mexican

culture. He explained that this label refers to a racialized conception of identity in Mexican culture based upon a national narrative that idealizes ancient cultures, especially those originating between the mixing of the Spanish and indigenous peoples of the Americas. Studying racialized perceptions encourages further thought about how such ideas are conveyed through mediums of popular culture and how they resonate in the collective consciousness. He illustrated how racialized depictions of black Afro-Mexican descendants have been portrayed in advertising campaigns, popular literature, and other media.

Likewise, Dr. Jose Espericueta called attention to the role that stereotyped images play in popular culture. Such ideas have become deeply embedded in the cultural consciousness of Mexicans. His research focuses on processes of identity construction and explores the various aspects of “cultural navigation.” Theories of race are a recent concept that emerged in the 19th century and are invented categories of identity. However, questions of Mexican self-identity actively engage notions of race. It is important to avoid the tendency to think about the perception of Mestizaje using simple binaries of racial understanding. Nationalizing narratives profess unity, but they suppress the cultural differences of indigenous peoples. It is especially important to question the “legitimizing” authorities that establish, utilize, and propagate racialized perceptions. This legitimacy defines how

questions of humanity, as well as universal notions of civilization and civilized people and behaviors. In the same manner, legitimacy also creates the mechanisms of justification by which the treatment and view of the “other” are conceived.

Dr. Mónica Moreno Figueroa described the conception of the Mestizaje as multifaceted but stressed the role of the nation-building process in Mexico as the principal component that stems from a historical process of colonialization and



colonial conquests. She argued that racism in Mexico differs from other global contexts as a racialized national conception. The effort to define Mexico as a homogenous population uses assimilationist thinking to promote a particular vision of identity. In terms of identity construction, Dr. Figueroa locates anti-black racism within the context of Mestizaje—linking together of ideas that purport the unity and homogeneity of the



population in the public consciousness. Hidden beneath the pretense of inclusion, these “equalizing processes” served to propagate mythological racialized perceptions. She stressed that in such discourses “indigenous” is used as a reductive term simplifying that all indigenous peoples can be reduced to this idealized notion of racialized identity.

Racialized ideas and longstanding myths in cultural consciousness stem



from larger historical origins and have direct relationship to the way that the “Other” is viewed and treated as different. Presently, there is still a general refusal to acknowledge the existence of anti-black racism in Mexico. Dr. Figueroa concluded by emphasizing the importance of breaking down these mythological racial conceptions embedded in the collective understanding.

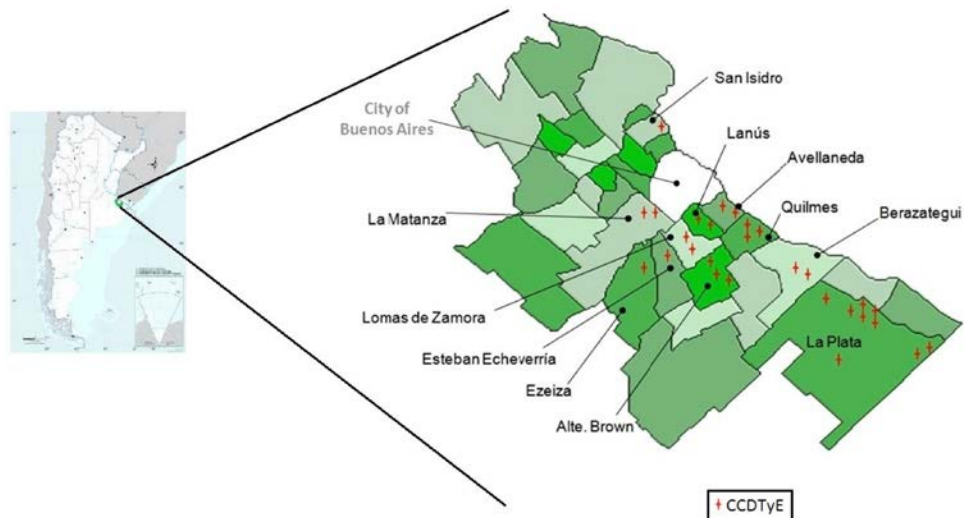
MARCH 31, 2021
LANGUAGE AND TRAUMA: YIDDISH IN POST-DICTATORSHIP ARGENTINA

The Ackerman Center’s annual Spring Lecture Series provides faculty a chance to present research and discuss topics related to Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies. This year’s theme concentrated on “Jewish and National Memory of Dictatorships in Latin America.” Dr. Amy Kerner, Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies and Assistant Professor in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies, kicked off the series.

The Yiddish language, Dr. Kerner argued, mediates the traumatic history, memories, and experiences of Jewish Argentines during the “Dirty War” (1976-83). Shifting Jewish attitudes toward Yiddish before, during, and after this period play a key role, not only in how Jewish Argentines tell their stories, but also in the ways of understanding the historical, cultural, and social contexts of national trauma. Contrasting the use and role of Yiddish

in American and Israeli cultures to that of Jewish Argentines illustrates the importance of the social and cultural geographies.

The so-called “Dirty War” is a euphemism for state-sponsored violence and murders that ensued after the regime came to power in 1976 and continued until the fall of the dictatorship in 1983. At the time, knowledge of the scale of the crimes committed by the regime was not widely known, however, historians estimate that between 10,000 to 30,000 people were “disappeared” and murdered by the dictatorship. The “Dirty War” represents a recent trauma in Argentina’s national collective memory that has been understood as a collective silence. The imprint of this trauma is what sets it apart from other contexts of the Yiddish language. Jewish Argentines are disproportionately represented as victims of the regime. Anti-Semitism and anti-Judeo-



The “Camps circuit” of clandestine centers of detention and torture.
Image Source: Introduction-Argentina Trial Monitor (ATM) Project

Bolshevism were both factors that formed the ideological background of the “Dirty War” and policymaking on behalf of the regime. The victims, however, were not specifically targeted as Jews. Their status as Jewish youth of the middle class made them more likely to

attended university in much larger numbers. Many young Jewish revolutionaries came from Yiddish-speaking homes. Yiddish was often stigmatized as the outdated language of their parent’s generation.

Yiddish Language and Memory in the Post-Dictatorship Period

Dr. Kerner called attention to an increasing post-dictatorship phenomenon in which the writing and publishing of works of fiction and nonfiction concerning Jewish Argentines’ experiences of detention and torture incorporate memories of Yiddish in their texts. She identified three different trajectories in Jewish Argentine memory, each of which stems from the association of the Yiddish language with the Holocaust and serves as an important turning point in the history of the Yiddish language in Argentina. In the postwar period there was an urgent need to commemorate both the Yiddish language and culture in the wake of the destruction wrought by the Final Solution. In the 1960s and 70s, the second trajectory emerged as the post-Holocaust generation collectively rejected and rebelled against the Yiddish language and culture. The third trend started after the fall of the dictatorship in 1982 and continues until the present day and is marked by a renewed interest in both the Yiddish language and culture. Dr. Kerner emphasized that the three represent the constantly changing meanings of Yiddish both after the Holocaust and the “Dirty War.”

The Yiddish language in Argentina serves as a jarring contrast to a conception characterized by comedy and nostalgia. In conclusion Dr. Kerner stressed that in contemporary Argentine society, memory reconstruction of this national trauma is an ongoing process. The aura of trauma haunts the legacy of Yiddish in Argentina in the post-dictatorship era.

APRIL 8, 2021
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, was first observed in 1953 to remember and honor the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to celebrate those who survived. In 2016, the Ackerman Center began commemorating the day by having students, staff, faculty, and members of the community recite poems in various languages. This year’s commemoration consisted of two parts, with each part featuring multiple special guest speakers.

“REMEMBERING RESISTANCE: THE 1942 TUCZYN GHETTO UPRISING”

The Tuczyn Ghetto Uprising took place in Tuczyn, a village in western Ukraine. Speakers at this event discussed their endeavor to preserve and protect the history and memory of the Jewish community which remains virtually unknown today. Viewers had the opportunity to learn about the event from different historical perspectives.

Dr. Michael Emmett shares his family’s story of survival

Dr. Michael Emmett, member of the Ackerman Center’s Advisory Board, Chief of Internal Medicine at Baylor University Medical Center, Clinical Professor of Medicine at The University of Texas Southwestern and Texas A&M School of Medicine, shared his family’s experience in Tuczyn during the Holocaust.

Dr. Emmett began his story with an overview of the historical and social background of the Jewish community in Tuczyn. In 1941, the village had approximately 3,000 Jewish inhabitants, the majority of which were small-time merchants and laborers. In



July of that year the Nazi occupation began, and the same day his mother and sister were savagely beaten by Nazi collaborators. In September of 1942, the ghetto was sealed, and shortly thereafter the liquidation of its inhabitants commenced. The Tuczyn Ghetto Uprising began while Nazi and Ukrainian police forces stormed the streets and Jewish resistance fighters set fire to the ghetto in revolt and 1,500 to 2,000 Jews escaped and fled into the surrounding forest. The Uprising lasted for two days before organizers surrendered and were later executed. Over one-half of the escapees were eventually caught and killed. Dr. Emmett's father, Isaak Emmett, managed to escape during the Tuczyn Ghetto Uprising fire and fled to the nearby town of Shubkiv, where his mother and sister later joined him. The three survived with the help of Pavel and Lyubov Gerasimchik, who at great personal risk, hid the family in their barn for a year-and-a-half. Sadly, most of his family members were not as fortunate and were murdered in the Holocaust. When the Russian army liberated Tuczyn in January of 1944, only 20 remained in Tuczyn compared to the population of 3,000 in 1941.

Dr. Emmett discovered that his father had kept a diary during the war chronicling the events taking place in Tuczyn and the experiences of his family, and it was from these 43 loose handwritten pages of paper that he reconstructed this history and inspired further research. He concluded his presentation by emphasizing the importance of creating public awareness about experiences and histories, like those that occurred in Tuczyn



and in other places in Ukraine that remain largely unknown and unacknowledged in Holocaust historiography.

Tuczyn Ghetto Uprising and Collaboration with JewishGen's Yizkor Book Project

Dr. Anne E. Parsons, associate professor and Director of Public History, UNC Greensboro discussed the original research that she has conducted on the Tuczyn Ghetto Uprising and shared details about her current collaborative work with JewishGen's Yizkor Book Project. She emphasized that with the passing of the

last survivors we have reached a crucial moment in the history of Holocaust education and research. This raises questions about the challenges facing new generations learning about the Shoah.

Dr. Parsons grew up hearing stories about Tuczyn from her grandparents and they provided a spark of inspiration for her research. She was shocked to find a lack of resources and research on the topic and has since endeavored to make materials more accessible to researchers worldwide. The website Yahad in Unum—digital archive comprised of groundbreaking research—proved an invaluable tool for personal and academic research. Through it Dr. Parsons gained access to oral testimonies, maps, photos, and other data related to Tuczyn. During her studies, she discovered the existence of two editions of Tuczyn Yizkor Books from 1967 and 1990. These memory books contain records concerning the fate of specific Jewish communities during the

Holocaust. The explicit aim of the books is to preserve the history and memory of the events that took place. Finding these books created an opportunity to partner with the JewishGen website, a virtual genealogical archive that has compiled extensive documentation regarding the fate of Jewish families and communities that were destroyed in the Holocaust. To date their collaboration has translated 20% to 25% of the 1967 edition from Hebrew into English. This effort makes the books more accessible to both the public and academic researchers.

Dr. Parsons concluded by emphasizing the importance of Holocaust research and teaching and that we must continue working towards remembrance. She expressed the hope that creating awareness about what she called the “hidden histories” of the Holocaust, such as the events that took place in Tuczyn, will inspire, and empower future researchers to explore these ‘new’ histories.

NGO Mnemonics and the Documentary Film Uprising of the Doomed

Nataliia Ivchyk, Chairperson of the Board of “Mnemonics,” and Associate Professor at the Department of Political Sciences at Rivne State Humanities University spoke about the work of the NGO Center for the Studies of Memory Policy and Public History “Mnemonics” in Rivne, Ukraine. NGO Mnemonics is a Ukrainian-based organization dedicated to promoting public education and commemoration of projects that serve to create awareness about the Holocaust in Ukraine.

Ivchyk highlighted that NGO Mnemonics has led to the development of digital tools for research, as well as the creation of a virtual museum in Rivne in an effort to make historical resources available to the public. In 2020, NGO Mnemonics embarked on a collaborative project entitled “Counteracting Anti-Semitism and Xenophobia through the Popularization of

the Multi-Ethnic Past of the Region,” which endeavors to promote knowledge about the history of the Holocaust in Ukraine. Ivchyk announced that this cooperative venture led to the production of the groundbreaking documentary film Uprising of the Doomed (2021), which tells the heroic and tragic history of the Jewish victims of Tuczyn that were widely unknown by the public in Ukraine before this film. The film was shown during the live virtual commemoration event.

Maksym Gon, Director of the Center for Studies of Memory and Public History “Mnemonics” in Rivne, Ukraine, and Professor at the Department of World History at the Rivne State Humanities University explained that research on the history of the Holocaust in Ukraine began in the mid-80s, and while much has been discovered there is still so much more that remains to be explored. Gon pointed out that the film provides a more comprehensive history of the Holocaust by bringing attention to these lesser-known experiences, which not only broadens our historiographical understanding of events but also fosters discussion about the traditional Holocaust narrative of experience that typically centers on camps such as Auschwitz.

**PART II OF THE ANNUAL
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY
COMMEMORATION
THE ACKERMAN CENTER DEBUTED
NEW TRANSLATIONS OF PRIMO
LEVI'S POEM “SHEMÁ”**

Dr. Sarah Valente, Assistant Visiting Professor, briefly outlined the life of Holocaust survivor Primo Levi and proclaimed his 1946 poem “Shemá” as one of the most powerful works produced about the Shoah. In the poem, Levi inverts the Shema prayer to serve as a warning to



humanity—vigilance is the only way to avoid repeating the unimaginable depravity that occurred during the Holocaust.

The Ackerman Center’s Annual Translation Workshop held earlier this year provided the prompt for the creation of eleven new translations. Faculty, students, and community members read the translations aloud in multiple languages including Italian, Russian, Arabic, Filipino, Kurdish, Farsi, Polish, German, French, and Portuguese. A powerful visual compilation created by Ackerman Center Research Assistant, Katie Fisher, accompanied the English and Spanish translations.

The Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST)

Special guest speaker Lois Roman, the New York representative for the Memorial Scrolls Trust (MST), discussed the work of MST, a nonprofit organization with locations all over the globe dedicated to keeping and preserving Torah Scrolls that survived the Holocaust. Roman emphasized that the dawn of a new era has arrived in which the passing of Holocaust survivors raises many challenges concerning Holocaust remembrance. She pointed out that in many cases these Torah Scrolls are the only surviving remnants of thousands of Jewish communities that were completely decimated in the Shoah. These artifacts not only represent the absence of Jews but also serve as testimonies that attest to the murder of millions. Roman concluded by stressing that we must endeavor to preserve and honor the memory of the victims and survivors of the Shoah.

Dr. David Patterson concluded the commemoration event by speaking about the importance of Holocaust remembrance. He emphasized that remembrance is not merely a recollection of events that transpired, but a day of bearing witness in which we preserve and honor the memory of those murdered. He stressed, that we must remember exactly what

is at stake when we talk about the Holocaust. We are summoned to witness. As the receivers of this testimony we are obligated to respond to the outcry of suffering. On this day, we are reminded of the infinite responsibility that has been entrusted to our care to remember what is infinitely precious is exactly what was slated for annihilation in the Shoah.

APRIL 14, 2021
MEMORIES OF SOCIAL ENGINEERING
STATE-SPONSORED VIOLENCE IN
MEXICO AND ARGENTINA

Dr. Pedro J. Corona Gonzalez, Visiting Assistant Professor, presented the second installment of the Ackerman Center's Annual Spring Lecture Series, “Memories of Social Engineering State-Sponsored Violence in Mexico and Argentina.”

Dr. Gonzalez identified four points that he wanted to clarify about social engineering and State-Sponsored violence. First, was that the conception of memory in the context of this discussion is based on an understanding held in the social unconscious about the figure of the disappeared. Dr. Gonzalez explained that the phenomenon of “the disappeared” is a characteristic feature of Latin American dictatorships, in which those deemed subversive by the regime are secretly murdered and the victims’ bodies are usually never recovered. With the elimination of the body, the victim has a status of “no presence,” which serves to erase the identity as well as the humanity of the person. Memory in this sense is a product that is inextricably linked to the process of social engineering.

Second, “social engineering” is part of a technology of power in which violence is utilized as a tool for creating, destroying, and reorganizing social relations. This tactic of waging war on civilians establishes a visible link between the oppressed and the

oppressor that clearly defines the “otherness” of the other and influences how social groups construct their identity.

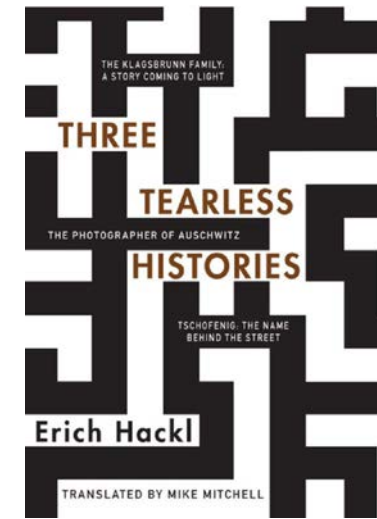
Third, Dr. Gonzalez introduced the notion of “the Endriago,” a conception coined by Mexican philosopher Sayak Valencia in her book *Gore Capitalism* (2018) that refers to governmental power structures that employ necro empowerment, the use of institutionalized violence to achieve status or power, and to maintain social control primarily through the threat of torture or death.

Dr. Gonzalez emphasized that the fourth point is understanding how these individual components culminate into epistemic violence. Thus, in the figure of the disappeared is not just the destruction of the body, but the added economic, political, and social value in which state-sponsored violence uses the body as a vehicle for communicating a larger message to the public about what awaits those who interfere with the power of the regime.

APRIL 28, 2021
THE HOLOCAUST & DICTATORSHIP
IN BRAZILIAN LITERATURE

Concluding the Ackerman Center’s annual Spring Lecture Series, Dr. Sarah Valente, Visiting Assistant Professor, presented on “The Holocaust and Dictatorships in Brazilian Literature.” The discussion focused on ways in which Holocaust memory and dictatorship memory intersect in recent works of Brazilian literature published by Jewish authors. She pointed out that such works have only begun to emerge in the last few decades, and that there has been an increase in the publishing of Jewish authors describing their experiences of state-sponsored violence under Brazilian dictatorships. Two recent novels, *Three Tearless Histories* (2017) by Erich Hackl, and *K* (2015)

by Bernardo Kucinski epitomizes this new trend of Jewish writing developing in Brazil. Both narratives are driven by the traumatic memories of the past and the current trauma

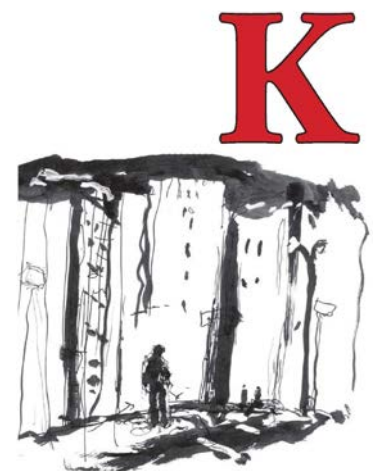


of the present and illustrates how the authors create connections between memories of the Holocaust and dictatorship.

Dr. Valente concentrated on the first story of Hackl’s *Three Tearless Histories* which traces the multigenerational history of a Jewish family from the

Holocaust to the present. She called attention to the novel’s structure as a characteristically Brazilian style of storytelling, in which nonfiction utilizes a combination of documentary works and testimonial literature to tell the story. Likewise, *K* exemplifies the work of Jewish authors in Brazil. The book tells the story of a Jewish father searching for his daughter who had been disappeared by the state. In *K*, the author employs real-life facts, such as the disappearances of Brazilian citizens to not only tell the story but as well to inform readers about such events.

These works are driven by the recent trauma of Brazilian history and are not relegated to the distant past.



Bernardo Kucinski



In fact, we see the distinction between time and space dissolve as fragments of memory connect the past and the present in the continuous experience of persecution and exile.

JUNE 23-24, 2021
ANNUAL TEACHER INSTITUTE
“ON THE BRINK: SAVING JEWS
DURING THE HOLOCAUST”

This summer, we were very fortunate to be able to welcome educators from the greater Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex back to our campus for our annual Holocaust Studies from the Perspective of the American Experience Institute. All attendees were most excited to be able to interact, share ideas, and enjoy two days of study together as well as earn sixteen hours of continuing education credit upon completion of the workshop.

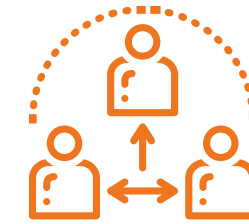
Our program, On the Brink: Saving Jews during the Holocaust, focused on the role of the United States in the rescue efforts of Jews during the war as well as extraordinary Europeans who stepped into the breach to save those that they could from certain death at the hands of the Nazis.

Dr. Meredith Scott, Assistant Professor of History at the United States Air Force Academy, delivered the keynote address. In addition, talks on the first day were given by Dr. David Patterson who spoke on “The Failure of Liberation” and Holocaust Survivor, Pieter Kohnstam, who discussed his own experience during the war in, “A Chance to Live: A Family’s Journey to Freedom.” On day two, Dr. Rebecca Erbeling, Historian, Education Initiatives, William Levine Family Institute for Holocaust Education with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

began the day with her talk, “Americans and the Holocaust,” while Dr. Scott delivered her second talk entitled, “Teaching the Holocaust.” Also featured on day two of the Institute was Eric Schmalz, Citizen History Community Manager, History Unfolded Project, the United States Holocaust Museum who ran an interactive session entitled, “Holocaust Unfolded: US Newspapers and the Holocaust.” Dr. Roemer closed the afternoon with his lecture, “Recognizing the Righteous” as well as a pre-recorded interview with Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, Chair Emerita, Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies.

As a part of our ongoing commitment to area educators, the Institute has also created a permanent website in cooperation with the McDermott Library that contains an extensive bibliography and specially designed curricular materials with accompanying Power Point presentations for each discipline in which the Holocaust is taught. Thus, teachers will now have year-round access to curricular materials as they are created.

Looking toward the future, the Institute will be offering additional educational opportunities to area teachers and others in the community as we seek to expand our offerings in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex over the coming year. By teaching about the hatred, bigotry, and silence which led to the genocide of the European Jews, our program continues to have a major impact on educators, students, as well as the community at large.



COLLABORATIONS

The Ackerman Center believes that our mission of “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future” should extend to as wide an audience as possible. To that end, we have developed relationships with dozens of institutions and organizations across the US and the world. These partnerships allow us to reach a global audience as well as increasing both national and international awareness of the Center.





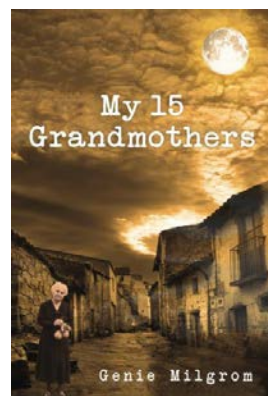
SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
FROM THE SPANISH INQUISITION
TO THE PRESENT: A SEARCH
FOR JEWISH ROOTS

*Presented in conjunction
with the Southwest Jewish Congress*

On September 13th, the Ackerman Center hosted a virtual lecture in conjunction with the Southwest Jewish Congress with special guest speaker Genie Milgrom. A direct descendant of the Spanish-Portuguese Jews, Milgrom shared the details of her journey back 615 years to 1405 Pre-Inquisition Spain and Portugal to locate her Jewish ancestors. Nearly 300 people attended the event from around the world, including attendees from India, the UK, Israel, and Germany.

Her family fled her native Cuba when she was a child, settling in Miami, Florida, where she still lives. Milgrom recalled that from a very young age she had the feeling

that she didn't belong. In college, she took a comparative religions course that dramatically changed the trajectory of her life. Milgrom was raised in a very observant Catholic family and had no prior exposure



to different religious views until adulthood. She remarked that she had an epiphany when Judaism was covered in class, and she soon embarked on a five-year orthodox conversion to the Jewish faith. Milgrom recalled difficult and painful experiences related to her decision to convert, resulting in her divorce and estrangement with family.

She became active in the synagogue and remarried to an Ashkenazi Jew, to whom she is still married today. Her life changed again with the death of her maternal grandmother,



who left instructions that upon her death Milgrom was to have jewelry that had been passed down for generations. She recalled being in a state of shock discovering she had inherited a pair of Star of David earrings and a Hamsa charm. She was struck by a startling realization as she held these precious heirlooms; she was holding tangible proof of her Jewish ancestry.

Milgrom began compiling a massive genealogical history, tracing her maternal lineage back to Pre-Inquisition Spain. Upon the discovery of her 15th grandmother, she wrote her first book, titled *My 15 Grandmothers* that was published in 2012.

Milgrom travels across the globe sharing her story and raising awareness about the little-known history of Sephardic Jewry. In 2015, she began a new monumental undertaking in which she aims to have all

Inquisition-related documents from all over the world digitized and available for research. In addition, Milgrom founded a virtual learning academy, where she co-teaches with other lecturers in various languages. Currently, they have 450 students enrolled, and the numbers are growing. Further research into her lineage has revealed numerous relatives who suffered through multiple Inquisition trials, many of whom were burned at the stake.

OCTOBER 8, 2020
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, COVID-19
AND ANTISEMITISM

Presented in conjunction with the ADL - Texoma

On October 8, 2020, Dr. Nils Roemer presented his lecture "Infectious Diseases, COVID-19 and Antisemitism" in partnership with ADL Texoma. His lecture spanned a thousand-year history from the middle ages to the present COVID-19 pandemic and provided a fascinating look at how Jews have been seen as scapegoats during times of crisis for centuries.

Jews in the Medieval World

Dr. Roemer began his discussion by taking a look at Jewish life in medieval Europe, where he described the continuity of Jewish existence as being governed by secular and religious outside forces and entities. The one constant in their lives was uncertainty, as they possessed no individual rights, and any privileges they were given as a group could be taken away.

The First Crusade in 1096 marked a dramatic shift in increasing violence and pogrom activity that escalated during the 13th century. Simultaneously, the emergence

of exclusionary practices and outright expulsion became a continuous theme from this period forward. Dr. Roemer stressed that by the 1500s, virtually all Jews had been expelled from urban centers throughout Western Europe. The banishment resulted in a vast Jewish migration from cities to rural areas in the east, predominantly to Poland and what would become known as the Pale of Settlement.

In the Middle Ages, competitive markets and suspicion of Jewish control over business resulted in increased persecution. This highlighted yet another chaotic change when the Jewish economic role in society was challenged, undermining their security when non-Jewish businesses took over the financial world. Jewish city-dwellers who remained were concentrated into distinct quarters and "othered" from their Christian neighbors.

The Persecution of Jews During the Black Death
In the 14th century, with the arrival of the Black Death, nearly half the world's population perished, and Jews were often blamed for the plague. Examples of this can be seen in the images disseminated by authorities, which often depicted Jews as the harbingers of disease. In an atmosphere of increased animosity and fear, a wave of violent pogroms erupted across Europe in which thousands of Jews were killed.

The idea that Jews poisoned wells, spread disease, and were a physical danger to those around them was preserved in the local memories of places like Strassbourg, Germany where two thousand Jews were massacred in 1349 in the chaos and fear of the Black Death. Those ideas were disseminated further with the advent of the printing press the following century.



14th-century manuscript *Antiquitates Flandriae* depicting the 1349 Strasbourg Massacre

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The Strasbourg Massacre of 1349

The *Antiquitates Flandriae* is a medieval drawing that depicts the Strasbourg Massacre that took place on February 14, 1349, in which 2000 Jews were murdered for the alleged poisoning of well water that caused the Black Death. (Photo courtesy of the Royal Library of Belgium manuscript 1376/77)

Shift Towards a Racial Paradigm

In the nineteenth century, outbreaks of cholera and typhus revived the fear and paranoia that accompanied the Black Plague, leading to another rise in antisemitic rhetoric and violence against Jews. This "new" antisemitism, however, added a racial component that was not previously there. At this time, the Jews became seen as not only the carriers but also the embodiment of the disease.

Today and COVID-19

Dr. Roemer connected this long-standing history of blaming Jews in times of disaster and pandemics over centuries to the present

day, and how this legacy is informing current responses to COVID-19. Regrettably, but not surprisingly, the current Corona Virus pandemic has awakened a new antisemitic fury all over the globe. As evidence of this revival of anti-semitism, Dr. Roemer shared several examples of disturbing new trends emerging in many countries, including the U.S., where mass demonstrations have employed antisemitic

imagery dating from the medieval period to Nazi Germany. These images have been displayed on banners, tee-shirts and used as rhetoric by the far-right.

Dr. Roemer shared some of the disturbing present-day anti-Semitic imagery being propagated online by a variety of media sources.



DECEMBER 6, 2020 SEPHARDIC JEWS AND THE THIRD REICH

*Presented in conjunction with the Society for
Crypto-Judaic Studies*

On December 6th Dr. Nils Roemer presented a special lecture for the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. From the outset of his discussion of "Sephardic Jews and the Third Reich," he pointed out that the Holocaust is often perceived as an event that only affected Ashkenazic Jewry. It is against this background that the discussion began as it highlighted the general misperception concerning Holocaust victimology. Dr. Roemer expressed concern regarding the subject of victim specificity, especially in relation to those whose experiences were not considered as part of the traditional Holocaust narrative. Rarely, if ever, do testimonies or comprehensive histories collected about the Holocaust include Sephardic Jewish experiences. This point applies especially to the experiences of those from North Africa and the Balkans.

Recently, an increase in scholarly research and publications emerged from a variety of different fields of study, focusing on diverse understudied aspects of Sephardic history. More broadly speaking, however, there is still a considerable lack of comprehensive research conducted on the subject. Dr. Roemer outlined three possible reasons for this lack of visibility in the historical account. In general, we tend to understand the Holocaust as a European event, which significantly narrows the geographical focus to territories that are primarily located in regions of Central and Eastern Europe. Subsequently, this geographical focus directly

relates to how we visualize the Holocaust, in terms of centering on the locations of slave labor and death camps in the Northeast and resulting in the exclusion of Southern Europe and North Africa. Both these aspects play a significant role in the how Holocaust commemoration, memorialization, and preservation of Holocaust memory have been utilized by governmental agencies and other organizations.

Dr. Roemer also stressed the need for a comprehensive history of the Holocaust to be as inclusive as possible. Speaking to the subject of inclusion, he posed a very intriguing question to the audience. How does the history of Sephardic Jewry change how we think about the Holocaust? He emphasized several fascinating points of convergence that have the possibility to open entirely new avenues of study that would not be noticed otherwise.

Complicated geography raised new problematic issues of defining Jewish identity in occupied territories outside Central and Eastern European Jewry. The topics of nation-states and identity remain central to gaining insight into the Nazi perspective of defining Jewishness and how it was applicable to the Sephardic Jews.

In the case of the Sephardim, Dr. Roemer emphasized the "bacteriological" version of Nazi antisemitism which comes into play in a way that had not in the case of Ashkenazi Jewry. The biological understanding of Jewishness was radicalized. The Nuremberg Laws that had been primarily used to define Jewishness by descent in central and Eastern Europe were racial categories and were not applicable to Sephardic Jewry. Offering evidence to support that the Nazi genocidal

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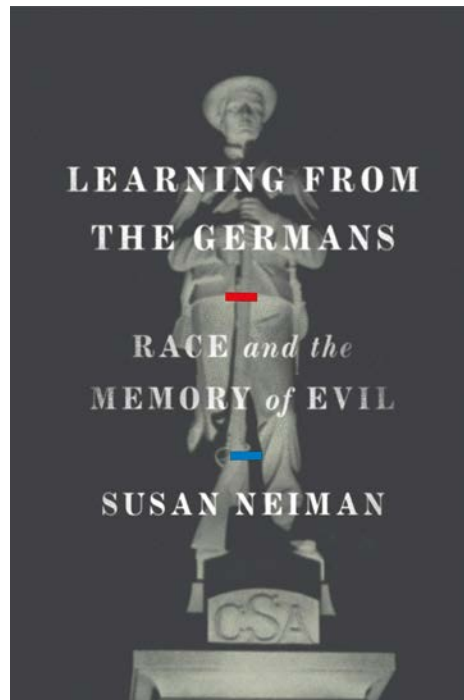


aims were never confined to one particular geographical area, and the absence of these limitations were most apparent in the case of Sephardic Jew.

APRIL 30, 2021
**LEARNING FROM THE GERMANS:
RACE AND THE MEMORY OF EVIL**
*Presented in conjunction with
the School of Arts and Humanities*

The Ackerman Center and the School of Arts and Humanities partnered to present “Learning from the Germans: Race and the Memory of Evil” as part of their ongoing lecture series “The Future of the Arts and Humanities in Times of Crisis.” Dr. Nils Roemer and Dr. Susan Neiman, Director of the Einstein Forum, discussed her book and examined the difficult process Germans have engaged in over many decades to confront their Nazi past and to discern what lessons that Americans can learn in our own attempts to face racism and violence in our own history.

Dr. Roemer began the discussion by outlining the comparison between how Germany has dealt with its legacy of the Third Reich and the absence of such memory work in the United States concerning its history of slavery.



Dr. Neiman argued that part of the crisis of the humanities derives from the fact that most academics make no effort to write in a manner that is accessible to wider audiences, so there is a lack of public engagement with issues related to the humanities. She described her interest in “cultures of remembrance” and how they operate or don’t operate which raises questions concerning how collective groups approach their own histories, and why certain national pasts are either commemorated or forgotten. Dr. Neiman highlighted the Vietnam War and Hiroshima as two events in American history that have not been subject to public discourse.

Dr. Neiman explained how the German concept of *vergangenheitsaufarbeitung*, defined as “working off the past,” inspired parts of her research studies. She emphasized the importance of open public discussions in which nations have discussed and dealt with the evils of their own pasts. Such examples illustrate how racial injustices and discrimination have been addressed and confronted elsewhere in the world.

While she lauds Germany’s efforts to come to terms with their Nazi past, she also expressed concern over the changing political climate in Germany over the past few years.

Specifically, a recent parliamentary shift to the radical left with the gains of the Red-Green Coalition (the Social Democratic Party). The party’s platform espouses very different attitudes towards the idea of “Germanness,”

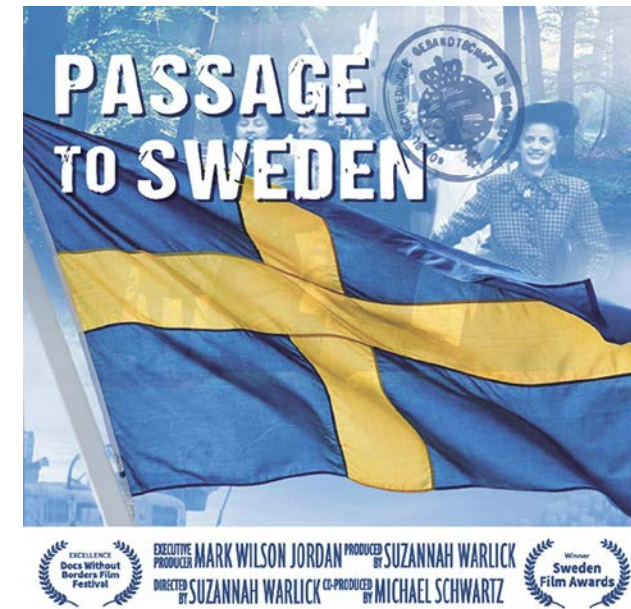
the presence of foreigners, and Jews.

Dr. Neiman argues that the equivalent of the “American *vergangenheitsaufarbeitung*” occurred in June of 2015 when President Barack Obama delivered a nationally televised eulogy for the victims of the Charleston church bombing, marking a watershed moment in U.S. history as the first time that a national public figure made connections between present-day violence and the violence of the past. She emphasized that this episode serves as a turning point for the U.S., one in which Americans began thinking publicly about their own history of racism and violence. Furthermore, how Germany and the German people have dealt with their Nazi past has become a topic of interest to the American public.

She concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of understanding how each of us is charged with the responsibility and accountability to actively participate in our own memory work.

AUG. 4, 2021
**FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION,
PASSAGE TO SWEDEN**
*Presented in conjunction with the Southwest
Jewish Congress*

On August 4, 2021, the Ackerman Center, in conjunction with the Southwest Jewish Congress, hosted a film screening and discussion of the film titled *Passage to Sweden*. Dr. Nils Roemer moderated the discussion



with Director of the film, Suzannah Warlick, and author and educator, Chana Sharfstein. *Passage to Sweden* tells the uncommonly known history of Scandinavia and Budapest during World War II. The film focuses on

the fate of the Jewish populations in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark as they tried to escape the Nazi reach. It illustrates how the Jews of these three countries had vastly different experiences

from the Jews living in other parts of Europe. Since Sweden remained a neutral country during the war, many Scandinavian Jews sought refuge and fled there. In Norway, after being defeated by the Nazis, Jews there were subject to oppressive policies and deportation. Many attempted to flee to Sweden and were assisted by the Norwegian assistance. The film also emphasizes the stories of those who aided the Jews in escaping the Nazis, particularly paying attention to the stories of Raoul Wallenberg, who alone, was responsible for saving the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews. The film also recounts the stories of Count Folk Bernadotte, as well as the Danish fishermen and the Norwegian resistance who all played a role in getting Jews out of Nazi occupied territories to the safety of Sweden.



AIR FORCE CADET SUMMER PROGRAM

A JOINT ENDEAVOR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND THE ACKERMAN CENTER



In June, the Ackerman Center welcomed four cadets from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) as part of a new academic endeavor between the two institutions. In addition to interfacing with Ackerman staff, faculty, and supporters during their visit, the students used the Center's academic resources to complete their Independent Study and Capstone projects, which all focused on various topics related to the Holocaust.

While three of the students visited for ten days accompanied by their USAFA professor, the fourth cadet came for three weeks as part of our new summer intern

partnership with the Academy and was an integral part of the preparation process for our annual Teacher Workshop. And though the students spent many hours in the Ackerman Center using Jaffe Collection resources, they nevertheless had time to see the sights of Dallas including the JFK Memorial and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

Hosting students from USAFA this summer truly underscores the mission of the Ackerman Center and its academic pursuits to train prospective scholars. Apart from its ongoing relationship with the Academy, the internship as well as the visiting cadets

“In these days of polarization, anger, and divisiveness, a group of US Airforce cadets wanted to understand the Holocaust to inform their careers as US military officers so that they might be able to prevent or defeat threats to humanity like the Holocaust in the future.”

—R. Tyler Miller, MD
Chief, Medicine Service, Dallas VA Medical Center
Ackerman Center Board Member



Selwin Belofsky and Andrew Sellon talk while attending a luncheon at the Ackerman Center.



Selwin Belofsky, Dr. Darren Crone, Lt. Col Michael Epper, Dr. Scott Schwartzfager, Dr. Nils Roemer, Colton Layman, Marshall Coleman, Ellie M Beaulieu, Dr. Debbie Pfister, Andrew Sellon, Corey Eisert-Wlodarczyk

enabled us to produce ambassadors who will serve, in their military capacities, around the globe. Consequently, this venture furthers UT Dallas' capacity to play an even larger international role in Holocaust and genocide studies. Moreover, after the cadets fulfill their four-year military obligations, they will be

able to use their veteran education benefits for graduate degrees in the field of their choice. Thus, the cadet intern/scholars' program offers great potential for new intellectual bonds between USAFA and the Ackerman Center as well as serving as a conduit to foster future graduate students for the school.



Dr. Nils Roemer and Selwin Belofsky meeting with Cadets in the Jaffe Reading Room.



Dr. Nils Roemer at the United States Air Force Academy.



ACKERMAN CENTER PODCAST



The Ackerman Center Podcast launched in 2020 creating an online platform for exploring Holocaust-related topics and an avenue for continued connections for our community scattered around the world. Dr. Sarah Valente, visiting assistant professor of Holocaust Studies, and Dr. Nils Roemer, director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas hosted this season. Listen to season 1 and 2 on Spotify, Google Podcasts, and RadioPublic.

Tune in to the podcast at
www.anchor.fm/ackermancenter
or through this QR Code.



SEASON 2: A YEAR IN THE THIRD REICH

Each episode focused on a specific event of the early years of the Third Reich. Corresponding primary source documents are available in full on the Center's website.

EP. 26 – 1933

THE REICHSTAG FIRE AND THE ENABLING ACT

On January 30, 1933, Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. Dr. Nils Roemer and Dr. Sarah Valente discuss the Reichstag Fire and the Enabling Act of 1933.

Berlin, Reichstag Election Patrol, 5 March 1933.
Source: Bundesarchiv, Georg Pahl Bild 102-14381.



EP. 27 – 1934

HITLER AND MUSSOLINI MEET IN VENICE

In today's episode, professors Dr. Nils Roemer and Dr. Sarah Valente discuss Hitler's meeting with Mussolini in Venice in 1934.

Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini walking in front of saluting military during Hitler's visit to Venice, Italy, 14-16 Jun 1934
Source: United States Library of Congress



EP. 28 – 1935

NUREMBERG LAWS

Adolf Hitler salutes spectators upon his arrival at the Zeppelinfeld in Nuremberg for the Reichsparteitag (Reich Party Day) ceremonies. September 1935.

Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Karl Neumann



EP. 29 – 1936

THE OLYMPICS IN BERLIN

Professors Dr. Sarah Valente and Dr. Nils Roemer discuss the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, which placed the Third Reich at the center of the world's stage. Olympic Games 1936 pentathlon winner honored on the winner's grandstand from right to left: First Lieutenant Abba-Italy (II.) Captain Handrick-Germany (I.) Lieutenant Leonard-USA (III.) Source: German Federal Archive

EP. 30 – 1937

THE PACIFIC WAR: THE RAPE OF NANKING

"At the headquarters of the Nanking Safety Zone Committee. Left to right: Mr. Zial (Russian Tartar); Mr. Hatz (Austrian); Mr. Rabe (German, Chairman of the Safety Zone Committee); Rev. John Magee (American Church Mission); Mr. Cola Podshivaloff (White Russian December 13, 1937. Source: Yale University Library: Divinity School: The Nanking Massacre Project: Photographs and Films.



EP. 31 – 1938

EICHMANN AND THE "OFFICE OF JEWISH EMIGRATION"

The season finale discusses the quickly changing landscape in 1938. Nazis ramped up their effort to enforce removal of Jews from German and Austrian society and mobilized to remove Jews from these countries through a so-called emigration program led by Adolf Eichmann in Vienna.

Jews hoping to receive exit visas at a police station in Vienna. — Österreichische Gesellschaft für Zeitgeschichte, Vienna. Source: US Holocaust Memorial Museum



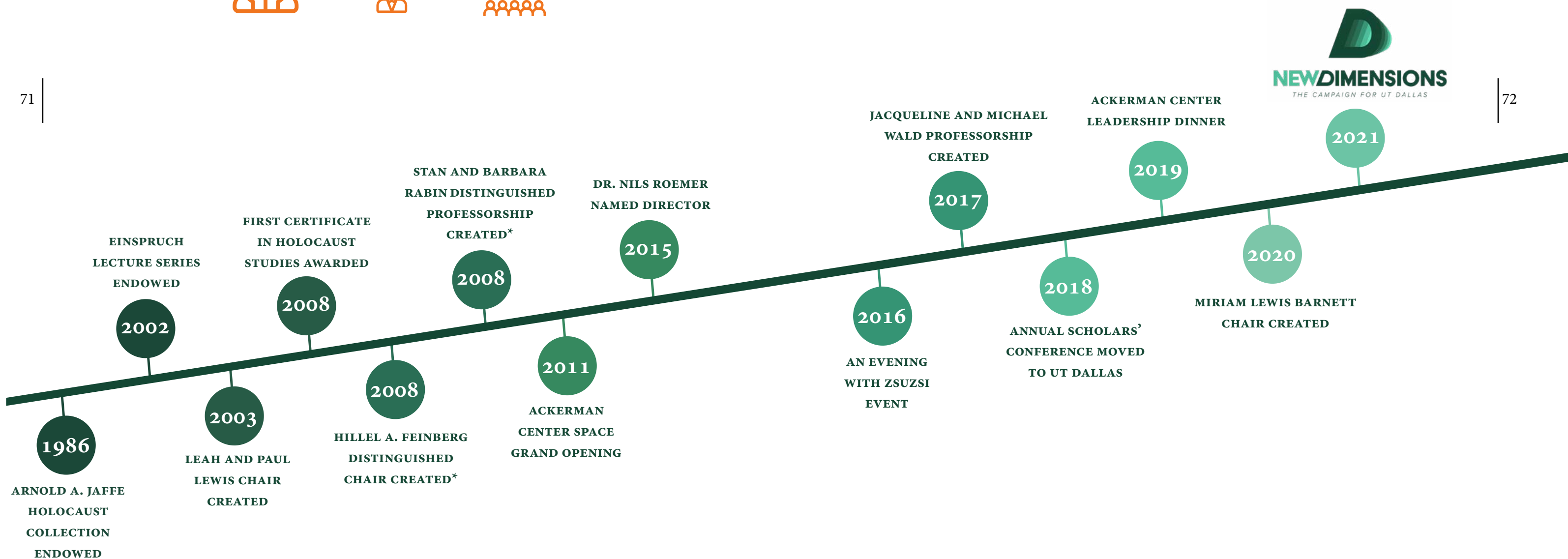
CHANGING THE FUTURE

THROUGH PROMOTING SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE AND PEACE



What's Next?

The Ackerman Center is growing both its physical and virtual presence with the expansion of the Center's dedicated space and the development of a new online Digital Research Center.



*Elevated to distinguished in 2019.



The University of Texas at Dallas has launched the public phase of *New Dimensions: The Campaign for UT Dallas*. The effort — the second major fundraising campaign in University history — aims to raise \$750 million for transformative priorities across campus helping to meet the needs of students, expand the impact of research and create a new destination for cultural dialogue in North Texas.

“This is a campaign primarily about people,” said Dr. Richard C. Benson, UT Dallas president and the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership, during the virtual launch on May 25. “It’s about students whose lives will be changed by the opportunity a scholarship provides. It’s about the inventors who make their dreams a reality on our campus and then go out and change the world. It’s about patients who receive unparalleled care from our clinicians backed by cutting-edge research and technology.”

Having emerged in recent years as a Tier One research institution and destination for best-value academic programs, the University seeks to redefine its impact on students, faculty and the prosperity of the North Texas region, country and world with the *New Dimensions* campaign.

To do this, the campaign will center around three main priorities:

- Attracting the best and brightest students.
- Enhancing lives through research.
- Transforming the arts on campus.

Donor support will be vital to achieving these goals by expanding the University’s financial aid resources, creating new endowed professorships and research funds and facilitating the construction of a new museum and performance arts complex on campus: the UT Dallas Athenaeum.

The *New Dimensions* campaign has already raised over \$311 million during the quiet phase, which began in late 2017.

“Research and teaching at UT Dallas changes lives around the world. We want to make sure our students and faculty have the resources they need to learn from the past and innovate for the future.”

—Dr. Nils Roemer

Director of the Ackerman Center and Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies

ACKERMAN CENTER CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES



EXPAND SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS



CREATE A GLOBAL DIGITAL RESEARCH CENTER



EXPAND THE CENTER'S FOOTPRINT

The Ackerman Center announces longtime supporter and volunteer Ron Schwarz as the *New Dimensions* campaign chair. Over the last 14 years, Mr. Schwarz has been an active supporter of the mission and work of the Ackerman Center. Since 2015, Mr. Schwarz has served on the Ackerman Center Board and continues to serve on its Executive Board. He also regularly makes time to speak to students in Holocaust studies courses.

His financial support directly impacts both students and faculty at the Center. He generously supported the event An Evening with Zsuzsi as well as the Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner. Also, in 2017, Mr. Schwarz established the Charles M. Schwarz Endowment to support students attending the Annual Scholars’ Conference on the

Holocaust and the Churches.

In 2020, during the quiet phase of the Ackerman Center's *New Dimensions* Campaign, Ron Schwarz and his brother Larry Schwarz dedicated the director's office in honor of their late father, Charles M. Schwarz, who was a Holocaust survivor who resettled in the United States. To hear more about Charles M. Schwarz's story and what this gift means to the Schwarz family, watch the video available through this QR code.



Learn more about the New Dimensions Campaign at www.newdimensions.utdallas.edu



Ron Schwarz (left) walking with Dr. Nils Roemer (right)

“In Hebrew, we have the expression ‘L’dor V’dor’ which means from generation to generation. Five people came from the act of my father's life being saved. I wanted to memorialize my father and leave a legacy for my kids.”

— Ron Schwarz, Campaign Chair



FRIENDS OF THE ACKERMAN CENTER

We are fortunate to have so many friends and supporters. We would like to give special thanks to the following friends, whose support and generosity have made so much possible.



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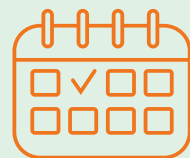
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The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is grateful to the following individuals who have placed the Ackerman Center in their estate plans:

Susan P. Bratton PhD'97
Sara and Daniel Dunham BA'18
Michael and Jackie Wald

If you are interested in learning more about non-cash gifts and other smart giving strategies for the Ackerman Center or UT Dallas, please contact Holly Miori at hmiori@utdallas.edu or at 972-883-4119 or visit www.utdallasgiving.org



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