



GEORGE AND IRINA SCHAEFFER
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF GENOCIDE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

THE GEORGE AND IRINA SCHAEFFER
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
GENOCIDE, HUMAN RIGHTS
AND CONFLICT PREVENTION



Irina and George Schaeffer at the Institut du Monde Arabe. AUP Global Alumni Weekend. May 2017

“ Shortly after our daughter Ariella enrolled at AUP, we met President Schenck at an event in Los Angeles. We shared our concern about the rise of anti-Semitism and nationalism in the world and discussed how we could contribute to creating tolerance and mutual respect among AUP’s diverse, international student body. Over the following months, what started out as an idea for a course developed into the creation of the Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention. Looking back at what has happened in the world since, we could not be more convinced of the importance of a center like this, and we are proud to have partnered with AUP to create this center at the heart of AUP’s educational vision. ”

GEORGE & IRINA SCHAEFFER
AUP PARENTS '17 AND G'19



ABOUT THE CENTER

The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention promotes innovative research, curricula and pedagogies in the hopes of reaching a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of genocide and mass violence.

Established thanks to a founding gift from two AUP parents, the Center is the first in France to host the complete collection of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive containing over 54,000 video testimonies of survivors of genocide worldwide.

The University is making this important resource available to researchers, teachers and students in their investigation of the origins and aftereffects of collective hatred, fundamentalist ideologies, discrimination and mass violence, and their dissemination of new insights on these subjects. The archives help view these issues in the context of historical, social and individual memory.

The Center's goal is to foster scholarly discussion in France and abroad through conferences, lectures and publications on how individuals, communities and governments can respond to the challenges of extreme violence in the service of enduring peace and understanding.

An AUP student takes notes at a discussion of politics and the Calais Jungle. September 2018

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The third year of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention has advanced the research, education and training that it established in previous years. The continued generosity of George and Irina Schaeffer has made it possible for the Center to create an intellectual community of scholars who are committed to investigating genocide and challenging intolerance.

The Center's work has impacted scholarship and public debate on mass violence in a myriad of ways, including international conferences, fellowships for faculty and students, seminars and lectures. The recognition of the Visual History Archive's value as a resource continues to grow as more students, faculty and researchers across the globe benefit from its content.

We are pleased to report the accomplishments of the Center's third year in our 2017-18 annual report.

Although we are proud of all that we've achieved over the past three years, we are actively looking toward many exciting initiatives that are on the horizon. The Center has nurtured a number of curricular initiatives, including the courses Understanding Genocide (Psychology), Provocative

Witness: Cinema and Genocide (Film Studies), Co-Existence and Religion (Global Communications) and 20th-Century European Jewish History (History). The Center is interested in developing offerings on the history of the Holocaust and the Armenian genocide. To facilitate deep, experiential learning in these courses, the Center is supporting the development of study trips to Poland, Berlin and Bosnia.

The Center is also launching a collaborative research project with scholars from other European institutions on Memory's Failures, which will examine the ways in which the memory of mass violence is commemorated through public memorials and ceremonies, law and politics, schools, families and so on. The aim is to investigate the efficacy of these approaches and research innovative strategies for countering hate. Following the success of our international conference, Words that Kill, the Center is working on an edited volume of essays on the contribution of lies and conspiracy theories to creating an atmosphere that is conducive to violence.

Several international conferences are also planned over the course of the coming years.



Students are lining up to talk to Dr James Waller after his talk titled "Becoming Evil." February 2017



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

Keynote speaker Christopher Browning at the conference Visual History Archive: Research Experience. October 2017

THE VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE: RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

OCTOBER 26-27, 2017

The aim of the Center's second annual conference was to gather scholars from different disciplines who have carried out research on or with the Visual History Archive. We welcomed researchers who have analyzed the archive itself, as well as those who have used it as a major or secondary source on mass violence and genocide or the social, political, cultural, psychological or legal implications thereof. Contributions to the conference put the Visual History Archive in perspective with other testimonies (whether written, audio or video), reflected on the value of the archives in comparison to other sources, opened a discussion on the methodological challenges encountered by users, considered new uses of the collection and brought insights on the scholarly potential of the testimonies.

The conference drew scholars from around the world and from a variety of disciplines. USC Shoah Foundation Executive Director Stephen Smith gave opening remarks about the future of video testimony in an evolving digital landscape and subsequent panels covered testimonies in local contexts and in memorial projects, as well as the impact of time on testimonies, and women's and gender perspectives.

Four scholars gave keynotes at the conference. Christopher Browning (University of North Carolina) shared his research on the Starachowice factory slave labor camps, Annette Wieviorka (SIRICE-CNRS-Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) reflected on fraudulent witnesses, Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers University) discussed the use of artistic Yiddish performances in Holocaust survivor testimonies and Noah Shenker (Monash University) spoke about the camera framing of video testimony.

HOME AS A PLACE FOR ANTI- JEWISH PERSECUTION IN EUROPEAN CITIES

JANUARY 10-11, 2018

Over two days in January, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention held its third international conference: Home as a Place for Anti-Jewish Persecution in European Cities, 1933-1945: Crossing Urban Social History and History of the Holocaust.

Given that research into the history of the Holocaust has begun borrowing concepts and tools from geography, conference proceedings reflected this notion of a spatial turn. This change in research direction took place over the last fifteen years of anglophone Holocaust studies and focused on the looting, seizure and reallocation of apartments occupied by Jews, mainly in the Reich's cities. However, less well-studied topics include the analysis of apartment blocks and cities as spaces of persecution, the situation in occupied territories and other Axis countries, the interactions with non-Jewish neighbors, and other spatial aspects. Recent work has opened these new fields of investigation and inspired this conference. Informed by the organizers' current research on the Parisian case, the conference bridged various perspectives and methods and focused on urban housing as a place for Jewish persecution. Social scientists from various fields confronted methods, investigations and cases in Reich cities, but also in Western, Southern and Eastern European occupied cities. Throughout the conference, presenters often explored micro-histories involving neighbors, maids, gardeners and concierges who all had a hand in Jewish daily lives. The keynote, "Housing in Paris and the restoration of the French Republic: the implementation of the November 14th, 1944 Order," was given by the historian Shannon Fogg, chair of the Department of History and Political Science at Missouri University, who has recently published *Stealing Home: Looting, Restitution, and Reconstructing Jewish Lives in France, 1942-1947* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

This event was co-organized with the Centre de Recherches Historiques of the EHESS and the Institut des Sciences Sociales du Politique (Université Paris Nanterre/ENS Paris-Saclay/CNRS). Sessions on the first day took place at The American University of Paris while those on the second day were held at the Mémorial de la Shoah in the historic Marais district of Paris where many Jews lived and were persecuted during the war. This partnership presented a great opportunity to develop ties between AUP and this venerable institution.

ORDERS OF VIOLENCE

APRIL 9-10, 2018

The Orders of Violence conference was dedicated to investigating political violence, exclusion and memory within marginalized communities, with particular emphasis on caste violence and genocide. The conference themes were thus intimately linked to stigma, systemic violence, discrimination and historical oppression, while resisting and interrogating the trope of the abject and suffering subject.

Indian, Indigenous, North American and European scholars specializing in the theorization of violence, notably Etienne Balibar, engaged critically with such issues as the “right to politics” vs “political rights”; the paradox of group vs individual identities and their politicization; and the discursive possibilities of literature as a form of political assertion and resistance, which gives a platform to marginalized voices. The conference also addressed the problem of representation, exploring how activists, academics and academic-activists can reconcile the urgent need for theorization of such political violence with charges of illegitimacy, alienation and the misappropriation of the experience of the “other.”



An active audience asking questions at the Words That Kill conference. May 2018

WORDS THAT KILL

MAY 28-30, 2018

The aim of the international Words That Kill conference, held at The American University of Paris, was to reexamine questions of hate speech and freedom, violence-inducing identity discourses and the production and circulation of lies. Through interdisciplinary investigation and critique, the conference aspired to foster intellectual and policy responses to injustice, exclusion and violence.

Over the course of three days, a diverse group of researchers and academics from around the world gathered in Paris to take part in the conference. Their innovative scholarly contributions examined the multiple dimensions of the problem of hate, of the production of otherness, of violence and images and of language, media and narratives. Panels included discussions concerning the ability of silence to enable evil to proliferate, the use and misuse of historical narratives, violence in film, the twisting of truth or outright lies, hate speech and its place in the free speech movement, the ways in which otherness is manufactured in language and many more.

Five distinguished researchers gave keynote speeches. The first, Jason Stanley, the Jacob Urowsky Professor of Philosophy at Yale University, gave a plenary speech titled “How fascism works.” This talk elaborated on the thesis of his forthcoming book, *How Fascism Works: The Politics of Us and Them* (Random House, Summer 2018). During his talk, Stanley pointed to dominant groups, such as men and American Christians, who use language and other means to paint themselves as “victims.” Stanley was quick to say “victimhood is tricky because it can be a powerful force for good, if you’re not in power.” He went on to give examples of Serbia as a place where this type of victimhood dialogue was in force using the “victimhood narrative as a legitimization and justification.”



Which words kill?

Prof. Susan Benesch
Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society
Dangerous Speech Project

American Un
May 3



**THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY 55
of PARIS YEARS**



Professor Susan Benesch, keynote speaker at the Words That Kill conference, speaking on "Which are the Words that Kill?" May 2018

The second day of the conference began with one of the most anticipated keynotes, "Blood coming out of her wherever: networked misogyny and the body," by Sarah Banet-Weiser, Professor and Director at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California and soon-to-be with the London School of Economics as Professor and Head of the Department of Media and Communications. Banet-Weiser painted a picture of how "anti-social sociability" plays a major role in the proliferation of "a level of sexual manipulation" wherein "violence might not only be tolerated, but expected, particularly in the context of popular feminist confidence where gender equality is assumed." Banet-Weiser shed light on the current flood of "masculinity" studies, the concept of "the pick-up artist" and ways in which "neoliberal violence" is networked across the internet, media and other channels.

Gérald Bronner, Professor of Sociology at the University of Paris-Diderot, member of the Académie des Technologies (Academy of Technology) and member of the French National Academy of Medicine held audience attention throughout his evocative keynote titled "*Croyances et narration : des liens complexes*" (Beliefs and narratives: complex relationships). Bronner discussed the consequences of a collective belief system and systematic errors in the reasoning that arises from supposed shared values and understandings. The award-winning professor's thoughts carried through the conference as participants referred back to his speech in their own panels.

The last day of the conference began with AUP Professor Jayson Harsin giving his keynote, "Post-truth politics: the longer (historical) and broader (cultural) theory," and ended with the words of Susan Benesch, founder and director of the Dangerous Speech Project, Faculty Associate of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of International Service at the American University in Washington DC. Benesch's talk titled

"Which are the words that kill?" centered on the sorts of language that actually engendered a violent reaction. "Hatred is not the main or most relevant emotion that lowers emotional barriers to violence," she said, "it's actually fear."

These thought-provoking keynotes and panels sparked conversations about our current troubled historical moment, where toxic discourses are being mobilized for political ends. Participants discussed the growing concern and debate over the perilous effects of post-truth regimes, fake news and lying in politics, which this conference sought to engage. It was the hope of the participants that, in some way, their dialogue would positively affect daily social interactions, whether online or face-to-face, in a poisoned political discourse. They sought to better understand how social violence is bred by the fabrication of an "other," and how myths of racial purity and the use of libels, falsehoods and outright lies all contribute to fomenting hate and generating the social conditions necessary for mass violence to occur.



Gérald Bronner leads a discussion on "*Croyances et Narration: Des Liens Complexes*." Words That Kill. May 2018



From left to right: Jason Stanley, Sarah Banet-Weiser, President Celeste Schenck, Professor Brian Schiff. Words That Kill conference. May 2018

SEMINARS & LECTURES



From left to right: Sharon Kangisser, Ruthellen Josselson and Tim Cole in discussion at Big Data and Testimonies. February 2018

MARK ROSEMAN

'Rescued lives: The 'Bund', Resistance, and Rescue in Nazi Germany'

JUNE 15, 2017

The Center hosted a session of the seminar "Histoire et historiographie de la Shoah" (Centre de Recherches Historiques, EHESS). We heard from Professor Mark Roseman (Indiana University Bloomington), who presented his research on *Rescued Lives: The "Bund", Resistance, and Rescue in Nazi Germany*, which will soon be published by Oxford University Press. The discussion was led by historian Laura Hobson Faure (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3).

ROGER FRIE

'Witnessing the Crimes of Our Grandparents: Remembering & Responsibility in the Wake of the Holocaust'

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Psychologist, philosopher and historian Roger Frie discussed the discovery of his German grandfather's support for the Nazi regime and grappled with questions about the nature of memory, its dissociation and its transmission. Using his German family history as a guide, and reflecting on a life lived across German and Jewish contexts, his talk explored the moral and psychological implications of memory in this time of societal crisis. What lurks in the silences that are passed down between generations? How does our collective response to history's atrocities shape what we know as individuals? Any answer to these questions points to the complexity of memory and the ethical demands of history.

BIG DATA AND TESTIMONIES

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

This event was comprised of three presentations and a roundtable discussion by field experts. It started

with a discussion of the process of transcribing the Visual History Archive, and the new challenges and opportunities of utilizing the 54,000 testimonies that are contained in the collection. The panelists proposed different strategies for effectively studying the enormous amount of data collected on the oral histories of Holocaust survivors, from close reading to distant reading.

The event began with presentations from three panelists speaking about different approaches to studying testimonials.

- Tim Cole, Professor of Social History and Director of the Brigstow Institute, University of Bristol;
- Sharon Kangisser, Director of the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and Director of the Eli and Diana Zborowski Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Its Aftermath, Yad Vashem;
- Ruthellen Josselson, PhD Professor of Clinical Psychology at Fielding Graduate University.

In his talk titled "Reading one testimony, distant reading 54,000," Tim Cole discussed some of the opportunities and challenges of distant reading oral history transcripts using corpus linguistics methods. Informed by experimental work that Tim Cole and his team conducted around the archive, this talk addressed the potential problems of working with digital humanities approaches.

Sharon Kangisser gave a talk titled "Finding the individual in multiple collections," in which she noted that over the past 70 years many survivors of the Holocaust have given their testimony to various collections and institutions, beginning in the immediate postwar period and continuing until the present day. She examined the archival challenges involved in mapping out individuals' stories over time, in finding testimonies in various collections and in how a diversity of retellings expands scholars' understanding of the traumatic event and its meaning for survivors.

The third panelist, Ruthellen Josselson, in her talk, "Amalgamating understanding in narrative analysis," discussed the challenge of building a knowledge base that can combine the insight and understanding of different researchers. This form of meta-analysis entails the compilation of qualitative data from previous research and a more nuanced discussion from the comparison of the studies. Josselson concluded that this can provide a more thorough understanding of the experiences represented in these narratives.

The evening concluded with a roundtable discussion where the three panelists explored how the different approaches to studying testimonials can work in tandem to provide a more holistic understanding of the stories told by Holocaust survivors. Typically, in this kind of research, the ruling logic is that if multiple researchers come to the same conclusion, it must be correct. But the panelists argued that it is much more interesting to look at the differences between conclusions in an attempt to understand how they can enrich our understanding of survivor experiences. The panelists concluded by encouraging students interested in this type of research to set out with an intentional approach in the collection of testimonials of recent and current genocides in a way that will be of value to future research.

ELZBIETA JANICKA

'When Denial Becomes State Policy: The Origins and Significance of the New Holocaust-Speech Law in Poland'
APRIL 5, 2018

Elżbieta Janicka, a historian of literature at the Institute of Slavic Studies at the Polish Academy of Sciences, provided a cultural-historical analysis of the mechanisms that have led not to a breakthrough, but to an unprecedented regression in Poland's reckoning with its past. Her lecture tried to make sense of the fact that the current Prime Minister of Poland, who is proud of its membership of the

anti-Hitler coalition, can freely deploy antisemitic rhetoric and pay official homage to Polish wartime collaborators of the Nazis. During her talk, Janicka raised the following questions: How could it happen that a democratically elected parliament in an independent Poland - member of NATO and the EU - could pass a law criminalizing free debate about the Holocaust? How could such a law enjoy 70% public support, given that half of the 6 million victims of the Holocaust were citizens of Poland?

Janicka discussed some of the lesser known points behind this law, including historical events and details that influenced the relationship between Poles and Jews leading up to the law's formation. She argued that it is impossible to understand these developments without looking at the Polish context of the Holocaust and explained how postwar Polish society and culture have systematically avoided a confrontation with their own antisemitism.

CHRISTOPHER MAURIELLO

'Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies in Germany at the End of World War II'
APRIL 18, 2018

This lecture was hosted in collaboration with Yahad-In Unum, a French organization founded to identify the sites of mass graves of Jewish victims of the Nazis. In front of an engaged audience of student and faculty in our Combes building, visiting history professor Christopher Mauriello, Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Salem State University, presented his latest book: *Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies in Germany at the End of World War II* (Lexington Books, 2017).

Mauriello began the evening by explaining the ideas behind his book and the research area of necropolitics, or "dead body politics." He then presented his most recent scholarship, which shines a light on the acts of US military forces shortly

after they discovered the atrocities carried out by the Nazis. Upon finding mass graves containing the bodies of Jews, slave laborers, POWs and other victims of the Nazi genocide and mass murder, the US military forces, instead of simply reburying the victims, carried out a series of "highly ritualized 'forced confrontations' toward German civilians featuring the actual dead bodies of the victims."

Mauriello shared stories of the German townspeople forced to witness the sites of atrocities carried out by the Nazis, to disinter bodies and to "parade these bodies through town" before the bodies were laid to rest in a local cemetery. Mauriello's study compels readers to think about the nature of the American soldier fighting in Germany in 1945 and the evolution, practice and purpose of American political and ideological conceptions of German collective guilt.

Putting his research in the context of its contemporary impact, Maurellio said, "My research will not stop genocide, of course, but I hope that it sheds light on some of the atrocities and makes people look back and try to understand what happened."

SYMPOSIUM ON STORYTELLING AND ETHICS

MAY 11, 2018

Collaborating with the Centre for Narrative Research (University of East London) and SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory, the Center helped support the symposium "Storytelling and ethics," which included a book launch for Jakob Lothe's *Time's Witnesses: Women's Voices from the Holocaust*.



Professor Christopher Mauriello shares his research on "Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies." April 2018



THE VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE AT AUP

Students can access the VHA through the AUP Library. September 2017

TEACHING

Accessible to the entire AUP community on any computer terminal on the campus, the Visual History Archive has been used for individual student research and in several AUP classes:

Science, Society and Human Origins
(Linda Martz)

Political Anthropology (Tanya Elder)

Public International Law (Susan Perry)

International Human Rights Law (Susan Perry)

Ecole de Guerre Practicum (Susan Perry)

Provocative Witness: Cinema and Genocide
(Marie Regan)

Social Memory (Brian Schiff)

Understanding Genocide (Brian Schiff)

In spring 2018, Professor **Brian Schiff** designed and taught *Understanding Genocide*. This course was an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of genocide studies with an emphasis on 20th-century genocides and the Holocaust. The course discussed the issues of definition and description of genocide, as well as the precursors, processes and responses associated with mass violence. An integral part of the course worked with written and oral testimonies of perpetrators, bystanders and victims. The course was linked to a study trip to Krakow and Auschwitz in order to better experience and understand the process of genocide and its representation in its aftermath.

On February 12, 2018, AUP Professor **Marie Regan** dedicated a Mellon Pedagogical seminar to "Teaching with the Visual History Archive: creative, compassionate, pedagogically rich ways to look closely, deepen research and create a community of witness in the classroom." In this session she talked about using video with students and some simple tools for engaging with it in formal ways. She went into depth on how she used the Visual History Archive in her *Provocative Witness: Cinema and Genocide*

class and shared some strategies for creating a collaborative research community in the classroom. She also discussed how to set up pedagogical structures that deeply engage the student in challenging material.

RESEARCH

The Visual History Archive is also available to the outside public. Researchers from various disciplines and countries, along with genealogists, filmmakers and graduate students, regularly come to the AUP library to watch one of the more than 54,000 video interviews of the collection.

The Center not only welcomes and encourages researchers to explore these interviews but also leads an investigation of the history, characteristics and scholarly potential of the testimonies of victims of mass violence through journal articles and conferences (*The Visual History Archive: Research Experience*, held in October 2017; *Comparative Lenses: Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses on Genocide and Mass Violence*, forthcoming, June 2018). In 2017-18, the Center's postdoctoral fellow **Constance Pâris de Bollardière** published two such contributions in two different French reviews:

- "Le témoignage à la caméra : la Visual History Archive, une source audiovisuelle pour la recherche sur la Shoah et les crimes de masse" (Testifying with a video camera: the Visual History Archive, an audiovisual source for research on the Shoah and mass crimes), *Histoire@Politique*, 33, September-December 2017 [online: histoire-politique.fr].
- "Les historiens face aux témoignages de rescapés de la Shoah" (Historians and holocaust survivors' testimonies), *Vingtième Siècle. Revue d'histoire* (rubrique « Archives »), 139, July-September 2018, p231-241.

RESEARCH ON JEWISH HISTORY, MASS VIOLENCE & MEMORY

Researchers from the Center have contributed to several scholarly events.

Professor **Brian Schiff** was invited by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) to observe a week-long training session for NGOs and diplomats on genocide prevention. The training, held at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum, included participants from dozens of countries.

The Center's Senior Project Manager **Caitlin Bertin-Mahieux** has published 'Instant History of 9/11'. *Mémoires en Jeu : Revue critique interdisciplinaire et multiculturelle sur les enjeux de mémoire*, 4 September 2017 [online : memoires-en-jeu.com/notice/instant-history-of-911/]

Constance Pâris de Bollardière made presentations on her research on American-French Jewish history after the Holocaust at the following academic conferences:

- "From the 'Language of the Ghettos' to the 'Language of the World': writing on the Holocaust in Yiddish and English. The case of the monthly American Jewish socialist journals *Faktn un meynungen* and *Voice of the Unconquered* (1944-1948)" [in French]. Language Matters. Printing News in English Abroad/Foreign-Language Publishing in the English-Speaking World, Université Paris Diderot - Paris 7, October 2017.
- "Gathering and dividing Yiddish culture: the anti-communist question in the Parisian network of the Congress for Jewish Culture, 1946--early 1950s," during the panel "Yiddish culture in post-Holocaust Paris, 1944-1954," Association for Jewish Studies' annual conference in Washington DC in December, 2017.

Her work was also published in the collective book *Bundist Legacy after the Second World War. "Real" Place versus "Displaced" Time* (ed. by Vincenzo Pinto, Leyde/Boston, Brill, collection "Studies in Jewish History and Culture," 52, 2018, p39-55: "The French Bundist movement after the Holocaust: between self and collective reconstruction, 1944-1948").



CENTER FELLOWSHIPS

Center fellow Jessica Brainos at the student-organized Migration Conference at Hôtel de Talleyrand. May 2018



AUP Student (left) and Professor Charles Talcott (right) immersed in Holocaust History on a Cultural Program trip to Krakow. October 2017

'IT HAPPENED HERE' WITH SARAH GENSBURGER, INSTITUT DES SCIENCES SOCIALES DU POLITIQUE - CNRS

Five fellows of the Center have worked for the online project It Happened Here. An immersive audio series, It Happened Here allows people to experience history in the city by exploring, through archives, a neighborhood, a street or a building, giving a voice to the people who lived there. During two summers, trained by historian and sociologist Sarah Gensburger and by the Center's postdoctoral fellow Constance Pâris de Bollardière, these AUP students methodologically searched the Visual History Archive to find relevant audio material to document parts of a soundwalk on the Holocaust in Paris

Basia Diagne (Summer 2018)
Lauren O'Farrell (Summer 2018)
Elin Rosedalen (Summer 2017)
Neni Asheeke (Summer 2017)

Thanks to support from the Center, this soundwalk offers an English version.

STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Center supported five AUP students' research projects from various disciplines.

Maxine Basch

MA, International Affairs, "Anti-Semitism in 21st-century France"

Jessica Brainos,

MA, Diplomacy and International Law, "Jewish Russian women survivors of the Holocaust who migrated to Poland before WWII"

Andee Gershenberg

BA in Psychology, "Consistency and change in the Holocaust testimonies over time"

Brittany Paquay

BA in History, Law and Society, "Humility in action: Christianity and civilian rescue during the Holocaust"

Isabelle Siegel

BA in History Law and Society, "Erasure of women's voices in the Jewish Enlightenment or Haskalah," received a grant to study the Yiddish language in order to conduct legal research.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Several AUP professors received support from the Center for their research.

Marie Regan, Associate Professor, Film Studies, "Translating atrocity: a feature documentary."

The goal of Marie Regan's film, in making central the language of atrocity and the attempt to process said language, is to use these themes as a prism for exploring the concept of witness and the challenge of listening in our times.

In preparing the film, Marie Regan talked to translators who work in international criminal court tribunals translating the testimonies of survivors and perpetrators.

Lissa Lincoln, Associate Professor, Program Coordinator for Gender, Sexuality and Society, Orders of Violence conference.

The Orders of Violence conference was dedicated to investigating political violence, exclusion and memory within marginalized communities, with particular emphasis on caste violence and genocide.

Waddick Doyle, Associate Professor, Global Communications, "Co-existence: media hate speech and inter-communal realities in Paris."

This project involved studying the origins of ethnic and religious conflict in media discourses, particularly those promoted on social media. It examined and documented the reality of co-existence on the ground in particular institutions, school canteens, hospitals, prisons, associations and religious organizations.

Kerstin Carlson, Assistant Professor, International and Comparative Politics, "The Habré trial and beyond: new models of prosecuting international crime?"

This book project, conducted in concert with human rights researchers from the University of California, Berkeley (Kim Thuy Seelinger) and Sciences Po (Sharon Weill), examines the impact of the Habré trial on judicial organs and actors. Hissène Habré is the ex-president of Chad who oversaw what the 1992 Chadian Truth Commission termed a genocide against targeted ethnic groups in the country while he was in power (1982-90). On May 30, 2016, the Chambres Africaines Extraordinaires found Hissène Habré guilty of crimes against humanity, war crimes and torture, and sentenced him to life in prison.

Ziad Majed, Associate Professor, History, *Syrie, la révolution orpheline*.

This book, published in 2014 in Arabic in Beirut and in French in Paris, has received a grant to be translated into English and updated to include a chapter on the rise of ISIS.



STUDY TRIPS

AUP President Celeste Schenck (second left), Professor Brian Schiff (second right) and students at the Treblinka Museum. October 2017

WARSAW AND TREBLINKA OCTOBER 2017

Over a long weekend in October, students from AUP's FirstBridge and International and Comparative Politics programs took a flight to Poland where they were taken on an emotional journey into the past as they learned about the origins and memory of the Holocaust. Led by Professors Charles Talcott and Brian Schiff as well as the Center's fellow Constance Pâris de Bollardière, students were immersed in prewar and wartime Jewish life in Poland and dedicated time to critical thinking on contemporary memorial issues in the country. They were taken to different sites, including the former Warsaw Ghetto, the new Polin Museum and the Treblinka death camp. The trip finished at the city of Otwock, where they met with local activists who spoke about their efforts to commemorate the exterminated Jewish community of their town.

The trip - described as "grounding," "emotional" and "mind-blowing" by attending students - had a profound effect on all involved. Students' responses were as diverse as their backgrounds, but every person came away from their experience in Poland with a life-changing shift in perspective.

Hunter Vandertoll, a FirstBridge freshman, had this to say: "The most powerful part of the trip had to have been visiting Treblinka, where 800,000 people were murdered in the woods. Standing in the same field where this incomprehensible act against humanity was committed really brought me to a point of reflection on who I am and what I will do with the blessing I have in my life. Nobody will ever understand why, but getting out there to see for yourself can only help you expand your mind."

Carolin Sahli, an International and Comparative Politics major, explained her own transformation during the Poland trip: "I gained a different perspective - also academically, regarding Poland's side in history - and my opinion that silence means

being complicit in choosing the side of the oppressor was only reinforced. I was very much impacted by this grounding feeling that took over when I visited the sites, that the world in which we live is small and most things we complain about are irrelevant in the bigger picture."

The shared goal of both classes was to understand, as Carolin put it, "what happened and how it started to happen," as well as to come to terms with how different perspectives can manipulate memory. Hunter added: "The trip related to the [FirstBridge] class because we learned about the varying perspectives of what happened during the Holocaust. To walk out of a government-funded museum and have a speaker waiting to explain how its creators have manipulated the memory was what really opened my eyes to new perspectives. Different viewpoints and perspectives relate what we learned to the class." Hunter went on to say, concerning the close interaction with faculty on the trip: "There is something about learning from someone you feel you know personally that engages you fully in the class."

The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention sponsored 11 students on this trip.



Professor Brian Schiff (left) and students on the Cultural Program Study Trip to Warsaw. October 2017



AUP students and other visitors at the railway tracks leading to the gates of Auschwitz. March 2016



Former AUP student Sam Baird '17 captures the historic city of Krakow, Poland during the Cultural Program Study Trip to Krakow and Auschwitz. March 2016

KRAKOW AND AUSCHWITZ FEBRUARY 2018

After intensive in-class study of the Holocaust, AUP students used this trip to look deeply into the concept of social memory, particularly in terms of how historical events are represented in monuments and memorials, and to reflect upon the practical implementation of memory, the role of history tourism and the meaning of historical sites for visitors. With Professors Charles Talcott and Brian Schiff, students raised the following questions: Why are sites of destruction popular tourist destinations? How is history told and to what end? What effect do these representations (and preservations) have

on the personal meaning of history?

From the perspective of transitional justice, the trip to Krakow and Auschwitz addressed issues of social construction following mass atrocity. Students examined how monuments to the Holocaust, such as Auschwitz and the Schindler museum, as well as the revival experienced in the past two decades of the traditionally Jewish quarter of Krakow (now populated almost exclusively by non-Jews) are evidence of "truth telling" or justice, so that these processes of memorialization create possible sites of restorative justice and collective witnessing.

The Center sponsored 13 students on this trip.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2019

CONFERENCES

JUNE 6-7, 2019 | COMPARATIVE LENSES: VIDEO TESTIMONIES OF SURVIVORS AND EYEWITNESSES ON GENOCIDE AND MASS VIOLENCE

The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, Yahad-In Unum, the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research and the AGBU Nubar Library are organizing an international interdisciplinary conference on the scholarly uses of video testimonies for understanding genocide and mass violence. The conference will be held in Paris on June 6 and 7, 2019.

Victim testimony as a source for the study of genocide and mass violence has been the subject of longstanding debate in the social sciences and humanities, especially among historians. This conference aims to deepen the discussion by inviting participants to present on three areas of focus:

1. Video testimonies collected from the late 1970s up to the present-day;
2. Video testimonies of victims as well as eyewitnesses;
3. Video testimonies documenting the Holocaust and other mass atrocities.

FALL 2019 | AUSCHWITZ INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION ALUMNI MEETING

The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) is building a world that prevents genocide and other mass atrocities. Through education, training and technical assistance, they support states to develop or strengthen policies and practices for the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocities. They also encourage and support the cooperation of states through regional and international networks to advance prevention.

The flagship training program of AIPR is the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention, a weeklong training offered to government officials from around the world and providing tools and policy options to address risk factors for atrocity crimes in their home countries and regions. The seminar takes place each year at the former Nazi concentration and extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau and to date they have welcomed over 300 officials from 83 countries to this training. Following their time at Auschwitz, the alumni become members of a formal community of actors working on prevention through collaborative programs at the regional and national levels often with the further support of AIPR. The Raphael Lemkin Seminar is therefore the beginning of their relationship with AIPR and the follow up activities become paramount to the fulfillment of their mission. Among the most important of these activities are the triennial Alumni Meetings wherein they welcome a large percentage of their alumni community to a three-day program. The goal is for participants to share their work in prevention since the Auschwitz seminar as well as to foster new collaborative projects addressing risk factors for atrocity crimes. Additionally, at these meetings their Academic Director designs a short curriculum to continue alumni education in prevention, incorporating issue areas of specific relevance as detailed in the evaluation reports of their seminars at Auschwitz.

The academic programming of AIPR is distinguished by its reliance on the "power of place." The primary location for the core program of genocide prevention seminars, Auschwitz, gives urgency to the preventive work that they are trying to advance. Studying genocide prevention at a place that gives direct evidence of the destructive reality of what happens when prevention fails offers a unique and powerful immediacy to the teaching and learning experience. They have also relied on the power of place in their programming at other internationally recognized sites of memory and atrocity: ESMA in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Villa Grimaldi in Santiago, Chile; the offices of the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania; and near the Jewish Ghetto in Venice, Italy. Thus, it would be a privilege for AUP and the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention to host this meeting. This setting brings many opportunities to weave in vital power of place elements, which will deeply enhance the experience of their alumni, the discussions that ensue and the continued work in prevention that results from this program.

NOVEMBER 2019 | CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITHOUT FAMILY IN 20TH-CENTURY WARS

Organized by the CIRCEFT-HEDUC (Université Paris 8), the CHSSC (Université d'Amiens) and the CREW (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3), with the support of the Center, this international conference will gather social scientists, psychologists and archivists to explore the following questions: What is the role of unaccompanied youth as both victims and perpetrators in war? What do we know of their personal experiences and of their memories of such wars? What are the ramifications of family separation for children? What different sources are available to analyze these questions? Scholars and archivists working on different wars and locations will for the first time have an opportunity to exchange their research and expertise.

SUMMER 2020 | THE PLACE OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE IN GENOCIDE STUDIES

We believe that the Armenian genocide merits a central place in the currently robust international discussion on genocide. As the first state-sponsored genocide of the modern era, the Armenian genocide shares numerous features with other acts of mass violence committed in the 20th century and beyond. Although the past 30 years of research, principally in history and sociology, have produced authoritative scholarship that documents the major facts, many questions are in need of further

study and development, eg the evolution and thought process of the genocide's architects, the motivations of rank-and-file killers, the relationships of Armenians with other ethnic minorities and their Muslim neighbors, and the deliberations and responses of the international community. Furthermore, scholars must address the narrative of the Armenian genocide as an act of historical justice in order to rectify the denial and erasure that has marginalized the history and memory of the crime.

We propose to dedicate this upcoming international conference to contextualizing what is known about the Armenian genocide and its relationship with other genocides, while opening up avenues for new research.



Speakers & conference participants in conversation following a panel discussion at the Words That Kill conference. May 2018

WORKSHOPS

SPRING AND FALL 2019 | PICTURES OF THE HOLOCAUST

This two-session workshop, co-organized by the Center's team and the French historian Tal Bruttman, will gather scholars from both Europe and America who are doing research on pictures of the Holocaust. Many pictures are nowadays widely known and play a central role in our societies' representations of the Holocaust. The illustrative power and the postwar uses of these pictures have been explored by scholars. However, the knowledge that they provide about these events still deserves close attention. Indeed, a former lack of analysis has even misled the public in its knowledge of the Holocaust. These workshops will thus concentrate on pictures as an object of research in themselves for scholarly output on the Holocaust. What have scholars - and consequently the public - so far missed in their observation and interpretation of pictures of the Holocaust? How can a careful analysis of these pictures - of their content, frame and quality, and of the way they were collected and

preserved during the Second World War - be useful to historians and other scholars of the Holocaust?

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

SEPTEMBER 2018 | REFUGEES AND THE POLITICS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CALAIS JUNGLE AND BEYOND

Dr Aura Lounasmaa will speak about her experience as a member of teaching staff for the award-winning Life Stories in the Jungle short course on the Calais refugee camp and read extracts from the book *Voices from the Jungle* that was co-authored by 22 students, and residents of the Calais Jungle. Dr Lounasmaa will be joined by authors of *Voices from the Jungle* and refugee activists in France. This event will serve as a forum for discussion of the course, which will consider four ways in which politics in the camp emerged: (1) the use of "rights" language in constituting the camp residents as political citizens; (2) coalitions between residents and volunteers as a political practice; (3) the politics of commons and deliberative processes; and (4) associative spaces linked to political practices within the camp. In addition, the event will allow for a discussion of some of the larger implications of the Calais Jungle following its dissolution, such as the concept of citizenship in the European context, certain problematic assumptions of what constitutes European politics, and the politics of bordering.

MAY 2019 | ANATOMY OF A GENOCIDE

Omer Bartov (John P Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of German Studies at Brown University) will present his new book *Anatomy of a Genocide: the Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz* (New York, Simon & Schuster, 2018). This event will be co-organized with the seminar "History and historiography of the Holocaust", École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales.

STUDY TRIPS

OCTOBER 2018 | WARSAW AND TREBLINKA

On this study trip, students will learn about prewar Jewish life in Poland, the traces of the Holocaust in Warsaw and the contemporary debates on Holocaust memory taking place in Poland. They will visit the vestiges of Jewish Warsaw (including its large cemetery), the sites of Jewish persecutions in the Polish capital, the extermination site at Treblinka and one of the small towns outside Warsaw which were renowned for their vivid Jewish life and institutions. The group will also discover older Holocaust memorials and the recently opened Museum of the History of Polish Jews built on the site of the former Warsaw ghetto. A major focus will be on the various forms of visible memorialization - and their absence - in order to better understand the political and social evolution of the Polish memory of the extermination of the Jews. Visits will be complemented by conferences and guided by local historians and witnesses.

APRIL 2019 | JEWISH BERLIN, PAST AND PRESENT

The two-day trip will enable students to discover the history and memory of the Jewish past of Berlin through visits of synagogues, museums, former social institutions and cemeteries, to learn about how the Holocaust unfolded in the center of the Third Reich, to question the current memorial initiatives through visits of dedicated memorials, museums and street walks, and finally to see current Berlin Jewish life and culture, which have been recently revived.

This trip will give students an opportunity to grasp major social, cultural and political aspects of 20th-century Jewish history and of the Holocaust, and to question issues related to their memorialization.



A rose left in memory of those who died at the Treblinka extermination camp, Poland. October 2017

THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF PARIS

Chartered in Paris as an American-style liberal arts college in 1962, The American University of Paris is today an international university located at the meeting point of France, Europe, and the world. The University provides a curriculum that combines liberal arts inquiry, preparation for professional life, and student-centered, active learning in small classrooms of students from many nationalities. A global faculty teach 27 undergraduate majors and four core fields of graduate study, all taught in English. AUP's 20,000 alumni live and work in 145 countries.

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Cover: AUP students & faculty on a Cultural Program trip to Treblinka. October 2017

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