

# 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT

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



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## 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's Visual History Archive containing over 54,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of genocide and mass violence worldwide.

The University is making this important resource available to researchers, teachers and students in their investigation of the origins, evolution and aftereffects of collective hatred, fundamentalist ideologies, discrimination and mass violence, and their dissemination of new insights on these subjects. The archive helps 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.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

Over the past four years, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention has implemented its mission according to five strategic priorities:

- Faculty-Student Mentored Research
- Curricular Development and Pedagogical Innovation
- Scholarly Convocation and Collaboration
- Communications and Publication
- Access to Survivor Testimony

The Center has been enormously successful in implementing this mission. It is a visible and vibrant presence on AUP's campus, sponsoring research on the Shoah, genocide and mass violence; supporting the development of new courses within the AUP curriculum and the integration of the Visual History Archive into existing courses; and raising awareness in the AUP community of the Shoah and other atrocities, past and present, as well as the rise of antisemitism in France and around the world. We are proud that the Center's reach extends far beyond AUP's campus; the Center has helped AUP build its reputation in France and internationally through numerous collaborations in Europe, North America and Israel that have established AUP as a leader in the study of genocide and human rights.

The Center's new office and conference spaces in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, AUP's flagship building, have given the Center visibility at the University and presence to outside visitors. It is now critical to preserve and consolidate our programs, research and curricular building. In the coming years, we plan to continue working on the priorities outlined above, embedding that work into the curricular fabric of the University. Program building and research grants are the necessary next steps in the Center's continued growth and development.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



Teresa de Langis, American University of Phnom Penh, presents during the 'Comparative Lenses' conference. June 2019

## Comparative Lenses: Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses on Genocide and Mass Violence

On June 6-7, 2019, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention hosted an international interdisciplinary conference, Comparative Lenses, on the scholarly uses of video testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses of genocide and mass violence. The conference was organized in partnership with Yahad - In Unum, the USC Shoah Foundation's Center for Advanced Genocide Research and the AGBU Nubar Library. It took place in the Omid & Gisel Kordestani Rooftop Conference Center on the 8th floor of the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, AUP's new flagship building.

The Comparative Lenses conference discussed the academic relevance of video testimonies of atrocity and sought to uncover new approaches to collecting and working with such material in the field of genocide studies. The discussions emphasized three main areas of comparison: late-1970s video testimony versus modern-day recordings, survivor testimonies versus those of eyewitnesses (or, in some cases, perpetrators) and Holocaust testimonies versus those relating to other acts of genocide and mass violence.

An introductory session was given over to the presentation of several of the archives in which these testimonies are housed. The USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive (VHA) is the world's largest collection of Holocaust survivor testimonies, containing over 54,000 recorded interviews. In addition to the Shoah, the archive contains testimonies of nine genocidal events, including the Tutsi, Guatemalan, Cambodian and Armenian genocides, the Nanjing massacre of 1937, anti-Rohingya mass violence, contemporary antisemitism, the South Sudan civil war and the Central African Republic conflict. Another presentation covered the Yahad - in Unum archive, which documents what it terms the "Holocaust by

bullets." Between 1941 and 1944, following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union, 1.5-2 million Jews were killed by mass shootings in Eastern Europe. Also presented were the Aegis Trust's archive of testimonies from survivors of the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda, the different collections of Armenian genocide testimonies available around the world, and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies from Yale University, now also available at AUP.

The two-day event included panels discussing the differences between survivor and eyewitness testimonies, and the contextual relationship that exists between time period, subject and place. Anika Walke (Washington University in St. Louis) discussed the idea of place in relation to the Yahad - in Unum archive. "Interviewees are not selected on the basis of identity," she explained. "They are, in fact, interviewed as experts on a place." The victims of the Holocaust by bullets were killed in their own villages - very few were deported - so testimonies relating to the atrocities are mostly from local witnesses. Their personal connections to the killing sites become intertwined with the narratives they use to describe mass violence.

"Best practice" approaches to gathering testimonies, including ethical considerations, were put forward by a number of speakers. Ari Joskowitz (Vanderbilt University) noted in his talk how mistrust in technology can place limitations on one's ability to find interview subjects. Using the example of Romani survivors of the Holocaust by bullets, Joskowitz compared testimonies from the 1960s to those from the 1990s. "Sometimes we think about silences, but in other cases it was difficult not to speak," he explained, referring to the push in the postwar period to gather legal evidence in order to prosecute Nazi perpetrators. Given the postwar political climate, there may well have been legitimate reasons why certain groups, including the Romani, were hesitant to work directly with the police, as doing so constituted a form of surveillance. Joskowitz noted that today's

technological problems are about privacy issues associated with big data. "The intentions of people who create the data are not considered by those who manage databases," he warned, noting that technologies used to record testimonies are similar to those used by corporations to track people.

On day two, discussion turned to the relevance of using Holocaust testimonies as a paradigm when gathering evidence of other genocidal events. The VHA was used, for example, as a model when interviewing survivors of the Guatemalan genocide of the early 1980s. Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley) discussed the Guatemala Forensic Anthropology Foundation - known by its Spanish acronym, FAFG. She argued that, while the VHA struggles against time when it comes to documenting survivor evidence, FAFG struggles against politics. She discussed concerns that the Holocaust model could be having "too much influence" on academic understanding of the region, but concluded that this was not the case in her research into the testimonies of Mayan victims of the genocide.

Other speakers included Teresa de Langis (American University of Phnom Penh), who spoke about the ethical considerations of working with survivors of sexual violence under the Khmer Rouge regime; Glenn Timmermans and Alex Chi Un Lam (University of Macau), whose presentation covered Chinese institutional memory of both the Nanjing and Tiananmen massacres; and Noah Shenker (Monash University), who spoke to the application of the Holocaust studies paradigm to the case of the Stolen Generations - a name given to the aboriginal children forcibly removed from their families under Australian government policy between 1910 and 1970. Shenker discussed the establishment of an aboriginal oral history archive, for which the VHA was used as a template, and the differences in methodology needed to ensure cultural sensitivity. Aboriginal avoidance practices discourage the use of videos or photographs of the dead, and even audio recordings require written

permission; the 337 testimonies in the aboriginal oral archive are therefore audio only.

In the final presentation, the question of technology was readdressed, as discussion turned to issues of documenting mass violence in the modern day. Uğur Ümit Üngör (Utrecht University) spoke of the particularities of video testimony of the ongoing conflict in Syria - much of which is recorded by witnesses themselves. There are, to date, over 3 million videos related to the conflict. "Syria is a war of images," explained Üngör. "The number of hours of video of the conflict is many times more than the actual length of the conflict." He noted that the smartphone could be considered a weapon, given its triple use for communication, coordination of violence and publication of propaganda, though he also mentioned apps - like eyeWitness to Atrocities - that allow victims to upload video evidence of human rights abuses even while they are happening. Perpetrators, too, create hours of video content, often in the form of "trophy videos" or livestreamed violence designed to spread terror. He argues that video is changing the nature of violence in the modern era, though admitted that the specifics of how it was doing so required further research.

The interplay of place, time, subject and event influences the ways in which testimonies are recorded, distributed and used in academia. There is little doubt that video testimony provides a valuable resource for scholars of genocide studies to advance vital academic work, but evolving technology presents new challenges, and a deeper understanding of specific approaches to documenting individual atrocities has led to changing methodological practices.



Noah Shenker prepares to take questions. June 2019



## LECTURES & WORKSHOPS



Dr. Aura Lounasmaa, University of East London, read an excerpt from 'Voices from the Jungle.' September 2018

### **Aura Lounasmaa** 'Refugees and the Politics of Participation in the Calais Jungle and Beyond' September 17, 2018

The Center's first speaker of the academic year, Dr. Aura Lounasmaa (University of East London), drew a crowd of students, faculty and other members of the AUP community for an evening entitled "Refugees and the Politics of Participation in the Calais Jungle and Beyond." Dr. Lounasmaa spoke about her experience teaching on the award-winning Life Stories in the Jungle short course in the Calais refugee camp and read extracts from the book *Voices from the Jungle*; the book's 22 coauthors included students taking the course and other residents of the Calais Jungle. After Dr. Lounasmaa's presentation, there was a panel discussion with authors of *Voices from the Jungle* and refugee activists from France. The speakers included:

- Riaz Ahmad, *Voices* author and refugee activist
- Maitre Elodie Journeau, avocate au Barreau de Paris
- Judith Aquien, déléguée générale, Action Emploi Réfugiés

The event served as a forum for discussing the course, which considered four ways in which politics emerged in the camp: (1) the use of "rights" language in constituting the camp's 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. Participants also discussed some of the larger implications of the Calais Jungle after its dissolution, such as the concept of citizenship in the European context, in order to problematize assumptions of what constitutes European politics and to discuss the politics of bordering. The audience had the opportunity to participate in a question and answer session with the speakers and

in individual discussions with other guests during a cocktail reception following the talk.

### **Wendy Walker-Moffat** 'What Research on Hmong Refugee Girls in the US and Thailand Has Taught Me About Gender in Higher Education' September 27, 2018

Wendy Walker-Moffat discussed findings from her 37 years of longitudinal research on the education of Hmong refugee girls. She explored questions such as: What is the value of longitudinal research? How does one keep going when one keeps hitting walls in one's research? How does one, especially as a woman, balance the often conflicting demands of education, work, family and being a parent? Walker-Moffat relayed her own career path: working in refugee camps in Thailand for three years, teaching at the University of California's Berkeley School of Social Welfare, lecturing at the University of Oxford's Refugee Studies Center, conducting research on immigrant women at Stanford University, and working as an independent scholar, most recently as a Fulbright Specialist at Chiang Mai University in Thailand.

### **Hanna Meretoja** 'The Ethical Potential and Dangers of Narratives: Six Evaluative Continuums' November 28, 2018

Hanna Meretoja is a Professor of Comparative Literature; Director of SELMA: Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory; and Vice Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Turku (Finland). Her research is mainly in the fields of narrative theory, narrative hermeneutics and narrative ethics. Her talk at AUP addressed the ways in which narrative hermeneutics allows us to analyze and evaluate narratives from an ethical perspective. It presented a heuristic model for evaluating the ethical potential and dangers of different kinds of narratives. The model provides six evaluative continuums on which narratives can

be placed in context-sensitive ethical evaluation of different social and cultural narrative practices. These continuums explore whether narratives (1) expand or diminish our sense of the possible, (2) cultivate or distort personal and cultural self-understanding, (3) promote or impair our ability to understand the experiences of others in their singularity, (4) participate in building inclusive or exclusive narrative in-betweens, (5) develop or impede our perspective-awareness, and (6) function as a form of ethical inquiry or dogmatism.

Toward the end of the talk, Meretoja discussed this model in the light of some literary examples, which also raised the question of the ethical potential of narrative fiction. The talk proposed that literary narratives that display meta-narrativity – self-aware reflection on their own narrativity and on the significance of narratives in our lives – could make important contributions to our understanding of such issues as narrative agency, the perpetuation of structural violence in society, and the problematic impact of narrow and normative cultural models of coherent narrative identity on individual lives.

### **Alain and Drafoza Gauthier** 'Justice After Genocide: Prosecuting Hutu Perpetrators' March 20, 2019

In 1997, Alain and Drafoza Gauthier started collecting testimonies of survivors of the Tutsi genocide of 1994. In 2001, they created the Collective of Civil Parties for Rwanda (Le Collectif des Parties Civiles pour le Rwanda, CPCR). Since its inception, it has continuously prepared complaints against Tutsi genocide suspects. The association provides moral and financial support to those who would like to prosecute presumed perpetrators of the genocide who may be hiding on French soil. The association also offers to present itself as party in the process of filing complaints, and to offer help in any action aiming to preserve the memory of the victims. The mission of the CPCR is to bring the culprits to justice, because it is only justice that can

restore the dignity of victims and survivors. To this day, three perpetrators have been condemned by French justice and the organization has filed more than 20 complaints.

**Samuel Ghiles-Meilhac**  
**'France, A Laboratory of Global Antisemitism(s)?'**  
April 10, 2019

France is the European country with the largest Jewish population. Jews lived in the region before the birth of France as a kingdom and it is in France that Jews were first emancipated. Although more than 75,000 Jews from France were deported to extermination camps, most of the survivors remained after 1945. Today, France faces various forms of violent antisemitism, including murders. Professor Ghiles-Meilhac, a research fellow at Université Paris 8, asked the audience to consider some difficult and important questions, including: What do these forms of hate have in common with the past, including the Dreyfus Affair and the Vichy regime? Is there a specificity of French antisemitism? How globalized are contemporary antisemitic dynamics?

**Hakan Seckinelgin**  
**'What are the Conditions of Thinking About the 1915 Genocide in Turkey?'**  
April 17, 2019

Political theorist Hakan Seckinelgin spoke at AUP about his research on what is publicly remembered in Turkey about the events of 1915. Addressing students, staff and faculty in the Combes Student Life Center, Seckinelgin examined the conditions of thinking about the Armenian genocide in Turkey and how collective and public memories reproduce certain discourses in Turkish social relations. The talk explored the existing set of ideas that people have about the Armenian genocide; how do people think about these events, and on what basis do they justify their thinking? Seckinelgin explained that, though people are free to speak

about genocide, the way in which it is discussed has implications. His research used interviews, focus groups, documentary analysis and participatory observations to highlight what forms these implications take and to understand the ways in which collective memory continues to shape public debate.

He argued that, though states have a hand in creating and maintaining public ways of thinking, it is civil society that ultimately operationalizes these processes. Through emphasizing certain actions or language, a general structure is created surrounding what people remember, similar to a grammatical structure. "There are linguistic signs for this, and people detect very easily when you are not using those signs," Seckinelgin said. Individuals are pushed to remember as part of a larger group; this normalizing process creates a common discourse around how the events of 1915 can be publicly discussed.

Following the lecture, the audience asked questions about how this framework applied in the Turkish context, including how issues of religion and gender complicate discussions even further. The event concluded by looking at whose responsibility it was to change the existing public memory. Seckinelgin argued that top-down change was necessary in order to encourage individuals to think differently.

**Amia Lieblich**  
**'Late Suicide Among Holocaust Survivors in Israel: Two Life Stories'**  
April 23, 2019

Professor Amia Lieblich is an Israeli psychologist and writer, a Professor Emerita of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and currently the president of the Academic College of Society and the Arts. She is among the pioneers of narrative research and the author of numerous books in Hebrew and English. Her talk presented the life stories of Chajka Klinger (1917-58) and Beni Vitzberg (1928-68). Both of these Holocaust survivors had found their way to

Israel (or Palestine at that time), had built families and had apparently found their place in the new Jewish society, yet some years later they developed depression and finally each of them committed suicide in midlife. Both Klinger and Vitzberg were involved in writing projects, documenting in detail their personal experiences and what they had witnessed during the war. Lieblich's presentation pointed to several possible factors for these tragic life stories, focusing on "survivor's guilt" on the one hand and "craving for an audience" on the other hand. It also raised the question of whether narrating traumatic experiences is always beneficial to the narrator's well-being.

**David Motadel**  
**'Muslims in Nazi Europe'**  
May 16, 2019

David Motadel, Assistant Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), works on the history of modern Europe and Europe's relations with the wider world. He has a particular interest in international history and the history of empire. During the lecture, he presented his book on the history of Muslims under German rule in the Second World War (Harvard University Press, 2014), which was recently translated into French (La Découverte, 2019). This lecture was organized in partnership with the EHESS seminar "*Histoire et historiographie de la Shoah*."

## WORKSHOPS

**Tal Bruttman**  
**'Pictures of the Holocaust'**  
May 27-28, 2019

Many pictures are nowadays widely known and play a central role in our societies' representation of the Holocaust. The illustrative power and the postwar uses of these pictures have been explored by scholars. However, the knowledge of the events that they provide still deserves close attention. Indeed, a former lack of analysis can even be said to have misled the public in its knowledge of the Holocaust. This workshop - which gathered nine scholars from France, Germany and Greece - has raised the following questions: 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; of the way they were collected and preserved during the Second World War - be useful to historians and other scholars of the Holocaust? A second workshop will be held on October 14, 2019. These two sessions are a first step toward a larger conference that will be held at AUP in early 2021 on this same topic.

# THE VISUAL HISTORY ARCHIVE AT AUP

George and Irina  
**Schaeffer Center**  
for the Study of Genocide,  
Human Rights and Conflict Prevention

Conference Room \_\_\_\_\_ Q-709  
Office \_\_\_\_\_ Q-707

## TEACHING

Accessible to all of the AUP community on any computer terminal on 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**

20th-Century European Jewish History

**Constance Pâris de Bollardière**

## RESEARCH

The Visual History Archive is also available to the 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.

Since Summer 2019, the Center has also provided access to the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies (Yale University). This collection, created in 1979 by a group of Holocaust survivors living in New Haven, Connecticut, holds more than 4,400 video testimonies of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses of the Nazi persecutions from North America, South America, Europe and Israel. The Center was pleased to host

the Fortunoff Archive's librarian Stephen Naron, who provided a training session to staff in the AUP Library and presented his collection during the international conference Comparative Lenses: Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses on Genocide and Mass Violence in June 2019.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO EXTERNAL SCHOLARLY EVENTS

### Brian Schiff:

- "Conceptual Shell Games" at the Uses and Abuses of Storytelling conference, February 2019.
- "Theorizing the Intersections of Narrative, Memory and Identity," hosted by the University of Turku, Finland.
- "Between Social Memory and Narrative" at the Summer Institute on Narrative Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark, July 2019.
- "The Hermeneutics of Darkness: Interpreting Perpetrators on their Crimes" at the workshop "Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics and Hermeneutics" at the University of Turku, Finland, August 2019.

### Constance Pâris de Bollardière:

- Presentation of her PhD research at the EHESS seminar "*Histoire et historiographie de la Shoah*," December 2018
- Presentation of ongoing research, along with Malena Chinski and Simon Perego, on a writing contest on World War II memories organized by a Yiddish daily newspaper in Paris in 1947-49. This presentation was given at the conference of the French Society for Jewish Studies at the Université de Strasbourg, July 2019.
- Her ongoing research on the post-Holocaust Yiddish World has led to a publication in the French review of Jewish studies *Tsafon. Revue d'études juives du Nord*, 76, 2018.

### Caitlin Bertin-Mahieux:

- The Tunisian Transition Oral History:

Documenting the Work That Began When the Revolution Ended" at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, October 2018.

- "Oral History in Contemporary Contexts" for the US Consulate General in Hamburg and the German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven, November 2018. Designed and co-led this two-day workshop on the practice of oral history in the context of displacement as well as various forms of migration.

From 2019 students could access the Visual History Archive in the Schaeffer Center's new home in the Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons. September 2019

## CENTER FELLOWSHIPS



THE AMERIC

Professor Kerstin Carlson received a travel grant to conduct interviews in Ethiopia and Djibouti. Pictured here taking part in a panel on campus about the ICC. October 2019.

### STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

The Center supported seven AUP students with their research projects, internships or conference participation across various disciplines.

**Research project** – “Gender, Violence and the Colonial Project: The Case of Algeria”

**Conference** – Geneva International Model UN 2019 Annual Conference

**Research project** – “Justice and Peace: An Examination of Ad Hoc Tribunals in Their Ability to Facilitate Conflict Prevention”

**Research project** – “The Experiences of Migrant Women Accessing Higher Education in the Ile-de-France”

**Research project** – “Island of Despair: A Case Study of Lesbos and How EU Policies Have Impacted Asylum Seekers on the ‘Doorstep of Europe’”

**Conference** – UN Global Youth Summit

**Internship** – Internship with the World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy

### FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS

Several AUP professors received support from the Center for their research, projects with students and AUP events.

**Kerstin Carlson**, Associate Professor of International and Comparative Politics, “The Justice Laboratory: Hybrid Court for South Sudan.” Professor Carlson was awarded travel funding to conduct interviews in Ethiopia and Djibouti in relation to a book chapter on South Sudan and the hybrid court for the trial of atrocity crimes called for in the peace accords.

**Julian Culp**, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, “Regional Distribution as a Distinct Criterion in ICC Prosecution.” Professor Culp invited Professor Jiewuh Song of Seoul National University to give a talk to the AUP community. In his lecture, Professor

Song explored the present legitimization crisis of the International Criminal Court. His presentation contributed to an improved critical understanding of the institutional mechanisms currently in place for legally sanctioning crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

**Michelle Kuo**, Assistant Professor of History, Law and Society, “Migrants, Detention and the Right to Seek Asylum in South Texas.” This past June, eight AUP students in the History, Law, and Society program volunteered at an immigration detention facility in rural Texas. Led by Professor Kuo and Professor Albert Wu, students got a firsthand experience of what detained migrants endure. Students worked directly with staff of RAICES (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services), a leading nonprofit in migrants’ rights. The bulk of their work involved working one-on-one with detained migrants, guiding them through the process of applying for asylum. Students worked grueling shifts at the detention facility, from 9am to 8pm. These shifts did not include the one-hour commute from San Antonio to the detention facility, or the many late nights – often past midnight – spent drafting and submitting legal notes on the cases.

Professor Kuo said she believed the experience was “life-changing” for the students. She continued, “These eight women did extraordinary work. I was so inspired by them. They were thoughtful, energetic, compassionate – and, most wonderfully, they approached their work with genuine humility. They came out of it asking all the right questions: How do I live meaningfully and ethically? How can I do more, learn more? How do I change the system and where should I place myself within it?”

**Jula Wildberger**, Professor of Comparative Literature and English, lecture by Dagmar Kiesel on “Patterns of Invalidation in Augustine’s Approach to Therapeutic and Pastoral Care.” Dagmar Kiesel teaches and researches at the University of Erlangen, Germany. Her research – which focuses on questions of ethics, personal identity and gender, especially in the work of Augustine and Nietzsche

– demonstrates very clearly how ancient discourse may shape even now the way in which we look at and treat the victims of atrocities.

**Miranda Spieler**, Associate Professor of History, film director Khary Jones’ visit to AUP. Filmmaker Khary Jones was invited to speak at AUP and host a viewing of his film *Where the Pavement Ends*. This film tackles the subject of police brutality, racial discrimination and the senseless killing of unarmed black people in the US.

**Albert Wu**, Assistant Professor of History, “Taiwan’s White Terror in History and Memory.” Three students were able to spend the summer pursuing individual projects related to the history of Taiwan and historical memory in relation to Taiwanese democracy and transitional justice. All three students had become interested in Taiwan’s history because of a class and practicum they had taken in Spring 2019. Co-taught by Professors Albert Wu and Michelle Kuo, 18 students explored the complex history of Taiwan. They read legal texts, political treatises and literature related to its 20th-century history. In late February, the students took a two-week long trip to Taiwan, where they met activists, academics, politicians and media personalities, all of whom touched upon issues of human rights and history. Students visited prisons where political prisoners were incarcerated and executed and met victims of martial law. They talked with indigenous artists who are trying to preserve their indigenous traditions through dance and visual installations. The group also worked on a semester-long project, where they began a website that explored some of the topics they had studied. Each of the students contributed to the website through either written or visual means.

The three students who were funded by the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention went to Taiwan individually to continue research on issues related to historical memory, transitional justice and contemporary politics.

## STUDY TRIPS

### Warsaw and Treblinka: Holocaust History and Memory October 2018

The study trip to Warsaw and Treblinka is an annual event. Over a long weekend in October, students from AUP's FirstBridge and International and Comparative Politics classes took a flight to Poland where they were taken on an emotional journey into the past as they learned about the development and memory of the Shoah. Led by Professors Charles Talcott and Brian Schiff as well as the Center's Senior Project Manager, Caitlin Bertin-Mahieux, 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 George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention sponsored six students on this trip.

Students walk around the former Warsaw Ghetto to discover how the space has been memorialized. October 2018

### Berlin: Jewish Past and Present April 2019

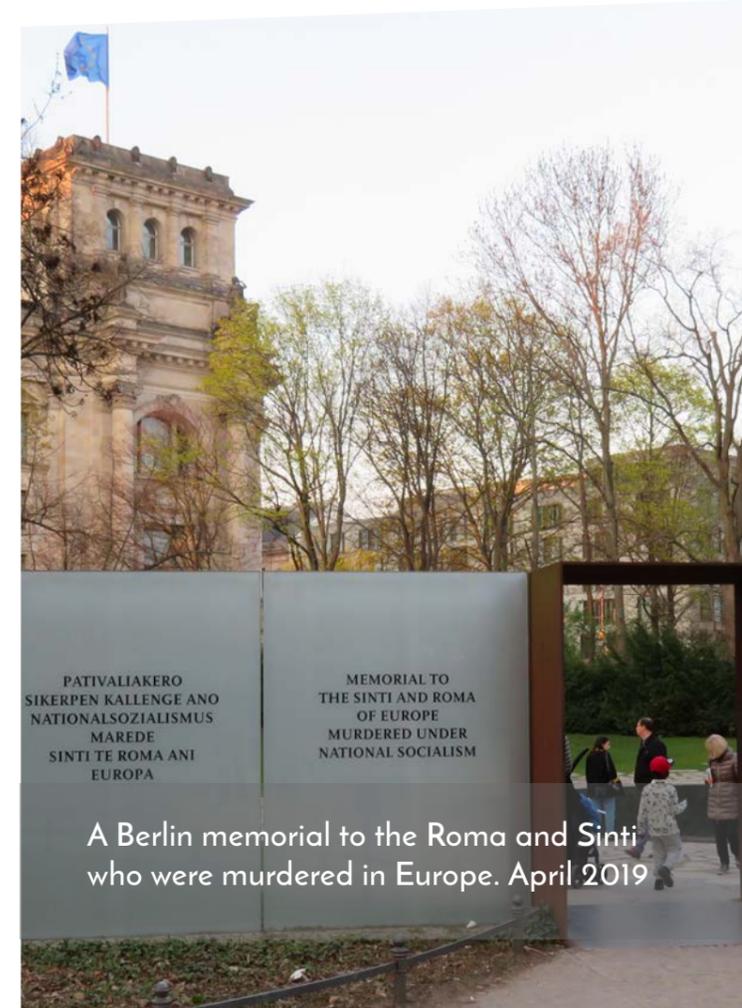
This two-day trip, led by the Center's archivist, Constance Pâris de Bollardière, and Professor Brian Schiff, enabled students from AUP's 20th-Century European Jewish History course and Life Stories course to discover the history and memory of the Jewish past of Berlin. Through visits to synagogues, museums, former social institutions and cemeteries, students were able to learn about how the Shoah unfolded in the center of the Third Reich; to question the current memorial stakes through visits of dedicated memorials, museums and street walks; and finally to witness current Berlin Jewish life and culture, which has been recently revived. The trip gave students an opportunity to grasp major social, cultural and political aspects of 20th-century Jewish history and of the Shoah, and to question issues related to its memorialization.

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

In addition to the two Center-led trips above, the Center also sponsored five students on a study trip to Tunis called An Islamic City in a Globalizing World, led by Professors Justin McGuinness and Waddick Doyle for their courses The Islamic City and Identity Formation in a Transnational World.

The Center funded an additional three students on a trip to Buchenwald and Weimar entitled The Camp and the Enlightenment.

Students visit a Jewish cemetery in Berlin.  
April 2019



A Berlin memorial to the Roma and Sinti who were murdered in Europe. April 2019

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2019-20

### CONFERENCES

#### Fall 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.

#### Spring 2020 | Understanding Genocides: The Genocide of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

We believe that the Armenian genocide merits a central place in the 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, including 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.

### SYMPOSIUM

In November 2019, the Center will host the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation's (AIPR) symposium "Integrating Prevention and Building Resilience in a Challenging Political Environment." The symposium will provide an opportunity for alumni of the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention to define how atrocity prevention actors can meaningfully respond to contemporary challenges and engage strategically to identify opportunities for a revitalized prevention agenda. We live in a global world in which, over the past ten years, there has been a significant decline in democratic values and institutions. This has created a challenging political environment at all levels of the prevention agenda, from the global to the local, such that the majority of actors are now tasked with implementing prevention strategies in deeply divided societies. The symposium will provide participants with an opportunity to discuss and develop strategies, based on participants' own experiences and capacities as well as evidence, in relation to four areas of integrative focus:

1. effectively integrating global, regional, national and local approaches to preventing atrocities and building resilience;
2. effectively integrating state, civil society and private sector processes for atrocity prevention;
3. effectively integrating a gender lens that brings the voices of women and different LGBTI groups to the forefront of the atrocity prevention process; and
4. effectively integrating transitional justice

opportunities into the array of tools for early prevention.

These distinct areas of focus will drive discussions and group work that will be informed by participants' experiences from within their institutions, providing opportunities to form or further develop networks, common approaches and, eventually, shared strategies for effective prevention particularly in the context of challenging political environments worldwide. The symposium will yield a document summarizing recommendations that emerge from the participants and inform shared strategies for effective prevention.

### WORKSHOPS

#### Fall 2019 | Pictures of the Holocaust

The second part of this 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.

#### Fall 2019 | Early Holocaust Remembrance in the Jewish Press, from the Second World War to the 1960s

Scholarly works dealing with early Jewish remembrance of the Holocaust have mainly focused on documentation efforts, historiographical writings, testimonies, Yizkor books, commemorations and monuments, among other topics. In such works, the Jewish press has been extensively mobilized by scholars as a privileged source of information on communal initiatives and perspectives. Indeed, much as Jewish journals have been a means for circulating information on Jewish persecutions since the very moment said persecutions were taking place, they became particularly important vehicles for spreading knowledge on the Holocaust in the early postwar years. Nonetheless, if the relevance of the Jewish press as a historical source has now



Professor Brian Schiff (center) welcomes attendees to the 'Voices from the Jungle' event. September 2018

been widely acknowledged, such media still needs to be approached as a subject of study in itself, alongside other commemorative endeavors. This workshop, which will gather 15 scholars from the United States, Canada, England, France and Israel and will concentrate on case studies from France, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Poland, the Soviet Union and Germany, is co-organized by Malena Chinski (EHESS), Simon Perego (LabEx-EHNE) and Miriam Schulz (Columbia University).

## SEMINARS AND LECTURES

### Fall 2019 | The Nine: The True Story of Female Resistance Fighters

Gwen Strauss is an author based in southern France where she is the Director of the Dora Maar House, an artist residency program. *The Nine* follows the true story of her great aunt Helene Podliasky, a 24-year-old engineer who leads a band of nine female resistance fighters as they escape a German concentration camp and make the ten-day journey across the front lines of the Second World War. The team of international women were all under thirty when they joined the resistance. They smuggled arms through Europe, harbored parachuting agents, coordinated communications between regional sectors, trekked escape routes to Spain and hid Jewish children in scattered apartments. They were arrested by French police and interrogated and tortured by the Gestapo. They were subjected to a series of French prisons and deported to Germany. The group formed along the way, meeting at different points: in prison, in transit and at Ravensbrück. By the time they were enslaved at the labor camp in Leipzig, they were a close-knit group of friends.

*The Nine* is under contract for publication with St. Martin's Press in 2021 and is currently in negotiations for a television series.

### Fall 2019 | A Work of Mourning Always Incomplete: Claude Lanzmann's Archive of the Catastrophe

Jennifer Cazenave is Assistant Professor of French and Film at Boston University. She is the author of *An Archive of the Catastrophe: The Unused Footage of Claude Lanzmann's "Shoah"* (SUNY Press, 2019). In 1973 Claude Lanzmann embarked on the making of his cinematographic opus, *Shoah* (1985). Over the course of 12 years, he gathered 230 hours of interviews and location filming before editing this material into a nine-and-a-half-hour work. Following the release of *Shoah*, the unused footage remained scattered between Lanzmann's basement in Paris and the LTC Film Laboratory in the suburb of Saint-Cloud. In 1996, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) purchased this filmic archive and undertook its restoration and digitization. More than two decades later, the story of this monumental repository of Holocaust testimonies has yet to be told. In this talk, Jennifer Cazenave will recount the making of *Shoah* between 1973 and 1985 and focus in particular on Lanzmann's extensive engagement with debates surrounding the emergence of Holocaust memory in Israel, including the landmark Eichmann trial, that he ultimately excluded from the finished film.

## STUDY TRIPS

### October 2019 | 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 that 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.



Students visit a memorial at the Treblinka camp. October 2018

## 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 reflect on a visit to the Holocaust memorial in Berlin. April 2019

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