

CONFERENCE

Comparative Lenses:

Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses
on Genocide and Mass Violence

June 6-7, 2019 - Paris



JUNE 6

9.00-9.30

Coffee and welcome speech

9.30-12.00

Presentation of Video Archives

Gerard Libaridian (University of Michigan, retired), "The Video (and Audio) Testimonies on the Armenian Genocide"
Stephen Naron (Yale University and Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies), "The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies"

Wolf Gruner and Martha Stroud (USC Shoah Foundation), "The Visual History Archive"

Claver Irakoze (Aegis Trust), "The Audio-Visual Testimony Collection of Genocide Archive of Rwanda"

Michal Chojak (Yahad - In Unum), "The Yahad - In Unum Video Testimonies"

12.00-13.45

Lunch

13.45-15.30

Victims and Eyewitnesses' Perspectives to Document the Holocaust

Chair: Andrej Umansky (Yahad – In Unum)

Yuri Radchenko (Kharkiv Collegium), "The Auxiliary Police, the Local Administration, and the Holocaust in the Recollections of non-Jewish Residents of the Donbas"

Aleksandra Szczepan (Jagellonian University), "Bystander at the Site of Genocide: The Role of Eyewitnesses' Video Testimonies in the Research on the Dispersed Shoah"

Noemi Szekely-Popescu (USHMM), "USHMM's Interviews of Central and East European National Minorities"

Borbala Kriza (USHMM contractor, oral history researcher), "Primal Fear: Challenges in Recruiting and Interviewing Holocaust Survivors and Witnesses in Eastern and Western Europe Today"

15.30-15.45

Break

15.45-17.15

Human Bodies and the Documentation of the Holocaust

Chair: Patrice Bensimon (Yahad – In Unum)

Pauline Anicet (Université Bordeaux Montaigne) "Peak Violence - Hybrid Violence. Technology of Bodies and History of Execution Settings in Belarus from June 22, 1941 to July 28, 1944"

Marta Havryshko (Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences), "The Language of Pain: A Study of Sexual Assaults during the Holocaust in Ukraine Documented by the Visual History Archive"

Jean-Marc Dreyfus (University of Manchester), "Permitting, Forbidding, Neglecting. The Description of Post-Holocaust Exhumations and Reburials in Video Testimonies"

17.15-17.30

Break

17.30-19.00

The Relevance of Language, Time and Place to Video Document the Holocaust

Chair: Constance Pâris de Bollardière (AUP)

Hannah Pollin-Galay (Tel Aviv University), "How Do the Language and the Place Shape the Way the Survivor Remembers the Holocaust?"

Dawn Skorczewski (Brandeis University) and Dan Stone (University of London), "'Great Crimes Start with Little Things': Jan Karski's Interviews"

Anika Walke (Washington University in St Louis), "Testimony in Place: Witnessing the Nazi Genocide at Home"

19.00

Cocktail



JUNE 7

09.30-11.15

The Relevance of the Video Medium to Document Mass Violence

Chair: Alexandra Garbarini (Williams College)

Burcin Gercek (Clark University), "Armenian Genocide Perpetrators: What Can we Learn about Them from Survivor Video Testimonies?"

Daniela Ozacky-Stern (Bar Ilan University and Moreshet Archive), "Contradictory Narratives, Different Perspectives: Video Testimonies of Former Jewish Partisans"

Stephanie Corazza and **Catherine Person** (Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program), "Silences and Secrets in Video Testimonies from the Holocaust Survivors Memoirs Program"

Iva Vukusic (Utrecht University), "Courtroom Video Testimony as a Source for Researching Mass Violence. The Case of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia"

11.15-11.30

Break

11.30-13.15

The Holocaust as Paradigm in Video Testimony

Chair: Boris Adjemian (Nubar Library).

Noah Shenker (Monash University), "The Afterlife of Holocaust Testimony: Witnessing Genocides beyond the Shoah"

Ari Jaskowicz (Vanderbilt University), "Witnessing and Surveillance: Romani Testimonies after the Digital Turn"

Patrice Bensimon (Yahad - In Unum), "Video Documenting the Holocaust and the Roma Genocide in Eastern Europe"

Estelle Tarica (University of California, Berkeley), "Holocaust Testimony and Maya Testimony in Post-Genocide Guatemala"

13.15-15.00

Lunch

15.00-16.45

Ethics and Challenges of Video Documenting Mass Violence

Chair: Susan Perry (AUP)

Stefanie Rauch (UCL Institute for Advanced Studies), "Between Recognition, Judgement, and Anxiety: Approaching Complicity and Perpetration in Video Testimonies"

Glenn Timmermans and **Alex Chi Un Lam** (University of Macau), "Breaking the Silence. Chinese Voices after Atrocity"

Theresa de Langis (American University of Phnom Penh), "The Cambodian Women's Oral History Collection: Preserving and Deploying Sexual Violence Histories of Mass Atrocity"

Uğur Ümit Üngör (Utrecht University and NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust, and Genocide Studies), "Perpetrators and Victims of Mass Violence in Syrian Video Testimonies"

16.45-17.00

Break

17.00-18.30

Closing session

Brian Schiff (AUP), Wolf Gruner (USC Shoah Foundation), Andrej Umansky (Yahad – In Unum)

Scientific committee:

Boris Adjemian (AGBU Nubar Library), Patrice Bensimon (YIU), Michal Chojak (YIU), Alexandra Garbarini (Williams College), Wolf Gruner (USC), Constance Pâris de Bollardière (AUP), Brian Schiff (AUP)



ORGANIZERS



Founded in 2016 at The American University of Paris , **the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention** is dedicated to addressing some of the most pressing problems of our times, notably, the following: (1) understanding the social, historical, and cultural dimensions that lead to the systematic destruction of human groups; and (2) devising innovative strategies for resolving and deterring mass violence and the violation of human rights. One of the Center's assets is access to the complete Visual History Archive, which it makes available to researchers, students and public.



Yahad - In Unum identifies the execution sites of Jews during the Second World War, records and films the testimonies from witnesses of these massacres. To this day, Yahad has led research on 2,447 execution sites and has gathered 5,958 testimonies in eight countries (the Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Poland, Romania, Moldavia, Lithuania and the Republic of Macedonia). These testimonies of eyewitnesses provide a new historical source shedding light on the specificity of the genocide at the local level. Following its original interview methodology of witnesses to the Holocaust, Yahad has started the collecting of testimonies of Maya victims of the armed conflict in Guatemala (118 to date) and of Yezidi victims of Isis in Iraq and Syria.



USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research, founded in 2014, is the research and scholarship unit of the USC Shoah Foundation. The Center is dedicated to advancing new areas of interdisciplinary research on the Holocaust and other genocides, while promoting the scholarly use of the 55,000 video testimonies of the Holocaust, the Armenian, Guatemalan, Rwandan and Cambodian genocide, the Nanjing massacres and other historical and current mass atrocities in the Visual History Archive. The Center organizes annual international conferences, hosts a speaker series on genocide and mass violence, and offers a competitive international research fellowship program.



The AGBU Nubar Library was founded in Paris in 1928. Its first director, Aram Andonian, had been one of the few survivors among the leading Armenian intellectuals and notables arrested by the Ottoman authorities on 24 April 1915. He dedicated the rest of his life to documenting the Armenian genocide, by gathering a great number of materials into a major archive. Conceived as a home for Armenian and Oriental studies, in a context marked by the destruction and dispersal of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire after the genocide, the Nubar Library has been assigned the role of preserving the memory and heritage of Ottoman Armenians and has made a major contribution to the historiography of the Armenian genocide. The Library, the sole major archive in Europe of its type, contributes to the shedding of light on the nineteenth and twentieth century Armenian experience and serves as a hub providing unfettered access to researchers, academics and others.