



AUP The American
University of Paris

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

2016-2022



Hosted and organized

16

international conferences
and workshops

Participated in

12

external collaborations

Planned and executed

45

events bringing renowned
scholars to campus



James Waller shares his work on how ordinary people commit genocide and how perpetrators step back into the community; transforming the societies they once tore apart.

The Center has developed and supported over **10 study trips** and 6 destinations.

More than **7 AUP courses** have used the archives and 5 AUP courses have been developed in collaboration with the Center.

Sponsored **24 research projects** by faculty & staff, and 58 by students. 82 accepted overall.

Since 2016, the Center has received **103 applications** from **over 12 disciplines**.

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- 47 Helios Azoulay Concert
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- 49 France, a Laboratory of Global Antisemitism(s)? | Samuel Ghiles-Meilhac
- 49 What Are the Conditions of Thinking about the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey? | Hakan Seckinelgin
- 50 Late Suicide Among Holocaust Survivors in Israel: Two Life Stories | Amia Lieblich
- 50 The Nine: The True Story of Female Resistance Fighters | Gwen Strauss
- 51 A Work of Mourning Always Incomplete: Claude Lanzmann’s Archive of the Catastrophe | Jennifer Cazenave
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Director's Letter

Professor Brian Schiff

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

We are very proud of the numerous accomplishments of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention over the past six years. In collaboration with talented and motivated faculty, students and staff, the Center has blossomed and matured in order to become a true hub of discussion, research and learning at The American University of Paris. We are proud of the impact that we have made – both on campus at The American University of Paris and more widely in France and internationally – on conversations about mass violence and human rights. As the pages of this review of the past six years show, we have made substantial progress on three priorities central to our mission: 1. advancing innovative pedagogies and curricula, 2. developing faculty and student research at AUP, and 3. building an international community of scholars and activists.

1. Advancing innovative pedagogies and curricula

The Center has had a substantial impact on teaching methods and course development across the AUP curriculum. Professors from multiple departments have integrated testimonies from the Visual History Archive and the Fortunoff Archives into existing courses. The Center has also supported the development of new courses on genocide and mass violence such as Understanding Genocide, Twentieth Century European Jewish History, and The Armenian Genocide. One of the Center's signature pedagogical innovations is the development of study trips, bringing students to sites of destruction in order to better understand history and how the past is commemorated.

2. Developing faculty and student research at AUP

The Center has funded a wide range of research projects on genocide and mass violence and their causes and consequences, conflict prevention and resolution, dialogue, peace, and the roots of hatred and discrimination. AUP faculty, staff and students, both undergraduate and graduate, from all disciplines are eligible to apply for Schaeffer Fellowships to support research, travel and projects for developing innovative strategies for disseminating findings and communicating with the public. Close to 80 research projects have been funded over the past six years. Projects are notable for the wide range of disciplines and problems that AUP faculty, staff and students address in their research.

3. Community building

The Center is a dynamic and active partner in a multitude of conferences, workshops, lectures and events designed to bring academics and practitioners together to discuss the mechanisms behind genocide and mass violence and potential solutions. The Center has organized 15 conferences, 10 of which have been organized in partnership with research institutions from France and other countries. The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention enjoys an international reputation and an extensive network, collaborating with institutions and scholars in France and Europe but also North America and Israel.

Although we have achieved our initial goals, in many ways, we feel like our work is just beginning. The problems that drive the Center's mission are as pressing and urgent as ever, and we aspire to address the roots of hatred and prejudice that lead to atrocity.

In the coming years, we are committed to building on our past accomplishments in education, by constructing majors, minors and other academic programs that will inspire AUP students to choose career paths addressing the causes and consequences of mass violence; in research, by developing concrete studies that will help us understand how to contest entrenched discrimination and prejudice; and in community building, by benefitting from the collaboration, experience and knowledge of those committed to human rights and social justice. Thank you, George and Irina, for everything that you have done for the Center, for AUP and for our community.

Mission

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, processes and consequences of genocide and mass violence. The Center is committed to fostering scholarly discussion in France and abroad through conferences, lectures, workshops and publications on how individuals, communities and governments can respond to the challenges of extreme violence in the service of enduring peace and understanding.

Established thanks to a founding gift from two AUP parents, the Center is one of the first institutions in France to host the complete collection of the Visual History Archive of USC Shoah Foundation. Since 2019, the Center also has access to the complete Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies from Yale University. The Center engages researchers, teachers and students in the investigation of the origins and consequences of collective hatred, fundamentalist ideologies, discrimination and mass violence and disseminates new insights on these subjects.

Founders

"Shortly after our daughter enrolled at AUP, we met then President Schenck at an event in Los Angeles. We shared our concern about the rise of antisemitism 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 George and Irina Schaeffer 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 and Irina Schaeffer
AUP Parents '18 and G'20

The Team

Brian Schiff

Esmond Nissim Professor of Psychology; Director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention; and Chair of the Department of Psychology, Health and Gender.

Schiff completed his PhD at the University of Chicago, The Committee on Human Development, in 1997 and joined The American University of Paris in 2007. He is the author of *A New Narrative for Psychology* (Oxford University Press, 2017) and co-edited *Life and Narrative: The Risks and Responsibilities of Storying Experience* (Oxford University Press, 2017). He is also editor of a special issue of *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, *Rereading Personal Narrative and Life Course* (Jossey-Bass, 2014) and *Situating Qualitative Methods in Psychological Science* (Routledge, 2018). He is the 2016 recipient of the Theodore Sarbin Award from the American Psychological Association's Division 24 (Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology). Brian's current research examines the motivations of perpetrators of mass crimes, the concept of collective memory and the social impact of atrocity education.

Selected Publications

Schiff, B. (In press). "The Hermeneutics of Darkness: Understanding Perpetrators on Their Crimes." In H. Meretoja & M. Freeman (Eds.). *The Use and Abuse of Stories: New Directions in Narrative Hermeneutics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Schiff, B. & Justice, M. (In press). "A Manifesto on the Hermeneutics of Violence." In C. Falke, V. Fareld, and H. Meretoja (Eds.). *Interpreting Violence: Narrative, Ethics, Hermeneutics*. London: Routledge.

Schiff, B. (In press). "Memory is an Interpretive Action." *Narrative Inquiry*.

Schiff, B. (2017). *A New Narrative for Psychology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Constance Pâris de Bollardière

Assistant Director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention.

Constance Pâris de Bollardière completed her PhD in History from the EHESS in 2017. She joined the Center in 2016, first as a postdoctoral fellow, then as an archivist and since 2021 as its Assistant Director. She works on Holocaust survivors and Yiddish culture in France and the United States in the early aftermath of the Holocaust. She also examines the evolution of Holocaust survivor testimonies, from early writings in Yiddish to more recent video interviews.



From left | Ariella Afzal, Brian Schiff, Irina Schaeffer and Constance Pâris de Bollardière.



Selected Publications

Pâris de Bollardière C. & Kangisser Cohen S. (Eds.): *After Darkness? Holocaust Survivors' Emotional and Social Journeys in the Early Postwar Period* (Jerusalem: Yad Vashem) [forthcoming].

Emerging from the horror and ruins of the Shoah, survivors were confronted with many challenges, both physical and psychological. One way to understand the issues of functionality and emotional rebuilding is connected to the care and treatment that was made available to survivors in the early postwar years. To explore these questions, the volume will gather contributions on early psychological reports and appraisals of the survivor population, the role of caretakers and educators in emotional support and healing, the role of survivors in providing emotional support to fellow survivors, and the development of psychological understanding and treatment in light of the Shoah.

Pâris de Bollardière C. (2022), scientific editor of: Marek Edelman, *Ghetto de Varsovie. Carnets retrouvés*. Paris: Odile Jacob.

Pâris de Bollardière C. & Perego S. (Eds.) (2021): "Les migrations juives d'Europe centrale et orientale en France au lendemain de la Shoah." *Archives Juives. Revue d'histoire des Juifs de France*, 54 (1).

Pâris de Bollardière C. (2021). "Du projet d'une 'communauté de survivants' à la plateforme Aviary. Introduction à l'histoire et au contenu de la Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies." *Sonorités. Bulletin de l'Association française des archives orales sonores et audiovisuelles*, 47, pp. 124-143.

Pâris de Bollardière C. (2021). "The Jewish Labor Committee's support of Yiddish culture in early post-Holocaust France, 1945-1948." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, 20 (2), pp. 196-221.

Pâris de Bollardière C. & Chinski M. (2021). "Un foyer artistique et intellectuel yiddish pour migrants rescapés, le 9 rue Guy-Patin." *Archives Juives. Revue d'histoire des Juifs de France*, 54 (1), pp. 65-88.

Pâris de Bollardière C. (2018). "Les historiens face aux témoignages de rescapés de la Shoah." *Vingtième Siècle. Revue d'histoire*, 139 (3), pp. 231-241.

Pâris de Bollardière C. (2017). "Le témoignage à la caméra : la *Visual History Archive*, une source audiovisuelle pour la recherche sur la Shoah et les crimes de masse." *Histoire@Politique*, 33 (3) [online: histoire-politique.fr].

Ariella Afzal (2021-22)

Administrator and Communications Coordinator of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention.

Ariella managed the Center's communications, outreach and events and supervised the viewing of the archives at AUP. She was also one of the staff representatives on the AUP Diversity Council. Prior to working at AUP, Ariella was a Marketing Manager and Happiness Manager at Incenteev, later becoming a freelance consultant. Ariella graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in international marketing in 2017 and received her Master of Arts degree in global communications from AUP in 2020. After graduating, she also worked in digital training and e-learning at Digimind.

Kira Winter (2022-today)

Administrator and Communications Coordinator of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention.

Kira joined the Center in October 2022. She attended AUP as a student until December 2021, when she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. She is now managing the Center's communications and outreach and the viewing of the archives, as well as assisting with research and literature reviews.

AUP Faculty Who Have Served on the Scientific Committee

Waddick Doyle, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Media and Culture

Jessica Feldman, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Media and Culture

Philip Golub, Professor, Department of History and Politics

Caroline Laurent, Assistant Professor, Department of French Studies and Modern Languages

Lissa Lincoln, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Health and Gender

Susan Perry, Professor, Department of History and Politics, Program Director for the MAs in International Affairs

Miranda Spieler, Associate Professor, Department of History and Politics

Charles Talcott, Associate Professor, Department of Communication, Media and Culture

2016

May

Center founded by George and Irina Schaeffer.

The Visual History Archive is introduced to students and faculty by researchers from USC.

October

An inaugural conference brings together prominent scholars, lawyers and jurists to discuss the evolving relationship between the law and genocide.

2017

Spring

Start of a collaboration between AUP, Souria Houria – a Paris-based NGO supporting Syrian refugee families – and artist/doctor Lori Schockit's The Human Element Project.

2018

May

Training session on the Visual History Archive for French school teachers in collaboration with USC Shoah Foundation and the *Institut Français de l'Éducation*.

May

The Center's 4th International conference Words That Kill brings 100 academics to campus from around the globe to delve into issues of hate speech and freedom, the production and circulation of lies and violence-inducing discourses.

2019

June

Team move into new offices and conference spaces in Quai d'Orsay Learning Commons, AUP's flagship building.

Two-day international interdisciplinary conference, Comparative Lenses, on the uses of video testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses of genocide and mass violence.

Gains access to the complete Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies offering over 12,000 hours of video in 20 different languages.

2020

September

Organizes Overcoming the Darkness?, the first of a series of online workshops and symposiums.

2021

March

Following on from the fall, the Center hosts a two-part online symposium on Narrating Violence.

Fall

Launch of Figuring Memory: Social Practices and Collective Transformation seminar. Organized in partnership with CNRS, ENS Paris-Saclay, Paris Nanterre University and Sciences Po.

2022

June

The Center hosts its 8th international conference, The Photography of Persecution: Pictures of the Holocaust.

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Founding Classes Classroom

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

Conference Room
Office

Q-704

Q-709

Q-707

The Archives: VHA and Fortunoff

The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention has access to the entire Visual History Archive and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. Scholars from various disciplines (history, political science, sociology, philosophy, communication, art history, education sciences), professors and graduate students, as well as genealogists, documentary filmmakers, teachers, museum workers and people interested in the history of their family, have all come to AUP to watch the archives.

The work of AUP students has also been included in several research projects, among them two led by historian and sociologist Sarah Gensburger (CNRS/ISP). For one project, *It Happened Here. Voices from the Holocaust in Paris*, a group of AUP student fellows from the Center searched for extracts of testimonies to add to a historical soundwalk. For the second project, AUP student and Center fellow Lea Mahoudeau-Campoyer transcribed interviews of survivors of the deportation *convoi 70* from Drancy to Auschwitz, which will be used for the podcast *Convoi 70* produced by Sébastien Lévy and Sarah Gensburger. Finally, AUP student fellow Katelyn McGarr has investigated testimonies of Tutsi survivors for the documentary film *From One Genocide to Another: A Perpetual Story* directed by Aleksander Edelman and Anne Agranat.

Curriculum and Pedagogical Development

The Visual History Archive

As Paris's first host of the complete Visual History Archive of USC Shoah Foundation (a collection of over 55,000 testimonies in 43 languages from 65 countries of survivors and witnesses to the Shoah and the Armenian, Tutsi, Nanjing, Guatemalan and Cambodian genocides and other events of mass violence), The American University of Paris makes this important resource available to researchers, teachers and students for the purpose of investigating and disseminating new insights into the origins of collective hatred, fundamentalist ideologies, discrimination and mass violence as well as the aftereffects of these in historical, social and individual memory.

The testimonies are preserved in the Visual History Archive, which was founded by Steven Spielberg in 1994, and constitute one of the largest digital collections of its kind in the world. The testimonies average a little over two hours each in length, and a vast majority contain a complete personal history of life before, during and after the interviewee's firsthand experience with genocide.

The Visual History Archive is digitized, fully searchable via indexed keywords and hyperlinked to the minute. With more than 112,000 hours of testimony stored in the archive indexing technology is essential for enabling users to pinpoint topics of interest.

Indexing allows students, teachers, professors, researchers and others around the world to retrieve entire testimonies or search for specific sections within testimonies through a set of nearly 64,000 keywords and phrases, 1.8 million names and 695,000 images.

The Visual History Archive forever preserves the faces and voices of these witnesses to mass violence, allowing their firsthand stories to reach generations to come.

The Visual History Archive is available to all AUP faculty, staff and students and to the wider community at the AUP Library.

The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies

Since 2019, the Center has had access to the complete Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. Initiated in 1979 in New Haven, Connecticut, by a group of Holocaust survivors, what was then known as the Holocaust Survivors Film Project donated its original collection of testimonies to Yale University in 1981 and was renamed as the Fortunoff Video Archive in 1987.

What started as a grassroots project currently holds more than 4,400 testimonies of victims and witnesses of the Nazi persecutions, including those who were in hiding, survivors, bystanders, members of the resistance and liberators. Testimonies were produced in cooperation with 36 affiliated projects across North America, South America, Europe and Israel. Over 12,000 recorded hours of video are now available in 20 different languages in a digital format. Index words, transcripts and a visual search tool are among the newest technological developments of the collection. The archive is also launching projects to display its collection: "Glimpses: Moment from Testimony," "Those Who Were There: Voices from the Holocaust" and "Songs from Testimonies," for instance, are available online. The Fortunoff Video Archive is available to all AUP faculty, staff and students and to the public via the AUP Library.



AUP Courses That Have Used the Archives

One of the Center's goals is to stimulate the integration of the archives into existing AUP classes while supporting the development of permanent courses and degree programs connected to memory, genocide and human rights. Over the past five years the following courses have included a consideration of testimonies from the archives:

- **Science, Society and Human Origins** | Linda Martz, Associate Professor, History and Politics, Comparative Literature and English
- **Political Anthropology** | Tanya Elder, Assistant Professor, Communication, Media and Culture
- **Public International Law** | Susan Perry, Professor, History and Politics, Program Director MAs in International Affairs
- **International Human Rights Law** | Susan Perry, Professor, History and Politics, Program Director MAs in International Affairs
- **Ecole de Guerre Practicum** | Susan Perry, Professor, History and Politics, Program Director MAs in International Affairs
- **Twentieth-Century European Jewish History** | Constance Pâris de Bollardi re, Assistant Director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention
- **Memory, Testimony and the Shoah** | Brian Schiff, Professor, Psychology, Health and Gender

Students take part in the Ecole de Guerre practicum.

AUP Courses That Have Been Developed in Collaboration with the Center

Faculty have developed several innovative courses in line with the mission of the Center in order to explore the themes of genocide, mass violence and human rights.

- **Coexistence and Religion** | Waddick Doyle, Professor, Communications, Media and Culture
- **Understanding Genocide** | Brian Schiff, Professor, Psychology, Health and Gender
- **Provocative Witness: Cinema and Genocide** | Marie Regan, Associate Professor, Communication, Media and Culture
- **Twentieth-Century European Jewish History** | Constance Pâris de Bollardi re, Assistant Director of the Center
- **The Armenian Genocide: History, Politics and Memories** | Boris Adjemian, Director of the Nubar Library



Study trips

The Center has designed and led several study trips providing students with a hands-on opportunity to reflect upon the process of mass violence and how these acts of violence are remembered in the present. These trips are invaluable opportunities for students to extend their knowledge and to make connections to places and spaces of atrocity.

Berlin | Spring '19

This two-day trip, led by the Center's Assistant Director, Constance Pâris de Bollardi re, and Professor Brian Schiff, enabled students from AUP's Twentieth-Century European Jewish History course and Life Stories course to discover the history and memory of Berlin's Jewish past. 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.



From left | On a tour of a Jewish cemetery in Berlin.

AUP students visiting the former Pawiak prison in Warsaw.

Warsaw and Treblinka | Fall '17, '18, '19, '22

Over a long weekend in October, students from AUP's FirstBridge and International and Comparative Politics classes fly to Poland where they are taken on an emotional journey into the past as they learn about the development and memory of the Shoah. Led by Professors Charles Talcott and Brian Schiff and the Center's Assistant Director, Constance Pâris de Bollardi re, students are immersed in prewar and wartime Jewish life in Poland and dedicate time to critical thinking on contemporary memorial issues in the country. They are taken to different sites, including the former Warsaw Ghetto, the new Polin Museum and the Treblinka death camp. The trip finishes at the city of Otwock, where they meet with local activists of the Forum for Dialogue who speak about their efforts to commemorate the exterminated Jewish community of their town.

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



From left | AUP students on the study trip to Krakow.

Students, faculty and staff on the study trip to Poland.

At the Holocaust memorial in Berlin.

Since its inauguration, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention has sponsored over 40 students for AUP study trips to Krakow and Auschwitz, Warsaw, Tunis (led by Professor Waddick Doyle), Buchenwald (led by Professors Steven Ekvovich and Oleg Kobtzeff) and Berlin.

Krakow and Auschwitz | Spring '16, '18, Fall '21

After intensive in-class study of the Holocaust, AUP students use 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 raise 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 addresses issues of social construction following mass atrocity. Students examine 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.

Croatia Practicum | Summer '22 "Conflict in the Cosmopolitan Imagination"

This summer course, held in Paris and in Cres, Croatia, explores various dimensions of what the historian of ideas Itzvan Hont calls "the permanent crisis of a divided mankind," the enduring tension or contradiction between our mixed belongings – our cosmopolitan belonging as natural and moral beings to humanity, on the one hand, and our segmented and conflicted socially constructed belongings (nationality and ethnicity, most notably) on the other. It explores this problem through philosophical investigation (moral philosophy, thick and thin cosmopolitan theory); theoretical and historical studies of nationalism, mass violence and inter-group conflicts; and the role of collective memories in the perpetuation or transcendence of conflict. The former Yugoslavia is the core empirical focus of the course, which is held alongside the international conference Reinventing/Reconstructing Cosmopolitanism in Contested Spaces and Post-Conflict Zones in Cres, Croatia. Students participate in the conference and then have the unique opportunity to hear from and dialogue with leading ex-Yugoslav psychologists, historians and social scientists.





Research and Publications

Fellowships

In line with its mission to develop faculty and student research at AUP, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention has, since 2016, awarded AUP student and faculty fellowships for 82 projects.

58

student projects

24

faculty projects

50

students

17

professors

Faculty fellow Kerstin Carlson during an event on international criminal justice.

Student Fellows 2016-22

Stephanie Alexander, MA in International Affairs, "Roots of Discrimination and the Reconstruction Era 1865–1877," 2017

Stephanie Alexander, MA in International Affairs, "The Variance of African American Freedom between 1866–1896, Rights Language and the Historic Black Press," 2016

Sanae Alouazen, International and Comparative Politics, Gender, "Violence and the Colonial Project: The Case of Algeria," 2018

Kaylh Altimore, Anthropology and Globalization, "Convoi 70 Podcast Project," 2021

Alexandra Avena, MSc in International Management, "Geneva International Model UN 2019 Annual Conference," 2019

Maxine Basch, MA in International Affairs, "Anti-Semitism in 21st-Century France," Master's Thesis, 2017

Mary Bickel, MA in International Affairs, "Shipping as a Means and a Solution for the Growing Conflict in the Arctic," 2019

Noémi Bodnàrová, Psychology, "Identity Stories," 2016

Genevieve Bougher, International and Comparative Politics, "Against the Norm: When Women Participated in the Rwandan Genocide," 2021

Jessica Brainos, MA in Diplomacy and International Law, "Jewish Russian Women Survivors of the Holocaust who Migrated to Poland before WWII," 2018

Vanessa Leona Cardenas, MA in Diplomacy and International Law, "A Comparative Analysis of Survivor Testimony and Rape Prosecutions Under International Law," 2017

Jasmine Momoko Cowen, History, "Taiwan's White Terror in History and Memory," 2019

Sheena Chand Dass, MA in International Affairs, "The Different Trajectories, Purposes, and Narratives of Neo-Nazi Politics in Germany: A Past and Present Analysis," 2018

Sheena Chand Dass, MA in International Affairs, "Contextualization of Persecution and Genocide within an International Legal Framework," 2016

Brianna Jane Delfs, 2016

Kelly Demjanick, MA in International Affairs, "Justice and Peace: The Role of Victims in International Criminal Proceedings and Their Ability to Facilitate Conflict Prevention," 2019

Basia-Marie Lopy Diagne, "Convoi 70 podcast," 2018

Basia-Marie Lopy Diagne, "Gens de Paris," 2018

Dhouha Djerbi, "Words That Kill", Psychology and Gender, 2018

Rachel Fallon, MA in International Affairs, "War and Peace, Art and Empathy," 2016

Fatimata Atty Germaine Djibrine, International and Comparative Politics, "NGO Practicum in Senegal," 2022

Raven Gaddy, MA in International Affairs, "Trauma: The Hidden Cost of Humanitarian Law," 2016

Antonina Gain, International and Comparative Politics, "Researching and Teaching about Genocide in France," 2019

Antonina Gain, International and Comparative Politics, 2018

Andee Gershenberg, MA in International Affairs, "The Experiences of Migrant Women Accessing Higher Education in the Ile-de-France," 2018

Andee Gershenberg, Psychology, "Consistency and Changes in Holocaust Testimony Over Time," 2017

Andee Gershenberg, Psychology; International Business Administration, 2017

Gabriel Green, International and Comparative Politics; International Law, "Island of Despair: A Case Study of Lesvos and how EU Policies have Impacted Asylum Seekers on the 'Doorstep of Europe,'" 2019

Laurel Hiedewohl, Psychology; International Business Administration, "Consistency and Changes in Holocaust Testimony Over Time," 2017

Hannah V. Johnson, Student fellowships awarded to attend the Library of Congress with Professor Roy Rosenstien. Their research investigated the denazification of occupied Germany after the war. The grant helped fund a student trip to visit the Holocaust Museum and the National Archives in Washington DC, 2016



Professors Albert Wu, Brian Schiff and Michelle Kuo with AUP students at the Migrant Justice presentation of a detention center in Texas, January 2020.

Michael Justice, Psychology, "A Manifesto on the Hermeneutics of Violence," 2021

Michael Justice, Psychology, "Figuring Memory: Social Practices and Collective Transformation," 2021

Courtney Danielle Kelley, MA in Diplomacy and International Law, "UN Global Youth Summit," 2019

Stella Kim, MA in International Affairs, "Japanese Imperial Genocidal Sex Slavery," 2017

Yana Kotina, Art History, "Anslem Kiefer and Paul Celan, or the Contemporary Perception of Art and Poetry after the Holocaust," 2016

Stefanie Kundakjian, MA in International Affairs, Conflict Resolution, and Civil Society Development, "Living Assets, Transferred Wealth: The Value of Armenian Women at the End of the Ottoman Empire and Early Republican Era/ Living Assets: Inherited Values from the Armenian Genocide Reflected in Tradition and Status Quo," 2016

Lea Mahoudeau-Campoyer, International Comparative Politics, "Transcriptions of French-Jewish Women's Holocaust Testimonies," 2021

Katelyn Louise McGarr, 2019

Kendra Mills, History, Law and Society, "Rwandan Women and Post-Conflict Reconstruction," 2016

Safira Cecile Newton Matza, History, "Mandarin Language Learning," 2019

Chantz Norris, International and Comparative Politics, Conference: "The Photography of Persecution: Pictures of the Holocaust," 2022

Adaeze Nwokolobia, International and Comparative Politics; Philosophy, Politics and Economics, "Bridges and Borderlands," 2021

Tracy O'Donnell, "Words That Kill", (unknown major), 2018

Lauren Frances O'Farrell, "It Happened Here: Voices from the Holocaust in Paris", (unknown major), 2018

Lauren Frances O'Farrell, "Gens de Paris", (unknown major), 2018

Amy Oloo, MA in International Affairs, "Internship with the World Federalist Movement & Institute for Global Policy," 2018

Brittany Paquay, History, Law and Society, "Humility in Action: Christianity and Civilian Rescue during the Holocaust," 2017

Morgan Phillips, Psychology, "Schaeffer Ukraine Forum," 2022

Marie Robin, History, "An Investigation of the Meaning of Genocidal Rape: How Tutsi Women Construct the Story of Their Rape," 2016

Elin Anastasia Rosedalen, "AUP Fellows of the Gens de Paris Project," 2018

Mitchell Rutledge, History, Law and Society, "Reform and the Role of Women in Contemporary Islam with Imam Kahina Bahloul," 2021

Shiri Salehin, MA in Public Policy and International Law, "Memorialization of the Shoah in France," 2016

Isabelle Siegel, History, Law and Society, "Award to Study the Yiddish Language," 2017

Isabelle Siegel, History, Law and Society, "Erasure of Women's Voices in the Jewish Enlightenment or Haskalah," 2018

Marie Michelle Simon, MA in International Affairs, "Varieties of Peace in a Frozen Conflict – Analyzing the Dynamic Changes of Peace in Post-Conflict Bosnia-Herzegovina," 2021

Qinpeng (Rosie) Weng, Comparative Literature and Art History, "A Post-Colonial Case Study: The White Terror and the Construction of a Taiwanese Identity," 2019

Faculty Fellows 2016–22

Kerstin Carlson, History and Politics, "The Justice Laboratory: Hybrid Court for South Sudan," 2019

Kerstin Carlson, History and Politics, "The Impact of the Trial of Hissène Habré on Judicial Institutions in Senegal," 2016

Julian Culp, History and Politics, "Lectures on Historical Justice," 2020

Julian Culp, History and Politics, "Regional Distribution as a Distinct Criterion in ICC Prosecution," 2019

Waddick Doyle, Communication, Media and Culture, "Coexistence on the Ground," 2017

Waddick Doyle, Communication, Media and Culture, "Co-Existence: Media Hate Speech and Inter-Communal Realities in Paris," 2017

Tatiana Grigorenko, Art History and Fine Arts; Communication, Media and Culture, "Small Acts of Sabotage (How I Proved I Was Not a Camel)," 2021

Michelle Kuo, History and Politics, "Migrants, Detention and the Right to Seek Asylum in South Texas," 2019

Lissa Lincoln, Psychology, Health and Gender, "Gender and Caste: Testimonies of Atrocity," 2017

Lissa Lincoln, Psychology, Health and Gender, "Conference Orders of Violence," 2017

Ziad Majed, History and Politics, "Syrie, la révolution orpheline," 2017

Linda Martz, History and Politics; Comparative Literature and English, "FirstBridge Trip to Warsaw and Treblinka," 2018

Susan Perry, History and Politics, "Workshop on Archiving Transitional Justice: The Importance of Gender," 2017

Marie Regan, Communication, Media and Culture, "Listen: Speak," 2019

Marie Regan, Communication, Media and Culture, "Translating Atrocity: A Feature Documentary," 2018

Miranda Spieler, History and Politics, "Visit from Film Director Khary Jones to AUP," 2018

Sharon Weill, History and Politics, "Indigenous Customary Law, State Justice and Politics: The Case of New Caledonia," 2022

Sharon Weill, History and Politics, "Fighting for Peace: The Actors and Obstacles in Colombia's Transitional Justice Process," 2019

Jula Wildberger, Comparative Literature and English, "Lecture by Dagmar Kiesel on 'Patterns of Invalidation in Augustine's Approach to Therapeutic and Pastoral Care,'" 2018

Albert Wu, History and Politics, "Taiwan's White Terror in History and Memory," 2018

The Justice Lab

Law in Action and Empirical Court Studies.
Coordinated by AUP professors Kerstin Carlson and Sharon Weill.

Supported by the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, the Justice Lab bridges the gap between academia and practice. Using the insights resulting from its research projects, the Justice Lab seeks to address global, regional and local legal challenges, working most notably on terror and migration courts as well as international crimes trials.

Migration Justice Project

Sharon Weill of The Justice Lab received a grant from the *Mission Droit et Justice* (Ministry of Justice and CNRS) for conducting a multidisciplinary and comparative research within asylum courts (“Asylum Justice between Crisis and Routine: An Ethnographic Study at Migration Courts”). The research includes travel to Greece and the UK and the organization of seminars for judges and lawyers at the Schaeffer Center. Justice Lab students are taking part in this research and have started to do court observations. They will in addition conduct interviews and assist in the organization of conferences.

Terror Trials Project

Professor Weill’s Justice Lab students are involved in different kinds of projects relating to terror trials. In 2020, students observed the historic trial of the perpetrators of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attacks and produced an excellent collective online magazine.

During the 2021–22 academic year, students from the Justice Lab joined Professor Weill in attending the trial of the perpetrators of the November 13, 2015, terrorist attacks. In addition to attending court, four of Weill’s Spanish-speaking students volunteered during the entire semester to support human rights lawyers, who represent families of Spanish and Chilean victims, by translating the transcripts of trial proceedings into Spanish. With this work students interacted with legal

professionals, and it provided them with a unique perspective on how judicial theory is applied in practice. The Lab also invited different researchers and actors involved in the trial to class, enabling students to engage with discussions in a privileged setting.

Transitional Justice Project

With support from the Center, Professors Weill and Carlson have begun a long-term research project and conducted several interviews throughout 2019 and 2020 at the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and with other stakeholders in Bogota. One of the Justice Lab’s students, Stephanie Bergon, is doing her senior project and thesis on the JEP. Travel to Colombia is planned for February 2023, together with Stephanie, to participate in an international conference and conduct more interviews. The Justice Lab hosted in October 2022 an open seminar for the AUP community with lawyer Levy Shoshana who worked with the United Nations in Bogota with victims for a couple of years.

Book Launch

In October 2022, the Justice Lab hosted a book launch for Kerstin Carlson’s book *The Justice Laboratory: International Law in Africa*, published in 2022 by Brookings Institute/Chatham House. The event included presentations by five students – Fatima Djibrine, Fabrizio Marsano, Kira Minvielle, Naylah Mitchell and Aseem Singru – to present, discuss and critique different chapters. The discussion was led by AUP professor Andrea Rosengarten, who joined the AUP faculty in January 2023.

Community building

The Center is a dynamic and active partner in a multitude of conferences, workshops, lectures and events designed to bring academics and practitioners together to discuss the mechanisms behind genocide and mass violence and potential solutions.

Students line up to talk to James Waller after his talk titled “Becoming Evil,” February 2017.

Conferences Organized by the Center

Legal Legacies of Genocide: From Nuremberg to the International Criminal Court

October 21, 2016
Co-organized with Miranda Spieler, Philip Golub and Susan Perry

This inaugural international conference brought together prominent scholars, lawyers and jurists to discuss the evolving relationship between law and genocide since the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg and Tokyo and to analyze the search for justice that has unfolded both inside and outside the courtroom since that time.

Roundtable discussions:

- “Constructing Law in the International Criminal Courts”
- “Constructing Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity”
- “Memory and the Law”
- “Seventy Years since Nuremberg: A Critical Assessment”



From top | Alex Whiting (Harvard Law School), Susan Perry (AUP) and Marcel Lemonde (French penal judge) during the panel “Constructing Law in the International Criminal Courts”.

Jeremy Harding (London Review of Books), Miranda Spieler (AUP), Philippe Sands (University College London and a practicing barrister at Matrix Chambers), and Astrid von Busekist (Sciences Po Paris) during the panel “Writing East West Street: on the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide”.

Brian Schiff (AUP), Annette Wieviorka (CNRS) and Caroline J. Dean (Yale University) during the panel “Memory and the Law”.

Stephen D. Smith (USC Shoah Foundation), Judge Patrick Lipton Robinson (International Court of Justice and Barrister of Law, Middle Temple), Philip Golub (AUP) during their panel, with John Turpey (City University of New York), “Seventy Years since Nuremberg: A Critical Assessment”.





The Visual History Archive: Research Experience

October 26–27, 2017

This conference, co-organized with Emmanuel Debono (ENS Lyon-USC Shoah Foundation in France) gathered scholars from a range of disciplines who have carried out research on or with the Visual History Archive (VHA). We welcomed researchers who have analyzed the VHA as a collection or memorial event in addition to those who have used it as a source, major or secondary, on violence and genocide or the social, political, cultural, psychological or legal implications of mass violence. Conference participants shared their research results and experiences. For this event, we were particularly interested in contributions that put the VHA in perspective with other testimonies (written, audio or video), reflect on the value of the archives in comparison to other source types, open a discussion on the methodological difficulties encountered by users, or consider new uses of the collection. The discussion brought insights into the scholarly contributions and limitations of this collection of testimonies.

Home as a Place for Anti-Jewish Persecution in European Cities, 1933–45

January 11–12, 2018

Co-organized with Sarah Gensburger (CNRS/ISP), Isabelle Backouche (EHESS/Centre de Recherches Historiques) and Eric Le Bourhis (FMS/ISP)

This conference, which took place both at AUP and at the Mémorial de la Shoah, bridged various perspectives and methods and focused on urban housing as a place for anti-Jewish persecution. We gathered social scientists from different fields to confront various methods of investigation and cases in Reich cities, but also in Western and Eastern European occupied cities.

Words That Kill

May 28–30, 2018

The aim of this international conference, organized by the Center in collaboration with Professors Waddick Doyle, Claudia Roda, Cary Hollinghead-Strick, Philip Golub, Oliver Feltham and Miranda Spieler, was to reexamine questions of hate speech and freedom, the production and circulation of lies, and violence-inducing identity discourses. Through interdisciplinary investigation and critique, participants 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, the production of otherness, violence and images, 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, President Trump's continued twisting of truth or outright lies, hate speech and its place in the free speech movement, how otherness is manufactured in language, and many more.



From left | Brian Schiff (AUP) and Christopher Browning (University of North Carolina) after his keynote on “Holocaust History and Survivor Testimony: The Case of the Starachowice Factory Slave Labor Camps”.

Stephen D. Smith (Executive director of USC Shoah Foundation) during his keynote “The Future of Our Past: The Challenges and Opportunities of Video Testimony in an Evolving Digital Landscape”.

Sarah Benet-Waiser (University of Pennsylvania) during her keynote on “‘Blood Coming Out of Her Wherever’: Networked Misogyny and the Body”.

Keynotes speakers of the ‘Words that Kill’ conference: Jason Stanley (Yale University) and Susan Benesch (Harvard University) with then AUP President Celeste Schenck and Brian Schiff (AUP).



Photo credit | Christoph Kreutzmüller



Constance Pâris de Bollardière (AUP), Brian Schiff (AUP), Jonathan Zatin (Boston University) and Sarah Gensburger (CNRS) were among the organizers of the conference.



Jonathan Matthews (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem), Brian Schiff (AUP) and Lior Laliu-Smadja (Centre de Documentation du Mémorial de la Shoah, Paris).

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

June 6–7, 2019

Co-organized with Patrice Bensimon (Yahad-In-Unum), Wolf Gruner (USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research), Boris Adjemian (AGBU Nubar Library) and Alexandra Garbarini (Williams College)

Comparative Lenses was an international interdisciplinary conference on the scholarly uses of video testimonies for understanding genocide and mass violence. The conference discussed the academic relevance of video testimonies of atrocity and sought to uncover new approaches to collecting and working with such testimonies 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.

Reinventing/Reconstructing Cosmopolitanism in Contested Spaces and Post-Conflict Zones

May 2022

Co-organized with Sanja Bojanic (University of Rijeka), Nadège Ragaru (SciencesPo CERI), Philip Spero Golub (AUP), Eileen Lallier, Zona Zaric (ENS), Vera Mevorah (The Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory, University of Belgrade) and Dragana Stojanovic (The Faculty of Media and Communications, Belgrade)

As part of AUP's 60th-anniversary academic event series, the Center organized an international conference to encourage a multi- and transdisciplinary discussion on the challenge of cultivating inclusive civic and social spaces at a moment when difference is ubiquitously threatened by exclusionary ethno-nationalisms; the construction of material and symbolic walls of separation; spaces of conflict; and violence-laden representations of the essential alienness of cultural, political and religious others. The conference aims to critically examine these problems in various socio-spatial and temporal contexts and broaden the scope to reflections on the necessary rethinking/reinvention/reconstitution of cosmopolitan spaces challenged by social conflicts, war and mass violence.

The Photography of Persecution: Pictures of the Holocaust

June 2022

Co-organized with Tal Bruttman (the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales), Sarah Gensburger (the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), Christoph Kreutzmüller (the Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz) and Jonathan Zatin (Boston University)

The conference focuses on the photographic record of the persecution of Jews in Nazi-dominated Europe, including its overseas possessions from 1933 to 1945. Rather than treating photographic images taken under Nazi rule as self-explanatory, immediate and self-contained, this conference invites interested scholars to approach photographs as they would other documents – by treating photographs as objects of historical inquiry and interrogating the political interests authorizing their creation, the material conditions under which they were produced, the editing process out of which they emerged and were displayed, and the uses to which they were put.

Collecting Life Stories in the Jewish World, 19th–21st Centuries | The Museum of Jewish Art and History, Paris

May 19, 2022

Co-organized with Malena Chinski (FMS-EHESS), Judith Lindenberg (MAHJ) and Simon Perego (INALCO-CERMOM)

This conference, co-organized with the Middle East and Mediterranean Research Center (INALCO-CERMOM) and the Museum of Jewish Art and History (MAHJ), aimed to explore the different facets of oral and written documentary efforts to collect testimony and life stories among the Jewish populations, and the emergence of Jewish history as a discipline. Starting from the abundant undertaking carried out in particular by the Jews of Eastern Europe or the victims of the Holocaust, it proposed to deepen knowledge on these two paradigmatic cases and to put them in comparative perspective with other projects developed in the rest of the Jewish world, from the end of the 19th century to the present day.

Workshops and Symposiums

Introducing the Visual History Archive, Workshops led by USC Shoah Foundation

May 6, 2016

Emilie Garrigou-Kempton (USC) and Wolf Gruner (USC) led two workshops introducing faculty and students to the Visual History Archives and creative ways that the VHA can be used in teaching and research. Following the workshop, Wolf Gruner presented his research on Jewish resistance during the Shoah, which draws extensively on the Visual History Archives.

Teaching with the Visual History Archive Testimonies

September 26, 2016

This workshop, organized by the Center, introduced the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive. While familiarizing attendees with the archive's interface and search engine, Emilie Garrigou-Kempton (Center for Advanced Genocide Research) and Colin Keaveney (USC) showcased several examples of how testimonies have been used for innovative teaching by scholars from a wide range of disciplines. This workshop focused on how to use testimonies in the university classroom and how to encourage students to conduct their own research projects using the VHA. Case studies showed how to successfully integrate testimonies to courses across disciplines.

Big Data and Testimonies

February 15, 2018

In this roundtable discussion with experts on the study of Holocaust survivors and qualitative researchers, Tim Cole (University of Bristol), Sharon Kangisser (Yad Vashem), and Ruthellen Josselson (The Fielding Graduate University) explored how we can effectively study the enormous amount of data collected on the oral histories of Holocaust survivors.

Reading one testimony, distant reading 54,000

Cole's talk discussed some of the opportunities and challenges of distant reading oral history transcripts using corpus linguistics methods. His talk addressed both potential and existing problems in working with digital humanities approaches to read this massive archive en masse.

Finding the individual in multiple collections

Kangisser's presentation examined the archival challenges involved in mapping out the stories of individuals over time and finding testimonies in various collections. It also discussed how various retellings expand scholars' understanding of the traumatic event and its meaning for survivors.

Amalgamating understanding in narrative analysis

Josselson's presentation addressed the fact that narrative researchers, situated differently, study different people – even from the same data set. She then addressed the challenge of building a knowledge base that can amalgamate insight and understanding across researchers. This form of qualitative meta-analysis entails the engaged complication of data, as more nuanced discussion of findings ensues from the analytic process. This can serve a more thorough understanding of the experiences represented in the narratives.

Pictures of The Holocaust

Spring and Fall 2019

Co-organized with historian Tal Bruttman (EHESS)

This two-session workshop, co-organized by the Center's team and the French historian Tal Bruttman, gathered 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?

Early Holocaust Remembrance in the Jewish Press, from the Second World War to the 1960s

November 25, 2019

Co-organized with Malena Chinski (EHESS), Simon Perego (LabEx-EHNE) and Miriam Schulz (Columbia University)

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 been widely acknowledged, such media still needs to be approached as a subject of study in itself, alongside other commemorative endeavors. This workshop, which gathered 15 scholars from the United States, Canada, England, France and Israel, concentrated on case studies from France, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Poland, the Soviet Union and Germany.

By transmitting a great variety of Holocaust writings in the early postwar years, the Jewish press has significantly shaped the understanding of the Jewish past within the communities it was addressed to, through its major informative and commemorative role. Moreover, editors and journalists of the Jewish press worldwide very often adopted positions of their own with respect to the meanings of the past expressed in their writings. Hence, this workshop regarded Jewish journals as vehicles for early Holocaust memory and simultaneously as institutional actors with their own memorial agendas.

Overcoming the Darkness? Holocaust Survivors' Emotional and Social Journeys in the Early Postwar Period

September 21 and 22, 2020

Co-organized with Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Diana and Eli Zborowski Centre for the Study of the Shoah and Its Aftermath, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

Emerging from the horror and ruins of the Shoah, survivors were confronted with many challenges, both physical and psychological. The destruction or loss of their homes required an often long and protracted search to find shelter and security. The physical abuse endured after long periods of starvation, deprivation, exposure and torture required careful medical attention so that survivors could gain physical strength and mobility in order to engage in the work of rebuilding. The loss of their loved ones and prolonged exposure to violence and suffering would leave an indelible mark on their minds and emotional worlds. Most survivors were able to regain a level of functionality and emotional stability so that they could engage in rebuilding their lives. However, for some others, the emotional toll was too difficult to bear and they were unable to live an independent life and were housed in institutions for most of their lives. There were others who, while they may at first have managed to achieve a degree of emotional resilience, were not always able to maintain it; and there were survivors who chose to end their lives even after they had been back on their feet and had begun new families.

One way to understand the issue of functionality and emotional rebuilding is connected to the care and treatment that was made available to survivors in the early post-war years. This two-day workshop explored questions of what frameworks existed to assist survivors in rebuilding their lives emotionally? What psychological help and assistance was offered to survivors in the different communities in which they found themselves after the war? And the impact of the post-war social environment: how did organizations and communities relate to the Shoah in general and to the survivors in particular and did that have an effect on the level of functionality? The third element considered relates to their individual status – their particular war-time experience, family situation, age and gender – and if and how these factors affected their ability to rebuild emotionally.

Narrating Violence: Making Race, Making Difference

March 15, 2021

For this event, organized with Marta-Laura Cenedese and Helena Duffy (University of Turku, Finland), the Center joined the Winter Symposium of the Nordic Summer University Study Circle, Narrative and Violence

This symposium explored questions arising from narratives of violence produced against racial, ethnic, religious, gender, sexual and political groups. While multiple theoretical perspectives were included in both locations, the day at The American University of Paris had a broader international focus and the day at Turku facilitated a more Nordic/Baltic focus.

Using intersectionality, Faith Mkwesha's (CEREN) keynote examined the process of identity formation of an African Finnish woman in Finland and the US represented in the biography The Rosa Lemberg Story, written by the historian Eva Ericson (1993). Rosa Emilia Clay (1875–1959) was the first Afro-Finnish black person to be granted a Finnish passport. Finland had no colonies. The question is: How did the story of the black African woman come about? How did racist ideas penetrate Finnish society? How does the African woman view her own identity? Employing decolonizing the mind (DTM) theory, Mkwesha's paper problematizes colonial structure and Western theory of identity formation and explores the social relations in Finnish communities represented in the biography. She argues that the West, and specifically Finland in this case, conceptualizes citizenship and identity through the lens of individuality and race. The paper seeks to theorize identity formation theory within a decolonial model.

Program cover for
'Narrating Violence'
conference.



Narrating Violence: Making Race, Making Difference Part II

March 29, 2021

During this second part, the keynote by Gérard Noiriel (EHESS) focused on one of the essential dimensions of hate speech, what we call rhetoric or the art of convincing. This kind of analysis requires that we take into account not only the producers of this discourse but also the intended public. In order to simplify the matter, the keynote concentrated on the French case. In his last book, *Le Venin dans la plume* (Venom in the Quill Pen – La Découverte, 2019), Noiriel argued that we cannot understand the abrupt emergence of antisemitism (as a political current) in the 1880s if we forget that mass communication established itself during this period following the emergence of French laws on schools and freedom of the press. Noiriel presented examples of the rhetorical process used by the polemist and journalist Edouard Drumont (who played a major role in the birth of modern antisemitism in France) to spread in the general public hate against Jews. He also explained how similar methods are nowadays used to nourish hate against Muslims, and how these methods are being adapted to the new revolution in communications that we are living with due to social media networks and cable news channels.

Virtual Forum: Understanding the War in Ukraine

May 10, 2022

The Center provided a forum for scholars from multiple disciplines and humanitarian activists to process the causes and consequences of the war in Ukraine, with the primary aim of giving Ukrainian and Russian scholars the opportunity to express themselves and their point of view. This forum highlighted the human cost of the war and the millions of refugees seeking safety as well as global implications.

Thomas Geve (b. 1929)

Hurrah, the **FREEDOM**, Buchenwald DP camp, 1945

Pencil, colored pencil and watercolor on paper
10x15 cm

Collection of the Yad Vashem Art Museum,
Jerusalem

Gift of the artist

Photo © Yad Vashem Art Museum, Jerusalem



AUP Events Sponsored by the Center

Film Screening and Conversation with Academy Award Nominated Rithy Panh

October 27, 2016

Organized by Marie Regan

Cannes-winning Academy Award–nominated filmmaker and Cambodian genocide survivor Rithy Panh presented his award-winning 2014 film *The Missing Picture*. The screening was followed by a discussion between Rithy Panh and the audience. *The Missing Picture* is an autobiographical documentary in which Panh reimagines his childhood under the Khmer Rouge from 1975 to 1979. Through a combination of archival footage and hand-sculpted clay figurines, the filmmaker raises questions about memory, history and action. *The Missing Picture* was awarded in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes in 2013 and was Cambodia's selection for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the 2014 Academy Awards.

The Evolution of International Courts and the Reassembling of International Society | Mikael Rask Madsen

March 30, 2017

Organized by Susan Perry

Mikael Rask Madsen, Director of the innovative Danish research center iCourts (Centre of Excellence for International Courts, University of Copenhagen) and a well-known specialist on international justice, discussed the impact of international tribunals on the “reassembling” of international society. Madsen's research is focused on globalization and the role of legal institutions and professionals in these processes. His current research concerns the special interaction between law and global integration, the role and power of lawyers in globalization, the increased importance of supranational legal institutions and, more generally, the international transformation of law and authority towards networked expertise. Madsen is the author or

co-author of numerous publications, including two chapters in the *Dictionnaire de la Justice pénale internationale* (2017) and a chapter on “The European Court of Human Rights and the Politics of International Law” in the Handbook on the Politics of International Law (2017), as well as a chapter on “Global Actors: Networks, Elites, Institutions” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* (2016). Susan Perry (AUP) was the convener and moderator of this session, along with Philipp Ambach, Legal Advisor at the International Criminal Court, as the discussant.

Climate Change Guest Lecture | Myles Allen

April 18, 2017

Organized by Susan Perry

Myles Allen's (University of Oxford) lecture “Climate Change in a Populists' World: Can We Meet the Goals of the Paris Agreement without a World Government?” addressed the IPCC's 5th Assessment Report (AR5), which gave a cumulative budget from 2011 of 400 GtCO₂ for global temperatures to remain “likely below” 1.5°C, about half of which has already been emitted since 2011. Does this mean we are only a few years away from “blowing the 1.5°C carbon budget,” suggesting that the only realistic way to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement is through geoengineering planetary albedo? Allen argued that the AR5 budget looks pessimistic if we consider both cumulative carbon emissions and human-induced warming to date, particularly if we assume that emissions are continuously adjusted in future to meet the 1.5°C long-term temperature goal, as the Paris Agreement set out to do, so talk of the inevitability of geoengineering is both premature and irresponsible.

Orders of Violence

April 9–10, 2018

Organized by Lissa Lincoln

This conference was dedicated to investigating political violence, exclusion and memory within marginalized communities, with particular emphasis on caste violence and genocide. Orders of Violence's themes are 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 that 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.”

“Syria: Drawing an Uncertain Future”: An Exhibition and Book

Spring 2017

The American University of Paris engaged in a vast community art project with artists Lori Shocket and Souria Houria, who worked with a remarkable association that provides socio-educative and psychological support to displaced Syrians in France. The project resulted in a powerful exhibition that was on display in the AUP Fine Arts Gallery in the Combes Student Life Center.

Under the guidance of Lori and Neil Shocket, AUP invited Syrian refugees and volunteers to paint their individual stories, hopes and messages of peace within the framework of The Human Element Project. Souria Houria worked hand in hand with our student club Baytna à Vous, the Department of Art History and Fine Arts, and AUP's Office of Student Leadership to organize art workshops throughout the semester. Two other associations, Revivre and Alwane, joined us to contribute to our collective work. The George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention sponsored this project.

A poster during the Human Element installation in the Combes Fine Art Gallery.



Listening to the Voices of Persons with Dementia | Lars-Christer

April 11, 2019

Organized by Maria Medved

Central to modern liberal democracy is the possibility for citizens to make their voice heard in discussions, debates and by writing in public forums. People living with communicative disabilities often become marginalized as they have profound difficulties making their voice heard. Dementia not only implies communicative disabilities but also cognitive challenges. This talk addressed the ways in which the voices of persons living with dementia might be heard, recognized and acknowledged. Including the voices of persons with communicative and cognitive challenges presupposes a critical awareness of the – sometimes implicit – communicative norms that often prevail in Western democracies concerning, for instance, authorship, rationality and coherence. Learning to listen “with a third ear” could enhance the possibilities for the voices of the communicatively challenged to be socially included.





Aura Lounasmaa (University of East London) reads an excerpt from *'Voices from the Jungle.'*



Regina Kreide (Justus Liebig University) talking about how human rights can be ambiguous.



Kerstin Carlson, Susan Perry, Sharon Weill, Sara Dezalay and Omer Shatz discussing the question "Is International Criminal Justice 'Model' Justice?" in front of an audience of AUP students and professors.

Refugees and the Politics of Participation in the Calais Jungle and Beyond | Aura Lounasmaa

September 17, 2018

Aura Lounasmaa spoke 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. Lounasmaa was joined by some authors of *Voices from the Jungle* and refugee activists in France. This event served as a forum for discussion of the course, which considered 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 discussion explored 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.

What Research on Hmong Refugee Girls in the US and Thailand has Taught Me about Gender in Higher Education | Wendy Walker-Moffat

September 27, 2018

Wendy Walker-Moffat discussed findings from her 37 years of longitudinal research on the education of Hmong refugee girls. What is the value of longitudinal research? How does one keep going when you keep hitting walls in your research? How does one, especially 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 at Berkeley's School of Social Welfare, lecturing at Oxford University's Refugee Studies Center, conducting research on women immigrants at Stanford University, and as an independent scholar, most recently as a Fulbright Specialist at Chiang Mai University, Thailand. In 2018, she was a visiting scholar at the Center, where her time focused on how her longitudinal research could benefit today the Rohingya girl refugees who survived genocide

Unjust Borders: Migration to and within Europe and the Ambivalence of Human Rights | Regina Kreide

October 8, 2019

In this guest lecture, Regina Kreide (Justus Liebig University) addressed how human rights can be ambiguous. In the European Union they "protect" Roma minorities and exclude them at the same time. This happens in the context of the ongoing, Europe-wide debates of whether states – and, by extension, the EU – have "a right to exclude," that is, a right to close their borders. Borders, Kreide argues, are multifaceted zones of infrastructure and at the same time expanding areas of securitization. As long as borders are imposed coercively and, through this imposition, are contributing to securitization, they are illegitimate. This becomes obvious through an analysis of Europe's external and internal border politics, the growing entanglement between the two, and the inherent power of securitization of borders.

Is International Criminal Justice "Model" Justice?

October 17, 2019

Organized by Kerstin Carlson, Susan Perry and Sharon Weill

AUP's Kerstin Carlson with Susan Perry, Sharon Weill, Sara Dezalay and Omer Shatz discussed who is (and isn't) on trial in international criminal courts and how international criminal law is delivering on its promise to craft the "more just world" that the International Criminal Court (ICC) proclaims in its lobby. Carlson was joined by an all-star team of international lawyers and legal academics to debate what past practice suggests for the future direction of international criminal law.

Patterns of Invalidation in Augustine's Pastoral Care | Dagmar Kiesel

November 20, 2019

Organized by Julia Wildberger

This guest lecture "Patterns of Invalidation in Augustine's Therapy of the Emotions and Pastoral Care" by Dagmar Kiesel (University of Erlangen) assessed the degree to which ancient philosophical therapeutics imply an invalidation of the patient's experience and compared them with Augustine's therapeutic-pastoral consolation, in particular in *De Civitate Dei*, addressed to fellow Christians who became victims of violence during the sack of Rome in 411 AD. She argued that Augustine's consolatory method invalidates the emotional experience of sufferers and shows how such invalidation has continued, together with the reception of that famous church father up to the modern day.

Intergenerational Memories of Important Events: The Intersection of the Personal and the Historical | William Hirst

November 26, 2019

In this lecture, William Hirst (The New School) analyzed and discussed the manner by which memories are transmitted, the character of intergenerational memories, and the factors affecting their transmission. How people remember historical events from a relatively recent past rests in part on the way older generations talk to younger generations about them. An older generation may convey facts, such as those that might be found in the standard history textbook, but they also can offer personal stories. Such intergenerational discussion of both facts and personal stories can give resonance to an historical event that a simple reading about the event in a textbook might fail to do. This benefit of intergenerational conversations holds particularly for personal stories.

Historical Injustice Lecture Miniseries

Organized by AUP's Julian Culp

Emancipation and the Unjust Past | Alasia Nuti

March 20, 2021

Over their history, emancipatory movements and activists have drawn on the past in their struggles to change the present. Consider how the "witch-hunt" in Early Modern Europe has fired feminists' imagination over and over again or and how prison abolitionist movements have relentlessly denounced the institution of prison in the US as a continuation of slavery. What should be the relationship between unjust history and present emancipatory politics? In this talk, Alasia Nuti (University of York) reflected on the normative significance of the unjust past by moving beyond the important discussions of reparations and public memory that have arguably dominated normative debates about the unjust past. She argued that an important reason why we should be concerned with an unjust history is its emancipatory force.

Climate Justice and Historical Emissions | Lukas H. Meyer

October 29, 2021

One important debate within climate justice regards the contentious issue of the normative significance of past emissions. In this talk, Lukas Meyer (University of Graz) discussed two arguments that explore their significance and identify their shared presuppositions but differing normative implications. The first argument regards inherited benefits and holds that currently living people have realized unequal benefits from having inherited the benefits of past emissions-generating activities. Moreover, these unequal benefits are relevant for the distribution of the remaining permissible emission rights between states. The second argument regards the historically formed status quo—expectations of high emitters and holds that the frustration of such expectations that will result from the transition to a zero-emissions society might impose special costs on high emitters. Moreover, these costs are relevant for an understanding of the fair distribution of the burdens of that transition within states, but not between states.

Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse and Jakuta Alikavazovic | Specters of Violence

November 23, 2021

Organized by Daniel Medin

The Center for Writers and Translators and the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention were delighted to host a reading and conversation with two rising stars of Francophone fiction, Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse and Jakuta Alikavazovic. Beata Umubyeyi Mairesse was born in 1979 in Butare, Rwanda, and came to France in 1994. Her 2020 novel, *Tous tes enfants dispersés*, winner of the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie, explores moments before and after the Rwandan genocide within several generations of the same family. Jakuta Alikavazovic is a French writer of Bosnian and Montenegrin origins. Her most recent works, the novel *L'Avancée de la nuit* (published last spring in English under the title *Night As It Falls*) and the long essay *Comme un ciel en nous* (just awarded the 2021 Prix Médicis), both address the Yugoslav legacy of a daughter. Alikavazovic has translated works by Ben Lerner, David Foster Wallace and Anna Burns into French.

Guest Lecture on Field Social Psychology | Seamus Power

October 10, 2022

The Center hosted Seamus Power (Associate professor of Cultural Psychology at the University of Copenhagen) for his guest lecture presentation "Field Social Psychology: Processes of World-Making." He introduced field social psychology as a conceptual and methodological approach aimed at re-expanding the dominant social psychological paradigm as a way to think of psychology as "world-making." He used two examples to illustrate the utility of this approach, using prolonged field work in Ireland to explain dynamics of (non)protest during an economic recession and subsequent recovery and using social psychology to understand protesting youth in Norway concerned with political inaction to mitigate climate change.

Attendees deep in discussion during a break at the Legal Legacies of Genocide conference, October 2016.



External Events Supported by the Center

Holocaust Survivors and Their Networks: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives

June 2, 2017

Organized by Laura Hobson Faure (Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3), Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union), and Avinoam Patt (University of Hartford), at the Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3

An international symposium at La Maison de la Recherche de la Sorbonne Nouvelle.

The Brains That Pull the Trigger – 3rd Paris Conference on Syndrome E

May 10–12, 2017

Organized by Itzhak Fried (UCLA/ Tel Aviv University), fellow of the Paris Institute for Advanced Studies, with the support of Alain Berthoz (Collège de France)

The conference brought together scientists and scholars from the human, social and brain sciences to bear upon the question of transformation of seemingly ordinary individuals to repetitive agents of extreme violence in groups (Syndrome E).

Children and Adolescents without Family in 20th-Century Wars

November 27–29, 2019

Organized by Mathias Gardet (CIRCEFT-HEDUC/ Université Paris 8), Laura Hobson Faure (CREW/ Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3) and Manon Pignot (CHSSC/Université d'Amiens)

This international conference gathered 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 various sources are available to analyze these questions? The scholars

and archivists working on different wars and locations had, for the first time, an opportunity to exchange their research and expertise.

Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and Stanley Center for Peace and Security Alumni Meeting

“Integrating Prevention and Building Resilience in a Challenging Political Environment”

Fall 2019

City Tour Paris: A Living Landscape of Memory and Resilience

November 15, 2019

Constance Pâris de Bollardière (AUP) and Sarah Gensburger (CNRS) gave a tour entitled “Paris: A Living Landscape of Memory and Resilience” on the memory of the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks, of the Holocaust and of the Algerian War.

The Center Supported the Third Annual Conference of the Memory Studies Association

June 25–28, 2019, in Madrid

History and Historiography of the Holocaust | Research Seminar

The Center co-organized three sessions of the EHESS research seminar *History and Historiography of the Holocaust*, led by Florent Brayard (CNRS/EHESS), Judith Lyon-Caen (EHESS), Claire Zalc (CNRS/EHESS), Ivan Ermakoff (University of Wisconsin), Sarah Gensburger (CNRS/ISP), Nicolas Mariot (CNRS/CESSP)

Mark Roseman Speaks on “Resistance and Rescue in Nazi Germany”

June 15, 2017

Mark Roseman (Indiana University Bloomington) presented his book *Lives Reclaimed: A Story of Rescue and Resistance in Nazi Germany* (Oxford University Press, 2017) during a session of the seminar “Histoire et historiographie de la Shoah” (HHS, Centre de recherches historiques, EHESS-CNRS). The discussion was led by Laura Hobson Faure (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3).

Muslims in Nazi Europe | David Motadel

May 16, 2019

This guest lecture was by David Motadel, who works on the history of modern Europe and Europe’s relations with the wider world. He is the author of a book on the history of *Muslims under German rule in the Second World War* (Harvard University Press, 2014), ranging from North Africa and the Balkans to the Caucasus and the Crimea, and the editor of a volume on *Islam in the European Empires* (Oxford University Press, 2014). His articles have been published in a number of journals, including *Past and Present*, the *Journal of Contemporary History*, the *Historical Journal*, and the *Journal of Global History*. His work has been translated into eight languages. Among his current projects is a comparative study of the European empires in the era of the Second World War, 1935–48. It looks at the war as a conflict involving

heterogeneous empires, rather than a conflict of nation states. The study traces the involvement of the world’s colonized peoples, colonial soldiers, and anti-imperial movements in the conflict, examining the ways in which the war reconfigured Europe’s relations with the non-European world. Taken together, David Motadel’s work seeks to study European history comparatively and to enhance our understanding of the history of Europe’s entanglements with the wider world.

“Impudent Jews” The Forgotten Individual Jewish Resistance in Hitler’s Germany | Wolf Gruner

June 10, 2021

The lecture by Wolf Gruner (USC Shoah Foundation) discussed, using police and court materials from various German cities and video testimonies of survivors, how Jewish women and men performed countless acts of resistance in Nazi Germany proper between 1933 and 1945: from destroying Nazi symbols and writing petitions to public protest and physical self-defense. Jewish resistance during the Holocaust is still understood mostly in terms of rare armed group activities in the Nazi occupied East, for example ghetto uprisings or partisan activities. The fact that so many German Jewish women and men of all ages, educations and professions defied Nazi measures and protested in public obliterates the common view of passivity on the part of the persecuted. Thus, this research gives agency back to ordinary Jews in extraordinary circumstances. Their courageous acts still need to be incorporated into the narrative of the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany and the Holocaust in general.

Seminars & Lectures Organized at AUP by the Center

Seeing as Believing: Watching Videotaped Interviews with Holocaust Survivors | Jeffrey Shandler

March 22, 2016

In his presentation, Jeffrey Shandler (Rutgers University) discussed how the visual component of video interviews with survivors of the Holocaust is what distinguishes these from other forms of documenting survivors' life stories, whether in written form or audio recording. But what is the difference between watching these stories rather than simply reading or listening to them? Exceptional moments in these videos, such as when survivors display wartime injuries or religious articles that they had during the war, both disrupt the recordings' austere visual aesthetic of "talking heads" and reveal the power of watching survivors relate their wartime experiences. These moments also resonate with longstanding visual vocabularies of offering evidence that concretizes faith, linking the act of seeing with believing.

Film Screening and Lecture on the History of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon

March 23, 2016

The Archives in Perspective: A Presentation and Discussion

September 26, 2016

Archivists from several critical Holocaust archives (VHA at USC, Fortunoff Archives at Yale University, the Hebrew University, and Yad Vashem) gave presentations, followed by a comparative panel discussion on the nature of the video archives of survivor testimony and their archival experiences. Guest speakers: Emilie Garrigou-Kempton (Center for Advanced Genocide Research), Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Yad Vashem), Stephen Naron (Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University), Joanne Weiner Rudof (Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University).



The Holocaust by Bullets, the Prototype for Modern Genocides: Yahad-In Unum's Research and Teaching Resources

January 25, 2017

A presentation by guests Patrice Bensimon, former Director of Research, and Michał Chojak, current Director of Research, at Yahad-In Unum, the world's leading organization on Holocaust field research. Patrice and Michał presented the specificities of the fieldwork that Yahad-In Unum leads in Eastern Europe on the Holocaust by Bullets. Their specific methodology highlights the core of the criminal process of the genocide. What does it mean today to lead research on mass crimes, to document a genocide and to collect evidence of mass violence? How can we complete our understanding of Holocaust history to include the killings that were perpetrated 70 years ago across an entire continent?

Gens de Paris / People of Paris

January 31, 2017

This was a presentation by Sarah Gensburger (CNRS), a sociologist of memory and historian of the Shoah in Paris and the co-creator of *Ça s'est passé ici*, a soundwalk made up of narratives, which come alive with the sounds, quarrels, laughter and experiences of the people who used to live here. Available in both English and French, *Gens de Paris* allows people to rediscover Paris through the lives and experiences of those who lived here long ago. The first soundwalk produced by *Ça s'est passé ici* was the winner of the jury special award of the Decibels d'Or competition in 2016.

Becoming Evil: How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing | Jim Waller

February 23, 2017

A discussion of James Waller's (Keene State College) work on how ordinary people commit genocide and how perpetrators step back into the community to try and transform the very societies they once tore apart. Waller has held numerous visiting research professorships, including his current visiting position as Honorary Research Professor in the George J. Mitchell Institute for Global Peace, Justice and Security at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland. In the policymaking arena, Waller is also regularly involved, in his role as Director of Academic Programs, with the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) as the curriculum developer and lead instructor for the Raphael Lemkin Seminars for Genocide Prevention. These seminars, held on-site and in conjunction with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, introduce diplomats and government officials from around the world to issues of genocide warning and prevention. Waller has published 28 articles in peer-reviewed professional journals and contributed 20 chapters in edited books. The most recent of his four published books is *Confronting Evil: Engaging Our Responsibility to Prevent Genocide* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

Building Peace After Genocide: Lessons from Rwanda | Stephanie Wolfe

March 6–7, 2017

Stephanie Wolfe (Weber State University) specializes in international politics and human rights, with an emphasis on genocide, crimes against humanity and other atrocities.

For this lecture, she presented her research, including her publication *Reparations and Apologies* (2013), which focuses on the aftermath of World War II atrocities: specifically, the Holocaust and the Roman genocides, the Japanese American internment, and the Japanese "comfort women" system.

James Waller during his talk on 'Becoming Evil? How Ordinary People Commit Genocide and Mass Killing.'



Book Launch and Lecture: Whose Story? Whose World? Life and Narrative in the Age of Trump

March 7, 2017

This was a celebration of the launch of a recently published book, co-edited by Professor Brian Schiff, *Life and Narrative: The Risks and Responsibilities of Storying Experience* (Oxford University Press). The book launch coincided with a guest lecture by Mark Freeman, Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Society and Chair of the Department of Psychology, College of the Holy Cross.

Colonial Mass Violence and/or Colonial Genocide? | Olivier Lecour Grandmaison

March 28, 2017

The Center invited Olivier Lecour Grandmaison (Université d'Evry), a distinguished specialist of French colonial history, to address the question of whether genocide is a relevant category of analysis in the colonial expansion context, as well as the ways in which colonial history continues to shape the present. AUP's Philip Golub was the convener and moderator of this session, along with Professors Michelle Kuo and Miranda Spieler as discussants.

Oral History of a Bi-National Community: Challenging Factors and Unique Outcomes | Amia Lieblich

April 20, 2017

After a brief introduction to the field of oral history, Amia Lieblich (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) described the Jewish-Palestinian village Wahat al-Salam – Neve Shalom that was the subject of her study in 2010 and its development since its foundation in 1977. She elaborated on the complicating factors in conducting the study, provided its main results and discussed the contribution of oral history research for conflict management and alleviation. The talk was accompanied by photographs of the location and exemplary personal narratives of the participants of the study.

From left | Performers during the Helios Azoulay Concert.

Christopher Mauriello shares his research on “Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies.”



Helios Azoulay Concert

April 27, 2017

Co-organized with Miranda Spieler

The Center organized an evening with Hélios Azoulay and his musicians at Maison de la Chimie. A composer, clarinetist, writer, Hélios Azoulay is the Music Director of the Ensemble de Musique Incidentale. For ten years, he has been interpreting music composed in the concentration camps. His album « ... même à Auschwitz », the first in France devoted to the subject, has been acclaimed by the musical press (Clef du Mois – Resmusica). Creative and versatile, Hélios is also the author of several books, including *L'enfer aussi a son orchestre*, co-written with Pierre-Emmanuel Dauzat and published in 2015. Hélios Azoulay and his musicians performed a range of works composed in the camps for AUP and its wider community.

Witnessing the Crimes of Our Grandparents: Remembering and Responsibility in the Wake of the Holocaust | Roger Frie

November 7, 2017

Roger Frie discussed his latest book, *Not In My Family: German Memory and Responsibility After the Holocaust*, and what it means to discover Nazi history in one's own family. Roger Frie is a philosopher and historian educated in London and Cambridge and trained as a psychoanalyst and psychologist in New York City. He is Professor of Education at Simon Fraser University and Affiliate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, and Psychoanalytic Faculty and Supervisor at the William Alanson White Institute of Psychiatry, Psychoanalysis, and Psychology in New York. He has published and lectured widely on historical trauma, culture and memory, and human interaction. He is author of the award-winning book, *Not In My Family: German Memory and Responsibility After the Holocaust* (Oxford University Press, 2017), which received the 2017 Canadian Jewish Literary Award. His new edited book, *History Flows Through Us: Germany, the Holocaust and the Importance of Empathy* (Routledge Press), creates a dialogue between Holocaust historians and psychoanalysts.

When Denial Becomes State Policy | Elżbieta Janicka

April 5, 2018

Elżbieta Janicka's (Polish Academy of Sciences) lecture “When Denial Becomes State Policy: The Origins and Significance of the New Holocaust-Speech Law in Poland” offered 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 discussed the fact that the current Prime Minister of Poland, a country proud of its membership in the anti-Hitler coalition, can freely deploy antisemitic rhetoric and pay official homage to Polish wartime collaborators of the Nazis.

Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies in Germany at the End of WWII | Christopher Mauriello

April 18, 2018

In collaboration with Yahad-In Unum, the Center hosted a guest lecture by Christopher Mauriello (Salem State University), who presented his latest book, *Forced Confrontation: The Politics of Dead Bodies in Germany at the End of WWII*. This study of the experience of war and forced confrontations around dead bodies compels readers to rethink the nature of the American soldier fighting in Germany in 1945 and the evolution, practice and purpose of American political and ideological ideas of German collective guilt.



The Ethical Potential and Dangers of Narratives: Six Evaluative Continuums | Hanna Meretoja

November 28, 2018

This talk by Hanna Meretoja (University of Turku) addressed the ways in which narrative hermeneutics allows us to analyze and evaluate narratives from an ethical perspective. It presents 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. The latter part of the talk discussed this model in the light of some literary examples, which also raise 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 – can 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.

Justice after Genocide: Prosecuting Hutu Perpetrators | Alain and Drafoza Gauthier

March 20, 2019

This lecture presented the Gauthiers' historical commitment to the Collective of Civil Parties for Rwanda (Le Collectif des Parties Civiles pour le Rwanda - CPCR) by situating this combat in the context of Rwanda and the genocide against the Tutsi. The presentation was followed by a discussion with the audience. The CPCR was created in November 2001 by Alain and Drafoza Gauthier. Since its inception, it has continuously prepared complaints against Rwandan genocide suspects. The association provides moral and financial support to those who, in relation to the genocide of 1994, would like to prosecute presumed perpetrators hiding on French soil. 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. The fight continues.

France, a Laboratory of Global Antisemitism(s)? | Samuel Ghiles-Meilhac

April 10, 2019

In this lecture, Samuel Ghiles-Meilhac (Paris VIII University, SciencesPo Paris) discussed France as the European country with the largest Jewish population. Jews have lived here 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. 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?

What Are the Conditions of Thinking about the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Turkey? | Hakan Seckinelgin

April 17, 2019

Co-organized with Boris Adjemian (Nubar Library)

This lecture by Hakan Seckinelgin examined what is publicly remembered in Turkey about the events of 1915, focusing on how people apprehend each other and the conceptual structure of this process. The mechanism of what is publicly remembered and forgotten creates a cognitive censor for what can be discussed. This talk explored the way in which the political mechanism that reproduces the public memories to resist questions on the genocide has become part of the generalized public discourse, the conceptual grammar of belonging.



AUP President Celeste Schenck introducing Gwen Strauss' lecture on *The Nine*.



Late Suicide Among Holocaust Survivors in Israel: Two Life Stories | Amia Lieblich

April 23, 2019

This lecture by Amia Lieblich (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) presented the life stories of Holocaust survivors Chajka Klinger (1917–58) and Beni Vitzberg (1928–68). They found their way to Israel (or Palestine at that time), built families and apparently found their place in the new Jewish society, yet some years later developed depression and finally each of them committed suicide at mid-life. Both Klinger and Vitzberg were involved in writing projects, documenting in detail their personal experiences and what they had witnessed during the war. This presentation pointed to several possible factors for their 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.

The Nine: The True Story of Female Resistance Fighters | Gwen Strauss

September 12, 2019

Organized by Celeste Schenck

This presentation was given by Gwen Strauss (Dora Maar House) and covered the true story of her great aunt Helene Podliasky, a 24-year-old engineer who led a band of nine female resistance fighters as they escaped a German concentration camp and made the 10-day journey across the front lines of the Second World War. The team of international women were all under 30 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 this labor camp in Leipzig, they were a close-knit group of friends.

A Work of Mourning Always Incomplete: Claude Lanzmann's Archive of the Catastrophe | Jennifer Cazenave

October 3, 2019

In this talk, Jennifer Cazenave (Boston University) recounted the making of *Shoah* between 1973 and 1985 and focused 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. 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.

Gendered Aspects of the Armenian Genocide in the Experiences of Its Victimized Females | Anna Aleksanyan

February 5, 2020

Organized by Boris Adjemian (Nubar Library)

In this lecture Anna Aleksanyan (PhD candidate at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University) analyzed the gendered aspects of the Armenian genocide as well as the role of pre-genocide gender dynamics and cultural practices in the form that the genocide took and its motivations, using archival research. The Armenian Genocide had a precise gendered logic. First of all, the perpetrators destroyed intellectuals and the male population. As women and girls represented productive and reproductive resources, they were targeted not only for physical annihilation but also forced assimilation. Systematic abduction of Armenian women and girls and forced marriages were ordered by the central government and implemented by the local

population. The deportation of women, children and the elderly to a remote desert in Ottoman Syria was accompanied by mass humiliations (such as forced nudity and gang rape) and starvation as well as mass killings.

The Diarist as Witness to Catastrophe | Vahé Tachjian

February 12, 2020

Organized by Boris Adjemian (Nubar Library)

In his lecture, Vahé Tachjian (chief editor of the Houshamdyan website) discusses how, based on the daily jottings of diarists, we can follow how a whole social structure had collapsed and how normal human relations had disappeared during the Armenian genocide. In 1915, two Armenian families – the Bogharians and the Tavukjians – were deported from Ayntab, together with many other Armenian inhabitants of the town. They were forcibly resettled, first in Hama and then in the nearby town of Salamiyya (today in Syria). Two diaries written by members of these families have come down to us: one by Father Nerses Tavukjian, the other by Krikor Bogharian.

Shapes, Legitimation and Legacies of Violence in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey: From Abdülhamid II to Erdoğan | Stephan Astourian

November 23, 2020

In this session Stephan Astourian (UC Berkeley) provided a reflection on the nature, causes and justifications of collective and State violence from the late Ottoman Empire to the present, followed by a discussion led by Ronald Suny (University of Michigan). Astourian's talk outlined the main characteristics of the very diverse instances of collective and state violence stretching from the Hamidian period to the present. It then reflected first upon the structural causes of that violence affecting large segments of the population of Turkey and targeting varied ethnic-religious groups and second upon how that violence has propelled the nation's very sense of itself.

"Use Consoling Words for Our Butchered Nation": Armenian Feminists' Post-Genocide Expectations from Their Turkish Counterparts | Lerna Ekmekcioglu

March 9, 2021

Lerna Ekmekcioglu's (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) talk explored the trajectories of gendered solidarity and its absence in the face of catastrophe. The immediate aftermath of the genocide was a time of both misery and hope for Armenians. Emboldened by the Ottoman defeat, the Allies' occupation of the Ottoman capital and their wartime promises for justice, Armenian feminists of Constantinople did not shy away from asking Turkish women to acknowledge the damage and help Armenians stitch back their broken nation. Once the Turkish Republic was founded, such discourses metamorphosed into one that celebrated secular modernity. Silences took over. They have been now normalized.

Figuring Memory: Social Practices and Collective Transformation | Research Seminar

2021–22

The *Figuring Memory* monthly seminar aimed to launch a sustained discussion with scholars and practitioners from multiple disciplines and perspectives engaged with its themes. The seminar took a comparative perspective, examining past and recent atrocities across the globe with different motivations and intentions.

The notion of collective or social memory has compelled substantial scholarly attention as a means for theorizing socially shared meanings and their political and structural consequences. Recently, a field of "memory studies" has emerged through journals, conferences and a lively interdisciplinary exchange. Simultaneously, collective memory has developed an applied, practical, emphasis on producing or consolidating social values and the practice of memory has also compelled substantial social and political engagement. Public and private organizations have invested vast resources in memory practices as a means for teaching social justice, combating

prejudice and preventing future atrocities. Public spaces, museums, sites of atrocity and classrooms have become sites for remembrance in order to combat prejudice, prevent the repetition of past violence, and instill the values necessary for tolerant and open societies. In all these social spaces, the practice of witnessing is a persistent feature.

The efficacy of memory practices for social betterment is most often taken axiomatically and uncritically as an established fact. Educators, policy makers and scholars often seem to assume that teaching about past instances of racism, exclusion and violence will inspire personal and social change. Can it? Can narration of the past contribute to transforming society? A robust literature of well-executed studies is still developing, and more scholarship is needed in order to answer this question and better understand what is at stake when collective memory is employed in the service of shared values and when such memory practices are, or are not, effective. Furthermore, it is important to investigate if alternative practices might have a greater impact.

Session 1 with Rebecca Hale | "Learning about the Holocaust, Learning from the Holocaust: Fundamental Aims, but How Do We Know They Have Been Achieved?"

Session 2 with Lea David | "Discussing Lea David's Book *The Past Can't Heal Us: The Dangers of Mandating Memory in the Name of Human Rights*"

Session 3 with Thomas Van de Putte | "Cultural Memory from Event to Action"

Session 4 with Chana Teeger | "Role Playing Racism: History Teaching and the Limits of Experiential Learning"

Session 5 with Tom Pettinger | "Temporality and Collective Memory: The Contested Use of Counter-Extremism in 'Post'-Conflict Societies"

Session 6 with Joanna Wawrzyniak | "The Memories of Socio-Economic Transformation and the Challenges of the Witnesses' Accounts"

Francophonie Through Decoloniality | Clara Rachel Casséus Eybalin

April 12, 2022

Co-organized with the Center for Critical Democracy Studies and the AUP Library

Clara Rachel Casséus Eybalin presented her latest book: *Une Caraïbe Décoloniale: Ressusciter Les Ancêtres à Travers La Language* in dialogue with Professor Miranda Spieler on themes of Haitian history, including the history of the diaspora, diaspora studies and the social sciences, Franco-Haitian relations, and Haiti's relations with the United States.

Women, Power and Violence: Researching Sexual Crimes During the Holocaust in Time of Russia's War in Ukraine | Marta Havryshko

April 22, 2022

Marta Havryshko (Associate Researcher at Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies) gave an online presentation on how the Russian unjustified invasion of Ukraine made Ukrainian women and girls particularly vulnerable to different forms of violence. She spoke about the cases of sexual assault by Russian soldiers reported by authorities, activists, volunteers and ordinary citizens, and how this actualized research on the peculiarities of wartime sexual violence compared to that committed in times of peace. Marta discussed who the primary targets were, and how women's ethnic, political and religious identity, and social status make a difference in the situation of sexual aggression. She also analyzed the specificities of sexual violence with respect to genocide.

An AUP student takes a photo during a Museum tour while on a trip to Warsaw.





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