

Remembering the Holocaust
Annual Progress Report
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[edited version]

Fall/ Spring 2004-2005
Institute for the Study of Culture and Society
Bowling Green State University

Cluster Organizers:

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As the generation who experienced the Holocaust firsthand passes away, we are faced with the question of how to remember the Holocaust. All members of this research cluster worked and presented on current constructions and representations of the Holocaust from the vantage of their particular discipline(s).

Development of cluster:

During the summer 2004, Beth Griech-Polelle (History Department) and Christina Guenther (German, Russian & East Asian Languages) met several times to discuss plans for a lecture and workshop series on the Final Solution to be held in spring 2005. Hindea Markowicz, director of the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center in Sylvania, had met with Griech-Polelle and Guenther in May 2004 to talk about the possibility of inviting Dr. Norbert Kampe, director of the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site in Berlin, to BGSU to serve as guest speaker during Yom Ha'Shoah week. At a number of meetings during the summer, we began to develop a schedule for Dr. Norbert Kampe's visit to BGSU and Northwest Ohio. At the same time, we began discussing plans for an interdisciplinary conference on memory and the Holocaust. An early September 2004 meeting with Dr. Vivian Patraka, who has published extensively on Holocaust, theater and memorials, led to the formation of an ICS cluster entitled "Remembering the Holocaust," and by early October we found a group of graduate students and faculty from various disciplines on campus interested in participating in such a discussion forum. (See list of participants in appendix #1.)

Special activities 2004-2005:

The ICS cluster met at least once a month at College Park 106 throughout the academic year to discuss articles that deal with the construction of Holocaust memory from different disciplinary perspectives. The cluster also finalized the film

and lecture program for the “Deadly Discrimination: Re-Viewing the Final Solution and its Consequences,” including selecting cluster members to introduce the films in this workshop series. The workshop took place during March and April at BGSU, and the various events (films, an oratorio, lectures by scholar in residence Dr. Norbert Kampe) attracted large and diverse academic and community audiences in Findlay, Bowling Green and Toledo.

We planned two successful excursions: 1) We attended two lectures at the University of Michigan-Dearborn where we were invited to participate in a workshop with Holocaust scholars Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer from Columbia University. 2) We arranged for a guided tour at the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington, Michigan. Finally, we developed a call for papers and secured keynote speakers for a national interdisciplinary conference that we have entitled “Trajectories of Memory: Intergenerational Representations of the Holocaust in the Arts and History” to be held at BGSU in March 2006. The conference involves faculty/ graduate students from English, German studies, history, art, music, philosophy, psychology, theatre and film and will include at least one undergraduate/ graduate session. We hope to collaborate with our colleagues at the new Zentrum für Jüdische Kulturgeschichte at the University of Salzburg. We also plan to publish select conference proceedings in a volume of interest to Holocaust educators.

Participants

Bill Albertini (English/ American Studies, faculty)
Maria Baldwin (History, graduate student)
Bobby Blankenship (GREAL, graduate student)
Mona Dunckel (English, graduate student)
Beth Griech-Polelle (History, faculty)
Christina Guenther (GREAL, faculty)
Jesse Houf (ACS/ICS, graduate student)
Jacqui Nathan (School of Art, Director, Art Galleries)
Mary Natvig (College of Musical Arts, faculty)
Vivian Patraka (ICS/English/ACS, faculty)
Jim Rose (History, graduate student)
John S. Sebestyen (Theatre, graduate student)
Marilyn Schrude (College of Musical Arts, faculty)
Molly Weisser (Theatre, graduate student)
Ted Rippey (GREAL-faculty) will join in Fall 2005

Scholarly accomplishments related to cluster topic on the Holocaust and memory:

Grants:

- Ohio Humanities Grant for workshop “Deadly Discrimination: Re-Viewing the Final Solution and its Consequences, “March/ April 2005. B. Griech-Polelle, Principle Investigator; C. Guenther, Co- Investigator. (\$1,000)
- Toledo Jewish Foundation Grant for Deadly Discrimination series. Filed by B. Griech-Polelle. (\$1,200)
- Ethnic Cultural Arts Program Grant for Tikvah: Concert of Hope and Remembrance, April 26, 2005. The oratorio was performed at Bryan Recital Hall as part of the Deadly Discrimination series and was introduced by Dr. Norbert Kampe. Filed by C. Guenther. (\$3,000).

Dissertation:

- Ramona Dunckel (English/ History) will be defending her dissertation *The Holocaust Memorial Center (Farmington, MI) as a Revised Text* on June 1, 2005.

Publications:

- Christina Guenther. “The Politics of Location in Ruth Beckermann’s ‘Vienna Films.’” *Modern Austrian Literature* (forthcoming in summer 2005).

Presentations:

- Beth Griech-Polelle, “The Impact of the Spanish Civil War upon the Roman Catholic Clergy in Nazi Germany, “ at Annual Conference of American Historical Association, Seattle. Jan 5-9, 2005.
- Christina Guenther, “Rendering the Invisible Visible: Ruth Beckermann’s *Ein flüchtiger Zug nach dem Orient*,” German Studies Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC Oct 3-7, 2004.
- Guenther “Ruth Beckermann’s Cartography of Identity: An Analysis of *Homemad(e)* and *Ein flüchtiger Zug nach dem Orient* at the Annual Conference of the Rocky Mt. Modern Language Association, Oct. 2004, Boulder, CO

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- Guenther “Viennese Multiethnicity at the Turn of the 21st Century: A Comparison of Ruth Beckermann’s *homemad(e)* and Doron Rabinovici’s *Ohnehin*” at the annual Modern Austrian Literature Conference held at the University of Montana, April 21-24, 2005.

Workshops:

- Griech-Polelle was one of nine invited scholar participants at a workshop entitled “The Holocaust and Anti-Semitism in Christian Europe” that took place at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C. in June 21- July 2, 2004. She presented a research paper on The Judeo-Bolshevik Conspiracy and the Impact of the Spanish Civil War on German Catholic Clergy.”
- Griech-Polelle was invited to attend the “Lessons and Legacies VIII: Generation to Generation,” sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Foundation and Brown University, Nov. 4-7, 2004.

Cluster meeting schedule at ICS and discussion information:

Sept. 9, 2004: Development of cluster topic with Dr. Vivian Patraha; review of “Deadly Discrimination” workshop plan for March/ April 2005 and call for papers for “Trajectories of Memory” conference for spring 2006.

Sept. 17 and Oct. 15: Meetings with Hindea Markowicz, director of the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center at the Jewish Community Center in Sylvania to discuss the film and lecture series with visiting Holocaust scholar in residence Dr. Norbert Kampe, “Deadly Discrimination: Reviewing the Final Solution and its Consequences.” Celesta Harasztzi’ presentation of “Tikvah,” oratorio by Burton Beerman, College of Musical Arts, based on Holocaust survivor P. Markowicz’ memoirs, to be included in film/ lecture series in spring 2005.

Rose Hess makes initial contact with area schools and community organizations.

October 26: Meeting at ICS 106 College Park with faculty and students interested in “Remembering the Holocaust” cluster. Discussion of bibliography, excursions, film series.

October, 2005 – April, 2006: regular meetings with Director Markowicz, Celesta Harasztzi, Rose Hess, Liz Cole, Roger Thibault, Elaine Michalik, Terri Sharp regarding the “Deadly Discrimination” workshop. (See appendix for workshop program.)

November 30: Cluster meeting at ICS, 106 College Park. Discussion of Marianne Hirsch’s “Projected memory: Holocaust Photographs in Personal and Public

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Fantasy” in Mieke Bal, et al *Acts of Memory*. Discussion focused on concept of “postmemory” and construction of Holocaust memory through photographs taken of children in concentration camps.

January 27: Cluster meeting at ICS, 106 College Park. Discussion of Walter Benjamin’s “Theses on the Philosophy of History”. Discussion focused on examining the parallels between Benjamin’s understanding of the past in terms of historical materialism and Messianism, his critique of historicism, the metaphor “angle of history,” and the impact of fascism on his perspective.

February 21: Excursion to UM-Dearborn to hear Marianne Hirsch and Leo Spitzer.
(Appendix includes abstract of presentations.)

February 24: ICS cluster meeting at 106 College Park. Mona Dunckel prepared group for excursion to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington, Michigan. Discussion of James Young’s article on memorials from his collection entitled *Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning*, 1993.

March 18: First film viewing at the Gish Film Theatre—“Train de Vie” (part of cluster’s “Deadly Discrimination” workshop series, 2005). Introduction by Christina Guenther, cluster co-organizer.

March 29: Excursion to Holocaust Memorial Center, Farmington. Special tour and discussion with Holocaust survivor (organized by cluster member Ramona Dunckel).

March 31: “Rosenstraße” introduced by Michael Latham, GREAL. (Second film in “Deadly Discrimination” series at the Gish).

April 7: “Divided We Fall” introduced by Mona Dunckel. (Third film in “Deadly Discrimination” series at the Gish).

April 14: “Amen” introduced by Beth Griech-Polelle, cluster co-organizer. (Fourth film in “Deadly Discrimination” series at the Gish).

April 25-May 7: “Deadly Discrimination: Reviewing the Final Solution and its Consequences” workshop with Dr. Norbert Kampe, director, House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site, Berlin.

May 5: Final ICS cluster meeting. Discussion of “Trajectories of Memory” conference, 23-26 March. Conference rooms reserved at Union, undergraduate and graduate call for papers, session organizers for Theatre, History, German studies, English pinpointed. BGSU Art Gallery director Jacqui Nathan to organize art exhibit.

ICS Remembering the Holocaust Cluster Appendix:

1. Interdisciplinary Research Cluster Proposal: Remembering the Holocaust, Fall 2004
2. Workshop program: "Deadly Discrimination: Re-viewing the 'Final Solution' and its Consequences." (film and lecture series)
3. Call for papers: "Trajectories of Memory: Intergenerational Representations of the Holocaust in the Arts and History," March 2006, Union, BGSU.

1. Remembering the Holocaust: Cluster Proposal, Fall 2004

Overview

The research cluster "Remembering the Holocaust" is an interdisciplinary workshop that meets monthly to discuss articles and films that deal with the construction of and representation of memory in the arts and humanities with regard to the Holocaust. The members engaged in this cluster include BGSU faculty and graduate students from the Departments of History, English (Literature & Rhetoric and Composition), German, Russian & East Asian Languages, Theatre & Film and from the College of Musical Arts and the School of Art. This cross-disciplinary forum will provide us a more comprehensive understanding of the way in which the Holocaust is and might continue to be remembered.

Rationale

Having had such an horrendous impact on the existence of Jews, religious and ethnic minorities as well as homosexuals and on the way we understand life, death and all forms of social interaction, the Holocaust is and must be remembered and studied by scholars from various disciplines. As the generation who experienced the Holocaust firsthand passes away, we are faced with the question of how to remember the Holocaust. All members of this research cluster have been working on various aspects of the Holocaust not necessarily limited to their discipline(s). This structured scholarly exchange, in which we will plan to read our own and other scholars' theoretical, literary, historical and sociological texts as well as consider artistic and musical responses to the Holocaust, represents a unique forum that will enrich the BGSU community. As a group, we plan to present a film series, organize a workshop (together with Hindea Markowicz of the Ruth Fajerman Holocaust Resource Center of Greater Toledo) that includes a guest speaker Dr. Norbert Kampe of the Wannsee Haus

Documentation Center in Berlin and the production of an oratorio that is based on the memoirs of a Holocaust survivor. During Spring Semester 2006, this group plans to mount an interdisciplinary conference on memory and the Holocaust. Dr. Vivian Patraha, director of ICS, has offered to be of assistance.

Goals

1. Provide a forum for interdisciplinary discussion on forms and representation of memory and the Holocaust whereby, we will have an opportunity to exchange ideas, theoretical models and methodologies.
2. Support and strengthen each other's research through readings of work in progress and commentary on new proposals.
3. Create opportunities for collaborative research and interdisciplinary projects, including courses and public events for BGSU faculty and students and for the community of Northwest Ohio:
 - Present/ introduce a contemporary film series (segment of the International Film Series in the Gish) in March/ April 2005 that includes 1. Train de Vie; 2. Rosenstraße; 3. Divided We Fall; 4. Amen; 5. Wannsee Conference.
 - Host a scholar in residence, Dr. Norbert Kampe of the Wannsee Documentation Center , and organize presentations & discussions on the BGSU campus, at the BG High School, and in the community (Findlay, Toledo).
 - Assist in mounting the oratorio TIKVAH by Burton Beerman at the College of Musical Arts at BGSU.
 - Organize an interdisciplinary conference in Spring 2006 on intergenerational representations of the Holocaust in the arts and humanities. (see call for papers)
4. Visit museums, participate in lecture series at neighboring universities.

2. Workshop Program: “Deadly Discrimination: Re-viewing the ‘Final Solution’ and its Consequences”

Dates: March 24-May 7, 2005

Brief text:

Hitler intended to annihilate all Jews and all memory of them with his “Final Solution,” presented at a conference at a Wannsee villa in Berlin on January 20, 1942. The result of the “Wannsee Conference” was genocide of European Jews. During the weeks leading up to *Yom HaShoah*, Holocaust Remembrance Day, on May 6, 2005 the following films, presentations, and the oratorio “Tikvah: A Concert of Hope and Remembrance” challenge us to revisit the events preceding and following the Wannsee Conference.

Featured guest scholar: Dr. Norbert Kampe, Director of the House of the Wannsee Conference: Memorial and Education Site, Berlin.

All events are free and open to the public

Thursday, March 24, 7:30pm: “Train de Vie” (Train of Life) 1998 Gish Film Theatre, Bowling Green State University (Introduction: Dr. Christina Guenther)

Thursday, March 31, 7:30pm: “Rosenstrasse”, 2003 Gish Film Theatre (Introduction: Dr. Michael Latham)

Thursday, April 7, 7:30pm: “Musime si pomahat (Divided We Fall), 2000 Gish Film Theatre (Introduction: Ramona Dunckel, English)

Thursday, April 14, 7:30pm: “Amen”, 2002, Gish Film Theatre (Introduction: Dr. Beth Griech-Polelle)

Thursday, April 21,
Dr. Kampe, Director of Wannsee Documentation Center, arrival from Berlin in Detroit at 4:15pm

Friday, April 22 or Saturday, April 23
Celesta and Burton Beerman have plans for Dr. Kampe

Sunday, April 24,
Passover Seder with the Markowicz family.

Monday, April 25,
12:00 Lunch with workshop organizers and Dr. Bettina Shuford, Vice President for Student Affairs/ Director of Multicultural Affairs,

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4:30-5:45pm Dr. Kampe speaks in Dr. Griech-Polelle's European Women's History Class

Tuesday, April 26,

11:30-12:45 Dr. Kampe speaks in Dr. Howes' German Culture and Civilization Class

3:30-4:30pm Dr. Kampe speaks to undergraduate students at Chapman Learning Community, BGSU

7:30pm Dr. Kampe introduces *Tikvah: A Concert of Hope and Remembrance*, based on the memoirs of Philip Markowicz, a cutting edge chamber music theatre event created and conceived by Burton Beerman, Bryan Recital Hall, College of Musical Arts

Wednesday, April 27,

Lunch meeting with Senior Citizens Group in Findlay

6-9pm Dr. Kampe speaks to Dr. Griech-Polelle's Nazi Policy History Seminar.

Thursday, April 28,

Possible taping of television interview for "The Editors" in the morning.

7:30pm Dr. Kampe introduces (with ensuing discussion) "The Wannsee Conference", (1984) Gish Film Theatre

Friday, April 29, 4:00pm: Faculty Roundtable Book Club, University of Findlay

Saturday, April 30 ,

Breakfast with the Bowling Green Rotary Club.

Sunday, May 1

11:00 am Meeting with the Maumee Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bowling Green.

Monday, May 2,

12:00pm Lunch with Executive Vice President Dr. Linda Dobb & Dean of the Graduate College, Dr. Heinz Bulmahn

7:00pm Hancock County Historical Society and Findlay Public Library, Community Room

Tuesday, May 3,

Morning meeting with Bowling Green Senior Citizen's Club

Wednesday, May 4:

Address Bowling Green High School students in the afternoon.

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Thursday, May 5

7:00pm, Dr. Kampe's Address Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day, sponsored by the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center and the United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo, at Temple Shomer Emunim in Sylvania, Ohio.

Friday, May 6, 2005: Mayor's Diversity Breakfast at the McMaster Center in Toledo, 250 students from Northwest Ohio to attend.

Saturday, May 7, 2005: Dr. Kampe Departure at 1:45pm

Sponsors:

BGSU College of Arts & Sciences, College of Musical Arts, Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, Department of German, Russian & East Asian Languages, Department of History, Department of Theater and Film, School of Art, Ethnic Cultural Arts Program, English Graduate Students, German Club, History Society, Maumee Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Ohio Humanities Council, Rotary Club of BG, Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center, Toledo Jewish Foundation, University of Findlay, Vision

3. Call for Papers: Trajectories of Memory: Intergenerational Representations of the Holocaust in History and the Arts

March 23-26, 2006
Bowling Green State University, Ohio

Keynote Speakers: Marianne Hirsch (Comparative Literature) and Leo Spitzer (History)-Columbia University

Proposal Deadline:
October 15, 2006

We invite scholars across academic disciplines (history, literature, visual arts, political science, religious studies, philosophy, psychology and sociology) to present new research on explorations of the effect of the Holocaust on the present and on the way in which the present understands, defines and/or represents that past.

Possible questions to consider would include: the evolution of the Holocaust as discourse; how does one negotiate the language of the Holocaust as survivors die, leaving future generations responsible for the vocalization of their memories; what are the limits of acceptable discourse when discussing the Shoah? How do survivors of perpetrators and bystanders navigate through feelings of guilt and responsibility? How do survivors talk to each other and how do they talk to their children?

Possible topics:

- Memory as both a cultural and an individual phenomenon
- Generational memory: the relationship of intergenerational memories mediated through recollection (on the part of witnesses) and mediated through “imaginative investment and creativity” (M. Hirsch)
- Memory in public culture
- National memory
- Memory and witness testimony
- Postmemory and modes of representation
- Ways in which modes of visual, literary and historical representation shape private & public memory
- Representation of the Holocaust as an effect of the repetition or proliferation of texts, images, iconic figures
- Gender and the construction of memory
- Memory and the discourse of authenticity in Holocaust studies

Conference Organizers:
Christina Guenther, German

Beth Griech-Polelle, History