

April 2015

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From the Director

Los Angeles, April 30, 2015

In the month of April, Human Rights and Genocide Awareness Month in the U.S., we commemorate all instances of genocide. This year is especially important, as it marks the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. For us here at the Center, this centennial has been an opportunity to raise awareness of mass violence by hosting distinguished scholarship.

At the start of Genocide Awareness Month, the Center welcomed Dr. Ugur Üngör of Utrecht University in the Netherlands, who presented a timely lecture on the Kurdish involvement in the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Üngör suggested that because of the tribal structure of Kurdish society, resistance and perpetration varied greatly between regions. Similar to the Holocaust, material gains provided great incentives for perpetration, while personal relationships often fostered resistance. The talk was attended by over 60 students, faculty, and members of the Armenian community and was followed by a lively discussion. For a full report please see below.

In April, I was also a part of the USC Shoah Foundation delegation to Armenia, which included Executive Director Dr. Stephen Smith, Director of Research and Documentation Karen Jungblut, Director of Administration Ari Zev, and Professor Emeritus at UCLA Richard Hovannisian. I participated in the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, and met potential partners for future scholarly and archival cooperation. We presented Hayk Demoyan, the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum & Institute, with a hard drive containing the first 60 interviews of the Armenian Film Foundation that were recently integrated into the USC Shoah Foundation's VHA. By the fall, the Visual History Archive will include all of the 400 video interviews from the collection. The Armenian Genocide Museum & Institute will soon become a full access site to the VHA, so visitors and scholars in Yerevan can access all 52,000 testimonies in the USC Shoah Foundation collection. We also met with representatives from the Department of Armenian Studies at Yerevan State University, the Armenian National Archive, and other organizations to learn about their programs and resources and discuss future cooperation to exchange source materials and scholarship. Last but not least, our delegation attended the official commemoration on April 24th at the

Armenian Genocide Memorial, where world leaders gathered to remember and acknowledge the genocide.

Finally, the Center is pleased to announce our 2015-2016 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow, Julia Werner. Her innovative and interdisciplinary research looks at the everyday lives of Polish Jews under Nazi occupation through the lens of photography and visual history. Please check back in the coming months for more updates about this exciting young scholar. For more information please see below.

Wolf Gruner
Director, USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research
Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies
Professor of History

Recent Events

Center Announces 2015-2016 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow

The Center for Advanced Genocide Research is pleased to announce Jullia Werner as the 2015-2016 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow. She is a final year PhD student at Humboldt University in Berlin. Her innovative and interdisciplinary dissertation explores the daily lives of Jews in occupied Poland, focusing on the analysis of contemporary photographs. During her tenure, Werner will use the testimonies in the Visual History Archive to provide context for photographs and to unearth their hidden stories. She will be joining us for her residency at the Center early in the Spring 2015 semester.

The Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellowship provides funding for a junior scholar to spend up to one month in residence at the Center to conduct their research.

Learn more about our Fellowship programs [here...](#)

Dr. Ugur Üngör of Utrecht University Lectured on the place of the Kurds in the Armenian Genocide

On Wednesday, April 8th, the Center for Advanced Genocide Research welcomed Dr. Ugur Üngör, Utrecht University, who presented a lecture on the Kurdish Involvement in the Armenian Genocide. Dr. Üngör identified the ways in which the Kurdish people acted

as both perpetrators and resisters to the genocide in 1915.

[Learn More...](#)



Special Collections

Please consider donating private papers, documents, photographs or films regarding the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Center works with USC Libraries Special Collections to preserve private collections and make them accessible for academic research and student investigation.

To find out more about donating materials, please visit our website at cagr.usc.edu or call 213-740-6001.

For more information about the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research and its work, please visit our website at: cagr.usc.edu

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The Institute for Visual History and Education
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