

December 2015

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From the Director

Los Angeles, December 30, 2015

As soon as December begins, it seems that everybody turns towards reviewing and reflecting on the year that is soon to be past. This past year for the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research has been one marked by significant growth. While there are too many highlights from our activities to list them all individually, the scope of our achievements in this past year has been truly impressive.

The year began with a pair of lectures by the Center's first cohort of fellows, Dr. Peg LeVine (2014-2015 Center Fellow) and Jared McBride (2014-2015 Greenberg Fellow). In 2015, the Center selected its second cohort of fellows, Dr. Kiril Feferman (2015-2016 Center Fellow) and Julia Werner (2015-2016 Greenberg Fellow), who will be giving public lectures in early February. Our international fellows focus on an array of understudied topics, including "ritualcide" in Cambodia, i.e. the deliberate destruction of tradition and rituals during the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge; the history of inter-ethnic relationships during the Holocaust in the Western Ukraine; the role that religion played in the lives of Jewish victims and non-Jewish aid providers during the Holocaust in the German-occupied Soviet territories; and the use of photography in ghettos in Nazi-occupied Poland during World War II.

In addition to the cutting-edge research we fostered through our fellowships, the Center's academic program this past year featured public lectures by a number of invited renowned international scholars. Their lectures covered topics such as the similarities and differences between anti-Semitism and homophobia in Nazi Germany; the complicated role of the Kurdish people as perpetrators and as rescuers during the Armenian genocide; the research methods (forensic, archival, testimonial) used by anthropologists investigating the Guatemalan genocide against the indigenous Mayan population in the early 1980s; and the fate of German Jews who were married to non-Jewish spouses in the final years of World War II.

In October, the Center hosted its first international conference entitled "Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide." Scholars from various disciplines gathered to explore the relationship between music and resistance during the Holocaust, the Armenian genocide, the Indonesian mass killings of 1965-1966, the apartheid in South Africa, and in contemporary film. We also hosted or co-hosted multiple film screenings of documentaries about the Holocaust, the Rwandan genocide, the Armenian genocide, and other conflicts. The film screenings were always followed by passionate and intense discussions.

In the activities and research I have described here, you can see a great variety in the topics, time periods, geographic areas, and episodes of mass violence explored. This diversity is one of the features that most distinguishes our Center and illustrates our commitment to advancing new areas of genocide research in truly innovative ways. In our activities, fellowships, programs, and conferences in 2015, the Center has welcomed scholars from Anthropology, Musicology, History, Visual Studies, Global Health, Sociology, and others. It is through truly interdisciplinary attention to understudied areas that we can make the greatest impact in shaping the field of genocide studies and research

moving forward.

The Center could not have experienced such growth this year without your support. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for supporting our activities and programs. I am excited for you to experience what the Center has in store for 2016. In addition to our fellows' public lectures in February, and the return visit of scholars from the Holocaust Geographies Collective in January, we are looking forward to more visits from renowned international scholars. Our 2016 calendar is going to be full of new and exciting research presentations and activities. We greatly anticipate our next groundbreaking international conference "A 'Conflict'? Genocide and Resistance in Guatemala." Political scientists, anthropologists, specialists in international relations, and historians from Guatemala, Mexico, Spain, Canada, and the U.S. will delve into this unique set of mass atrocities and explore resistance efforts that have been mostly overlooked in the academic literature on genocide and mass violence.

In addition to compelling activities and presentations, 2016 will also be filled with exciting opportunities, such as the fellowships the Center bestows. Hence, I want to draw your attention to the fact that we have extended the deadline for the Center Fellowship for senior scholars to the end of January. Applications for the Greenberg Fellowship for PhD candidates are due at the end of February. (For more details, see below.) Please share these opportunities widely.

We hope you are enjoying happy holidays, and we wish you a productive and healthy 2016. We invite you to join us in the new year for more trendsetting research, lively events, and stimulating discussions.

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

News



From left to right: Istvan Gróf, Chief of Consular Section for the Consulate General of Hungary in Los Angeles; Kim Simon, Managing Director of the USC Shoah Foundation; Szabolcs Takács, Deputy State Secretary for Global Affairs of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry and current Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; László Kálmán, Hungarian Consul General; Wolf Gruner, Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research; Paul Lerner, Director of the USC Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies

Hungarian Delegation Visits the USC Shoah Foundation

This month we were honored to welcome Dr. László Kálmán, the Hungarian Consul General, and Szabolcs Takács, the current Chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, to the USC Shoah Foundation and the Center. After they were introduced to the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and the iWitness education platform, watching testimonies specifically from Hungarian Holocaust survivors, we visited the Special Collections in the USC Doheny Memorial Library. There we all examined some of the materials relevant to the Holocaust in Hungary, such as a diary and letters written by Jews in Budapest in 1944.

Upcoming Events

“Placing Testimony”

A presentation by members of the **Holocaust Geographies Collective**

Alberto Giordano (Texas State University)

Anne Knowles (Middlebury College)

Tim Cole (University of Bristol)

Paul Jaskot (DePaul University)

Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 4 PM
USC, Social Sciences Building, Room 250



In this presentation, the four visiting members of the Holocaust Geographies Collective will explain how they plan to use new methods of textual analysis to find traces of place and spatial experience in testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, in particular focusing on survivors' experiences of work, movement, belonging, and alienation. The presenters will also discuss what the narrative structure of oral histories reveals about continuities and discontinuities in Holocaust memory and Holocaust experience.

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at cagr@usc.edu.

Read about their first visit [here](#).

[See also...](#)

This event is co-sponsored with the USC Mellon Digital Humanities Program.

"Religion and Jewish Survival in the Occupied Soviet Territories"

A lecture by **Dr. Kiril Feferman (Israel/Russia)**

**2015-2016 Center Fellow
at USC Shoah Foundation Center for
Advanced Genocide Research**

Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 4 PM
USC Doheny Memorial Library, Room 240

Dr. Kiril Feferman has conducted extensive research on the Holocaust in Crimea, the North Caucasus and the Soviet Union. In this lecture, he will illuminate an important and previously underresearched aspect of the Holocaust: the role of religion in influencing the behavior and decisions of Jews and non-Jews in the Soviet territories during German occupation.

Dr. Feferman has authored two books based on his extensive research, *The Holocaust on the Russian Ethnic Frontier: The Crimea and North Caucasus* and *Soviet Jewish Stepchild: The Holocaust in the Soviet Mindset, 1941-1964*, as well as edited or co-edited multiple collections on the Holocaust and/or mass violence. Dr. Feferman is currently finishing his third book project, *"If We Had Wings, We Would Fly to You": A Soviet Jewish Family Faces Destruction, 1941-42*, which is under review by Indiana University Press.

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at cagr@usc.edu.

[Learn more...](#)

Read more about Dr. Feferman [here](#).



A lecture by Julia Werner (Humboldt University, Berlin)

**2015-2016 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow
at USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced
Genocide Research**

Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 4 PM
USC, Social Sciences Building, Room 250

Julia Werner's research looks at photography in occupied Poland during National Socialism, focusing on the medium not only as historical source material, but also as an act of intervention. She will be using her time at the Center for Advanced Genocide Research to connect the uses and methodology of oral history sources with photographic ones.

Julia Werner is an advanced PhD candidate in History at Humboldt University in Berlin, where she is working with Dr. Michael Wildt and Dr. Amos Morris-Reich (University of Haifa). She is also currently a Research Assistant to Dr. Wildt and



works on the DFG-funded project "Photography During National Socialism: Visualizations of Everyday Inclusions and Exclusions, 1933-1945."

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at cagr@usc.edu.

[Learn more...](#)

Read more about Julia Werner [here](#).

Opportunities

Call for Applications:

The 2016-2017 Center Fellowship

Deadline Extended: January 31, 2016

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites applications from senior scholars for its 2016-2017 Center Research Fellowship.

The fellowship provides \$30,000 support and will be awarded to an outstanding senior scholar from any discipline who will advance genocide research through the use of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and other USC resources. The USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive holds over 53,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides, including the Rwandan, Armenian, Guatemalan genocides and the Nanjing Massacre in China. The incumbent will spend one semester in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the research proposal, its potential to advance research within the field of Holocaust and genocide studies, and the distinguished achievements of the candidate. The chosen fellow will be expected to provide the Center with fresh research perspectives, to play a role in Center activities, and to give a public talk during his or her stay.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, CV, research proposal (max. 3 pages), discussing the topic, methodological approach, and relevant USC resources by **January 31st, 2016** to cagr@usc.edu.

For more details, click [here](#).

Reminder: Call for Applications

Greenberg Research Fellowship for PhD Candidates 2016-2017

Deadline: February 29, 2016

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites research proposals from advanced standing Ph.D. candidates for its 2016-2017 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Research Fellowship.

The fellowship provides \$4,000 support for dissertation research focused on testimony from the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, a collection of over 53,000 video testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides, including the Rwandan, Armenian, Guatemalan genocides and the Nanjing Massacre in China. The incumbent will spend up to one month in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the 2016-2017 academic year.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the proposal and its potential to advance research with testimonies in the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive. The fellow will be expected to provide the Center with fresh perspectives, to play a role in Center activities, and to give a public talk during the stay.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, CV, proposal abstract (1-3 pages), writing sample, and recommendation letter from your PhD advisor **by February 29th, 2016** to cagr@usc.edu.

For more details, click [here](#).

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

To subscribe to the Center's mailing list, please email cagr@usc.edu or click [here](#).