

February 2016

[cagr.usc.edu](http://cagr.usc.edu)

## From the Director

*Los Angeles, February 29, 2016*

This has been an exciting month as the Center hosted lectures by our fellows in early and mid-February. Our 2015-2016 Center Fellow Kiril Feferman wrapped up his four-month residency with a public lecture based on his research in the Visual History Archive on the role of religion in influencing the decisions and behavior of Jews and non-Jews in the German-occupied Soviet territories. Our 2015-2016 Greenberg Fellow Julia Werner was in residence at the Center in February and shared with us her exciting research on photography in occupied Poland and how she is using testimonies from the Visual History Archive to contextualize the photos and deepen and broaden her analysis. You can read more about their lectures below.

We have some unique upcoming lectures at the Center that feature innovative research. Alina Bothe, who wrote her dissertation on the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive, will be giving a lecture at USC about her research. At the end of March, we will welcome Dan Stone, whose research about concentration camps moves beyond specific national contexts in order to expand our understanding of concentration camps in global history. Atina Grossmann will be visiting us from New York in April for a lecture co-sponsored by the USC Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies about the experiences and memories often neglected by Holocaust historians – those of Jewish refugees in the Soviet Union, Iran, and India. (For more information on these upcoming events, see below.)

The Center is expanding its global connections as we receive visitors from around the world. The Center prides itself on opening our doors to scholars from all levels who visit the Center to conduct research using the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and other unique USC research resources. This month we have had visitors ranging from a masters student from Paris to a senior scholar from Australia. Our 2014-2015 Center Fellow Peg LeVine returned for a visit, continuing to work with our Cambodian testimonies and pursuing her own research with the local Cambodian community. You can read more about her visit [here](#).

Our Center's connections to other academic institutions are also increasing as I embark on many travels in the coming months, including travel to Western Galilee College in Akko, Israel, Cornell University in Ithaca, University of Texas in Austin, and Texas A&M University, where I will be discussing my research on Jewish defiance and resistance. Resistance during the Holocaust is still mostly understood as organized or armed group activity, hence overlooking individual acts of opposition. A closer analysis of these acts at the micro level of the Third Reich society challenges the common image of the Jews as passive victims. With hitherto unused local archival sources from various cities as well as video testimonies, I demonstrate in my research that German Jews performed many individual acts of defiance and even expressed open protest in public against Nazi persecution starting in 1933 up to well into the war. Since many of these Jews were arrested and later perished, their courageous attitudes and actions have been mostly forgotten. The results of this research promise to alter our understanding of how the Jewish population responded towards persecution.

In addition to my public lectures, I will be hosting workshops at Cornell and Texas A&M to engage faculty in using video testimonies from the Visual History Archive in their research and teaching. With over 53,000 video testimonies conducted in 39 languages and in 63 countries, covering the life histories of survivors and other eyewitnesses of the Holocaust, the Rwandan and Armenian genocides and the Nanjing Massacre in China, the possibilities are endless for how this material can be incorporated into courses and into scholarly research.

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

## News



Kiril Feferman and Wolf Gruner

### **Center Fellow Wraps Up Residency with Public Lecture on Religion and Jewish Survival in the Occupied Soviet Territories**

On Tuesday February 2, 2016, Dr. Kiril Feferman, our 2015-2016 Center Fellow, gave a public lecture focusing on the underresearched topic of the relationship between religion and survival in the Nazi-occupied Soviet territories between 1941 and 1944. From extensive research in the Visual History Archive made possible by the Center Research Fellowship and his four-month residency at the Center, Dr. Feferman has identified a wide variety of ways that religion influenced the behavior and decisions of Jews and non-Jews in these territories. Accompanying his analysis, Dr. Feferman offered many powerful excerpts of the testimonies related to survival, rescue, and religion. He explained that the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive has been essential in preserving the memory of what happened in these territories during World War II. If the Shoah Foundation set out to collect these testimonies now, there would be nothing to be recorded because so many survivors from this region have passed away.

Read more about his lecture [here](#).

View his lecture [here](#).



From left to right: Julia Werner, Wolf Gruner, Margee Greenberg, Douglas Greenberg

### **Greenberg Fellow Lectures on Photography in Occupied Poland**

On Thursday February 11, 2016, Julia Werner, our 2015-2016 Greenberg Fellow, gave a public lecture focusing on photographs of ghettoization of the Jewish population in Poland, which is part of her wider dissertation research project on photography in occupied Poland. We were delighted and honored to welcome Margee and Douglas Greenberg, who endowed this research fellowship for advanced-standing PhD candidates, to the lecture. After offering her analysis of a collection of private photographs documenting the moment of ghettoization in Kutno, a town in Western Poland, Werner explained how her research with testimonies from the Visual History Archive is adding new layers of context, complexity, and value to her project. Photographs often portray the ghettoized as a homogenous group. Testimonies help restore the voice, agency, and individuality of the ghettoized. Relating photographic sources with the testimonies allows people to look beyond the pictorial frame and get an idea of what happened outside the picture. Werner described herself as amazed by the number of relevant testimonies she has discovered during her research.

Read more about her lecture [here](#).

View her lecture [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

## “Meeting Survivors Online – Negotiating Memory in the ‘Virtual In-Between’”

A lecture by **Alina Bothe (Germany)**

**2015-2016 USC Shoah Foundation Teaching Fellow**

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 4 PM  
USC, Social Sciences Building, Room 250

The digitization of testimonies in the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive has not only changed the sources of media material, but also the sphere through which history is researched, written and perceived. The “digital turn” offers complex new challenges for historical research and narration. In this presentation, Alina Bothe will discuss why users of the Archive often have the impression of “meeting” the survivors, even though they have “only” been watching a testimony in the digital archive.



Alina Bothe studied History, Politics and Eastern European History at Freie Universität Berlin. From 2012 to 2015 she was a Research Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg.

She and Gertrud Pickhan were awarded the 2015-2016 USC Shoah Foundation Teaching Fellowship.

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu).

[Learn more...](#)

## "Concentration Camps: A Global History"

A lecture by **Dan Stone (Royal Holloway, University of London)**

Tuesday March 29, 2016 at 4 PM  
USC, Herklotz Room, Doheny Memorial Library (Music Library)

In this talk, Dan Stone asks how comparative and transnational approaches to concentration camps can help us to understand their emergence and spread around the world. He suggests that a historical analysis outside of specific national contexts, when set alongside claims about the "meaning" of camps made by philosophers and sociologists, can provide a rounded account of the concentration camp phenomenon.



Dan Stone is Professor of Modern History at Royal Holloway, University of London, where he has taught since 1999. He is the author or editor of fifteen books and some 70 scholarly articles, including: *Breeding Superman: Nietzsche, Race and Eugenics in Edwardian and Interwar Britain* (Liverpool University Press, 2002); *Histories of the Holocaust* (Oxford University Press, 2010);

*Goodbye to All That? The Story of Europe since 1945* (Oxford University Press, 2014); and *The Liberation of the Camps: The End and Aftermath of the Holocaust* (Yale University Press, 2015).

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu).

[See also...](#)

## “Remapping Survival: Jewish Refugees and Lost Memories in the Soviet Union, Iran, and India”

A lecture by **Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union, New York)**

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7 PM  
USC Max Kade Institute  
2714 S. Hoover Street, Los Angeles CA 90007  
(Parking is available at the Institute or on Hoover.)



In this lecture, Atina Grossmann integrates largely unexamined experiences and lost memories of displacement, trauma, and rescue in the Soviet Union, Iran, and India into our understanding of the Shoah, remapping the landscape of persecution, survival, relief and rescue during and after World War II.

Atina Grossmann is Professor of History in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Cooper Union in New York City. Publications include *Reforming Sex: The German Movement for Birth Control and Abortion Reform, 1920-1950* (1995), *Wege in der Fremde: Deutsch-jüdische Begegnungsgeschichte zwischen New York, Berlin und Teheran* (2012), and co-edited volumes on *Crimes of War: Guilt and Denial in the Twentieth Century* (2002) and *After the Nazi Racial State: Difference and Democracy in Germany and Europe* (2009). Her book *Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied Germany* (2007, German, Wallstein 2012) was awarded the George L. Mosse Prize of the American Historical Association and the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History from the Wiener Library, London.

Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu).

[Learn more...](#)

*This event is co-sponsored by the USC Max Kade Institute for Austrian-German-Swiss Studies.*

## Opportunities

Call for Applications

**Teaching Fellowship  
Academic Year 2016-2017**

## **Deadline: April 15, 2016**

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites proposals for its 2016-2017 Teaching Fellowship that will provide summer support for faculty at universities and colleges that are USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive (VHA) access sites to integrate testimonies from the Visual History Archive into new or existing courses.

The fellowship is open to any faculty at any university or college that is a VHA access site. It is open to all disciplinary and methodological approaches and will be awarded on a competitive basis to the most interesting project or projects. Proposals will be judged according to the centrality of the VHA interviews to the course content. Preference will be given to classes that will be taught in the 2016-2017 academic year for existing courses and the 2017-2018 year for new course proposals.

The fellowship provides a \$2,000 stipend with an additional \$500 for in-class materials related to the testimonies.

The USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive holds over 53,000 video testimonies of survivors and other eyewitnesses of the Holocaust, the Rwandan and Armenian genocides, and the Nanjing Massacre in China. The interviews were conducted in 39 languages and in 63 countries. They encompass the experiences not only of survivors in these contexts, but also of witnesses, liberators, aid providers, and war crimes trials participants. These interviews are life histories, and as such their subject matter includes the history and culture of the countries of the interviewees' birth and their lives before, during and after genocide. The interviews average two hours in length and offer a wealth of possibilities for integration into many disciplines' coursework.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, current CV, and proposal (2-3 pages) **by April 15th, 2016** to [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu).

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

Click below to read about opportunities for teaching fellowships at:

[Texas A&M University \(A.I. and Manet Schepps Foundation Teaching Fellow Program\)](#)

[University of Pennsylvania \(Rutman Fellowship for Research and Teaching\)](#)

## Call for Applications

### **Summer Research Fellowships for USC students and faculty Summer 2016**

#### **Deadline: March 31, 2016**

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites research proposals from undergraduate and graduate USC students and USC faculty for its Summer Research Fellowships. These fellowships provide support for USC students and faculty doing research focused on the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and/or other unique USC resources and collections during the summer of 2016.

USC is the home of internationally unique and growing research resources, which include 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; a *Holocaust and genocide studies collection* at Doheny Memorial Library with 14,000 primary and secondary sources, including the Nuremberg Trials papers and a class action lawsuit against New York Life regarding the Armenian genocide; and a *Special Collection* containing private papers of German and Austrian Jewish emigrants from the Third Reich.

The DEFY Summer Research Fellowships for undergraduate USC students provide \$1,000 support. The Summer Research Fellowships for USC graduate students and faculty provide \$3,000 support. Award decisions for these fellowships will be based on the originality of the research proposal and the centrality of USC resources to the research project.

Summer Research Fellows will be expected to spend three to four weeks in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the summer of 2016, to play a role in the activities of the Center, and to give a public presentation based on their work and findings during the following academic year.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, current CV, and research proposal, including a project outline and a description of methodology, **by March 31, 2016** to [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu). Undergraduate and graduate students should include a letter of recommendation from a faculty advisor.

**For more details, click below:**

[DEFY Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowships](#)  
[Graduate/Faculty Summer Research Fellowships](#)

## 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](http://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](http://cagr.usc.edu)**

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