

March 2016

cagr.usc.edu

From the Director

Los Angeles, March 31, 2016

March has been yet another exciting month here at the Center. As we are gearing up to celebrate our second anniversary next month, we hosted lectures, welcomed visiting scholars, and we directed more of our efforts to reaching out to the global community of genocide scholars.

Alina Bothe, PhD, from Freie Universität Berlin, who wrote her dissertation on the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and received the Center's international teaching fellowship last year for her research with students on the deportation of Polish Jews from Berlin in 1938, gave a lecture at USC about her doctoral research. (See below for more information about her talk.) The Center also hosted a lecture by Professor Dan Stone from Royal Holloway, University of London whose innovative research about concentration camps moves beyond specific national contexts in order to expand our understanding of such camps in global history. (You will read more about his talk in our April newsletter.)

This month, the Center also welcomed Professor Brian Schiff from American University of Paris. Professor Schiff is the director of George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention at AUP. The Schaeffer Center is now the first full access site for the video testimonies of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive in Paris. Professor Schiff's visit marks the beginning of an exciting scholarly collaboration with our newest partner. AUP visiting graduate student [Stefanie Kundakjian](#) inaugurated this collaboration. As one of the first recipients of a Schaeffer Center fellowship, Stefanie came to the Center for Advanced Genocide Research to conduct research on gender and memory using testimonies from the new Armenian genocide testimony collection in the Visual History Archive.

In March, the USC Shoah Foundation also hosted its bi-annual board meeting, giving the Center an opportunity to invite two of its affiliated scholars to present about their most recent research. USC Neuroscience Postdoctoral Research Associate Glenn Fox presented on his [groundbreaking research on gratitude](#) while Texas State University Geography Professor and Chair Alberto Giordano explained how his multidisciplinary Holocaust Geographies Collaborative research group uses the archive to analyze the places and spaces of the Holocaust. (Read more [here](#).)

My own research on individual Jewish defiance and protest in Nazi Germany, which I described in the previous newsletter, is just one illustration of how scholars can draw from video testimonies. In March, I presented my research at a public lecture at Cornell University and a keynote address during "The Future of Holocaust Testimonies" conference at Western Galilee College in Akko, Israel demonstrating to fellow researchers the powerful uses of testimonies that can confirm, complement, or complicate other sources. In the coming week, I will be traveling to Texas to lecture about my research at Texas A&M University and University of Texas at Austin.

Our outreach efforts to academic institutions continued this month as I hosted a workshop at Cornell University to engage faculty in how to use 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, there are so many possibilities for how this material can be incorporated into courses and into scholarly research.

Finally, April will be an important month for us: it marks not only Genocide Awareness Month but it is also the Center for Advanced Genocide Research's second anniversary. Stay tuned as we will be taking this opportunity to launch changes to our website, which will include more resources for scholars, as well as a revamped newsletter.

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

News

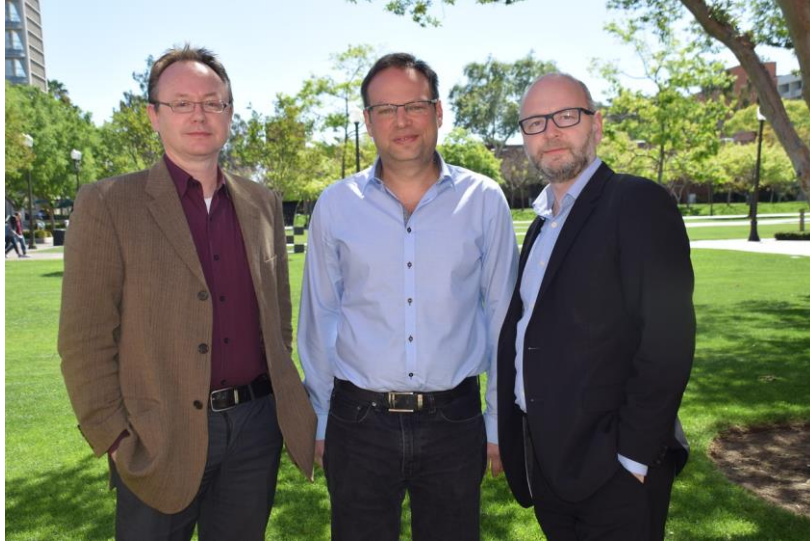


Teaching Fellow Lectures on How Users Experience the Visual History Archive

Alina Bothe, PhD, the 2015-2016 USC Shoah Foundation Teaching Fellow, gave a public lecture at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research focusing on the way users experience and relate to the testimonies in the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive. Bothe's PhD thesis examines the digital turn in Shoah history, and she describes the Visual History Archive as the "paradigmatic archive" for exploring and analyzing the digital turn in Shoah history and Shoah studies. In her talk, she analyzed 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.

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

View her lecture [here](#).



From left to right: Wolf Gruner, Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research; Brian Schiff, Director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, American University of Paris; Stephen Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation

Director of the Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, American University of Paris, visits the Center for Advanced Genocide Research

The visit of Professor Brian Schiff, the director of the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention at the American University of Paris, marks the beginning of a scholarly collaboration between our centers. American University of Paris is now the first full access site for the Visual History Archive in Paris. Future scholarly collaboration between our centers will entail workshops, lectures, and exchanges of speakers and fellows.

Upcoming Events

“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.

[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.

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 \(Rutman Fellowship for Research and Teaching\)](#)

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](#).