

## From the Director

*Los Angeles, November 30, 2015*

At a time when violent extremism from Paris to Beirut is sending shockwaves around the world, we are reminded of the importance of advancing our knowledge about the causes, patterns, experiences, and consequences of mass violence. Along these lines, this month was a fruitful and active one for the Center with several visitors and lively public events.

This month we were honored to welcome Maximilian Strnad for a public lecture. Strnad is an advanced PhD candidate from the University of Munich who has already authored two books. His pioneering research examines the experiences of the last remaining Jews under the German Reich -- intermarried Jews. Jews who were married to non-Jewish spouses were exempt from deportation until the final months of the war, but they and their spouses faced a range of persecutions that often varied by region. (For more information about his lecture see below.)

In partnership with DEFY, the USC Shoah Foundation student organization, we also hosted the screening of Peter Logue's documentary *The Search for the White Rose*. The documentary focuses on a small group of University of Munich students and one professor who published and distributed anti-Nazi leaflets in 1942. Known as the White Rose, the members of the resistance group were ultimately executed by the Gestapo. The film explores their legacy. After the screening, a panel discussion with the filmmaker and three USC student activists connected the example of student resistance in Nazi Germany to the experience of and responses to racism happening now on college campuses in the United States.

We also co-sponsored an event with the USC Casden Institute and USC's Max Kade Institute in mid-November – the Jerome Nemer lecture and documentary screening of *Defiant Requiem*. The film picked up the topic of our October event about music as resistance to genocide. Later that day, Stuart Eizenstat gave the keynote lecture followed by my commentary. An American diplomat and attorney, Ambassador Eizenstat served as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State on Holocaust-Era issues under President Clinton. In that capacity, he negotiated agreements with the Swiss, Germans, Austrians, and French, about restitution of property, payment for slave and forced laborers, recovery of looted arts, bank accounts, and payments of insurance policies. In his lecture, entitled “How to Provide Imperfect Justice for Holocaust Victims in the 21st Century,” Eizenstat shared his reflections on how to perpetuate the memory and lessons of the Holocaust and to honor the remaining survivors.

In my commentary, I looked back at the 1990s when the Germans were at first hesitant to pay recompensation. It took international diplomatic pressure, such as that applied by then-Special Representative Eizenstat, and a shift in German public opinion after several domestic Holocaust debates to arrive at a positive outcome and arrange for a fund of 10 billion marks partly funded by the German government and German enterprises. During the time of the negotiations, as a young scholar and recent PhD on the topic of Jewish forced labor, I was part of a small academic advisory group for the German government that tried hard to include as many victim groups as possible in the agreement on Holocaust recompensations.

As we anticipate the arrival of Julia Werner, our 2015-2016 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow in January, we are issuing a call for applications for next year's Greenberg Fellow. The fellowship enables a junior scholar – from PhD candidate to early Postdoc – to spend up to a month in residence at the Center every year. (This call for applications comes as an addition to the call we have already issued for applications for our Center fellow, the deadline for which is coming up soon

in mid-December. There is more information below on both fellowships.)

In January, we will also be hosting the second visit by scholars from the Holocaust Geographies Collective. They will be spending a week continuing their geographic information science (or GIS) research in which they use the testimonies of the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive to examine spaces and places of the Holocaust. At the end of their stay, they will present their research results. Coming up in February, we are looking forward to hosting lectures by our 2014-2015 Fellows Kiril Feferman and Julia Werner. (See below.)

As we approach the final month of the year, we greatly anticipate our continuing growth and advancement in the year ahead. We hope you will join us.

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

## News

### **“The Fortune of Survival — Intermarried Jews in Nazi Germany”**

#### **A lecture by Maximilian Strnad (University of Munich)**

On Thursday November 19, 2015, Maximilian Strnad gave a public lecture about his pioneering research on the experiences of the last remaining Jews under the German Reich - intermarried Jews. Jews who were married to non-Jewish spouses were exempt from

deportation until the final months of the war, but they and their spouses faced a range of persecutions that were at first designed to pressure the couples to divorce. As the war progressed, persecution of intermarried Jews intensified.

Focusing his lecture on the last years of the war, Strnad described the increasing pressure on mixed marriages from 1943 onwards. He illuminated significant regional variation in the patterns of persecution, offering powerful illustrations of differential targeting of intermarried Jews depending on the actions of local authorities. He then examined in detail two key persecution measures – intermarried Jews being used in labor battalions of the Todt Organization (OT) and the order for intermarried Jews to be deported to Terezin (Theresienstadt) in the Spring of 1945.

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

View his lecture [here](#).



## Upcoming Events

## Holocaust Geographies Collective

A presentation by Alberto Giordano (Texas State University), Anne Knowles (Middlebury College), Tim Cole (Bristol University), and Paul Jaskot (DePaul University)

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

The Holocaust Geographies Collective is a multi-institutional, collaborative nine-member research group. Four of its members -- two geographers, one historian, and one art historian from different universities in the US and UK -- will spend a week at the Center for Advanced Genocide Research continuing their GIS research in which they use the Visual History Archive testimonies to examine social spaces and geographical places of the Holocaust. They will present the results of their second visit at this public event.

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

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

[See also...](#)

*This event is in cooperation with the USC Digital Humanities program.*



## "Placing Religion in the Context of 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, but said there is one subject that is severely underrepresented in the field of Holocaust research: the role that religion played in the lives of Jewish and non-Jewish aid providers, aid recipients and survivors in the Soviet Union.



Dr. Feferman authored two books, *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 [shefalid@usc.edu](mailto:shefalid@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**

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. Werner 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 the Chair of German History at the university, in which capacity she 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 [shefalid@usc.edu](mailto:shefalid@usc.edu).**

[Learn more...](#)

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

## Opportunities

Call for Applications:

**Greenberg Research Fellowship for PhD Candidates  
2016-2017**

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites 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 Visual History Archive. 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. 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.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the proposal and its potential to advance research with testimonies in the Visual History Archive.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, CV, proposal outline, writing sample, and recommendation letter from your PhD advisor **by February 29th, 2016** to [cagr@usc.edu](mailto:cagr@usc.edu).

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

Reminder: Call for Applications:

### **The 2016-2017 Center Fellow**

***Deadline Approaching: Monday, December 14, 2015***

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites applications from senior scholars for its 2016-2017 Center Research Fellow. The fellowship provides \$30,000 support and will be awarded to an outstanding candidate from any discipline, who will advance genocide research through the use of the Visual History Archive (VHA) of the USC Shoah Foundation and other USC resources. The incumbent will spend one semester in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the 2016-2017 academic year. 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.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the research proposal and its potential to advance research within the field of Holocaust and genocide studies.

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](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)**