January 2015

From the Director

Los Angeles, January 30, 2015

January was a special month at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research. The Shoah Foundation was instrumentally involved in the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz in Poland, while we at the Center welcomed both our inaugural Greenberg Fellow and our inaugural Center Fellow to Los Angeles.

Dr. Jared McBride, who recently defended his PhD at UCLA, is the 2014-15 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow. He stayed at the Center for two weeks at the beginning of the year, during which time he used the testimonies of the Shoah Foundation archives to research the Holocaust in the multi-ethnic Volhynia region in Western Ukraine during Nazi occupation. At the end of his stay, Dr. McBride gave a highly successful and engaging lecture to a large audience consisting of students, faculty, and friends of the institute in which he discussed his micro-historical approach to the region (see below for a report about the talk). As a Visiting Professor at Columbia University this spring, Dr. McBride will continue to use Center resources in his research for his upcoming book.

Dr. Peg LeVine (Monash University, Australia), our 2014-15 Center Fellow, also joined us at the Center this month. Dr. LeVine, a clinical psychologist, medical anthropologist, and registered practitioner of Morita Therapy, teaches Global and Cultural Mental Health at the University of Melbourne and Monash University. She will be in residence at the Center the entire spring semester, and is using the Shoah Foundation archives and Center networks to inform her research on *ritualcide* (destruction of rituals and ritual objects) as a factor that primed violence under the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Dr. LeVine will be giving a lecture on her work February 26th (see below for upcoming events).

While we enjoy the company of these productive and innovative researchers at the Center for Advanced Genocide Research, we are looking forward to the selection of the Fellows for the 2015-16 academic year (see the call for applications for the 2015-16 Greenberg and Student Fellows below. Both have extended deadlines, now due March 1st, 2015).

In addition to Dr. LeVine’s talk on February 26th, upcoming events include a lecture by Dr. Peter Hayes of Northwestern University (March 10th) comparing anti-Semitism and homophobia in Nazi Germany, and one by Dr. Uğur Üngör of Utrecht University (April 8th) on the Kurdish involvement in the Armenian Genocide.

These promise to be very exciting and informative events. (See below for more details). Finally, the Center is pleased to announce the call for papers for the International Workshop “Music as Resistance to Genocide,” which will be held by the Center in cooperation with the USC Thornton School of Music (See the CfP below). The Workshop, which will take place on October 26th, 2015,
shall explore the role of music in resisting genocide and mass violence and is embedded in a series of events on this topic, including the screening of two documentary films and a concert performed by USC students of pieces of music used or composed as resistance to genocide.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and productive 2015 and look forward to seeing you at these exciting upcoming events.

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

Recent Events at the Center

Recent Lecture by 2014-2015 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellow

On Thursday, January 15th, Dr. Jared McBride, recipient of the 2014-2015 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Fellowship, lectured to a large audience of faculty, students, survivors and friends of the Center on **Constructing a Micro-history of the Holocaust in Western Ukraine**.

In his lecture, Dr. McBride addressed the productive challenge of working with a variety of sources as archival documents (such as the recently opened Ukrainian KGB files), as well as oral history testimonies from the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive (VHA). In many cases, testimony from the VHA helped Dr. McBride confirm information that is difficult to access in many of the former Soviet territories. During German occupation of the Volhynia region in Western Ukraine, much of the pogrom activities and initial killings were conducted on the ground by local police forces.

Focusing his research on the perpetrators of this violence, Dr. McBride's study looked at the involvement of the Ukrainian police in the border Volhynia region and their actions toward victims who were in many cases acquaintances or even neighbors. Choosing a micro-historical approach to the region, Dr. McBride sought to identify specific perpetrators and link them to their victims. Through archival material, he has been able to establish a detailed biographical database of Ukrainian perpetrators in Volhynia. The use of the Visual History Archive interviews allowed him to obtain testimony confirming the involvement of these specific perpetrators, who are often named by their victims in the testimonies. Using his in-depth research approach, Dr. McBride has even met with survivors who gave testimony to the VHA, reinterviewed them, and also helped them to find closure about the nature of their attackers. Dr. McBride’s lecture was indicative of the innovative ways that scholars are now using multimedia research techniques to form more sophisticated historical narratives. His presentation allows for the opening of a much broader historical debate about the implementation of these new research methods and the future of Holocaust research. The excellent talk offering so many new research results about the often independent participation of Ukrainians in the murder of Jews and Poles engaged the audience of around 80 people and provoked a lively discussion afterwards.

To view the lecture video please [click here](https://te2ma.net/message/vrii27t4qtpj)
**Upcoming Events**

**Ritualcide: Priming Mass Violence and Terror Under the Khmer Rouge**
February 26th, 2015, 4:00 pm
*USC Doheny Memorial Library, Room 240*

*A lecture with Peg LeVine, Ph.D., Ed.D*
University of Melbourne and Monash University (Australia)
2014-15 Center Fellow

Dr. Peg LeVine, Professor at the University of Melbourne and Monash University and 2014-15 Center Fellow at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Genocide Research, will define her concept of *ritualcide* and demonstrate how deliberate tampering and destruction by the Khmer Rouge emerged as an overlooked factor that primed mass violence, terror, and muteness in Cambodia.

[Learn More...](#)

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**Anti-Semitism and Homophobia in Nazi Germany:**
**Different but Related Hatreds**
March 10, 2015, 4:00 pm
*USC University Religious Center Fishbowl*

*A lecture with Peter Hayes, Ph.D.*
Northwestern University

Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation
Professor Peter Hayes examines anti-semitism and homophobia as central components of Nazi racism.

Professor Hayes will describe the differing contexts, motives, objectives, and scales of the Nazi persecutions of European Jews and German gay men, and then show that similar justification, escalation, degradation, and lasting damage characterized each process. The lecture will conclude with an examination of the contrasting aftereffects of each form of persecution on the respective prejudices after World War II.

[Learn More...](#)
The Kurds and the Armenian Genocide: Collaboration and Resistance
April 8, 2015, 4:00 pm
USC Tutor Campus Center, Room 450 - The Forum

A Lecture with Ugur Üngör, Ph.D.
Utrecht University (The Netherlands)

Associate Professor of History Dr. Ugur Üngör studies the historical sociology of mass violence. This lecture will look at how and why individual Kurdish people chose to get involved in the Armenian Genocide in 1915. Dr. Üngör will be discussing both acts of perpetration and resistance engaged in by the Kurds.

This lecture is co-hosted with the Armenian Studies Institute.

Learn More...

Future Opportunities

Call for Applications for the 2015-2016 Greenberg Fellow EXTENDED DEADLINE

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites proposals from advanced standing Ph.D. candidates for its 2015-2016 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 2015-2016 academic year.

Award decisions for this fellowship will be based on the originality of the research proposal and its potential to advance research with testimonies in the 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 outline, writing sample, and recommendation letter from your Ph.D. advisor by Friday March 1st, 2015 to cagr@usc.edu.

View the full Call for Applications...

Call for Applications for the 2015 USC Student Research Fellow EXTENDED DEADLINE

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites proposals from graduate and undergraduate students for its 2015 USC Student Research Fellow program. The fellowship provides support during summer 2015 for undergraduate and graduate USC students interested in doing research at the Visual History Archive and/or with other resources regarding the Holocaust and other genocides. Following the fellowship period, students will be expected to give a public presentation based on their work and findings and submit their final written work for archiving.

To submit an application, please send a cover letter, CV, proposal outline, writing sample, and recommendation letter from a faculty advisor by Friday, March 1st 2015 to cagr@usc.edu
Call for Papers for International Workshop "Music As Resistance to Genocide"

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research in collaboration with the USC Thornton School of Music invites papers for the 2015 international workshop "Music as Resistance to Genocide," which will take place on October 26th, 2015 in Los Angeles. We seek applications from scholars of all disciplines for papers focused on the general question: "What role does music play for individuals or groups of people to effectively resist and prevent genocide or other forms of mass violence?" The workshop will include paper presentations and discussions as well as musical performances.

To submit an application, please send a CV and one-page abstract of the proposed paper by Friday March 1st, 2015 to cagr@usc.edu

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