



USC Shoah
Foundation

Center for Advanced Genocide Research

October 2017

After months of planning, preparation, and anticipation, the Center held its international conference "Digital Approaches to Genocide Studies" in October. The conference that brought together digital humanities and genocide studies for the first time was cosponsored by the USC Digital Humanities Program. It is always an exciting experience to gather together scholars and foster discussions and debates around topics of vital importance in the field of Holocaust and genocide studies. This year's conference was no exception. As digital methods increase, so do the possibilities about how we can use these tools and platforms in research to provoke new questions, improve our understanding, deepen our analysis, widen our point of view, or pioneer new approaches to studying the Holocaust and other genocides. When delving into the digital sphere, new and challenging ethical questions can arise. The conference was filled not only with presentations of intriguing new research, but also insightful reflections and deep discussions. The conference attracted a large audience in Los Angeles and on the conference livestream, which drew viewers from as far away as South Korea. We invite you to dive in to the videos of the conference proceedings below and experience the conference for yourself.

Following the conference, the Center hosted a visit by Gabor Toth, who will be the Center's digital postdoctoral scholar in the 2018-2019 academic year, and Stephen Naron, Director of Yale University's Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies, with whom the Center is identifying and pursuing opportunities for collaboration and partnership.

This month the Center also welcomed Greenberg Research Fellow Irina Rebrova (Technical University Berlin), Rutman Fellow for Research and Teaching Barbie Zelizer (University of Pennsylvania), and continued supporting the research of Center Research Fellow Geraldien von Frijtag and Fulbright Visiting Scholar Julien Zarifian during their residencies.

In October, I traveled to the German Studies Association annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia where the German Studies Association awarded the Sybil Halpern Milton Memorial Book Prize to my book *Die Judenverfolgung im Protektorat Böhmen/Mähren. Lokale Initiativen, zentrale Entscheidungen, jüdische Antworten 1939-1945* (*Anti-Jewish Persecution in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia. Local Initiatives, Central Decisions, Jewish Responses*).

In November, the Center is hosting three public lectures, including by our Center Research Fellow and Greenberg Research Fellow, as well as cosponsoring a conference about testimonies and a book talk. As our Fall lectures, fellows, and conference illustrate, the Center remains committed to fostering and highlighting groundbreaking research that will shape the field of Holocaust and genocide studies in the future.

Sincerely,

Wolf Gruner

Founding Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research

Professor of History and Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies



Events



"Digital Approaches to Genocide Studies": An International Conference

On October 23rd and 24th, the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research hosted the international conference "Digital Approaches to Genocide Studies" which was cosponsored by the USC Digital Humanities Program. The 23 scholars who came to present their research traveled from all over the world -- the United States, Germany, Poland, France, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Canada. The scholars represented a variety of disciplines, including history, geography, cinematic arts, media and communications, peace and conflict studies, design and spatial history, political science, linguistics, forensic archaeology and genocide investigation, creative writing, sociology, and digital humanities. Seven esteemed and emerging scholars from USC and UCLA chaired the conference panels and moderated the discussions, including two Andrew W. Mellon Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Research Fellows from the USC Digital

Humanities Program. The conference attracted a large audience in Los Angeles and on the conference livestream. Next month's newsletter will include a summary of the conference content and recurring themes.

Read profiles of the conference presenters and chairs [here](#).

Watch complete videos of the conference proceedings [here](#).



[Click here for a Facebook Live interview with the panelists from the "Social Media, Genocide Commemoration, and Augmented Reality" panel.](#)



[Click here for a Facebook Live interview with the panelists from the "Digital Visualizations of the Holocaust Spaces" panel.](#)

"Armenian Genocide Survivor Testimonies and the Evolution of Their Use"

Historian and director of the AGBU Nubar Library in Paris Boris Adjemian gave a public lecture in

October that was cosponsored by the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research and USC Institute of Armenian Studies. His lecture mainly focused on three archival collections of testimonies by Armenian genocide survivors and the ways that historians regarded, resisted, and ultimately turned to these testimonies through the years.

Watch the lecture and read a summary [here](#).



Research

2017-2018 Greenberg Research Fellow Irina Rebrova begins her residency

In October, the Center's 2017-2018 Margee and Douglas Greenberg Research Fellow began her monthlong residency. Irina Rebrova is an advanced-standing PhD candidate at the Center for the Study of Antisemitism at Technical University Berlin. Her research focuses on the process of remembrance and translation of the memory about the Holocaust in the North Caucasus, South of Russia. During her residency, she is exploring the recruitment and training of the Shoah Foundation interviewers in Russia, who played such a critical role in the construction of Holocaust memory in the region. She will be giving a public lecture about her research in November.



Read more about Irina's research [here](#).

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

Center welcomes 2017-2018 Rutman Fellow for Research and Teaching Barbie Zelizer

At the end of October, the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research welcomed Barbie Zelizer, the Center's 2017-2018 Rutman

Fellow for Research and Teaching. The fellowship supports a faculty member from University of Pennsylvania to integrate testimonies from the Visual History Archive into a new or existing course. Professor Zelizer is the Raymond Williams Professor of Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. She has been a faculty member at the Annenberg School for Communication at Penn since 1997.



During her weeklong residency at the Center, Professor Zelizer consulted with staff and conducted research in preparation for integrating testimonies from the Visual History Archive into her upcoming PhD research seminar entitled "Mediating War and Genocide Through Visual Memory."

Read more about Professor Zelizer and the Rutman Fellowship for Research and Teaching [here](#).

Upcoming Events

August 27, 2017 - April 30, 2018

["Filming the Camps: From Hollywood to Nuremberg" – An exhibition at Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust co-sponsored by the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research](#)

November 7, 2017 at 3:30 PM

[Benjamin Madley's lecture: "An American Genocide: The United States and the California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873" - Hosted by the Department of Anthropology and the Folklore Studies Program at USC](#)

November 9, 2017 at 4 PM

[2017-2018 Center Research Fellow Geraldien von Frijtag Drabbe Künzel's lecture: "Being and Belonging: Jewish-Gentile Relations in the Occupied Netherlands Through the Lens of a Microscope"](#)

November 14, 2017 at 4 PM

[2017-2018 Greenberg Research Fellow Irina Rebrova's lecture: "The Role of Oral History Interviews in Regional Holocaust Memory: The Case of the North Caucasus"](#)

November 15, 2017 at 6 PM

["Edgar Feuchtwanger's Hitler, My Neighbor: Memories of a Jewish Childhood" - Book presentation with discussion moderated by Professor Paul Lerner - Co-sponsored by the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research](#)

Opportunities

Call for Applications

2018-2019 Research Fellowships for PhD Candidates:

Margee and Douglas Greenberg Research Fellowship

Robert J. Katz Research Fellowship in Genocide Studies

Breslauer, Rutman, and Anderson Research Fellowship

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research invites applications for its three research fellowships for advanced-standing PhD candidates. Each fellowship provides \$4,000 support and will be awarded to an outstanding advanced-standing PhD candidate from any discipline for dissertation research focused on testimony from the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and other USC resources. Each recipient will be required to spend one month in residence at the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research during the 2018-2019 academic year. **Deadline to apply is December 15th, 2017.**

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

Career Opportunity at the Center

Academic Relations and Outreach Officer

The USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research is currently seeking a Senior Research Associate (Academic Relations and Outreach Officer) to join USC's Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History in the Center for Advanced Genocide Research. The Academic Relations and Outreach Officer will be responsible for conceptualizing, developing, and managing projects and programs geared towards reaching the academic community within USC and beyond, in order to raise the profile of the Center's events, opportunities, and activities and to promote use of the Visual History Archive in research and teaching. The successful candidate should have excellent analytical, writing, and communication skills. They should be knowledgeable in Holocaust or Genocide Studies and possess strong leadership, organizational, project development, and coordination skills. They will be expected to conduct original research in their field of expertise.

Applications are under ongoing review so we recommend applying promptly, if interested. For more details, click [here](#).

Donate to 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 worldwide and student investigation at USC.

To find out more about donating materials, email us at cagr@usc.edu or call 213-740-0375.

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, [click here](#).

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