



STRASSLER
CENTER FOR
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE
STUDIES
AT CLARK UNIVERSITY

2013 - 2014
YEAR END REPORT



“Whoever fails to increase knowledge,
decreases knowledge.”

—THE WISDOM OF THE SAGES

Dear Friends,

“It is not worth an intelligent person’s time to be in the majority,” the British number theorist G. H. Hardy observed a century ago. “By definition, there are already enough people to do that.” And indeed, the Strassler Center, founded as a unique institution – literally one of a kind – continues to forge a singular way forward, defining the emerging field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and leading the way with novel approaches and fresh scholarship. Our core faculty has grown with the addition of anthropologist Ken MacLean, whose expertise in transitional justice, reconciliation, and memory, and whose focus on South East Asia opens new areas of research and offers comparative perspectives. And, working with our colleagues in Clark’s Graduate School of Geography, we have developed an innovative doctoral track in Geography and Genocide. Combining the research tools and methods of Geography and History to investigate past and contemporary cases of mass violence and genocide, this new path holds great promise. Students working at the intersection of Geography and Genocide will explore the landscapes and spatial dynamics of genocide and mass violence, including the visualization of space and place, population analyses, and resource distribution. We embark upon this interdisciplinary initiative with our eyes fixed firmly on future generations of scholarship. Students so trained will push the boundaries of knowledge as scholars, to educate the public about threats of impending violence and to intervene in such cases armed with well-researched evidence.

Our doctoral training tracks are but one expression of our commitment to research and scholarship. And that enterprise is enriched immeasurably by linkages around the globe. Committed to academic dialogue with Israeli colleagues, the Strassler Center launched an Israel Academic Exchange. The first workshop, held in April, highlighted junior scholars and tackled promising areas in Holocaust history as well as in genocide studies. Dedicated as we are to the free flow of ideas, we hoped the Exchange would forge ties and build community among advanced doctoral students and postdocs who study the Holocaust and other cases of mass violence. We aimed to strengthen the field in Israel and to enrich scholarly discourse at the Strassler Center. The Exchange soared past our goals. We look forward eagerly to the next iteration in September 2015.



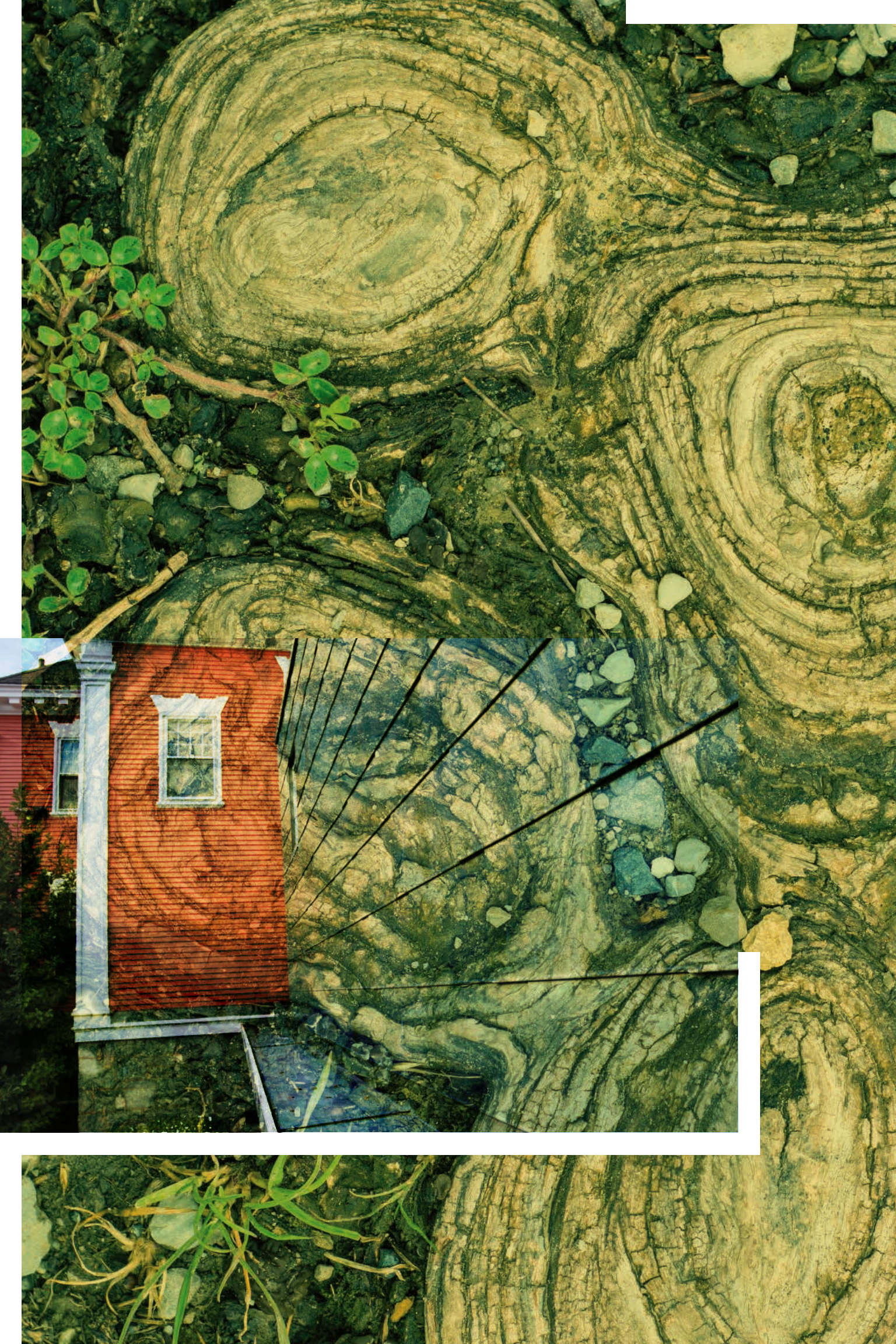
We now aim to replicate the Exchange model with Turkish colleagues to broaden the academic discourse in Turkey about the violent fate of Armenians and other minorities in the late Ottoman period. Privileged to stand at the forefront in establishing the Armenian Genocide as a distinct focus of doctoral study, we seek to contribute to and support an emerging discourse in Turkey about forced deportations, mass violence, and massacres during the late Ottoman period. As awareness of the fate of the Armenian population grows in the Turkish consciousness, students wishing to pursue this topic are frustrated by state-sponsored denial. A comprehensive university partnership will allow scholars in Turkey and the United States to explore the history and ongoing politics of the genocides organized by the Ottoman government.

According to Albert Einstein there are “Three Rules of Work: Out of clutter find simplicity; From discord find harmony; In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.” I have long taken his words to heart. And we hope these Exchanges will prove that sometimes Einstein got it right.

Your support is crucial to everything we do. Please give as generously as you can.



Debórah Dwork
Rose Professor of Holocaust History
Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust
and Genocide Studies





EVENTS & LINKAGES

Cohen-Lasry House opened in 1999 as the Center's home. Planted beside the magnificent Rose Library addition, in a corner cleverly designed by architect Julian Bonder, a graceful Japanese maple has flourished. As the program has grown and thrived, so too has the tree. Its roots are in the earth of the library, its trunk reaches past the Center's seminar room, and its branches and leaves extend toward the graduate student offices. In years to come, student research will drop down as books to our library where they will educate future generations.

LERNA EKMEKCIOGLU, "A GENDERED AFTERMATH: THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE AND ITS WOMEN"

17 SEPTEMBER 2013

Lerna Ekmekcioglu, a professor of history at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, did not set out to become a genocide scholar, she explained to an audience of students, faculty, and guests gathered for her lecture about the experiences of Armenian women and children following World War I. Yet, she found the interplay between gender and genocide crucial to understanding the politics behind efforts to reunite the Armenian people in the aftermath of the genocide. Her presentation, co-sponsored by the department of Political Science and the program in Women and Gender Studies, highlighted how gender functioned in orchestrating the genocide and shaping a response in the post-war period.

Ekmekcioglu began with the poignant case of an anonymous refugee, a pregnant Armenian teenager raped by Turkish soldiers in front of her soon-to-be-murdered fiancé. Denied an abortion by Armenian authorities, she committed suicide after delivering. The decision to refuse her abortion was political. In traditional Ottoman society, both Christian and Muslim, the father determined a child's lineage. But, following the war, the definition of Armenian ethnicity broadened. Armenian authorities initiated a program of orphan collection (*Vorpahovak*), rescuing Armenian women and children, regardless of their past circumstances or parenthood. Repatriating them into Armenian communities was an act of revenge and remasculinization. High population numbers were also needed to secure the critical mass required to claim sovereignty over an Armenian homeland.

The Wilsonian ideal of self-determination was closely connected to nationhood. Ethnicity and religion, not biology and race, were the key markers for determining national identity. In order to strengthen territorial claims, both Armenians and Turks laid claim to women and children whose identity was considered mutable, unlike men. Thus, Ottoman officials encouraged a policy of abducting Christian women and children whereas Armenian men were killed. By March 1919, an estimated 200,000 Armenian women and children were living in post-war Ottoman society.

Abduction of Christian women and children was common throughout the war, as official state documents published by Taner Akçam demonstrate. Many captured women and children were forced to be house slaves or concubines, but since they were seen as assimilable into Muslim society they survived. Some women found themselves in tolerable relationships, maybe even giving birth to wanted children. Ekmekcioglu pointed out that Armenian women in such situations had to be careful about the *Vorpahovak*, because children with just one Armenian parent were claimed by the program. Having been saved from probable death and sheltered during the war, some Armenian survivors preferred to remain with their rescuers even after the armistice made return possible. Re-armenianization may have felt like a new abduction, especially for women who had no choice but to leave children behind with Muslim fathers.

A campaign of national rebirth made women valuable for reproductive purposes. In this pro-natalist context, aborting a child was treasonous. And marriage to rape victims was encouraged as both an act of benevolence and a matter of national honor. The experience of Armenian women who had suffered physical and psychological harm was secondary to the national project. Humiliated, many found it difficult to reenter Armenian society, suffering from stigmatization and in some cases caring for children who had only known Muslim life.

Lerna Ekmekcioglu's talk elucidated the complicated nexus between gender, genocide, and nationalism. Her presentation opened a new perspective on the study of genocide and, as the first lecture of the academic year, set the bar high for forthcoming speakers.

Wolf-Gero Westhoff



Professor Lerna Ekmekcioglu (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

AMOS GOLDBERG, "TACKLING THE CHALLENGE OF POWERLESSNESS: WRITING HISTORY FROM THE VICTIMS' PERSPECTIVE"

3 OCTOBER 2013

The Strassler Center and greater Clark communities greatly appreciated a productive 3-day residency by Hebrew University Professor Amos Goldberg as the Center's first Melvin S. Cutler Distinguished Visiting Scholar. Professor Goldberg's public lecture, *The Challenge of Powerlessness: Writing History from the Victims' Perspective*, initiated the Center's *Truth in History* series. The three lectures in the series foregrounded primary documents produced by survivors and witnesses, including memoirs, diaries, and letters. Goldberg, whose visit coincided with Professor Debórah Dwork's seminar "The Holocaust through Diaries and Letters," began by asking what it means to write history from the perspective of the victim. While history typically favors the "victors," Goldberg promotes a historical narrative of "the defeated." Drawing from the theses of the Jewish philosopher Walter Benjamin, a refugee from Nazi Germany, Goldberg identifies time and power as the key elements that distinguish the history of the victor from that of the oppressor. While time is continuous or progressive for rulers, victims experience "ruptures of time and extreme powerlessness." Jewish texts produced during or just after the Holocaust are full of such "ruptures" of time and self.

Not satisfied with efforts simply to introduce victims' voices and experiences into historical narrative, Goldberg seeks an entirely new framework for writing history. Surveying several historiographical approaches, he takes issue with the Israeli school of Holocaust research for its emphasis on resistance and collective identification in interpreting personal accounts. In his view, historical analyses that highlight Jewish resistance against Nazi violence fail to recognize the internal destabilizations that characterize contemporary writings. Thus, the conceptual framework remains tied to the structure of victor history in which violent events are seen to dominate the victims' outer world without seriously interrupting Jewish identity and community. Nazi actions are portrayed as shaping historical reality but the internal upheavals that victims describe are largely missing from the well-known historiographical approaches.

Goldberg concludes by introducing a new methodology that adopts "transformation" as the essential underlying concept. This approach draws upon Jewish cultural history as the basis for understanding how victims made sense of their experiences of extreme violence and dislocation. He finds evidence of deep cultural transformation in diverse texts that demand close analysis. Jewish texts, including diaries, religious sermons, and memoirs, are full of expressions of disbelief that can only be understood by examining Jewish life and culture before and during the Holocaust. Looking at moments of absolute powerlessness in the maelstrom of genocidal destruction and hatred, Goldberg argues for a paradigm shift: the study of the cultural history of Jews should aim at writing "a history of ruptures and powerlessness and transformation." This approach allows victims to give voice to the shattering they experienced. Their world collapsed; the political and social structures they had taken for granted and upon which they relied were destroyed. The assumptions that had served as their basic compass through life no longer applied. Indeed, acknowledging the helplessness and hopelessness of a population under siege helps us understand the existential predicament in which most victims find themselves.

Goldberg identifies a shift in previous scholarship from a heroic Holocaust narrative with the ghetto fighter or partisan as the protagonist to an emotional narrative that foregrounds victim voices. Goldberg's insights enriched discussions in Dwork's seminar on the use of Holocaust diaries in Holocaust historiography. The theme continued throughout Goldberg's engaged meetings with students and faculty and culminated in his public lecture. His visit inspired the Center community to reflect on the "history of the defeated" and to imagine how such a history might transform our understanding of genocide and the Holocaust.

Kathrin Haurand



Professor Amos Goldberg (Hebrew University)



THOMAS A. KOHUT, “POPULAR GERMAN ANTI-SEMITISM DURING THE THIRD REICH”

13 NOVEMBER 2013

History flows through the attitudes and personal narratives of ordinary people, Williams College Professor Thomas Kohut explains in his book, *A German Generation: An Experiential History of the Twentieth Century* (2013). The mutual influence of the individual psyche on history and of history on the individual psyche underlies Kohut's investigation. A practitioner of psychohistory, Kohut sees his task as not purely abstract but rather applied, as he demonstrated to an audience of students from Professor Thomas Kühne's course “Nazi Germany and the Holocaust” as well as other students, faculty, and community members in the Rose Library. Examining the interaction between history and self, Kohut analyzed a corpus of individual interviews conducted with 62 Germans of similar age and background.

Kohut plumbed these interviews to explore the reasons for popular German antisemitism during the Third Reich. He began his talk by discussing the emotional comfort young people found in youth movements in the wake of the national failure of World War I and during the social unrest of the Weimar period. Participation offered a sense of security and stability as traditional family structures declined. In Kohut's view, that experience of belonging to a collective lay at the heart of National Socialism. Indeed, after 1945, the interviewees reacted similarly, becoming members of the Free German Circle in response to the losses of World War II.

Although they had been enthusiastic Nazis, the interviewees expressed some uneasiness with Nazism. They had questioned the May 1933 ban on the independent youth movements and the violence of the June 1934 Röhm Putsch that purged the party's leadership. Two women interviewees had also worried that the 1938 November pogrom would have negative consequences for young Germans and one woman had felt qualms that Aryan women were encouraged to breed with SS men. Kohut argues that the interviewees identified with German victims but were unable to empathize with Jews who were “other.” Confronted with their mistreatment, “one” simply “looked away.”



Professor Thomas A. Kohut (Williams College)

Sensitive to terminology, Kohut considers “indifference” a problematic term for describing the attitude of ordinary Germans to the persecution, deportation, and annihilation of their fellow Jewish citizens. The interviewees described how they “looked away” from the mistreatment of Jews, yet knew what was happening to them. “Indifference” suggests a categorical distinction between Nazi perpetrators who hated Jews, and German bystanders who were unemotional, indifferent onlookers. As most Nazis were Germans and many Germans were Nazis, drawing a clear boundary between them seems psychologically implausible. To speak of “lack of empathy” doesn't render perpetrators and bystanders as qualitatively distinct human beings but rather as connected to one another, although standing at different points on a continuum.

Gentile Germans' lack of empathy for their Jewish fellow citizens is not the conclusion but the starting point of their relationship to the Holocaust. Kohut finds that the act of “looking away” and the capacity to deny the suffering of Jews fostered the eradication of Jewish people from consciousness and eliminated the possibility of empathy. The violence committed against Jews was incompatible with the interviewees' need to experience good feelings. Thus, they created distance by avoiding visual contact with the victims. This distancing continued as the interviewees shared their stories. Describing the deportations, they used the third-person impersonal pronoun “one” and the passive voice.

Kohut concludes that, in response to the losses they experienced as adolescents during the Weimar period, the interviewees developed a strategy of denial and turned to the racial collective, the *Volksgemeinschaft*, for psychological sustenance. Belonging to a collective was vital to sustaining the interviewees through hardship. But, at the same time, it cut off their empathy for Jews during the Third Reich.

Mike Poliec

MARTIN DERANIAN '47, "PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE AND THE ARMENIAN ORPHAN RUG"

30 JANUARY 2014

The Strassler Center community was privileged to learn about a little known piece of history related to the Armenian Genocide from Clark alumnus Dr. H. Martin Deranian '47. A local dentist, prominent member of the Worcester Armenian Community, and an amateur historian, Deranian was born in Worcester to Varter Deranian, a survivor of the Genocide. His mother died when he was 7 years old and he only learned the details about her harsh experiences and the loss of her six children through research he pursued as an adult. The author of several books about Armenian subjects, his latest has turned him into an activist on behalf of a strikingly beautiful rug languishing in obscurity in the White House.

President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug, published in October 2013, recounts a gem of a story about one relatively unknown episode of American efforts to provide aid to survivors of the Armenian Genocide. During the genocide, a Swiss missionary, Dr. Jacob Kuenzler, saw many deportees in great deprivation and determined to protect the children. Kuenzler, affectionately known as "Papa" Kuenzler, helped rescue thousands of Armenian orphans. Aid funds from the United States were set aside to found orphanages and Kuenzler established a factory to train girls in weaving rugs. In the Ghazir rug factory that Kuenzler established near Beirut in Lebanon, dozens of Armenian girls, at the behest of the orphanage administrators of Near East Relief, undertook to create a special rug as a gift for the American people in gratitude for their humanitarian efforts. Four million hand stitches and ten months later, the 12' x 18' rug was completed and presented to President Calvin Coolidge. Covered in a sophisticated design of plants and animals, the rug may represent the Garden of Eden. A label on the back, in large handwritten letters, reads "IN GOLDEN RULE GRATITUDE TO PRESIDENT COOLIDGE."

The rug then had a journey of its own: from the White House to Coolidge's post-presidential home; from Coolidge's heirs and into storage back at the White House, where it remains to this day. Deranian has been part of the story for decades. He visited Coolidge's son in Vermont and persuaded him to return the rug to the American people. In 1984, he visited the White House where the rug was briefly brought out of storage. Rarely has the American public, to whom it belongs, been privileged to view it or learn its story. Recent plans to display the rug at

a Smithsonian event celebrating the launch of Deranian's book were derailed by a White House decision not to loan it. Fear of offending Turkey, which has yet to acknowledge the Genocide, was offered as explanation.

While the story of the rug has attained national attention, Deranian's personal history sat center stage, literally, this past fall. His mother's experiences during the Armenian Genocide were dramatized in the play *Deported*, written by Joyce Van Dyke. Deranian urged her to write the play



Dr. Martin Deranian '47, playwright Joyce Van Dyke, and Professor Shelly Tenenbaum
(Clark University)

about his mother and Van Dyke's grandmother who were great friends and were deported together. It was given a public reading in the Little Theater at Clark to a capacity audience and as an *Especially for Students* event it drew a large number of undergraduates. The play represents historical atrocity by mixing present action with dream sequences. It also touches on questions related to public history and the attempt to bridge the gap between scholarly knowledge and popular understanding.

Deranian's decades-long search for justice for his mother and all the victims of the Genocide may finally feel more tangible. At the end of April, the White House announced that the Armenian orphan rug will go on display. There is little doubt that Deranian's book and the publicity surrounding it influenced the reversal.

Sarah Cushman

KEN MACLEAN, "HUMAN RIGHTS ARCHIVES AND THE AESTHETICS OF CONFLICT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT IN BURMA"

20 FEBRUARY 2014

The Strassler Center hosted its newest core faculty member, Clark University Professor Ken MacLean, for a lunch-time discussion about his research on human rights abuses in Burma/Myanmar. An Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change, MacLean is an anthropologist who contributes a new disciplinary perspective to the Center as well as important insights from his extensive work in the field. Conducting archival and ethnographic research throughout Southeast Asia, he investigates governmental regimes, mass violence, forced migration, and digital communication technologies in the region.

MacLean described the empirical issues and theoretical challenges that experts working on mass violence routinely face. He presented his project as a work in progress for the benefit of the Strassler Center's junior scholars. Unlike anthropologists who focus on societies' quotidian life, MacLean works extensively in archives to explore how they are constructed. In his current book project, he examines humanitarian assistance and the production of "facts" regarding mass atrocities in conflict-affected areas of eastern Burma.

MacLean began by detailing how the choices researchers make profoundly affect our ability to visualize data related to large-scale human rights abuses. Growing numbers of researchers are now using geospatial representations, he explained. Examples of this trend include the mapping of 42,500 ghettos and camps in German-controlled Europe by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as the burned sites documented by satellites and presented by Eyes on Darfur, a project of Amnesty International. These representations highlight information previously inaccessible to historians and journalists and their creative visualization of the data helps inform public and academic thinking about these cases.

The fundamental question underlying MacLean's work is the political economy of knowledge production. Data representations depend upon the availability of sources, which are privileged and made visible, while others remain hidden. This process is shaped by the information recorded, the types of data archived, and the methodological approaches brought to bear on interpreting and assembling sources. Power, knowledge, and silence further shape data assembly and the

production of "facts" in a system where particular items are chosen for inclusion and utilization inevitably at the expense of others.

Pondering how information may eventually be used underlines a tension between database construction and narrative representation. Data can be organized in numerous ways, including through hierarchies, networks, relations, and objects. By contrast, narrative inherently creates a logical trajectory for data and imposes a certain order on the material. MacLean finds narratives and databases to be fundamentally different, but not quite "natural enemies," as computer scientist and media theorist Lev Manovich has claimed. Placing both approaches in critical dialogue with one another, MacLean argued, offers new possibilities for studying archival formations.

Turning to his own project, MacLean outlined how he plans to examine the construction of knowledge about mass atrocities in Burma. He described the challenges of working in an environment where state and non-state armed groups struggle to control territory, civilian populations, and valuable natural resources. He detailed how geospatial illustrations are crucial for tracing forced migration across time and space. Assembling maps, data, and testimonies helps researchers identify state and non-state armed groups responsible for committing human rights violations. He also cautioned that information must be

verified scrupulously to avoid manipulation by political adversaries (as has been attempted).

At the conclusion of his talk, MacLean emphasized the value of posing new questions of the same material. A lively discussion ensued concerning armed conflict and humanitarian assistance in Burma, as well as methodologies for creating knowledge through ascertaining, interpreting, and presenting academically sound information from the bottom up. MacLean's talk raised many important questions including one from Center Director Debórah Dwork who asked how silence in the global press may lead to the construction of denial. As many Strassler Center students will deal with epistemological and representational questions in their doctoral work, it was beneficial to reflect on how methodology informs research.

Jason Tingle



Professor Ken MacLean (Clark University)

RUTH FRANKLIN, "LIES, TRUTH, AND FICTION: THE HOLOCAUST IN LITERATURE"

13 MARCH 2014

Literary scholar and journalist Ruth Franklin visited the Strassler Center to present a lecture in the series *Truth in History*. As a contributing editor at the *New Republic* and a freelance book critic, Franklin's essays span genres, subjects, and time fluidly and with keen insight. We are fortunate that she trained her critical eye on Holocaust literature in *A Thousand Darknenses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction*. Indeed, discussing her 2010 book in the Rose Library, she observed that she had reviewed many of the books shelved behind her.

Negotiating the tension between reality and imagination can be problematic for readers of memoir who are attentive to history. That tension has been felt most acutely by readers of Holocaust literature who consider the topic more sacred and less open to artistic interpretation than other historical events. As Theodor Adorno famously wrote, "To write a poem after Auschwitz is barbaric." What is it about the nature of the Holocaust that renders artistic representation and criticism disrespectful? Does the Holocaust, as an historical event, require closer adherence to fact? Are Holocaust memoirs to be read as holy texts that are beyond literary criticism?

Franklin demonstrates that survivors always make literary choices in relating their stories. Even Elie Wiesel, who has been especially critical of fiction that aestheticizes the Holocaust, employs artistry in his memoir. Documents that we recognize as faithful in their historical details are not created in a sphere of perfect memory. These accounts are not written by "all-seeing, all-recording robots, but by human beings who deliberately shaped them with a literary consciousness." To that end, Franklin reveals how Wiesel enhanced the later French edition of *Night* by comparing it to the longer and less literary Yiddish version.

We are wrong, in Franklin's view, to expect survivors to be witnesses and chroniclers, but not artists. As she points out, it is a natural impulse to transform imperfect memories through narrative, and the publication process inevitably entails further editing. Even those Holocaust memoirs especially prized as direct accounts are produced with artistry and shaped through publication, including, in addition to Wiesel's *Night*, Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl* and Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz*. These "sacred" texts contain fictionalized elements that render them subjects for literary criticism. Franklin asks that we forgo a too respectful deference to these accounts, calling this an abnegation of critical responsibility beyond "nonsensical." All texts bear "the marks of an imagination at work" either through the author's limitations of memory



New Republic editor Ruth Franklin and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork
(Clark University)

or through purposeful editing.

Many survivors feel compelled to bear witness. Yet, they did not keep notes in the camps nor, in most cases, while in hiding or passing as gentiles. They are dependent on their memories. Moreover, all writers aim to tell their stories in an effective and memorable way. Memoirs that are simply faithful to the facts are not the accounts that stay with us. Truly literary works rise above the particulars as Franklin further demonstrates in the work of Primo Levi whose official 1945 publication, *The Auschwitz Report*, provided material for his highly praised and canonical memoir *Survival in Auschwitz*.

Many stories about the Holocaust have been recounted and there are many more to tell. Rather than stifling their production or refusing criticism, we have a responsibility to work through them. As Franklin emphasized in a follow-up round table discussion with the Center's students and faculty, writers have the right to choose their subjects and critics have the right to criticize. The act of representation helps to make the Holocaust comprehensible and the act of criticism draws the Holocaust out of isolation and places it in comparison with other historical events. As Franklin observed, "It would be horrific to write only one poem after Auschwitz. But to write a hundred poems, a thousand poems, a million – that might be better, because it would take an infinite number of works of literature to represent the vast multiplicity of voices and experiences that constitute the Holocaust."

Abigail Miller

BRIAN PORTER-SZÜCS, “ANTISEMITISM AND CATHOLICISM IN POST-WWII POLAND”

2 APRIL 2014

Professor Thomas Kühne’s seminar, “The History of Racism in Modern Europe,” examined how antisemitism continued in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Polish soil was the site of many atrocities that shocked Poles and yet violence against Jews continued after the war. University of Michigan Professor Brian Porter-Szücs, an expert on the nexus of religion, nationalism, and communism in modern Poland, offered a meaningful context for exploring antisemitism through the lens of Polish Catholicism. Author of *Faith and Fatherland: Catholicism, Modernity, and Poland* (2011), his newest book *Poland in the Modern World: Beyond Martyrdom* was published shortly before his lecture to Kühne’s seminar students and the public.

Porter-Szücs described how the Church and the Communist Party perpetuated anti-Jewish prejudices in post-war Poland. The rise of the Party’s nationalist faction culminated in 1968 when it responded to student protests with a campaign targeting Jews as alleged “Zionists.” The Polish Catholic Church, opposed to communist rule in every other respect, shared the regime’s negative attitude toward Jews. Porter-Szücs attributed this persistent antisemitism within Catholic hierarchy to a siege mentality, dating back at least to the end of the 19th century. Until the late 1960s, Catholic bishops, priests, and teachers had to take an “Oath against Modernity,” understood as an anti-Christian plot of masons, atheists, liberals, capitalists, and communists, led ultimately by Satan. Jews were perceived as agents of modernity and its processes of industrialization, urbanization, and secularization. Both the official dogma of Jews as Christ killers and folk beliefs in the relationship between Jews and the devil supported this conspiracy mindset. Paranoia about Jewish plots against Christianity permeated the interwar Catholic Church in Poland. Virulent antisemitism was openly preached in the religious press, from the pulpit, and in pastoral letters.

World War II reinforced Polish Catholics’ belief in this world-wide plot. Polish bishops understood Nazism and Communism as separate manifestations of the same “godless” anti-Christian threat. Concentration camps became a quintessential symbol of the evils of modernity, “an example of how low man falls without religion,” according to Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński. The Catholic hierarchy framed the war experience in a way that foregrounded ethnic Poles’ enormous casualties and backgrounded the near total destruction of Polish Jewry. The war was a time of “terror, unbelievable cruelty, slavery, camps, and gas chambers . . . for the followers of Christ . . . but also for the



Professor Brian Porter-Szücs (University of Michigan)

Jews,” said Polish Primate August Hlond in October 1945.

After the Holocaust, new modes of anti-Jewish rhetoric developed. Bishops claimed that the Church condemned violence, including anti-Jewish actions such as the infamous Kielce pogrom of 1946, yet never referred to antisemitism as the cause. On the contrary, they often justified the unrest by blaming the victims as alleged agents of Sovietization and repression. Avoiding explicit reference to Jews, euphemisms emerged utilizing passive construction and keywords, like “adherents to the Old Testament,” “certain forces,” “known individuals,” “some foreign circles.” The meaning of these code words was clear to everyone.

In more recent decades, the language changed, but the grand conspiracy narrative remained. Even with the democratization of Poland after 1989, the siege mentality prevailed. Capitalism, another manifestation of modernity, finally achieved what neither Nazism nor Communism managed: the transformation of Poland into an increasingly secular country. The failure to implement a Christian nation-state disappointed Polish clergy and made antisemitism even more prominent in the early 1990s than under late communism.

Responding to audience questions, Porter-Szücs defined Catholicism as an institutional discourse, a set of concepts and ways of speaking, rather than an ethno-cultural identity. He also commented on blooming Polish-Israeli relations, and the marginalization of antisemitism on the political right. Today, Poles no longer see Jews as responsible for communism and the Church has begun to recognize the magnitude of Jewish suffering during the Holocaust. Thus, he concluded optimistically, the space for Church-sanctioned hatred for Jews constricts every year.

Alicja Podbielska

INAUGURAL SEMINAR: ISRAEL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

3-6 APRIL 2014

The Strassler Center, in cooperation with the Weiss-Livnat MA Program at Haifa University, launched the inaugural workshop in a newly established Israel Academic Exchange. Partnering with colleagues in leading Israeli academic institutions, the Exchange aims to forge ties and build community among advanced doctoral and post-doctoral students who study the Holocaust and other cases of mass violence. A focus on new research and a comparative framework will strengthen the field and enrich scholarly discourse at the Strassler Center and in Israel. President David Angel hosted the opening dinner to honor long-time Strassler Center friend Al Tapper, a key donor who has supported many initiatives, including this one. Warmly supporting the Center in general and this initiative in particular, President Angel pledged that Clark University is committed to fostering freedom of ideas both on campus, across the United States, and around the world.

In a series of roundtables, young scholars discussed how “agency” functions in the histories they explore. Holocaust history and genocide studies have been dominated by categories (perpetrator, victim, and bystander) that frame historical actors as either active or passive. While these constructs initially helped scholars to disentangle historical complexities and gain understanding, they have become so entrenched that they have led to over simplification and misapprehension. The concept of “agency” focuses on individual decision-making and allows for a more nuanced understanding of multiplicity and constraint. Thus, these young scholars explored how “agency” can serve as a corrective to a more binary view of history. Topics ranged from the expectations and experiences of Jewish German World War I veterans during the Nazi era to Polish material remnants of the Holocaust; from efforts of survivors to reassert agency in the immediate postwar years, to the multiplicity of agency in the evolution of violence during the Holocaust; from Chinese resistance to Japanese persecution in Malaya, to humanitarian resistance in Aleppo during the Armenian Genocide. Ample discussion proved useful in helping young scholars move their work and the entire field forward. Senior scholars from the Strassler Center, Professors Akçam, Dwork, Kühne, and MacLean, and from Israel, Professors Amos Goldberg of Hebrew University, Julia Chaitin of Sapir College, and Shulamit Volkov of Tel Aviv University, served as moderators. Their astute commentary and constructive criticism proved a valuable

model for future academic exchanges.

Genocide and atrocity are world-wide phenomena, including in North America. In countries like Israel, atrocity and genocide are palpable. In the United States, on the other hand, these concepts are often overlooked. Yet, New England is fraught with a history of massacre, slavery, and war. In an effort to broaden horizons, dialogue, and understanding about genocide and about place, Exchange participants visited Plimoth Plantation to tour and analyze this historic site, which represents the original Plymouth colony and a native Wampanoag village. Richard Pickering, Deputy Director of Plimoth Plantation, provided a guided, interpretive tour of the site. Mr. Pickering and Clark Geography professor Jody Emel gave presentations which explored the “agency” of Native Americans vis-à-vis European settlers and whether and how interactions between these two groups can be considered genocide.

The exchange closed on Sunday morning with a panel of junior scholars who reflected upon questions raised and new directions for the concept of agency and the future of scholarly cooperation. We look for the exchange to grow over the coming years in cooperation with the Avraham Harman Institute at Hebrew University in Jerusalem as we continue to develop networks of young scholars in Israel and the United States, but also to provide a venue for senior scholars to explore issues facing the field.

Sarah Cushman



Strassler Center friend and supporter Al Tapper

PANEL DISCUSSION: "ON TRUTH AND MEMOIRS: THE CASE OF AN ARMENIAN SOLDIER IN THE OTTOMAN ARMY"

17 APRIL 2014

Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam presented a public lecture to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Akçam discussed the case of Sarkis Torossian, an Armenian soldier who served in the Ottoman army, and the debate surrounding his memoir, *From Dardanelles to Palestine: A True Story of Five Battle Fronts of Turkey*. Torossian described his participation in crucial battles of World War I, in which he served as a lieutenant and, later, a captain. Following the deportation and deaths of his parents and sister, he switched allegiance and fought against the Turks. In 1947, having settled in the United States years earlier, he wrote and published his memoirs in English. Largely unknown in Turkey until translated by Ayhan Aktar, its 2012 publication caused an immediate sensation prompting some 80 articles and columns in the Turkish press the following year. The discussion intensified when Sabancı University Professor Hakan Erdem published a 382-page book, *Between Truth and Fiction: the Strange Story of Torossian*, which sought to demonstrate that Torossian's account was a complete fabrication. Erdem focused largely on discrepancies in Torossian's descriptions of the battle at Gallipoli.

The principal reason for such intense interest, Akçam explained, was that Torossian fought bravely in battles that are central to modern Turkish identity. And he was highly successful, receiving medals and citations in recognition of his efforts. Decades of systematic propaganda in Turkey had portrayed Ottoman Armenians as "traitors" who "rebelled against the state" during WWI. Thus, the notion of a brave and patriotic Ottoman Armenian soldier came as a shock. Challenging long-standing perceptions about Armenians during the genocide years, Torossian's memoirs had a profound effect on Turkish public opinion. The daily newspaper *Hürriyet*, for instance, titled its review of the book "There was an Armenian captain in the Ottoman Army, but no Jewish captain in the Nazi Army." In fact, there were high ranking "racially" Jewish officers in the Wehrmacht but the point was made. Turkish guest pro-



fessors Ayhan Aktar (Bilgi University) and Edhem Eldem (Bosphorus University) responded to Akçam's presentation with comments further illuminating the controversy. Aktar emphasized the significance of the memoir, which prompted new discussions on the topic of Armenian soldiers in the Ottoman army. Eldem demonstrated that documents included in the memoir were fabricated and underlined the need to proceed with careful analysis in order to reach historically sound conclusions.

While the factuality of the memoir remains unresolved, Aktar's translation opened a valuable discussion about Christian soldiers serving in the Ottoman military during the Genocide. There is evidence of many who served as doctors, engineers, and experts, but none as officers. Yet, rather than exploring the fate of Christian soldiers and their families, scholars and commentators have focused on battle details in order to discredit Torossian's account. Thus, the debate fit perfectly into the Strassler Center's year-long discussion about truth and history, explored through the 3-part lecture series, *Critical History*.

A panel discussion the next day widened the discussion. Presentations by Professors Aktar and Eldem, as well as by Professors Debórah Dwork and Elizabeth Scheiber (Rider University) considered the pitfalls of using memoirs as historical sources. Discussing fabricated memoirs in general and Misha Defonseca's *Misha: A Mémoire of the Holocaust Years* in particular, Dwork described how fabricated memoirs can become popular. Questioning the authenticity of memoirs and halting their publication are fraught endeavors, as Dwork learned from that case. Contributing her perspective as a literary scholar, Scheiber described how language is used to express complex feelings about memory. Scheiber pointed out that readers want to believe in the facticity of memoirs especially those written by such gifted writers as Charlotte Delbo and Primo Levi. In conclusion, Akçam highlighted the importance of treating memoirs carefully, not as archival documents or historical sources that can confirm figures, names, and dates, but as another source of information for exploring and discovering truth.

Asya Darbinyan

MELVIN S. CUTLER ENDOWMENT: HOLOCAUST HISTORY AND GENOCIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION

What is the purpose of education about the Holocaust and genocide? And what approaches are best suited to achieve those goals? Such questions threaded through the Strassler Center's April 2013 symposium *Policy and Practice: Pedagogy about the Holocaust and Genocide*. Although many states mandate or recommend Holocaust education, an understanding of best pedagogical practices has not been reached. With the arrival of Sarah Cushman PhD '10 as Academic Program Liaison Officer and a generous endowment established by the Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation, the Strassler Center initiated a series of initiatives to increase engagement with issues of Holocaust and genocide studies pedagogy.

Education reflects societal politics, culture, and history. And indeed, Holocaust education emerged in the United States during the 1970s when victim groups gained their voices. Encouraged by legislation passed throughout the 1990s, Holocaust teaching has become institutionalized as education and memorial centers have proliferated. Following the collapse of communism and in the wake of genocide in the Balkans, many European countries embraced and even required Holocaust education. More recently, the teaching of human rights has added a more universal perspective. Yet, the international experts gathered for *Policy and Practice* agreed upon a key finding: a significant gap divides scholarship and practice. Educators and teachers are encouraged to teach a subject about which they know little and for which too little research has been done on most effective teaching methods. Dr. Cushman echoed these themes in addressing teachers attending the University of Connecticut workshop *Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide from a Global Perspective*, co-sponsored by the Neag School of Education and the UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights.

Under Cushman's leadership and with Cutler funding, the Strassler Center is emerging as a potent resource for supporting quality instruction. During the academic year 2013-14, Cushman forged relationships with area classrooms and teachers. She collaborated with the ADL in hosting some 40 teachers for a workshop on the Holocaust curriculum *Echoes and Reflections*. Partnering with an educator from the USC Shoah Foundation, Cushman instructed teachers on using testimonies in the Visual History Archive and demonstrated lessons on the history of the Final Solution. Cushman also consulted with West Boylston High School and the Bancroft School on their dramatic productions of *Irena's Vow* and the *Diary of Anne Frank*, respectively. She provided much needed background information about the Holocaust and helped students participating in *Irena's Vow* to develop monologues about children who perished as a

counterpoint to the central story of rescue. At Fitchburg High School, she presented valuable context for students reading Elie Wiesel's *Night*. And she and first-year doctoral student Abigail Miller addressed a group of around 450 Clinton High School students and area seniors involved with the Clinton Youth Council on Aging.

As teaching history rests on documents-based education, Cushman is developing a project that draws on a unique trove of unpublished correspondence. Over 3,000



Sarah Cushman PhD '10, Academic Program Liaison Officer

letters written by Jewish parents in Greater Germany and children they thought they had sent to safety in France, Belgium, and England flowed through neutral Switzerland. Elisabeth Luz, who served as a go-between in the tangle of wartime postal restrictions, copied correspondence she received and, keeping the originals, mailed her copies to the intended recipients in countries at war. The letters are valuable for teachers seeking resource material and eager to promote literacy. Age appropriate, these letters are ideal for classroom lessons in middle and high school.

With a subject as vast as the Holocaust and genocide, what should we expect young people to learn? Teaching the broad dimensions alongside details about individual lives, such as family letters reveal, might be an effective approach. But we won't really know until we launch serious study of classroom teaching and learning outcomes. We aim to bridge the gap between scholarship, research, and practice by partnering with Clark's Jacob Hiatt Center for Urban Education. A plan to survey teachers on current practices will serve as the basis for designing a curriculum using letters. With this initiative, the Strassler Center will emerge as a leader in best practice in Holocaust and Genocide Studies pedagogy.

Mary Jane Rein



Professor Amos Goldberg (Hebrew University) and Professor Debórah Dwork (Clark University)

LINKAGES

The Strassler Center transcends boundaries and broadens its reach through key linkages. A case in point is the Center's ongoing cooperation with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS). Established in 2005 by the Louis and Ann Kulin Endowed Fund, the partnership has been a cornerstone of the Center's international graduate student conferences, which have been jointly sponsored with DIIS since the first one was held in 2009. The Third Graduate Student Conference, to take place in 2015, will include a delegation of Scandinavian senior

scholars along with other prominent participants. As genocide is a global issue with consequences that reverberate across time and place, it is crucial for the Center to operate on the international stage.

Recognizing the value of long-term collaboration, the Strassler Center used the DIIS partnership as a model for planning an Israel Academic Exchange. Seeking to institutionalize ties with Israeli doctoral students and senior scholars, Center Director Debórah Dwork embarked on developing an ongoing exchange. The idea originated

with Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne and Raz Segal, PhD '13; they envisioned a fruitful workshop series with doctoral students and senior scholars that would alternate between the Clark campus and Israel. Their notion was motivated by a desire to nurture the field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies by refreshing ideas through shared discourse.

In this inaugural year, made possible with funding from Al Tapper and other generous donors, the Strochlitz Institute of Haifa University, served as the organizing partner (see p.11). Fall 2015 will bring a second Israeli delegation to the Strassler Center, in partnership with Hebrew University's Institute for Contemporary Jewry. In 2016, the workshop series will enjoy its third iteration in Israel. Participants include promising young scholars from many different Israeli institutions. In the years to come, ongoing contact between Israeli Holocaust and Genocide scholars and their Strassler Center colleagues will expand intellectual and cultural horizons, grow professional contacts, and lead to joint research projects.

The Israel Academic Exchange fosters a cadre of young scholars whose work will benefit from multiple outside perspectives. This approach promises to have significant impact in Turkey, too, where we seek to contribute toward strengthening research about forced deportations, mass violence, and massacres during the late Ottoman period. As awareness of the fate of the Armenian and other minority populations grows in the Turkish consciousness, students wishing to pursue this topic are frustrated by the politics of denial. And as memories about the past are discussed more openly, the opportunities for remembrance in the Turkish public and academic realms increase. To that end, the Strassler Center aims to develop yet another comprehensive university partnership. We wish to establish an ongoing academic exchange that gathers Turkish and American doctoral students and senior scholars to explore the history and ongoing politics of mass violence and genocide organized by the Ottoman government.

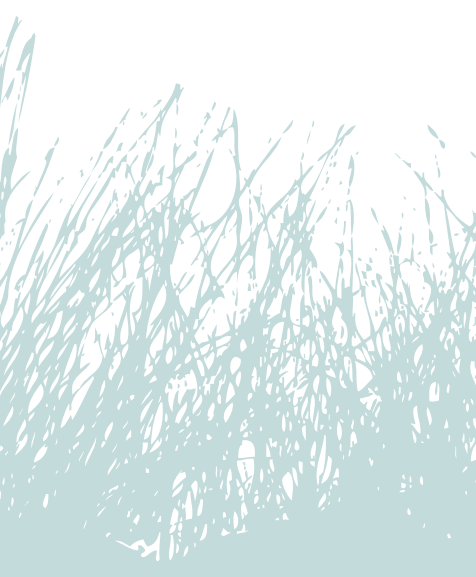
Cooperation with a host of organizations enriched the work of Strassler Center faculty, students, and staff during the academic year 2013-14. The following institutional linkages formed a network connecting the activities at Cohen Lasry House, the Center's home, with initiatives that extend our global reach. The Center community, in turn, benefits from the research and activities carried out by these partners. *Mary Jane Rein*

Anti-Defamation League
Armenian National Institute
Armenocide (Documents from State and Private Archives)
Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
Center for Humanistic Education, Ghetto Fighters' Museum
Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education, Brookdale Community College, NJ
Center for Holocaust Studies, Munich
Conference on Material Claims Against Germany
Danish Institute for International Studies
Facing History and Ourselves
The Friends of Hrant Dink Foundation
Genocide Intervention Network
German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.
Hadassah Brandeis Institute
Haigazian University, Beirut
Harvard University International Human Rights Clinic
Institute for Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University
International Association of Genocide Scholars
International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
International Network of Genocide Scholars
The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous
Jewish World Watch
Leibniz University, Hannover
Leo Baeck Institute
Massachusetts Humanities Teachers Institute
Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture
The Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research
National Science Foundation
Per Ahlmark Foundation, Stockholm
Radio La Benevolencija
Research Center for Contemporary History, University of Hamburg
Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education, Chapman University
Salzburg Global Seminar
Seyfo, Assyrian Genocide Research Center
Shoah Foundation Institute
United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum
Weiss-Livnat MA Program, Strochlitz Institute for Holocaust Research, Haifa University
Yad Vashem
YIVO Institute for Jewish Research



FACULTY NOTES

Center faculty create the core intellectual community our students enjoy. Looking to the future, we aim to grow our scholarly reach with the addition of faculty working in synergistic areas as our doctoral program branches into new areas of inquiry.





DEBÓRAH DWORK

Strassler Center director and Rose Professor Debórah Dwork claims that Lasry House enjoys its own microclimate. The harsh New England winter of 2013-2014? She hardly noticed. “11 Hawthorne Street serves as an intellectual greenhouse, nursery, and arboretum,” she enthuses. The year began with two of her doctoral students, Stefan Ionescu and Raz Segal, defending their dissertations. Ionescu had come to the Center from his native Romania with a law degree, and a deep commitment to doctoral education. Supported by a Rose Fellowship and by a Claims Conference Advanced Shoah Studies Fellowship, Ionescu studied the process of Romanianization as it unfolded in Bucharest. Drilling down on gentiles’ motivations for spoliation (opportunism, greed, antisemitism), Ionescu focused, too, on Jews’ responses, seeing their actions as a form of resistance. “I consider Ionescu’s dissertation one of the most unique studies in Holocaust history to date, not only because the plight of Romanian Jews is understudied, but also because of its contribution to the larger body of legal history,” an anonymous reader’s report concluded. “It looks, too, at the question of the Roma, a further strength.” Dwork agrees wholeheartedly.

“The reader’s assessment also reflects the goals of our doctoral program: deep research in new areas; interdisciplinary approaches; and a wide lens that encompasses many groups.” All three shone bright in Raz Segal’s dissertation, *Disintegration: Social Breakdown and Political Mass Violence in Subcarpathian Rus’*. Segal came to the Center from Israel as a Simon and Eve Colvin fellow. With his MA thesis published by Yad Vashem (2011) as *Days of Ruin: The Jews of Munkács during the Holocaust*, Segal widened his lens. Examining the whole borderland region of Subcarpathian Rus’ led him to situate the mass murder of its Jews in the broader terrain of ethnic conflict and the larger frames of Hungarian plans for violent population transfer and German plans for the annihilation of the Jews.

Degree in hand, Ionescu headed for Chapman University (Orange, California), where he is a teaching fellow. Segal returned to Israel with a Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Enjoying their success, Dwork notes that a cluster of students in the last stages of dissertation writing have been recognized with fellowships, awards, competitive selection to present at conferences, and invitations to publish chapters in books and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Delighted by the fresh directions of student research, Dwork is equally pleased by the many ways in which the Center has grown. With so many people engaged in such a range of projects, synergies emerge between Holocaust history and genocide studies. “Examples abound of ways in which the study of the Judeocide and other genocides are mutually illuminating. None is diminished; all scholarly projects gain.” Stefan Ionescu researched Romanianization in his hometown of Bucharest. Ümit Kurt analyzes the Armenian genocide in Aintab, his hometown in Turkey, and his research shows that local and provincial elites, driven by financial greed and eager for social status, willingly supported the Genocide. Discussing their findings, Ionescu and Kurt found that canonical images of Holocaust persecution – the separation of women, children, and the elderly from young and middle-aged men, the murder of the latter and murderous forced marches of the former – characterized the history of Aintab Armenians, not Bucharest Jews. The Holocaust paradigm applied to a Turkish city in the early 20th century, not the Romanian capital thirty years later. Yet, similar underlying processes of depredation of property and the role of greed and social status emerged.

Sara Brown (G-4), Joanna Sliwa (G-6), and Alicja Podbielska (G-1) enjoyed a similar mutually enriching scholarly experience. Exploring gender and agency during the Genocide Against the Tutsi, Brown studies women rescuers and perpetrators. Her project intersects with Sliwa’s study. Focusing on Jewish children in German-occupied Krakow, Sliwa drills down on people who aided or exposed the youngsters. Women assumed key roles, if not as perpetrators of direct violence, certainly as eyes for the Germans, identifying Jewish children passing as gentiles. And women were active rescuers. Sliwa and Brown found that fruitful comparison opened their perspectives. Brown, in Rwanda during the 20th anniversary commemorations, had been surprised that women rescuers still did not wish to be identified: they feared bodily harm. Podbielska reminded Brown of the situation that obtains in Poland where, worried about community opprobrium, wartime rescuers in rural areas remain silent about their activities 70 years ago.

Actualizing the integration of Holocaust history and genocide studies, a welcome aspect of Dwork’s job as



Director, is just one part of her multifaceted professional life. Internationally recognized as an authority on university education in this field, and for her scholarship in Holocaust history, Dwork is asked to lend her expertise to a range of institutions and projects. This year, her commitments grew to the 31-state IHRA (the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; formerly ITF). She is now a member of the Academic Working Group, the Steering Committee of a Holocaust pedagogy research project, and the Funding Committee. “The education research project investigates issues we identified at our April 2013 *Policy and Practice* symposium: assumptions about what is needed and claims about what can be achieved shape much Holocaust education. Buckets of human and financial resources are invested without knowing if those assumptions or claims are correct. The IHRA initiative is an international mapping project to identify empirical research, conducted in fifteen languages, on Holocaust pedagogy. And that will bring all of us a huge step forward.” Assessing grant requests to the IHRA offered Dwork opportunities to learn about many organizations’ initiatives. Dwork’s continued work with the Salzburg Global Seminar’s (SGS) project on Holocaust and genocide education (she’s been a participant since the 2010 launch) takes her to non-IHRA countries’ programs. This year, she had the added pleasure of welcoming Center doctoral student Asya Darbinyan to the SGS.

Dwork is as active on this side of the Atlantic as she is in Europe, and as eager to include younger scholars. Invited to add her expertise to a design team’s proposal for a National Holocaust Monument in Ottawa, she brought in doctoral candidate Jeff Koerber. “The good news: our group’s design was one of six chosen to go to the final round.” (Her team did not win.) Dwork serves as a scholarly consultant to Chhange (Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education), which is mounting a new permanent exhibition, *Journey to Life*. And again she ensured that Center students’ expertise was tapped: Sara Brown on the Rwandan Genocide; Khatchig Mouradian on the Armenian Genocide; and Naama Haviv’s (BA, MA) terrific work spurring citizen involvement. As always, Dwork was in and out of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, presenting in teacher education outreach programs and working on two exhibitions, *Moved to Act*



Rose Professor and Strassler Center Director Debórah Dwork.

(about Jewish refugees to the US) and *A Town Known as Auschwitz*. She was thrilled to see her doctoral candidate Joanna Sliwa’s name with hers on the same credit label.

Dwork’s speaking engagements took her to many points on the globe. Invited to Limmud in Australia, she gave talks in Melbourne and Sydney, and presented at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Coincidentally, the Museum is developing an exhibition, *Signs of Life*, based on immediate postwar letters. As Dwork’s scholarship is directly relevant, she had a session with the curators, researchers, and scholars. Dwork spoke to public audiences at YIVO and at events marking the 75th anniversary of the *St Louis* (program hosted by Chhange) and to commemorate the Holocaust (hosted by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center in White Plains, NY). And she enjoyed presenting to students at the West Point Military Academy, scholars at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, educators at the Salzburg Global Seminar and, together with survivor and dear friend Yitzhak Livnat, to the education team at the Center for Humanistic Education at the Ghetto Fighters Museum in Israel.

If all of this were not enough to keep a person busy, Dwork adds two more key commitments. She published two book chapters this year. And she mentors fifteen doctoral students. What does that entail? “I comment on student work in blue ink. Suffice it to say that I ran out of pens this year!”

Mary Jane Rein

TANER AKÇAM

Taner Akçam, the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Professor, is a devoted mentor to his students. Ambitious junior scholars who wish to study the Armenian Genocide and the history of mass violence during the late Ottoman Empire recognize

Akçam as the leading authority on the subject and they appreciate his enthusiasm for training students. Unsurprisingly, he co-authored his most recent book with graduate student Ümit Kurt. *The Spirit of the Laws: Plunder of Wealth in the Armenian Genocide*, forthcoming in 2015, examines the laws and regulations that legalized the expropriation of Armenian properties in Turkey from 1915 to 2001. Akçam and Kurt claim that Turkey's laws and civil institutions have maintained the state's control over properties seized in the Genocide. The Turkish version of the book appeared in 2012 and the English version will contribute to the ongoing conversation about reparations for confiscated Armenian wealth.

Akçam has continued to receive critical and popular acclaim for his 2012 book, *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*. In addition to being named *Foreign Affairs* best book on the Middle East for 2012, Akçam received the Middle East Studies Association prestigious Albert Hourani Book Prize for 2013. And a segment of the December 2013 issue of the *Journal of Genocide Research* is dedicated to a debate about *The Young Turks' Crime* by several distinguished scholars.

Akçam is now engaged in a project on Armenian Genocide survivors in Aleppo. He discovered a cache of records in the League of Nations archive in Geneva, Switzerland that documents the release of some 1,900 Armenian women and children from Muslim households between 1922 and 1930. The League of Nations admitted the survivors into the Danish Friends of Armenians reception house in Aleppo, Syria and Danish League Commissioner Karen Jeppe and her staff recorded their testimonies in English. Akçam is preparing the testimonies for publication in collaboration with Dicle Akar Bilgin and Matthias Bjørnlund. Once they compile, annotate, and index the materials, they will upload

them onto Armenocide, a comprehensive online archive of German, Ottoman, British, and Danish documents related to the Armenian Genocide.

Akçam helps to shape Turkish popular discourse as a regular columnist for the daily newspaper *Taraf* and as a contributor to other publications in English and Turkish. And he was embroiled in a contentious public discussion concerning Sarkis Torossian, an Armenian officer in the Ottoman army during WWI who described his experiences in a memoir, *From Dardanelles to Palestine*. A heated debate in the Turkish press raised important methodological questions about how history is written and the value of memoir that led to a two-day workshop at the Strassler Center (see page 12). Provocative as the exchange about the memoirs was, it also broadened Turkish dialogue about the Genocide by presenting the idea of patriotic Christians in the Ottoman Empire.

A demanding schedule of international lectures and conferences brought Akçam to speaking engagements in Europe, Turkey and throughout the United States. He presented papers on a range of matters relating to Ottoman Genocides including evidence from the Ottoman archive, assimilation of victims into Turkish Muslim society, the German role in the Genocide, and the costs of denial and hate to continued study and discussion of the subject. Activism extends Akçam's reach beyond the academic sphere. He participates in the International Hrant Dink Foundation, which supports research on the Armenian Genocide, initiatives related to democratization and human rights, and efforts to normalize Turkish-Armenian relations.

Akçam inspires students from many countries and his current advisees come from Armenia, Germany, Lebanon, Sweden, and Turkey. He is committed to recruiting others and his fundraising efforts have yielded two new fellowships that brought one student to the program in fall 2013 and another to begin in fall 2014. Both are fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a professor whose dedication to his students is as profound as his commitment to furthering this important area of scholarship.

Doğa Akar Bilgin '16 and Mary Jane Rein



Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam.

ANTHONY BEBBINGTON

In addition to piloting an innovative doctoral track in Geography and Genocide, a new partnership with the Graduate School of Geography will bring the work of internationally esteemed geographer Anthony Bebbington to the Strassler Center community. Bebbington is the Milton P. and Alice C. Higgins Professor of Environment and Society and he directs Clark's Graduate School of Geography. His work on the political ecology of rural change in South and Central America focuses on extractive industries and socio-environmental conflicts, social movements, indigenous organizations, and livelihoods. Having conducted research in Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, and El Salvador, Bebbington's participation in the Strassler Center program will foster greater interest in the indigenous populations of Latin America and the ongoing challenges and conflicts they face. He will also help to introduce the research tools and methods of geography to the investigation of mass violence and genocide.

Bebbington is privileged to lead Clark's Graduate School of Geography, established in 1921 and widely recognized for training future leaders in the field. Consistently ranked as one of the top-ten graduate programs by the National Research Council, Clark Geography has awarded more PhDs than any other geography program in the United States. Indeed, Bebbington is himself a product of the program, having earned his degree at Clark in 1990. He returned to direct the department in 2010 after teaching at the University of Manchester, U.K. and the University of Colorado, Boulder. Doctoral students who work with Bebbington share his interest in issues surrounding the governance of natural resources including the mining, oil, and gas industries; large and small scale agriculture;

Director of the Graduate School of Geography and Higgins
Professor Anthony Bebbington



energy; forestry and conservation. Controversies over who controls these sectors can have grave consequences for patterns of rural, regional, and national change. These disputes sometimes lead to conflicts in which indigenous populations become targets of abuse, violence, and cultural genocide. Strassler Center students interested in the dynamics of violence in such cases especially welcome Bebbington's participation in the program.

Already an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Science, Bebbington was pleased to garner two additional honors during the spring. The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awarded him a 2014 fellowship in support of his forthcoming book project, *Natural Resource Extraction in Latin America: Transforming the Human-Environment, Challenging Social Science*. With its publication, readers will have the opportunity to learn how he has synthesized more than a decade of research. Following the Guggenheim announcement, Bebbington learned that he had been elected as a member of one of the oldest and most respected research societies, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In announcing the election to the Clark community, Provost Davis Baird commented, "This recognition confirms that [Bebbington] leads one of the strongest Geography Departments in the nation by deed and by example."

Underlying much of Bebbington's work are questions about socially just alternatives to economic development. Thus, his research is read internationally and supported by such prestigious funders as the Economic and Social Research Council (UK), the Ford Foundation, the International Development Research Centre (Canada), the World Bank, the National Science Foundation (through his doctoral students), the British Academy, the UK Department for International Development, and the International Institute for Environment and Development (UK). His most recent books lengthen a long résumé of publications and include *Subterranean Struggles: New Dynamics of Mining, Oil and Gas in Latin America*, edited with J. Bury (2013); and *Social Conflict, Economic Development and Extractive Industries: Evidence from Latin America* (2012). His latest study, conducted with Daniel Franks (University of Queensland), "Conflict translates environmental and social risk into business costs," (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*), established the added financial expense to conducting business where there is tension between mining, oil, and gas companies and local communities.

Enlarging the research agenda of the Strassler Center program, Bebbington will bring expertise on Latin America, geography, and socially just economic development. Students, faculty, and friends look forward to these contributions.

Mary Jane Rein

THOMAS KÜHNE

Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne often ponders how ideas and emotions interact with institutions and society. Thus, he has authored books that tackle abstract concepts such as comradeship and community as avenues for understanding how the Germans carried out the Holocaust. He has also lectured and written about beauty and its function in a modern globalized world. Most recently, Kühne turned his attention to the task of sorting through the historiographical literature about colonialism and the Holocaust. His masterly review of the subject, “Colonialism and the Holocaust: Continuities, Causations, and Complexities,” appeared in the September 2013 issue of the *Journal of Genocide Research*. Making sense of the growing body of literature on colonialism, a significant new concept for examining the root causes of the Holocaust, Kühne has performed an important service to the field of Holocaust history and genocide studies.

An invitation to publish his 2006 book *Kameradschaft* in English offered the opportunity for Kühne to revisit that seminal publication and the myth of comradeship. In it, he argues that the experience of male bonding that emerged in the trenches of WWI carried forward in the Nazi period. Feelings of comradeship allowed German soldiers to embrace Nazi values and to abdicate individual responsibility which enabled them to perpetrate the violence of the Holocaust. In 2013, Kühne’s *Belonging and Genocide: Hitler’s Community, 1918-1945* was published in paperback and in Italian translation. Examining the whole of the German people, he posits a novel idea: genocide builds community among the perpetrators. The Nazi enterprise, criminal as it was, fulfilled the very human need for community through shared involvement in carrying out the Holocaust.

Throughout the academic year, in public lectures, conference presentations, and scholarly articles, Kühne drew upon different disciplinary perspectives to consider the emotional and moral frameworks of violence. Seeking an integrative approach to understanding the Holocaust, he considered “Genocide and Moral Otherness,” “Politics and Gender,” “Comradeship and Masculinity,” and “Bystanders and their Emotions.” Invited to deliver the keynote lecture at the international conference, *How the Families of Both Perpetrators and Victims, and Society at Large, Have Dealt with Nazi Crimes from 1945 to the Present Day*, held at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, Kühne presented “The Motivation of Perpetrators, the Dynamics of Violence Under the Nazis, and Dealing With Nazi Mass Violence After 1945 in Families and Societies.” A public audience of several hundred community members turned out for his March lecture at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of Farmington, MI, “The Murderers Among Us. How We Confront and Elude the Perpetrators of the Holocaust,” sponsored by the Guy Stern Endowment in Exile and Holocaust Studies at Wayne State University. Professor Emeritus Guy Stern, who was a refugee from Nazi German and a scholar of German Jewish literature, praised the lecture as enlightening and superbly researched.

Partnering with co-editors Tom Lawson (Northumbria University, UK) and Deborah Mayerson (University of Wollongong, Australia), Kühne conceptualized, proposed, and established a new book series with Palgrave MacMillan, *Palgrave Histories of Genocides*. With four book manuscripts currently under review, the spectrum of subjects speaks to the editors’ ambitions and includes the UN’s politics on genocide, genocide in Australia, the Holocaust in Romania, and the Armenian Genocide. The wide ranging series promises to provide a valuable platform for conveying important new scholarship about how genocides unfold in different times and places.

Kühne continues to mentor incoming PhD students at the Strassler Center in his capacity as Director of Graduate Studies. He oversees the graduate admissions process as well. And he is an engaged and thoughtful advisor on a variety of dissertations that address issues such as gender, memory, collaboration, and perpetrators. Popular with undergraduate students, his lecture courses reach full capacity. In short, his excellent scholarship matches his engaged teaching. *Mary Jane Rein*



Strassler Professor Thomas Kühne.

KEN MACLEAN

This year, the Strassler Center welcomed Professor Ken MacLean as a new member of its core faculty. MacLean brings valuable expertise as a trained anthropologist as well as a vast trove of knowledge about the history of conflict in South East Asia. Although new in his official capacity, MacLean has contributed to the Strassler Center for many years as a mentor, guest lecturer, and professor in the International Development, Community and Environment department, and as Director of Asian Studies. Now in his capacity as core faculty, MacLean plans to develop courses on topics of interest to Center students including transitional justice proceedings, reconciliation commissions, and memory projects in comparative perspective.

MacLean is deeply committed to the intellectual development of students. As one who benefited from his mentorship, I can report that MacLean had a positive impact on me throughout my undergraduate years. From advising my honors thesis to teaching a variety of enlightening courses such as “The Political-Economy of Food and the Ethics of Eating,” he consistently dedicated time and effort to supporting my fellow students and me. In the classroom, MacLean strives for students to become active learners by providing the necessary tools to think critically. With a deep understanding for the learning process as a whole, he caters brilliantly to the needs of each and every student.

MacLean’s scholarship focuses on the history of conflict in South East Asia where he has conducted extensive fieldwork. In his current book project, he grapples with the highly complicated history of state sponsored violence and interethnic unrest in Burma, *Search-and-Destroy: Crimes against Humanity and Human Rights Fact Production in Burma*. MacLean explores how knowledge is constructed by those in power through choices about what information to record and archive including testimonies, photographs, maps, and reports. Equally important is the recognition of what types of information are silenced. His recent articles about Burma include: “Counter-Accounting with Invisible Data: The Struggle for Transparency in Myanmar’s Energy Sector,” “Lawfare and Impunity in Burma since the 2000 Ban on Forced Labor,” “Sovereignty after the Entrepreneurial Turn: Mosaics of Control, Commodified Spaces, and Regulated Violence in Contemporary Burma.” MacLean writes about Vietnam as well. His recently published first book, *The Government of Mistrust: Illegibility and Bureaucratic Power in Socialist Vietnam* (2013), explores the complicated bureaucracy that developed between Hanoi and rural areas of Vietnam. Examining the baffling system of paperwork that emerged beginning in the 1920s, MacLean sheds light on the government and its administration.

Multiple research trips to Burma have provided



Executive Director Mary Jane Rein and International Development Professor Ken MacLean

MacLean with opportunities to assess the state of the country in the aftermath of the 2011 elections. During a spring trip, he met with a wide range of government and non-government organizations regarding durable solutions to forced displacement in eastern Burma, with voluntary repatriation as the ideal. These plans will have to address a number of problems if they are to enhance the human security of internally displaced persons and refugees in camps along the Thailand-Burma border. The shaky nature of the cease-fire agreements, the omnipresence of army personnel, land mines, the lack of identity documents, unregulated resource extraction, the absence of a framework for land tenure and property rights, and drug and human trafficking plague daily life and undermine plans for improvement. The results of this field work will serve as the foundation for several articles and the final chapter of his book.

Ken MacLean is an innovative scholar who is able to discuss difficult material with equal charm and intellect. These skills were on full display at the Center when he presented “Human Rights Archives and the Aesthetics of Conflict-Induced Displacement in Burma” (see p. 8). Center faculty and students look forward to his growing presence and are eager to see how his contributions shape the development of the academic program.

Olivia Rogine '14

DYAN MAZURANA

During two semester-long visits, Dyan Mazurana has proved herself a valued member of the Strassler Center faculty. Her service as the Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professor of Comparative Genocide Studies broadens the expertise of the Center to include Africa, women and children, policy, armed conflict, peacekeeping, and transitional justice; areas of interest to doctoral students and undergraduates alike. The importance of her work comes into stark relief with the abduction of nearly 300 girls in northern Nigeria. Mazurana's research has revealed that similar actions by rebel groups have become regular practice in conflict zones. Groups abduct and brutally attack civilians to advance their goals and to terrorize their communities. When rebel groups target children, their parents' protests bring even more attention to their cause.

Mazurana builds relationships and makes connections through her scholarship and international humanitarian work. Strassler Center students enrolled in her seminar, "Gender and Mass Atrocity," connected with innovative avenues for research and new perspectives on interdisciplinary engagement. First-year doctoral student Abigail Miller described the course as "wonderful!" Miller grew intellectually as "Mazurana chose a diverse selection of readings that provided us with historical background on the links between gender and mass atrocity, and she gave us the tools to examine these cases from legal, political, and psychological perspectives." And she broadened their lens: "It was wonderful to have her perspective as someone who is out in the field, working with the UN - providing us with a perspective from outside academia."

Mazurana's research reveals that many victims are not recognized as such by either their local communities or their governments. Following brutal attacks, victims are too often blamed for the harm that befell them. Without recognition of victim status, survivors find it difficult to obtain treatment and resources to assist recovery. Mazurana helps policy makers understand the degree of trauma experienced and her advocacy translates that understanding into action on behalf of victims.

In addition to serving as a visiting professor at Clark, Mazurana is an associate research professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and research director at the Feinstein International Center at Tufts University. Having

earned her PhD in Women's Studies from Clark, she embodies the University's motto: Challenge Convention, Change Our World. Indeed, communications from the Fletcher School spotlight her research and assert, "Information gathered inside crisis-affected communities *challenges conventional wisdom* — and shows how a scholar can help *change the global conversation* about what's needed most from the international community." Her research connects meaningfully with practice and results in powerful outcomes.

Convention: boys and girls suffer gravely from association with fighting forces.

Challenge: girls and boys suffer differently and remedies must be different as well.

Change: UNICEF revised its practices for working with girls associated with fighting forces.

Convention: everyone who lives in the path of natural disaster needs help; information gathering does not need to distinguish among victims based on age and gender.

Challenge: age and gender affect how individuals experience disaster and its aftermath. Women and girls, and the elderly are affected disproportionately.

Change: funding organizations now demand age and gender information to distribute aid more effectively.

Convention: armed conflict has a negative impact on all.
Challenge: victims of serious crimes and their families suffer more acutely and for longer periods in terms of social adjustment, income levels, and physical health.

Change: Mazurana's suggestions are used internationally as "best practice;" her research methods are employed broadly to document and report serious crimes during conflict.

Mazurana's current research focuses on regions emerging from extreme violence. She charts serious crimes and seeks to understand survivors' needs for recovery, healing, remedy and reparation, including: physical, mental, and spiritual health; individual and social relations; and restoration of moral boundaries. She has just published a series of articles with several colleagues about these issues as illustrated by a case study of northern Uganda originated by the Secure Livelihoods Research Consortium. Stay tuned!

Sarah Cushman



Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professor Dyan Mazurana.

SHELLY TENENBAUM

As she concludes her final year as chair of the Sociology Department, Shelly Tenenbaum has proved as essential to her department as she is to the Strassler Center and the entire Clark community. The epitome of the engaged professor, Tenenbaum whole-heartedly supports student endeavors. In addition to coordinating undergraduate activities for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (HGS), she mentors HGS concentrators and is faculty advisor to STAND (the anti-genocide student group). She is especially proud that STAND dedicated ten days to remembrance of the twentieth anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide with a series of events. This year, Tenenbaum organized a classroom lecture by Claude Kaitare '05, a Clark alumnus and survivor of the Rwandan genocide and she was especially pleased to sponsor a reading of *Deported: A Dream Play*. The story, based on the friendship between the mother of Dr. Martin Deranian '47 and playwright Joyce Van Dyke's grandmother, explores the history and memory of the Armenian Genocide (see p. 7). Further demonstrating her dedication to students, she coordinates the process for awarding HGS stipends for undergraduate summer internships. Helping students find placements is a highlight of her academic year.

Tenenbaum challenges the canard that if you are a good teacher, your research must suffer. Indeed, she conducts research about teaching. Her article, "Jewish Studies and the Anxiety of Interdisciplinary: A Collaborative Conversation about the Introductory Course," coauthored with Lori Lefkowitz and David Shneer, is forthcoming in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*. The authors argue that although the rhetoric of "interdisciplinarity" is often used to describe Jewish Studies as well as Gender and Sexuality Studies, African-American Studies, and Asian Studies, the truth is that "multidisciplinary" may be a more accurate description of how these fields are taught within the university classroom. Rethinking the ways we introduce Jewish Studies to students has the potential to play a transformative role in consolidating Jewish Studies as an interdisciplinary field. *Shofar* will also publish her review of Rebecca Kobrin's *Chosen Capital: The Jewish Encounter with American Capitalism*. In December 2013, she organized and chaired *Inside and Outside the Synagogue: Contemporary Religious Lives*, a conference sponsored by the Association for Jewish Studies. And she authored "Natalia Twersky: A JWA Foremother," to be published in Joyce Antler's *Why Jewish Women's History Matters: An Archive of Stories in Honor of Gail Reimer*. A recent trip to Poland and Israel, where she tracked the Holocaust journeys of her parents, inspired her to mingle teaching, research, and service with her personal life. She acknowledged it to be a provocative move for any academic: "I am breaking down the walls between my personal and professional lives and I think it is for the better."

Tenenbaum embraces service to Clark and her profession. She organized celebrations to honor the retirement of her long-time colleague, Professor Bob Ross, including a Robert J.S. Ross Social Justice Fund. Her experience and expertise are highly valued and she serves on the academic boards for the Jewish Women's Archive and as the Clark representative to the CET Prague Program. As coordinator for the Social Science Division of the Association for Jewish Studies, she reviewed proposals and organized sessions. Particularly proud of her service as Chair of the Pedagogy Working Group of the Association for Jewish Studies, she successfully proposed a new Pedagogy Division.

As her advisee, I can attest to the fact that these accomplishments pale in comparison to her impact on students. She is vibrant, warm, and motivated; we, at Clark and the Strassler Center, are lucky to enjoy her energy and intelligence.

Jacob Dinerman '16



Sociology Professor and Coordinator of Undergraduate HGS activities Shelly Tenenbaum

JOHANNA RAY VOLLHARDT

As her fifth year at Clark University came to a close, Professor Johanna Ray Vollhardt again demonstrated what a significant addition she is to the Francis L. Hiatt School of Psychology and to the Strassler Center. An affiliated faculty member in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and director of the Social Psychology program, she is committed to understanding the psychology of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders during genocide and in its aftermath. A standout professor, mentor, and academic, Vollhardt serves as a valuable bridge between departments and disciplines.

During the spring semester, Vollhardt taught “The Social and Cultural Psychology of Genocide,” an undergraduate capstone seminar and graduate course comprised of students from various disciplines. The course covered social psychological theories of genocide, rescuing behavior, and transitional justice. As a member of the class, a psychology major, and a Holocaust and Genocide Studies concentrator, my understanding of both disciplines grew as they were mutually enriched. Rose Martin '14, a classmate, observed that “Professor Vollhardt was a great facilitator of class discussions. She fostered a safe and comfortable environment that was essential to the success of the class. Students with varying backgrounds in genocide studies were able to share ideas and converse freely. We learned from each other while absorbing and discussing new material.”

Vollhardt’s teaching is not confined to the classroom. Devoted to advising undergraduate research and doctoral theses alike, she supervised two undergraduate honors theses this year on moral dimensions of resistance during the Holocaust and on the Gezi Park protests in Turkey. She also served as mentor to three graduate students, as well as two graduate students visiting from India and Germany, respectively. And Vollhardt looks forward to mentoring a new doctoral student from Rwanda in the coming year. She eagerly includes undergraduate and graduate students in her research on intergroup conflict and cooperation, examining how people respond to group-based violence and victimization.

In addition to teaching and mentoring, Vollhardt is engaged with projects in the vanguard of social psychological research. One of her main endeavors is a unique radio program which aims to promote reconciliation and democracy throughout Burundi, Rwanda, and Eastern Congo. With her colleague Professor Rezarta Bilali (NYU) and in collaboration with the international NGO Radio La Benevolencija, Vollhardt examines how fictionalized radio programs about intergroup conflict affect victim beliefs and attitudes toward social change. The programs, formatted as soap operas, help listeners understand and overcome unresolved trauma and violence within their societies. This interdisciplinary project has evolved over the years. Today, the researchers are working in Democratic Republic of Congo, where they are using discussion groups to explore the effects of different scene types (focusing on descriptions of violence and grievance versus agency and empowerment) on listeners’ intergroup attitudes and on their willingness to engage in non-violent collective action.

Widely travelled over the past year, Vollhardt was invited to speak about various facets of collective victimhood. For example, she gave a keynote lecture at the *5th Annual Tajfel Seminar: Social Identities in Conflict* at Warsaw University in Poland, a Social Psychology Brown Bag Talk at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and presented at the interdisciplinary conference *The Neuroscience and Social Conflict Initiative: Norms, Narratives, and Neurons*, organized by Beyond Conflict and MIT. Vollhardt is on the editorial board for a host of psychological journals, and she co-founded and co-edits *The Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, together with Professor Christopher Cohrs (Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany). Its current volume features a special section on Rwanda in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the genocide. Finally, she co-organized a conference with Masi Noor and Silvia Mari in Verona, Italy during June on psychological perspectives on collective victimhood and its consequences for intergroup relations.

As a teacher, mentor, and scholar, Johanna Ray Vollhardt has strongly influenced the intellectual evolution of many Strassler Center students. I am one of the students lucky enough to have studied with her and I know for a fact that she is an invaluable contributor to the Strassler Center’s program, students, and faculty.

Jacob Dinerman '16



Psychology Professor Johanna Ray Vollhardt.

PROGRAM FACULTY

The following faculty from seven academic departments participate in the Center's life and programs. We are grateful to all for their contributions of scholarship, expertise, and teaching.

Taner Akçam, Ph.D., History Department

Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies and Modern Armenian History

Paul Burke, Ph.D., Department of Language, Literature and Culture
Professor of Classics

Debórah Dwork, Ph.D., History Department

Director, Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Rose Professor of Holocaust History

Jody Emel, Ph.D., Graduate School of Geography
Professor of Geography

Anita Fábos, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change

Everett Fox, Ph.D., Department of Language, Literature and Culture
Director, Jewish Studies Concentration
Allen M. Glick Professor of Judaic and Biblical Studies

Thomas Kühne, Ph.D., History Department
Strassler Professor of Holocaust History

Olga Litvak, Ph.D., History Department
Michael and Lisa Leffell Professor of Modern Jewish History

Ken MacLean, Ph.D., Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Director of Asian Studies
Associate Professor of International Development and Social Change

Dyan Mazurana, Ph.D., Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professor
Associate Research Professor, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Marianne Sarkis, Department of International Development, Community, and Environment
Assistant Professor of International Development and Social Change

Srinivasan Sitaraman, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Associate Professor of Political Science

Valerie Sperling, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Professor of Political Science

Shelly Tenenbaum, Ph.D., Sociology Department
Coordinator of HGS Undergraduate Activities
Professor of Sociology

Robert Tobin, Ph.D., Department of Language, Literature, and Culture
Henry J. Leir Professor in Foreign Languages and Cultures

Johanna Ray Vollhardt, Ph.D., Hiatt School of Psychology
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Kristen Williams, Ph.D., Political Science Department
Professor of Political Science





STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Students in the Strassler Center program bring unique perspectives with different accents. As a result, discussions are complex, diverse, and fruitful.

Center graduates are now making their mark upon the field. Their scholarly excellence and engagement with public education highlight the success of the program.



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Intellectual sophistication, innovative scholarship, and global reach characterize the work of the Strassler Center's doctoral students. External affirmation is manifested by diverse barometers of achievement. Our students secure impressive fellowships and job opportunities. They travel the globe to conduct and present their research. And their work gains them access to important archives in Armenia, Europe, Israel, Rwanda, Turkey, and the United States. They author books and publish articles in peer-reviewed publications and chapters in edited volumes. They not only participate as presenters in conferences but serve as organizers, committee members, and catalysts. Prominent outside scholars devote time and attention to mentoring Center students. These specialists serve as examiners for comprehensive oral exams, dissertation committee members, colleagues, and research partners. Many experts return to mentor more than one generation of Center PhD candidates. The success of the doctoral program is manifested in the academic and professional accomplishments of the students whose work is described here.

KIMBERLY ALLAR, recipient of the Richard P. Cohen '71 M.D. Fellowship for her final year of doctoral study, continued researching her dissertation, *Training Nazi Camp Guards. Dachau, Ravensbrück, and Trawniki in Comparison*. Her project focuses on the recruitment and training of concentration camp guards and the methods for assimilating different demographic populations. She examines the training of three guard cohorts that differed along gender and ethnic lines, the Totenkopfverbände of Dachau, the Aufseherinnen of Ravensbrück, and the Wachmannschaften of Trawniki. The Nazi administration developed training programs that catered to each group and served the radicalized agendas of the regime. The process included the initial shock of the camp, ideological lectures, and on-the-job instruction designed to yield hardened, obedient, and brutalized guards. Allar plumbs the Nazi expectations and methods for molding guards and recovers the experiences of individuals participating in the program.

As the Ben and Zelda Cohen Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Allar utilized archival collections from the International Tracing Service, and records from post-war trials and investigations. Working with Senior USHMM Historian Peter Black, an expert on the Trawniki Männer, Allar examined the investigation and trial transcripts of the Trawniki men conducted in the USSR. The US Department of Defense employed these documents in civil trials against former Trawniki men hiding in the US, including Ivan Demjanjuk. Using these materials, she reconstructed the recruitment and training of the Trawniki and examined the social and psychological influences that shaped their adjustment from prisoners of war to perpetrators of genocide.

Allar presented "Kinder, Küche, Kirche, und Konzentrationslager: Gender Norms and Female Perpetrators in the Holocaust" at the German Studies Association conference in fall 2013. She demonstrated how the Aufseherinnen reconciled their position as

female perpetrators in concentration camps with the Nazi rhetoric relegating women to the home and family. In addition, Allar anticipates the publication of two articles, "Setting the Picture Straight: The Ordinary Women of Nazi Germany and Rwanda who Participated in Genocide," in the forthcoming book *Aftermath: The Politics of Genocide*. The second article, "From Recruitment to Genocide: An Examination of the Recruitment of Auxiliary Guards in Nazi Konzentrationslager," will appear in *History and Memory of the NS Concentration Camps: Forced Labor, Exploitation, War Production* to be published in 2015.

Allar's promising scholarship continues to garner interest and support. She declined a fellowship from the American Association of University Women to hold the Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies during 2014-2015 and a grant from the Holocaust Educational Foundation.

SABRO ATMAN, the Strassler Center's Assyrian Genocide Studies Fellow, is dedicated to researching the Ottoman genocide carried out against the Assyrian Christian population during World War I. For his doctoral project, he investigates the involvement and attitudes of local feudal lords during the Assyrian Genocide in the cities of Diyarbakir (in Turkey) and Urmia (in Iran). He explores the activities and attitudes of the provincial elites in both cities in an effort to understand their economic, political, and ideological motivations. Atman seeks to establish the extent of their involvement in the genocidal policies of the Union and Progress Party which carried out the Assyrian Genocide. The question of local grassroots support and social acceptance is crucial to understanding how the genocide unfolded.

Atman works closely with his dissertation advisor Professor Taner Akçam whose spring semester course, "Massacres, Genocide, and Humanitarian Intervention: Western Powers in the Balkans and Middle East," proved especially informative. Atman investigated the Hamidiye

Cavalry Regiments and the massacres of Assyrian and Armenian civilians from 1894 to 1896. He was pleased to learn more about humanitarian intervention on behalf of Christian subjects in the late Ottoman period.

Atman is committed to spreading awareness of the Assyrian Genocide. He has been an active participant in the work of the Seyfo Center, an international organization devoted to research and documentation of the genocide as well as contemporary diasporic issues of Assyrian culture, history, and politics. Through his work with Seyfo, Atman has conducted documentation projects including oral interviews. Fluent in 12 languages, among them Aramaic, Arabic, Assyrian, and Turkish, Atman is able to conduct research in the linguistically diverse sources.

During the summer, Atman carried on with his advocacy efforts to build recognition about the Assyrian Genocide. He lectured in Massachusetts, New York, Arizona, and California. He continued to collect interviews with elderly Assyrians about the genocide. Atman also conducted research in the Rabi Hanibal Gwargies library in Los Angeles, which contains the original Assyrian weekly and monthly newspapers published during WWI in the Urmia region. And he visited the National Archives in Washington, DC to examine diplomatic reports about the Armenian Genocide which may shed light on the Assyrian Genocide.

SARA E. BROWN, the Stern Fellow in Comparative Genocide, studies the role of women during the 1994 Rwandan Genocide for her dissertation, *Gender and Agency: Women Rescuers and Perpetrators during the Rwandan Genocide*. Women are victims of horrific gender-specific abuses during war, genocide, and acts of ethnic cleansing. Yet, this gender-based characterization, elides women who exercised agency and became rescuers or perpetrators. In Rwanda, women could be mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, and rescuers or perpetrators; these roles are not mutually exclusive. Though fewer in number than the men who acted during the genocide and marginalized socially and economically within Rwandan society, the women who exercised agency during the Rwandan genocide were significant and their participation continues to affect Rwanda today.

Having brilliantly defended her dissertation prospectus and passed her Swahili proficiency exam in early fall, Brown turned her attention to her professional and scholarly concerns. She served as a consulting scholar on the Rwandan component of a new genocide exhibition mounted at the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education (Chhange) at Brookdale Community College (NJ) and she gave a talk inaugurating its “100 Days of Silence” program. While in Rwanda for a 5-month period as a Boren Fellow, Brown studied Kinyarwanda and completed her doctoral research. She conducted 40 interviews with survivors, rescuers, and perpetrators of the genocide as well as community stakeholders. And she collected extensive archival documentation including Gacaca Court transcripts and interviews conducted by

IBUKA, a lobby group seeking justice for survivors, and the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

Brown travels widely to lecture and publishes actively. She attended the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliya, Israel and presented “Reshaping Gender Roles in Post-Genocide Rwanda.” Back in California, Brown spoke about women perpetrators at the *International Feminist Journal of Politics* conference and, in Canada, about women rescuers at the International Association of Genocide Scholars conference. She published opinion pieces for the *Times of Israel* and the *Assessing Atrocity Blog*. She concluded her busy year with a manuscript, tentatively titled “Reshaping Gender Roles in Post-Genocide Rwanda,” currently under review and a proposed book chapter, “Survival and Rescue: Women during the Rwandan Genocide,” submitted to the editors of *Gender and Genocide*.

April 2014 was an especially busy period due to the 20th anniversary of the genocide. Brown volunteered with Kwibuka20, assisting with commemoration activities and joining many community events. Having attended the 10th anniversary commemoration in 2004, she observed how Rwanda has progressed over the past decade.

ASYA DARBINYAN completed her first year of doctoral study with the support of a T. McBane Fellowship for study of the Armenian Genocide. Interested in Russian reactions to the Armenian Genocide and fluent in Russian, she is well equipped to carry out her plans to study Russian humanitarian assistance and relief efforts for Armenian refugees. In developing her dissertation project, Darbinyan has drawn upon earlier research she conducted on international humanitarian assistance for the Armenians, and in particular American relief efforts



T. McBane Fellow Asya Darbinyan

on behalf of orphans and refugees. She hopes to ascertain whether Russian humanitarian organizations cooperated with these American relief efforts. And, if so, how did that cooperation serve the interests of both the relief workers and the refugees?

In order to refine her dissertation topic, Darbinyan traveled to Yerevan during the winter months and identified the Russian language documents and texts available in Armenian archives and libraries. Those efforts were helpful in laying the ground for a trip to Russia during the summer months where she carried out research on primary sources in archives including the Military-Historical Archive of the Russian Empire, and the Archive for the Foreign Relations of the Russian Empire in Moscow; and the Russian State Historical Archive in St. Petersburg. The Viceroyalty of the Caucasus collection in the Georgian State Historical Archives, located in Tbilisi, also holds key documents, as well as a number of newspapers published during the imperial period. Darbinyan established contact with this institution in preparation for a future research visit.

To enrich her knowledge of both Ottoman and Russian imperial history and politics, Darbinyan took Professor Taner Akçam's course, "Massacres, Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention: Western Powers in the Balkans and Middle East," and Professor Valerie Sperling's course, "Russian Politics." With her language skills and knowledge of these neighboring empires, she is poised to contribute serious research. And she has done so already with a presentation at the Salzburg Global Seminar on the panel "Holocaust Education and Genocide Prevention in Post-Soviet Societies." She also co-authored a chapter with Dr. Rubina Peroomian, "Children: The Most Vulnerable Victims of the Armenian Genocide," published in *Plight and Fate of Children During and Following Genocide*, edited by Samuel Totten.

KATHRIN HAURAND, in her third year of doctoral study as a Claims Conference Fellow, continued to make progress on developing her dissertation on *Jewish Refugees in Teheran during World War II*. She explores a significant but overlooked aspect of the history of antisemitism and the Holocaust: the complex situation in Iran, a country that both collaborated with the Nazis and offered asylum to Jewish refugees. Shedding light on the transnationality of the Jewish diaspora experience, and elucidating the crossroads of European and Middle Eastern history during the Holocaust, her study traces how shifts in European alliances, and Iranian policy, influenced the life course of Jewish refugees in Teheran.

Haurand investigates how the refugees pursued a path forward after their experiences of loss and trauma, and de-



Claims Conference Fellow Kathrin Haurand

spite an increasingly antisemitic environment in Iran. She drills down on nationality, class, education, religion, political affiliation, age, and gender to explain how these factors shaped the émigrés' adjustment to their new environment. Aid networks and Jewish-led initiatives during and immediately after the war were also important. Haurand uncovered valuable documents that shed light on these aid networks in the archives of the American Jewish Agency, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the Center for Jewish History, and the Hadassah archive in New York. During the summer months, she carried out research in the archives of the Institute for Jewish Research in New York and at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. In the fall, thanks to a grant from the Foundation Pour la Mémoire de la Shoah, she will continue to research rescue operations to Iran in French archives including the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the Consistoire Israélite de Paris, and the archives of the Croix-Rouge française.

Haurand was pleased to serve as a teaching trainee for Professor Shelly Tenenbaum's course, "Genocide." In that capacity she taught a session on the legal and political implications of the UN Genocide Convention and placed it in historical perspective. She also taught about the 1988 genocide carried out against the Kurds in Northern Iraq. Haurand will sit for her comprehensive exams and dissertation proposal defense in September. Two outside scholars honor her project by joining her dissertation commit-

tee, Professors Aron Rodrigue (Stanford University), who specializes in Middle Eastern Jewry, and Meir Litvak (Tel Aviv University), whose expertise is on Iranian history. Their input is certain to help shape Haurand's important work on this subject.

MARI HOVHANNISYAN spent the spring semester as a visiting student at the Strassler Center. Supported by a Carnegie Research Fellowship, she welcomed the opportunity to study with Professor Taner Akçam. A native of Yerevan, Armenia, she studied journalism at Yerevan State University and worked as a journalist for the Public Radio of Armenia and "Impulse Mayak" radio company. Having earned an MA in Political Science at Central European University, Hovhannisyan worked as a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. Long interested in the politics of genocide denial, she authored the book *Collision of Past and Present: The Collective Memory of the Armenian Genocide and the Turkish Denial*. Her research interests also include genocide studies, conflict resolution, and the formation of democracy in post-conflict and transitional societies.

Hovhannisyan's experience at the Strassler Center encouraged her to widen her research focus. Initially planning to research denial of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey, she enlarged her topic to include Armenian Genocide denial in the United States. Thus far, she has studied the mechanisms of Turkish state-orchestrated denial of the Armenian Genocide. Considering both political and academic denial, she investigates the main executors of the denial policy inside Turkey and considers how they influ-

ence state policy. She also looks at how the events of 1915 are taught in Turkish schools and universities.

Her research on the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide documents denial beginning in 1965 and up to the present day. During the 1960s, following changes in the political and cultural life of the Soviet Union, the taboo on discussing the Armenian Genocide began to dissipate. In April 1965, on the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, mass demonstrations took place in Yerevan. And in 1967 the Memorial Complex of Tsitsernakaberd, dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, was erected. The revival of the memory about the Genocide galvanized the Turkish government to enact new policies about the Armenian "issue."

In fall, Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow **ÜMIT KURT** passed his oral exams with flying colors and defended his dissertation prospectus, *The Emergence of the New Wealthy Social Strata between 1915-1922: The Local Elites' Seizure of Armenian Property in Aintab*. Kurt investigates the economic, political, and ideological motivations of local elites in carrying out the Armenian Genocide in Aintab on the Syrian border in Southeast Turkey. In determining the extent of their participation and concrete support for the government's genocidal policies, he challenges official Turkish historiography which holds that Unionist factions who carried out the deportations and genocide lacked popular support and social legitimacy.

Archival research brought Kurt to archives in Turkey and elsewhere. He examined Ottoman documents in the Prime Minister's Archives, property and deportation records of Aintab Armenians in the Republican Archives



Assyrian Genocide Fellow Sabro Atman, Professor Hans-Lukas Kieser (University of Zurich), Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akcam, NAASR Director Marc Mamigonian, Hausrath Fellow Ümit Kurt, and Professor Richard Hovannisian (UCLA)

in Ankara, and materials in the libraries of Aintab. On a research trip to France, he discovered a number of significant documents in the Nubarian Library in Paris, in the Archives of the Defense Ministry in Port de Vincennes, and in the Diplomatic Archives of Nantes. Continuing on to Yerevan, he conducted archival research in the Armenian National Archives and Armenian Genocide Museum. Finally, he completed his archival research in London at the British National Archives.

Kurt published prolifically this year. He unearthed and translated two important Armenian manuscripts forthcoming in Turkish: *Aintab Koyamardi* by A. Gesar and *100 Jam Aintabi: Huşer Yev Dıbarivorutner* by Yervant Küçükyan. He is also translating three volumes of Kevork Avedis Sarafian's Armenian manuscripts on Aintab into Turkish. More exciting yet is the upcoming publication in English of his book, *The Spirit of Laws: Seeking for Traces of Armenian Genocide in the Abandoned Properties Laws*, co-authored with Professor Taner Akçam. His article on Turkish nationalism between the years 1911-1916 was accepted for publication by *Nations and Nationalism*. Articles on the economic motivations for the Armenian Genocide, and a comparative analysis of the legal procedures justifying confiscation of Armenian properties in Turkey and Jewish properties in Nazi Germany are pending with scholarly journals.

Fellowship support from the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Anatolian Culture Center, the Hrant Dink Foundation, and the Nazar Nazarian Family Foundation supported Kurt's extensive travel and research. Finally, he was pleased to return to teaching summer courses at Sabancı University. The fall will find him back at the Strassler Center where he will commence writing his dissertation with the support of a Calouste Gulbenkian Armenian Studies Scholarship and the Hausrath Fellowship.

Tapper Fellow **ABIGAIL MILLER** entered the doctoral program with an array of interests, including the historical intersection of gender, war, and culture during the Holocaust and contemporary mass atrocities. Fascinated, as well, by memorialization and representations of genocide in popular culture, she attended the inaugural "Tweet-up" event co-hosted by the USHMM and the National Museum of American History (NMAH) to celebrate the Janu-

ary opening of the exhibit, *Camilla's Purse* at the NMAH. Together with other tech-savvy individuals in the field of Holocaust education, Miller attended the preview and met with exhibit curators and preservationists. The group used social media applications, such as Twitter and Instagram, to reach millions of followers with details of the exhibit about Holocaust survivor Camilla Gottlieb's purse. Discovered by her family after her death, the purse contained letters and papers that trace her life from her birth in Vienna, to her captivity in Terezín, and eventually to a new life in the United States.

Seeking to define a distinct research path, Miller has begun to study Argentina as a refuge for Jewish immigrants and Nazi perpetrators during and after the Holocaust. She hopes to elucidate the government policies and individuals responsible for these contradictory offers of sanctuary. She will investigate, too, how the well-established Jewish community of Argentina responded to the influx and safeguarding of Nazi war criminals. By examining their

reactions, Miller will explore how the memory of genocide shapes refugee communities' responses to state-sponsored threats and violence. During the summer months, she commenced preliminary research in the USHMM archives, the National Archives, and the Library of Congress Archives.

Miller has also embarked upon a host of professional activities. She returned to her alma mater, West Virginia University, for a panel discussion she helped to organize, "Genocide, Perpetrators, and Popular Culture: A Conversation." A screening of the 2008 film *The Reader* was followed by a panel discussion on the representation of genocide perpetrators in popular culture. Miller examined the portrayal of the protagonist Hanna with a critical eye to the implications of

gender. Previously, as a research assistant at the USHMM, she contributed to the archival source series, *Documenting Life and Destruction: Jewish Responses to Persecution* Volume III, forthcoming in 2015. Finally, she partnered with Dr. Sarah Cushman on a presentation on the history of the Holocaust and the impact of human suffering for a group of senior citizens and high school students in Clinton, MA.

Ralph and Shirley Rose Fellow **KHATCHIG MOURADIAN** continued his extensive global travel as he completed writing his dissertation, *The 'Ground Zero' of the Arme-*



Tapper Fellow Abigail Miller

nian Genocide: Destruction and Agency in the Concentration Sites of Syria (1915-1918). Throughout his doctoral career, he served as editor of the *Armenian Weekly*, to which he was also a frequent contributor. As he prepares to conclude his editorship, he leaves a strong and dynamic publication with a vibrant electronic presence. This year, he began as Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University. In the spring semester (2014), he taught a seminar on “The History of Concentration Camps” as a visiting professor at Rutgers. He also taught “Violence, Peace, and Conflict Resolution” as an adjunct professor at Worcester State University.

A highlight of the year was Mouradian’s selection as the first recipient of the Hrant Dink Spirit of Freedom and Justice Medal on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of Dink’s assassination. An audience of several hundred people was on hand for the January award presentation at the Los Angeles headquarters of the Organization of Istanbul Armenians. As keynote speaker for the event, Mouradian presented “Unearthing Western Armenia in Turkey,” in which he explained the challenges facing hidden Armenians and the cultural heritage of the historic Armenian cities and villages of Turkey. He described the lessons to be learned from this long concealed history and the implications for Armenia, Artsakh (in the Southern Caucasus), and the diaspora. Inspired by Dink’s legacy of outspokenness about the genocide, Mouradian delivered a lecture at MIT titled “Hearing the Footsteps of Dawn: Turkey after Hrant Dink.”

Among his many international speaking engagements, Mouradian’s lecture at a Berlin conference, *The 1915 Genocide: Collective Responsibility and Roles; Kurdish, Armenian, Assyrian Relations*, stands out. The conference brought together two generations of Kurdish intellectuals to discuss inter-communal relations before and after the Genocide and the responsibilities of Kurds in the reconciliation process. Speaking in Turkish, Mouradian called on Kurdish opinion-makers and politicians to deepen their role in securing justice for the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

As Mouradian transitions into his role at Rutgers, he was pleased to serve as a consulting scholar for a genocide exhibit at the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education at Brookdale Community College (NJ) and to deliver a lecture, “Un-hiding the Past: Turkey and the Armenian Genocide Centennial,” at the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation (Bergen Community College).

Claims Conference Fellow **MICHAEL NOLTE** examines Nazi interpretations of mental illness and the history of the Hadamar asylum. In postwar trials, Hadamar personnel faced prosecution for murdering patients, although the German courts gave them mild sentences. Besides statements by doctors, nurses, and other staff, these proceedings give voice to former patients. Court files also indicate the organizational bodies implicated in the murder of those deemed mentally ill. Yet, these sources



Claims Conference Fellow Mihai Poliec with child survivor Dr. Larry Rotenberg

are also problematic as they represent the perspective of perpetrators who stigmatized victims as neurotic, paranoid, and untrustworthy.

With the support of the Hilda and Al Kirsch research fund, Nolte visited the archives at the Hadamar memorial to research the history of that place as an asylum and a site for mass killing. The documents Nolte discovered shed light on the Third Reich’s sterilization program and perceptions of the mentally ill. And they relate the biographies of those who were forced into Hadamar, including women with multiple sex partners, child molesters, a Jew who tried to commit suicide after the November pogrom, and many others. In addition, the asylum’s administrative files document mundane matters, such as the purchase of plants, animals, and machinery for the asylum’s farmstead. The records also reveal how the institution tried to save money by requesting ration cards for hundreds of murdered patients.

The patient files illuminate the administrative business of the facility and the medical history of the victims. They include letters written by inmates, relatives, and bureaucrats and reveal how the asylum evolved. In 1940, the Nazis transformed Hadamar into an annihilation site of the “euthanasia” program. While the central authorities ordered the gas chambers dismantled in 1942, mass murder continued by starvation and poisonous injections. The Hadamar patient files document the rate of mass murder, noting the arrival date and cause of death. Most of the victims had been in other asylums before; others came from welfare institutions, the legal system, or slave labor camps. They were transported to Hadamar and killed for various reasons, including diseases the Nazis deemed incurable or the inability to work.

During the summer months, Nolte investigated the Hadamar files housed at the Bundesarchives in Berlin and the Archiv des Landeswohlfahrtsverbandes in Kassel with an eye toward obtaining insights about Jewish patients, to gather data about personnel, and to better understand the administration and operation of the facility.

MIHAI POLIEC, recipient of a Claims Conference Fellowship, enjoyed a busy and productive spring: he passed his oral exams and successfully defended his dissertation prospectus, *Civilian Collaboration during the Holocaust in Romania*. He explores why civilians went from bystanders to perpetrators and how they became complicit in the Holocaust. His research, primarily conducted in the USHMM archives, sheds light on anti-Jewish violence in Bessarabia and Bukovina after July 1941.

In urban Bukovina, collaborators included mayors, deputy mayors, the sub-prefect, as well as lawyers and high-level civil servants from various cities. They joined in carrying out round-ups, surveillance of Jews as they performed compulsory labor, selection for execution and deportation of Jews, and the plunder of their property before, during, and after execution or deportation to Transnistria. In the countryside, anti-Jewish violence occurred after the withdrawal of the Soviets as well as when Romanian troops entered Bukovina. Bystanders who became perpetrators were of Romanian and Ukrainian ethnicity. Their motivations were complex. Although material gain was a common factor, the use of torture, humiliation, and violent antisemitic language suggests

a strong ideological component. Jews were regarded as philo-Communists, usurpers of Romanian society, and enemies of the Romanian nation.

In Bessarabia, too, civilian complicity was a diverse and complex phenomenon. The actions of local gentiles increased the physical and socio-economic vulnerability of Jews during the phases of annihilation: round-ups, confinement in ghettos, forced labor, and deportation to Transnistria. Lawyers, serving as members of the civilian administration, declined requests to release Jews from the ghettos. Doctors refused to exempt elderly people from deportation lists. Hospital administrators exploited Jews trying to find assignments in order to escape the risk of execution in the ghetto. Envoys from the National Bank of Romania participated in the strip search of Jews as they were exiting Bessarabia and entering Transnistria. Collaborators committed systematic violence against victims in transit camps, often resulting in death from beatings. Teamsters assigned to transport elderly and wounded deportees from the ghettos to the border with Transnistria expelled them from their carts and often robbed them. And many villagers living along the route of Jewish convoys came out of their houses to rob and murder Jews.

Poliec continued his research during the summer months at the USHMM where he participated in the workshop “Collaboration and Complicity.” And he contacted survivors of Transnistria who live in North America in order to arrange interviews for his doctoral project.

ALICJA PODBIELSKA, first-year student and Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow, came to the Strassler Center from the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam where she served as the educational project assistant. She holds an MA in Polish philology from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Her research focuses on popular memory of aid offered to Jews by ethnic Poles during the Holocaust. Podbielska analyzes the shifting Polish narrative of rescue from the immediate postwar years, through the communist period and democratization, until the present, tracing the development of the popular myth of Polish rescuers as altruistic and representative of the whole of Polish society’s wartime attitudes. Contrasting that construct with the picture that has emerged from recent historiography suggesting that rescuers may also have acted from self-interest, she explores generalizations, omissions, and concealments within memory discourse. To reveal them, she juxtaposes Jewish and Polish narratives. She also compares the highly ritualized public discourse of heroism with the “raw” unscripted private memory that emerges in oral testimonies narrated by elderly rescuers, their families,

Sidney and Rosalie Rose Fellow Alicja Podbielska





Claims Conference Fellow Jason Tingler

and other inhabitants in rural areas of Poland.

Podbielska was awarded a fellowship to attend the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) Summer School in Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem. While in Israel, she met with distinguished Holocaust scholars, including Yehuda Bauer, Dalia Ofer, and Dan Michman. Sifting through the Yad Vashem archives, she discovered joint testimonies of Jewish survivors and their Polish rescuers. Some of those rescuers were awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations and eventually settled in Israel. Podbielska examines their motivation for making aliyah. She also presented her research project to other participants in the summer school, staff of Yad Vashem, and EHRI.

From Jerusalem, Podbielska traveled to Poland to conduct research at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, as well as other Polish archives and libraries. At the Ethnographic Archive of Warsaw University, she explored a collection of oral history interviews about the memory of the Holocaust conducted in the Polish countryside. And she also visited sites important for commemoration of rescuers, in Lodz, Warsaw, and Krakow where she attended a public debate on Polish rescuers held during the Jewish Cultural Festival. Her productive summer of travel and research also included a fellowship to attend the Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at the Royal Holloway, University of London. The intensive 2-week course, co-sponsored by Northwestern University, included sessions taught by David Cesarani and Dan Stone among others.

JASON TINGLER, supported by a Claims Conference Fellowship, completed his second year of doctoral study and revised the focus of his dissertation. Examining ethnic relations in Chelm County in the Lublin district of occupied Poland, he analyzes the interaction among different groups in the context of the violence that took place in the district. Tingler views Chelm County as a microcosm of war-time events that unfolded in Eastern Europe. The region housed the Sobibor death camp and the prisoner of war camp Stalag 319; while the former is well-known for its murderous operation and approximately 170,000 Jewish victims, the latter is often overlooked despite its death toll of more than 100,000 (mostly Soviet) prisoners of war. Several Jewish ghettos and labor camps were also located in Chelm and the region was witness to harsh deportations and death marches of local Jewish civilians. The Germans brutalized the Polish and Ukrainian populations as well, both through official deportation policies and anti-partisan operations.

Yet, the Germans were not the only perpetrators operating in the Chelm district. Polish and Ukrainian underground and partisan fighters committed deadly acts of violence against each other. Indeed, Polish and Ukrainian forces instituted policies of ethnic cleansing, and to some extent utilized and manipulated the German occupational authorities to further their own ethno-nationalist aims. Tingler's dissertation will highlight how these fraught ethnic relations between Jews, Poles, Ukrainians, and Germans shaped and were shaped by the endemic violence that continued even beyond war's end.

Tingler conducted valuable archival research that has laid the ground for his dissertation. He examined documents from postwar investigations held in the Zentrale Stelle der Landesjustizverwaltungen zur Aufklärung nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen. Unpublished postwar testimonies and memoirs from Jewish survivors and Poles found in the Jewish Historical Institute (Warsaw) have also proved useful. Several interesting memoirs by Chelm Jews who concealed themselves as Poles but lived rather openly provide further context regarding efforts to survive in this cruel and complex environment.

The summer presented significant opportunities for professional and academic development. Tingler presented a paper on Holocaust perpetrators at the Case Western University conference *Evil Incarnate*. And a fellowship to attend the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute introduced Tingler to Ukrainian. Deepening his understanding of Ukrainian language and culture will strengthen his understanding of the region as he hones his dissertation proposal.

Starhill Fellow and second-year doctoral student **WOLF-**

GERO WESTHOFF focuses on the activities of German diplomats, military staff, and civilians stationed in Turkey during WWI. Having written an MA thesis at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland on German diplomacy in Turkey during the Armenian Genocide, he has long been interested in the extent of German responsibility. Turkey's main ally during World War I, the German Empire played a central role in Ottoman policy. Many German citizens stationed throughout Anatolia witnessed the organized mass atrocities committed against Christian populations. Their detailed reports, cabled to the embassy in Constantinople, demonstrate that the authorities in Berlin knew about the mass atrocities. While some German diplomats sought to take action against the killings, *Realpolitik* and national interest silenced most. Rather than aid the victims, the German government defined the violence as an internal matter and refrained from helping.

Westhoff has conducted preliminary research in the German military archives, examining letters, orders, and cabled reports. During the summer he visited six military and state archives to collect information about the Prussian army structure and the distribution of German officers in Anatolia. He discovered documents clarifying the structure and hierarchy of the German military mission in Constantinople between 1914 and 1915. He is particularly interested in Rear Admiral Guido von Usedom who was head of the Mediterranean Division. Von Usedom commanded the battleships Goeben and Bresslau and ordered the first shots fired against Russian targets in late October 1914. In his diary, he mentions the Armenian uprising in and around Van that was violently suppressed.

Westhoff is also interested in the activities of Lieutenant-Colonel Sylvester Bötterich, who was responsible for the Turkish railway system. His signature on deportation orders moves Germany's responsibility from a passive role to active involvement. As director of the Railway Department and a member of the Ottoman General Staff, he was involved with the construction of the Baghdad Railway. This system was crucial to transporting troops and supplies to Mesopotamia, Persia, and the Suez front. Refusing requests to safeguard Armenian staff, von Bötterich called for Muslim workers to replace Armenians. Bötterich signed and endorsed the October 1916 deportation decree for 850 Armenian rail workers serving in labor battalions. The Turkish War Ministry issued the decree as a "legitimate component" of Ottoman wartime policy. Yet, from a military and strategic point of view, the action was counterintuitive to the German doctrine of "military necessity." Westhoff's dissertation promises to sharpen our understanding of culpability in the Armenian Genocide.



Raz Segal PhD '13

NEW STUDENTS

The four young scholars embarking upon doctoral study in fall 2014 count two Americans, one Armenian, and one Israeli. They will study the Holocaust, and the Armenian and Rwandan genocides. The history of sexuality, the psychology of perpetrators and victims, gender questions, and the aftermath of conflict are salient interests. Their strong commitment to research and scholarship shows that they have much to offer and much to gain from pursuing doctoral study at the Strassler Center.

Anna Aleksanyan Harry and Ovsanna Chitjian Fellow

Mayaan Armelin Shirley and Ralph Rose Fellow

Gabriella Hauth Richard M. Cohen '71 M.D. Fellow

Samantha Lakin Cummings Fellow

LIFE AFTER THE CENTER PROFILE: RAZ SEGAL PH.D. '13

During his doctoral student days, Raz Segal was a dynamic participant in the academic life of the Strassler Center community. His intellectual engagement with all aspects of Holocaust and genocide studies was manifest at the Center's many events. Rarely satisfied to pose a single question to a presenter, he typically remarked "I have two questions" and continued with a pair of thoughtful queries. Now a year after defending his dissertation, *Disintegration: Social Breakdown and Political Mass Violence in Subcarpathian Rus'*, Segal holds two prestigious fellowships in his native Israel. He is the recipient of both a Lady Davis post-doctoral fellowship at Hebrew University and a Thomas Arthur Arnold post-doctoral fellowship at Tel Aviv University. On top of these, he has taught at Haifa University in the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies and in the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University.

At Clark, Segal's dedication to his doctoral training and research was matched by a desire to enrich the Center's scholarly culture. He conceived the plan for an International Graduate Students' Conference and helped to launch the first one in 2009. His vision for bringing together PhD students to present and discuss doctoral research among themselves and leading senior scholars is now a permanent feature. The third iteration will take place in 2015 and, as the Center mounts these conferences every three years, no doubt Segal will come to serve as one of the senior mentors in due course.

Professor Yehuda Bauer was Segal's distinguished MA advisor and the impetus for his decision to apply to the Strassler Center. Having spent two semester-long visits at Clark, Bauer recognized the importance of close ties between Holocaust historians working in the U.S. and Israel. Segal grew this idea and began to lay the ground for a formal cooperation during his Clark career. Together with Professor Thomas Kühne, he devised the idea for an annual workshop series alternating between Israel and the Clark campus. During trips to Israel and working with Center Director Debórah Dwork, he recruited the support of leading academics. The first workshop owed its success, in part, to Segal's perseverance (see p. 11). And the series continues as another ongoing Strassler Center initiative.

At the core of Segal's commitment to Holocaust and genocide studies is his first-rate scholarship. His dissertation, written under the direction of Professor Dwork, challenges prevailing ideas about concepts such as anti-semitism, categories such as bystanders and collaborators, and the steps toward the "final solution." *Disintegration* also examines relations between Jews and Carpatho-Ruthenians, as both groups faced the upheavals of two world wars, shifting borders, and mass violence perpetrated in the service of several projects of state and nation building. Interested in his approach, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, which supports scholarship on violence, awarded him a dissertation fellowship, one of few dealing with the Holocaust that the foundation has funded.

Eager to move ahead with new research, Segal has revised his dissertation and the book manuscript is already

Elizabeth Anthony (ABD), Curt C. and Else Silberman ITS staff scholar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Cristina Andriani Ph.D. '13, Licensed Mental Health Counselor at Staffier Associates and Family Continuity

Beth Cohen Ph.D. '03, Lecturer, California State University, Northridge

Sara Cushman Ph.D. '10, Academic Program Liaison Officer, Strassler Center

Emily Dabney (ABD)

Tiberius Galis (ABD), Executive Director, Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation

Michael Geheran (ABD)

Adara Goldberg Ph.D. '12, Director of Education, Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

Naama Haviv '01 MA '06, Assistant Director, Jewish World Watch

Alexis Herr Ph.D. '14, Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellow for Advanced Shoah Studies and Adjunct Professor, Northeastern University

Stefan Ionescu Ph.D. '13, Research Associate and Holocaust History Fellow, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

Jeffrey Koerber, PhD '14, Research Associate and Instructor, Wilkinson College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Chapman University

Natalya Lazar (ABD), Saul Kagan Claims Conference Academic Fellow for Advanced Shoah Studies

Beth Lilach (ABD), Director of Education, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County

Jody Russell Manning (ABD)

Ilana F. Offenberger Ph.D. '10, Lecturer, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

Christine Schmidt Ph.D. '03, ITS Archive Researcher at the Wiener Library for the Holocaust and Genocide, London

Raz Segal Ph.D. '13, Lady Davis Fellow, Hebrew University, Lecturer, Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies, University of Haifa and Avraham Harman Institute at Hebrew University, and Thomas Arthur Arnold Fellow of Tel Aviv University

Joanna Sliwa (ABD), Family Robert Weil Foundation Fellow for Advanced Holocaust Studies and Assistant Program Manager of Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics, Museum of Jewish Heritage

Lotta Stone Ph.D. '10, Historian and Research Associate, Middleton Place Foundation, Charleston, SC

under review. His current project, *Making Hungary Greater*, widens his focus by examining all the border areas under Hungary's control during World War II beginning in the late nineteenth century and until after 1945. Segal aims to develop a new conceptual framework for thinking about key issues in the history of Europe in the twentieth century. He seeks to shed light on a host of questions including the meaning of citizenship in states on the path of ethno-national consolidation; relations between groups in multiethnic and multi-religious societies as they responded to the pressures and violence of such states; the plight and roles of refugees in the making of "homogenous" spaces; and the ways individuals and collectives interpreted far-reaching political and military changes and chose to behave in times of crisis and social disintegration.

From always posing two questions, Segal has moved to posing many. And his answers are likely to challenge established assumptions about the Holocaust, genocide, and mass violence.

Mary Jane Rein

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

A series of events designed to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide formed the centerpiece of the undergraduate academic year. Organized by the Clark chapter of the student anti-genocide group STAND, the activities built awareness about the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis and provided valuable opportunities to hear directly from survivors. The week-long program began with a moment of silence on Sunday 6 April and concluded with a touching testimonial by a survivor, Consolee Nishimwe. Her story included many elements tragically typical of victimization; violence committed by neighbors; refuge among rescuers; separation from family; the murder of loved ones; rape; and the opportunity for healing. Clark alumnus Claude Kaitare '05, who witnessed the genocide as a boy and lost several family members, described his experiences to a combined gathering of students from Professor Shelly Tenenbaum's "Genocide" course and Professor Srini Sitaraman's "UN and International Politics" course. His recollections about the 100-day genocide were as rich as his observations about the politics of peacekeeping and reconciliation.

Undergraduate students in Professor Anita Fabós's International Development course "Local Action/Global Change" mounted a photo exhibition in the Strassler Center's Siff Gallery. This was the culmination of a semester-long project, "A Life History of Bhutanese Refugees: An Oral History and Photo Exhibit." The students and their young Bhutanese collaborators partnered on the pilot phase of a refugee oral history project. They interviewed several Nepali-speaking Bhutanese elders living in Worcester about their lives in Bhutan and how they fled in the face of ethnic cleansing. The event showcased portraits of the refugees along with quotations from their testimonies, highlighting aspects of their lives. In addition to teaching the student participants about oral history and the experience of forced migration, the project aims to engage refugee elders in ways that provide them with a sense of purpose and honors their wisdom which is revered in Bhutan but seems to be less valued in the United States.

The summer break offers an opportunity for undergraduates to gain practical experience in careers related to Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Professor Shelly Tenenbaum, Coordinator of HGS activities, oversees awards for internship stipends. Natalia Abrahams '16, a co-chair of STAND and an HGS concentrator, received funding from the Ina R. and Haskell R. Gordon Fund to intern at the Museum of Tolerance in New York City. Active with the faith-based organization Kitchen with Love (Guatemala), her career plans include humanitarian work in countries

affected by mass atrocities. Alicja Gancarz '17 received a summer internship stipend from the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Fund to intern at Facing History and Ourselves in Brookline, MA. Having taken a Facing History class in high school, Gancarz participated in a trip to Berlin, Krakow and Prague. Born in Poland and fluent in Polish, she found it a powerful experience. She plans to complete a Masters in Teaching at Clark and to teach the Facing History curriculum one day.

Outstanding undergraduates enjoyed a range of meaningful internships. HGS concentrator Jonathan Edelman '16, the first Clark undergraduate to receive a summer internship at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, was delighted to contribute his talents and energy to the department of Photographic References and Archives. A highly accomplished photographer, Edelman's many portraits of faculty, students, and Strassler Center guests appear throughout the pages of this report. Faith Jean '15, one of three students chosen for an HGS summer stipend, declined her award, having been selected to participate in the Lipper Internship program at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, which comes with its own funding. And India Spears '16, another HGS concentrator, interned at the Strassler Center as student editor of the *Year End Report* and with funding provided by LEEP (Liberal Education and Effective Practice). Her contributions not only enhance the current report but will help in shaping design decisions in future iterations.

Doğa Bilgin Akar '16, Jacob Dinerman '16, Danielle Osterman '14, Olivia Rogine '14, and Zoe Vallas '15 were valued members of the Strassler Center staff this year. Their commitment and work on the *Year End Report*, archiving Strassler Center photos, staffing events, planning the Israel Academic Exchange, posting events and news to Facebook, and countless other tasks both small and large are deeply appreciated.

Mary Jane Rein

Jonathan Edelman '16



PROFILE: VALERIE JOHNSON '15

Undergraduate concentrator, Valerie Johnson '15, had an extraordinarily productive junior year. Johnson, who chose Clark University because of the large Armenian community in Worcester and for the Holocaust and Genocide Studies program, has found many ways to tie these interests together through campus-based and extracurricular activities. Johnson developed a LEEP internship working with the Friends of the Armenian Chair. She joined forces with the “friends” to raise awareness and funds for research and programs related to the Armenian Genocide and to create an endowment for PhD candidates seeking to work in the field. Her focus is on outreach to Armenian organizations and alumni interested in supporting education about the Armenian Genocide. She was well prepared for this opportunity having received an HGS stipend last summer to intern at the Armenian Youth Federation and to conduct research for Kaloosdian Mugar Professor Taner Akçam. Her LEEP Project also connects perfectly to her job at the Clark Fund where she was promoted to phone room supervisor this year. “I find it so inspiring to learn what graduates do after their time as students and to know that they still feel connected to Clark and why!” Johnson exclaims.

Johnson began participating in Clark’s Mock Trial team as a freshman. Upon taking the introductory course, “Trial Advocacy,” she immediately joined and became co-captain of the B team. By sophomore year, Johnson landed a spot on the A team. This year, as captain, she led the team to a bid to go to the Opening Round Championships, a victory the Clark team had not accomplished in years.

The summer brought Johnson to Armenia to take part in Birthright Armenia, a program designed to strengthen ties between the homeland and diasporan youth. Living with host families, the participants contribute to Armenia’s development through work, study, and volunteer experiences. Johnson volunteered at the Zatik Orphanage where she taught English and computer literacy. She also assisted with administrative tasks at the Armenian Tree Project, which promotes Armenia’s socioeconomic development through reforestation. Upon her return to campus



Valerie Johnson '15

in fall, Johnson plans an independent study with Political Science professor Kristen Williams. She wants to research the diaspora phenomenon in the United States. In particular, she plans to compare the Jewish and the Armenian diaspora communities and to investigate the level of advocacy each has in the government.

Looking toward her life after graduation from Clark, Johnson envisions law school. She imagines a career in the office of the District Attorney. While she plans to practice law at the national level, Johnson hopes to continue her communal work on issues of concern to Armenian Americans, including genocide recognition at the legislative level. Johnson says her time at Clark has deepened her understanding of the Armenian Genocide and broadened her knowledge of other genocides. Her studies will make her a better advocate for genocide recognition and have prepared her for a future that includes both legal and communal work.

Danielle Osterman '14



GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

The Center's tree, located beside the Rose Library, and its graduate student offices are dedicated to the memory of Holocaust survivor Henry Tobak. A plaque relates a Talmudic tale that explains the significance of these gifts. A young girl asks an old man planting a carob tree how long it will take to bear fruit. Seventy years, he explains. Will he live to enjoy its fruit? she asks. No, he responds, but just as he has enjoyed trees planted by those before him, he hopes to do the same for those to come. And so it is with our tree. Education, research, and greater human understanding, the fruits of our program, will accrue to the benefit of future generations.



GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

“YES! I would love to continue our funding for another 5 years,” declared Robin Heller Moss, chairwoman of the Buster Foundation. Moss appreciates the need for adequate financial support for Ph.D. students and demonstrates it with her vivid enthusiasm for giving. Her contributions in honor of Richard P. Cohen M.D. '71 financed the fellowship that carried fifth-year student Kimberly Allar through to the end of her doctoral studies. Several years ago, while fulfilling the pledge for her first round of fellowship funding, she posed the question “what more can I do for the students?” The answer: underwriting Yehuda Bauer’s keynote address which opened the first Strassler Center graduate student conference in 2009. With that gift, Moss paid tribute to both Richard and Libby '72 Cohen whose parents were Holocaust survivors. Moved by the students’ commitment to researching the Holocaust and other genocides, Moss sustains her student-centered support.

Moss is not alone. Recognizing that doctoral student support is our greatest priority, donors have responded generously. And their gifts have made it possible to expand the Center’s mandate in vital directions. The Cummings Foundation and the Stern family granted funds to support students whose focus is African genocide. And Cathy Cohen Lasry '83, with the gift of a distinguished visiting professorship in Comparative Genocide, enriched their study of Africa. Elias Hanna and a coalition of like-minded friends and organizations funded a doctoral fellowship dedicated to the Assyrian Genocide. While Charlotte Calfaian '70 and Sara Chitjian, along with friends of the Kaloosdian Mugar Chair, made gifts to further research and study about the Armenian Genocide. Penny '68 and Bruce '66 Wein have been committed to growing their endowed fund which is the source for the Al and Hilda Kirsch award granted to students researching the Holocaust. Similarly, Ernie Rubinstein and his fellow trustees established the Samuel and Anna Jacobs Endowment which will disburse its first student research award this academic year. The Claims Conference remains a most generous funder, annually supporting four doctoral fellowships in Holocaust history. The Family Robert Weil Foundation launched an innovative fellowship in the Psychology of Genocide, completed last year, and its new gift will introduce another pioneering fellowship in Geography and Genocide. And David and Lorna Strassler are unflagging in their support of students and program.

Other new initiatives took off thanks to philanthropic

investments made by Center friends. The Melvin S. Cutler Charitable Foundation funded an endowment that prompted a series of new educational initiatives. This gift established a permanent source of funding for outreach to local teachers and schools that will help to lay the ground for serious research into what constitutes effective instruction about the Holocaust and other genocides. Al Tapper, recognizing that politics have no place in academic inquiry, sponsored the inaugural workshop of the newly established Israel Academic Exchange. A generous gift from Betty '50 and Ira Dyer ensured that the second workshop will take place in September 2015. A number of other friends have supported the Exchange, guaranteeing that participation in the coming workshop will be robust. We are grateful to them and the other donors listed here whose contributions underwrote the activities of the Strassler Center during the academic year 2013-14. These generous funders have been key partners in the Center’s landmark achievements.

Mary Jane Rein



Center friend Lynn Tapper and Executive Director Mary Jane Rein

DONOR PROFILE: CATHY COHEN LASRY '83

Throughout her adult life, Cathy Lasry has evinced a lively passion for the history of the Holocaust. The wellspring of her interest was neither family history nor the continuation of her Clark studies. Indeed, as a Clark undergraduate she studied English and as young alumna she worked in book publishing and as an editor of young adult fiction. Rather, Lasry's fascination emerged for purely intellectual reasons. The utter tragedy of the Holocaust and the human drama implicit in the upheaval of ordinary lives compelled her to learn more. As a mother of five and firmly rooted in her native New York City, she set out to participate in the Strassler Center doctoral program just as it launched in the late 1990s.

Lasry was not simply enrolled in courses; she was also uniquely involved in founding the Center. Together with her husband Marc Lasry '81, she funded the purchase, renovation, and furnishing of the Strassler Center's permanent home. Dedicated in honor of her father, Irwin Cohen, and in memory of her then recently deceased father-in-law, Moise Lasry, Cohen-Lasry house opened in 1999. The building project was her first major philanthropic initiative at Clark and her commitment to getting the space right has ensured that countless students study and work in comfort. And for a period of time she was among those students. Lasry joined the seminar "Rescue and Resistance" co-taught by Center Director Debórah Dwork and the Dutch Holocaust rescuer Marion Pritchard. Inspired by Pritchard's moral courage and decisive wartime actions which included shooting a Dutch Nazi to protect the Jewish family she was hiding, Lasry funded Pritchard's position as Distin-

guished Visiting Professor for a five-year period.

Ultimately, the commute to Clark became untenable as Lasry assumed greater responsibility as a community volunteer and trustee on boards in New York City. Democratic politics and backing for female candidates became abiding concerns. Lasry's support for such causes led her to meet then Senator Hillary Clinton and to become an advocate for her presidential primary campaign. Their friendship endured through Clinton's service in the Obama administration. Throughout this period, Lasry also continued to nurture her interest in the Holocaust through her warm bond with Debórah Dwork. Their regular coffee meetings have kept Lasry informed of every detail about the Center's program and the growing cadre of talented PhD students. As Lasry well knew, Dwork hoped these students might "take over the State department." Instead, Clinton played that part while Lasry enlarged her interest in the Holocaust to include other cases of genocide and mass violence.

As Lasry widened her lens to think about genocides around the globe, she was moved to shift her philanthropic focus. At the same time, her eldest child Samantha engaged with the subject, especially genocidal violence in Africa. Thus, Lasry was amenable to Dwork's suggestion that she fund a visiting faculty position on Comparative Genocide. Since 2006, she has funded the Cathy Cohen Lasry Visiting Professorship, currently held by Professor Dyan Mazurana. A professor at the Fletcher School at Tufts University, Mazurana is an expert on international law and she focuses on mass atrocity in Africa. Her presence has been crucial to efforts to broaden the Strassler Center's mandate to teach and research about the region. And Mazurana's focus on issues of gender, women's rights, and children make her a perfect fit to hold the title of Cathy Cohen Lasry Professor.

Lasry's sustained interest and extraordinary support have yielded tangible results. The gift of Cohen-Lasry house established the Clark campus as the first-ever address in the academic world for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The Lasrys put the subject on the map by making 11 Hawthorne Street the home for a vibrant and growing program. And her engagement with the continued development of that program has opened new vistas for research and teaching. Cathy Lasry has accomplished what the Clark motto dares students to achieve: "to challenge convention and change the world."

Mary Jane Rein



Cathy Cohen Lasry '83

DONOR HONOR ROLL

The following list includes outright gifts, pledges, and pledge payments made between 1 June 2013 and 31 May 2014

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In honor of Richard P. Cohen '71

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In Memory of Roger Singer
Laura N. and William T. Ward '76



Josh Franklin '06 MA '07 and Professor Debórah Dwork

*Deceased

CALL TO ACTION

An international group of graduate students and recent PhD recipients will gather on the Clark University campus in April 2015 to present their research as the Strassler Center hosts the *Third International Graduate Students' Conference on Genocide Studies: The State of Research 100 Years after the Armenian Genocide*. Organized in cooperation with the Danish Institute for International Studies and based upon a competitive selection process, this interdisciplinary conference will reflect the full range of issues, concepts, and methods in current Genocide Studies research.

The keynote address and a focus on papers that explore the Armenian Genocide are planned in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the events of 1915. The doctoral conference will honor this somber milestone by bringing attention to research that puts the Armenian Genocide in a broader perspective and examines the concept of Ottoman Genocide carried out against minority ethnic-religious groups, including Assyrians and Greeks. Students working on the Holocaust and on genocides in Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas, as well as those whose focus is the aftermath and collective memorialization of genocides, will also present their work.

Privileged to stand at the forefront in establishing the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, comparative genocide, and the psychology of genocide as distinct areas for doctoral study, the Strassler Center is ideally suited to sponsor triennial graduate conferences. Now in its third iteration (the first was in 2009) and organized by current students, the 2015 conference upholds our mandate to foster an international community of scholars by providing a forum for students to present original research papers to an audience of peers and established scholars. The aim of the organizers is clear: to forge strong ties among a far-flung cohort – a cadre of professionals who will take the field in new directions in the decades to come.

The Louis and Ann Kulin Endowed Fund, established by long-time Center friends Hanne and Howard Kulin, underwrites the participation of Scandinavian students and scholars. This permanent funding stream ensures that these graduate student conferences are international in scope and organization. We invite you to join them in funding this historic event with a donation to the Strassler Center. Your contribution will allow the most qualified doctoral students to attend the three-day conference regardless of distance to travel. And the participation of emerging scholars from



Jody Russell Manning, Raz Segal PhD '13, and Natalya Lazar at the 2012 International Graduate Student Conference

countries on many continents is essential to the success of this enterprise and to the growth of Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Thank you for your generous support of this important initiative.

Please specify the Strassler Center when making your contribution and, if you choose to designate your gift for the graduate conference, please do so in writing, or send an email to: mrein@clarku.edu.

To donate by phone: 508.793.8897

Online: <https://clarkconnect.clarku.edu/give/CHGS>

Or by check payable to: Clark University (indicate the Strassler Center in the memo line)

Please mail to: 950 Main Street Worcester, MA 01610

CENTER IN THE MAIL

As a Clarkie, I have watched with pride and admiration as you have built the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies into a world-class institution. As someone with deep and personal ties to the results of [the] Holocaust, I applaud all you are doing.

Robert Messing '59 to Professor Debórah Dwork

I would like to send a special thank you to the Strassler Center for your extraordinary hospitality. And to all of you, Americans and Israelis, thank you for a wonderful workshop. I am taking home with me new thoughts and new friends. One cannot expect more.

Rivka Brot, the Zvi Meitar Center for Advanced Legal Studies, Tel-Aviv University

I am back home in Jerusalem and still under the impression of our workshop. I want to say thank you very much to Debórah, Sarah and the whole Strassler Center team for hosting us so wonderfully and for facilitating such a stimulating workshop.

Professor Amos Goldberg, Hebrew University

What a pleasure to meet a brilliant and outstanding fellow [Khatchig Mouradian] who makes us as a family so proud to be associated with the Center. You are right, the speech Khatchig delivered in Ankara and in Turkish [on justice for the Armenian Genocide] is indeed quite powerful, kudos to him, and he deserves so much credit for that.

Billy Rose, Center Friend and donor of the Ralph and Shirley Rose Doctoral Fellowship

Over the past several years, Shelly Tenenbaum has made singular contributions to the AJS and field of Jewish Studies... It is especially nice to write about her as she mentored me when I was a graduate student teaching in Clark's Center for Holocaust and Genocide studies in the late 1990s...AJS would not be as strong an organization without Professor Tenenbaum's contributions. We are incredibly grateful for her time and dedication, and hope you will join me in thanking her for being a model of volunteer service to her field.

Rona Sheramy, Executive Director, Association for Jewish Studies to Clark University Provost Davis Baird

The presentation by Professor Kühne was a rousing success. It was a superbly researched eye-opener into a frequently failed effort to mete out justice upon the perpetrators of the most atrocious crime which a country committed upon its own citizens and fellow Europeans.

Distinguished Emeritus Professor Guy Stern, Wayne State University

Thank you very much for honoring us by presenting an amazing William H. Donat Distinguished lecture. The story about and the content of those letters [written by Jewish children and their parents separated by the Holocaust] will remain with everyone who was privileged to hear your eloquent reading and analysis of their significance.

Julie Scallero, Education Director, Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center to Professor Debórah Dwork

I really enjoyed your class this semester. I learned so much and I hope to use this knowledge to help empower others to stop atrocities like genocide from happening in our world. Thank you for all you did this semester!

Tatiana, Northeastern University undergraduate to Alexis Herr PhD '14



Alexis Herr PhD '14

2014-2015 EVENTS

11 SEPTEMBER 2014

7:30 pm, Higgins Lounge, Dana Commons

Narrating Genocide

Best selling author Chris Bohjalian (*The Sandcastle Girls* 2012 and, most recently, *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands* 2014) and Khatchig Mouradian (Center Doctoral Candidate) discuss literary representation and historical accounts of genocide and its aftermath. First lecture in annual series, *Critical History: Public History*

24 OCTOBER 2014

7:00 pm, Ghosh Auditorium, Room 102, Ghosh Science and Technology Building, Worcester State University

The Challenge of Denial: Why People Refuse to Accept Unwelcome Facts

Professor Brendan Nyhan (Dartmouth College) delivers the keynote address opening the conference *Manufacturing Denial and the Assault on Scholarship and Truth*. Social scientists, natural scientists, and historians will discuss interrelated forms of denial: genocide denial and science denial. Participants will present papers exploring how scholarship has become the battleground in this struggle which resonates far beyond academe.

Co-sponsored by the Strassler Center and the Kaloosdian Mugar Chair, Clark University; Center for Genocide and Human Rights, Rutgers University; National Association for Armenian Studies and Research; and Worcester State University

13 NOVEMBER 2014

7:30pm, Higgins Lounge, Dana Commons

Geographies of the Holocaust

Professor Anne Knowles (Middlebury College) highlights the work of the Holocaust Geographies Collaborative, an international team of historians and geographers, who have explored this complex event using geographic methods – notably Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – and data visualization.

Co-sponsored by the Geography Department, Clark University

21 FEBRUARY 2015

7:30pm, Razzo Hall, Traina Center for the Arts

Musical Program: La Vorágine (The Vortex)

Genocide and mass violence in Latin America are explored through expressions of cultural identity in musical works from Cuba, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, and Brazil that speak to the resilience and joy of the human spirit.

Second event in annual series, *Critical History: Public History*

Co-sponsored by the Traina Chamber Music Residency and Worcester Chamber Music Society

18 MARCH 2015

4:00-7:00 pm, Rose Library, Cohen-Lasry House

Public History of the Holocaust

Three eminent scholars explore different aspects of public history related to the Holocaust: Professor Simone Schweber (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Professor Harold Marcuse (University of California, Santa Barbara); and Professor Andrew W. Port (Wayne State University). Final event in annual series, *Critical History: Public History*

9 APRIL 2015

7:30 pm, Tilton Hall, Higgins University Center

Title: TBD

Professor Eric Weitz (City University of New York) delivers the keynote address opening the *Third International Graduate Students' Conference on Genocide Studies: The State of Research 100 Years after the Armenian Genocide*.

22 APRIL 2015

4:15 pm, Rose Library, Cohen-Lasry House

Hitler's Furies

Professor Wendy Lower (Claremont-McKenna College) discusses the involvement of German women in anti-Jewish atrocity during the Holocaust. Lower's lecture is grounded in research conducted for her most recent book, National Book Award Finalist, *Hitler's Furies: German Women in the Nazi Killing Fields* (2014).

CRITICAL HISTORY: PUBLIC HISTORY

For the second year, the Strassler Center mounts a lecture series about a topic pertinent to the field of history. This year's theme is a response to questions posed by the American Historical Association about the uses of a PhD in history. With fewer PhDs entering academe and more seeking to employ history in the broader realm, the field of public history has expanded exponentially over the past decade. As a result, trained historians are raising the standards of institutions and improving teaching and learning about history that takes place outside of the academy: in museums, parks, films, literature, music, and historic sites. Nevertheless, there is no commonly accepted definition of public history. This year's *Critical History* series explores what public history is, how it works, who is doing it, and what scholars can learn from its practice.

Authors

Doğa Akar Bilgin '16, Sarah Cushman, Asya Darbinyan, Jacob Dinerman '16, Kathrin Haurand, Abigail Miller, Danielle Osterman '14, Alicja Podbielska, Mihai Poliec, Mary Jane Rein, Olivia Rogine '14, Jason Tingler, Wolf-Gero Westhoff

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Mary Jane Rein

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“We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude,” writer Cynthia Ozick has observed. If such a subtle thinker was prompted to state such an obvious fact, I am grateful that I have the opportunity to express my gratitude publicly and in print. I start with Center staff, whose commitment to excellence is reflected in their acquisition of skills in order to advance the Center ever more efficiently and effectively. Technology changes; systems change; new forms of e-literacy are required, and Center staff sign up to learn and to apply new competencies. I thank: Librarian Robyn Conroy for her thoughtful management of our overflowing collection as we await our library expansion. Executive Director Dr Mary Jane Rein for her unflagging quest to take the Center to the next level. Accountant Angela Santamaria-Hough for amazingly efficient and clear financial statements. Two wonderful people joined the staff this year. Academic Program Liaison Officer Dr Sarah Cushman, who earned her doctorate at the Center, has now returned after serving for five years as Director of Youth Education at a Holocaust education center, and she embraced the opportunity to work with Worcester area educators in addition to her other projects. Jean Hearn now serves as our Administrative Assistant, jumping in mid-year and taking on multiple tasks with good humor and great skill.

As these pages report, we hosted a rich roster of events this year. That they appear effortless is in fact due to huge efforts by people across the Clark campus. Many thanks to Terri Guttormsen (whom we will miss dearly) and Jim Cormier in Media Services; Brenda Nieszewski in Physical Plant; Cheryl Turner Elwell, Jim Hilow and Pennie Turgeon in Information Technology Services; Keith Carville, Lorinda Fearebay, Deirdre Ni Chonail, and Jane Salerno in Marketing and Communications; Michelle Bates and Kathy Cannon in Business and Financial Services; and Kim McElroy in Dining Services.

I am delighted to express my appreciation for my academic colleagues near and far. I am grateful to Taner Akçam; Anthony Bebbington; Katerine Bielacycz; Anita Fabós; Thomas Kühne; Ken MacLean; Deb Martin; Dyan Mazurana; Marianne Sarkis; Shelly Tenenbaum; and Johanna Vollhardt. Simply put: they are key to the Center’s robust scholarly trajectories. And I thank my many colleagues at other institutions and organizations who have given the gift of their time as well as their scholarship to our doctoral candidates this year: Peter Black; Cynthia Enloe; Eric Gordy; Richard Hovanissian; Radu Ioanid; Raymond Kevorkian; Hans-Lucas Kieser; Wendy Lower; John Roth; David Simon; Vladimir Solonari; Marla Stone. The Center now boasts 25 students at all levels of study, and these experts, as generous as they are outstanding, invest in them as the future scholars in this field.

The Center enjoys the warm support of Clark’s senior leadership – Dean of Research Nancy Budwig, Provost Davis Baird, and President David Angel – and I thank them for it.

“Gratitude to gratitude always gives birth,” Sophocles noted. He was right. Acknowledging the contribution of each of these people is a most welcome reminder of how greatly the Center as an institution, and I as the director of it, am indebted to all.

This *Year End Report* was designed by Kaajal Asher. Production is to the credit of Mary Jane Rein, who serves as Editor-in-Chief, Production Editor, and Copy Editor.

With my thanks,
Debórah Dwork





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