The International Tracing Service Collections and Holocaust Scholarship

May 12–13, 2014

Program
The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, was, until November 2007, the largest closed archive in the world related to the Holocaust, forced labor, and Nazi persecution. Recently inscribed into the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Memory of the World Register, the ITS collection has opened important new potential for understanding the Holocaust and other Nazi-era crimes. ITS documents, which were used for decades principally for tracing purposes, provide opportunities for a better understanding of a broad range of topics related to persecution, incarceration, forced labor, mass murder, displacement, resettlement, and the legacies of these experiences as a result of World War II. Jointly organized with the ITS in Bad Arolsen, this conference brings together scholars who have conducted significant new and original research using the collections since the opening of the archive.

This conference has been made possible by the support of Betty-Jean and David Bavar, K. Peter and Yvonne R. Wagner, and the Harris Family Foundation.

This conference has been supported in part by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.
Mauthausen survivor and Museum volunteer Martin Weiss discusses his personal documents found in the ITS collections with Barbara Glück, director of the Mauthausen Memorial and the 2013 Ben and Zelda Cohen Fellow at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. At the conference, Glück will present her paper Biographies of Former Prisoners at Mauthausen and its Subcamps.

US Holocaust Memorial Museum
The International Tracing Service Collections and Holocaust Scholarship

May 12–13, 2014
Helena Rubinstein Auditorium

International Conference

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014

10 a.m. Welcome

Paul A. Shapiro
Director, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Rebecca Boehling
Director, International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, Germany, and Professor of History, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland

10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. PANEL I

In the Midst of Camps and Forced Labor I

Moderator

Martin Dean
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

Presenters

Adam Seipp
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas
On the Land: Forced Labor, Wartime Society, and the ITS Archive

Christine Schmidt
Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide, London, United Kingdom
Women behind Barbed Wire: Hungarian Jewish Women Slave Laborers in the Nazi Camps
Dan Stone  
Royal Holloway, University of London, London, United Kingdom  
*Discovering Christianstadt: Using the ITS Collections to Gain Insights into a Women’s Sub-Camp of Gross-Rosen*

12:15–1:15 p.m.  Break

1:15–2:45 p.m  PANEL II  
Postwar Testimony, Memory, and Representations of Trauma in the ITS

MODERATOR

Diane Afoumado  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

PRESENTERS

Barbara Glück  
Mauthausen Memorial, Mauthausen, Austria  
*Biographies of Former Prisoners at Mauthausen and its Subcamps*

Susanne Urban  
International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, Germany  
*“My only Document is the Number on my Hand”: Early Testimonies in the ITS Archive*

Elizabeth Anthony  
Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC  
*Representations of Sexual Violence in ITS Documentation*

2:45–3 p.m.  Break
3–4:30 p.m.  PANEL III
Who is Disposable? Inclusion and Exclusion in Nazi Germany

MODERATOR

Rebecca Boehling
International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, Germany, and University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland

PRESENTERS

Akim Jah
Potsdam, Germany
*The Card Catalog of the Reichsvereinigung der Juden in Deutschland* (Reich Association of Jews in Germany)

Aleksandra Loewenau
Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom
*Malaria Experiments on Prisoners at Dachau Concentration Camp: A Revised Study*

Amy Carney
Pennsylvania State University, Behrend Campus, Erie, Pennsylvania
*Caring for the Family: The SS “Family Community” in the ITS Lebensborn (Fountain of Life) Files*

4:30–7 p.m.  Break

7–8:30 p.m.  KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Suzanne Brown-Fleming
Director, Visiting Scholar Programs, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
*“Our Mothers, Our Fathers”: One German Town in the Records of the ITS*

Reception to follow
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014

9–10:30 a.m.  Panel IV  
Brutality in the Last Year of the War, 1944–45

MODERATOR
Suzanne Brown-Fleming
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

PRESENTERS
Michael McConnell
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee
Violence inside Germany’s Regional Prison System during Nazism’s End Phase

Idit Gil
The Open University of Israel, Ra’anana, Israel
Jewish Slave Laborers from Radom in the Last Year of the War: Social Aspects of Exploitation

Jörg Skriebeleit
Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial, Flossenbürg, Germany
Confrontation—Reburial—Identification—De-Contextualization: Memorializing the Death Marches and their Victims

10:30–
10:45 a.m.

Break

10:45 a.m.–
12:15 p.m.  PANEL V  
Survivors and the Political Landscape of Postwar Europe

MODERATOR
Paul Shapiro
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
PRESENTERS

Jennifer Rodgers
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
*Archive of Horrors, Archive of Hope: The International Tracing Service in the Postwar Era*

Ruth Balint
University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
*The Use and Abuse of History: Displaced Persons in the ITS Archive*

Laura Hilton
Muskingum University, New Concord, Ohio
*The Experiences and Impact of the Stateless in the Postwar Period*

12:15–1:45 p.m. Break

1:45–3:15 p.m. PANEL VI
In the Midst of Camps and Forced Labor II

MODERATOR

Joseph Robert White
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC

PRESENTERS

Alexandra Lohse
American University, Washington, DC, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC
*The Nazi Forced Labor Program and ITS Documentation*

Alexandre Doulut
University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris, France
*From Drancy to Cosel? One Transport in the ITS Archives*

Marta Simó
Autonomous University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
*ITS, Spain, and the Holocaust*
3:15–3:30 p.m. Break

3:30–5 p.m. FINAL ROUNDTABLE
ITS Archives and the Future of Holocaust Research

DISCUSSANTS

Rebecca Boehling
International Tracing Service, Bad Arolsen, Germany,
and University of Maryland Baltimore County,
Baltimore, Maryland

Johannes-Dieter Steinert
University of Wolverhampton, Wolverhampton,
United Kingdom

Paul Weindling
Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, United Kingdom

Paul Shapiro
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,
Washington, DC
SPEAKERS

Diane Afoumado is chief of ITS research at the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is the author of *L'affiche antisémite en France sous l'Occupation* (2008; The Antisemitic Poster in France under Occupation) and *Exil impossible: l'errance des Juifs du paquebot St-Louis* (2005; Impossible Exile: TheWandering of the SS Saint Louis), and is a contributing author to the *Jahrbuch des International Tracing Service* (2013; Yearbook of the International Tracing Service).

Elizabeth Anthony is Curt C. and Else Silberman ITS staff scholar at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is also a doctoral candidate in history at Clark University, where she is completing her dissertation, “Return Home: Holocaust Survivors Reestablishing Lives in Postwar Vienna.”

Ruth Balint is senior lecturer in history at the University of New South Wales. She is the author of *Troubled Waters: Borders, Boundaries and Possession in the Timor Sea* (2005).

Rebecca Boehling is director of the International Tracing Service. She is currently on leave from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where she is professor of history and was founding director of the Dresher Center for the Humanities. She is the co-author of *Life and Loss in the Shadow of the Holocaust: A Jewish Family’s Untold Story* (2011) and *A Question of Priorities: Democratic Reforms and Economic Recovery in Postwar Germany* (1996).

Suzanne Brown-Fleming is director of Visiting Scholar Programs at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She is the author of *The Holocaust and Catholic Conscience: Cardinal Aloisius Muench and the Guilt Question in Germany* (2006).

Amy Carney is assistant professor of history at Pennsylvania State University, Behrend Campus. She is currently preparing for publication her research exploring the notion of fatherhood and family in the SS.

Martin Dean is applied research scholar at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is the author of *Robbing the Jews* (2010).
Alexandre Doulut is a doctoral student in history at the University of Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne. He is an associated scholar at the Musée-mémorial du camp de Rivesaltes and the author of three books on the Shoah in southern France.

Idit Gil is on the faculty of the Department of Political Science at the Open University of Israel in the masters of democratic studies program. She is currently conducting research on the wartime experiences of one transport of Jewish laborers from Radom, Poland.

Barbara Glück is director of the Mauthausen Memorial in Austria and is currently in residence at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, as a Ben and Zelda Cohen Fellow. In her role as director, she headed the first comprehensive redesign of the Mauthausen Memorial in 40 years, including both of the memorial’s new exhibitions, The Mauthausen Concentration Camp 1938–1945 and The Crime Scenes of Mauthausen—Searching for Traces, which opened to the public in May 2013.

Laura J. Hilton is professor of history at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. Her most recent publications have focused on the black market in postwar Germany and cultural nationalism in displaced persons camps.

Akim Jah is a freelance lecturer and researcher in Berlin, where he studied political science at the Free University and completed his dissertation on the deportations of the Jews from Berlin.

Aleksandra Loewenau is a postdoctoral research assistant for the project “Subjects’ Narratives of Medical Research in Europe, ca. 1940–2001” at Oxford Brookes University, where she graduated with a PhD in history of medicine in 2012. Her current project relates to narratives of victims of medical crimes under National Socialism.

Alexandra Lohse is a researcher for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945, and a doctoral candidate in history at American University, where she is completing her dissertation “‘In spite of all that’: War and Popular Opinion in Nazi Germany, 1943–1945.”
Michael McConnell is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Tennessee, where he is completing his dissertation, “Home to the Reich: The Influence of the Nazi Occupation of Europe on Violence inside Germany, 1943–45.” His research investigates the influence of the Nazi occupation of Europe on domestic policing on the German home front at the end of World War II.

Jennifer L. Rodgers is a doctoral candidate in history at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is completing her dissertation, “From the ‘Archive of Horrors’ to the ‘Shop Window of Democracy’: The International Tracing Service, 1942–2013.” She is currently a fellow at the Berlin Program for Advanced German and European Studies of the Free University in Berlin.

Christine Schmidt is the International Tracing Service Archive researcher at The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust & Genocide. She also serves as an adjunct instructor of Holocaust history and pedagogy for various universities and colleges, including Gratz College in Melrose Park, Pennsylvania.

Adam R. Seipp is associate professor and director of graduate studies in history at Texas A&M University. He is the author of Strangers in the Wild Place: Refugees, Americans, and a German Town, 1945–52 (2013).

Paul Shapiro is director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In addition to establishing the Mandel Center as one of the world’s preeminent Holocaust research centers, he played an instrumental role in opening the International Tracing Service archive and making its contents available to Holocaust survivors and scholars around the world.

Marta Simó is a doctoral candidate in sociology at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where she is completing her dissertation, “Spaniards and their Encounter with the Holocaust.”

Johannes-Dieter Steinert is professor of modern European history and migration studies at the University of Wolverhampton. He is the author of Deportation und Zwangsarbeit: Polnische und sowjetische Kinder im nationalsozialistischen Deutschland und im besetzten Osteuropa 1939–1945 (2013; Deportation and Forced Labor: Polish and Soviet Children in Nazi Germany and Occupied Eastern Europe 1939–1945) and co-editor of both volumes of Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Europe after the Second World War: Landscapes after Battle (2011 and 2010).

Dan Stone is professor of modern history at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author or editor of 14 books including Goodbye to All That? The Story of Europe since 1945 (2014) and Histories of the Holocaust (2010). He is currently writing a book on the liberation of the Nazi camps for Yale University Press and The Concentration Camp: A Very Short Introduction for Oxford University Press.


Joseph Robert White is a researcher for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945, for which he is also the editor of Vol. 3, The Camps and Ghettos of European Regimes aligned with Nazi Germany. He holds a PhD in modern European history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Fostering Scholarship and Research

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as this country’s national institution for Holocaust education and remembrance. The Museum’s Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies supports scholarship and publications in the field of Holocaust studies, promotes the growth of Holocaust studies at American universities, seeks to foster strong relationships between American and international scholars, collects Holocaust-related archival documents worldwide, and organizes programs to ensure the ongoing training of future generations of scholars. In carrying out its mission, the Mandel Center works together with the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

Cover: This photo shows the processing unit of the International Tracing Service. These shelves, on both sides of a long hallway, contain the records of more than 61,000 inquiries. Richard Ehrlich for US Holocaust Memorial Museum