SYMPOSIUM

Bystanders and Complicity in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South

Thursday and Friday, February 22–23, 2018

Alumni House
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Birmingham, Alabama

Cover: A woman accused of having sexual relations with a Jewish man is marched through the streets of Norden, Germany, by SA troops. Around her neck is a sign that reads, “I am a German girl who allowed myself to be defiled by a Jew.”

Niedersächsisches Landesarchiv—Standort Aurich
What hurts the victim most is not the cruelty of the oppressor, but the silence of the bystander.

—Elie Wiesel
Holocaust Survivor and Founding Chairman, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

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Although different in many ways, the history of racism in Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South during the 1930s illuminates some universal phenomena that manifested during these distinct historical periods. Both periods can trace part of their roots to the rise of a new “science” of eugenics, which became an international movement that was used to give legitimacy to racial policies. Racism, including racial antisemitism, was the core element of Nazi ideology and the driving force behind the Holocaust. Racism also legitimized the continued subjugation and persecution of African-Americans long after the end of slavery.

It takes a critical minority of determined leaders with the support of an acquiescent general population to introduce and establish state-sanctioned racism, antisemitism, and violence. The extreme examples of Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South show that the majority of the population in these two contexts witnessed widespread persecution of a targeted minority and either actively or passively tolerated what they saw, thus enabling the continuation of persecution and raising pressing questions about the role of onlookers and the nature of complicity. This symposium brings together scholars, students, and community members to engage in meaningful dialogue on how, when, and why ordinary people supported, complied with, ignored, or resisted racist policies in two very different systems of targeted oppression and racial violence.

This program is co-organized by the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Institute for Human Rights at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

9 a.m. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Robert E. Palazzo
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Tina Kempin Reuter
Director, Institute for Human Rights
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Robert M. Ehrenreich
Director, National Academic Programs
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

W. Jake Newsome
Campus Outreach Program Officer
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

9:30 a.m. PANEL 1: REEXAMINING THE ROLE OF BYSTANDERS

Moderator: Andrew Baer
Assistant Professor, Department of History
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Robert M. Ehrenreich
Director, National Academic Programs
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
Rethinking the Bystander in the Perpetrator-Bystander-Victim Constellation

LeeAnn G. Reynolds
Associate Professor, History
Samford University
Children and Race Socialization in the US South

II a.m. BREAK

II:30 a.m. PANEL 2: HISTORY, SILENCE, AND (IN)JUSTICE

Moderator: Kathryn Morgan
Director, African-American Studies Program
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Evan Milligan
Law Fellow, Equal Justice Initiative
Creating Local Space for Community Remembrance

Pamela Sterne King
Assistant Professor, History and Public History
University of Alabama at Birmingham
The Public’s Right to Know

Ari Joskowicz
Associate Professor, Jewish Studies
Vanderbilt University
Memory, Testimony, and Justice: Roma and Jews Since 1945

A group of white teenage boys pour drinks and condiments on African-American students sitting at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in a non-violent demonstration. Seated demonstrators are, from left to right, Walter Williams, George Raymond (wearing overalls), Pearlena Lewis, and Lois Chaffee, whose face is obscured by Lewis. Jackson, Mississippi, May 1963. Wisconsin Historical Society, photographed by Fred Blackwell
1 p.m. **LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Beverly Eileen Mitchell  
Professor, Historical Theology  
Wesley Theological Seminary  
*White Supremacy and Antisemitism: Sibling Threats*

2:30 p.m. **EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE**

**TEACHING NAZI GERMANY AND THE JIM CROW SOUTH**

Moderator: **Douglas Fry**  
Chair, Department of Anthropology  
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Willa Johnson  
Associate Professor, Sociology  
University of Mississippi

Barry L. McNealy  
Education Programs Consultant  
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

Ann Millin  
Historian, Levine Institute for Holocaust Education  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Ann M. Mollengarden  
VP Education Coordinator  
Birmingham Holocaust Education Center

Leah Wolfson  
Senior Program Officer  
Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies  
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

4 p.m. **STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS**

6 p.m. **KEEPING THE MEMORY ALIVE: PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON THE LEGACIES OF RACIAL VIOLENCE AND GENOCIDE**

Riva Hirsch, a Holocaust survivor, and Josephine Bolling McCall, whose father was lynched in Alabama in 1947, offer their thoughts on the personal impact of violent antisemitism and racism in two historical contexts.

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Birmingham police arrest Parker High School student Mattie Howard in front of the Carver Theatre on the sixth day of the Children’s Crusade in May 1963. Alabama Department of Archives and History. Photographed by Norman Dean.

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

9 a.m. **PANEL 3: PERSONAL AGENCY AND RESISTANCE**

Moderator: **Gwendolyn Austin Dees**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities  
Miles College

Warren Rosenblum  
Professor and Chair, History, Politics, and International Relations Department  
Webster University  
*“Have you, have I, the right to live only so long as we are productive?” German Resistance to the Persecution and Murder of Persons with Disabilities*
12:30 p.m.  LUNCH SESSION
FROM MEMORY TO ACTION: HISTORY AND
THE POWER OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Panelists offer their thoughts on the contemporary relevance
and power of history to inspire individuals to confront hatred
and promote human dignity in their communities.

Barry L. McNealy
Education Programs Consultant
Birmingham Civil Rights Institute

W. Jake Newsome
Campus Outreach Program Officer
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Tina Kempin Reuter
Director
Institute for Human Rights
University of Alabama at Birmingham

10:30 a.m.  BREAK

11 a.m.  PANEL 4: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Moderator: Nicholas Sherwood
Graduate Assistant, Institute for Human Rights
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Students from the region present their work on the history
and relevance of Nazi Germany and the Jim Crow South.
See insert for names of presenters.

Special thanks to the symposium planning committee members:
Tina Kempin Reuter, W. Jake Newsome, Robert M. Ehrenreich, Ajanet
Rountree, Veronica Speight, Joyce Spielberger, and Kristen Walker
Special thanks also to Violins of Hope-Birmingham and the Birmingham
Civil Rights Institute.

CO-SPONSORS

Community and religious leaders, including Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (third from
right) and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (second from right), in the Selma to Montgomery
march for voting rights, Alabama, 1965. Copyright Dan Budnik, All Rights Reserved
This program is made possible by a generous grant from the Robert and Myra Kraft Family Foundation to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and by financial support from the UAB Institute for Human Rights and the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center.

Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies
The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as this country’s national institution for Holocaust education and remembrance. The 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. The Mandel Center’s outreach symposia enrich campus dialogue and forge connections with diverse audiences that will ensure the vitality of Holocaust studies in an increasingly interdisciplinary academic landscape.

To receive email updates from the Mandel Center, please visit ushmm.org/stay-connected-mandel-center.

The Institute for Human Rights
The Institute for Human Rights at the University of Alabama at Birmingham serves as a platform for interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration for scholars, educators, students, and activists to raise awareness, engage in education, foster research, and design initiatives for practical action resulting in the promotion and protection of human and civil rights locally, nationally, and globally. Since it began operations in August 2016, the Institute has engaged in human rights education, research, and outreach with a particular focus on the struggle and empowerment of underrepresented populations, including minorities, refugees, women, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTQ persons, and people dealing with the consequences of poverty.

To stay connected, please visit our website at uab.edu/cas/humanrights.

In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies,
but the silence of our friends.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Reverend and American Civil Rights Leader
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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

PANEL 2: HISTORY, SILENCE, AND (IN)JUSTICE  11:30 AM
Correction: Creating Local Space for Community Remembrance will now be presented by:

Kiara Boone
Deputy Program Manager, Equal Justice Initiative

ROUNDTABLE: TEACHING NAZI GERMANY & THE JIM CROW SOUTH  2:30 PM
Addition:

Robby Ballard
Teacher, The Altamont School

POSTER SESSION  4:00 PM

David F. Banas Jr.
M.A. Student, German History, Central Michigan University
A Look to the Sky: A Historiographical Overview of German Civilian Suffering during the Air War over Europe in the Second World War

Katie Lade
B.A. Student, History & Political Science, Webster University
Reconsidering the Impact of Gender and Class in Nazi Germany’s Disability Culture

Shannon Lundgren
B.A. Student, History, University of South Alabama
The Legal Line between Victimhood and Complicity: A Discussion of Jacob Tannenbaum’s Denaturalization

Courtney Riles
B.A. Student, African-American Studies & History, University of Alabama at Birmingham
The Church and Jim Crow: The Role Southern Churches Played in Complicity amongst Bystanders
Ajanet Rountree  
M.A. Student, Anthropology of Peace and Human Rights, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
The U.S. Government: A Complicit Bystander in the Sanctioning of Sexual Violence in the Jim Crow South

Isaac Sours  
B.A. Student, Political Science & French Minor, Samford University  
A Queer Relationship: The LGBTQ Community under the Third Reich

Valdosta State University Honors College Team  
Building Community through Dialogue: An Oral History Project  
Virginia Wilson, B.B.A. Student, Healthcare Administration  
Logan Crace, B.B.A. Student, Management  
Josh Reed, B.S. Student, Computer Information Systems  
Nicholas A. Anderson, B.A. and B.S. Student, Criminal Justice & Psychology

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

PANEL 4: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  11:00 AM

Derrick J. Angermeier  
Ph.D. Candidate, History, University of Georgia  
Lost Causes and Everyday Futures: Reevaluating Complicity in the Third Reich and Jim Crow South

Kevin Hall  
Ph.D. Candidate, Central Michigan University  
Allied "Terror Flyers" in German Propaganda: The Lynching of Downed American Airmen during World War II

Hannah Herzog  
M.A. Student, American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Hershel Gleenblat: Resistance in Atlanta

Stephanie Poiroux  
B.A. Student, Psychology, University of Mississippi  
Altruism v. The Bystander Effect: How Doing Nothing Promotes Prejudice and Negative Behavior

This symposium is co-organized by the USHMM Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies and the Institute for Human Rights at UAB, and is co-sponsored by the Birmingham Holocaust Education Center. It is made possible by a generous grant from the Robert and Myra Kraft Family Foundation to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.