

About the conference

Applying gender analysis to the field of Holocaust Studies has yielded important results. Whereas before the 1990s, most Holocaust scholarship focused almost exclusively on the experiences of male victims, expanding to include women's experiences has both opened up new areas of inquiry and raised critical questions about established areas. And yet this developing scholarly conversation has limitations as well. As Joan Ringelheim, an early adopter, pointed out in her later work, scholarship about women during the Holocaust easily becomes essentializing; at times even suggesting that women were somehow more capable of facing the Nazi onslaught. More recently Pascale Rachel Bos has argued that many of the perceived differences between the experiences of men and women may have more to do with the way the different genders were taught to express themselves than with actual differences. Even more fundamentally, however, examining the Holocaust and its aftermath through the lens of gender requires breaking up the Jewish or Roma family.

While there is no question that the Nazis sought to destroy the Jewish and Roma family, it is equally clear that Jews and Roma continually resisted this effort, sometimes in surprising ways. Thus to divide men and women into separate categories is to privilege gender above what may have been an even more crucial element of their identities. Jews and Roma of all genders and ages, and in all of the contexts of the Holocaust, made decisions about flight, passing, hiding, joining together and separating based on calculations of their own survival, but also based on perceptions of the greater good of their families.

Organizers

Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University)

Kateřina Čapková (Institute of Contemporary History,
Czech Academy of Sciences)

Ruth Leiserowicz (German Historical Institute, Warsaw)

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www.jewishhistory.usd.cas.cz/conferences/the-holocaust-and-its-aftermath-from-the-family-perspective/



Villa Lanna, Prague, 15-16 March 2017

The Holocaust and Its Aftermath from the Family Perspective

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

9.00 Welcome

FIRST PANEL

Family and Genocide

9.15 – 11.00

Chair: Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University)

Dalia Ofer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Narrating Families' Daily Life in East European Ghettos: Concepts and Dilemmas

Michal Unger (Ashkelon Academic College, Israel)

Separation and Divorce in the East European Ghettos

Volha Bartash (Hugo Valentin Centre, University of Uppsala)

Romani Family in the Holocaust: Ethnographic Field Notes from the Belarusian-Lithuanian Borderland

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee

SECOND PANEL

Family Correspondence

11.15 – 12.30

Chair: Kateřina Králová (Charles University, Prague)

Joachim Schlör (University of Southampton)

'I could never forget what they had done to my father': The Absence and Presence of Holocaust Memory in a Family's Letter Collection

Rony Alfandary (Bar Ilan University)

Family Letters from Thessaloniki: Real and Imaginary Consequences

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

THIRD PANEL

Family and Choice

14.00 – 15.45

Chair: Ruth Leiserowicz (German Historical Institute, Warsaw)

Kiril Feferman (Ariel University)

Changing Roles: Flight Decision-making in Mixed Families in the Soviet Union, 1941

Alina Bothe (Free University of Berlin)

'This was the last time I saw my mother'

– Families Responding to the First Mass Deportation in October 1938

Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union, New York City)

Negotiating Gender, Family, and Survival behind the Lines: Perspectives from the Margins of Holocaust History

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee

FOURTH PANEL

Children's Perspectives

16.00 – 17.45

Chair: Clara Royer (CEFRES, Prague)

Boaz Cohen (Western Galilee College, Akko, Shaanan College, Haifa)

Family Survival Strategies as Seen by Survivor Children in Their Early Testimonies

Sarah Rosen (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

The Survival of Deported Families in Transnistrian Ghettos as Reflected in Diaries of the Youth

Joanna Beata Michlic (University College London)

Grayer Shades of Jewish Identity: Atypical Histories of Child Survivors from Mixed Polish-Jewish Families in the Aftermath of the Holocaust

18.00 – 19.30 Dinner

20.00 – 22.00 Guided tour of Prague Castle with views of the city.

THURSDAY 16 MARCH

FIFTH PANEL

Imagined Families

9.00 – 10.45

Chair: István Pál Ádám (CEFRES, Prague)

Natalia Aleksium (Touro College, New York City)

Uneasy Bonds: On Jews in Hiding and the Making of Surrogate Families

Rita Horvath (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

Hasidic Families under Pressure: An In-depth Analysis of the Holocaust Testimonies Collected by Yaffa Eliach

Viktória Bányai (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

The Impact of the Joint's Assistance Strategy on the Lives of Jewish Families in Hungary, 1945–49

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee

SIXTH PANEL

Post-war Dilemmas

11.00 – 12.45

Chair: Stephan Stach (Institute of Contemporary History, Prague)

Laura Hobson Faure (New Sorbonne University)

Siblings in the Holocaust and Its Aftermath: Rethinking the 'Holocaust Orphan' in France and the United States

Marcos Silber (University of Haifa)

Migrations, Gender and Family: Bottom-Up Perspectives on Migrations and Nation Building in 1950s Poland and Israel

Kamil Kijek (Wrocław University)

The Jewish Family Confronting the Holocaust Aftermath and Demise of Modernism: The Case of Polish Lower Silesia, 1945–57

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

SEVENTH PANEL

Rebuilding the Family

14.00 – 15.45

Chair: Kateřina Čapková (Institute of Contemporary History, Prague)

Robin Judd (Ohio State University)

'Experiencing Family and Home': Jewish Military Brides, Allied Soldier Husbands, and the Centrality of Kinship, 1944–50

Anja Reuss (Independent historian)

'Return to Normality': The Relevance of Motherhood and Family for Sinti and Roma Survivors in the Aftermath of World War II

Sarah Wobick-Segev (Kobner Center, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Looking for a Nice Jewish Girl ... : Personal Ads and the Creation of Jewish Families in Germany during and after the Shoah, 1938–53

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee

16.15 – 17.45 Concluding round table

Eliyana Adler, Kateřina Čapková, Ruth Leiserowicz

Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

18.00 – 19.30 Dinner, Villa Lanna