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MEMORIA

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'MINOR REMNANTS FROM SOLNA STREET. ISAAC CELNIKER AND THE HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE'. EXHIBITION

"TO WARN
AGAINST
INDIFFERENCE"

THE HOLOCAUST
IN THE DIGITAL
AGE

OF OPERATION
"REINHARDT" –
NEW BOOK

AUSTRIA

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

Our e-mail: memoria@auschwitz.org

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All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org

"TO WARN AGAINST INDIFFERENCE"

PROJECT AUSCHWITZ – HISTORY – CIVIC EDUCATION" IN PRISONS

The project "Auschwitz – History – Civic Education" poses several questions to its participants, including the significance of raising awareness about the disregard for human dignity, the potential consequences of contemptuous and hateful language, and the lessons to be learned from the tragic history of Auschwitz for today's witnesses of evil. The subsequent edition in 2022/23 attracted the participation of over 100 inmates and more than 700 officers from the Polish Police, Prison Service, and Fire Service.

'The primary objective of the project is to acquaint individuals with the historical significance of the German Nazi camp Auschwitz, the plight of different victim groups, and the opportunity to visit the genuine Memorial Site, which is consistently a unique and profound experience. However, education about history is intended to serve as a foundation for thoughtful contemplation on present-day threats, including the ideology of hatred, and our collective duty to combat evil now and in the future, said Andrzej Kacorzuk, director of International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz Museum.

'The programme starts with inmates being introduced to an exhibition loaned to the prison from the Museum and showcasing an online tour of the Auschwitz Memorial. ICEAH educators also conduct workshops in prison facilities. The male and female Prison Service officers coordinating the project also participated in a special study visit to the Memorial. As part of the cooperation, the Museum also shared podcasts from the series "About Auschwitz", which will be broadcast in all penitentiary facilities in the Cracow district,' said ICEAH project coordinator Piotr Supiński.

'This year's edition primarily targeted inmates serving sentences within the closed system, i. e., those restricted from leaving the walls of the prison facility on a daily basis. Thanks to advancements in technology, inmates were granted the opportunity to embark on a virtual tour of the former German concentration camp site. This was particularly significant for us, as it allowed inmates, including those with lengthy sentences, to transcend, if only symbolically, the towering prison walls,' said Maj. Anna Margelist-Czajczyk, spokesperson for the Regional Director of the Prison Service in Cracow.

'By conducting workshops, we wanted to get inmates more proactive. At first, there were concerns about the viability of this class format, but following the initial classes at the Cracow Detention Centre and witnessing the participants' enthusiasm and dedication, we determined that this was the correct course of action,' stated Alicja Wójcik from the ICEAH.

"History inscribed in an object" was moving and allowed for creativity, while "The individual in the face of camp reality" prompted reflection, triggered moral dilemmas and fostered sensitivity to the suffering of others. After the first class, inmates immediately sought information regarding the next session, with one individual considering taking a day off work

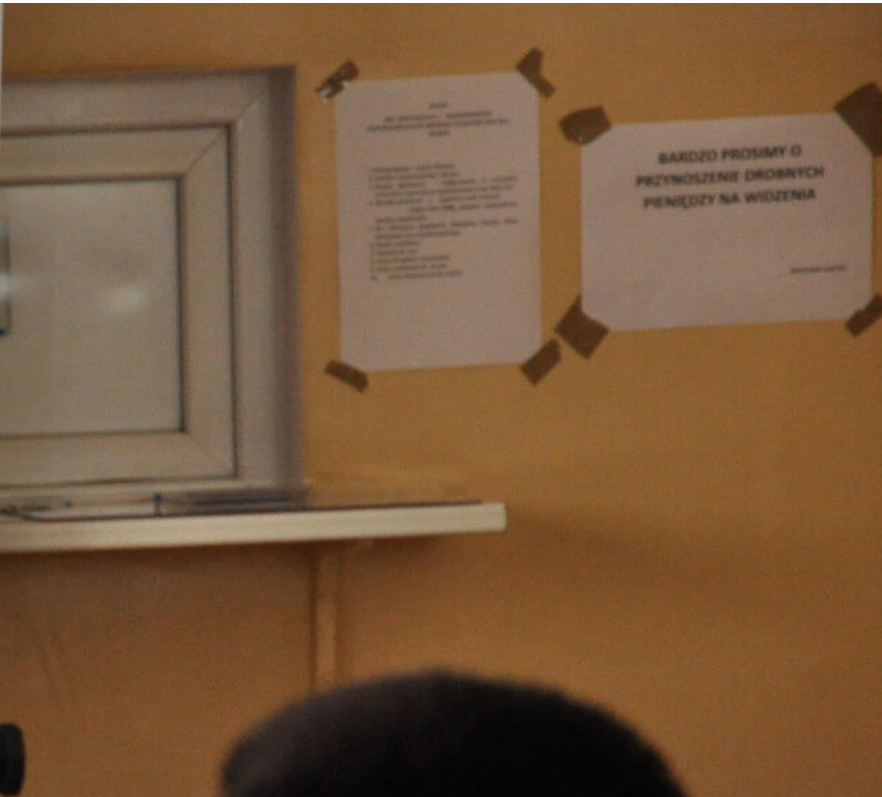


'Impressive! An excellently designed journey through the infamous and despicable history, capturing the atmosphere at the site of the Auschwitz and Birkenau camps. Arousing deep emotions resonating with sensitivity, forcing profound contemplation of what indifference, acquiescence, and even acceptance of racism, Nazism, discrimination, and the like may lead to. No one can remain apathetic after viewing or participating in this project. Let's hope for a plethora of projects and guidance like this. Excellent work!' reads the reflections.

'The project has garnered significant interest beyond the district of the Cracow Prison Service. - In response to a special request, the programme was implemented once at the Nysa Prison. In the forthcoming edition, several facilities subordinate to the Regional Inspectorate of the Prison Service in Opole will probably be included in the project,' - said Piotr Supiński.

The project has been implemented at the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust since 2008. Initially, it was directed towards educators, supervisory staff, and inmates under the jurisdiction of the Regional Inspectorate of the Prison Service in Cracow. However, classes expanded to various regions in subsequent years, primarily in southern and central Poland. Today, the project "Auschwitz - History - Civic Education" is being implemented as part of study visits organised by the ICEAH, with officers from the Police, Prison Service and State Fire Service participating in the classes.





RESEARCHING THE HOLOCAUST IN THE DIGITAL AGE

The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure invites proposals for papers and interactive presentations at its international conference for archivists and researchers evaluating Holocaust-related research in the digital age, the current state of documentation and study of the Holocaust, and the role that EHRI plays in supporting and advancing these areas.

We are interested in Holocaust-related materials in the broadest sense, as defined by the IHRA Working Definition of Holocaust-related Materials. This conference will be an excellent opportunity to make new connections with experts in the field, to discuss current opportunities and challenges, and to showcase new and innovative research.

The conference, that will take place 18 June 2024 in Warsaw, will include a mixture of presentations as well as a 'marketplace' with poster presentations and hands-on sessions where it will be possible to demonstrate and learn new digital techniques.

The digital turn in the humanities and social sciences has continued to grow and develop since EHRI's creation in 2010. With this in mind, we wish to focus on the following themes in this EHRI conference:

What are good examples of the opportunities for Holocaust research in the digital age? What are any potential risks? Researchers can now search and connect a multitude of sources and studies, from wherever they are in the world. This can also lead to new complexities, such as a loss of context, or an undue focus on digitised materials at the expense of other sources. Should we worry about a possible deficit of "tacit knowledge"—the traditionally valued gains from in-person meetings in reading rooms?

How active and aware are archivists today of their crucial role with regard to access to and the study of digital resources? Archivists have always been at the forefront of selecting and providing access to sources. In the digital age, however, archival work (be it conservation, offering reference services, or other activities) is transforming faster than ever.

Which new methods are used by Holocaust researchers to present sources and research findings? How sustainable are recent innovations? The emergence of new methods (blogs, video, etc.) for presenting sources and research findings, particularly interdisciplinary approaches, rightfully excites many. How are such presentations received by professional disciplines and the general public, and how sustainable are

Call for Proposals



EHRI Academic Conference 2024
Researching the Holocaust in the Digital Age
Warsaw, Poland - June 18, 2024



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“MINOR REMNANTS FROM SOLNA STREET. ISAAC CELNIKIER AND THE HOLOCAUST EXPERIENCE” OPENING OF THE EXHIBITION

On November 9, 2023, we officially opened the temporary exhibition “Minor Remnants from Solna Street. Isaac Celnikier and the Holocaust Experience”, curated by Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger, head of the Art Department of the Jewish Historical Institute.

The opening was attended by about 150 people, including representatives of the diplomatic corps, befriended organizations and institutions, the Jewish community and science, as well as journalists, friends, acquaintances and relatives of the creator of the exhibition, Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger, and other people involved in its creation. We also had the honour of hosting Izaak Celnikier's family, who came to Warsaw especially for this event.

The ceremony, led by the head of the Cultural Projects and Communication Department, Franciszek Bojańczyk, began with the speech of the director of the Jewish Historical Institute, Monika Krawczyk. She thanked all those gathered, as well as the partner and media patrons of the exhibition, the institutions that lent works for the exhibition, and, above all, its curator.

“Of course, many thanks to curator Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger, the head of our Art Department, for such steadfast work in getting to know and examining the work of Izaak Celnikier”, said Monika Krawczyk. “This is an important and groundbreaking exhibition, the first to focus on Isaac Celnikier. It is worth emphasizing that most of the collection comes from the Jewish Historical Institute.”

Zuzanna Benesz-Goldfinger began her speech by recalling a very significant fragment of Izaak Celnikier's unpublished autobiography

entitled My Reading of Rembrandt:

“This is art and life. Art and death. I open my eyes, there’s no one. I try to fall asleep again, and those who are pushing me out return, their features are specific or almost specific, they overlap. My language is hesitating – it is the language of salvation's debtor”.

The curator talked about the purpose of the exhibition, devoted primarily to works created by the artist before his leaving for Paris in 1957:

“The works that Celnikier left in Poland were dispersed. The aim of this exhibition and the publication that comes along was to connect all of those works and to recognise the true aim of their creation. It turned out that most of them were sketches for Yiddish stories and poems, that, thanks to the cooperation and support of wonderful Yiddishists, were translated, often for the first time, into Polish and English – and thanks to that we can read the real sense of the illustrations by Celnikier.”

She also presented the compositional assumptions of the exhibition:

“It is no coincidence that at this exhibition two axes cross: the scenography one and the narrative one. One axis is designated by representations of war: a projection with two versions of the »Ghetto« painting is reflected in a painting entitled »Korea«. In the diagonal one, you can see hanging boards with post-



Photos. Grzegorz Kwolek, JHI

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING IN HUNGARY: HOLOCAUST DISTORTION

Policymakers and educators from across Hungary participated in a special training workshop on Holocaust distortion this month. Hosted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, in partnership with UNESCO and the Zachor Foundation, the Holocaust Distortion Capacity Building Training Program aimed to help participants identify and tackle Holocaust distortion within their own work environments.

Holocaust distortion is a growing phenomenon that downplays the gravity and relevance of the Holocaust. More complex and harder to identify than Holocaust denial, it can lead to antisemitism, hate speech, and violence.

Even though the Holocaust is one of the most researched historical events, established facts about it are still being distorted. A correct understanding of the Holocaust is critical as we enter a new era in which the last Holocaust survivors and direct witnesses are passing away.

The IHRA's Holocaust Distortion Capacity Building Training Program is designed to equip policymakers and educators with the skills, knowledge and tools they need to identify and respond to this important social phenomenon.

"The Holocaust is an event that has shaped the world as we know it today, and which informs the way in which we move forward. It is important to tackle this at all levels, including national, EU, and international levels. By safeguarding the memory of the Holocaust, we can better protect our own future as democratic and human rights-oriented nation states," said David Deutsch from the IHRA's Global Taskforce Against Holocaust Distortion, who was speaking at the event.

The Budapest workshop was part of a wider program of activity to help build the skills, knowledge, and capacity among policymakers and educators. Additional workshops are planned for early 2024. They accompany resources such as the IHRA Toolkit Against Holocaust Distortion designed to help policy and decision-makers be ambassadors for change within their institutions, governments, and communities, along with the #ProtectTheFacts campaign, which helps people to say no to distortion.



THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OPERATION "REINHARDT" NEW BOOK

We are glad to announce that our latest book project has been accomplished. "The Infrastructure of Operation Reinhardt" is now available to the English-speaking readers.

The book constitutes an analysis of the largest genocidal operation of World War II codenamed "Einsatz Reinhardt" from the perspective of its infrastructure and the functioning of the mass extermination apparatus. Analysing the Holocaust from this angle is vital for the sake of restoring and sustaining the collective and spatially-anchored memory of the victims, particularly within the context of local communities.

The book stems from the academic conference held by the State Museum at Majdanek and is an attempt to emphasise the significance of infrastructural aspect in the persecutions, exploitation, and extermination of Jews by the German Government perpetrated within the framework of the operation codenamed "Einsatz Reinhardt." From this perspective is vital for the sake of restoring and sustaining the collective and spatially-anchored memory of the victims, particularly within the context of local communities.

The Infrastructure of Operation

Essays' authors:

Justyna Bajuk
Igor Bartosik
Jakub Chmielewski
Martyna Grądzka-Rejak
Bartłomiej Grzanka
Tomasz Hanejko
Ewa Koper
Tomasz Kranz
Stephan Lehnstaedt
Wojciech Lenarczyk
Dariusz Libionka
Grzegorz Michalak
Marek Michalski
Tomasz Oleksy-Zborowski
Sebastian Różycki
Agata Stępnik
Anita Szkarłat
Krzysztof A. Tarkowski



**The Infrastructure of
Operation Reinhardt**

**Edited by
Tomasz
Kranz**



**The Infrastructure of
Operation Reinhardt**

**Edited by
Tomasz
Kranz**

THE DIGITAL REMEMBRANCE LANDSCAPE OF AUSTRIA

The Digital Memory Landscape Austria (DERLA) is a documentation and education project. It documents the places and signs of remembrance of the victims and places of terror of National Socialism in Austria and aims at a critical examination of National Socialism and fascism and the remembrance of them. The interdisciplinary cooperation project also aims to develop new concepts for digital remembrance education.

"Places of remembrance", memorials, memorial plaques, memorial sites as well as street and place names after resistance fighters and victims of the Nazi regime are the materializations of historical consciousness in everyday life. A look at the landscape of remembrance in the present therefore provides an insight into the collective memory of Austrian society on the one hand. On the other hand, dealing with the history of its origins reveals the cycles of this process. The questions to be constantly asked, what, when, where, and by whom and how was and is remembered, are the guiding principles of the project and give us insights into the transformations of the confrontation with the National Socialist legacy. Also, they are an expression of our political and social self-image in the present.

Based on these assumptions, DERLA, through the cooperation of historians, didacticians and experts of Digital Humanities, presents places of remembrance (memorial signs such as monuments, street names, or commemorative plaques) of the Nazi victims and places of Nazi terror on the homepage www.erinnerungslandschaft.at and offers specially developed teaching and learning materials. The addressees are young people as well as a historical and political public.

Deep mapping methods are used to enter signs of remembrance of the victims of

National Socialism and the places of Nazi terror in a digital map and to link them to questions of education. In the process, analogue signs become digital data sets that can be placed in relation to each other and linked together.

In the webinar, the DERLA project will be presented, and concrete questions of digitization and mediation in education will be explored.

Victoria Kumar, PhD, is a historian and heads the ERINNERN:AT program at OeAD - Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalization; previously a research associate at the Center for Jewish Studies Graz University, Austria and the Center for Austrian Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Research interests: History of National Socialism and the Holocaust, flight and exile to/in Palestine/Israel, anti-Semitism, oral history, cultures of memory, digital mapping.

Gerald Lamprecht, Professor of Jewish History and Contemporary History and Head of the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz. Research focus: European Jewish History, Holocaust Studies, History of Antisemitism and Memory Studies.

Join the Webinar on Zoom
on **14 December 2023, 3:00 PM CET**.
No registration required.

DERLA

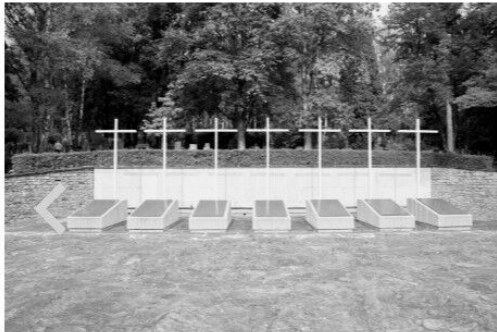
VERFOLGUNG UND WIDERSTAND
IM NATIONALSOZIALISMUS
DOKUMENTIEREN UND VERMITTELN

DIGITALE ERINNERUNGSLANDSCHAFT

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Digitale Erinnerungslandschaft



Mahnmal für die Opfer beider Weltkriege



Stolperstein für jüdische SchülerInnen



Stolperstein für Othmar Schrauhser





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Paweł Sawicki

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Agnieszka Juskowiak-Sawicka

EDITED BY

Bartosz Bartyzel
Marek Lach
Łukasz Lipiński

CONTACT

memoria@auschwitz.org

