



SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES & ABSTRACTS

**REMEMBERING & RETHINKING:
THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON COLLECTING,
PRESERVING, AND DISSEMINATING HOLOCAUST
TESTIMONIES**

APRIL 19-20 2023 • LANCASTER HOUSE, LONDON



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WELCOME

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon is the Minister of State for the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and United Nations at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). He was first appointed as Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict in June 2017 and was Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations from 2017 until September 2020. He was then appointed Minister for South and Central Asia, North Africa, United Nations and the Commonwealth until September 2022.

His Excellency Miguel Berger has been the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Kingdom since May 2022. One of his major positions since starting work at the Foreign Ministry in 1990 was as Head of the German Representative Office in the Palestinian Territories. From 2010 to 2012 he was Deputy Head of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations in New York and a member of the United Nations Security Council in 2011 and 2012. At the Federal Foreign Office, he was Head of the Parliament and Cabinet Division, Commissioner for Global Issues, Energy and Climate Diplomacy, and Regional Director for the Near and Middle East and the Maghreb. Before becoming State Secretary in May 2020, he held the position of Director-General for Economic Affairs and Sustainable Development.

Michael Newman OBE is the Chief Executive of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR). Michael is a member of the UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and a previous Chair of its Communications Working Group. Among other credits, he co-authored the 10-year anniversary book and contributed to the strategy review. He is now working on a project assessing the impact of Memory Laws. He is President of the Anglo-Jewish Association (AJA) for which he serves as a Director of the Claims Conference. Michael is the co-editor of *Contemporary Human Rights Challenges: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its Continuing Relevance*, an edited collection of new essays by leading international human rights experts. Michael was honoured to be awarded an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours list 2021.



KEYNOTE 1

The Rt Hon Lord Pickles was appointed Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues in September 2015. Lord Pickles works closely with the wide range of Holocaust academics, survivors and educational and social organisations in the UK. Along with the former Labour Cabinet Minister, Ed Balls, he Co-Chairs the United Kingdom's Holocaust Memorial Foundation. He was made a Life Peer in 2018. Lord Pickles is also the chair of the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments. He was first elected to Parliament in 1992 and he retired as MP for Brentwood and Ongar at the 2017 general election. He was previously Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

Dr Bea Lewkowicz is the Director and co-founder of the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, which she created together with Anthony Grenville for the Association of Jewish Refugees in 2003, after co-curating the AJR's 60th anniversary exhibition 'Continental Britons'. She is also the co-founder and director of Sephardi Voices UK, a member of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, the editorial board of Jewish Renaissance, and the Next Generations Committee of the AJR. From the beginning of her career, she focused on capturing the stories of Holocaust survivors and refugees, trying to ensure that these stories will be saved for future generations and disseminated to broader audiences. She started interviewing Holocaust survivors in the Greek city of Salonika in 1989, worked as an interviewer for the USC Shoah Foundation and has ever since been involved in the practice and teaching of oral history. She has conducted hundreds of interviews with British Holocaust survivors and refugees and Sephardi/Mizrahi Jews and passionately believes in the power of testimonies. Bea has directed/co-directed and produced a wide range of testimony-based films and her publications include: 'Émigré Voices: Conversations with Jewish Refugees from Germany and Austria' (with Anthony Grenville, 2022) 'The Jewish Community of Salonika: History, Memory, and Identity (2006) and 'Refugee Voices (The AJR Audio-Visual Testimony Archive): A New Resource for the Study of the Kindertransport'. In: The Kindertransport to Britain 1938/39. (edited by Andrea Hammel and Bea Lewkowicz 2012).



SESSION 1: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: EARLY TESTIMONIES

Sara Jones is a Professor of Modern Languages at the University of Birmingham. Her research focuses on the social, cultural and political processes of remembrance, especially of the twentieth century. She has worked extensively on the concept of testimony and especially cultural forms. From 2016-2019 she was Principal Investigator for the research network Culture and its Uses as Testimony and its follow-on project Testimony in Practice, both funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. She is author of three books: *Complicity, Censorship and Criticism* (2011), *The Media of Testimony* (2014) and *Towards a Collaborative Memory* (2022).

In her presentation, Sara Jones will analyse different ways in which testimony – especially Holocaust testimony – is produced, transformed and circulated in and through cultural practices film, literature, education, social media, autobiography, museums etc. She will consider the implications of this for education and memorialisation and in the context of the loss of the survivor generation. Sara will draw especially on the findings of the multi-disciplinary and cross-sector research network Culture and its Uses as Testimony, for which she was principal investigator, and the newly published Palgrave Handbook of Testimony and Culture (due April 2023), which she has co-edited with Roger Woods.



SESSION 1: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: EARLY TESTIMONIES

Dr Barbara Warnock is Senior Curator and Head of Education at The Wiener Holocaust Library. She has published on the Kindertransport, the Jewish-German photographer Gerty Simon, and the Nazi genocide against Roma, amongst other topics. Her exhibitions include Jewish Resistance to the Holocaust and Berlin-London: The Lost Photographs of Gerty Simon.

Dr Christine Schmidt is Deputy Director and Head of Research at The Wiener Holocaust Library, where she oversees its research profile and partnerships and curates exhibitions, including the Library's current exhibition, Holocaust Letters. Her recent research has focused on post-war search for the missing and collecting initiatives, and her current book project focuses on the Library's survivor accounts gathered by Eva Reichmann and others in the 1950s.

Their joint presentation will explore the collection of early Holocaust survivor eyewitness accounts gathered by the German Jewish refugee scholar Dr Eva Reichmann for the Wiener Library in London in the 1950s. Holocaust refugees and survivors conducted many of the interviews, and the accounts demonstrate the importance of collecting for shaping early knowledge about the Holocaust and the vital role of women whose work helped shape the field – both in terms of early scholarship as well as safeguarding evidence. The talk will also examine a small but particularly rich subsection of the Library's eyewitness accounts collection: a set of documents relating to rescue and resistance in Belgium. The accounts provide insights into many topics, including the background and motivations of resisters, the central role of women in resistance, and the operation of child rescue networks. The accounts from Belgium are also revealing in terms of what they say about the methods and assumptions of those working on this early effort to gather Holocaust testimony.



SESSION 1: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: EARLY TESTIMONIES

Dr Daniel Schuch is a historian and research associate at the chair for history in the public and media at Jena University. He earned his doctoral degree with an analysis of the cultural transformations of Holocaust testimony, which was published in 2021 („Transformationen der Zeugenschaft. Von David P. Boders frühen Audiointerviews zur Wiederbefragung als Holocaust Testimony“). In his PostDoc project, he is working on concentration camp memorial sites and survivor’s organizations during the cold war. Latest publication: *Organisiertes Gedächtnis. Kollektive Aktivitäten von Überlebenden der nationalsozialistischen Verbrechen*, Göttingen 2022 (editor together with Philipp Neumann-Thein and Markus Wegewitz).

Challenging the Notion of “Early Holocaust Testimony”: David P. Boder’s 1946 Audio Interviews with Displaced Persons

On August 27, 1946, psychologist David P. Boder interviewed the 17-year old German Jewish survivor Gert Silberbard at a community home for displaced Jewish refugees in Geneva, Switzerland. When asked about his treatment by the SS in Auschwitz concentration camp, Silberbard mentions the omnipresence of violence and adds the succinct addition: “I think that this is well known enough from books and reports and films that I don’t even have to mention it.”

From the perspective of this boy liberated in Buchenwald concentration camp in April 1945, the summer of 1946 was by no means “early”. This will use the example of Boder’s 1946 interview project to challenge the notion of “early Holocaust testimony”. Which time period do we define as early and how did this change over the last 80 years? And how can we understand the relatively recent genre of Holocaust testimony? The first written accounts of Jewish witnesses date back to the beginning of World War II. We know of several Jewish Historical Commissions who collected written testimonies about the Nazi mass murder of the Jews in all over post-war Europe. But what is the main difference between written and oral testimonies? Literary theorist and Holocaust researcher Geoffrey Hartman has stated that Holocaust testimony goes back to David Boder’s systematically collected oral documents in Displaced Person Camps shortly after the end of World War II. While it is important to recognize Boder’s contribution to early Holocaust witnessing and research of the Nazi mass murder, it raises the following questions: do his audio interviews fit the later developed concept of Holocaust testimony? What were his scientific goals and methods of interviewing? How did the significance of his interviews shift from post-war period until today?



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Dr Joanna Beata Michlic is a social and cultural historian, and founder and first Director of HBI (Hadassah-Brandeis Institute) Project on Families, Children and the Holocaust at Brandeis University. She is a Visiting Full Professor of the Holocaust and Contemporary History at University of Lund (2023 -2025) and an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the UCL Centre for the Study of Collective Violence, the Holocaust and Genocide, UCL Institute for Advances Studies, and Research Fellow at Weiss-Livnat International Centre for Holocaust Research and Education, University of Haifa, June 2019 - May 2025. She is a co-Editor in Chief of Genealogy Journal. Among her major publications are *Poland's Threatening Other: The Image of the Jew from 1880 to the Present*, (translated into Polish in 2015), *Bringing the Dark Past to Light: The Reception of the Holocaust in Postcommunist Europe*, co-edited with John-Paul Himka (Lincoln, NUP, 2012), and single-edited *Jewish Family 1939 -Present: History, Representation, and Memory*, Brandeis University Press/NEUP, January 2017. She is currently working on a book project on the history and memory of rescue of Jewish children in Poland, *More Than the Milk of Human Kindness: Jewish Survivors and Their Polish Rescuers Recount Their Tales, 1944-1949*.

Voices of Child Survivors as an Important Historical Source in Documenting the History of the Holocaust and the Its Aftermath.

The first wave of child survivors' testimonies emerged during the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, 1945- 1949. However, historians have not regarded these early post-war children's voices as a vital documentation in the historical reconstruction of the Holocaust and its aftermath till the 1990s. Child survivors' testimonies from the 1960s and 1970s did not generate an interest among historians either. However, at that time, literary scholars, psychologists and psychotherapists were the first to discover and utilize the voices of young survivors in their studies. The 1990s saw an emergence of a new major wave of the late post-war child survivors' testimonies. Thanks to the development of oral history and children's studies and major shifts in the Holocaust historiography, the late post-war testimonies of child survivors have been gradually accepted as important documentation in the historical reconstruction of the genocidal past and memories of that past. This paper discusses the presence, of what is known in the study of late post-war testimonies, as secret and communal memories in the early post-war testimonies of the child survivors. The paper illustrates that the late post-war testimonies complement and elaborate in a variety of ways the early post war testimonies. The main argument is that the three waves of child survivors' testimonies have to be studied together to understand the full impact of the genocidal past on different stages of young survivors' lives. Only then we could write the full biography of the generation of young survivors.



SESSION 2: ORAL HISTORY AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE: A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF TESTIMONIES IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE/HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dr Andrea Hammel is Reader in the Modern Languages Department and the Director of the Centre for the Movement of People at Aberystwyth University. Over the past 20 years she has published widely on the history and culture of German-speaking refugees from National Socialism, especially on women and the Kindertransport. She is the author of *Finding Refuge: Stories of the men, women and children who fled to Wales to escape the Nazis* (Honno, 2022) and *The Kindertransport 1938/39* (Polity, forthcoming 2023). She is currently leading a project on Refugees from National Socialism in Wales: Learning from the Past for the Future which is funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund. This has resulted in a travelling exhibition which involves co-curators who are refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, and Kuwait. With colleagues from the Jewish History Association of South Wales, she is also leading a project on creating Holocaust Education Resources for Wales, which is funded by the AJR. She has worked with the Welsh government and Public Health Wales to develop resources for policy makers in order to improve the lives of refugees in the 21st century.

The Use of Testimony in Writing Refugee History

In the 1990s the well-known German historian Wolfgang Benz controversially claimed that the eyewitness is the enemy of the historian. When looking for certain historical information, eyewitness testimony can be unreliable and contradictory. At the same time, eyewitness testimony is what draws in the general public, it is valued by educators, and it is difficult to imagine the study of refugee and Holocaust history without it. This paper explores this tension using examples from Hammel's work, especially on child refugees, and education and knowledge exchange projects. The paper argues that many of the existing collections of testimony are underused, and rather than creating new resources, Hammel has worked with different interviews from the AJR Refugee Voices Testimony Archive, the British Library Oral History Archive, and with published and unpublished memoirs and autobiographies. What are the challenges with approach? What are the advantages?

Questions being addresses are: Is scholarship changing and relying more on stories by eyewitnesses than previously? Is history writing becoming more narrative? How is this influenced by the use of digital technology by the younger generation? Can we use these changes to increase the impact of refugee and Holocaust history?



SESSION 2: ORAL HISTORY AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE: A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF TESTIMONIES IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE/HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Dan Stone is Professor of Modern History and Director of the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway, University of London. He is the author or editor of twenty books, including: *The Liberation of the Camps: The End of the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (Yale, 2015), *Concentration Camps: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2019), *The Holocaust: An Unfinished History* (Penguin, 2023), and *Fate Unknown: Tracing the Missing after the Holocaust and World War II* (OUP, 2023).

Writing the History of the Holocaust with the International Tracing Service Archive: Understanding Post-war Testimonies

This talk will introduce the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive, explaining how the world's largest collection of documents relating to the Nazi crimes was closed to researchers until just over a decade ago, and then show how certain collections of testimonies in it can be used to write about aspects of the Holocaust in ways that are otherwise inaccessible. After the war, testimonies were taken from survivors for legal purposes and for restitution applications. These were held by the Central Office for Investigation of National Socialist Crimes (Zentrale Stelle) in Ludwigsburg and the various restitution offices and can now be found in the ITS archive. Understanding the origins and purposes of such testimonies is crucial, since they are often focused in very specific ways. Nevertheless, they offer information about sites, people and Nazi policies that are otherwise hard to get at. This talk will provide examples of such testimonies and show how historians can use them to understand the Nazi camps, including the sub-camps; questions of survival; issues of gender and age; and the experience of "liberation."



SESSION 2: ORAL HISTORY AS A HISTORICAL SOURCE: A CRITICAL EVALUATION OF TESTIMONIES IN THE FIELD OF REFUGEE/HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Tony Kushner is Professor in the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations and History Department at the University of Southampton. He has written widely on the British Jewish experience, especially social history and comparative migration and on the Holocaust. His most recent books are *The Battle of Britishness: Migrant Journeys since 1685* (Manchester University Press, 2012), *Journeys from the Abyss: The Holocaust and Forced Migration from the 1880s to the Present* (Liverpool University Press, 2017) and *Southampton's Migrant Past and Present* (Parkes Institute, 2021). He has recently finished a study of an eighteenth-century Jewish triple murderer and, with Dr Aimee Bunting, is working on a joint book, *Co-Presents to the Holocaust*. He is co-editor of the journal *Patterns of Prejudice* and deputy editor of *Jewish Culture and History*.

Holocaust Testimony: Given or Taken?

In the early historiography of the Holocaust, the testimony of survivors was rejected in favour of 'hard' documentation from the perpetrators. The testimony of the victims was rejected as being emotional and of little use in understanding the 'Final Solution'. More recently, great efforts have been made to collect Holocaust testimony which has resulted in the largest amount of first-hand accounts relating to any historic subject. Scholars ranging from Saul Friedlander to Christopher Browning to David Cesarani have placed the testimony of the victims as a critical part of their narratives. At the level of popular heritage, whether in museums or television and other broadcasting, the survivor voice has also become prominent. We are now at the next stage of critically reflecting on what has been collected and to explore more reflexively how we use that testimony so that it is used more than simply illustratively of the horrors of the persecution. How do we incorporate life story and do justice to the complex interplay within of it of 'before', 'during' and 'after'? The wider question also needs to be addressed: Can testimony be 'given' or is it always taken?



SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION: PRODUCING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES—PERSPECTIVES FROM INTERVIEWERS AND INTERVIEWEES

Natasha Kaplinsky OBE is an English newsreader, TV presenter, activist and businesswoman who has worked with various networks including Sky News, BBC News, Channel 5 and ITV News. Starting out as a chat-show host on Granada Talk TV, she presented news bulletins on ITV Meridian before shifting to ITV London. She subsequently spent two years at Sky News and then joined BBC, on which she hosted 'Breakfast' and 'News at Six', among several other programs including 'Children in Need'. During her time with BBC, she won the first series of 'Strictly Come Dancing' with professional partner Brendan Cole. She also traced her family tree in an episode of 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. She found out that in the town of Slonim, the fate of some of her relatives. As Jews, they were herded into ghettos. Later these ghettos were cleared in what the Nazis referred to as "actions". The Nazis, Natasha learns, didn't use bullets on children, but killed them with their bare hands. Faced with the horror being perpetrated by the Nazis, Natasha's great uncle Abraham committed suicide. She is the co-founder of 'Mum & You', which provides care products for babies and mothers. Kaplinsky, who is an ambassador for 'Save the Children' and is involved with several charities, was awarded an OBE for her work in interviewing 112 Holocaust survivors.

Eva Clarke BEM was born at the gates of Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria on 29 April 1945. Five days later, the US Army liberated the camp. Eva's parents Bernd and Anka Nathan got married in May 1940 and were deported to Theresienstadt in December 1941. When Eva's father was sent east, her mother volunteered to go as well. On arrival in Auschwitz, Anka managed to hide the fact that she was pregnant. This way, she was selected for slave labour in an armaments factory in Freiberg. In spring 1945, Anka was put on an open coal truck and arrived in Mauthausen after a harrowing journey, where Eva was born under unspeakable circumstances. In her Refugee Voices testimony, Eva says that her mother, despite her trauma, always answered Eva's questions about her heritage and family in an age-appropriate way. Eva attributes her ability to address audiences about her remarkable story to her mother's gradual approach and openness. Eva attempts to combat modern day instances of racism and prejudice through sharing her family's experiences. In 2015 Leicester University awarded Eva an honorary doctorate and for her invaluable work in Holocaust education. In April 2019 she was awarded an MBE and 2023 the 'Freedom of the County Borough' of Blaenau Gwent, Wales.



SESSION 3: PANEL DISCUSSION: PRODUCING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES—PERSPECTIVES FROM INTERVIEWERS AND INTERVIEWEES

Jackie Young was born Jona Spiegel in Vienna in 1941 and at the age of nine months he was deported from a Jewish orphanage to Theresienstadt. After liberation in 1945 he was brought with a group of other child survivors to Bulldogs Bank hostel in Sussex, and later moved to Weir Courtney, a temporary home for refugee children, in Lingfield, Surrey. He was adopted by a Jewish couple who kept his origins from him and Jackie discovered his true background in 1963 when planning his marriage to Lita. His birth mother had been killed in the Maly Trostenets extermination camp [now Belarus]. For decades, Jackie was looking for more information about his family, but only in last year managed, with the help of the DNA Reunion Project, to identify his father's name and find living relatives. Jackie was a guest of honour at this year's Simon Wiesenthal prize giving ceremony in Vienna. His message in the Refugee Voices interviews was 'to reject hate, and to learn and remember the lessons of the past'.

Kurt Marx BEM was born in Cologne, in 1925, the only child of Siegmund and Irma Marx. Kurt attended the Jewish Jawne Gymnasium. With the help of headmaster, Dr Erich Klibansky, was sent to Britain on a Kindertransport in 1939 with some of his fellow pupils. The boys of this group were first accommodated in a hostel in Minster Road, in North West London (sponsored by Walm Lane Synagogue). He left school at 15 and after doing war work, was offered an apprenticeship as a diamond cutter. He had received the last letter from his parents in 1942 and only found out when he was in his seventies that they were deported to Minsk and shortly after murdered in the forests of Maly Trostenec. He met his wife, Ingrid, an Auschwitz survivor, at the Bar Kochba Sports club and they got married in 1948. In the last decade he has frequently gone back to Cologne to give talks and speak to school children about his experiences. He was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit by the German government in 2021. In the Refugee Voices interview he expresses his worry about the time 'when the contemporary witnesses have all gone and people might stop being interested'. He fears that antisemitism is returning and the only way to fight it is education.

Dr Rosalyn Livshin is an oral historian and research consultant, specialising in life stories, biographies, and genealogy. She is an oral history trainer for the British Library and Oral History Society, training groups in the North-West in the practice of oral history. She has worked on many oral history projects, as interviewer and project co-ordinator, interviewing hundreds of refugees and survivors and the children of immigrant Jews, who came to Manchester. She has worked on projects for Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester University, Manchester Jewish Museum, the British Library, 45 Aid Society, the Windermere Holocaust Project, Shoah Foundation and AJR as well as private commissions. Among her publications are: 'The Acculturation of the Children of Immigrant Jews in Manchester, 1890-1930' in *The Making of Anglo-Jewry*, edited by David Cesarani, (1990), *The History of the Harrogate Jewish Community*, (1995).



SESSION 4: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: INSTITUTIONS & THEIR COLLECTIONS

Ofer Lifshitz, Researcher & Interviewer, Gathering the Fragments, The Yad Vashem Archive, has been academically trained in cultural research at Tel Aviv University. As part of his work for the Yad Vashem Archive, Ofer has taken part in collecting, reviewing, and studying testimonies and collections of Holocaust-related materials. Ofer has participated in various social projects associated with communicating & preserving Holocaust memory.

Adding a Voice and a Face to our Witnesses: Yad Vashem as a National Testimony Project

Under Israel's Martyrs' and Heroes' Commemoration legislation (1953), testimony collection is one of Yad Vashem's key tasks, a task of national scope and significance. The department for testimony collection, one of Yad Vashem's very first units, was established in 1954. Its legacy as a mission of "societal and national healing" was shaped by a generation of survivor professionals, headed by Rachel Auerbach, previously a part of the Oneg Shabbat Archive at the Warsaw Ghetto. Yad Vashem's testimony collection has since grown from the initial 3,000 testimonies, collected by the department by 1965, to app. 130,000 testimonies in 2022, spanning a variety of languages. It has undergone the transition from protocols and written documentation to audio and video testimonies, providing our witnesses with a voice and a face in the most concrete sense.

As a national endeavour, Yad Vashem's testimony project has had to accommodate itself to a changing socio-cultural context, as well as a breadth of Holocaust-related narratives in circulation. We have accommodated our interviews so as to be able to meet various target groups, e.g. survivors from North Africa, USSR expatriates and witnesses who had been child survivors. The collection has contributed to Holocaust discourse within Israeli society and the questions and dilemmas it raises, e.g. the essence of coping during the Holocaust, as well as the very notion of survivorship. Overall, Yad Vashem's approach towards the interviewing process has evolved so as to encompass the life story of the witness as a whole – hand, name, voice and face coming together to represent a person, rather than a victim – true to Auerbach's initial vision of testimonies as a process of healing.



SESSION 4: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: INSTITUTIONS & THEIR COLLECTIONS

James Bulgin is Head of Public History at Imperial War Museums and was previously Head of Content for the award-winning new Holocaust Galleries. Before joining IWM James worked as a commercial theatre producer and director, with work in the West End and on national tour. He has recently completed his PhD at Royal Holloway College, University of London on ideas of apocalypse in Holocaust and Cold War history. His academic research focuses on issues of representation in Holocaust literature and film and he has presented papers at conferences in the UK, Germany and Israel. He is the author of the book *The Holocaust* and is the presenter of *How the Holocaust Began* for the BBC.

James will talk about the decisions relating to the use of testimony in the Imperial War Museum's new Holocaust Galleries. This relates to both interpretive and presentational issues relating to pre-existing testimony with the museum's collections, and new testimony filmed as part of the project.

Dr Madeline White is the Curator of Oral History at the British Library and Deputy Director of oral history fieldwork charity National Life Stories. Her PhD research explored changes in Holocaust oral testimony collection in Britain and Canada from the 1960s to the present day, examining how our changing relationship with the past influences the questions we ask of testimony and determines the methodologies employed in its collection. More generally, her research interests include oral history theory, particularly oral history methodology and the re-use of archived oral history; Holocaust historiography; and the idea of testimony as narrative genre.



SESSION 4: COLLECTING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN CULTURAL CONTEXTS: INSTITUTIONS & THEIR COLLECTIONS

In 1988, oral history fieldwork charity National Life Stories launched The Living Memory of the Jewish Community, an oral history project which set out to record life story interviews with Jewish Holocaust survivors living in the UK. There are 188 interviews in the collection recorded between 1988 and 2000, making this project one of the earliest collections of Holocaust oral testimony created in the UK. This presentation will examine this collection in the context of some of the many factors which shaped its content, including the history of oral history in the UK; the charity's aims and intentions; and the culture of British Holocaust memory in the late 20th century. It will also offer an overview of the extensive Holocaust oral testimony collections at the British Library, which in addition to The Living Memory of the Jewish Community include collections from the Holocaust Survivors' Centre, the Central British Fund for German Jewry (now World Jewish Relief) and Herbert Levy. Many of these collections were recently digitised by the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage project and feature on the British Library's redeveloped Voices of the Holocaust web resource, launched in Spring 2023.

James Gilmore is the Oral History Curator at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where he has helped to shape the foundational collection of oral histories for nearly 20 years. He is responsible for the acquisition of oral testimonies and related artefacts from other Holocaust archives and individual donors to help build the Museum's Collection of Record on the Holocaust. His presentation will provide an overview of the broad range of testimonies in the Museum's Jeff and Toby Herr Oral History Archive, including his work with the deaf Holocaust survivor community.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jeff and Toby Herr Oral History Archive is one of the largest, most diverse, and publicly-accessible collections of Holocaust testimonies in the world. In this presentation, James Gilmore, the Museum's Oral History Curator will speak about the ongoing development of the Archive as well as its role in the institution's wide-ranging efforts to support Holocaust research, exhibition, education, and memorialization. Composed of Museum-produced interviews with survivors, liberators, rescuers, collaborators, and witnesses, as well as testimonies acquired from individuals and other institutions, the Archive draws from first-person experiences to present Holocaust history with authenticity and relevance for each new generation.



WELCOME

Alex Maws is the Head of Education and Heritage at the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), Alex champions and evaluates Holocaust educational programmes across the UK. He is also the producer and host of the AJR's Kindertransport podcast. He is a member of the UK delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and regularly trains teachers and policy makers internationally on issues relating to the Holocaust and antisemitism. Prior to joining the AJR in 2017, he worked for the Holocaust Educational Trust and Facing History & Ourselves and also taught Sociology at Leyton Sixth Form College in East London. Alex earned an MA in Social Justice & Education from the UCL Institute of Education and a BA in Political Science from the University of Michigan. Alex is particularly interested in the topics of Holocaust education, Holocaust denial and distortion, and antisemitism.

SESSION 5: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING I

Dr Cai Parry-Jones has, since 2019, worked as a Digital Archivist and Data Manager for the UK Holocaust Memorial programme, which is being delivered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. In this role, he is responsible for developing and managing the multimedia content that will appear in the Memorial's permanent exhibition. He is also responsible for the archival management of Holocaust survivor testimony recorded by the United Kingdom Holocaust Memorial Foundation. He is a trustee of the Oral History Society and previously worked as an Oral History Curator at the British Library. In 2012, as part of his PhD in Welsh Jewish history, he co-curated an oral history exhibition in Cardiff called 'Hineni', which was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and featured the life stories and portraits of 59 members of the Cardiff Reform Synagogue.



SESSION 5: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING I

Between 2015 and 2016, the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation (UKHMF), an advisory committee to HM government on taking forward the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Holocaust Commission, embarked on an urgent programme to record and preserve the testimony of the last generation of British Holocaust survivors and concentration camp liberators. 112 audio-visual interviews were recorded in total with well-known journalist and broadcaster Natasha Kaplinsky OBE. This presentation will provide an overview of the project, detailing both the methodological and technological approaches adopted for the interview recordings, and will provide an update on the work that's currently taking place to ensure that the testimonies are preserved and made accessible for the long-term benefit of Holocaust education and research in the United Kingdom.

Jody Spiegel is the Director of the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program at the Azrieli Foundation. Hired at the inception of the Toronto office in 2005, Jody launched several exceptional projects. In her current role, Jody has worked with her team to produce over 120 survivor stories. She is the Executive Producer of Re:Collection, an interactive experience that invites users to explore the first-hand accounts of Holocaust survivors and the Azrieli Series of Short Films, which features stories and animated excerpts from memoirs written by Canadian Holocaust survivors. In 2023, Jody produced the first collection of audiobooks ever narrated by Holocaust survivors themselves.

Across Canada and internationally, Jody is a writer, guest speaker and panellist on the role of best practices in Holocaust education, memory and storytelling, Holocaust distortion and the future of Holocaust education without survivors. Jody has been a Canadian delegate of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) since 2014 and in 2022, she chaired the Education Working Group of the IHRA. Jody lives in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.



SESSION 5: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING I

The Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program: 18 years of collecting, publishing and disseminating the first-person accounts of survivors who made their way to Canada. How do we use testimonies responsibly in Holocaust education and scholarship? This presentation will explain the development of a small Canadian collection of Holocaust survivor memoirs and video testimonies and provide insight into the ways that video testimonies – when paired with written testimonies by the same authors – can enrich our understanding of the stories survivors choose to tell to different audiences. The Azrieli Foundation’s Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program is a Canadian project to collect, preserve, and share the testimonies of Holocaust survivors who immigrated to Canada after the war. Since 2005, the Foundation has published 122 survivor memoirs and recorded video testimonies with the authors whenever possible. These testimonies are collected for scholarly, educational, and commemorative purposes. Through a recent partnership with the USC Shoah Foundation, our video testimonies and memoirs are in the process of being incorporated into their archive, which will significantly expand the global reach of our collection. The paper will outline the development of the Holocaust Survivor Memoirs Program and its testimony collection, and discuss the methodology, goals, and the current scholarly and educational uses of the collection. It will also explore the challenges the program faces in this space currently and what we see as concerns for the future of Holocaust education.

Shannon Biederman is the Senior Curator at the Sydney Jewish Museum where she has worked for 18 years. She has curated numerous exhibitions on the Holocaust, Judaism, Australian Jewish history, military history, and most recently Reverberations: A Future for Memory. She has initiated several testimony filming projects and manages the preservation and storage strategy to ensure these testimonies are preserved for future generations. She is the project manager for the Dimensions in Testimony project at the museum.

The Sydney Jewish Museum was founded by Holocaust survivors 30 years ago. Hearing first-hand from a Holocaust survivor is an authentic moment of meeting history that lasts a lifetime. It is the most highly rated experience by our visitors and the reason so many schools return year after year. Unfortunately, it is something that will inevitably come to an end and the SJM is looking to bring new opportunities to deliver eye-witness accounts to the Museum’s visitors when it is no longer possible to hear directly from a survivor. Reverberations: A Future for Memory is the first temporary exhibition dedicated solely to survivor testimony. This is not an exhibition about the events of the Holocaust – it’s about the people who experienced it – and the painful decision they make each time they choose to relive stories of unimaginable loss for the betterment of humanity. A key objective of the exhibition is to put the survivors’ humanity at the forefront and to test ideas that might enable future generations to have meaningful and memorable interactions with survivor testimony.



SESSION 5: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING I

Dr Anika Reichwald studied Rethorics, New German Literature, and Modern and Contemporary History at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen from 2006 to 2010. From 2011 to 2014, she was a doctoral fellow of the Swiss National Science Foundation and subsequently a research assistant at the Chair of Literature and Cultural Studies, ETH Zurich. In 2016, Anika Reichwald completed her PhD with the study on presentations of Jewish assimilation in non-Jewish fiction around 1900. Since 2015 Anika Reichwald has been working at the Jewish Museum Hohenems, from 2015-2020 initially as collection manager, since 2021 as curator. She also publishes on topics of literary, historical, and cultural studies as well as museum practice.

"The End of Testimony?"

An exhibition as a socio-medial examination of 'contemporary witness interviews'

How do testimonies of Holocaust survivors come about? How does a narrative form from memories and to what extent are they shaped (by third parties)? How have contemporary testimonies been created, collected and preserved since the 1940s? How is public use made of them? And how do museums and memorial sites deal with these testimonies today and in a future in which the survivors can no longer report themselves? This talk will provide an insight into the exhibition "End of Testimony?" by the Jewish Museum Hohenems, which was created in cooperation with the Flossenbürg Concentration Camp Memorial and has been touring German-speaking Europe since 2019. In addition, the curatorial process will be outlined in the examination of the self-critical work on the museum's own collection of survivor interviews, the socio-media role of so-called "contemporary witnesses," and the ultimate question of handling and responsibility in relation to contemporary witness interviews. Furthermore, the presentation gives an outlook on the handling of survivor interviews in those institutions, which have presented the exhibition and therefore have had a deeper look onto their own video collections.



SESSION 6: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING II

Marc Cave, Director of the UK's National Holocaust Centre & Museum, an Arts Council 'National Portfolio Organisation' which has been a second home for Holocaust survivors for almost 30 years. It is the only place of Holocaust remembrance and learning in the world founded by Christians – the remarkable Smith family. Marc is leading a multi-million pound redevelopment of the Museum, investing both in its beautiful rural setting and in 'Good Tech' to counter the malign forces of 'Evil Tech' – the bad actors and algorithms driving Holocaust distortion and racist disinformation. His background is as an advertising entrepreneur, film producer and tech investor. His work has won over 200 creative awards. This includes Europe's longest running advertising campaign 'Tesco: Every Little Helps', the hip hop Holocaust short film Edek and the Holocaust Memorial Day video featuring 24 stars of the English football Premier League, Stand Up.

The Forever Project: 22% more effective than any other Holocaust teaching and Learning Tool of the Future

A talk on the primacy of one particular form of Holocaust survivor testimony: the experience of talking with a survivor, rather than merely being talked at. And the consequent importance of The Forever Project in preserving this experience for the post-survivor era.

Dr Angela Shapiro is one of the founder members of the charity: Gathering the Voices. She was a Senior Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University and has retained an Honorary Fellow status. She is a member of the EHRI Information and Reference Services Expert Group as well as other international advisory groups.

Engaging with digital natives about the Holocaust: A Scottish approach
The key aim of the charity, Gathering the Voices, is to collect, and make freely available online, oral and video testimony from men and women who sought sanctuary in Scotland because of Nazi persecution. The project applies innovative teaching and learning approaches to engage with the general public and, more specifically, young adults and children of school age.



SESSION 6: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING II

Dr Alessandro Bucci is Director of the Holocaust Survivors' Friendship Association. In this role, Alessandro recently led the rebrand of the organisation's public facing activities into Holocaust Centre North. Before Holocaust Centre North, Alessandro worked as a Museum Educator at Imperial War Museum North. He completed a PhD in History of Art at Edinburgh College of Art (the University of Edinburgh) focusing on the relationship between different strategies of display in museum exhibitions and the historiographical models underpinning them.

Holocaust Centre North tells a global history of the Holocaust through local stories from the North of England. This contribution looks at the history of this organisation, from a space for community support for survivors and refugees in West Yorkshire, into an exhibition facility, archive service and learning led by the voices of survivors. It will focus on the organisation's recent rebrand and the key questions at the heart of this process: How do we ensure that the atrocities of the Nazi genocide are remembered by future generations without recourse to living eyewitnesses? How do we foster a responsible culture of care when engaging with stories of persecution, migration and loss? How do we understand everything that has been lost, stolen, destroyed – everything that doesn't take an archivable form?



SESSION 6: CURATING HOLOCAUST TESTIMONIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE: TESTIMONIES IN SPACES OF LEARNING II

Michał Chojak has worked with Yahad - In Unum since 2010, when the organization began its research in Poland. In the 11 years, Mr. Chojak has participated in 50 research missions in Eastern Europe and interviewed more than a thousand of eyewitnesses of the Holocaust by Bullets. Director of Yahad - In Unum Research Center since 2020, he has specialized in the research of the Holocaust in Poland, Ukraine and in Baltic States. He is also involved in Yahad - In Unum's research projects in Guatemala and Iraq. Phd candidate at Paris I Sorbonne Université, his research focuses currently on the mass shooting of Jews in General Government (1939-1945).

Founded by the French catholic priest Father Desbois, Yahad - In Unum (YIU) is an organization dedicated to systematically documenting the mass executions of Jews and Roma perpetrated by German units in Central and Eastern Europe during World War II and identifying the execution sites of the victims. After in-depth research within the Soviet and German archives, YIU researchers enter the field. They travel from village to village to seek out local witnesses of Nazi atrocities, film interviews, document events, and locate the mass graves of Jewish and Roma victims. The Yahad - In Unum's archive is the largest collection of video-recorded testimonies with the non-Jewish neighbours (nearly 8,000 interviews). This intervention will be an opportunity to reflect on the use of these testimonies for educational purposes in a digital era and to present the interactive map, a pedagogical tool developed recently by YIU.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES:

EXPERIENCES, RESEARCH & LEARNING RESOURCES

Christina Brüning is professor for History Teacher Education (Geschichtsdidaktik) at the University of Marburg. She holds a PhD from the University of Tübingen in History and has worked as a professor and Research Assistant in Civic Education and Political Sciences as well as in History in Berlin, Freiburg, Tübingen, Potsdam and Leipzig. Her main fields of expertise are Holocaust Education, Contemporary History, Bilingual Education/CLIL and Anti-Racism-work.

Historical Learning with interactive testimonies. Result of the empirical study (with Sanna Stegmaier)

In this lecture, we will present the findings our empirical study conducted during the beta-testing phase of the first German speaking interactive testimony. Comparing on site interactions with purely digital (home office) settings, we will discuss the opportunities and challenges of voice recognition software and interactive testimony formats (such as "Dimensions in Testimony" by the USC Shoah Foundation) for students from all types of secondary schools (Secondary School and A-level).

Ruth-Anne Lenga is one of the longest serving Holocaust educators in this country having spent 30 years dedicated to the Holocaust, working extensively with survivors throughout. After, playing a key role in helping to establish UCL's Centre for Holocaust Education in 2008, Ruth-Anne holds an anchorage role at the Centre as its Programme Director. She provides strategic vision for its educational direction, teacher training provision and directs the pedagogic principles for the Centre's specialist research-informed programme for teacher training. The Centre has won awards for impact and its flagship Beacon School Programme in Holocaust Education is now in its 11th year. She also leads on the Centre's innovative projects such as, online CPD courses and international initiatives for UNESCO/OSCE/ODHIR on confronting and addressing antisemitism. She is a member of the UK delegation to the IHRA.

Ruth-Anne will share with us the mission and goals of UCL Centre for Holocaust Education, enlightening us on the challenges teachers face. She will discuss her longstanding work alongside Auschwitz survivor Leon Greenman and will illustrate how it help to shape the direction of the Centre's pedagogy. In particular, she will discuss how her insights have led to a training programme entitled Surviving Survival? Life and trauma after the Holocaust, which serves to help young people grasp the challenges some survivors encountered in their senior years.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES:

EXPERIENCES, RESEARCH & LEARNING RESOURCES

Dorothee Wein is a political scientist and social anthropologist. She has been working in the area of Digital Interview Collections at Freie Universität Berlin since 2008, where she opens-up narrative oral history sources for research and education and develops educational materials based on testimonies. She is also responsible for the concept of new collections like: "Colonia Dignidad. A Chilean-German Oral History Archive".

The online application "Witnesses of the Shoah" (Zeugen der Shoah)

The Free University of Berlin developed a series of online applications "Learning with Testimonies" for school education that offer half-hour long, biographical interview films, materials for historical contextualization as well as tasks and method tips that make young people aware of the specific source value of the videos and guide them to develop their own interpretations. Authored texts can be combined with interview excerpts, documents and pictures. Thus the digitality enables a combination of the linear medium film with individual accesses to the video via chapter, search, transcript and the possibility to integrate clips into presentations. Users can edit their results at any time through their own accounts. Based on the application "Witnesses of the Shoah" the presentation focuses on the following questions: How do we grant access to the sources and how do we contextualize them? What kind of questions do we focus on and how do young people relate to the video testimonies?



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: THE CREATION OF ORAL HISTORY PORTALS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Verena Lucia Naegel is a political scientist and studied at the GH Kassel and the Freie Universität Berlin. She lives in Berlin, where she has been working with the Digital Interview Collections team at the FU Berlin's library since 2006. There she is the project manager of the Archive Forced Labor 1939-1945, as well as in charge of incorporating the Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation and the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies into teaching and research. She also contributes to the development of digital research environments and teaching material for the classroom. The focus of her work is Holocaust Education, Oral History and Digital Humanities.

As open as possible, as protected as necessary. The digital infrastructure Oral-History.Digital

As part of a project funded by the German Research Foundation, Freie Universität Berlin in cooperation with other institutions is currently developing the digital infrastructure Oral-History.Digital (OH.D). OH.D provides collecting institutions with an infrastructure to digitally archive, index, and publish their interview collections. In an editing interface, they can add transcripts, translations, and additional materials such as biographies and images to their audio and video interviews. As of September this year, researchers will be able to search across all collections included in the platform, using metadata, maps, and various filters. Following the F.A.I.R. principles, OH.D makes the interviews findable, accessible, interoperable, and re-usable as audio-visual research data. A differentiated rights management protects the personal rights of the interviewees. The talk presents the OH.D project as an attempt to reconcile the demands of research data management with the sensitive privacy and ethical implications of testimonies.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: THE CREATION OF ORAL HISTORY PORTALS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Dr Victoria Kumar, 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, 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.

Teaching and learning about the holocaust with survivor testimonies – the online platform “weiter_erzählen” by `_erinnern.at_` Archived and digitized testimonies will soon be the only access to the experiences of Holocaust survivors; for many years they have been an essential part of exhibitions, memorial sites and television documentaries, and the number of online collections and databases have also increased. Since the beginning of its existence, `_erinnern.at_` has placed a didactic emphasis on the stories of survivors, conveyed on one hand through visits to Austrian schools, and on the other hand through videotaped testimonies. Considering the fact, that video interviews cannot replace “real” encounters with survivors, they open up other possibilities and can be used in various learning formats. The online platform “weiter_erzählen” currently consists of nearly 230 video and audio interviews with persecutees of National Socialism who have a connection to Austria – in various languages, keyworded and sequenced, often for the first time in full length. This presentation presents “weiter_erzählen” as an audiovisual history education project and shows how digital learning tools based on survivor interviews can be effectively used in teaching about the Holocaust in schools and how self-directed historical learning can be promoted. Furthermore, selected interviews will be screened to show the transformational process of testimonies and their use.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: THE CREATION OF ORAL HISTORY PORTALS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

Dr Paula Cowan is Reader in Education at the University of the West of Scotland and Director of Vision Schools Scotland. She researches and teaches in Holocaust Education and Citizenship in schools. As well as co-authoring 'Understanding and Teaching Holocaust Education', Paula coedited Holocaust Education in Primary Schools in the Twenty-First Century, and was appointed an external expert by EUROCLIO (European Association of History Educators) on its project on Remembrance Education. Paula has been a UK delegate to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) since 2009, and is one of the authors of the IHRA Recommendations for Teaching and Learning About the Holocaust (2019).

Vision Schools Scotland

In 2000 and 2002 Paula Cowan, authored two school resources, that were respectively based on the video testimonies of Holocaust survivors Marianne Grant and Ernest Levy OBE and, who came to live in Scotland. These were distributed freely by the then Scottish Executive to all primary and secondary schools in Scotland. Due to curricular and technological changes these resources became obsolete. With the passing of Marianne in 2007 and Ernest in 2009, their testimonies have become more significant, and the resources have been rewritten and transformed for a new generation (in 2021, and 2023). This presentation will discuss:

- The responsibility of taking video testimony from survivors and using this testimony
- The challenges of using survivor testimony
- The collaborations involved in the new resources (working with survivors' families, the GTCS, schools for review, Scottish Government)
- The meaning of 'updating' in this historical context
- The contribution of Vision Schools Scotland



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: CREATING DRAMA & ART WITH TESTIMONIES

Cate Hollis founded Voices of the Holocaust after two decades as a Head of Drama and has an MA in Drama education from Warwick University. She was a Drama advisor with a specialism in human rights education through the arts before meeting and working with Professor Belarie Zatzman from York University, Toronto through National Drama. From this work, Cate went on to study several post graduate qualifications specialising in various related fields whilst increasingly specialising in Holocaust education through the arts before leaving full time teaching to set up Voices. Cate has led teacher training sessions with Facing History and advised the Holocaust Educational Trust on their Drama Guidelines for teachers. She now works as Artistic Director and Education Programmes Leader for Voices of the Holocaust, the only charity of its kind in Europe. Cate has been nominated for a number of awards, most recently the Simon Wiesenthal Prize for her work in Holocaust education.

“We are at a turning point in the entire field of Holocaust education and remembrance as we are moving all too quickly from living history to historical memory. Each day survivors, and the moral authority they represent, leave this earth, and with them the richness of memory. Theatre production and related Holocaust educational programs utilizing theatre exercises have an immediacy that can make these events and their recollections come alive again.” Dr Michael Berenbaum, International Holocaust Theatre Catalogue, former Director of USC Shoah Foundation and USHMM. Voices of the Holocaust takes this principle and, with a clear and consistent pedagogy, creates theatre woven with testimony and with historic truths to create plays specifically as a ‘surrogate human voice’ as a springboard for Holocaust education. In this session, I hope to explore and discuss some of Voices’ principles and practices as employed in our current play ‘Kindness: A Legacy of the Holocaust’ - a play that works with the testimony of Susan Pollack OBE amongst other narratives to guide students towards their core Holocaust education in the absence of in person survivor testimony.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: CREATING DRAMA & ART WITH TESTIMONIES

Paula Kolar is an artist and curator, currently delivering a programme of art residencies at Holocaust Centre North as their Curator of Contemporary Practices. The programme 'Memorial Gestures', was born out of Paula's experience as Digital Intern through IWM's Second World War and Holocaust Partnership Programme, through which she was invited to tell some of the lesser-known stories of the collection of Holocaust Centre North. Questions around the ethics of working with testimony creatively, the potential of collaborative creative practices in this field, and how they might illuminate new ways of remembering difficult histories arose in my time as Digital Intern.

Paula has collaborated with her colleagues at Holocaust Centre North - amongst them an experienced oral historian, Holocaust educator and archivist, as well as a range of artists with diverse practices. Their work has influenced and expanded her understanding of traditional testimonial form and its potential creative uses. This includes the intimate cross-generational interviews collected by Dr Tracy Craggs, the short films of Daria Martin based on recorded dreams of first, second and third generation Jewish Holocaust survivors, and the sound work by Louise K Wilson and Linda O'Keeffe expanding that which is usually lost in archives.



SESSION 7 (PARALLEL): TEACHING & LEARNING THROUGH SURVIVORS TESTIMONIES: CREATING DRAMA & ART WITH TESTIMONIES

Caroline Slifkin is an artist and an independent Holocaust educator who specialises in teaching about the Holocaust through Holocaust Art. A Fellow of the Imperial War Museum London in Holocaust Education, with a project in Holocaust Arts Education, *Art in the Shadow of Death*; funded by Arts Council England. A Fellow of Royal Holloway University of London in Holocaust and Jewish Civilisation. Caroline is a Yad Vashem graduate who has received Yad Vashem graduate grants to further develop her Holocaust educational work. An AJR funding partner. Caroline has a degree in Embroidered textiles: Manchester Metropolitan University and a PGCE: University of Huddersfield.

Keepsakes of Kindertransport

This project started in June 2020, during lockdown we had to find more creative ways to work together and learn. The *Keepsakes of Kindertransport*: a way to inspire people to share their connections to the Kindertransport in an artistic way. Although we were isolated, we could still connect locally, nationally, and internationally, creating individual and collaborative pieces. The project was open to all Kinder and their families from countries all over the world as well as those who have an interest in the Kindertransport. One aim of the project was to bring people together during these difficult times, to continue learning about the Kindertransport and to add to cultural memory of this historical event. The project was open for participants own personal interpretation of the theme and to any arts medium. Caroline collaborated with some of the participants on pieces to create an artistic response to their or their parent's story. The paper discusses how the project developed, looking at some of the stories and explores how to use the project as a teaching resource in schools. Teaching about the Kindertransport through art is a way of enriching student understanding of a complex and nuanced event. The opportunity to connect to the emotional side of the Kindertransport on a deeper level, through engaging with the artworks.



KEYNOTE 2

Dr. Robert J. Williams is the Finci-Viterbi Executive Director Chair of the USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education. In addition, he is UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education and the Advisor to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In earlier roles, Dr. Williams served as deputy director for international affairs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, as director of special research in the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, and as a member of the delegation of the United States of America at the IHRA. For several years, he chaired the IHRA Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial, oversaw IHRA projects on archival access and Holocaust denial laws, and was the only American in the IHRA and German government’s Global Task Force on Holocaust Distortion. His work has led to revisions of EU policy on access to archives that relate to the Holocaust and other mass atrocities from Europe’s twentieth century, as well as stronger European measures in the fight against antisemitism. He regularly advises and has produced work for several intergovernmental organizations, foreign governments, and sectors of the US government on issues including antisemitism, Holocaust denial and distortion, and supporting Holocaust education and scholarship. His research specialties include German political culture, US and Russian cultural policy, and contemporary antisemitism. His next publication is a large, coedited volume for Routledge on the history of antisemitism, which will appear in July 2023. He is currently writing a monograph on efforts to restore the reputations of persons and organizations complicit in genocide, is researching a future work on the preservation and commemoration of sites of mass murder, and working a third project on US and Soviet-run media in East and West Germany.



SESSION 8: PANEL DISCUSSION: FROM TESTIMONIES TO BOOKS

Lord Daniel Finkelstein OBE is a columnist for The Times newspaper. He has previously been its Executive Editor and Chief Leader Writer. His writing is mainly on political and social affairs, although he is also well known for his football column, the Fink Tank, which ran for 17 years. He has won multiple awards, including being named political commentator of the year four times. He is well known to viewers of programmes like Newsnight and Politics Live and to listeners of Radio 4's News Quiz. Lord Finkelstein is also a member of the Board of directors of Chelsea Football Club. During his career he has provided political advice to prime ministers John Major, David Cameron and Theresa May and, as director of policy, to William Hague as opposition leader. He has been on the inside of many budgets and prime ministers questions, attended meetings of Cabinet and has been secretary to the Shadow Cabinet. In August 2020 he published *Everything in Moderation*, a collection of his writing. His family memoir – *Hitler, Stalin, Mum and Dad* – will be published in June 2023. He was awarded the OBE for services to the prime minister in 1997 and made a member of the House of Lords in 2013. Lord Finkelstein is the son of Mirjam Finkelstein née Wiener, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, and a grandson of the Holocaust archivist Alfred Wiener. His father Ludwik survived Soviet exile to Siberia.

Karen Baum Gordon is the daughter of Rudolf Baum, a Holocaust survivor whose stymied efforts to save his parents had multigenerational effects. *The Last Letter: A Father's Struggle, a Daughter's Quest, and the Long Shadow of the Holocaust* focuses on the story of Karen's father and the long shadow of the Holocaust that took the lives of her grandparents and irrevocably altered her father's life and her own. Based on archival documents, correspondence and photos, the book is about relationships, forgiveness, and the perseverance to learn more about a loved one's story.

The book has been nominated for the American Library Association's Sophie Brody Medal for outstanding achievement in Jewish literature. Furthermore, *The Last Letter* went into its second printing before its first anniversary. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Business School, Karen Baum Gordon co-founded Strategic Horizons, Inc., an executive coaching and management consulting firm after working as a consultant at McKinsey & Co. More information available on karenbaumgordon.com.



SESSION 8: PANEL DISCUSSION: FROM TESTIMONIES TO BOOKS

Jonathan Freedland is a Guardian columnist and former Washington correspondent. He is the presenter of BBC Radio 4's contemporary history series, *The Long View*, as well as two podcasts: *Politics Weekly America* for the Guardian and *Unholy*, alongside the Israeli journalist Yonit Levi. He is a past winner of an Orwell Prize for journalism and the author of twelve books, the latest being *The Escape Artist: The Man Who Broke Out of Auschwitz to Warn the World*, hailed by Sir Antony Beevor as 'an immediate classic of Holocaust literature.' He has written nine thrillers, mostly as Sam Bourne, including *The Righteous Men* which was a Sunday Times number one bestseller.

SESSION 9: PANEL DISCUSSION ON SECOND/THIRD GENERATION TESTIMONY

Anita Peleg is Chair of Trustees for Generation 2 Generation and is currently applying her 20 years of research and teaching experience to educate about the Holocaust, speaking at universities, schools, Jewish and Christian religious institutions. Previously a University Lecturer and National Teaching Fellow, she specialised in Marketing and Business Ethics. She has also carried out significant research into the Holocaust and published two books about her mother, Naomi Blake, a sculptor and survivor of Auschwitz.

Enabling the Continuation of Holocaust Testimony

Generation 2 Generation enables descendants and close friends of Holocaust survivors to tell their family stories to a range of audiences. The use of eye-witness survivor testimony, together with a personal connection to the survivor, ensures that each presenter tells their family Holocaust story with conviction, giving a personal insight into the survivor's life. The testimony used takes many different forms, such as video and audio testimony, letters, journals and artefacts, thereby providing a face and a voice to history. Dr Anita Peleg will talk how G2G speakers use different forms of testimony to present these stories and will also discuss the challenges of using this testimony, its impact on the user (G2G speaker) and the audience (children and adults).



SESSION 9: PANEL DISCUSSION ON SECOND/THIRD GENERATION TESTIMONY

Hephzibah Rudofsky has been working in Holocaust education for twenty years. She is the daughter and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors. In 2009 she set up her educational programme 'Surviving the Holocaust', focusing on her mother, Lady Zahava Kohn's story of survival during the Second World War. She has spoken to tens of thousands of pupils in hundreds of schools across Britain and in Germany. She is also the custodian of an important archive of artefacts, letters, documents and other objects collected by her mother and grandmother during their time in Westerbork, Bergen-Belsen and Biberach camps. She is a regular speaker at London's Jewish Museum and the National Holocaust Centre & Museum and for the charity, Speakers for Schools. In September 2015, she was awarded the Freedom of the City of London, and in June 2019, Hephzibah received the Points of Light award from the Prime Minister – both in recognition of her work in Holocaust education.

Surviving the Holocaust

Hephzibah Rudofsky education programme has evolved from working with her mother in schools across Britain telling the story of a child's experiences in Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen camps and life after the war, to telling the story by herself now that her mother is no longer alive. Hephzibah has direct personal experience of a question at the heart of the forum: how Holocaust education programmes change with the loss of survivors. But while Lady Zahava Kohn is no longer with us, her recorded testimony and astonishing archive of objects, letters from the camps and other documents remain. Hephzibah will discuss the challenges she has confronted in the past as a co-presenter of her mother's story, and the new challenges of continuing her programme without her mother and ways to conserve her story for future generations. See more at www.survivingtheholocaust.co.uk.



SESSION 9: PANEL DISCUSSION ON SECOND/THIRD GENERATION TESTIMONY

Dr Noemie Lopian is the daughter of Holocaust survivors Dr Ernst Israel Bornstein and Renee Bornstein. Noemie lived in Germany until the age of 13 before moving to Manchester, England. She qualified as a GP and for the last few years has dedicated her time to educating and commemorating the Holocaust, continuing the legacy of her parents. She has spent the last five years translating her father Ernst's memoirs into a book *The Long Night* (The Toby Press: 2016). *The Long Night* has been featured on BBC radio and television and ITV News, in addition to articles and reviews in *The Guardian*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Express*, *The Jewish News* and *The Jewish Chronicle* BBC1 Documentary: *My family The Holocaust and Me*.

Hannah Goldstone is Chair of the Yom Hashoah Manchester Committee and a member of the Leadership Team for the Northern Holocaust Education Group. She is committed to providing quality Holocaust education. She shares her grandfather's testimony of how he arrived in the UK, on the SS Manhattan thanks to the Kindertransport. By showing the faces of the family that he lost, through his family's photo album, students engage with his story. Recent feedback from students and teachers alike, highlights the importance of this type of teaching; humanising those who otherwise are just statistics. Using various methods, such as looking at artistic representations and encouraging students to produce their own artistic responses revealed the high emotional intelligence and the difficult concepts that children are able to explore to produce something meaningful and beautiful. Hannah feels privileged to be able to educate Jewish and non-Jewish communities on this one small aspect of the Holocaust.



SESSION 10: THINKING BEYOND THE 'ERA OF THE USER': EDITING, REMIXING & RE-USING TESTIMONY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dov Forman is the co-author of *Lily's Promise*, a five-time Sunday Times bestseller and three-time New York Times bestseller. *Lily's Promise* includes a foreword by King Charles III, in which King Charles paid tribute to Dov for his "engaging and effective use of social media". Dov has gained over 2 million followers on TikTok, and has had over 1 billion views on all social media platforms, educating users about the Holocaust and Judaism. Dov was invited to speak about 'Social Media and Holocaust Commemoration' to the CEO of Google, at Oxford University and Cambridge University, and Dov has also spoken to more than 115 news outlets in over 15 countries. In November 2020, Dov spoke to the UK Parliament in favour of the UK Holocaust Memorial. Dov has also worked with several UK government departments and international organisations, including the United Nations, to work on educational projects and to create policy change. Dov delivered a TED talk titled 'Anything is Possible - The Accidental Game-Changer' at a Ted event in 2022. In March 2022, Dov was announced as a 'young spokesperson' for the USC Shoah Foundation. Dov received the Points of Light award from the UK Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street in November 2021, for services to youth engagement and Holocaust education.



SESSION 10: THINKING BEYOND THE 'ERA OF THE USER': EDITING, REMIXING & RE-USING TESTIMONY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dr Kate Marrison is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, where she is currently leading a digital Holocaust education project. Prior to this, Kate worked as a Lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Leeds, where she also completed her PhD project titled *Digital Witnessing: Towards Holocaust Memory Practice in a Post-Survivor Age*. Emerging at the intersection between Holocaust studies and media theory, Kate's research explores new media technologies such as AR, VR, interactive 3-dimensional testimony installations and video games. Her most recent work has been published within *Jewish Film and New Media* and has contributed to the edited volumes, *Digital Holocaust Memory, Education and Research* (Walden, 2021) and *Visitor Experience at Holocaust Memorials and Museums* (Popescu, 2023).

For the project: *Co-Creating Guidelines for Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory and Education*, Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison (University of Sussex) worked with an international array of project partners and more than 100 participants to develop a series of recommendations reports through participatory workshops on six themes: AI and machine learning; digitising material evidence: recording, recirculating and remixing testimony; social media; computer games; and virtualising memoryscapes. The first four reports were published on Holocaust Memorial Day this year, and this presentation will highlight the recommendations suggested by participants of the testimony workshops.



SESSION 10: THINKING BEYOND THE 'ERA OF THE USER': EDITING, REMIXING & RE-USING TESTIMONY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Dr Rachel Pistol is a digital historian of refugees, immigration and Second World War internment in the United Kingdom and United States. She is currently based in the Digital Humanities Department at King's College London where she is the National Coordinator for EHRI-UK and on the Project Management Board of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI). She is the Honorary Historical Advisor for World Jewish Relief and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Exeter and the Parkes Institute, University of Southampton. Rachel has published widely on Second World War internment in the UK and the USA including her monograph *Internment during the Second World War: A Comparative Study of Great Britain and the USA* in 2017. She has discussed Second World War internment in documentaries and debates on TV and radio and has written articles comparing internment with modern day issues that have appeared internationally including in *Newsweek* and *The Independent*.

As the surviving generation of first-hand witnesses of the Holocaust decreases, the need for presenting and preserving their testimonies grows ever more acute in order to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive and combat Holocaust denial. The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) is committed to incorporating digital methods into Holocaust research and equipping the next generation of scholars not only in access to archival sources, but also training in best research practice. EHRI has been funded by the European Union since 2010 and its research consortium consists of 25 partners in 17 countries across Europe, Israel and the USA. EHRI is in the process of becoming a permanent trans-national organisation and will be represented in this country by the UK Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI-UK). EHRI-UK is working with experts from the UK, Europe and the USA to explore the best methods to preserve and disseminate Holocaust testimony, including the challenges of multilingualism and extracting geospatial data from such testimonies. This discussion will cover the aims and work of EHRI-UK as it seeks to provide access to Holocaust sources and testimonies in this country and beyond.



SESSION 10: THINKING BEYOND THE 'ERA OF THE USER': EDITING, REMIXING & RE-USING TESTIMONY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Jaya Pathak is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director at Yet Again UK, an organisation raising awareness and challenging the proliferation of modern atrocity. Jaya carries out the secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Uyghurs, and is an advisor to student wing of the UK national campaign group Stop Uyghur Genocide, called Students For Uyghurs, of which she co-founded and co-chaired. Jaya is a Non-Executive Director at the Labour Campaign for Human Rights and is a trustee for Holocaust educational charity, Learning From The Righteous. An alumni of the Holocaust Educational Trust Regional Ambassador Programme, Jaya has been involved in human rights advocacy for many years, formerly working at anti-slavery and human trafficking organisation Arise Foundation.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mike Karp OBE is Chairman of The AJR. He is also trustee of the Holocaust Educational Trust, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Westminster Academy. Since his retirement Mike has focused on working with educational organisations, with a special interest in Holocaust education. He is the son of refugees, his late father was born in Poland and his late mother came from Vienna on the Kindertransport. He was previously a senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he worked for nearly 40 years. His particular focus was on managing some of the firm's major client relationships and on governance.

This forum brings together representatives of archives, museums and other institutions which hold collections of Holocaust testimonies and feature Holocaust testimonies in their (digital and non-digital) spaces as well as educational resources, and next-generation participants.

ABOUT THE AJR

The AJR is the leading national charity exclusively delivering social, welfare and volunteer services to Holocaust refugees and survivors, and one of the largest benefactors of Holocaust commemoration and educational programmes and projects.

ABOUT AJR REFUGEE VOICES TESTIMONY ARCHIVE

AJR Refugee Voices is the AJR's ground-breaking Holocaust testimony collection of more than 280 filmed oral history interviews with Jewish survivors and refugees from Nazism who came to Great Britain. The archive also contains a large collection of digital family photographs and documents.



Scan the QR code to learn more about The AJR, AJR Refugee Voices, and other AJR projects and initiatives and how you can get involved →

