

About the conference

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

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

Organizers

Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University)

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

Ruth Leiserowicz (German Historical Institute, Warsaw)

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



Villa Lanna, Prague, 15-16 March 2017

The Holocaust and Its Aftermath from the Family Perspective

WEDNESDAY, 15 MARCH

9.00 Welcome

FIRST PANEL

Family and Genocide

9.15 – 11.00

Chair: Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University)

Dalia Ofer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

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

Michal Unger (Ashkelon Academic College, Israel)

Separation and Divorce in the East European Ghettos

Volha Bartash (Hugo Valentin Centre, University of Uppsala)

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

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee

SECOND PANEL

Family Correspondence

11.15 – 12.30

Chair: Kateřina Králová (Charles University, Prague)

Joachim Schlör (University of Southampton)

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

Rony Alfandary (Bar Ilan University)

*Family Letters from Thessaloniki: Real and Imaginary
Consequences*

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

THIRD PANEL

Family and Choice

14.00 – 15.45

Chair: Ruth Leiserowicz (German Historical Institute,
Warsaw)

Kiril Feferman (Ariel University)

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

Alina Bothe (Free University of Berlin)

*'This was the last time I saw my mother'
– Families Responding to the First Mass Deportation
in October 1938*

Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union, New York City)

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

15.45 – 16.00 Coffee

FOURTH PANEL

Children's Perspectives

16.00 – 17.45

Chair: Clara Royer (CEFRES, Prague)

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

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

Sarah Rosen (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

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

Joanna Beata Michlic (University College London)

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

18.00 – 19.30 Dinner

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

THURSDAY 16 MARCH

FIFTH PANEL

Imagined Families

9.00 – 10.45

Chair: István Pál Ádám (CEFRES, Prague)

Natalia Aleksion (Touro College, New York City)

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

Rita Horvath (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

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

Viktória Bánya (Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

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

10.45 – 11.00 Coffee

SIXTH PANEL

Post-war Dilemmas

11.00 – 12.45

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

Laura Hobson Faure (New Sorbonne University)

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

Marcos Silber (University of Haifa)

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

Kamil Kijek (Wrocław University)

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

12.45 – 14.00 Lunch

SEVENTH PANEL

Rebuilding the Family

14.00 – 15.45

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

Robin Judd (Ohio State University)

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

Anja Reuss (Independent historian)

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

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

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

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee

16.15 – 17.45 Concluding round table

Eliyana Adler, Kateřina Čapková, Ruth Leiserowitz

Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

18.00 – 19.30 Dinner, Villa Lanna