

WARS & TRAUMA

# TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

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NARRATING  
THE HOLOCAUST

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MEMORY

**WHY  
DO PEOPLE  
HATE?**

What's your question?  
**#AskWhy**

**WHY DIDN'T  
MORE NEIGHBORS AND  
FRIENDS HELP?**

What's your question?  
**#AskWhy**

What's  
**YOUR**  
question?

**#AskWhy**

US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.

**“NEVER AGAIN”**

## HOLOCAUST: PRE-WWII CONTEXT

- Racial antisemitism
- WWI: stab-in-the-back conspiracy theory
- Poverty & radicalization, world economic crisis
- Nazis to power (1933)
- Nuremberg Laws (1935)
- Anschluss (3/1938)
- Evian conference (7/1938)
- Night of Broken Glass (11/1938)



David P. Boder (1946)  
© Illinois Institute of Technology

## MYTH OF SILENCE

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- David P. Boder, *Die Toten habe ich nicht befragt* (Heidelberg: Univ.-Verl. Winter, 2011).
- Laura Jockusch, *Collect and Record! Jewish Holocaust Documentation in Early Postwar Europe* (New York: Oxford UP, 2012)
- Pieter Lagrou, “Return to a Vanished World. European Societies and the Remnants of Their Jewish Communities, 1945–1947,” in *The Jews Are Coming Back: The Return of the Jews to Their Countries of Origin after WW II*, ed. David Bankier (New York: Berghahn Books, 2005).
- Hasia Diner, *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945–1962* (New York: NYU Press, 2010)

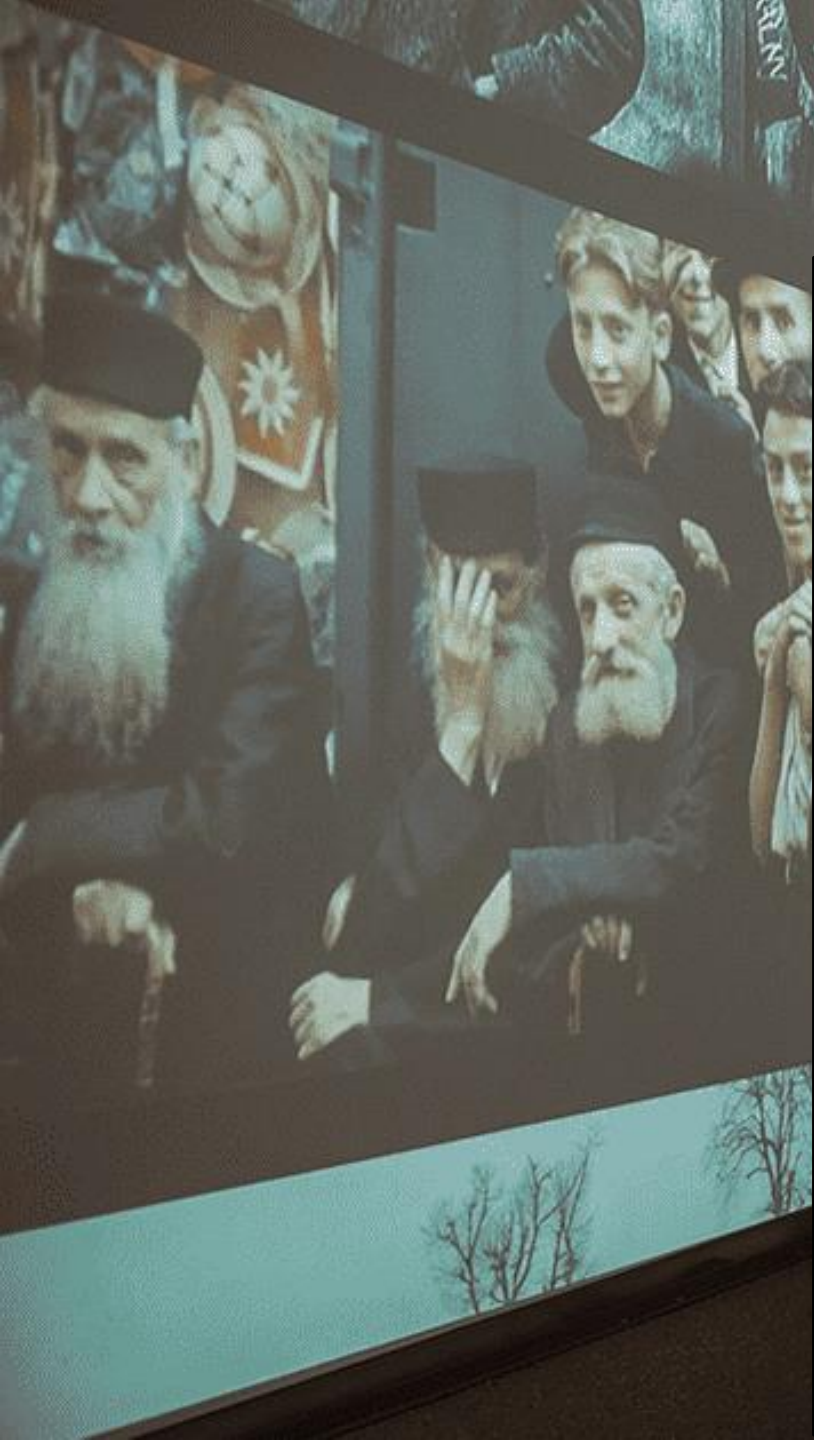
# MAPPING THE HOLOCAUST

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Neo-Nazis in Hamburg, 3/2004

- How many? (Reitlinger, Hilberg, Guttman, Benz )
- Where? (Gilbert)
- Who? (Goldhagen, Browning, Kaplan etc.)
- *Schindler's List* (1993) and more testimonies



## MARTYRS & FIGHTERS

### Spiritual, moral & armed resistance

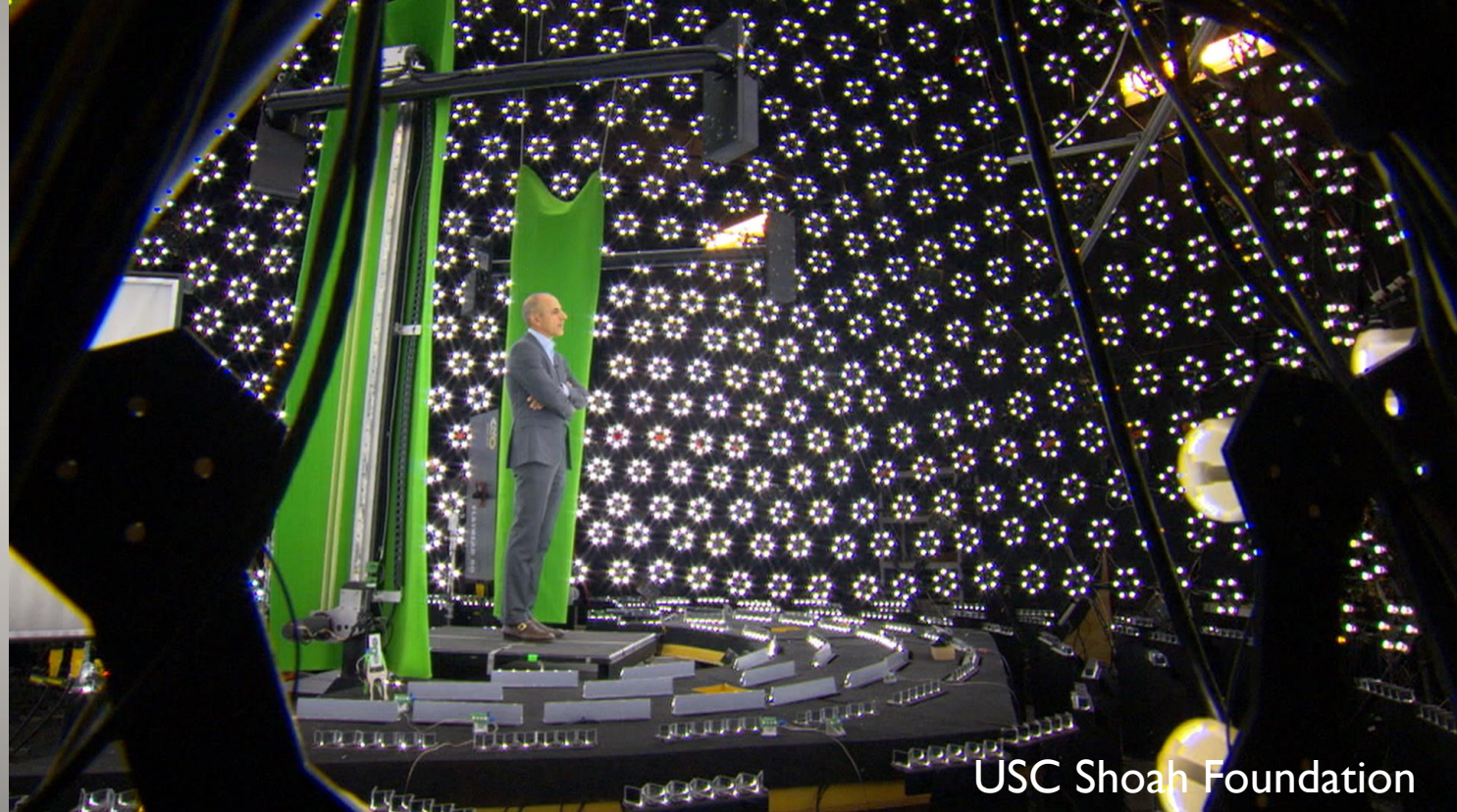
- Philip Friedman, *Martyrs & Fighters: The Epic of the Warsaw Ghetto* (London: Routledge & K. Paul, 1954).
- Raul Hilberg, *Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders: The Jewish Catastrophe, 1933-1945* (New York: Aaron Asher Books, 1992).
- Yehuda Bauer, *Rethinking the Holocaust* (New Haven; London: Yale University Press, 2001).



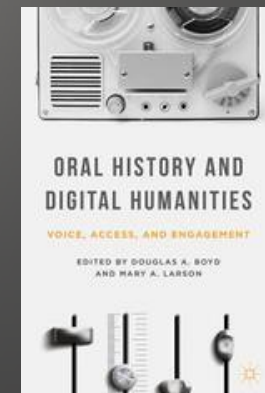
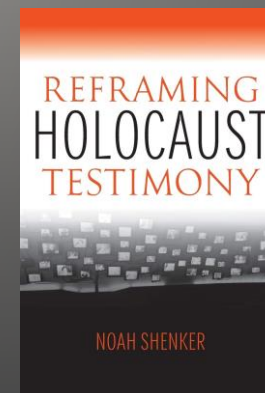
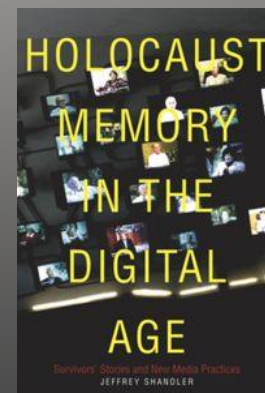
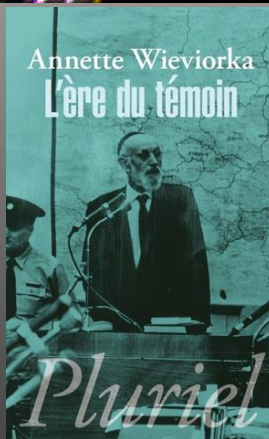
# WITNESSING WITHOUT SURVIVORS?

From the court rooms  
into the digital age

From era of witness (Wiewiorka,  
2006)  
towards era of users  
(Hogervorst, 2020)



USC Shoah Foundation





WHICH OF THE SOURCES FOR  
TODAY'S CLASS DID YOU LIKE  
THE LEAST?

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- Stone
- David
- Violi (Podcast)
- *None*



# GENOCIDES & HUMAN RIGHTS (USHMM)

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**Genocide** is an internationally recognized crime where acts are committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. These acts fall into five categories:

1. Killing members of the group
2. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
3. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
4. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
5. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

On **December 9, 1948**, the United Nations approved a written international agreement known as the **Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide**.



# GENOCIDES & CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY ON INTERNATIONAL TRIALS

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- UN report in 1948 referred to the usage of the term "crimes against humanity" in regard to the **Armenian genocide** (1915)
- **Nuremberg Trials** (WWII) and London Charter of the International Military Tribunal (1945)
- **Tokyo Trial** (WWII): International Military Tribunal for the Far East (1946)
- **Apartheid** & UN General Assembly (1976)
- International Criminal Tribunal for **Yugoslavia** (1993)
- International Criminal Tribunal for **Rwanda** (1994)
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of **Cambodia** (1997)
- Special Court for **Sierra Leone** (2002)
- The Hague International Criminal Court (2002)

# MEMORY STUDIES IN BRIEF

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“Memory studies is a **multidisciplinary field** which combines intellectual strands from anthropology, education, literature, history, philosophy, psychology and sociology, among others. Historians who study collective memory use the work of French sociologist Maurice Halbwachs (1925, 1941) (inspired by Durkheim) as a primary theoretical reference point. (...) Halbwachs argued that memory is not simply an individual phenomenon, but is **relational** in terms of family and friends, and also **societal and collective** in terms of the social frameworks of social groups.” (Bosch 2016)

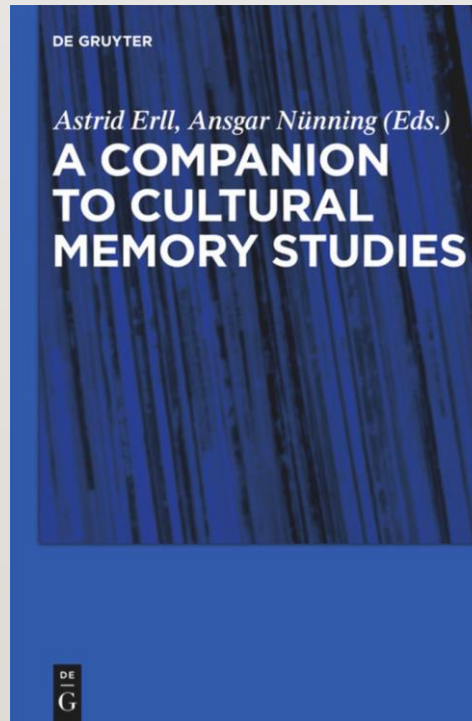
“The rediscovery of memory is associated with the **transformation** of these disciplines, paradigm changes, and modernization processes; nevertheless, it also depends on **technological progress** and a sense of urgency to capture memories of surviving witnesses of crucial historical events and processes of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.” (CAS)



# MEMORY & PUBLIC HISTORY

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- **LEGACY**  
GIVING (FOR THE FUTURE)
- **HERITAGE**  
GETTING (FROM THE PAST)
- **REMEMBRANCE**



“Remembrance is the actual activation of processes activated before, which never provide exactly the same answer—one remembers something different each time, and the remembering system is thereby also modified.” (Esposito 2010)

- Symbols
- Ceremonial Acts & Rituals
- Places of worship
- Memorials & Museums...

WHERE IS  
ANNE  
FRANK



WHITE  
BIRD



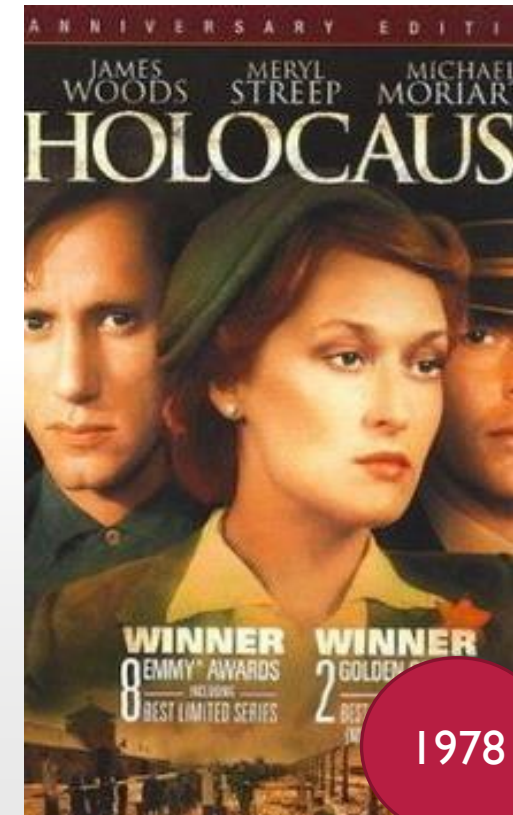
**TODAY'S  
RELEVANCE?**

Raquel J. Palacio, 2019

# 1960S AND 1970S TURN

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- Eichmann Trial (1961)
- Adorno: Education after Auschwitz (1966)
- Cultural production: Holocaust miniseries (1978)
- New collections of testimonies: Fortunoff (1979)





# CULTURAL REPRESENTATION & MEMORY

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“Today, the pertinent European reference is not baptism. It is extermination.

Holocaust recognition is our contemporary European entry ticket.”

Tony Judt, *Postwar* (2010)

- Politics of regret (Olick)
- Cultural trauma (Alexander)
- Holocaust remembrance (Diner, Eder)

Between the  
memory of  
victimhood...

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Lidice Memorial (May 2018)





Massacre of Germans, Ústí n/L (July 1945)



Expulsion from Prague (May 1945) © ČTK



“Wild Expulsion” in Bohemian countryside (1945)

...and perpetrators history



Nina's affection for Yakov grew as she helped him recover from his wounds.



heroes  
and his



## How the War in Ukraine is Shaped by Its Past

15 647 zhlédnutí 9. 3. 2022 Today, the Ukrainian people are under attack. The story of their nation is forever linked to the 1.5 million Jews who were killed in the region during the Holocaust and millions of other Ukrainian civilians who died in the war. Russian President Vladimir Putin has twisted that history to justify an invasion, falsely claiming to be waging war against Nazism and genocide. Join us to learn the history of this land and people, including Holocaust survivors who are under threat once again.

©2017, Marcel Drimer: "Trip to Drohobycz"  
(USHMM)

Drobytskij Jar memorial, near Kharkiv, 26 March 2022 (Twitter)

**Budapest (4/2022):**  
Memorial of German occupation victims, Liberty Sq.



**Shoes on Danube**



Taking down the Konev statue, 2020

Karl Lueger Monument  
Vienna 2023



# PROLOGUE

Those who cannot remember the past are  
condemned to repeat it.

-George Santayana

QUESTIONS?

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