

Quantifying the Holocaust

CLASSIFYING, COUNTING, MODELING: WHAT CONTRIBUTION TO HOLOCAUST HISTORY?

From Tuesday, May 14, to Thursday, May 16, 2024
Paris, France

Tuesday and Thursday: room Dupuis, centre Malher
Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, 9 rue Malher, Paris 4^e

Wednesday: room Edmond J. Safra, Mémorial de la Shoah
17 rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier, Paris 4^e

Scientific committee

Robert BRAUN (UC Berkeley), Tal BRUTTMANN (Université de Cergy),
Eva KOVACS (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies),
Maël LE NOC (Mémorial de la Shoah),
Anton PERDONCIN (CNRS-CENS, Nantes Université, ERC Lubartworld),
Claire ZALC (IHMC, CNRS, EHESS, ERC Lubartworld).

DAY 1
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024
Room Dupuis, Centre Malher

From 8.45 am: Welcome

9.30 am-10.30 am: Keynote Annette WIEVIORKA

Making numbers: the measurement of events by contemporaries and their longer-term impact

10.30 am-12.00 pm: Counting during the Holocaust/1
Moderator: Tal Bruttman

- Maria FERENC (Assistant Professor, University of Wroclaw), “Quantifying the Holocaust real live: Oyneg Shabes group and the numbers”
- David RICH (Visiting Researcher, History Department, Catholic University of America), “The Holocaust’s most thoroughly counted *Aktion*: Four life cycles of the Hungarian Operation statistics”
- Jan KREUTZ (Researcher, Europa-Universität Flensburg), “Turning murder into a benchmark. Erich von dem Bach-Zelewskis daily reports as higher SS- and police leader Russia centre”

12.00 pm-1.30 pm: Lunch time

1.30 pm-3.00 pm: Counting during the Holocaust/2
Moderator: Eva Kovacs

- Michal GROCHOWSKI (Researcher, Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw), “Combat losses in the Warsaw ghetto uprising”
- Tal BRUTTMANN (Historian, Université de Cergy) & Christoph KREUTZMUELLER (Gedenk- und Bildungsstätte Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz), “Wannsee protocol’s page 6: numbers, geography, fantasy”
- Arnoud-Jan BIJSTERVELD (Professor, Tilburg University), “One-way trip from police camp Amersfoort to Auschwitz. The second mass transport from the Netherlands, July 16, 1942”

3.00 pm-5.00 pm: Foreign nations' view of Nazi crimes

Moderator: Robert Braun

- Paula CHAN (University of Oxford), “Accounting for the Holocaust: Soviet death tolls as wartime methods of understanding”
- Jean-Marc DREYFUS (Professor of History, University of Manchester), “Quantifying French corpses. The statistics of the Délégation générale du ministère des Anciens Combattants in Germany in search of the corpses of deportees”
- Anne SCHULT (Assistant Professor of History, Washington University in St. Louis), “From persecution to displacement: the use of Holocaust-related statistics for quantifying refugees”
- Michal KRAVEL-TOVI (Associate Professor, Tel Aviv University; WIKO, Berlin), “The Holocaust as a demographic event: post-Holocaust counting among American Jewry”

5.00 pm-5.15 pm: Break

5.15 pm-6.45 pm: Estimating death tolls

Moderator: Claire Zalc

- Oren STIER (Professor of Religious Studies and Director, Holocaust & Genocide Studies Program, Florida international University), “The asymptote of memory”
- Johanna LEHR (Independent Researcher, USC Shoah Foundation, the Institute for Visual History and Education), “Arrests, liberations, deportations. The benefits of quantifying individual arrests of Jews in the Seine department”
- Frank VAN DOORN (PhD-candidate, Tilburg University), “The Shoah in North Brabant. Quantification of social integration and assessment of its effects on survival rates”

DAY 2
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024
Room Edmond J. Safra, Mémorial de la Shoah

Measurement as an a posteriori knowledge tool

9.30 am-11.00 am: The living and the dead: counting in the post-war era

Moderator: Emmanuel Didier

- Lewi STONE (RMIT University, Melbourne), “Estimates of murders resulting from the Operation Reinhard death camps”
- Tehila DARMON MALKA (Researcher, Head of the Program of Multidisciplinary Studies, Herzog College, Bar Ilan University), “Counting the uncountable-missing persons in the aftermath of the Holocaust, the Israeli Angl.”
- Anton WEISS-WENDT (Research Professor, Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies), “The number of Romani deaths during the Nazi era reconsidered”

11.00 am-12.30 pm: Variations in scale for counting victims

Moderator: Audrey Kichelewski

- Claire ZALC (CNRS-IHMC; EHESS, Paris), “Comment compter les victimes de la Shoah à l'échelle de Lubartów, Pologne”
- Jan GRABOWSKI (Ottawa University), “Estimates of Jewish Losses at the Hands of the Poles, 1941-1945”
- Eva KOVACS (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies), “‘Can we still be normal?’ Hungarian Jewish slave laborers at the hospitals of the *Ältestenrat* in Vienna, 1944-1945”

12.30 pm-2.00 pm: Lunch time

2.00 pm-3.00 pm: Measurement of looting and spoliation

Moderator: Yacine Chitour

- Shannon FOGG (Professor, Missouri University of Science and Technology), “Restitution dossiers and 'data feminism': the limits of counting and describing material persecution”
- Markus ROTH (Researcher, Fritz Bauer Institut Frankfurt), “Counting the loot. Counting and quantifying and the plunder of the Jews in occupied Poland”

3.00 pm-4.00 pm: How to quantify testimonies?

Moderator: Constance Pâris de Bollardière

- Alexander PRENNINGER (Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History), “Let them speak: archival convergence and the quantitative turn in Holocaust testimonies”
- Anne KNOWLES (McBride Professor, University of Maine), “‘As they were taken, she fled': mapping mass removals with individual narratives to grasp the trauma of community destruction in the Holocaust”

4.00 pm-4.30 pm: Break

4.30 pm-6.00 pm: Archival and museum institutions facing with quantification

Moderator: Eva Kovacs

- Dorien STYVEN & Veerle VANDEN DAELEN (Kazerne Dossin, Mechelen), “‘The one with the complete and exact numbers is lying. The one with the best estimations should be applauded'. Belgium’s Jewish population and specificities during the Holocaust”
- Rachel PISTOL (King's College London), “Quantifying the archives of the Central British Fund (CBF) and understanding the full scale of refugee rescue to the UK during the 1930s and 1940s”
- Karen TAIEB (Mémorial de la Shoah), “Les bases de données du Mémorial de la Shoah”

DAY 3
THURSDAY MAY 16, 2024
Room Dupuis, Centre Malher

Diversity of quantified approaches to the Holocaust

9.30 am-11.00 am: Modeling persecution

Moderator: Robert Braun

- Thomas CHOPARD (maître de conférences, Centre de recherches historiques/EHESS) & Gabrielle ESCAICH (PhD candidate, ENS/EHESS/IFS-NYU), “Circonscrire l’arbitraire : la place des liens dans l’émergence, l’action et le sort du Conseil juif et des organes de gouvernement d’un petit ghetto de Pologne”
- Peter TAMMES (Researcher, University of Bristol), “Escaping Nazi-deportation and temporary protection status: applying causal modelling in a study on Amsterdam Jews”
- Anton PERDONCIN (Researcher, CNRS-CENS, Nantes), “Does class matter? Polish Jews facing persecution (Lubartów, 1939-1943)”

11.00 am-12.30 pm: Spatial approaches to the Holocaust

Moderator: Maël Le Noc

- Maja KRUSE (Interdisciplinary PhD Student, University of Maine), “Quantifying Holocaust landscapes”
- Na’ama SERI-LEVI (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Mapping wandering routes”
- Grégoire COUSIN (Independent Researcher, EHESS, Paris), “Quantification and spaces of Roma deportation. The case of the ‘Tiganiî nenomazi’”

12.30 pm-2.00 pm: Lunch time

2.00 pm-3.30 pm: Using artificial intelligence to write history

Moderator: Anton Perdoncin

- Ivan YOTZOV [written with Sascha Becker & Sharun Mukand] (Researcher, Bank of England), “Hope for the hopeless. 'The righteous' and the rescue of the Jews”
- Renana KEYDAR (Assistant Professor of Law and Digital Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem) & Maxim IFERGAN (Assistant Researcher, Hebrew University of Jerusalem), “Identifying narrative patterns and outliers in Holocaust testimonies using topic modeling”
- Christine LIU (PhD Candidate, University of Maine) & William MATTINGLY (Postdoc, Smithsonian Institution, Data Science Lab), “Where did the Holocaust happen? Locating place in testimonies through machine learning”

3.30 pm-4.30 pm: General Discussion and Conclusive Remarks (Scientific Committee)

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