“There and Then, Here and Now”
March 2 – 4, 2024

The University of Texas at Dallas
The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Venue

The Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center
The University of Texas at Dallas
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

**Agenda at a Glance**

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**
*Check-in and registration will be open from 6:30pm – 7:30pm*

7:30pm – 9:00 pm | Opening Dinner for Presenters and Invited Guests

**Sunday, March 3, 2024**
*Check-in will be open from 8am through the end of the conference*

8:00 am – 9:00 am | Coffee and Light Breakfast

9:00 am – 10:30 am | Welcome Remarks  
Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture  
Presented by Marco Gonzalez

10:45 am – 12:15 pm | Session #1  
“(In)Justice and the Holocaust”  
“The Evolving Nebraska Digital Narrative in Holocaust Memory and Education”

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm | Lunch

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm | Session #2  
“Victims from the Periphery”  
“Soldiers and the Holocaust”

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm | Op-Ed Discussion

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm | Dinner

6:30 pm – 7:15 pm | Public Reception

7:15 pm – 8:30 pm | Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture  
Presented by Dr. Charlotte Schallié
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference
on the Holocaust and the Churches

Agenda at a Glance

Monday, March 4, 2024

8:00am – 9:00 am | Coffee and Light Breakfast
Midrash

9:00am – 10:00 am | Welcome Remarks
Digital Studies of the Holocaust Presentation

10:15am – 12:00pm | Session #3
“Honoring the Past”
“Remembrance and Accountability”

12:15pm – 1:15pm | Lunch

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Session #4
“Creative Reflections”
“Teaching and Understanding the Holocaust”

5:00pm – 6:00pm | Plenary Presentation
Drs. David Patterson and Charles Asher Small

6:15pm – 7:30pm | Closing Dinner

Thank You

We are grateful to the University and our supporters whose generosity has made the Holocaust Studies Program and what we do possible. With hundreds of students every year in our classes, and a large field of studies revolving around the topic of the Holocaust, we are achieving our critical mission of “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future.”

Scan the QR Code to see a list of sponsors for the 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference.
While the Jews of Western Europe were deported to extermination camps for systematic execution, in Eastern Europe, the Einsatzgruppen units pursued a singular mission following the invasion of the Soviet Union. Their goal was to annihilate Jews and Roma residing in the smallest towns of these countries, a tragic chapter known by historians as the "Holocaust by bullets." Unlike Auschwitz, which remains a singular historical site, the killings by bullets against innocent people endure as part of the ideology followed by perpetrators to this day. This model of mass shooting became a template for modern mass crimes and genocides post-WWII.

Marco Gonzalez is the Director of Yahad-In Unum (“Together in One”), a non-governmental organization with over twenty years of investigative expertise dedicated to discovering genocide wherever it is found around the world, providing documented proof of crimes against humanity, and serving as a voice of protest on behalf of all past and present victims of systemic hate crimes and mass murder. Working closely with the organization’s renowned president and founder, Father Patrick Desbois, Marco and his teams have scoured Eastern Europe for witnesses and corroborating evidence of Nazi war crimes perpetrated by the Einsatzgruppen.
“But I Live”: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust (New Jewish Press, 2022), a collection of three graphic novellas, renders oral testimonies into distinct visual narratives. For each of the three novellas, a Holocaust survivor was paired with a comics artist to co-create a graphic narrative drawing on the survivors’ lived experiences before, during, and after the Holocaust. In this presentation, Dr. Charlotte Schallié will provide insights into the process of co-creation, the notion of relational memory, and the importance of honoring reciprocity in survivor-led testimony-sharing practices.

Charlotte Schallié is a Professor of Germanic Studies and Chair of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Victoria (British Columbia, Canada). Her teaching and research interests include memory studies, visual culture studies & graphic narratives, teaching and learning about the Holocaust, genocide and human rights education, community-engaged participatory research and arts-based action research. Together with Dr. Andrea Webb (UBC), she is the project co-director of a 7-year SSHRC-funded Partnership Grant entitled “Visual Storytelling and Graphic Art in Genocide and Human Rights Education.”
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

About The University of Texas at Dallas

utdallas.edu

Founded in 1969, The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) began as a modest collection of research stations in a North Texas cotton field. Today, UT Dallas’ footprint is vastly different, serving the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the State of Texas as a global leader in innovative, high quality research and education. Its mission is to 1) produce engaged graduates who are well-prepared for life, work, and leadership; 2) advance excellent educational and research programs in the natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, business, and arts and humanities; and 3) transform ideas into actions that benefit the economic, social, and cultural lives of the people of Texas.

About the Ackerman Center

bass.utdallas.edu
ackerman.utdallas.edu

The Ackerman Center is part of the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, which combines the arts and humanities with the study of emerging technologies. Founded by Holocaust scholar and survivor Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth in 1986 with the mission of Teaching the Past, Changing the Future, the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas has earned an international reputation for excellence. The Ackerman Center has grown into a distinguished and publicly-engaged academic center that offers an in-depth view of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies within a dedicated facility. Among the top tier of Holocaust research programs in the country, the Ackerman Center has five endowed faculty positions, which are complemented by additional part and full-time professors and lecturers. With the recent rise of anti-Semitism and human rights violations, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever in the 21st century. By advancing a continuous engagement with the past, the Ackerman Center will be a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world.
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

About the Conference

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas is proud to be the permanent home of The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (ASC) since 2018.

Founded in 1970 by Franklin H. Littell* and Hubert G. Locke*, the Annual Scholars’ Conference addresses the historical significance of the Holocaust through scholarship that is interfaith, international, and interdisciplinary. The ASC provides an invaluable forum for scholars to discuss and advance Holocaust research, ensuring the valuable lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant for today’s world.

Message from the Advisory Committee

Welcome to the 54th gathering of the Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches. Like Franklin and Hubert before us, we are dedicated to a critical examination of the roots of the Holocaust and the still present conditions that provide the soil in which those roots grow and prosper. Our conference continues to be distinguished by its interfaith, international, and intergenerational composition along with its commitment to critical, searching looks in the confessional mirrors of who we are in relationship to those whose identities are different than our own. Welcome to this important and continuing conversation.

Rev. Dr. Henry F. Knight, Chair of the ASC Advisory Committee
Professor Emeritus of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Keene State College

To learn more about the conference and its founders, visit
ackerman.utdallas.edu/asc-about
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Advisory Committee

Dr. Victoria Aaron
O.R. & Eva Mitchell Distinguished Professor, Trinity University

Dr. Michael Berenbaum
Director of Sigi Ziering Institute and Professor of Jewish Studies
American Jewish University

Dr. Pedro J. Corona Gonzalez
Postdoctoral Scholar, Martin-Springer Institute
Northern Arizona University

Dr. Matthew Hone
Stockton University

Rev. Dr. Henry F. Knight, Chair
Professor Emeritus of Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Keene State College

Prof. Richard Libowitz
Associate Professor, Temple University

Dr. Darlene Cheyenne Martin
Rebecca and Edwin Gale Distinguished Professor
University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
and School of Nursing

Dr. Christine Malina Maxwell
Independent Scholar

Prof. James Moore
Valparaiso University

Dr. Joan Peterson
Saint Mary’s College of California

Dr. Didier Pollefeyt
Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

Dr. Asaf Romirowsky
Executive Director
Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa
Prior to finding a permanent home at The University of Texas at Dallas, the Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches had moved to different geographic locations with local institutional sponsorship. Below is a list of the past venues that have sponsored the Annual Scholars’ Conference.

1970 | Wayne State University (Detroit, MI)
1971 | National Conference of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) (New York City)
1972 | NCCJ (San Jose, CA)
1973-80 | NCCJ (New York City)
1981-84 | University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
1985 | Anne Frank Institute/Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)
1986 | Chicago Theological Seminary (Evanston, IL)
1987-88 | U. S. Holocaust Memorial Council (Washington, DC)
1989 | Anne Frank Institute (Philadelphia, PA)
1990 | Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)
1991 | Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)
1992 | The University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
1993 | The University of Tulsa (Tulsa, OK)
1994 | Rider University (Lawrenceville, NJ)
1995 | Humboldt University (Berlin, Germany)
1996 | Brigham Young University (Provo, UT)
1997 | University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)
1998 | University of South Florida (Tampa, FL)
1999 | University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
2000-01 | Nassau Community College (New York, NY)
2002 | Saint Joseph’s University (Philadelphia, PA)
2003 | Kean University (Union, NJ)
2004 | Saint Joseph’s University (Philadelphia, PA)
2005 | Ekkhart College (St. Petersburg, FL)
2006-07 | Case Western Reserve University (Cincinnati, OH)
2008 | Keene State College (Keene, NH)
2009 | Stockton University (Galloway, NJ)
2010 | Saint Joseph’s University (Philadelphia, PA)
2011-12 | Monroe College (Rochester, NY)
2013-14 | American Jewish University (Los Angeles, CA)
2015-17 | Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Saturday, March 2

Check-in and registration will be open from 6:30pm – 7:30pm

6:30pm – 7:30pm | Welcome Reception Inspiration Hall

7:30pm – 9:00pm | Opening Dinner
The Discovery Ballroom

Dr. Nils Roemer, The University of Texas at Dallas
Dean of the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology
Director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
Arts, Humanities, and Technology Distinguished University Chair
Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies

Dr. Inga H. Musselman, The University of Texas at Dallas
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Cecil H. Green Distinguished Chair of Academic Leadership

Eternal Flame Award - Father Patrick Desbois
Presented by Dr. David Patterson
Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas

Sunday, March 3

Check-in and registration will open at 8am and be available throughout the conference

8:00am – 9:00am | Morning Reception
Inspiration Hall
Coffee, Tea, Water, and a Pastry Assortment
Beverage station will be open throughout the day
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Sunday, March 3

9:00am – 10:30am | Welcome and Keynote
The Discovery Ballroom
Opening Remarks by Dr. Nils Roemer

Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture
Marco Gonzalez
Director of Yahad-In Unum
“The Legacy of the Holocaust by Bullets in Contemporary Mass Crimes and Genocides”

10:45am – 12:15pm | Session 1

(In)Justice and the Holocaust
The Apollo Room | Chaired by Dr. Zohar Segev

Dr. Isaac Amon
Director of Academic Research, Jewish Heritage Alliance
“‘History holds no parallel to these horrors;’ The Holocaust and the Nuremberg Trials”

Professor Paul R. Bartrop
Professor Emeritus of History, Florida Gulf Coast University
“When Injustice Was Legal: Nazi Judges as Perpetrators of the Holocaust”

Ben Portugal
PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Trial of the Century: Dallas Morning News Coverage of the Eichmann Trial”

The Evolving Nebraska Digital Narrative in Holocaust Memory and Education
The Gemini Room | Chaired by Katie Fisher

Beth Dotan, Research Assistant Professor
Ari Kohen, Director, Norman and Bernice Harris Center for Judaic Studies
Laura Weakly, Metadata Encoding Specialist
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Sunday, March 3

12:30pm – 1:45pm | Lunch
*The Discovery Ballroom*
Performance by the UT Dallas Chamber Singers

2:00pm – 3:30pm | Session 2

**Victims from the Periphery**
*The Apollo Room | Chaired by Dr. Hanno Berger*
Jennifer Cantrell-Sutor
PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Dallas
“*Porrajmos*: The Devouring of the History of the Romani Genocide”

Ernst Schneidereit
Education Consultant and Teacher
“A Stand for Conscience: Presenting a History of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Third Reich at the European Parliament”

**Soldiers and the Holocaust**
*The Gemini Room | Chaired by Dr. Debbie Pfister*

Jonathan Cordish
Master of Arts in History Candidate, The Citadel

Evelyn Loftin
Masters Student, Liberty University
“The Female Face of Brutality: Examining the Gruesome Acts of SS-Helferinnen”

Igor Kotler
President and Executive Director, Museum of Human Rights, Freedom, and Tolerance
“Letters of Soviet Jewish Soldiers and Officers: Underresearched Holocaust Sources”
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Sunday, March 3

3:45pm – 5:00pm | Op-Ed Discussion

“There and Then, Here and Now; Where Are You?”
*The Gemini Room | Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Henry F. Knight*

5:15pm – 6:30pm | Dinner
*The Discovery Ballroom*

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MITCHELL L. AND MIRIAM LEWIS BARNETT LECTURE

6:30pm | Public Reception
*Inspiration Hall*

7:15pm | Keynote Lecture
*The Gemini Ballroom*

Dr. Charlotte Schallié
Professor of Germanic Studies
Chair of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies
University of Victoria

“But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust”

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Thanks to the generous support of the Jaffe and Barnett families, the Annual Scholars’ Conference has two endowed lectures, the *Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture* and the *Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture*. Both are open to the public and held annually in conjunction with the ASC.

*To learn more about these lectures, including details about and recordings of previous presenters, visit ackerman.utdallas.edu/asc-keynotes or scan the QR Code to the right.*
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Monday, March 4

8:00am – 9:00pm | Morning Reception and Midrash Session

Coffee, Tea, Water, and a Parfait Bar
Inspiration Hall

The Covenanted Way: A Still Stumbling Venture
The Gemini Room
Midrashic Reflections on Gen. 15 and Romans 11: A Post-Shoah Dialogue
Rev. Dr. Henry F. Knight, Dr. Steven Leonard Jacobs, Prof. David Patterson, and Dr. Gary A. Phillips

9:00am – 10:00pm | Welcome and Special Presentation
The Discovery Ballroom

Beyond Numbers: Connecting Threads of Remembrance in Data from Polish Holocaust Victims
Digital Studies of the Holocaust Team, The University of Texas at Dallas
Led by Dr. Nils Roemer
Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies
Katie Fisher, Research Assistant, Belofsky Fellow
Yannis Soonjung Kwon, Undergraduate Research Apprentice
Siddhant Somani, MS Business Analytics
Digvijaysinh Gohil, MS Business Analytic

10:15am – 12:00pm | Session 3

Honoring the Past
The Apollo Room | Chaired by Prof. Paul R. Bartrop

Dr. Daniel R. Neuspiel
Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Atrium Health
“Sanctuary and Victim: The Legacy of a Medical School that Welcomed Jewish Students and Refugees from Naziism”

Professor Zohar Segev
Professor of Jewish History, University of Haifa
“Remembering and Rebuilding: The World Jewish Congress and American Jewry in the 1940s and 1950s”
10:15am – 12:00pm | Session 3 (Cont.)

Honoring the Past (Cont.)
*The Apollo Room | Chaired by Prof. Paul R. Bartrop*

Dr. Darlene Cheyenne Martin
Rebecca and Edwin Gale Distinguished Professor
The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston
“Health Professionals’ Courage in Helping Save Children and Adults with Disabilities During the Holocaust”

Matteo Hubalek
Austrian Remembrance Servant
The University of Texas at Dallas
“Memory as a Responsibility: Austria's Initiative to Deal with Its History”

Remembrance and Accountability
*The Gemini Room | Dr. Gary A Phillips*

Dr. J.E. Wolfson
State Coordinator of Education, Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission
“‘The Shape and Fatality of Truth’: *Playing for Time* Through the Disharmonies of Adaptation”

Karen Franklin
Director of Family Research, Leo Baeck Institute
“Restitution and Remembrance: An Ongoing Project to Connect Heirs to their Cultural Patrimony”

Juliana Taimoorazy
PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Primo Levi’s ‘Shema’, a Solemn Call to Action”

John Kalkanli
PhD student, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Simon Wiesenthal: A Journey for Justice and Forgiveness After the Holocaust”
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Monday, March 4

1:30pm – 3:00pm | Session 4

Creative Reflections
The Apollo Room | Chaired by Dr. Igor A. Kotler

Dr. Gary A. Phillips
Professor of Religion Emeritus
Wabash College
“We Need to Take Children Away: Giving Voice to Suffering through the Artwork of Samuel Bak”

Dr. Susan Miller
Chair, Department of Family Medicine
Houston Methodist Hospital
“How Music Survived the Third Reich”

Dr. Andrew Weinstein
Professor of Art History, State University of New York
“Contemporary Artists on Scientific Research Subjects in Nazi Times and the Present”

Teaching and Understanding the Holocaust
The Gemini Room | Chaired by Dr. David Patterson

Jeeah Ham
PhD Student
The University of Texas at Dallas
"The Detrimental Consequences of Excluding Judaism in the Pedagogy of Holocaust Literature within South Korean Higher Education"

Dr. Steven Jacobs
Professor of Religious Studies
The University of Alabama
“Holocaust? Genocide? Pogrom? On The Use/Misuse and Appropriation/Misappropriation of Language”
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Monday, March 4

3:15pm – 4:45pm | Session 5

Survival and Suffering
The Apollo Room | Chaired by Dr. Steven Jacobs

Dr. Lorraine Madway
Associate Dean for Special Collections, University of Alabama (Retired)
“The Kasztner Controversy and the Politics and Ethics of Negotiating with Nazis to Save Jews in Hungary in 1944”

Dr. Yitzchak Kerem
Professor of History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
“One People, Two Diverse Positions in the Holocaust: Rescue of Jews in Muslim Albania verse Albanian Kosovar Nazi Collaboration in Kosovo”

Masrufa Ayesha Nusrat
PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Mapping a Memory of Trauma: Memorialization of Women’s War Narratives”

Precursors and Echoes of the Holocaust
The Gemini Room | Chaired by Dr. Charles Asher Small

Dr. Christine Maxwell
Research Fellow
Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy
“Modern Protocols: Summarizing the Original Protocols of the Elders of Zion to Gain New Perspectives on Contemporary Antisemitism”

Aaron David Fruh
President, Israel Team Advocates
“An Examination of the Anti-Judaism and Antisemitism Woven into the Fabric of Contemporary Christian Nationalism in the US”

Angie Simmons
PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Violent Utopia: Searching for the Roots of Modern Violence”
The 54th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches

Monday, March 4

5:00pm – 6:00pm | Special Presentation
*The Apollo Room*

Dr. David Patterson
Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas

Dr. Charles Asher Small
Director, The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy

6:15pm – 7:30pm | Closing Dinner
*The Discovery Ballroom*
The Eternal Flame Award is given to acknowledge individuals whose words and actions have endeavored to assure that we remember the horrific past and murder of six million Jews during the Holocaust and to build a better future for all humanity.


* of blessed memory

This year’s recipient is Father Patrick Desbois, a Catholic priest, author of the book Holocaust by Bullets, and president of Yahad–In Unum, a global humanitarian organization he founded in 2004 dedicated to identifying and commemorating the sites of Jewish and Roma mass executions in Eastern Europe during World War II. Father Desbois has devoted his life to researching the Holocaust, fighting antisemitism.

In Memoriam

“This year we mourn the loss of Lawrence Langer, last year’s recipient of the Eternal Flame Award. Professor Langer was among the courageous scholars who established the field of Holocaust studies, and without his seminal contributions to the study of Holocaust literature and survivor testimony, none of us would be here today.”

Dr. David Patterson,
Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas
WOMEN AT THE FRONTLINE OF MASS VIOLENCE WORLDWIDE

In conjunction with Father Patrick Desbois’ visit to UT Dallas in February to present the Einspruch Lectures on the Holocaust as well as Marco Gonzalez’s presentation of the Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture at this year’s ASC, the Ackerman Center is currently displaying Yahad-In Unum’s traveling exhibit, “Women at the Frontline of Mass Violence Worldwide” featuring images and testimonies of women who were victims of mass violence. The temporary exhibition is housed at the east wing of the Edith O’Donnell Arts and Technology Bldg. (ATC) through March 8.

This unique collection of nineteen portraits and testimonies aims to give a voice to women who were victims of genocide. The installment features research and stories of mass violence survivors from various regions and periods, including:

- The extermination of Jews by Einsatzgruppen in the Nazi-occupied Soviet territories during WWII.
- The genocide of the Roma people in Eastern Europe between 1941 and 1944.
- The attacks and massacres of the indigenous communities during Guatemala’s armed conflict between 1960 and 1996.
- The Yazidi genocide in Iraq and Syria by ISIS militants in the mid-2010s.
TEACHING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE

For more than thirty years, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas has served the students of UT Dallas and the Dallas Metroplex by teaching the history and legacy of the Holocaust both in the classroom and through public events.