

Call for Papers

Special Issue of *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust*

Re-thinking the *Muselmann*: Narratives, Concepts, and Social Realities

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The so-called *Muselmann* was a figure known to nearly all Nazi concentration camp prisoners. The literature on the topic portrays the *Muselmänner* as those prisoners who had fallen to a near-death condition and lost their human features, thus making them the extreme emblem of Nazi atrocities. Previous studies have addressed the *Muselmann* primarily from a medical, etymological, or philosophical perspective. This special issue takes a different approach. It does not view the *Muselmann* as an *irrevocable* condition inevitably ending in death, but as a *transitory* condition of the human body brought about by the psychological and social consequences of its extreme context. As an integral part of prisoner society, the *Muselmann* participated actively in the social and economic life of concentration camps and had a major impact on its symbolic, material and social order.

As almost any prisoner could become a *Muselmann*, our approach offers insights into social structures and processes within concentration camps across categories of gender, age, nationality, class and Nazi persecution label. Examining the *Muselmann* as a narrative in survivors' texts and other literary genres furthermore provides insight into post-war conceptualizations of camps, suffering, death, and survival. We invite scholars from all disciplines to contribute to this issue. Papers may focus on, but are not limited to the following topics:

- The term *Muselmann* in relation to the multiple groups and languages of the camps
- Representations of the *Muselmann* by different groups of prisoners (and perpetrators) and in postwar depictions of diverse genres
- Making/Unmaking the *Muselmann* – the role of this category in shaping social order, attitude, and behaviour among concentration camp inmates
- Differences between camps and camp sections regarding the presence of and conditions for *Muselmänner*
- *Muselmänner* as actors: testimonies of surviving *Muselmänner* and the representation of their survival strategies
- The *Muselmann* and Gender

Deadline:

Please submit your proposals, including titles, abstracts (600 words max.), and a short bio (200 words) by **October 15, 2017** in Word format to: kai-michael.becker@uni-jena.de

Upon submission, your article will be sent out to Dapim editors to begin the editorial process. Following their decision, the article will be sent to peer review by two anonymous readers. If the article will be accepted, it may be sent back with comments and requests for revisions. Dapim coordinator will help you to navigate the editorial process.

For more information on Dapim, check our website:

http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rdap20#.U3NRav1_spQ