1965 - 2015
50 שנה
ליחסים הדיפלומטיים
ישראל-גרמניה
50 Jahre
Diplomatische Beziehungen
Israel-Deutschland

Gedenk- und Bildungsstätte
Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz



משואה
Massuah
International Institute for Holocaust Studies

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

Berlin, 25th of June 2015

Current Perspectives on the Shaping of Memory in Israel and Germany and the Challenges of Education in the Coming Decade.

A seminar jointly organized by the House of the Wannsee Conference, Memorial and Educational Site, the Massuah International Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.

In the year 2015, the State of Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations. The memory of the past is a formative element for both countries' identity and links both Israel and Germany by a unique and strong bond.

In both countries, the memory culture and educating the new generations about the past are of utmost importance. How has remembering the Holocaust impacted the cultural discourse in Israel and Germany? How to remember and educate about the past between a particularistic and universal approach? What role does religion play in the shaping of memory? With the Shoah becoming a more and more distant event and, with changing demography in the respective societies, what challenges lie ahead for remembrance culture and Holocaust education today?

Leading academic experts from Israel and Germany will discuss these issues together with professionals, students, practitioners in the field of remembrance and education at a seminar to be held on Thursday, 25th of June 2015 at the House of the Wannsee Conference Memorial and Educational Site in Berlin.

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Seminar

Program

09:00 **Visit of the permanent exhibition of the memorial site "House of the Wannsee Conference" (HWK)** (optional)

10:00 **Welcome remarks**

- **Dr. Hans-Christian Jasch** (Haus der Wannsee-Konferenz, Director)
- **Prof. Yitzhak Kashti** (Massuah International Institute for Holocaust Studies, Chairman of the Executive Committee)
- **Dr. Ralf Hexel** (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Head of the Department for Middle East and North Africa)

10:15 **Opening Lecture**

- **Christine Mähler** (ConAct – Koordinierungszentrum Deutsch-Israelischer Jugendaustausch, Leitung)

11:15 **Coffee Break**

11:30 **Parallel workshops**

1. Remembering the Holocaust in the Cultural Discourse
   (Aya Ben Naftaly and Dr. Mali Eisenberg, Israel / Prof. Christina von Braun, Germany)
2. Remembering the Holocaust and International Law (in English)
   (Dr. Ziv Bohrer, Israel / Dr. Hans-Christian Jasch, Germany)

   or: A theater workshop: Contemporary Memory* (in English)
   (Itay Ganot, Israel / Esther Vorwerk, Germany)

13:00 **Lunch**

14:00 **Parallel workshops**

3. Particularistic Memory and Universalistic Memory (in English)
   (Prof. Moshe Zimmermann, Israel / Prof. Martin Lücke, Germany)
4. The Role of Religion in the Shaping of Memory
   (Prof. Kimmy Caplan, Israel / Dr. Christian Staffa, Germany)

   or continued: A theatrical workshop: Contemporary Memory* (in English)

15:30 **Coffee Break**

16:00 **Concluding session,** chaired by Prof. Yitzhak Kashti and Dr. Elke Gryglewski

17:00 **End of the seminar**

The seminar will be held in German and Hebrew (with translation). The workshops 2 and 3 will be held in English.

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Workshops

1. **Remembering the Holocaust in the Cultural Discourse**
   (Aya Ben Naftaly and Dr. Mali Eisenberg, Israel / Christina von Braun, Germany)

The way the Holocaust is represented in contemporary arts reflects the changes that have taken place in the commemoration of the Holocaust and their effect on shaping identity. This session will discuss the changes in the cultural discourse about the Holocaust (in cinema, literature, theater, visual arts, and popular culture), while giving trendy examples.

The session will raise a variety of questions: What are the limits of the discourse of Holocaust memory? Which themes were central in the context of the memory of the Holocaust in the past decade? What is the main driving force behind commemoration processes – to retell the trauma or to blur and thrust the memory aside? In what way are commemoration processes in Israel different from those in other Western countries?

2. **Remembering the Holocaust and International Law** (in English)
   (Dr. Ziv Bohrer, Israel / Dr. Hans-Christian Jasch, Germany)

One of the goals of this panel is to refute the claim that the post WWII prosecution of core international crimes was punishment based on ex-post-facto law. Pre-WWII cases in which such crimes were prosecuted will be presented, including by a forgotten international criminal tribunal – focusing on examples related to Germany. It will be argued that acknowledging this forgotten pre-WWII history can both better our understanding of the post-WWII proceedings and enhance the legitimacy of contemporary international criminal law.

3. **Particularistic Memory and Universalistic Memory** (in English)
   (Prof. Moshe Zimmermann, Israel / Prof. Martin Lücke, Germany)

World War II and the Holocaust are the watershed of our time – this is a special history, a history that has not come to an end yet. It is a memory which influences the present political arena and the media. In recent years we have seen significant changes in the local debates in Israel and in Germany regarding the universal moral implications of matters on the agenda of national public and international law. There is a dilemma in teaching the Holocaust alongside with Genocide: Does the combination of these two phenomena lead to a blurring of the uniqueness of the Holocaust, or is the comparison actually helpful and highlights the similarities and differences? What is the significance of the "Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarian Regimes" set by the EU? Is the message of the 21st century "we were all victims of the 20th century"? How can or should we convey the memory of the Holocaust to the third and fourth generation? What are the main focus areas of memory and remembrance in Germany and Israel today?

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4. The Role of Religion in the Shaping of Memory
(Prof. Kimmy Caplan, Israel / Dr. Christian Staffa, Germany)

Over the last three decades a host of scholars have documented and analyzed a wide variety of case-studies that allude to the complex encounters and struggles of American, Israeli, French, British and other Jewish religious groups, communities, and individuals with the Holocaust, thus highlighting various different ways in which religion shapes, or many times rather re-shapes, the memory of the Holocaust. Notwithstanding this accumulative body of knowledge, seldom is it placed and conceptualized within broader terms from the history of religions.

Utilizing several examples, this presentation suggests applying categories such as high religion, popular religion, lay religion, and lived religion, with a view to illuminating the various roles of religion in structuring the memory of the Holocaust. Finally, time permitting, it might be advantageous to explore the opposite avenue, namely: The role of memory in shaping and re-shaping post-War Jewish religion.

* **A theater workshop: Contemporary Memory** (in English)
(Itay Ganot, Israel / Esther Vorwerk, Germany)

There and then, here and now. A non-stopping movement between those.
What is the value of a memory? What are we allowed to forget and what do we have to remember?
A three hour interactive session using tools of theater to explore ideas and opportunities, led by Israeli theater director Itay Ganot and German Actress Esther Vorwerk, both collaborating in a new theater production in Berlin, attempting to trace Second World War's influence on the 3rd generation.
(max. 12 participants, Please register in advance.)