Survivors
Politics and Semantics of a Concept

Venue
Technische Universität Berlin
Room H 3005
Straße des 17. Juni 135
10623 Berlin

The Technische Universität is located close to S Tiergarten and U Ernst-Reuter-Platz

If you would like to attend the keynote lecture by Atina Grossmann and/or participate in the workshop, please send an email to Alina Bothe: a.bothe@zentrum-juedische-studien.de by 12 November 2014. Please note that the number of seats for the workshop is limited.

Friday | 21 November 2014
Keynotes | 09:00-11:00 | Survival Post Migration
Chair: Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin)
Anne Rothe (Detroit)
Survivors Made in America: Intersections of Social Darwinism, Holocaust Memory, and Popular Culture
Noam Zadoff (Bloomington)
Bridging the Abyss? Holocaust Survivors in Israel

Coffee Break | 11:00-11:30

Panel 5 | 11:30-13:00 | Who is a Survivor? (II)
Responses by Historians
Chair: Gertrud Pickhan (Berlin)
Elisabeth Gallas (Jerusalem)
Framing Holocaust Research in New York – The Role of Survivor Historians in the Aftermath of World War II
Julia Menzel (Lüneburg)
Between “Nothing” and “Something”. Narratives of Survival in H. G. Adler’s Scholarly and Literary Analysis of the Shoah
René Schlott (Potsdam)
The Survivor as a Historian. Raul Hilberg (1926-2007) and the Holocaust Historiography

Lunch Break | 13:00-14:30

Friday | 21 November 2014
Panel 6 | 14:30-15:30 | Survivors’ Movements
Chair: Atina Grossmann (New York/Berlin)
Sebastian Schönenmann (Koblenz)
The Name Registry as Testimony: About the Commemorative Function of Survivors’ Early Tracing Services
Ron Zwigenberg (Penn State)
From the Ashes: Hiroshima, the Holocaust and the Rise of the “Survivor” as a Moral Category

Closing Remarks | 15:30-16:00
Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin)

Closing with Coffee | 16:00

Sponsored by

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Survivors
Politics and Semantics of a Concept

The survivor has become a prominent figure and a key concept in history, literary studies and political thought. But who is a survivor? And, more precisely, who is a survivor of the Shoah? The international workshop “Survivors - Politics and Semantics of a Concept” will deal with various approaches and definitions of the term survivor. A complex conceptual history will be discussed, spanning from the immediate postwar period to the present. Topics to be raised include different theoretical frameworks by philosophers, writers and historians as well as the ongoing discussions of restitution and moral responsibility. Scholars from seven countries will share their work during two days of intense discussion.

Alina Bothe
Markus Nesselrodt

Wednesday | 19 November 2014

Opening of the Workshop | 18:00-21:00

Greeting
Stefanie Schüler-Springorum
Director of the Center for Research on Antisemitism

Keynote Lecture
Atina Grossmann
Professor of History, Cooper Union New York and DAAD Walter Benjamin Visiting Professor

Remapping Death and Survival
Shifting Geographies and Definitions

Reception

Thursday | 20 November 2014

Introduction | 09:30-10:00
Welcome note by Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin)
Introduction by Alina Bothe (Berlin) and Markus Nesselrodt (Berlin)

Panel 1 | 10:00-11:00 | Who is a Survivor? (I)
Early Postwar Definitions
Chair: Karen Körber (Berlin)
Thomas Rahe (Bergen-Belsen)
Survival and New Beginnings. Jews and Roma in Bergen-Belsen 1945
Katarzyna Person (Warsaw)
Building a Community of Survivors in the Post-War Jewish Honor Courts

Coffee Break | 11:00-11:30

Panel 2 | 11:30-13:00 | Semantics of Survival
Chair: Micha Brumlik (Berlin)
Adam Stern (Cambridge)
Survival Before Auschwitz
On Rosenzweig and Christianity
Linda Asquith (Nottingham)
“What did you survive?” An Exploration of the Nature of Being a Survivor and the Concept of a Survivor Hierarchy
Zofia Wasilicka (Prague)
The Use of the Term “Survivor” in Poland

Lunch Break | 13:00-14:30

Panel 3 | 14:30-16:00 | Politics of Survival
Chair: Michael Wildt (Berlin)
Susanna Scharfetter (Vermont)
Hidden Jews as a Sub-group of German Holocaust Survivors
Antoine Burgard (Lyon/Montréal)
“Child to be Placed with a Family who Will Appreciate his Tragic Past”. Early Understandings of Young Survivors and Future Migrants’ Experiences in Immediate Post-War Europe
Benno Nietzel (Bielefeld)
The Jewish Claims Conference and Reparations for Holocaust Survivors 1951-2000

Coffee Break | 16:00-16:30

Panel 4 | 16:30-18:00 | On Survival in Literature
Chair: Eva Lezzi (Berlin)
Daniel Pedersen (Stockholm)
Surviving through Poetry – The Case of Nelly Sachs
Andree Michaelis (Frankfurt/Oder)
The Survivor as Writer and as Witness or Why Primo Levi Did not Want to Be Called a “Survivor”
Jan Taubitz (Erfurt/Berlin)
From Anne Frank to Amy Bellette: How Philip Roth Anticipated the Memory Boom and the Role of the Survivor

Conference Dinner | 19:00

About the Organizers

Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg
The ZJS, founded in 2012, is a joint project of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Freie Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, Universität Potsdam, Europa-Universität Viadrina, the Abraham Geiger Kolleg, and the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies. It was set up to bring together the existing, diverse offerings in Jewish Studies in the region of Berlin-Brandenburg, promote junior scholars and to strengthen the internationalization of the region.

Center for Research on Antisemitism
Founded in 1982, the Center for Research on Antisemitism at the TU Berlin (ZfA) focuses on interdisciplinary research on antisemitism in all its various causes, manifestations and effects, past and present. In addition, the ZfA plays an advisory role in scholarly, educational and political committees, participates in exhibitions, readings and book presentations, and thus generally supports civic education.