

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.

Contact

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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 Schönemann (Koblenz)
The Name Registry as Testimony: About the Commemorative Function of Survivors’ Early Tracing Services

Ran 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



With the support of Gender Equality Funding of the Department of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universität Berlin.

International Workshop
19–21 November 2014

Survivors

Politics and Semantics of a Concept

Organized by



in cooperation with



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 conceptional 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

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.

Wednesday | 19 November 2014

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

Greeting

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

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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

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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 Waślicka (Prague)
The Use of the Term “Survivor” in Poland

Lunch Break | 13:00-14:30

Thursday | 20 November 2014

Panel 3 | 14:30-16:00 | Politics of Survival

Chair: Michael Wildt (Berlin)

Susanna Schrafstetter (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