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MEMORIA

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EXHIBITION "OBJECTS FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY"

TESTIMONIES
FROM THE
WARSAW
GHETTO

CALL FOR
PARTICIPANTS
OF THE
SEMINAR "HOW
TO DEAL WITH
DIFFICULT
PAST?"

THE
REMEMBRANCE,
EDUCATION,
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PROJECT

2023 IHRA
GRANT CALL
WINNERS

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

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Please do share information about this magazine with others, particularly via social media.

All editions: memoria.auschwitz.org

TESTIMONIES

FROM THE WARSAW GHETTO

Testimonies from the Warsaw Ghetto exposition is an attempt at showing the unimaginable. It covers the period from the beginning of the German occupation and the delineation of the “area at risk of typhus” in Warsaw in spring 1940 to the commemoration of the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in 1948. The daily life of the ghetto is presented from various perspectives—soldiers and members of the resistance movement, women and men, amateurs and professionals. Not only do their photographs tell a universal story about the war, but they also allow for contact with wartime reality from different points of view and a look at postwar Warsaw.

Objects recovered during archaeological digs, belonging to people from the pre-war Northern Quarter, are material vestiges of the life of a community that had inhabited the northern part of Warsaw for nearly 200 years. The exposition concludes with a film which also serves as the only source of light in the exhibition. The document recorded by a group of survivors right after the war shows the void left of the ghetto, turned into a rubble desert after the entire Jewish community had been annihilated, the void that has grown to become a symbol of their Holocaust.

“Area at risk of typhus”. Sealing off the Jewish Quarter

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, the Jewish community constituted 30% of the total population of Warsaw. The majority of Jews resided in the Northern Quarter. Nalewki, Chłodna or Krochmalna Streets, full of hustle and bustle, were the heart of the Jewish world with its unmatched level of diversity—social, religious, and political. Within just a few years, this world ceased to exist.

Delineated in the spring of 1940 by the German administration, by the autumn of the same year the “Seuchensperrgebiet”, or the “area at risk of typhus,” was separated from the rest of the city by a wall with barbed wire. Nearly 350,000 people were imprisoned in the Warsaw ghetto. The dramatic conditions meant that the Jewish community, both individually and collectively, had to face death on a daily basis.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

The Great Liquidation Aktion began on 22 July 1942. Mass deportations to the death camp in Treblinka left the ghetto almost completely empty. In 1943, the area of the former Northern Quarter was razed to the ground. On 19 April 1943, at dawn, SS units entered the ghetto via the gate on Nalewki Street. The fighters took the Germans by surprise, shooting at them from the rooftops, attics or windows of buildings at the intersection of Nalewki, Gęsia, Żamenhofa and Miła Streets, and on Muranowski Square. Meanwhile, the civilians were hiding in pre-arranged bunkers. The Germans didn't expect resistance. Even though open combat lasted only several days, the ghetto residents resisted the Germans for a month. Unable to crush the resistance, the Germans razed the ghetto to the ground. Thousands of people were deported to Treblinka and to the camps in Majdanek, Poniatowa and Trawniki.

We, the Survivors

After the Uprising had been suppressed, the Germans began a systematic destruction of the entire ghetto area. As a result, the former Northern Quarter practically disappeared from the face



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS OF THE GERMAN-POLISH SEMINAR "HOW TO DEAL WITH DIFFICULT PAST?"

International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust at the Auschwitz Museum introduces the call for participants for the German-Polish seminar "How to Deal with a Difficult Past? – Educational Perspectives on National Socialism, Shoah and the Second World War." The project is organized in cooperation with the Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen Museums and Memorials.

The seminar addresses primary and secondary schools' teachers from Poland and Germany, as well as students of master's degree pedagogical or historical studies from Poland and Germany who in their educational work raise the subject of WWII and the Holocaust. The language of both parts of the seminar is English. The candidates must declare the knowledge of English on the level that allows them to participate in the seminar fully and actively (at least B2 level).

The seminar will take place in Germany (Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen Museums and Memorials) on July 18-24, 2024 and in Poland (Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum and Memorial) on October 2-6, 2024. The organizers cover the costs of accommodation, board, local transfers, and programme. The participants will have to pay for travel to and from places of the seminar as well as health insurance.

10 people from Poland and 10 people from Germany will be able to participate in the seminar. Those willing to participate are kindly asked to use the online application form. In the recruitment process, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:





THE REMEMBRANCE, EDUCATION, INCLUSION

On March 28, 2024 we inaugurated "The Remembrance, Education, Inclusion" (REI) program which aims at combating antisemitism by preserving and popularizing the legacy of Polish Jews through innovative educational programs, facilitating access to culture, building local partnerships and expanding and sharing historical resources.

The main target groups of the project are school students and teachers, marginalized groups and local communities both in Warsaw and all over Poland. We will strive to increase their knowledge of the history of Polish Jews and – in the long term – change attitudes towards Jews. Our biggest ambition is to offer our visitors a transformative experience, so that the history of Polish Jews becomes as meaningful and vital to them as their own.

The planned educational and cultural activities will reach an estimated number of 70,000 participants and the resources published online will generate an estimated 1,1 million of user sessions.

More details below.

Component 1. Education for the future: Programs for schools, families and marginalized groups

The Museum's offers for schools are focused on historical and civic education and meet the requirements of the state core curriculum. Stimulation of children and young people to activity, their engagement in education, also through play, are some of the benefits that will accrue not just in terms of deepening their knowledge, but also in shaping proper civic attitudes that refer to values such as tolerance, civil rights and freedoms, respect for those who are different, and dialogue between cultures. In particular, we want to counteract antisemitism and racism.

The project will enable outreach to thousands of students from all over Poland, through the implementation of programs on site, at the Museum, popular online workshops and the "Museum in a box" project carried out for schools from all over Poland. The "box" includes a narrative game, maps, photos and replicas of objects, as well as materials for teachers. As part of the project we will offer schools 100 boxes along with free workshops for students and training for teachers that will enable them to use the boxes in the future.

Programs for families will take place mostly in the POLIN Museum's King Matt's Family Educational Area which draws on the pedagogical theory of Janusz Korczak. Their aim is to introduce children and their guardians to Jewish culture and tradition, as well as foster understanding and respect for others starting at the earliest age. We will also organize large family events open to all, including a Children's Day picnic and a Family Hanukkah.

Our goal is to make POLIN's program and resources accessible for people with disabilities. We plan adjusting selected activities to their needs and organizing workshops and dedicated events for individual visitors and for groups from schools for children with special needs.

Component 2. Education and inclusion. Programs for youth, specialists and multipliers & minority groups



Component 3. Understanding the past. Objects, people, stories

At the heart of the POLIN Museum is the Core Exhibition, a journey through the 1000-year history of Polish Jews, narrated from different perspectives, in many voices. As part of the project, we intend to modernize selected multimedia stands and elaborate the recordings of the audio guides in order to offer our visitors a better experience.

We plan to further develop the existing Museum online portals — Virtual Shtetl and Polish Righteous. Development of the popular Virtual Shtetl portal documenting and popularizing pre-war and contemporary Jewish culture and history in Poland will focus on collecting visual documentation, including the local Jewish historic sites and cemeteries, as well as contemporary Jewish life in Poland. The Polish Righteous portal, devoted to Poles who helped save Jews during the Holocaust, as well as Jews who helped other Jews, will continue to publish stories of rescue along with the accompanying documentation. We also plan to develop and disseminate our collection of oral history interviews.

POLIN also plans digitization of its collections and publishing them online as well as a handbook on collection management of Judaica — part of a series of handbooks addressed to professionals in regional museums and private collectors across Poland.

Component 4. Making connections and better understanding. Programs for the general public and local communities

POLIN Museum is a platform for dialogue on the Jewish history and culture open to all those who wish to learn more about the heritage of Polish Jews. We will offer cultural and public programs focused around the themes of the (post-)JEWISH... Shtetl Opatów Through the Eyes of Mayer Kirshenblatt temporary exhibition and anniversaries important to Jewish history.

In the summer, POLIN on the Meadow will invite our audience to relax with us in the area surrounding the Museum building, listen to music or poetry, and watch films. In the autumn, we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Museum's Grand Opening by organizing a festival of events. One of the most important events will be the 10th edition of the POLIN Award. The Award is granted to individuals, organizations or institutions actively engaged in the preservation of the memory of the history of Polish Jews.

The Museum on Wheels mobile exhibition on the history and culture of Polish Jews will visit ten towns, mainly those up to 50,000 inhabitants. Each visit will be accompanied by a program of educational and cultural events co-created by the project's local partners. The exhibition was created by the Museum in 2013. Since then, it has visited more than 100 towns all over Poland.





JEWISH LIFE IN THE BALTIC REGION BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia, and the Museum "Jews in Latvia" are pleased to invite applications for an international conference entitled, "Jewish Life in the Baltic Region Before, During, and After the Holocaust." The conference is scheduled for September 2-5, 2024, in Riga,

The conference will focus on all aspects of Jewish life as it existed in the Baltic region before, during, and after the Holocaust on topics which include, but are not limited to, culture, art, politics, literature, religion, music, photography, history, law, philosophy, restitution, memory, family studies, and material culture. All aspects of Jewish life that existed in the region from the beginning of the 20th century up until the present will be considered, though emphasis will be given to those topics that address how the Holocaust impacted Jewish life.

Eligibility and Selection

Applications will be accepted from scholars ranging from advanced doctoral candidates (aspirants) to full professors. Applications are welcome from those who work in all relevant academic disciplines, including anthropology, archaeology, art history, geography, film studies, history, Jewish studies, law, literature, material culture, philosophy, political science, religion, sociology, and other fields.

Participants will be chosen by a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from the Mandel Center at the USHMM, the Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Research on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union at Yad Vashem, the University of Latvia, the Museum "Jews in Latvia," and the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. Participants will have the opportunity to network and interact with representatives from the Steering Committee.

Participants will be expected to submit a finalized paper (no more than 6500 words, not including footnotes) a month prior to the beginning of the conference for circulation among all participants. Daily sessions will include five 45-minute presentations followed by a discussion (up to 45 min), as well as excursions around the Riga area, which explore themes discussed at the conference.

Please submit your applications as follows:

1. Complete the application form using our online application.
2. The application form includes a current Curriculum Vitae outlining the applicant's qualifications (including research projects, presentations, and publications).
3. The application form also includes an entry for your abstract of no more than 700 words for your proposed paper (including title and discussion of methodological and theoretical issues and brief bibliography/sources).

All application materials must be received by **May 15, 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be considered after this date. Late applications will not be accepted.



Riga Old Town, Latvia. Photo by Tom Podmore on Unsplash

EXHIBITION

"OBJECTS FROM THE UNDERGROUND CITY"

We invite you to witness unique architectural concepts for commemorating Miła 18 at the exhibition "Objects from the Underground City" at the Faculty of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology, 55 Koszykowa Street.

The exhibition is open to the public from 18 April to 16 May, Monday through Friday, 12:00 - 19:00. The archaeological excavation by the Warsaw Ghetto Museum at the former 18 Miła Street, near the so-called Anielewicz Bunker, has unearthed the cellars of the adjacent tenements on Miła and Muranowska Streets. These tangible traces of a non-existent city are one of the most remarkable sites in contemporary Warsaw. This significant discovery has sparked discussions on the feasibility of preserving this testament to the tragic events of the 20th century and transforming it into a venue for dynamic learning and reflection.

In partnership with the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, architects Grzegorz Stiasny and Jakub Waclawek devised a program and spatial study to assess the viability of a permanent exhibition of the excavation site, incorporating the evolving perspective of contemporary archaeology. A design exercise was also undertaken with a group of Master's students from the esteemed Faculty of Architecture. The outcome of this exercise was the creation of ten distinct concepts. These concepts, unhindered by restrictions, aimed to provide a spatial and functional solution to commemorating the unearthed artefacts from the Warsaw Ghetto's largest bunker.

During the archaeological excavations carried out by the Warsaw Ghetto Museum at the former 18 Miła Street, near the so-called Anielewicz Bunker, the cellars of tenements on Miła and Muranowska Streets were unearthed. These tangible traces of a non-existent city are one of the most remarkable sites in contemporary Warsaw. Consequently, we initiated discussions on the feasibility of preserving this significant, albeit somewhat forgotten, testament to the tragic events of the XX century and transforming it into a venue for dynamic learning and reflection.

In collaboration with the Warsaw Ghetto Museum, architects Grzegorz Stiasny and Jakub Waclawek devised a program and spatial study to assess the viability of a permanent exhibition of the excavation site, incorporating the evolving perspective of contemporary archaeology. A design exercise was also undertaken with a group of Master's students from the esteemed Faculty of Architecture. The outcome of this exercise was the creation of ten distinct concepts. These concepts, unhindered by restrictions, aimed to provide a spatial and functional solution to commemorating the unearthed artefacts from the Warsaw Ghetto's largest bunker.



Photo: Robert Wilczyński

On 8 May at 18:00, a debate on diverse forms of commemoration in public space, titled **"Evoking Memory"**, will be held at the **Faculty of Architecture of the Warsaw University of Technology** at 55 Koszykowa Street. The event will be graced by the presence of esteemed individuals such as Dr Eleonora Bergman, Dr Maria Ferenc, Prof. Zbigniew Kobylński, Dr Jolanta Miśkowiec (Department of Foreign Cultural Heritage and Memorial Sites), Prof. Małgorzata Rozbicka (Department of Architecture, Warsaw University of Technology) and Hanna Wróblewska (Director of the Department of National Cultural Institutions). Grzegorz Stiasny will moderate the meeting.

2023 IHRA GRANT CALL WINNERS

We are pleased to announce that the winners of the IHRA Grant Program have now been chosen. This year, the IHRA Grant Program received a record number of applications from across the world.

The IHRA's Grant Review Committee, which is comprised of experts from various disciplines related to education and remembrance on the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma, have now chosen 16 projects to fund from Europe, North America, Asia, and Africa. Among other topics, these projects will collect and publish new survivor and witness testimonies, develop new toolkits and guidelines for educators and policymakers, tackle online Holocaust distortion, and locate and publish undiscovered historical archives.

Over the course of the past year, the IHRA Grant Program was updated following an external evaluation of the program. Today, the application process is simpler, there is greater outreach to publicize the grant program to organizations who may not be aware of it, and there is now an obligation for each grant recipient to integrate IHRA tools and resources into their project.

We are happy to report that these changes to the Grant Program have borne fruit. We received a diverse array of proposals from new organizations who have previously not worked with the IHRA and every project will now integrate existing IHRA tools and resources into their project design. This means that our expert-produced resources are now reaching new audiences in new locations.

Additionally, following Russia's full-scale invasion, the IHRA has prioritized funding organizations applying from Ukraine. We have funded four Ukrainian organizations and two more organizations working with Ukrainian partners. These projects focus on collecting witness testimonies and safeguarding archives currently under threat due to the war. One of the projects will identify additional names of the victims of the Babyn Yar massacre, another will locate and preserve new archival records from the Transcarpathia region in western Ukraine, and another will train Ukrainian scholars working in Holocaust studies.

The winner of the Professor Yehuda Bauer Grant for a project which undertakes new and significant research on the Holocaust and antisemitism is the University of Warsaw for their research project assessing the role of Holocaust distortion in populist politics in central and eastern Europe.

The participants of this project will assess the role of Holocaust distortion in populist politics in Central and Eastern Europe by following three aspects that generate a high risk of Holocaust distortion in populist-governed countries: negation of expert knowledge (including established findings about Holocaust history), reliance on conspiracist visions of society (leading to antisemitic resentment, including secondary antisemitism), and whitewashing of national history (ostensibly in the interest of "the pure people").

In a dedicated module to a large nationwide representative survey study conducted in



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