



Assessing the State of Holocaust Studies in the Mid-2020s: Achievements, Shortcomings, Prospects

**June 9th & 10th, 2026
Barenboim-Said Akademie**

In less than fifty years, Holocaust Studies has developed from a marginal field into a vibrant international discipline. With the passing of the last eyewitnesses in the coming years, a decisive transformation is now underway: contemporary history is becoming history. At the same time, the field faces new challenges — from politicized debates and attacks on scholarship to the reverberations of wars and conflict, which are prompting scholars worldwide to partially reassess the Holocaust in both its historical and contemporary dimensions. The workshop brings together leading international researchers at various career stages to assess the current state of Holocaust studies critically: What has been achieved? What remains unresolved? What new directions are emerging?

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026 (Mozart Auditorium)

9 am - 9:30 am **Arrival**

9:30 am - 11 am **Welcome and Opening Lecture**

Welcome: Jacob Eder and Stefanie Fischer

Opening Lecture

Thomas Pegelow Kaplan: Practicing Holocaust Studies in Times of Uncertainty

Break

11:30 am - 1 pm **Perpetrator Studies: New Approaches**

Chair: Grzegorz Rossoliński-Liebe (Berlin)

Émilie Duranceau-Lapointe (Frankfurt am Main/Berlin): Bureaucratic Practicalities, Legal Truths, and Racial Imperatives—Determining Paternity at the Civil Registry Office [Standesamt] in Nazi Berlin

Suzanne Brown-Fleming (Washington, D.C.): Conceptualizing Everyday Holocaust Perpetrators: The Cultural Ideas and Social Practices of Eduard Geist

Emil Kjerte (Rijeka): Holocaust Perpetrator Studies: A Moribund Field?



Break

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Mourning the Dead after World War II: Politics, Cultures, Aesthetics

Chair: Stefanie Fischer (Berlin)

Anne-Christin Klotz (Jerusalem): Before the Memory Boom: How Eastern European Jews Mourned the Dead or The Forgotten Origins of Holocaust Memory Culture

Anna Berezin (Jerusalem): Holocaust Memorials Built by Jews: Invisible Commemoration

Jackie Olson (Stanford/Vienna): Fundraising for the Dead: The Mourning Aesthetics of the German Youth in Postwar West Germany, 1945-1960

Break

4 pm - 5:30 pm A Return of Theory? The Challenges of Postcolonial, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

Chair: Stefanie Middendorf (Berlin)

Natalie Eppelsheimer (Middlebury): (Post)colonial Entanglements in Holocaust Literature

Atina Grossmann (New York): Departures and Decisions During and After the Holocaust: Looking for Palestine

Anne Rethmann (Jerusalem): Blind Spots? The Holocaust in Human Rights Debates Then and Now

Break

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Keynote Lecture: European Societies and the Holocaust (Foyer)
by Mary Fulbrook (London)**

Welcome: Jacob Eder (Berlin)

Moderator: Stefanie Fischer (Berlin)

Accompanied by a music performance by students of the Barenboim-Said Akademie

8 pm - 9 pm Reception (Foyer)



Wednesday, June 10th, 2026 (Mozart Auditorium)

9 am - 10:30 am Rethinking Gender, Trauma, and Memory in Holocaust Studies

Chair: Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (Boulder/Berlin)

William Ross Jones (Los Angeles): The Methodology of Masculinity: Gender, Testimony, and Memory of Male Holocaust Survivors

Svetlana Burmistr (Berlin): Holocaust Memory Sites: Re-locating and Re-thinking Places of Violence and Remembrance in Holocaust Studies

Abby Anderton (New York): Sound Art, Ensounding Trauma: Hearing Holocaust Representation in Musical Testimonies

Break

11 am - 12:30 pm Aftermaths Studies Reenvisioned: Holocaust Memory in Museums

Chair: Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Jerusalem)

AJ Solovy (Poughkeepsie): Nazi Material Culture and Holocaust Museums in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

Cristina Teodora Stoica (Washington, D.C.): Preservation and Documentation: Untangling the Multidimensional Roles of Museums

Erica Lehrer (Montréal): Do We Need to Decolonize Holocaust Museums?

Break

1:30 pm – 3 pm The Future of Holocaust Remembrance

Chair: Elizabeth Anthony (Washington, D.C.)

Cynthia D. Porter (Columbus): Marking Memory: Ruth Klüger, the Internment Tattoo, and Writing as Witness

Hannah Wilson (Manchester): From Survivor to Post-Survivor Era: Intergenerational Testimony, Private Archives, and the Future of Holocaust Studies

Doron Avraham (Ramat Gan): The Global Turn and Prospective Holocaust Studies: Transcending Current Interpretative Limits



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University of Colorado
Boulder

3 pm

Taking Stock: Where Are We Now? Where Do We Go from Here?

Chair: Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin)

Discussants: Stefanie Fischer, Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, Sharon Kangisser Cohen, and
Betsy Anthony

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