



USING HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTS ONLINE:

THE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ARCHIVIST AND THE USERS

23-24 November 2020 | Yad Vashem, Jerusalem



SIGAL ARIE EREZ

Sigal Arie Erez is the Director of the Cataloguing and Accessibility Department in the Yad Vashem Archives, she is in charge of the cataloguing of the documents archive, photos, testimonies and original film footage collections. In this capacity, she developed and implemented advanced methodologies for digitization, cataloguing, data conversion, descriptive metadata and archival records' management. Sigal has actively participated in EHRI – the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure since its inception.



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DR. ALEXANDER AVRAM

Dr. Alexander Avram is the Director of the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem

A philologist with masters degrees from the University of Bucharest, and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he earned a PhD. in the History of the Jewish People from Bar Ilan University, Israel. Alex has been working at Yad Vashem since 1984. He has been coordinating the Personal and Geographic Names authority lists since 1995, and has been the Director of the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names since 2000. Alex has participated in many international conferences on names databases and Jewish names and genealogy, and represents Yad Vashem as an expert consultant to various international commissions on Holocaust victims' assets.



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DR. SONJA BEGALKE

Dr. Sonja Begalke is an historian and team leader in the field of “Critical Examination of History” at the Foundation EVZ and Head of Program “Young People Remember”. One of her main tasks is the development of funding programs for digital tools and methods for historical learning and Holocaust Education. As part of her doctoral thesis, she researched about the coming to terms with the history of National Socialism in journalism after 1945.



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RENÉ BIENERT

René Bienert, M.A., is Head of the Archives at Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust-Studies (VWI). He has been at VWI since 2017 and is responsible for further developing the archives and its dissemination. The VWI's archive is comprised of the Simon-Wiesenthal Archive and the Holocaust-related materials from the Archive of the Viennese Jewish Community. Previously, he was a research assistant at the Arolsen Archives and at the Buchenwald Memorial where his work in the fields of research and education was always closely linked to archival issues.



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DR. ANDREA DESPOT

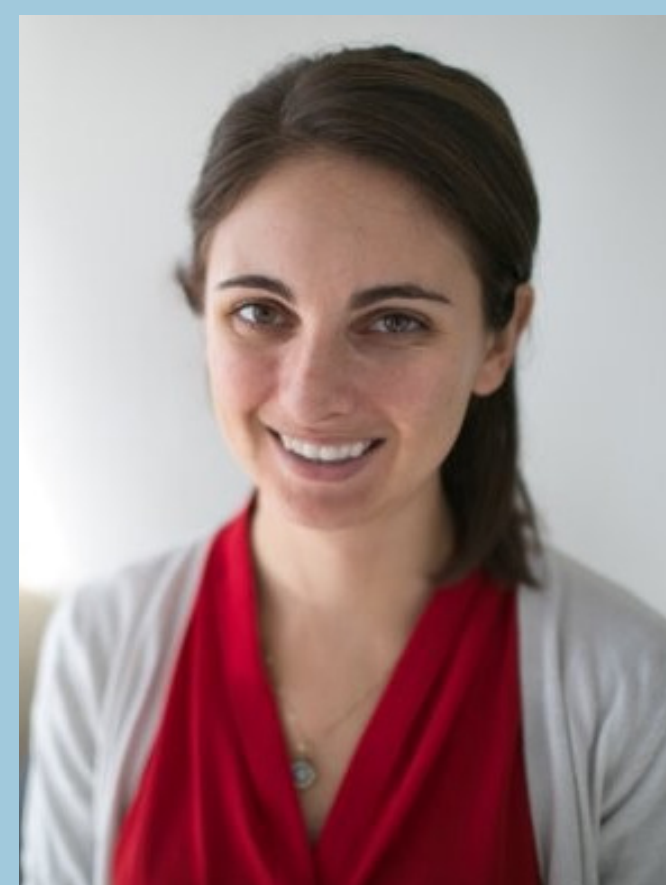
Dr. Andrea Despot has been the CEO of the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ) since June 2020. A political scientist with a PhD in Eastern Europe, she is an expert on the society and history of the region, on historical-political education, and on the culture(s) of remembrance in Europe and their contribution to European integration. Most recently she served as Director and Executive Board Member of the European Academy Berlin. Andrea also served as a lecturer at the John F. Kennedy Institute of the Free University of Berlin (2009-2015), at the Aleksanteri Institute of the University of Helsinki (2007) and at other educational institutions in Germany and Europe.



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REBECCA DILLMEIER

Rebecca Dillmeier is a Digital Collections Manager at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation. She leads the museum's efforts to preserve and make accessible its historic film, recorded sound and oral history collections. Rebecca specializes in cutting edge innovations to increase discoverability and access to time-based media such as a pilot project to create over 2000 hours of time coded speech to text transcripts of English language testimony.



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MICHAL DROR

Over the last six years Michal "Mickey" Dror has been an advisor in the Reference & Information Department in the Yad Vashem Archives.

Michal's work involves conducting research for an array of queries: family members looking for information on the fate of their loved ones, legal queries worldwide, academic scholars and visitors to Yad Vashem.

Michal pursued her MA degree in Holocaust Studies in the University of Haifa, her fields of expertise are concentration camps' documents, Lodz Ghetto and the Wathegau, Operation Reinhard and child survivors of the Holocaust.



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DR. TOBIAS EBBRECHT-HARTMANN

Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann is a Lecturer for Visual Culture, Film and German Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and consortium member and workpackage leader in the EU-funded Horizon 2020 Innovation Action "Visual History of the Holocaust: Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age" (www.vhh-project.eu). He researches and publishes on digital and cinematic memory of the Holocaust, the use and appropriation of archive footage, and visual history.



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BETH S. DOTAN

Beth S. Dotan is a third-year doctoral student in the College of Education in the Teaching, Learning, and Teacher Education Department at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. She is working on a Holocaust survivor portal with the UNL Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. Beth was the Founding Director of the Institute for Holocaust Education in Omaha, Nebraska and was the International Department Director at the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum in Israel.



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ROSE FELDMAN

Rose Feldman is the coordinator of databases for IGRA. She has lectured at 11 IAJGS conferences, and various seminars. In 2017 she was the recipient of the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies Award for Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Feldman was one of the coordinators of the Montefiore Censuses Project. She lives in Tel Aviv, Israel.



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BETTINA FARACK

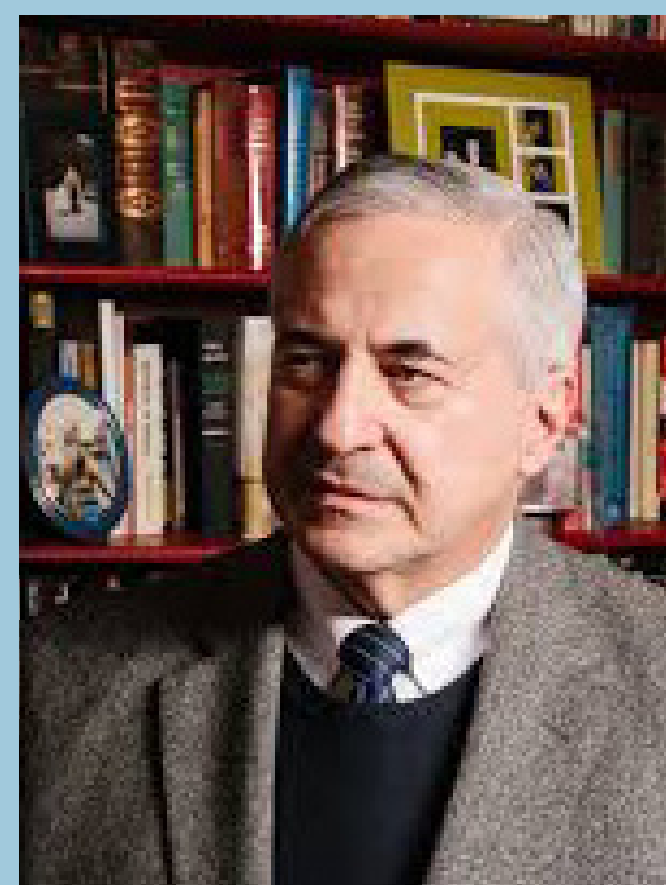
Bettina Farack studied library and information science, philosophy and Protestant theology at the Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany. She joined the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem for the Study of German-Jewish History and Culture as a librarian and archivist in 2019. Bettina Farack is currently overseeing the digitization of the archival collections of the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem.



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DR. WESLEY A. FISHER

Dr. Wesley A. Fisher is the Director of Research at the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the World Jewish Restitution Organization. Additionally, he heads the Claim Conference-WJRO Looted Art and Cultural Property Initiative, responsible for many archival projects including most recently the Jewish Digital Cultural Recovery Project (JDCRP). Wesley also directed the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of EHRI.



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FRANCESCO GELATI

Francesco Gelati (1987) attended the School of Archival Science at the Venice State Archives. He worked at the State Archives of Belgium at Brussels for the EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) project as researcher and data import manager and joined in 2019 the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History at Munich as archivist.



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DR. HAIM GERTNER

Dr. Haim Gertner is the Director of the Yad Vashem Archives and the Fred Hillman Chair for Holocaust Documentation, since 2008. He previously served as the Director of the Teacher Training Department at Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. He is among the founders and leaders of EHRI – European Holocaust research Infrastructure.

Haim has a Ph.D. in Modern Jewish History from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, followed by a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard University. He has taught at the Department of Jewish History of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at the Open University in Tel Aviv, and was Director General of an academic college in Jerusalem.



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MIHAELA GLIGOR

Mihaela Gligor, works as a Scientific Researcher in History and Philosophy of Culture, and, since 2014, has specialized in the history of interwar Romania and Jewish intellectuals of Romanian origin. Thanks to inter-academic exchange through the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Michaela was fortunate to visit the Hebrew University of Jerusalem a couple of times and work in several archives, including the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People and Yad Vashem. The results of her research were published in several volumes.

"George Baritiu" History Institute, The Romanian Academy Cluj-Napoca, Romania



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DR. ANNA HIRSH

Dr. Anna Hirsh is the Senior Archivist at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne. She is responsible for the management, documentation, research and accessibility of the historical and art collections. Her research areas include museums and memorialization, and charting migratory pathways through artefacts.



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LIOR INBAR

Lior Inbar is Director of the Continuing Education Department at the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum.

He is also a member of the museum's archives staff, where he is a content writer and reference consultant.

Lior holds an MA in history from the University of Haifa, and has published academic articles on the Holocaust and its commemoration in Israel



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JESSICA KNIGHT

Jessica Knight is a Digital Collections Manager at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. She has worked for the past decade on implementing technologies and processes for the digitization, management, preservation, and long-term, web-based access to the evidence of the Holocaust. She oversees the Museum's Digital Asset Management System, "The Vault," manages the digital preservation repository, and leads a cross-functional team to digitize the Museum's archival holdings.



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DR. ANAT KUTNER

Dr. Anat Kutner is the Director of JDC Archives in Jerusalem. She was previously a project manager at the National Library of Israel, and later directed a department of the Yad Vashem Archives. Currently, she researches the role of JDC and its work in the contemporary Jewish world and in the history of the State of Israel.



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DR. AMIR LAVIE

Dr. Amir Lavie works as an archivist at the Archives of Ontario in Canada. He holds a PhD from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Information and the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies and an M.A. in Jewish History from Tel Aviv University. He is interested in the many intersections - past and present - between archives and libraries, Jewish memory and historiography, and media and communication technologies dedicated to collection, processing, and dissemination of historical information.



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NAAMA LEIBMAN SHILO

Naama Leibman Shilo is the Head of the Remote Access Section in the Reference and Information Services Department of the Yad Vashem Archives. She previously worked in the Photo Archive Section of the Archives.

She holds an M.A. in Culture Studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

This is Naama's second year as coordinator of the EVZ-Yad Vashem international workshop.



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ZACHARY PAUL LEVINE

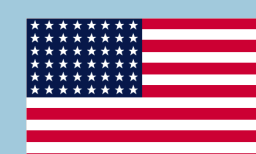
Zachary Paul Levine is Director for Archival & Curatorial Affairs in the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, DC, where he oversees all acquisition and archival processing for objects, paper and repository digital records, and time-based media. He trained as a historian of Eastern and Central Europe, specializing in Jewish history, the Cold War and international philanthropy. For over a decade, Levine has curated exhibitions, consulted on strategic and master planning, and guided collecting and project management for museums across North America, and serves as Vice Chair on the Council of American Jewish Museums.



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MICHAEL LEVY

Michael Levy is the Director of the Digital Assets Management and Preservation Division in the National Institute for Holocaust Documentation at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He has provided IT-based services and leadership for over 30 years in a variety of business, nonprofit, and government settings. He has been at the Museum for 15 years where he now leads a team responsible for providing access to the institution's extensive and varied collections catalogs and digitized historical holdings through the Museum's Collections Search, an innovative, user-friendly search, discovery, and access system. The team also oversees programs relating to digitization and digital conversion, and is currently implementing an enterprise digital assets management system (DAMS) and a separate digital preservation system. The Museum's digital holdings now comprise over 90 million unique digital files and over a petabyte of data.



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BETTINA MALKA-IGELBUSCH

Bettina Malka-Igelbusch is the Director of the Reference and Information Services Department of the Yad Vashem Archives. She holds a master's degree in Jewish Studies, History, and English Language and Literature from Cologne University in Germany, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In the past, she has worked in project development dedicated to German-Israeli cooperation in civic education, and as executive director of a Jewish Conservative congregation in Northern Jerusalem. Bettina joined Yad Vashem in 2015 as a guide in the Commemoration and Community Relations Department, and started her current position in May 2019.



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DR. RICHARD MARCIANO

Dr. Richard Marciano is a professor in the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland and founder of the Advanced Information Collaborative (AIC). His research interests center on digital curation, enabling technologies for archives, and big data. He is the 2017 recipient of the career Emmett Leahy Award for innovation in records and information management.



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DR. ALESSANDRO MATTA

Dr. Alessandro Matta is Founder and Director of Association Memoriale Sardo della Shoah (Shoah Memorial in Sardinia) in Cagliari. He is a researcher of the Shoah with a particular specialization in the representation of the Shoah and Nazi crimes in the cinema and mass-media. Alessandro's two principal research topics are: Cinema and Shoah, and antisemitic legislation and the history of the Shoah in and connected to Sardinia between 1938-1945.



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LIAD MOUSAN SHEMESH

Liad Mousan Shemesh graduated in Information Science with emphasis on Digital Humanities at the Information Science department at Bar Ilan University, and holds another M.A. from the department of Jewish Philosophy at Hebrew University. He is currently working as the Research and Public Affairs Coordinator of the Righteous Among the Nations Department at Yad Vashem. He gained experience in system librarianship and in historical archive processing while working at the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem and in the National Library of Israel. This followed years of being professionally active in the field of youth work and non-formal education in Israel, Switzerland, and Germany.



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YUVAL NAOR

Yuval Naor is a reference archivist in the Reference & Information Services, Yad Vashem Archives. He has been an archivist since 2016, mainly researching individual Holocaust victims. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in Jewish History, focusing on The Holocaust.



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ZOHAR NEUMANN

Zohar Neumann is the Deputy Director of the Archives division in Yad Vashem. She also represents Yad Vashem in the EHRI-3 (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) project, where she heads a workpackage dealing with Localization and Capacity Building.

Prior to joining Yad Vashem, Zohar served a tenure of more than 10 years with the Israel Land Authority governmental agency, and in her last position was Deputy Managing Director of the Jerusalem District. Zohar received her Bachelor of Laws degree from Tel Aviv University, and a Master of Laws and Master of Public Policy from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is also a licensed attorney in Israel.



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FRIEDERIKE NIEMANN

Friederike Niemann has a master's degree in Slavonic and cultural studies. She is Senior Project Manager in the team "Expanded" at the Foundation EVZ, which is designing new methods and forward-looking funding formats



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ERIC SCHMALZ

Eric Schmalz is the Citizen History Community Manager at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He has been the community manager for the History Unfolded: US Newspapers and the Holocaust project (<https://newspapers.ushmm.org/>) since November 2015. He oversees a review team in managing newspaper submissions to the project website, communicates with the community of volunteers, creates project resources, and helps educators effectively incorporate History Unfolded into various learning environments.



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SHYLA SELLER

Shyla Seller is the Archivist at the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre, where she was part of a team behind the development of the VHEC's web-based collections management system, <https://collections.vhec.org/>. Shyla works to increase the accessibility of the VHEC's archival, museum and testimony holdings, and is responsible for collection development, digital preservation planning and strategy, donor relations and supporting reference and research in the collection.



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KANIKA SINGH

Kanika Singh is a historian working on museums and heritage politics in contemporary India, with a particular interest in Sikh museums. She is currently Director, Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University, India.



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DR. RETO SPECK

Dr. Reto Speck is the Co-Director of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), a Senior Researcher at NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, and a Research Fellow at the Department of Digital Humanities at King's College, London. He is the Scientific Coordinator of the EHRI Preparatory Phase project which is seeking to transform EHRI from a series of projects into a permanent European organization with the mission to advance trans-national Holocaust studies by enabling access to archives, training and digital methods and tools. He is a historian with a research interest at the intersection of historiography, archival theory and digital research infrastructures.



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DORIEN STYVEN

Dorien Styven is a researcher and archivist at Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, Belgium, since 2010. She also represents Kazerne Dossin in EHRI and DARIAH. Her research focuses on hidden children and the impact of the GDPR on Holocaust commemoration



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HILLEL SOLOMON

Hillel Solomon has been the EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) Administrative Coordinator for Yad Vashem since the beginning of the project, and is also a Projects Coordinator in the Yad Vashem Archives Division. Hillel previously worked in the International Relations Division at Yad Vashem.



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GREG TOTH

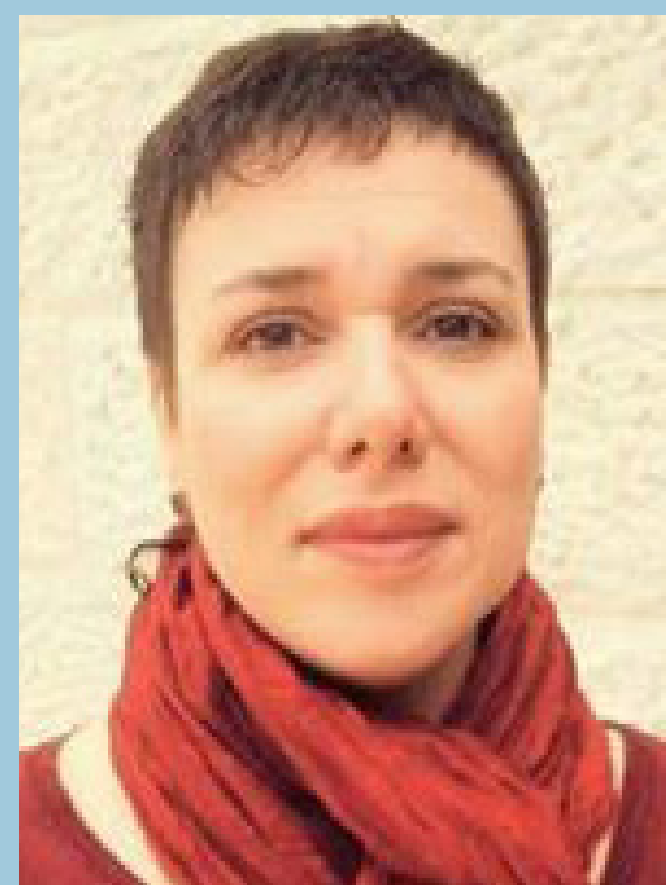
Greg Toth is the Head of Collections at The Wiener Holocaust Library, London. As Head of Collections, Greg plays a role in shaping The Wiener Holocaust Library's Strategic Plan as part of the Senior Management Team. He is responsible for the management and development of the Library's analogue and digital collections, including setting and maintaining collection management policies and procedures and establishing best practices and efficient workflows related to collections, resources, and services.



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SERAFIMA (SIMA) VELKOVICH

Serafima (Sima) Velkovich has been working at Yad Vashem for 15 years. She is a PhD Candidate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As reference archivist in the Reference and Information Department of the Yad Vashem Archives division, she works with the public. Sima lectures on the use of Yad Vashem resources for genealogical and other research to various groups, and participates in international conferences on Holocaust topics.



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NICOLE TÖDTLI

Nicole Tödtli is the head of Reference Services at the Arolsen Archives – International Center on Nazi Persecution. She holds an MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from the University of Amsterdam/NIOD and a BA in International Relations from the University of Geneva. Before coming to the Arolsen Archives, she worked as an academic trainee and as a researcher at the Mittelbau-Dora Concentration Camp Memorial.



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DPROF. TATJANA TÖNSMEYER

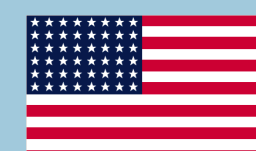
Dprof. Tatjana Tönsmeier is a professor for Modern European History. My research focuses on everyday life across Europe during World War II occupation. I have published widely on occupation; among my latest publications (together with Peter Haslinger and Agnes Laba) is: „Coping with Hunger and Shortage under German Occupation in World War II” (Palgrave 2018). Together with a team of specialists from all over Europe, I have put together a source edition “Fighting Hunger, Dealing with Shortage: Everyday Life under Occupation in World War II Europe” (out in 2021), which contains 600 sources from about 20 European languages, translated into English. At the moment we are implanting an online-portal so that these sources can be accessed digitally as well.



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LAURA WEAKLY

Laura Weakly is the Metadata Encoding Specialist at the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For the past 15 years, Weakly has worked with numerous Digital Humanities teams to ensure that projects adhere to international standards for metadata encoding. For the Nebraska Holocaust survivor portal, she is involved in creating metadata templates and training students in their use.



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DR. INGO ZECHNER

Dr. Ingo Zechner is the director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (LBIDH) in Vienna and the project coordinator of the EU-funded Horizon 2020 Innovation Action "Visual History of the Holocaust: Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age". He is a philosopher and historian.



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PROF. DAVID ZIMMERMAN

Prof. David Zimmerman is professor of military history at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. He has written a series of articles on the rescue of academic refugees from Germany and Central Europe, the most recent appeared in Yad Vashem Studies in 2018. His book, *Ensnared Between Hitler and Stalin: Refugee Scientists in the USSR*, will be published in 2021.



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GIORA ZWILLING

Giora Zwilling is the Deputy Head of the Archives Department and Head of the Archival Description Office in Arolsen Archives, Germany. He previously was the Head of the Arrangement and Digitization Department of the Yad Vashem Archives, Israel.