

Media release

Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft

Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (LBIDH)

Visual History of the Holocaust: Schedule 2022

At the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day on January 27, 2022, the international research project “Visual History of the Holocaust: Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age” (VHH) presents its schedule for 2022.

Vienna, January 24, 2022. Combining state-of-the-art concepts and practices from information sciences, museum pedagogy and digital storytelling, this project develops a new approach for the engagement with the Holocaust and its visual evidence in an age when digital technologies and the internet have profoundly transformed our concept of history.

The project focuses on filmic records produced by Allied forces in the course of the discovery of Nazi concentration camps and other atrocity sites. Although these films only capture a certain aspect of the Holocaust, some of their images have become canonical. Due to the scarcity of visual records, many of which remained unpublished or little published, a few images, often presented out of context, have shaped our collective imaginary of the Holocaust. In the course of the project these historical film recordings, which currently are dispersed across archival institutions in the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia and other former Soviet Republics, are aggregated into a digital collection. They are digitized, analyzed, annotated, and linked with photographs, text-based documents and oral history interviews, as well as with images from subsequent visual representations of the Holocaust.

Using existing and emerging technologies, including advanced digitization, automated analysis of images and text, time-based annotation and location-based services, the project provides tools to trace these images and explore how they have been used and reused. It develops strategies to discover and unlock layers of context and meaning inaccessible through traditional linear narrative modes.

Empowering people to explore the mediality of history and memory by means of digital technologies is the vision of the project.

Results and information about events are published on the project website www.vhh-project.eu on an ongoing basis.

Schedule 2022

- January 27, 2022: Publication of video presentations on the VHH Website www.vhh-project.eu
- May 9–10, 2022: VHH Conference “(Re-)Using Archival Footage in Documentary Films – Intentions, Techniques, Effects” in Frankfurt (Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum)
- September 12–14, 2022: VHH Conference “Migrating Images and Image Migration: How Popular Culture shapes the Visual History of the Holocaust” in Jerusalem (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)
- November 2022: VHH Conference “The Soviet Liberation Footage in Context” in Paris (Center for Russian, Central European and Caucasian Studies)
- November 2022: Presentation of the project results in Vienna

Project framework

The innovation action “Visual History of the Holocaust: Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age” (VHH) is funded by the European Commission’s Horizon 2020 programme with € 5 million. It commenced on January 1, 2019 and will continue until December 31, 2022. The project is coordinated by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (www.lbidh.org) together with the Austrian Film Museum (www.filmmuseum.at). The project consortium comprises 12 Austrian, German, Israeli and French research institutions, museums, memorial sites as well as technology developers, and is supported by associated partners in Europe and the United States.

Project consortium

- Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft) (AT): Coordinator
- Austrian Film Museum (AT): Co-Coordinator
- TU Wien (AT)
- Justus Liebig University Giessen (DE)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (IL)
- University of Bremen (DE)
- Center for Russian, Central European and Caucasian Studies (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) (FR)
- Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site (Stiftung Bayerische Gedenkstätten) (DE)
- Bergen-Belsen Memorial (Stiftung niedersächsische Gedenkstätten) (DE)
- Mauthausen Memorial (AT)
- Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum (DE)
- max.recall information systems GmbH (AT)

Associated partners

- National Archives and Records Administration (USA)
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USA)
- Fritz Bauer Institute (DE)

Project website

www.vhh-project.eu

Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft

The Ludwig Boltzmann Gesellschaft (LBG) initiates new research topics in the field of health and medicine in Austria. Together with academic and applying partners, the LBG currently operates 20 Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes and develops and tests new forms of cooperation between science and non-scientific actors such as companies, the public sector and civil society. Socially relevant challenges, which can be overcome with the help of research, are to be identified and addressed at an early stage. Part of the LBG are the LBG Open Innovation in Science Center, which explores the potential of open innovation for science, and the LBG Career Center, which provides services to 250 PhD students and postdocs at the LBG.

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