



2019 - 2020 Annual Newsletter


Ackerman  
Center for Holocaust Studies  
at The University of Texas at Dallas

Teaching the Past...  
Changing the Future



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
School of Arts and Humanities





**"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."**

**- President John F. Kennedy**

# Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

at The University of Texas at Dallas

## CONTACT US

800 W. Campbell Road, JO 31  
Richardson, TX 75080

Email: [holocauststudies@utdallas.edu](mailto:holocauststudies@utdallas.edu)

Phone: (972) 883-2100

Web: [utdallas.edu/ackerman](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman)

## EDITORIAL STAFF

### Designer & Content Producer

Cynthia Seton-Rogers

### Editors

Philip Barber

Bonnie Gordon

Amal Shafek

Angie Simmons

Chrissy Stanford

*Special thanks to the Ackerman Center faculty,  
staff, and students who contributed to the  
creation of our 3rd Annual Newsletter.*



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
School of Arts and Humanities



# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

---

**Dr. Nils Roemer**

---

**Interim Dean of the School of  
Arts and Humanities**

**Director of the Ackerman Center  
for Holocaust Studies**

**Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor  
in Holocaust Studies**

The pages of our annual newsletter are filled with our accomplishments during a year when we have concerns about the health and well-being of our families, friends, students, and colleagues, both here and throughout the world. In the academic year 2019-2020 we celebrated UT Dallas' 50th anniversary, hosted the inaugural Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner to honor Dr. Hobson Wildenthal and welcomed over seventy scholars and guest speakers for the 50th anniversary of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches in March.

Our center has experienced changes in our faculty as well. Our beloved founding director, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, retired after forty years of both teaching the Holocaust as well as creating a place in the world for us to continue her legacy of "Teaching the Past and Changing the Future." Thank you to all who attended her Zoom celebration party as well as sending private messages of love and gratitude. Zsuzsi is irreplaceable as you all know, and her example continues to be our guide as well as her continued work with the Center.

Additionally, this fall semester we welcome Dr. Amy Kerner as the fellow of the recently endowed Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies. Dr. Kerner combines in her research and teaching Holocaust, Latin American and Human Rights Studies. We are excited about adding her expertise to the center.



Once again the generosity and leadership of the Barnett family has greatly impacted our center. In April, we announced the new Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, which is the center's fifth endowed chair. As many of you know, the Barnetts created the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair in Holocaust Studies in 2003 paving the way for the establishment of the Ackerman Center.

Today we derive the benefits of decades of our committed friends' foresight and determination that created our center. We pride ourselves on over three decades of Holocaust teaching, research, outreach, partnerships, and international recognition. Our mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future" remains as vital as it was when we began. Today, more than ever, we need the reflective perspective and engagement with the Holocaust, antisemitism and racism, genocide and human rights. There are simple lessons that we can draw from the past for these unscripted times of strife, tension and conflict in our society. What we do and say today matters. Our choices will decide whether we will be good ancestors to the next generations. Please help us to continue our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nils Roemer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Dr. Nils Roemer**

Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

## ABOUT US

---

- 7 Who We Are
- 8 Our Vision | Our Faculty
- 9 Our University | Our Center
- 10 Advisory Board
- 12 The Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection

## EVENTS

---

- 15 Persona Non Grata Film Screening
- 16 Anlin Ku Lecture Series
- 17 History between Jews and Albanians in Kosovo
- 18 Searching for the Disappeared | Duo Mantar
- 19 Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series
- 21 Rescuing the Children: Remembering the Kindertransport
- 22 Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner
- 27 Texas Liberators Exhibit
- 29 50th Annual Scholars' Conference
- 31 Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture
- 33 Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture
- 36 Adapting to Our New Reality
- 37 State of the Center
- 38 Ackerman Center Podcast
- 40 Spring Lecture Series
- 42 Holocaust Remembrance Day
- 43 Operation Barbarossa
- 44 Anne Frank Parallel Stories

## TABLE OF



# CONTENTS

## FACULTY

---

Endowed Professorships	46
Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth	47
Dr. David Patterson	52
Dr. Nils Roemer	54
Dr. Amy Kerner	56
Dr. Debra Pfister	58
Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona	60
Dr. Sarah Valente	62
Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair	64

## STUDENTS

---

Funding the Future	67
ASC Student Support	68
Helping Our Students	69
Meet Our Students	70
Our Newest Alumni	75
Alumni Spotlight	77
Research	78

## LOOKING FORWARD

---

Increased Virtual Outreach	85
New Advisory Board Members	86
Online Teaching Initiative	87
Endowments	88
Friends of the Ackerman Center	90
What's Next?	94

# ABOUT US



**"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides."**

**Elie Wiesel**



## 2019-2020 BY THE NUMBERS

3

New Faculty Positions

2

New Endowments

28

Events

431

Students Taught

4

New PhD Graduates

34

Years Holocaust Studies  
Program at UT Dallas

71

ASC Scholars to UT Dallas  
from across the globe

33

Countries reached  
with virtual programming

Holocaust scholar and survivor, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, founded the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas with the mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." Thanks to the generous support of the University, Edward Ackerman, and numerous gifts from other visionary philanthropists, the Holocaust Studies Program grew into the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, which was created in 2006.

Today, the Ackerman Center provides undergraduate education, graduate studies, and cutting-edge faculty research in a unique facility at the center of UT Dallas' vibrant campus. The center serves as the institutional home for the prestigious Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection, the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies, the Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies, the Barbara and Stan Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies, the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professor in Holocaust Studies, and the Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies.

The center's work is also supported by a full-time research assistant professor, two visiting assistant professors, and a combination of full-time professional staff and graduate research assistants.

# Our Vision

---

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies advances Holocaust research and education. It brings together scholars, students, and community members to forge new paths in Holocaust learning to promote global human rights, to contribute toward genocide prevention in the 21st century, and to build a more just and equitable world founded on mutual respect and universal justice.

To learn how you can get involved, please view our list of upcoming events on our website, current course offerings, ongoing research projects, and other ways that you can support the important work of the Ackerman Center.

## Our Faculty

---

**Dr. Nils Roemer**

Director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies  
Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor of Holocaust Studies  
Interim Dean, School of Arts and Humanities

**Dr. David Patterson**

Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies

**Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth**

Professor Emerita  
Leah and Paul Lewis Chair in Holocaust Studies (2003 - 2020)

**Dr. Amy Kerner**

Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies

**Dr. Debbie Pfister**

Research Assistant Professor

**Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona**

Visiting Assistant Professor

**Dr. Sarah Valente**

Visiting Assistant Professor



# Our University

---

Founded in 1969, The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) began as a modest collection of research stations in a North Texas cotton field. Today, UT Dallas' footprint is vastly different, serving the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and the State of Texas as a global leader in innovative, high quality research and education. Its mission is to 1) produce engaged graduates who are well-prepared for life, work, and leadership; 2) advance excellent educational and research programs in the natural and social sciences, engineering and technology, business, and arts and humanities; and 3) transform ideas into actions that benefit the economic, social, and cultural lives of the people of Texas.



## Our Center

---

The Ackerman Center is a distinguished academic center that provides a multi-disciplinary view of the Holocaust, genocide and human rights studies. The Center offers an educational and transformative experience for our diverse student body, who carry our mission with them as educators, professionals, and leaders in America and around the world.

Our thriving academic program is complemented by a substantial outreach program that includes free public events such as teachers' workshops, film screenings, and lectures from distinguished scholars. We annually host the Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture, Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series, Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture, and the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

With the recent rise of antisemitism and human rights violations, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever in the 21st century. By advancing a continuous engagement with the past, the Ackerman Center plays a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges of global justice and peace in our world.

# ADVISORY BOARD

**David B. Ackerman, Chair**

**Selwin Belofsky, Past Chair**

**Burton C. Einspruch, Past Chair**

---

**Eddie Ackerman**

**Edward Ackerman\***

**Samantha Asch**

**Philip Barber, Student Representative**

**Miriam Lewis Barnett**

**Mark Chazanow**

**Charles Corson**

**Nina Cortell**

**Daniel Dunham, Student Representative**

**Michael Emmett**

**Timothy Ewing**

**Warren (Chip) Fagadau**

**Hill A. Feinberg**

**Alan Feld**

**Kenny Goldberg**

**Marlene Gorin**

**Steve Gundy**

**Michael E. Jaffe**

**Nancy Kasten**

**Stephen Lerer**

**Karen Levy**

**Edward Livingston**

**John H. Massey**

**Richard Massman**

**Paula Menendez**

**Richard Tyler Miller**

**David Newberger**

**Sally Belofsky Perryman**

**Stan Rabin**

**Jeffrey Robinson**

**Bert Romberg**

**Brian Rosenbloom**

**Martha Satz**

**Michael B. Schiff**

**Charlotte Wolens Schuman**

**Ron Schwarz**

**Ron Steinhart**

**Jackie Wald**

**Michael Wald**

**Herbert Weitzman**

**Alan P. Yonack**

**Donald Zale**

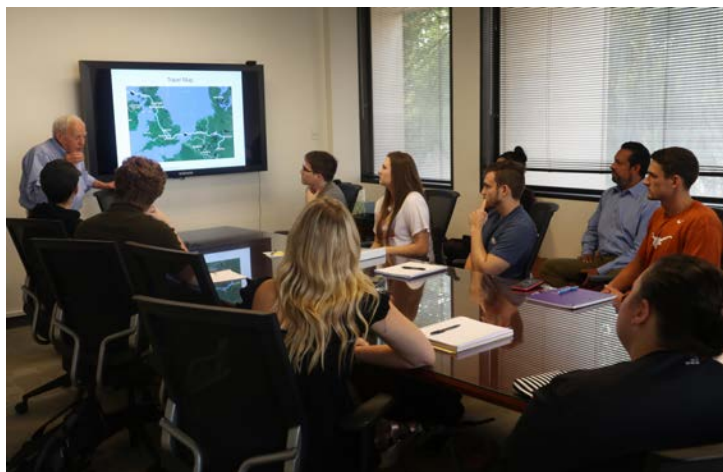
\*of blessed memory



# Ackerman Center Advisory Board

---

The members of our Advisory Board are active participants in helping us to pursue our mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." They generously donate their time by attending events, guest speaking to our classes, and sharing their valuable insight and personal connections and experiences with the Holocaust.



## Bert Romberg

---

Bert Romberg visited Drs. Roemer, Gonzalez, and Valente's co-taught undergraduate Holocaust class to share his experiences as a child of the Kindertransport, a program that saved 10,000 European Jewish refugee children during the Holocaust.

Mr. Romberg expressed concern over parallels he drew between the events of his childhood and contemporary societal issues. He emphasized the importance of sharing his story as a way to engage the public in a dialogue about hatred and discrimination and encouraged the audience to speak out against social injustices.

## Ron Schwarz

---

Ron Schwarz spoke to the same class later in the semester. Mr. Schwarz honored his father's legacy by sharing the story of how his father, Charles Schwarz, survived the Holocaust as a hidden child in France and later in Switzerland.



It is through the sharing of individual stories of survivors and their children that we can work to ensure that the legacy of the Holocaust lives on.

## New Board Members

---

The Ackerman Center is pleased to add three new members to our Advisory Board: Mark Chazanow, Nina Cortell, and Steve Gundy. Learn more on page 86.

# The Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection

---



Following a successful business career, Arnold Jaffe (left) returned to school to study the Holocaust. He had completed his Master's Degree and was pursuing a PhD at the University when he passed away.

During his studies at UT Dallas with Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, he became convinced that teaching the lessons of the Holocaust was important not just for those able to attend Dr. Ozsváth's classes, but more broadly throughout the community and beyond.

When his father died in March of 1986, Michael Jaffe worked with UT Dallas to establish the Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library. When asked about what the Jaffe Collection has become over three decades

later, Mr. Jaffe reflected, "Today we are so pleased that the library has grown to have thousands of Holocaust-related sources, and that it is accessible to students across the globe."

The Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection has grown into a distinguished collection of more than 6,000 books, videos, and digital and archival resources for scholars of Holocaust studies and for the broader public. The Jaffe Collection is a part of an international interlibrary loan program that connects thousands of libraries – public, private, academic and institutional – making the holdings of the Jaffe Collection available to researchers throughout the world.

While the bulk of the collection is housed in the University's McDermott Library, the Ackerman Center has a non-lending collection that is available for students to reference when they are in the center.

The reading room (right) in which it is housed has been a favorite place for students to gather and study since the center's current space opened in 2011.



# Mr. Michael and Dr. Elaine Jaffe

---

When Michael Jaffe and his wife, Dr. Elaine Jaffe, created the Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection in 1986, they envisioned that it would serve as a resource for students at UT Dallas to promote scholarly research, study, teach, and write about the Holocaust. Mr. Jaffe has said that the creation of the collection was made possible thanks to the invaluable help of Dr. Larry Sall, UT Dallas' former dean of libraries, who stated, "I recall with great satisfaction and pleasure working with Ed Walters, Michael and Elaine Jaffe getting the Arnold A. Jaffe Collection started and off on a sound footing. It was a labor of love and respect for all of us. Michael and Elaine could not have created a finer tribute to Arnold's memory."



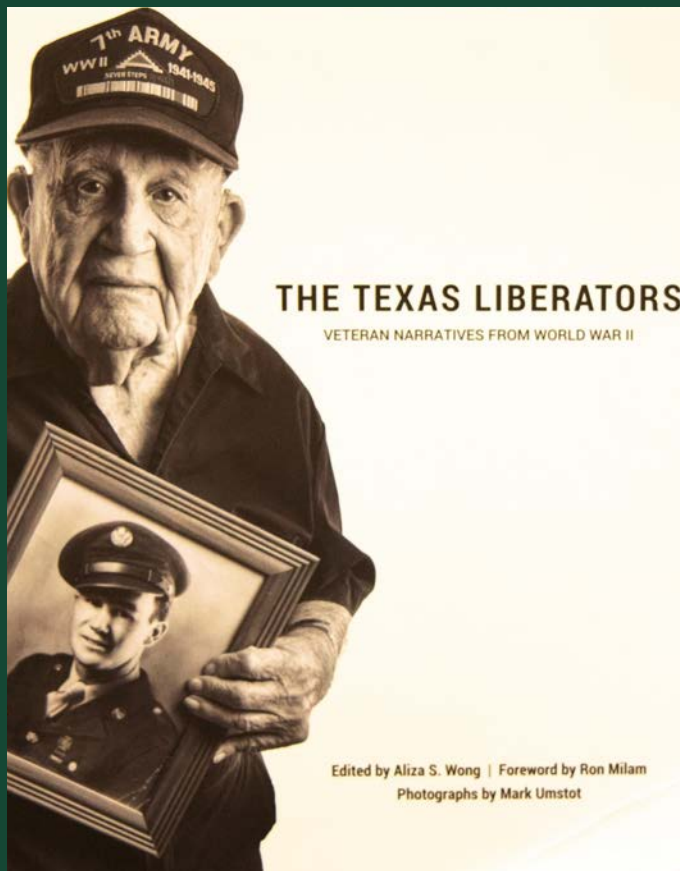
Their gift, however, did so much more than they could have imagined at the time; it set in motion the creation of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, spearheaded by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth. That program grew with the same remarkable growth as the Jaffe Collection, both of which have become important parts of the academic career of countless students at UT Dallas.

Adding to his father's legacy, Mr. Jaffe created his own endowment together with his wife. In a recent interview, Mr. Jaffe reflected on their decision to create this new endowment: "As hate speech and violence mushroomed into the awful events in Charlottesville and hate crimes in Charleston, South Carolina, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and too many other places to list them all, we were looking for a way to combat what we had seen not far from our Northern Virginia neighborhood. Sponsoring a lectureship as part of the Annual Scholars' Conference at UT Dallas offered us the opportunity to push back against the hate speech and violence that flows from it. We are pleased to have worked with the Ackerman Center to establish this annual lectureship."

Despite living in the greater Washington, DC area, they have stayed connected to the UT Dallas campus by travelling to Dallas to attend events and staying apprised of the activities of the center. The Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture is held in conjunction with the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, inviting prestigious speakers to deliver lectures that focus on the Holocaust and combating other instances of hate-inspired violence/genocide. The inaugural Jaffe Lecture was presented at this year's 50th Annual Scholars' Conference in March of 2020, and is featured on page 31.



# EVENTS



“The biggest challenge is how to tell this story in a way relevant to them today and in the future.”

Auschwitz Survivor Avraham Harshalom

# Persona Non-Grata: The Chiune Sugihara Story

August 28, 2019



Yad Vashem recognizes and memorializes the non-Jewish individuals who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. Collectively, they are known as “The Righteous Among the Nations.” Among these individuals was Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Consul stationed in Lithuania during World War II.

Against the direct orders of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, Sugihara issued thousands of

visas to Polish and Lithuanian Jews so that they could escape the Nazis.

His efforts and experiences are represented in the 2015 Japanese film, *Persona Non-Grata: The Chiune Sugihara Story*. In conjunction with AJC Dallas and the Japan-America Society, the Ackerman Center kicked off the Dallas Jewish Film Festival with a screening of the film to a crowd of more than 700 people.

The Honorable Hideo Fukushima, the Consul-General of Japan in Houston, introduced the film (above), heralding it as a monument to the relationship between Japanese-American and Jewish communities and Japan's commitment to human rights. He emphasized the film's importance in promoting the much-needed dialogue to combat persecution and racism.



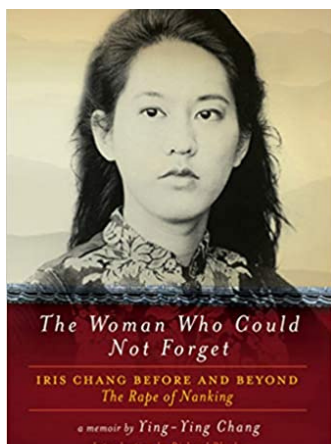
The event was held in the Edith O'Donnell Arts, Technology and Emerging Communications (ATEC) building on campus.

# 2019 Anlin Ku Lecture Series:

## The Woman Who Could Not Forget

September 27, 2019

In December of 1937, the Japanese Imperial Army invaded the Chinese city of Nanking and slaughtered thousands of Chinese soldiers and civilians in a catastrophic event now referred to as the Nanking Massacre or the Rape of Nanking. The massacre earned the latter title due to the Japanese soldiers' brutal sexual assaults of tens of thousands of women. A subject of controversy to this day, the history of Nanking became the subject of worldwide attention in part because of the ground-breaking research of the young Chinese journalist, Iris Chang.



Iris Chang's groundbreaking book on the atrocity, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of WWII*, unearthed previously unknown details about the event and remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for ten weeks. Her monumental research quest thrust her into the spotlight as a voice for the victims and an activist for justice. It would also claim her life.

The Ackerman Center partnered with the Center for Asian Studies and the School of Arts and Humanities to invite Iris Chang's mother, Dr. Ying-Ying Chang, to speak about the memoir she wrote about her daughter's experiences and life as a devoted researcher. In her lecture, "The Woman Who Could Not Forget," Dr. Chang discussed what inspired her daughter's research, written works, discoveries and activism. She also drew attention to the impact that her daughter had and the subsequent works that she inspired. Dr. Chang concluded with a short video of a performance that illustrated how the horrors her daughter uncovered continued to haunt her for the rest of her life but never stopped her pursuit for justice and truth.

The audience of more than 200 people gave Dr. Chang a standing ovation. Both her lectures and her memoir, *The Woman Who Could Not Forget: Iris Chang Before and Beyond the Rape of Nanking*, uphold her daughter's legacy and carries on her mission for giving a voice to the voiceless.





# Surviving Genocide: The History between Jews and Albanians in Kosovo

October 3, 2019

Europe's youngest country, the Republic of Kosovo, carries a reputation of being one of the most religiously tolerant nations in the world. To discuss the history of Albanians and Jews in Kosovo, the Ackerman Center hosted a special lecture event, featuring three guest speakers: Her Excellency Mrs. Teuta Sahatqija, the Ambassador of Kosovo (left); Ms. Vafije Krasniqi Goodman, a survivor of the Kosovo War (center); and Ms. Ines Dimiri, a subject matter expert on the history of Kosovo (right).



H.E. Sahatqija provided an overview of Kosovo's history from the Second World War to the present. She also shared how the Albanians in Kosovo saved not only the majority of their local Jewish neighbors but also hundreds of Jewish refugees.

Goodman, one of the 20,000 war-time victims of sexual assault, courageously came forward as the first survivor to speak publicly about what happened to her to raise awareness in search of justice.

Demiri discussed the history of Jews in Kosovo and their relationship to the Albanians. Since the 15th century, Jews were active members of a society in which Jews and Albanians lived and worked together. Their histories, Demiri explained, are inseparable.

Following the lecture, H.E. Sahatqija presented the Ackerman Center with the book, *Besa: Muslims who Saved Jews in World War II* and a photo of the Kosovo landscape.



# Searching for the Disappeared: Mexican Mothers Turning Grief into Action

October 7, 2019

On October 7th, 2019, the Ackerman Center hosted this special lecture event in conjunction with the Center for U.S.-Latin America Initiatives at UT Dallas, the Dallas Peace and Justice Center, and the University of Dallas. Dr. Pedro Gonzalez Corona, who organized the event, discussed the overwhelming climate of institutional corruption in Mexico, which forces its citizens to organize themselves for the creation of memory spaces and the construction of a network of family members who search tirelessly for the justice that the authorities never seem willing to provide.



In 2013, then 29-year-old businessman Luis Guillermo Lagunes Diaz became one of the thousands of casualties of the War on Drugs when armed assailants abducted him from his home in Veracruz. His mother, Lucía Diaz, transformed her grief

into activism. Diaz, whose son remains missing today, emphasized that missing victims who remain unnamed lose their identities and their families are deprived of closure. She encouraged advocacy and reminded the audience of the responsibility of all humans to help to prevent atrocities. Dr. Matthew Hone outlined the history of the drug wars in Mexico and its impact on civilians, many who became victims.

## Musical Performance by Duo Mantar

October 12, 2019

Jacob Reuven (mandolin) and Adam Levin (guitar) presented a program of Israeli, Jewish and Sephardic pieces as part of the UT Dallas Guitar Series.

This special performance event was presented in the Jonsson Performance Hall on the UT Dallas campus to a sold-out crowd.



# Burton C. Einspruch

## Holocaust Lecture Series

---

October 20 & 21, 2019

On October 20-21, 2019, the Ackerman Center invited Dr. Mark Roseman, the Pat M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University Bloomington, to present the annual Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series.

**Sunday, October 20th:**

**"Flowers for the Heinemanns: The Hidden History of Helping Jews in Nazi Germany."**

For the first lecture of the series, which was live-streamed via the UT Dallas YouTube channel, Dr. Roseman discussed how the roles of perpetrator, victim, and bystander shape perspectives about Jewish responses to the Holocaust. Often, people perceive the rescuer as a single individual and a unique character rather than as a collective group effort. He asserted that this view is misleading and excludes some important perspectives from historical narratives.

He further suggested that instead of focusing on the actions or motivations of a single individual, we should broaden the scope of this examination. For example, large formal social networks had access to resources and capabilities needed to feed, clothe and house not only themselves but also many Jews in hiding.



Dr. Inga H. Mussleman, the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for the University, and Dr. Nils Roemer attended a pre-event reception (left). Sunday's lecture captivated the audience (right) at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center on the UT Dallas campus.





Following his lecture, Dr. Roseman held a book-signing with his latest book, *Lives Reclaimed: A Story of Rescue and Resistance in Nazi Germany* (left). After the book-signing, Dr. Roseman met with guests during a post-event reception, including Drs. Sarah Valente and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (center) and Jane Saginaw Lerer (right).

### Sunday, October 21st:

### “Genocide in View: Holocaust Perpetrators in the Eyes of Others.”

Dr. Roseman’s second lecture examined the role of the perpetrator as viewed through the eyes of German Jews. He stressed how multiple disciplines have attempted to define or explain the perpetrator. Experiences of German Jews during the 1930s differed from the outright violence and mass murder that was experienced in the East. German Jews experienced a highly regimented legal system of persecution that served to limit their social, cultural and professional lives prior to ghettoization and deportations that allowed them to witness and to understand the nature of the Nazi state.



In this case, the perpetrators’ power focused more on the loss of social status and cultural exclusions from participation in the community rather than violence. It is this social degradation, national exclusion, and public humiliation that characterizes the experiences of German Jews within this unique space to whom Dr. Roseman refers. The meanings the victims themselves placed on these disrupted social functions and the characteristics of the perpetrators are significant in how we view their role in the history of the Holocaust.

# Rescuing the Children: Remembering the Kindertransport

October 30, 2019

Twelve days after Kristallnacht in 1938, the British government initiated legislation creating an organized rescue operation known as the Kindertransport program, which allowed roughly ten thousand Jewish children from Europe to be housed with British citizens for the duration of the war.



Dr. Phyllis Lassner, Professor Emerita at Northwestern University, discussed the experiences of the children who survived the war as part of the Kindertransport program. She expressed concern that the experiences of those who survived the Holocaust outside of the camps, ghettos and in hiding are often separated from the “traditional” Holocaust narrative. Dr. Lassner emphasized that these stories must be included to provide a more complete history of the Holocaust.

Many Kindertransport memoirs, however, mention a reluctance to share their experiences because they felt their story did not fit within the categories of survivor. Many of these memoirists also discuss their conflicting reality of watching the events of the Holocaust unfold from afar, while the authorities pressed them to forget their Jewish pasts and identities in order to conform within British society.



She remarked that these children may have escaped the experiences of deportations and camps, but they did not avoid the lasting psychological and emotional effects of the Holocaust. Many of the children lost their entire families and had no one to return to after the war.

She concluded by reiterating the need to include these Kindertransport stories into the British historical narrative. Their inclusion can serve to combat modern-day antisemitism that has erupted in the United Kingdom and across the world.



# Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner

November 17, 2019









# ACKERMAN CENTER Leadership Dinner

On November 17, 2019, the Ackerman Center honored former UT Dallas Provost and current Scholar in Residence Dr. Hobson Wildenthal with the inaugural Edward M. Ackerman Leadership Award at a dinner benefiting the Ackerman Center endowments that fund the year-round activities of the Center, including graduate student research and public outreach activities.

The Edward M. Ackerman Leadership Award is presented to an outstanding individual or group who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to promoting the education and increased awareness of the Holocaust and related human rights issues. This leadership inspires or empowers others to become involved and engaged in ways that echo the mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies: “Teaching the Past, Changing the Future.”

Director of the Ackerman Center, Dr. Nils Roemer, (below) opened the dinner with a heartwarming tribute to the center's long-time supporter and friend of blessed memory, Mr. Edward M. Ackerman: “Ed Ackerman was a singular individual. His immense



love for our students and Center was truly inspiring. He was a constant driving force who spurred transformational change at UT Dallas. Always wondering what was coming next, Ed motivated us to look toward the future and do everything we could to increase the Center's impact for students and our community. It is only fitting that this award, which will honor other leaders in our community for years to come, is named in his honor.”







Eddie Ackerman (left), Advisory Board member and son of Edward M. Ackerman, served as dinner chair alongside his wife, Beth. He gave a speech during the celebration, stating that: “Dr. Wildenthal has been integral to the development of so much at this University. As provost, interim president and executive vice president of UT Dallas, Dr. Wildenthal has given so much to our students, faculty and community throughout his life. Among his many accomplishments was the creation of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies. Dr. Wildenthal and my father made a great team. Along with the center’s leadership over the years, they built a program that is truly to be admired.”

Chancellor for The University of Texas System, James B. Milliken, gave an impassioned speech about the importance of Holocaust scholarship. He remarked, “Studying the Holocaust reminds us that the values and traditions we hold dear cannot be taken for granted – they must be actively and energetically nurtured and protected, by us. We must remember what can happen when we fail in that responsibility – when we are silent or indifferent to the suffering and oppression of others.”

Ackerman Center Advisory Board member John H. Massey (right), hosted the dinner alongside his wife, Libba. During the program, he announced that the dinner had raised more than \$1.1 million dollars. As a special surprise, he also announced that the Hillel A. Feinberg Chair of Holocaust Studies had been elevated to a Distinguished Chair. Dr. David Patterson currently holds the chair and is one of the most widely-published scholars in his field and a deserving recipient of this esteemed honor.





Rabbi David Stern (top right) provided the blessing for the dinner. Dr. Sarah Valente (bottom right), former Selwin Belofsky Fellow and current visiting assistant professor at UT Dallas, spoke of her experience at the University, remarking, “As I teach courses in history and literature of the Holocaust and on human rights to a new generation of students, I see on a daily basis the ripple effect that the Belofsky Fellowship creates ... and I feel such great joy knowing that Mr. Ackerman’s generosity and vision, and Dr. Wildenthal’s exceptional leadership will continue to positively impact generations to come.”

When accepting the award, Dr. Wildenthal downplayed his early efforts on behalf of the Holocaust Studies Program, and expressed his personal gratification from working with the center:

“Doing this particular job turned into one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” he said. “The education I received from Zsuzsanna and the great intellectuals who visited UT Dallas for the Burton C. Einspruch Lecture Series has been of immense personal value to me. I feel that I should have been paying tuition all these years, rather than being honored.”



*Nearly 300 supporters of the Ackerman Center were in attendance to honor Dr. Wildenthal.*

# The Texas Liberator: Witness to the Holocaust

---

The Ackerman Center hosted this special exhibit, which was produced by Texas Tech University with the support of the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission. The exhibit panels included an introduction to the American perspective of World War II and the rise of Naziism, but the majority of the panels chronicled individual Texas soldiers' first-hand testimony describing their experiences encountering camp survivors.

The exhibit, which was located outside of the Ackerman Center in the high-traffic skybridge between the Jonsson and Founders buildings, remained in place from late January to mid-March and garnered much attention from passersby.



## International Holocaust Remembrance Day | January 27, 2020

This year, International Holocaust Remembrance Day marked the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In commemoration of the event, the Ackerman Center held a public reception launching the timely exhibit.

Dr. David Patterson, who also serves as the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission Education Subcommittee Chair, brought the exhibit to life through sharing stories about his own interactions with veterans. He conveyed how many of the soldiers, including those who had participated in storming the beaches of Normandy on D-Day, had expressed that what they witnessed at the camps surpassed the wartime atrocities they had encountered thus far.

The Ackerman Center also hosted a second open house on February 23rd. Dr. Nils Roemer gave remarks and answered questions during this special encore event.





The exhibit was moved to the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center during the Annual Scholars' Conference, where it was shared with scholars from across the globe.







# THE 50TH ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

ON THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHURCHES

THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES at THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

**March 7-10, 2020**

## About the Annual Scholars' Conference

Founded in 1970 by Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke, the Annual Scholars' Conference addresses the historical significance of the Holocaust through scholarship that is interfaith, international, and interdisciplinary. The ASC provides an invaluable forum for scholars to discuss and advance Holocaust research, ensuring the valuable lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant for today's world. The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas is proud to be the permanent home of The Annual Scholars' Conference.

This year is a momentous anniversary for not only the Conference, but also for the University. It seems only fitting that we are celebrating fifty years of academic excellence together.



## Reflections on the 50th Anniversary of the ASC

**Dr. David Patterson, Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair in Holocaust Studies**



I remember the first time I attended the Annual Scholars' Conference in 1985. There I met many of the giants whose works I had studied. Over the years every major scholar in the field of Holocaust studies has passed through the ASC. The conference was founded in 1970, not by Jews but by two Christian theologians, Franklin Littell and Hubert Locke, both now of blessed memory.

I don't recall the exact year, but one year about thirty years ago I was invited to become a member of the Board of Advisors for the ASC. And so began a deeper engagement with this gathering not only of scholars and students but also of witnesses, of people transformed into witnesses through the testimony inherited from the eye-witnesses. And so began for me an even deeper friendship and the ever greater blessing of working with Franklin Littell, Hubert Locke, and Marcie Littell.



*Left: Drs. Roemer, Ozsváth, Patterson, and members of the UT Dallas administration signing the agreement with Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell making UTD the ASC's new permanent home.*

In 2016 I got a call from Marcia Littell. She explained to me that, after so many years, she was looking for a permanent home for the ASC.

With the indispensable support of Ackerman Center director Dr. Nils Roemer and UTD's leadership (above), it came to pass.

I propose that our continuing confrontation with the Holocaust include a renewed investigation of antisemitism from historical, religious, ideological, and other perspectives. Antisemitism is the single most definitive feature of the Holocaust, and any understanding of the Holocaust has to proceed from some key questions: What is the antisemite anti-? Why the Jews? Indeed, who are the Jews? I think a serious engagement with these few questions might be an occasion for a renewal of Holocaust scholarship in this year of renewal, the 50th anniversary of the birth of Holocaust studies.

## The History and Future of the Holocaust and its Memory

Dr. Nils Roemer kicked off the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference on Saturday, March 7th at the opening dinner, which hosted participants and invited guests. Dr. Roemer discussed the impact of the digital age on the field of historical studies. He emphasized the significance of technological innovations that have given researchers new tools and resources that have expanded the trajectory of scholarship.



This unprecedented digital era was the inspiration for this year's conference theme, "The History and Future of the Holocaust and its Memory," which featured three topic tracks: History, Memory and Thought, and Looking Forward.

# Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture

## "Defiance and Protest: Forgotten Individual Jewish Resistance in Nazi Germany"

---



Dr. Wolf Gruner presented the inaugural Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture, "Defiance and Protest: Forgotten Individual Jewish Resistance in Nazi Germany," where he discussed the idea of resistance as a group effort, rather than a consideration of individual acts on a daily basis. Dr. Gruner shared his research, which included video testimonies from survivors, where they shared their experiences of resistance on a day-to-day basis. He emphasized how, more often than not, their actions were not premeditated, but rather the result of split-second decision making in the midst of impossible circumstances.

He explained that obtaining an exact number of these acts of resistance during the war would be almost impossible because the nature of resistance is difficult to define, especially taking into consideration the varying activities regarded as opposition.

Dr. Gruner is the Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and the Founding Director of the USC Shoah Foundation Center for Advanced Genocide Research.





# The Annual Scholars' Conference After 50 Years: What Have We Learned?

Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell, immediate past president of the conference, presented the first of three lunch keynote addresses of the conference on Sunday, March 8. She discussed the origins of the ASC, highlighting the influence of prominent scholars, both then and now, who have shaped the field of Holocaust studies.

The conference now brings scholars from all parts of the world together to discuss issues related to Holocaust history, remembrance, and education in ways that were unimaginable fifty years ago when this conference was founded.

Dr. Littell emphasized the importance of furthering our understanding of the Shoah, and how the future of the discipline is now in the hands of the next generation of scholars, such as those in attendance for this momentous conference.



---

This year's milestone 50th Annual Scholars' Conference was expanded to include a fourth day, which allowed for more presenters than ever, bringing over seventy scholars from around the globe together to present their current research and discuss both the past and the future of Holocaust studies.



# Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture

## "Holocaust Childhood: Wounds that Never Heal"

---

In a special public event in conjunction with the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, Robert Ratonyi presented the Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture, "Holocaust Childhood: Wounds that Never Heal," where he shared his experience of growing up as a Jewish child in Hungary during the Holocaust. He was introduced by his wife, Eva, a 1976 UT Dallas alumna who is also a Hungarian Holocaust survivor.

In March of 1944, Ratonyi was only six years old when the Final Solution was implemented in Hungary at an accelerated pace not seen in any other country during the Holocaust. Between May 15th and July 9th, approximately 440,000 Hungarian Jews were deported to Auschwitz; most were killed upon arrival.



Ratonyi opened his discussion with two questions: how did the Holocaust happen in an era of culture and intellect that still allowed the perpetration of Nazi atrocities, and in the aftermath of the Holocaust, how can we prevent future genocides?



Recalling the summer of 1944, he discussed the cruelty of the Arrow Cross militia that terrorized the ghetto population into submission and the conflicting realities of a war that was ending in the west while the nightmare facing the Jews of Hungary was only just beginning.

He concluded his lecture by providing answers to the questions he posed earlier, remarking that one should never stand silent to the suffering of others. He expressed concerns about world-wide rising antisemitism as one reason he chooses to continue to tell his story, in the hope that his experience can help to combat the diseases of the heart like racism, discrimination and antisemitism that contributed to the Holocaust.

## New Digital Studies of the Holocaust



The second day of the conference began with a special panel presentation titled “New Digital Studies of the Holocaust” that discussed an ongoing innovative collaborative research project currently underway at the Ackerman Center.

Dr. Roemer leads the interdisciplinary team (left) Dr. Sarah Valente, Shefali Sahu, Amal Shafek, and Piyush Kamdar.

Each member presented his/her contribution to the project, which aims to introduce new ways of seeing and remembering the Holocaust. Visualizing the deportations of Jewish victims from countries on the periphery, such as Western Europe, North Africa, and Latin America, opens up windows into the entirety of the Holocaust.

This ongoing research project is discussed in further detail on pages 78 - 79.

---

## The Role the Holocaust Plays in Interfaith Relations: Opportunities and Risks

Ackerman Advisory Board member Rabbi Nancy Kasten and Rev. Dr. George Mason from Faith Commons, an organization dedicated to promoting interfaith cooperation, facilitated a discussion on the role that the Holocaust plays in interfaith relations following lunch on the second day of the conference.



Participants were divided into small groups and asked to respond to a series of questions intended to generate discussions about how Holocaust studies in general, and the Annual Scholars’ Conference in particular may contribute to developing responses, adaptations, and resistance to current assaults on civil society.

One participant shared that the study of the Holocaust prepares us to resist assaults on civil society even in their infancy, realizing that it is much easier to address such assaults while they are still small and before they have the opportunity to mature.



# The Eternal Flame Award

This prestigious honor is given to acknowledge individuals whose words and actions have endeavored to assure that we remember the horrific past and the murder of six-million Jews during the Holocaust and to build a better future for all humanity.

Dr. Martin Rumscheidt, this year's Eternal Flame Award recipient, taught at the University of Windsor in Ontario and Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. The primary foci of his teaching and research are German Protestant theology in the 19th and 20th centuries, theologians Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Shoah, and increasingly the possibilities of new Jewish-Christian relations.



---

## 75 Years Later:

### The Enduring Legacy of the Nuremberg Trials



Ben Ferencz, Chief Prosecutor at the Einsatzgruppen Trial, spoke as part of a keynote panel to attendees of the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches via Skype during a special presentation. Michael Bazyler, Professor of Law at Chapman University, moderated the session and delivered a lecture on "The Road to Nuremberg."

Following presentations by Michael S. Bryant and Kristen Nelson on The International Military Tribunal and the legacy of Nuremberg, Ferencz spent half an hour answering questions from Bazyler and members of the audience.

Ferencz stated that it only took him two days to rest his case and convict each of the Einsatzgruppen defendants of crimes against humanity, and that "instead of being ashamed of what they had to do, killing all the Jewish children, they boasted about it...no one, no one, showed any signs of remorse at any time."

Ferencz celebrated his 100th birthday the day following the conference. Those present at this special presentation sang "Happy Birthday" to Ferencz before the close of the session.

# Adapting to Our New Reality

---



This spring we, like the rest of the world, found ourselves facing a great deal of uncertainty regarding the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The University extended Spring Break by one week, during which time the administration, faculty, and staff created a plan to transition entirely to remote learning.

President Richard C. Benson was clear about what led him to make this difficult decision in his March 20th statement: "There is no higher priority than the safety and welfare of our UT Dallas community." In the weeks and months since, that commitment to the health and safety of our faculty, staff, and students continues to be at the forefront of the Ackerman Center's priorities.

In addition, all non-essential UT Dallas employees began to work remotely. These transitions were made possible because of the existing resources in place and extensive training made available by the University.

The rapidly-evolving situation required us to adapt quickly on multiple levels. The Ackerman Center remained committed as ever to our mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." To that end, we immediately began exploring various ideas to develop and present virtual events in order to continue to teach the history, legacies, and lessons of the Holocaust.

Dr. Nils Roemer worked closely with the staff and faculty of the School of Arts and Humanities and the Ackerman Center to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. "The Ackerman Center has adjusted exceptionally well to the need for social distancing and remote learning. Our teaching proceeds, our lectures continue and we have hosted large virtual public events. In these difficult times, we are also learning new things that will help us in the future with our mission of Teaching the Past and Changing the Future," Dr. Roemer says.

The result was unexpected. As our programming went virtual, we were able to reach larger audiences than ever. The Ackerman Center Podcast was developed, and its weekly episodes are increasingly popular with listeners from across the globe.

# State of the Center

---

April 17, 2020

Dr. Nils Roemer led a virtual discussion during a special live-streamed event where he discussed the current situation regarding the University and the Ackerman Center's transition to online classes and programming due to COVID-19.

He discussed the impact of the virus and the subsequent quarantine from his unique position as both a professor



and interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. He emphasized that the system-wide efforts of University faculty and administration to quickly implement a web-based system for transitioning courses and public events into an online format that was accessible for students and staff during this period of uncertainty was nothing less than a show of strength from the UT Dallas community.

His presentation focused on how the Ackerman Center has not only risen to the challenges of our new reality but has exceeded expectations on multiple levels. He mentioned that the transition has introduced new and exciting ways of virtual engagement with Holocaust study, including the inception of the Ackerman Center hosting virtual events, where audiences from all around the globe can tune in, ask questions and engage with other online attendees.

Dr. Roemer emphasized how rewarding this experience has been for him, explaining that he has a renewed understanding about teaching gained through the insight that has come from interacting with students via online learning. He highlighted how during a time of uncertainty in the midst of the COVID-19 virus, the creation of tools for adaptive teaching and learning environments has succeeded in bringing UT Dallas together with the larger world-wide community.

After his discussion, Dr. Roemer answered questions from online participants, which included current and former students, advisory board members, and members from both the UT Dallas and the general community. The cyber meeting was, in itself, representative of the successful transition to an online format and an exemplary example of the variety of web-based communication platforms that have been utilized for distance learning.



# Ackerman Center Podcast

## Navigating New Realities

The Ackerman Center Podcast is an exciting new platform the center has adopted to foster connections while we adhere to social distancing measures. During the extended spring break in March, Dr. Sarah Valente strategized new ways to create a sense of community for Ackerman Center students, staff, faculty, and friends. She sought to innovate the ways in which the public could engage with the center while all the usual in-person events pivoted to a new online dimension.

The idea to create the podcast occurred to Dr. Valente while she listened to various educational podcasts during spring break. With Dr. Nils Roemer's enthusiastic approval and participation, Dr. Valente launched the podcast's first episode two weeks later.

The podcast is set to reach Episode 20 on the first week of the new academic year. As Dr. Roemer noted, "The new podcast is a very exciting opportunity to enter into conversations with our friends. I am a big believer in looking for new opportunities whatever they are."

The podcast episodes are grouped into thematic series, the first of which was anchored around the PBS show, *World on Fire*. These seven episodes were structured in two parts: the first segment focused on current Ackerman Center



activities, events, and sharing of teaching experiences during social distancing; the second segment focused on a single episode of the show. Dr. Roemer and Dr. Valente discussed historical considerations of how the show depicted the outbreak of World War II, moral dilemmas that emerged, rapid changes as the war advanced, the significance of the Battle of Dunkirk, and the Nazi occupation of Paris in the summer of 1940.

In the "New Connections" series, Drs. Roemer and Valente recorded episodes featuring directors of Holocaust and human rights centers, museums, and organizations around the United States.



As the podcast seeks to be an open platform of communication, reflection, and connection between our community and ideas, the professors dedicated a series of episodes to reflecting on social issues of our time and how they relate to the past. In the wake of George Floyd's death, Drs. Roemer and Valente focused their discussion on Civil Rights and Jewish leader Dr. Joachim Prinz, rabbi of the Jewish community in Berlin under the Hitler regime, who worked tirelessly alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to fight for justice and equality in the U.S. In another episode, they discussed the historical parallels in the rise of

antisemitism in moments of crisis such as in Germany in the 1930s and in the U.S. during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

The special three-part series "Portraits of World War II" featured longtime legends at UT Dallas, beloved professors in the School of Arts & Humanities, and brilliant scholars in their fields: Dr. Rainer Schulte, Prof. Fredrick Turner, and Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth.

Each week, these professors reflected on their childhood memories and discussed the ways in which World War II marked their lives in Germany, England, and Hungary, as well as their trajectory as immigrants to the U.S.



To learn more about the Ackerman Center Podcast, please visit our webpage [www.utdallas.edu/ackerman/virtual-outreach](http://www.utdallas.edu/ackerman/virtual-outreach) and follow us on Instagram @holocaustpodcast. The podcast episodes are available on demand on all podcast platforms, including Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts.

# Spring Lecture Series

**Dr. David Patterson: March 29, 2020**

## The Devil and the Jews, 15<sup>th</sup> Century



Dr. David Patterson kicked-off our annual Spring Lecture Series on March 29 with a presentation titled "Antecedents of Antisemitism during the Middle Ages." This year, however would be different from years past.

Though our current quarantine necessitated that the lecture be held virtually, nearly one

hundred people attended online via the conferencing platform WebEx for this groundbreaking event.

Dr. Roemer welcomed attendees and introduced Dr. Patterson, who lectured for an hour before answering questions from viewers. Dr. Patterson explained that antisemitism among Christians and Muslims emerged very early in the formation of both religions. He focused particularly on Christian manifestations of antisemitism during the Middle Ages, including the First Crusade in 1096, which resulted in widespread massacres of Jews.

A little more than a century later, in 1215, Pope Innocent III issued a decree during the Fourth Lateran Council ordering the wearing of yellow badges to identify Jews, a practice that was centuries later adopted by the Nazis.

According to Dr. Patterson, Jews were blamed in the 14th century for the Black Death that decimated the population of Europe. "Jews were not dying at the same rate as Christians because Jewish law required a particular washing of hands when waking, before eating, before prayer, when handling holy books ... and Jews were meticulous about disposal of human waste. So, they weren't dying in the same numbers and were blamed for the contagion."

During the question and answer session that followed his lecture, Dr. Patterson emphasized that, in some instances, the best way to address antisemites is simply to "not engage in debate because it legitimizes their position. There is no intellectual engagement with someone whose point of view is driven by hatred. The purpose of propaganda is not to inform or persuade. In Hitler's own words, the purpose is to incite wrathful hatred."



# Spring Lecture Series

Dr. Nils Roemer: April 19, 2020

Dr. Nils Roemer lectured on “Faust and Mephistopheles in German History” during the second installment of our Annual Spring Lecture Series. He began his lecture by explaining that the legend of Faust has penetrated every cultural space, though representations and interpretations have not been uniform.



He asserted that Goethe's *Faust*, originally published in 1808, was neither about Jews and Germans nor was it antisemitic. Though the text would later become associated with such prejudice and appropriated to promote Nazi ideology, such a reading is "one that must be forced upon the text," Dr. Roemer insisted, adding "while this view was important for Nazi propaganda, it has not been a particularly popular one."

Contrary to Nazi depictions of Mephistopheles as a Jewish devil, Dr. Roemer explained that, in Goethe, he "is seen in many ways as a quite positive character... [he] is a cultivated, witty, and cynical exponent of materialism and nihilism. He is skeptical, but his observations about humanity and the universe are usually right." Thus, this Mephistopheles is quite at odds with later characterizations of him as a Jewish world-menace.

Nonetheless, antisemitic interpretations of Faust appeared as early as 1862 with the publication of "The Jew Eater," a satirical response to Wilhelm Marr, who coined the term "antisemitism" to distinguish modern hatred of the Jews from earlier religious Jew-hate, and who was, at the time, editor of the newspaper *Mephistopheles*.

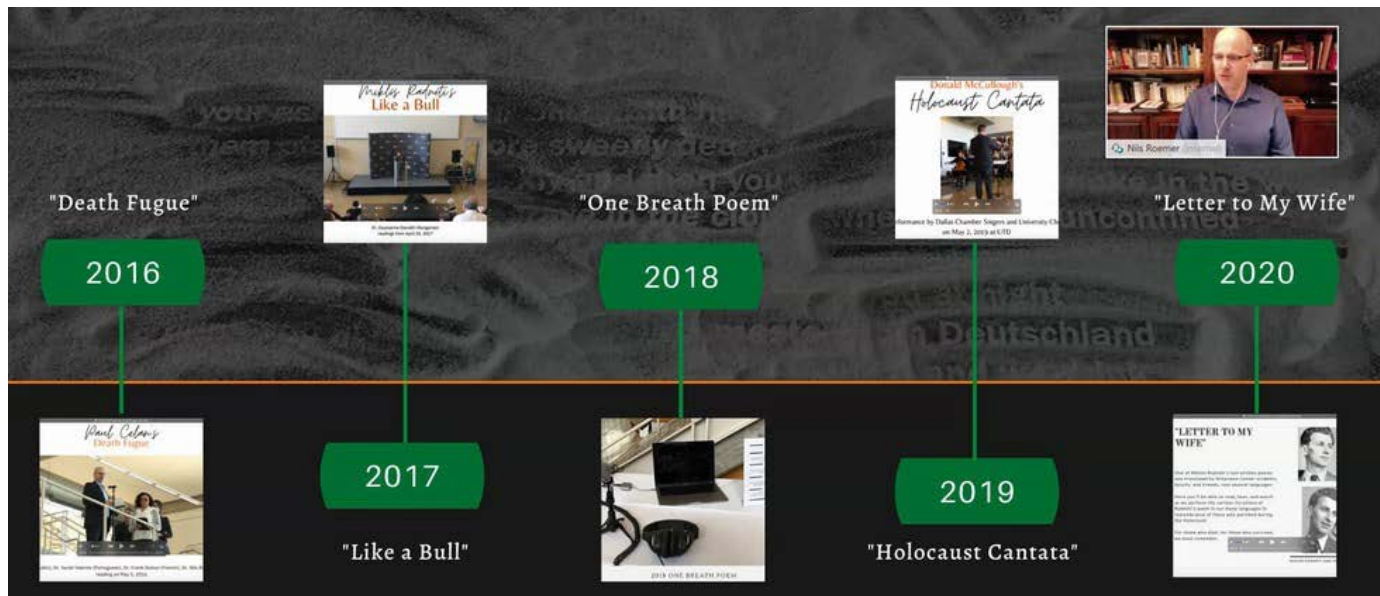
Dr. Roemer mentioned also that Hitler himself wrote about Faust and Mephistopheles in *Mein Kampf*, characterizing their relationship as one representative of the opposition between Germans and Jews.

During the question and answer session, Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth provided the insight that "one of the main points of Goethe's *Faust* is that the dangers we face are often so intertwined with that which can save us that they are often one and the same."

# Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 21, 2020

The Ackerman Center's observation of Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, has become a hallmark event that has grown every year in size and scope. This year, however, plans that had been put into motion before the pandemic had to be reevaluated and adjusted. The center never considered canceling the event, but we decided rather to search for a way to convert the event into a digital format.



*Dr. Roemer shared the history of the annual event (above), recounting some of the major translation and performance projects that have been featured over the years.*

While the new world of social distancing spurred changes across the world and the University, the need to transition to a virtual event presented the opportunity to transform a local event into a global one. International participants and attendees from places such as Israel, Brazil, Mexico, and Kuwait were able to take part in the event, as well as many others from across the United States.

For nearly four hours, participants read selections of poetry and excerpts of prose in over a dozen languages, including German, Hungarian, Arabic, Hindi, and American Sign Language. Other highlights included survivor testimony and a reading of an excerpt from the opening statement made by chief prosecutor Benjamin Ferencz at the Einsatzgruppen Trials in 1947.

Dr. Roemer also unveiled a new webpage ([www.utdallas.edu/ackerman/holocaust-remembrance-day](http://www.utdallas.edu/ackerman/holocaust-remembrance-day)) that is dedicated to the annual event. In addition to being the new home of the translations that have resulted from our ongoing translation workshops, video compilations of some of the highlights from past events have been added. You can learn more about our work translating key Holocaust poems into multiple languages on page 80.

# Operation Barbarossa

June 22, 2020

June 22, 1941 marked a significant turning point in World War II with the German invasion of the Soviet Union, codenamed “Operation Barbarossa.” On the 79th anniversary of the invasion, Dr. Nils Roemer explored the significance of this event and the role that it played in the escalation of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust.



At the beginning of his lecture, Dr. Roemer explained that, despite a prevailing assumption that the Holocaust arose from the euphoria of successful German conquest, it was actually the failure of the German Army to secure a swift victory against the Soviet Union that ultimately “shifted the decision-making process toward the Holocaust in the way it was conceived and in the way in which it was planned.”

Dr. Roemer pointed to Göring’s authorization of Heydrich to develop a “total solution of the Jewish question” in July of 1941 as perhaps one of the earliest indications that foreshadow the Holocaust.

Several other key events, occurring in September and October of 1941 further indicated the movement from genocide to the Holocaust: the decree requiring all Jews to wear a yellow star, Hitler’s authorization for the deportation of German Jews, and the ban on Jewish emigration. Additionally, though ultimately postponed



until January 1942, the Wannsee Conference had been originally scheduled for the fall of 1941. It is at this time, Dr. Roemer says, that “we see many of the building blocks [of the Holocaust] slowly coming together.” Indeed, “There is a chronology that seems to be constantly moving in the direction of radicalizing,” and Operation Barbarossa is “right in the middle of this chronology” Roemer concluded.

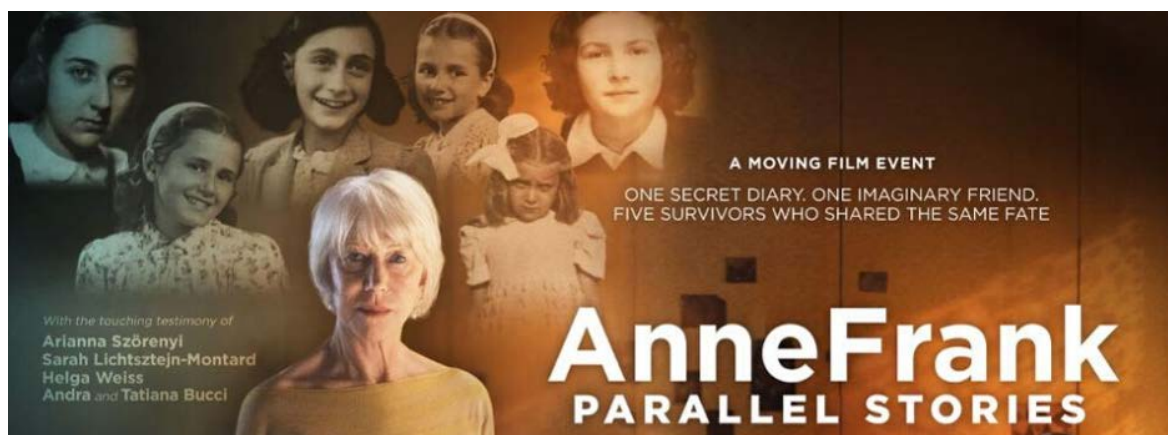


# Anne Frank Parallel Stories:

## A Live Conversation with Drs. Nils Roemer & Sarah Valente

---

July 16, 2020



The Ackerman Center hosted its first-ever live podcast event, “*Anne Frank Parallel Stories: A Live Conversation with Dr. Nils Roemer and Dr. Sarah Valente.*” The professors discussed the new documentary film *Anne Frank Parallel Stories*, which was released in early 2020 and was released July 1 on Netflix.

Drs. Roemer and Valente mapped their conversation in the format of the podcast episodes: Dr. Valente initiated the questions and guided the conversation as Dr. Roemer provided insightful responses that engaged the audience as well. Their discussion centered around the portrayal of Holocaust memory in the film and the use of social media as a tool of remembrance in the 21st century.

They also discussed the importance of the voices of the five women who survived the Holocaust and are featured in the film. Through the Italian, French, and Czech survivors, who are about the same age Anne Frank would be today if she had survived, the viewers learn about their experiences in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

Through these survivors’ narratives we are able to follow how their memories of the war years in concentration and death camps was passed down to their children and grandchildren, and the important role Anne Frank’s diary also played in their lives.

At the end of the event, the professors opened the conversation up to questions from the audience. A few of the questions were included in the episode as well. Dr. Valente commented that, “It was definitely different recording an episode in front of almost seventy people. We were mindful of creating an open space for conversation with the audience, and I was happy to receive such positive feedback afterwards.”

# FACULTY



**"The Holocaust is one of the most important events of our time, which is why we have dedicated ourselves to teaching it."**

**Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth**

# Endowed Professorships

---

The Ackerman Center is proud to announce that in addition to a full-time research assistant professor and two visiting assistant professors, we will have five endowed faculty positions with the addition of the Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. You can learn more about this new chair on pages 64 - 65.

- 
- 2003 ● Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies**
  - 2008 ● Hillel A. Feinberg Chair of Holocaust Studies\***
  - 2010 ● Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies**
  - 2017 ● Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies**
  - 2020 ● Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies**

*\*became a distinguished chair in 2019*



# HONORING A LEGEND

**Dr. Zsuzsanna  
Ozsváth**



The retirement of Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, the founding director of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, has left behind a legacy of transformed lives and the creation of a program that has grown beyond her dreams.

In the course of her decades of teaching, research, and writing at the University, she became a fixture across campus and within the School of Arts and Humanities. UT Dallas provost, Dr. Inga H. Musselman, reflected, "Zsuzsi has brought so much to the UT Dallas campus. Students, faculty, staff and community members have been enthralled by her stories and her extensive knowledge of not only the Holocaust, but also of European literature." The impact that she has had on her students over the years is immeasurable, and she has no plans to let retirement stop her. She will continue to work with students as a professor emerita.

# Zsuzsanna OZSVÁTH

---



In her poignant memoir, *When the Danube Ran Red*, Dr. Ozsváth describes her life as a young girl in Hungary during the Holocaust. She discusses her family being forced into the ghetto and later her time in hiding from the Nazis. She and her family survived due to the selfless actions of their former nanny, Erzsi, who risked her own life to save theirs. Although this is a story of survival, Dr. Ozsváth intimately narrates the painful loss of her extended family members, school classmates, and of the countless number of Jews who were shot into the river until the water turned red.



Thinking back to this period in our life, I remember that my mother suddenly felt the urge to tell me about her life and family, both of which, she said, she wanted me to know about now, because—and she looked at me crying—nobody can foresee the future. Hence, she said, I must know about the past.



Excerpt, *When the Danube Ran Red* (2010)

- **1934**  
Zsuzsanna Abonyi is born
- **1944**  
Nazi invasion of Hungary
- **1950**  
Zsuzsanna marries Istvan Ozsváth
- **1956**  
Ozsváths flee to Germany during the Hungarian Revolution
- **1962**  
The Ozsváths immigrate to Texas
- **1983**  
Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth joins the UT Dallas faculty
- **1986**  
Dr. Ozsváth founds the Holocaust Studies Program
- **2003**  
Dr. Ozsváth named the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair
- **2020**  
Dr. Ozsváth retires; named professor emerita

Dr. Ozsváth joined UT Dallas as a visiting assistant professor in 1983, initially teaching 19th- and 20th-century literature and history classes. Shortly thereafter, she began teaching courses about the Holocaust. “It was an incredible blessing that UTD had an interdisciplinary arts and humanities department, so that I could teach courses in literature, aesthetic history and the Holocaust,” she said.

It was at that time that she met and formed a life-long partnership with Prof. Fred Turner (pictured right in Budapest, Hungary). The duo collaborated on translating poetry and prose from both Hungarian and German, resulting in several publications and prestigious awards including the Milán Füst Prize (Hungary’s highest literary honor). “In our work over 30 years translating together, Zsuzsi has been to me an inspiration, a teacher and a friend — the very image of the kind of colleague that one hopes for in the academy,” Turner said.



She was the driving force behind the creation of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas in 1986. “I started to study the entirety of the Holocaust. I was aware of every detail and began to publish and teach on the topic,” she said. “After I started teaching, there were more and more students wanting to take the courses, so we added more and more classes.”



Her experience living in Budapest during the Nazi occupation of Hungary and the Holocaust deeply impacted her work and her teaching, but it did not define her. She chose not to focus on her own personal history when teaching the Holocaust, but rather to share her unique perspective with her students to further their understanding and connection to the subject.

Dr. Nils Roemer (left) remarked, “Beloved by colleagues, students and the wider community, Zsuzsi is an inspiring scholar and a devoted teacher for which we are all the better for knowing.”





She was appointed in 2003 as the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies, a position which she continued to hold until her retirement. The then Provost of UT Dallas, Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, commented at the time, "The Holocaust Studies Program, with its combination of scholarly research, education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and its distinguished lecture series, is one of the distinguishing hallmarks of UTD. The program's success is a result of Dr. Ozsváth's passionate dedication and charismatic leadership, and the creation of the Lewis Chair is a highly fitting tribute both to her and the program."

Mr. Edward Ackerman, who is shown below with Drs. David Patterson, Roemer, and Ozsváth, made the lead gift in the creation of the Ackerman Center in 2006. Reflecting on the transformation of the program that she created, Dr. Ozsváth remarked, "The center has been a wonderful fulfillment of dreams and one that will become ever more fulfilled. It is absolutely fantastic."

Dr. Patterson, the Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies, credits Dr. Ozsváth for his coming to UT Dallas in 2010. "Professionally and personally, dearest friend that she is, I owe Zsuzsi everything. All I can do to repay a small measure of the debt I owe her is to follow her example of learning, teaching, and the profound love that she has for her students."

In 2016, the University and friends of the Ackerman Center came together to honor Dr. Ozsváth at a special award dinner, *An Evening with Zsuzsi*. Co-chairs of the dinner, Mitchell L. Barnett and Miriam Lewis Barnett, are pictured above with Dr. Ozsváth at the event. They created the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair in honor of Mrs. Barnett's late parents. This benefit dinner established the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund, which has since supported several students to conduct and present their original research around the world.

Dr. Roemer has witnessed the effect she has on those who meet her many times over their years working together. "She's a special person, and everyone feels that." Her passion has always been, and continues to be, her students: "I love the interaction with the students, and I love to teach every single day. My teaching has brought me tremendous satisfaction and happiness," she said. "I will very much miss teaching."





She is something that many humanities faculties across the country lack: a symbol of what the humanities are all about. And since the soul of any university is its humanities faculty, she is in some measure part of the soul of UTD. Generations of students have learned from her the art of understanding moral complexity and the efficacy of creative and innocent play in the face of death. She represents in her person the tragic history of old Europe, its music, its literature and its tradition of suffering: beauty, powerless in worldly terms, opposed to oppression.”

- Prof. Fred Turner



## Celebrating Zsuzsi

### August 30, 2020

On the eve of her retirement, more than one hundred friends from around the world joined us to commemorate the life and career of this beloved educator, mentor, and friend. Guests included President and Mrs. Richard Benson, Provost Inga H. Musselman, Dr. Hobson Wildenthal, and several members of University administration both past and present. Also on the call were many prior students and life-long friends. Her brother, Ivan, joined the event from Hungary, and her children, Peter and Kathleen, also spoke at the event.

Also in virtual attendance was the UT Dallas mascot, Temoc. Dozens of "Pop Thoughts" were mailed out to friends from the University and community, which allowed people to hold up sentiments such as "I ♥ Zsuzsi" and "Congrats!" during the event. Temoc (right) had a larger version.



Dr. Roemer and UT Dallas Provost Inga H. Musselman unveiled the newly-named "Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Room" during the live celebration (left). This classroom, JO 4.708, is where Dr. Ozsváth taught the majority of her classes in recent years.

# Dr. David Patterson

---

## Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies



David Patterson is the Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas. With degrees in philosophy (BA, Oregon, 1972) and in comparative literature (MA, PhD, Oregon, 1976, 1978), Professor Patterson taught at the University of Memphis, where he held the Bornblum Chair in Judaic Studies, as well as at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oregon. He also served as the Sutton Chair in Humanities at the University of Oklahoma and as a Visiting Professor at Pepperdine University. In fall 2019 he taught a graduate seminar on Jewish literature, and in spring 2020 he taught graduate seminars on the Holocaust and on Holocaust literature. He also served on eleven PhD dissertation committees in the 2019-2020 academic year.

He has taught courses on Holocaust literature, the Holocaust, Israel, Jewish thought, Judaism, Jewish literature, and others. A member of the World Union of Jewish Studies, Jewish American and Holocaust Literature, and the Association for Jewish Studies, Professor Patterson has delivered lectures at numerous universities and community organizations on six continents.

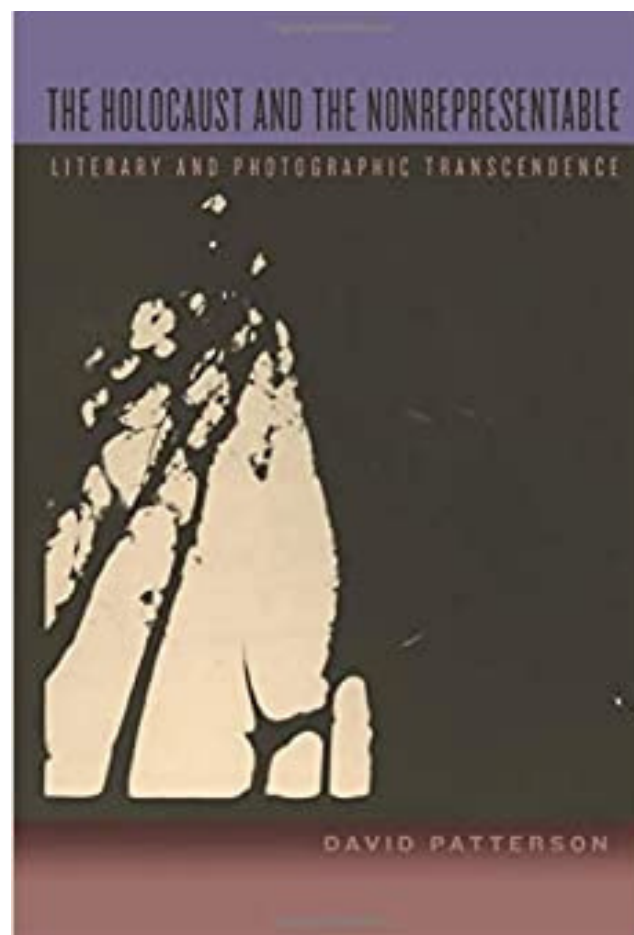
He serves on the International Board of Scholars for Facing History and Ourselves, the Executive Board for the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and Church Struggle, the International Executive Board of Academic Advisors for the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy, and the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.





In 2019 – 2020 he delivered lectures for the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy at Oxford, the Elie Wiesel Foundation, the Kornbleet Lecture for the Fort Worth Jewish Federation, the Academic Engagement Network, the Global center for Research on Religion, and the Sapienza University in Rome. Dr. Patterson also delivered nineteen invited lectures in the Dallas area.

A winner of the National Jewish Book Award, the Koret Jewish Book Award, the Holocaust Scholars' Eternal Flame Award, and other honors, Professor Patterson has published more than 35 books and more than 220 articles and chapters in journals and books in Holocaust studies, philosophy, literature, and Judaica. His most recent books include *Shoah and Torah* (forthcoming); *The Hasidic Legacy of Elie Wiesel* (forthcoming); *The Holocaust and the Nonrepresentable* (2018); *Anti-Semitism and Its Metaphysical Origins* (2015); *Genocide in Jewish Thought* (2012); *A Genealogy of Evil:*



*Anti-Semitism from Nazism to Islamic Jihad* (2011); *Emil L. Fackenheim: A Jewish Philosopher's Response to the Holocaust* (2008); *Wrestling with the Angel: Toward a Jewish Understanding of the Nazi Assault on the Name* (2006); *Along the Edge of Annihilation: The Collapse and Recovery of Life in the Holocaust Diary* (1999); and *Sun Turned to Darkness: Memory and Recovery in the Holocaust Memoir* (1998).

He is the editor and translator of the English edition of *The Complete Black Book of Russian Jewry* (2002) and a major contributor and co-editor (with Alan L. Berger and Sarita Cargas) of the *Encyclopedia of Holocaust Literature* (2002), as well as co-editor (with John K. Roth) of *Fire in the Ashes: God, Evil, and the Holocaust* (2005) and *After-Words: Post-Holocaust Struggles with Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Justice* (2004).

# Dr. Nils Roemer

---

## Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies

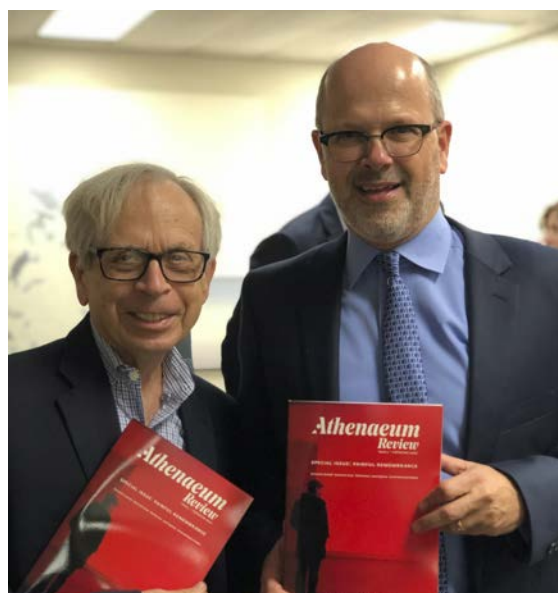


Dr. Nils Roemer is the director of the Ackerman Center, the Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor in Holocaust Studies, and a recipient of the Eternal Flame Award. Additionally, in August 2019, he was appointed Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. He is a board member of the Leo Baeck Institute in London, co-editor of *Germanic Review*, and a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Cultural Encounters, Conflicts & Resolutions*.

In the last year, Dr. Roemer advanced his work on two book-length studies. He completed a new book that examines Jewish travel and travel writing and furthered his research regarding the Holocaust during the last years of the Third Reich that investigates the continuation of genocide as a radicalization of an apocalyptic program.

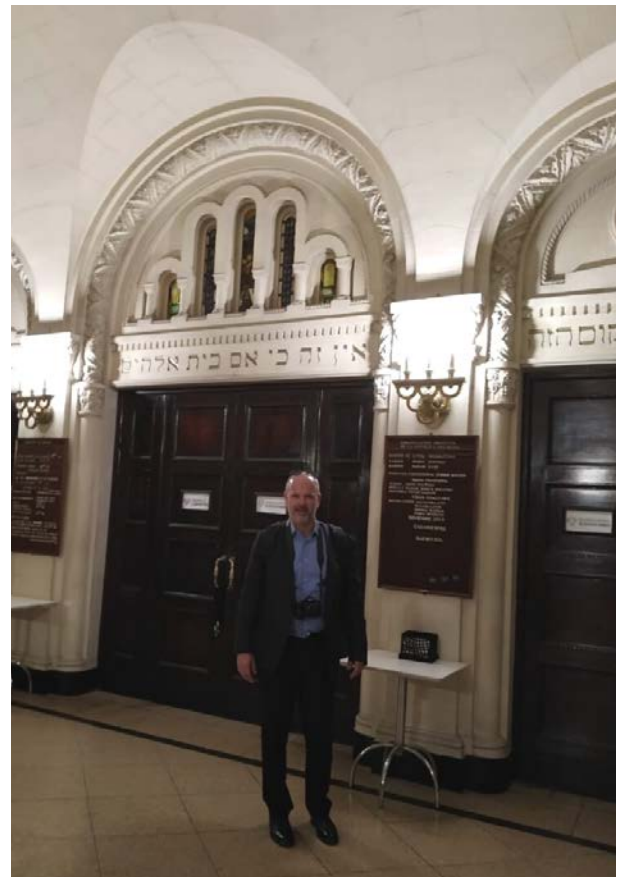
From the perspective of his study, military conflict has shaped the Holocaust far more than has often been assumed. Additionally, he was the guest-editor for a special theme issue on painful memories for *Athenaeum Review*, a journal published by the O'Donnell Institute and the School of Arts and Humanities at UT Dallas.

The last year was filled with new opportunities to advance Holocaust studies, to expand the center's collaborations and outreach, and encounter growing concerns about the pandemic. Last fall, Dr. Roemer traveled to





Guatemala, Mexico, Argentina (right), and France to foster new collaborations with Holocaust museums and research institutes. He was invited by the University of Heidelberg in Germany to present “Between History and Faith: Jewish Scholarship and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Germany” at the conference, *Two Centuries of Wissenschaft des Judentums*. Dr. Roemer also traveled to Phnom Penh to the International Committee of Memorial Museums in Remembrance of the Victims of Public Crimes Conference (ICMEMO), where he lectured on the “Representation of Victims.” In the spring, he participated in a roundtable discussion about Holocaust education at the conference of the Council of American Jewish Museums and gave a presentation at the 50th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and Churches at UT Dallas.



Dr. Roemer lectured widely in the community. He gave remarks in February about the Texas Liberators exhibit at UT Dallas, featured in Talkback about the film, *The Tobacconist*, gave online lectures on Faust, Operation Barbarossa, and Anne Frank and hosted several online town hall meetings. This past academic year, Dr. Roemer



served on several PhD dissertation committees and worked on several master’s thesis committees. Moreover, he also co-taught a course with Dr. Sarah Valente and Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona on the Holocaust followed by a new undergraduate class on refugees in the spring.

Dr. Roemer also continued his collaborative research with several graduate students on deportations of Jews across Europe. The team refined a new digital tool to study deportations and map individual survivors’ experiences. Together, they presented at the 50th Annual Scholars’ Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

You can learn more about this presentation on page 34 and about the ongoing Digital Studies Project on pages 78 - 79.



# Dr. Amy Kerner

---

## Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies



Dr. Amy Kerner is a historian of modern Europe and Latin America, with a particular interest in human rights and in political violence and its legacies. She is thrilled to join the Ackerman Center and the School of Arts & Humanities as Assistant Professor in Holocaust and Human Rights Studies, and Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies. Dr. Kerner brings to UT Dallas research and teaching interests in the political dimensions of cultural transformations among migrants, refugees, and other transnational groups, as well as an enthusiasm to explore the Metroplex and its surrounding areas.

Last year, Dr. Kerner was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies at

the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She received her PhD in History from Brown University in 2019, and MA/MSc in International and Global History from Columbia University and the London School of Economics in 2011. Her broader academic interests include global circulations and political communities between Europe and Latin America; histories and memories of the Holocaust and other episodes of political mass violence; and painting, photography and film as arbiters of historical memory.

Dr. Kerner's current book project is called *Fragile Inheritance: The Fate of Yiddish in Argentina*. A contribution to the increasingly global fields of Holocaust studies and Latin American Jewish history, *Fragile Inheritance* draws from archival research conducted in Argentina, the US, and Israel, in Yiddish and Spanish. It analyses the trajectory of Yiddish as a Jewish language - the uses and meanings of Yiddish among immigrants, refugees, language activists, and Holocaust survivors - in the context of twentieth-century Argentina.

From the decades of mass Jewish migration to Latin America following World War I to the so-called “Dirty War” and its aftermath under Argentina’s dictatorship, the book examines the local and transnational politics of Yiddish in Buenos Aires. The project explains why and how Yiddish had a long life in Argentina up to and including the present day.

As a doctoral candidate, Dr. Kerner was a member of the Posen Society of Fellows, and received training in Holocaust research and Yiddish language and literature from the Center for Contemporary History in Munich and Uriel Weinreich Summer Program in Yiddish Language, Literature, and Culture in New York, respectively. Prior to graduate school, she was the recipient of a Fulbright research grant in Madrid, and worked with AMIGOS de las Americas in Mexico, Bolivia, Honduras and Paraguay, where she supported and directed summer youth leadership and cultural exchange programs.



---

Dr. Kerner began teaching at UT Dallas in the fall 2020 semester and is offering two new undergraduate courses:

#### *Modern Genocides Past and Present*

What is genocide, and what are the contexts in which it unfolds? What are the challenges in bringing perpetrators to justice, and what are the legal structures and concepts that have been developed to do this? This course examines histories of racially and politically motivated mass killing in the twentieth century in relation to imperialism and colonialism, war, and political revolution. The class will consider cases (German South Africa, Armenia, the Holocaust) that preceded the emergence of genocide as a legal category, as well as more recent and on-going cases. In the second part of the course students will explore intervention and prosecution, with special attention to the role of testimony and visual media in shaping international responses.

#### *Holocaust Memory in Latin America*

How has the cultural memory of the Holocaust interacted with legacies and memories of other, local histories of state violence? In this course, students will ask when and how the history of the mass murder of Europe’s Jews entered the popular consciousness in places like Argentina, Mexico, and Guatemala, which have their own histories of traumatic violence. The class will evaluate the much-discussed presence of Nazi war criminals in South America. And students will read about popular, political, and first-hand responses to the Nazi genocide from World War II to the present. Students will have the opportunity to work with open-access museum collections online for course credit.

# Dr. Debra Pfister

---

## Research Assistant Professor of Holocaust Studies



Dr. Pfister is a Research Assistant Professor for Holocaust Studies at the School of Arts and Humanities. A triple alum from UT Dallas, she specializes in World War II and the Holocaust. Her ongoing research includes literature and philosophy of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the history of antisemitism and the Holocaust, Jewish art and Holocaust representation in film, war art, combat photography and literature. She is currently pursuing research on the Holocaust in film as well as furthering her research on the Hungarian artist, Imre Ámos. Her research on Ámos has been included in *Comparative Hungarian Cultural Studies* (Purdue), a compiled volume of important essays written by scholars around the world on subjects related to Hungarian culture.

Each summer, Dr. Pfister organizes and hosts a workshop for teachers to help instill middle and high school educators with the knowledge and tools required to teach the Holocaust in the classroom. These annual multi-day workshops are immensely popular and feature renowned Holocaust scholars as well as lectures from the Ackerman Center's endowed professors and graduate student presentations.

As a dedicated educator herself, Dr. Pfister has taught many undergraduate classes on the Holocaust and related topics. Many students who have taken her classes have been inspired to further their study of the Holocaust at the graduate level. This year, she taught a course dedicated to the history and legacy of the Holocaust as well as another exploring the representation of war in art, literature and photography. In addition, she has taught courses on more specific topics related to the Holocaust such as "Operation Barbarossa," "Looting, Holocaust and the Reich," and "Nazism, Ethics and Culture."

Since the beginning of the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas, Dr. Pfister's classes have grown in both size and popularity. This academic year, she taught a record number of students in the largest undergraduate class to date.



# 8th Annual Teacher Institute

## Nameless Victims, Silenced Voices:

### A Profile of Victims of the 'Euthanasia' Program

---

June 24 , 2020

The annual Teacher Institute explores strategies for middle and high school educators teaching the Holocaust. Bringing together experts in the field, this unique learning experience affords teachers the opportunity to gain innovative classroom tools and skills for teaching the Holocaust as well as providing an opportunity to interface with area educators who are currently implementing these strategies with their students. Despite not being able to come together in person, Dr. Debra Pfister transitioned the workshop to a one-day virtual event, which provided three hours of continuing education credit to the attendees free of charge, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

The theme of this year's workshop was "Nameless Victims, Silenced Voices: A Profile of Victims of the 'Euthanasia' Program." Dr. Patricia Heberer-Rice, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, presented the first lecture of the workshop by discussing some of the "nameless victims" of the so-called euthanasia program.



Dr. Nils Roemer gave the second lecture titled "T4: The Nazi Euthanasia Program," where he discussed the origin, implementation, and remembrance of the Nazi program designed to strengthen the "Aryan" German people by killing men, women, and children of all ages with mental and physical disabilities. He moreover considered the connection between the Euthanasia program and the Holocaust.

Megan Gray Hering, Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Studies of the School of Arts & Humanities, discussed "Studying History at UT Dallas." Her presentation was designed to help the teachers learn more about what UT Dallas has to offer their students as incoming undergraduates when they finish high school as well as for the teachers themselves if they choose to pursue a graduate degree.

Dr. Debra Pfister concluded the workshop by presenting "Developing a Holocaust Curriculum," which centered around incorporating art into lectures about the Holocaust. She used the example of drawings made by children at Theresienstadt to demonstrate how powerful even simple images can be.

# Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona

---

## Visiting Assistant Professor



Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona graduated from the School of Political and Social Sciences, UNAM, in Mexico City with his bachelors in political science and public administration. He worked for the Mexican federal government in the fields of social communication and law enforcement, where he formulated his first formal academic approach to human rights.

After immigrating to the United States, Dr. Gonzalez joined Amnesty International as a volunteer, where he served as the Spanish Media Coordinator, Regional Special Focus Case Coordinator, and Workshop Facilitator.

Dr. Gonzalez graduated from Southern Methodist University with a masters of liberal studies with a concentration in human rights. In 2018, he was a visiting scholar at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism at St. John's College, Oxford University, and currently serves on the International Board of Academic Advisors for the Institute.

He has been a Visiting Assistant Professor at UT Dallas since the fall 2019 semester, and has taught undergraduate and graduate courses. Dr. Gonzalez earned his PhD in History of Ideas from UT Dallas in 2019 after successfully defending his dissertation titled, *Genealogy of Racism in Mexico: Technological Devices of Race and Their Transformation in Modern Mexico*. You can read more about Dr. Gonzalez's research and dissertation on page 75.

In January 2020, Dr. Gonzalez travelled to Mexico with Dr. Nils Roemer, where he presented the special lecture "Human Rights Education, Awareness and Solidarity" at the University of Puebla's School of History and Philosophy as part of the initial collaboration agreement signed between the Ackerman Center and the school. The agreement's objective is to develop, among other academic projects, online bi-national courses on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies.

Also in January of 2020, Dr. Gonzalez traveled with Dr. Nils Roemer and the UT Dallas Choir to the cities of El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua in Mexico. He lectured on the importance of the Borderlands and the current state of human rights at the border.



Besides the choir's presentations in both cities, the group visited the memorial for the twenty-three people killed in August 2019 by a white supremacist from North Texas at the El Paso Walmart (above). While there, he also volunteered helping homeless men and women at the Opportunity Center based in El Paso.

Dr. Gonzalez led and organized a program to allow UT Dallas students to travel abroad to serve as interns at the Guatemalan Holocaust Museum, the Human Rights Commission of Guatemala, and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City. Students will have the opportunity to become certified on the exhibit *The Holocaust by Bullets* (Guatemala), as well as to be part of a select team of researchers and caseworkers helping Guatemalan people who have pending human rights violations on file at the Commission. Summer 2020 was to be the first year of the Ackerman Center's Internship Program on the Holocaust and Human Rights, which has had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Looking for ways to further promote and connect the Ackerman Center internationally, Dr. Gonzalez explored the possibility of having an online training seminar for the government of the Mexican state of Morelos. Working with Karl Ayala, Director of Orgu-Yo Morelos, Dr. Gonzalez organized and conducted the three-week seminar "Perspectives on Race, Racism and Discrimination" for ICATMOR, the education branch from the Ministry of Labor and Economic Development in Morelos State of Mexico. Public servants and selected citizens enjoyed the bi-weekly seminar meetings in which they learned about racism, gender violence and antisemitism.



# Dr. Sarah Valente

---

## Visiting Assistant Professor



Dr. Sarah Valente's work focuses on Jewish and Latin American history, literature, and cultural memory. Her fields of expertise include Holocaust Studies, Translation Studies, and Human Rights in Latin America, focusing specifically on military dictatorships in the Southern Cone. She developed and taught new literature and history courses "Literature Under Dictatorship," which explored twentieth-century Jewish literature under state-sanctioned violence in Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, "The Holocaust & Human Rights in Latin America," which explored the Holocaust as a paradigmatic case of the violation of human rights and explored the history of military dictatorships in Latin America, and "Women in the Holocaust," which focused on topics related to Jewish women's experience during the Holocaust, such as hunger,

motherhood, resistance, abuse and more. Dr. Valente also co-developed and co-taught two new courses "Refugees, Exile & Human Rights" and "Fascism in Marseille, Spain & Lisbon" together with Dr. Roemer and Dr. Gonzalez.

Dr. Valente created opportunities that served to enhance her students' learning experiences. In the fall, she organized a tour for students in three different classes to visit the newly inaugurated Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. She also organized visits by advisory board members Bert Romberg and Ron Schwarz to the classroom, which had a positive impact on the students. In the spring, Dr. Valente arranged for her students to have a private lecture with visiting artist Atif Akin, co-curator of 'Apricots from Damascus,' a multilingual environment for art and cultural exchange, where students learned about art in a state of mobility and exile by current Syrian refugee artist communities. Dr. Valente welcomed a special visit by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth to speak with students about her experience as a Holocaust survivor and refugee of the Hungarian Revolution. She also facilitated an online virtual translation workshop, featured on page 82.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Valente presented her research at several conferences around the U.S. In the fall, Dr. Valente presented her ongoing translation of a Brazilian-Portuguese novel at the 42nd American Literary Translators Association Conference in Rochester, and presented her research “In Search of the Disappearing Past: The Case of Vlado Herzog and Brazil” at the Annual Conference of the Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University. Dr. Valente organized conference panels, including “Fleeing to the ‘Land of the Future’? German Jews in Brazil” at the 50th Annual Scholars’ Conference and received the German Historical Institute Washington/GHI West grant to participate and present her research at their conference at UC Berkeley. She published her essay “Exile at Home, or At Home in Exile” in *Athenaeum Review*, and is currently working on a book project based on her dissertation, *Holocaust Aftermath and Memory in Brazil*.

Throughout the year, she was invited to speak at various community outreach events. She was the featured speaker at Nishmat Am Synagogue in Plano, where she lectured on “Crypto-Judaism in Brazil: Stepping out from the Shadow of Time.”



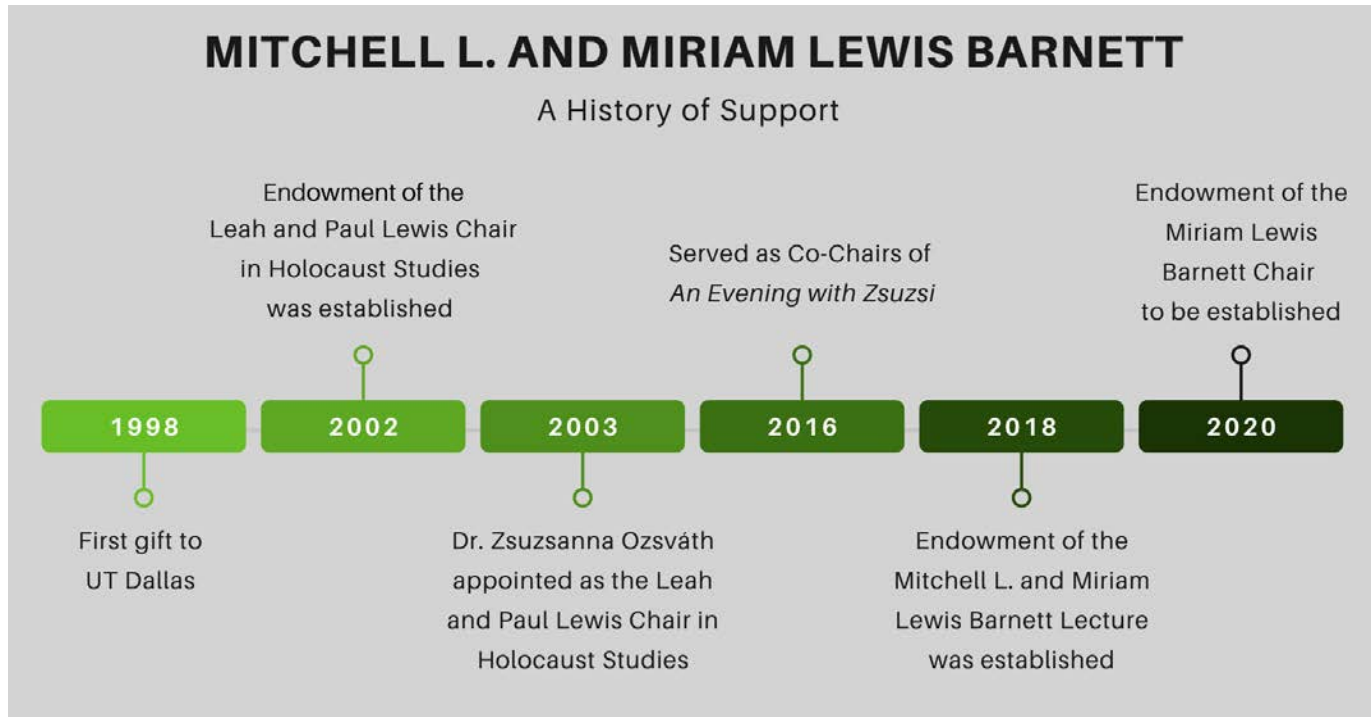
Dr. Valente represented the Ackerman Center and shared about its mission and resources as special guest speaker at Hebron High School's teacher development day and the UT Dallas Office of Budget and Finance's Summer Workshop. She also serves as judge of the annual UT Dallas Creative Writing Contest and is a permanent member of the prestigious Stephen S. Weinstein Holocaust Symposium at Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, England.



Dr. Valente is further developing her digital skills during this new online reality. When the COVID-19 pandemic confinement began at the end of the spring semester, she quickly implemented creative ideas into podcasts to promote connection with the community at large. Dr. Valente produces, edits, and hosts the *Ackerman Center Podcast*, to discuss Holocaust-related topics with Dr. Nils Roemer; *Translating the World*, to promote literary translation with Dr. Rainer Schulte; and *POEMS with SARAH*, to share her own original poems and multilingual readings.

# Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair

Dr. Nils Roemer announced in a live event on June 2nd that long-time friends and supporters of the Ackerman Center, Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett, plan to establish an endowment to create the Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair, which will be the fifth endowed faculty position for the Ackerman Center.



The Barnetts were also the creators of our first endowed chair, The Leah and Paul Lewis Chair in Holocaust Studies, in 2002. The Lewis Chair, which has been held by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth since its endowment, was created to honor Mrs. Barnett's late parents. Leah and Paul Lewis began promoting the remembrance of the Holocaust not long after the end of World War II. To ensure that the millions of Jews who were murdered were never forgotten, Leah and Paul decided to erect memorials that would preserve the memory of the victims. Having sponsored the first memorial of its kind in the United States in 1959 at Congregation Shearith Israel in Dallas, they supported the creation of more than twenty other memorials and monuments now erected in public places, synagogues, museums, and community centers. Recognizing Lewis's determination to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive, then-President Carter appointed him to the first United States Holocaust Memorial Commission in 1976.

Past Ackerman Center Advisory Board Chair, Selly Belofsky, called Paul Lewis a “pioneer” and remarked that he “had a vision and understood before most people how important remembrance would be, and that the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten. Mimi and Mitch have picked up that mantle and carried it forward all these many years.”



Dr. Roemer said the fifth endowed chair raises the visibility of the center in a significant way. Dr. Roemer, Stan and Barbara Rabin Professor of Holocaust Studies, expressed his appreciation for the Barnett's continued generosity and excitement for what this gift means for the Ackerman Center and the students at UT Dallas. "I am thrilled that the Barnett family has once again



recognized the importance of the work we are doing at the Ackerman Center. There is not another center that I can think of that has five endowed faculty positions in Holocaust Studies." Advisory Board Chair, David B. Ackerman, also extended his gratitude to the entire Barnett family by saying, it is the generosity of friends like them that "really make a huge difference."

Mrs. Barnett called her relationship with UT Dallas and the Ackerman Center "an incredible privilege" and remarked, "my parents would be very gratified to know that the future is in the hands of the wonderful community and family that is UTD."

Dr. Roemer continued, "Having five endowed faculty positions will allow us to cover and engage the Holocaust and its legacies in the widest possible ways across the different disciplines by bringing five professors and their respective fields of expertise together." The Ackerman Center sits within an interdisciplinary school, so students studying the Holocaust will have a well-rounded education from the various perspectives of history, literature, philosophy, and art.

Dr. David Patterson further emphasized the tremendous impact of the new chair. "This puts us even more prominently on the map of international scholarship, teaching, and testimony."

Following the retirement of Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (pictured above with the Barnetts), there will be two endowed faculty positions to be filled as she vacates the Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies effective September 1, 2020. As Dr. Roemer pointed out during the new chair's announcement, these two positions share a special connection, as both the first and most recent chairs were created by the Barnett family. When asked about the challenges of filling these positions, Dr. Roemer replied, "We have a very good track record in making great faculty appointments, and we look to continue being selective and strategic in our choices in how we fill those positions."

Dr. Roemer concluded his remarks by looking forward. "We are still growing and expanding in many ways and continue to look to the future and ask, 'What's next?'"

# STUDENTS



**"For your benefit, learn from our tragedy.  
It is not a written law that the next victims must  
be Jews. It can also be other people."**

**Simon Wiesenthal**

# Funding the Future

---

Thanks to generous support from our donors, the Ackerman Center is able to provide financial support to students through three fellowship opportunities. The Mala and Adolf Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies and The Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies award annual stipends to outstanding graduate students focused in Holocaust Studies. The Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies is awarded to graduate students who serve as research assistants for the Ackerman Center.

## **The Mala and Adolf Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies**

The 2019-2020 recipient of this fellowship was Sarah Snyder, a PhD candidate who is currently working on her dissertation. To learn more about Mrs. Snyder, visit [page 74](#).

## **The Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies**

The 2019-2020 recipient of this fellowship was Philip Barber, a PhD student who is currently preparing to take his PhD field exams. To learn more about Mr. Barber, visit [page 69](#).

## **The Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies**

The 2019-2020 recipients of this fellowship were Sarah Hashmi (right), Amal Shafek (left), and Chrissy Stanford (center), who all worked as research assistants for the Ackerman Center this academic year. More can be learned about Mrs. Hashmi on [page 71](#), Ms. Shafek on [page 73](#), and Ms. Stanford on [page 74](#).





In addition to our three fellowships, we have two endowments that were created to support UT Dallas students and their participation in the Annual Scholars' Conference.

---

### Charles M. Schwarz Endowment in Holocaust Studies

This endowment, made in memory of their father by Ron and Larry Schwarz, generously supported the following students to attend and present at this year's conference:

**Philip Barber** presented his paper, "Bricks in the Road to Auschwitz: An Examination of Influences and Precedents that Paved the Way to the Holocaust."

**Shefali Sahu** and **Amal Shefek** served on the "New Digital Studies of the Holocaust" panel that presented one of the morning keynote events.

**Sarah Snyder** presented her paper, "Conservation of Materiality at Auschwitz-Birkenau."



*Charles M. Schwarz*



*The Gundy Family*

### Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies

This endowment generously supported the following students to attend and present at this year's conference:

**Christine Malina Maxwell** presented her paper, "Remembering for the Future 20 Years Later: Have the Questions Really Changed?"

**Joanna Peluso Workman** presented her paper, "Holocaust Research in a Technological Age: The Need for Digital Archives."

# Helping Our Students

---



Many of our students, like the rest of the world, were faced with economic hardships resulting from the pandemic. In response, the Ackerman Center issued a call for applications to award microgrants to support students.

Both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a Holocaust or related course in the Fall 2020 semester were invited to apply for assistance purchasing the required textbooks for those classes.

When the University's McDermott Library was forced to close for the safety of students and the library staff, graduate students were faced with the necessity of having to purchase rather than borrow materials that they needed to complete their milestone research projects such as masters portfolios, PhD exams, and dissertation research. The center invited applications to help students in the Holocaust Studies Program with these needs.

In addition, many students had to postpone scheduled trips they had planned to conduct or present their original research due to travel restrictions. The center made several awards to support graduate student participation in online, virtual, or other types of research in Holocaust Studies and related fields from the Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund, the Max and Florence Wolens Research Fund, and the Herman Abrams Research Fund.

# Meet Our Students

---

The Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas was founded by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth in 1986. More than three decades later, this program attracts top-quality students from across the world.

## Briana Bacon | PhD Candidate, History of Ideas



Briana Bacon has a background in early modern European Christian-Jewish Relations, early modern Italian social art history, and the history of ideas in Italy between 1500 and 1700. She is currently working on her dissertation combining those three fields, analyzing the Venetian Ghetto at its founding in 1516, and at Venice's two phases of Jewish Emancipation in 1797 and 1866, for which she was awarded one of the research microgrants this summer in order to obtain digital copies of archival records from the State Archives of Venice.

Since receiving her MA in History of Ideas at UT Dallas in 2014, Briana has taught U.S. history and European art history at the junior college and university levels and is currently exploring adapting those skills to the museum world.

---

## Philip Barber | PhD Student, History of Ideas

Philip Barber is a PhD student and research assistant at The Ackerman Center. He is currently preparing for field exams in antisemitism, Holocaust Literature, and the History of Race in Philosophy. He presented the paper "Bricks in the Road to Auschwitz: An Examination of the Influences and Precedents that Paved the Way to the Holocaust" at the 50th Annual Scholars' Conference, where he also served as a panel-chair and chaired a roundtable discussion.

He also presented the paper "Confronting Genocide: The Fate of the Einsatzgruppen and the Myth of Justice" at the RAW Graduate Conference. Barber received a research microgrant this summer to attend a virtual workshop with the Baylor University Institute of Oral History. He is also a recipient of the Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies.





## Daniel Dunham | PhD Student, History of Ideas



Daniel Dunham continues his research into inter-generational assimilated German Jews while reading for field studies in German nation building in the post-unification era, politics in film, with a focus on propaganda films, and antisemitism.

He has delivered conference papers on the tragic fate of Bulgaria's Thracian and Macedonian Jews, the loss of the unique culture of Eastern Europe's Shtetl Jews, themes of Jewish loss in Sholem Aleichem's *Tevye the Dairyman*, and the concept of unarmed Jewish resistance, known as *Amidah*, in answer to the oft asked question, "why didn't the Jews resist?"

Dunham has also led the Collin College History Club in a discussion on the 2,000 year history of antisemitism. Dunham earned his BA in Historical Studies and an MA in the History of Ideas, both at UT Dallas. He is currently collaborating with the Tulsa Jewish Federation on their exhibit of the history of antisemitism, which is discussed in greater detail on page 83.

---

## Sarah J. Hashmi | PhD Student, Literary Studies

Sarah Hashmi is a PhD student in Literary Studies who specializes in memoirs, fictional representations of war, genocide, and the Holocaust in literature and popular culture, propaganda, Antisemitism, racism, and post-colonial literature and media. This past year, she worked as a graduate research assistant for the Ackerman Center and was a recipient of the Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies.



Hashmi also participated in the ongoing collaborative initiative, "Confronting the Past," an interactive citizen history project that explores, documents, and curates the history of hate and racial/ethnic violence in Dallas-Fort Worth. The interdisciplinary nature of this project has produced performances, exhibitions, and features an online and interactive platform for digital exhibition, discussion, and research.

## Jae Jerkins | PhD Student, History of Ideas



Jae Jerkins is a full-time professor at Tyler Junior College, where he teaches Philosophy, Ethics, Humanities, and Religion. He was recently named the 2020 Thomas J. Shelby Jr. Endowed Chair for Teaching Excellence by TJC. He also serves as the Professor of Islam at the University of Texas at Tyler. He takes part in several interfaith initiatives in East Texas, having just completed his tenure as President of the Board of Congregation Beth El (the 130-year old Reform synagogue of East Texas).

Recently, he was invited to publish a chapter in *The Philosophy of Forgiveness, Vol. III* for Vernon Press on the philosophical concept of forgiveness in Judaism from its beginnings in the Torah to its treatment after the Holocaust.

Jerkins is a 2020 recipient of the Holocaust Studies Certificate. His research interests include interfaith dialogue, colonial discourse, time, representation, and the philosophy of religion.

---

## Shannon Quigley | PhD Student, History of Ideas

Shannon Quigley's experience as a PhD student and Research Assistant at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies drew greatly from Dr. Patterson and Dr. Roemer's expertise on the Holocaust, adding further perspective to her MA work in Holocaust Studies. Her research on aspects of the German churches in the Nazi era in connection to the Holocaust and post-Shoah reconciliation efforts between Jews and Christians were further illuminated as well.

Additionally, the Ackerman Center supported Quigley's participation at the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature's annual meeting in November of 2019, the American Society of Church History's annual meeting in January of 2020, and at the 50th Annual Scholar's Conference at UT Dallas in March of 2020. She also virtually participated in the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy's 2020 Oxford Summer Institute for Curriculum Development in Critical Antisemitism Studies.



## Cynthia Seton-Rogers | PhD Student, History of Ideas



Cindy Seton-Rogers, who previously received her masters degree and Certificate in Holocaust Studies from UT Dallas, is in the process of preparing for her PhD field exams in Holocaust literature, the history of antisemitism, and early modern European history. Once completed, she plans to conduct dissertation research into the Sephardic Diaspora with a particular focus on crypto-Jews.

She was elected president of the board of directors in 2020 by the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, a multi-disciplinary academic association that fosters research regarding the historical and contemporary developments involving crypto-Jews of Spanish and/or Portuguese origins and other hidden Jewish communities around the world.

In July, she attended the Baylor University Institute of Oral History online workshop thanks to a research microgrant from the Ackerman Center.

---

## Amal Shafek | PhD Candidate, Humanities

Amal Shafek has served as a Research Assistant at the Ackerman Center since 2014. She earned her masters in 2015, and in the fall of 2019, she received her Certificate in Holocaust Studies and successfully defended her PhD field exams. Shafek's research interest covers a wide range of topics such as Holocaust memory and representations, digital humanities, feminist film theory, Egyptian Jewish diaspora, and food studies. As a recipient of the Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies, Shafek is enrolled in a one-year program to learn Hebrew at the Rosen School of Hebrew.



She is currently pursuing a creative dissertation in the form of a personal documentary. In this project, Shafek aims to debunk the stereotypical representations of Arab women in transnational cinema and to produce a first-person documentary that focuses on the presence of traumatic memory in everyday life. Of particular concern to this creative project is the examination of the relationship between food, memory and trauma.



## Sarah Snyder | PhD Candidate, History of Ideas



Sarah Snyder is a recipient of the Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies. She is writing her dissertation entitled “The Historical Complexities of Time Constructs in Relation to the Term ‘Post-Holocaust’” in which she is analyzing various forms of Holocaust literature and how time is presented in each. More specifically, she is comparing the presentation of time and trauma in multi-generational memoirs, multi-generational testimonials, letters written from 1933 onward, and diaries of Holocaust victims and survivors.

She is a member of the International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference Committee and Emerging Scholars Board and fills the position of liaison to the executive board for organizing its international conference to be held in Barcelona.

Most recently, she attended Bergen-Belsen’s International Summer Workshop in which the final project will be published through the museum. She is currently working on a Jewish cemetery restoration project with an organization in Moldova. This endeavor originated from a memoir she authored for a Holocaust survivor. In January 2020, Sarah attended the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. She is also a 2019 Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellow.

---

## Chrissy Stanford | PhD Student, History of Ideas

Chrissy Stanford has been a Research Assistant for the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies since 2018 and is currently a recipient of the Belofsky Fellowship.

Stanford’s research interests include the origins, development, and implementation of the Final Solution in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust. Her doctoral research considers how cinema-mediated representations of Nazism play an important role in the formation of national memory and identity in relation to the Second World War. Stanford’s work uniquely focuses on the horror film genre, specifically, the evolution and significance of the “Nazi-Zombie” figure as an agent of social commentary in popular culture.



# Our Newest Alumni

---



*Drs. Pedro Gonzalez, Nils Roemer, and J.E. Wolfson at graduation, Fall 2019*

---

## **Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona | PhD, History of Ideas**

Contrary to the common spread idea of a Latin America free of racial conflicts, Dr. Gonzalez's dissertation research focused on the idea of race in Mexico. He worked on a genealogy of race. Pedro traced the transformations of human classificatory ideas back to the colonial era. From a system of castas to the modern nineteenth-century official discourse of a country made of mixed peoples (Mestizaje), Mexico experienced social practices so powerful that they were able to permeate the socio-economical and political setting of the country for centuries.

The result has been deep social inequality and exploitation, as well as discrimination - violent in many cases - of indigenous peoples and those identified with foreign nationals. This work and approach to the idea of race was the beginning of a dual-component project: one, a doctoral dissertation on the genealogy of race; and two, a subsequent potential book on the effects of Mestizaje and the homegrown version of contemporary Mexican antisemitism.

Dr. Gonzalez is now a visiting assistant professor with the Ackerman Center. Learn more on pages 60 - 61.





## John P. Williams | PhD, History of Ideas



Dr. Williams is currently working to turn his dissertation into a full manuscript for Southern Illinois University Press. This project, *Grant's Crucible: A Tale of Scapegoating, Affirmation and Atonement during Reconstruction (1863-1877)*, was largely the by-product of Williams' study of Jewish merchants during the Civil War and their place in Post-Civil War America. This effort also included analyzing Grant's relationship with other minority groups as well (namely African Americans, Native Americans, and women).

This past summer, he was accepted into Oxford University (Pembroke College) Summer Study Program, which examines new ways of introducing antisemitism into college and university curriculum. He hopes to implement this training in his American history survey courses this school year. Dr. Williams is a full-time instructor in the Collegiate Academy Program at Collin College.

---

## J. E. "Jake" Wolfson | PhD, History of Ideas

Dr. Wolfson was the first recipient of the Selwin Belofsky Fellowship in Holocaust Studies. His dissertation, *Wounding Sensibilities: Holocaust Memoirs Through the Screen of Adaptation*, looks at the ways that the voices and testimonies of Holocaust survivor-memoirists' are dangerously distorted when adapted from print to other media. He has presented his research at academic conferences, including those for the Modern Language Association and the American Comparative Literature Association. His research interests concern life writing, adaptation studies, antisemitism and the Holocaust in literature and film, Jewish history, and best practices in teaching about the Holocaust.



Since 2015, Dr. Wolfson has worked for the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission (THGC) at the Capitol Complex in Austin, where he currently serves as the THGC's Director of Education. In this role, which requires travel around and beyond Texas, he designs and collects resource materials, trains Texas educators on best practices in teaching about the subjects, coordinates the annual statewide Holocaust Remembrance Week and an annual teaching award, consults with organizational partners, and speaks at various community events and conferences.



# Alumni Spotlight

---

## Dr. Scott A. Swartsfager



Dr. Scott Swartsfager graduated with his PhD in the History of Ideas program in the spring of 2019, at which time he was also awarded his Certificate in Holocaust Studies. He is currently expanding his dissertation, *Promoting Normal: Jewish Culture in Occupied Amsterdam*, into a book.

Now a full-time professor at Collin College, Dr. Swartsfager teaches World and American history. In January, he was the keynote speaker at the Collin Holocaust Memorial Exhibition in cooperation with Yad Vashem, where he discussed antisemitism leading to violence in the Netherlands.

Prior to coming to UT Dallas, he had a 25-year career in the U.S. Air Force. He completed his masters in history in 2005 and subsequently

began teaching history at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. He also had the opportunity to work with the Holocaust Education Foundation at Northwestern University.

When he retired from the Air Force, he knew that he wanted to pursue a PhD in Holocaust studies, which is what brought him to Dallas. He called the Belofsky Fellowship a "game-changer" for him academically. "I came to UT Dallas with one year left on my GI Bill. After that, I was going to have to get a teaching job and take a few classes here and there when I could. Thanks to the fellowship, I was able to remain a full-time student and finish my PhD in four years."

"I am constantly reminded of how important that fellowship was to me and to my family, along with the exceptional instruction and mentorship of the Ackerman professors."



# Research

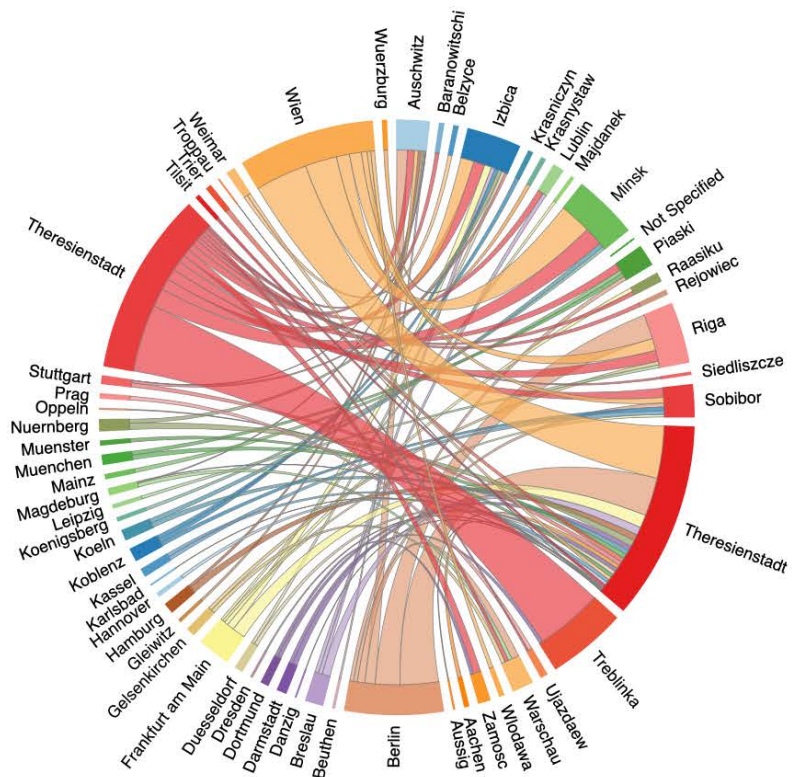
Collaborative research is at the heart of the Ackerman Center's mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." Our faculty and students have multiple ongoing projects with the aim of advancing the scholarship of Holocaust studies and related fields.

## Digital Studies of the Holocaust

This ongoing project is led by Dr. Nils Roemer, who created a diverse team who bring their unique skillsets together. Dr. Sarah Valente, Amal Shafek, Piyush Kamdar, and Nakul Markandy introduced the first phase of the center's Digital Studies of the Holocaust initiative project at the Annual Scholars' Conference in 2018. The project initially focused on implementing geographic information systems (GIS) to dissect the complex process of the mass killing of Jews in Europe during WWII. However, it soon became apparent that spatial analysis of deportations is only one aspect of what big data science could contribute to the study of the Holocaust in the digital age.

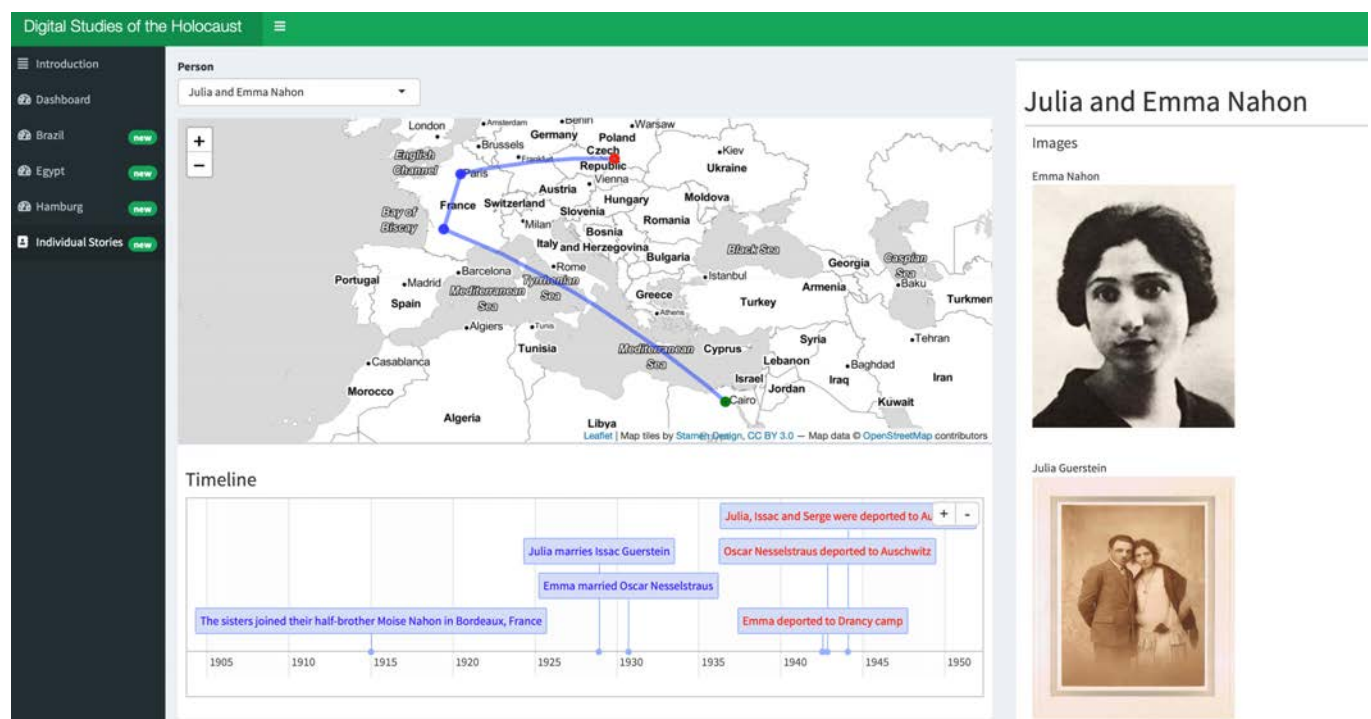
Due to the interdisciplinary nature of this project, the team expanded to include the data visualization skills of Shefali Sahu, a graduate student majoring in Management Sciences at UT Dallas. Together, the team has developed an interactive and user-friendly tool that can serve to analyze larger shifts in the pattern of deportations across Europe, detailing victims from specific urban centers and countries, while visualizing the experience of individual victims.

One of the features of this tool is the ability to visualize in one circos plot (right), which offers a comprehensive view of the deportations of Holocaust victims from the German Reich, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Greece, Italy and Netherlands from 1939-1945. In addition, the user is able to limit the visualizations to their choice of one or more of the previously mentioned countries along with the option to select certain points in time.



There are several promising ways this feature could be used in Holocaust studies classrooms, especially given that the circos plot is accompanied with a detailed timeline of major historical events from both WWII and the Holocaust.

This ambitious project also aims to shed light on the all-encompassing nature of the Holocaust by expanding the scope of experiences beyond those of European populations to include other victim groups from all over the globe. Therefore, the project aims to include, document and visualize stories of non-European individuals who were victims of the Holocaust. For example, victims born in North Africa and Latin America who were also murdered by the Nazis in concentration camps in Europe. This project aims to introduce new ways of seeing and remembering the Holocaust. Visualizing members of various other groups of non-European victims provides a more comprehensive narrative that includes the stories of these individuals, opening new windows into the Holocaust.



In the above example, the stories of Julia and Emma Nahon are a fragment of the untold narratives of the over two hundred Egyptian Jewish victims of the Holocaust. Their stories break the silence around the history of Middle Eastern Jews and highlight the transnational nature of the Holocaust. Born in Cairo, Egypt in 1915, they immigrated to France to join their half-brother. They both married in France and established their own families. In 1942, Emma and her husband were deported to Auschwitz. Julia was deported in 1944 to Auschwitz with her husband and their fifteen-year-old son; they were all murdered upon arrival. This interactive digital storytelling platform is a viable tool for research, preservation, and teaching of the Holocaust beyond abstract data.

The Digital Studies of the Holocaust initiative is supported by the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and by the RFTF2 endowment.



# Translation Workshops

---

The Ackerman Center has held multiple workshops with students and faculty to translate several key Holocaust poems into more than a dozen languages.



Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth led a translation workshop (above) in the Ackerman Center on March 11, 2020. This was the first of two workshops centered around Miklós Radnóti's "Letter to My Wife." Miklós Radnóti (1909-1944) was taken as a Jewish slave laborer from Hungary to Yugoslavia in 1944 and then walked back in a death march, during which he was shot into a mass grave. When his body was found, a notebook was discovered in his pocket with his last ten poems. "Letter to My Wife" is one of these poems.

The Ackerman Center hosted its first-ever virtual translation workshop on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Dr. Sarah Valente organized and facilitated the workshop via the digital platform Blackboard Collaborate. During the virtual translation workshop, participants were placed into breakout groups, where they were able to interact directly and work with one another in their respective languages, including Arabic, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Kurdish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Urdu.

The resulting translations were featured during our virtual Holocaust Remembrance Day. You can learn more about this event on page 42.

---

The following translations have been compiled on the opposite page.

Stanza 1: Farsi translation by Jamal Hadjiagha Mohammad

Stanza 2: Kurmanji Kurdish translation by Pale Almissouri

Stanza 3: Arabic translation by Amal Shafek

Stanza 4: Spanish translation by Jacqueline Wald

# "Letter to My Wife"

جهان مرد گان در زیر،  
خاموش، ژرف، ساکت، زوزه سکوت در گوشم جیغ می زنم.  
پاسخی نمی اید، بسیار دورم  
از صر بستان زخمی از جنگ.  
تو چه بسیار دوری، اما قلبم می شنو دصدای  
ترا تمامی روز، در هم می پیچد رویا و صدا.  
خاموشم و صدای خش خش  
سرخس های جنبان درشت می اید

Nizanîm dê te kangî bînim. Tenahî ya te  
ya girane o misogere wekî peyvên pîrozên,  
Giwanî ya te wekî sîberêye o ronahîye ye,  
xo heke ez yê kerr or kore bim, ez har da ta bînem,  
xo heke tû ya vaşartî boy dinav dîmenê xwezayada, tû da jinavda  
hêye ber çavê min, har weko tû ya jimejyê min da çêboy.  
Demekî tû ya rastboy; lê nuka tû ya ketiya  
dikanî ya kira xownêt minêt gançinyêda.

الحقيقة والمعجزات شيئا مختلفان.  
في الاعالي تصطف اجنحة قاذفات القنابل،  
قد أظلمت السماء التي كان يضاهي وهجها زرقة عيناك  
والقذائف تعتريها رغبة الانفجار... فتسقط قنابلها!  
بالرغم من كل هذا أعيش سجين.  
ترافقني جميع خيالاتي فاختبرها.  
ولا أزال أبحث عنك...  
فلأجلك مشيتُ على مدى روحي،

La luz del día y los milagros parecían cosas diferentes.  
Arriba los escalones de alas bombardeas:  
El cielo, una vez un azul asombroso en el resplandor de tus ojos  
ahora queda oscurecido. Tensos con el deseo de explotarse,  
las bombas tienen que caer. A pesar de éstos, yo vivo,  
prisionero. Puedo dosificar todas mis fantasías. Y aún te encontraré;  
por ti he andado la distancia total del alma,  
ilas carreteras de las naciones!—en carbones de fuego,  
si me obliga hacerlo, en la caída de la pira,  
si todo lo que tengo es la mágica, yo vuelvo;  
¡Y me pegaré fuerte al roble como su corteza!  
Y ahora aquella tranquilidad, que sirve como poder  
y arma al salvaje, a la hora del destino y peligro,  
cae tan fresco y real como una ola:  
la solemnidad dos por dos.

# Special Research Grant

## LBJ and the Holocaust

The Ackerman Center has been contracted by the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission to investigate the claim that Lyndon B. Johnson, as a freshman congressman, organized a clandestine rescue mission to save European Jews from the Holocaust through what would become known as “Operation Texas.”

In December of 1963, only one month after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, President Johnson spoke at the dedication of Congregation Agudas Achim in Austin, Texas, at which he was introduced by his longtime friend and supporter, Jim Novy (pictured below with LBJ in the Oval Office and in Austin with Pres. and Mrs. Johnson). During that introduction, Novy referred to a trip that he made in 1938 to Poland and Germany. He also claimed that Johnson used his influence as a Congressman to help Novy “to get as many people out of Poland and Germany as we possibly [could].” Novy further claimed that “through the efforts of the President...we were able to take many, many people out.”

While the number of people to whom Novy referred in his speech is vague, in his personal notes for his introduction, on file at the LBJ Presidential Library, Novy wrote, “The President gave me a personal letter of introduction to the American Embassy in Poland and called them long-distance to guarantee their support and see that anyone able to qualify as an immigrant be given a visa without delay.



President Johnson also helped in getting the affidavits for these immigrants processed, and as a result, 42 people were brought out of Poland and Germany.”

Lady Bird Johnson later recalled the evening of the dedication in her *White House Diary*, writing “person after person plucked at my sleeve and said ‘I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for [LBJ]. He helped me get out.’”



PhD Student Philip Barber has been hired by the Ackerman Center as a dedicated research assistant for the project. The findings will result in academic research training and scholarly publications.

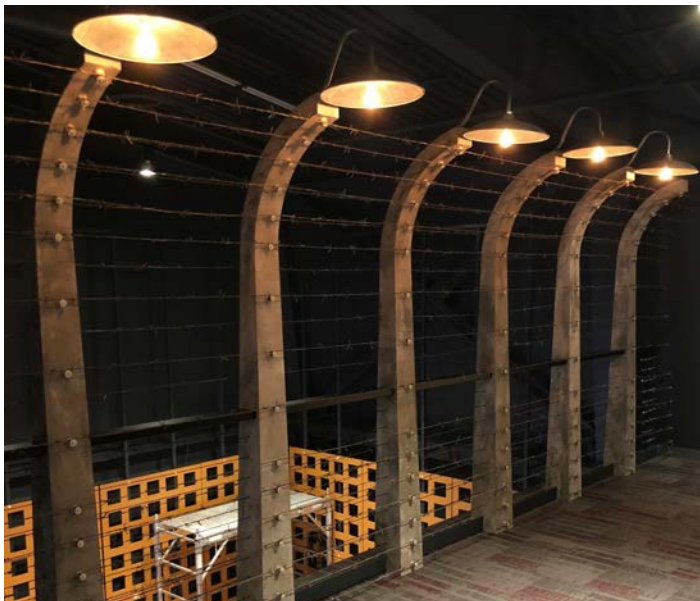


# Collaborative Project

## Student Internship: Tulsa Jewish Federation

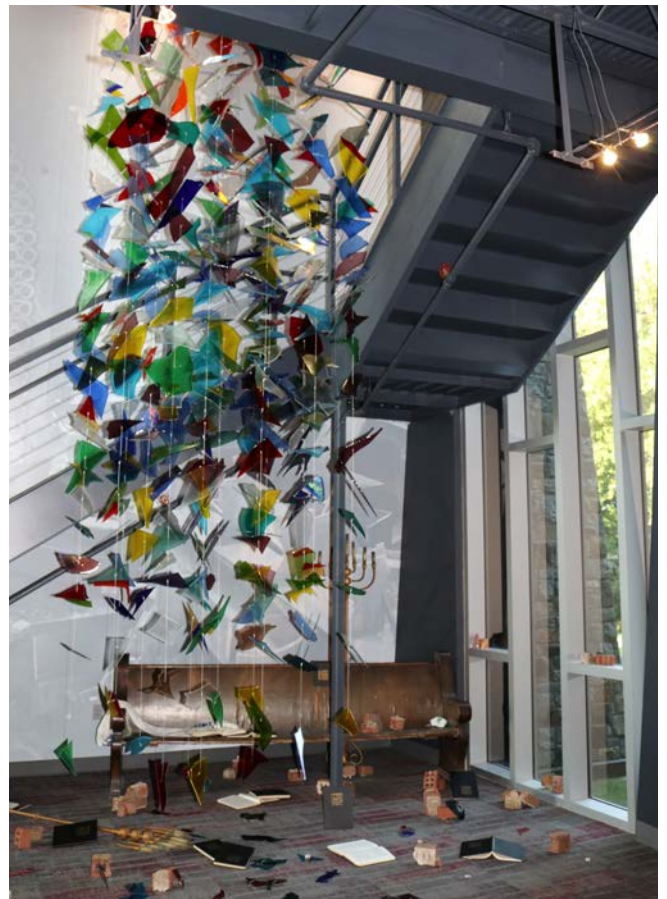
The Jewish Federation of Tulsa and the Ackerman Center entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that included coordinating programs, events, and an internship. Despite COVID-19, we were still able to create an online rather than in-person internship. A special thank you to Ackerman Center board member Charlotte Wolens Schuman for her help and support with this collaboration.

As a result of this relationship, Daniel Dunham, a PhD student and student representative on the Ackerman Center Advisory Board, was selected for a virtual summer internship in conjunction with The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa to assist with an exhibit for their newly-expanded Sanditen/Kaiser Holocaust Center. Dunham has edited the nearly 40 pages of exhibit descriptions while offering new content in the area of pre-Christian antisemitism.



The addition of the second floor of the gallery creates a balcony in the area discussing the concentration camps. This recreation of a camp fence creates an environmental touch of teaching Holocaust education (left).

Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, was one of the most astounding events that took place during the Holocaust. On the nights of November 9 and 10, 1938, the Nazi regime orchestrated an outbreak of anti-Jewish violence in which hundreds of synagogues were burned and over 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses were vandalized. This glass installation by Oklahoma artists Tracey and Rick Bewley contains 450 pieces of kiln-fired glass hanging two stories to symbolize the stained glass windows of synagogues destroyed (right).



# LOOKING FORWARD



**"The horror of the Holocaust is not that it deviated from human norms; the horror is that it didn't...We are all possible victims, possible perpetrators, possible bystanders"**  
**Yehuda Bauer**

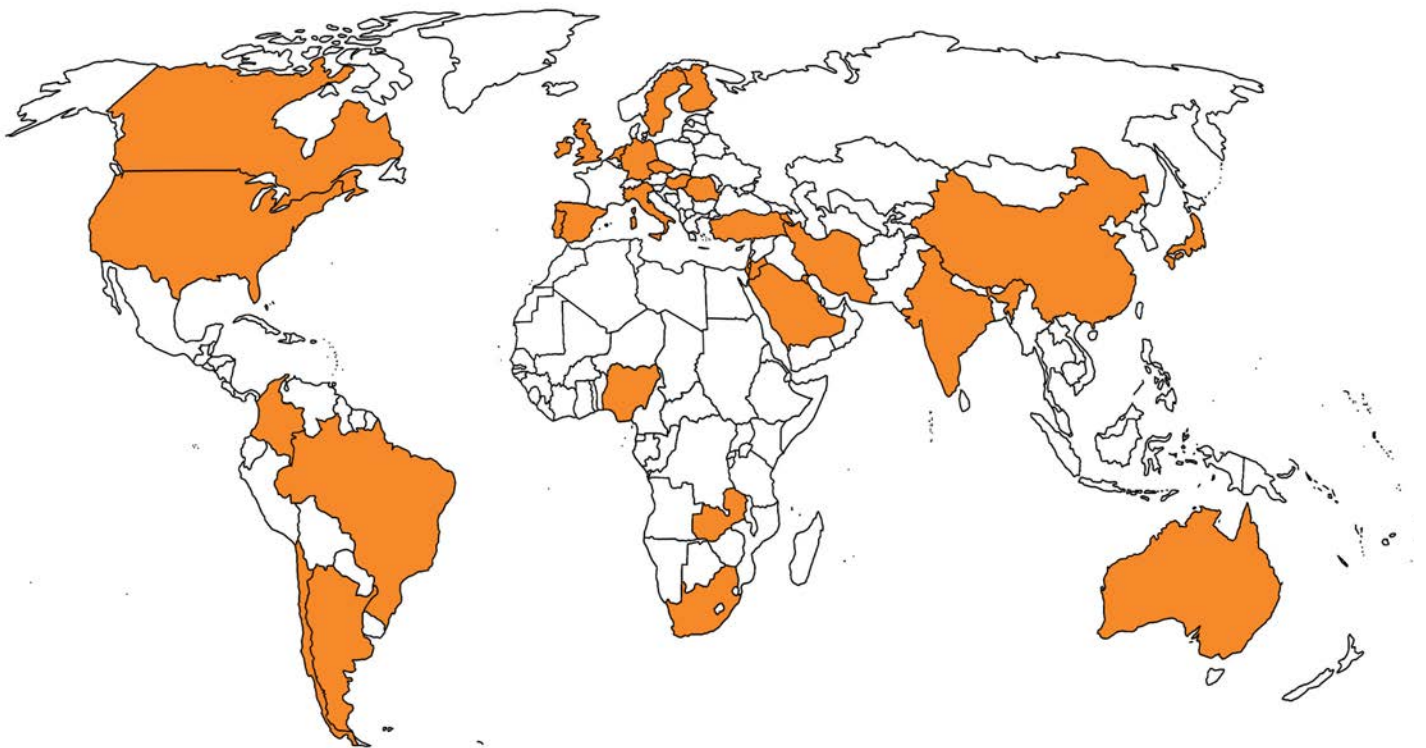


# Increased Virtual Outreach

---

As in-person classes, lectures, and other public events became impossible due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ackerman Center moved forward by transitioning to online programming in order to continue pursuing our mission of "Teaching the Past, Changing the Future." We immediately explored various ideas to develop and present virtual events to teach the history, legacies, and lessons of the Holocaust.

Our new virtual platforms allowed for an increased connectedness outside of our local communities, and our audience grew exponentially not only in size but geographical scope as well. The map below highlights the breadth of our outreach to a confirmed thirty-three countries, clearly demonstrating that the Ackerman Center truly has a global presence in the world.



Ackerman's Center faculty and staff were well-prepared for the task and have continually adjusted to the evolving situation of the pandemic. We look forward to returning to our center, the seminar and lecture rooms, and to welcome you all to the UT Dallas campus when it is safe to do so. The insights we have gained during this difficult period have provided opportunities to evolve, and these experiences will further strengthen our commitment to Holocaust scholarship, allowing us to continue to make advancements and grow even bigger.



# New Advisory Board Members

---

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas has welcomed three new members to its advisory board. Mark Chazanow, Nina Cortell, and Steve Gundy will bring their business and legal expertise, as well as their commitment to promote Holocaust education, to the Ackerman Center.



**Mark Chazanow** (left) leads the management team of Venture Metals and oversees high-level supplier relationships in the wholesale and industrial sectors. Besides his support for the Ackerman Center, Chazanow also serves his community by volunteering with the ASPCA, North Texas Food Bank, AIPAC and First Tee of Dallas. He and his family live in Dallas. “Joining the Board of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UTD is a great honor. I hope that my participation will contribute to significant learning and education on many important fronts,” he said. “Now more than ever it is imperative that the world will never sit back and watch terrible atrocities occur.”

**Nina Cortell** (center) is a partner with the Haynes and Boone law firm in Dallas. For four decades, she has represented corporations, public entities and individuals in cases that have put her at the forefront of Texas litigation practice. Cortell is a co-founder of the Center for Women in Law at the University of Texas School of Law and she actively works with the judiciary to improve the judicial process. “As one whose family history is intertwined with the Holocaust, I identify deeply with the mission of the Ackerman Center, find it very important,” she said. “I look forward to contributing as a board member.”

**Steve Gundy** (right) is a graduate of UT Dallas and has been working as an investment advisor since 1999. In addition to his service on the Ackerman board, Gundy also serves on the board of directors, investment committee, audit committee and loan committee for a local community bank. He and his family live in Plano. “Joining the Board for the Ackerman Center is invigorating,” he said. “I look forward to the honor, challenge, and responsibility of working together with the board to accomplish its goals.”

# Online Teaching Initiative

---

We have learned a great deal about online teaching this past year. Even before the outbreak of the pandemic, our visiting assistant professors Drs. Gonzalez and Valente worked together with Dr. Roemer to enhance our traditional classes with virtual components. They have recorded interviews, lectures, and had already created digital learning material on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights. We were therefore prepared when we had to transition existing classes to an online platform over Spring Break.

Our new expertise in online teaching and the center's tremendous growth offer a unique opportunity to make our courses more widely available.

With the addition of these online classes, we will be able to reach larger numbers of students on and off of our campus. In the near future, we want to expand on this and create a new series of online courses in Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Studies open to students outside of the University.

Students will have access to the unique digital resources of the Jaffe Collection as well as streamed versions of all public events such as our prestigious Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture, Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series, Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture, and the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches at UT Dallas. With our established curriculum, multiple lecture series, conferences, and outreach programs we are uniquely positioned to provide quality online teaching. Many states require their schools to provide Holocaust and genocide education. Texas itself is home to four Holocaust and genocide museums and the Texas Holocaust and Genocide Commission.



These new classes will comprise a new curriculum that partly draws from our already existing graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies. The new initiative will be designed for educators in public and private schools, museums, community professionals, religious and lay leaders, those involved in interfaith dialogue, and adult learners taking classes for personal enrichment or credit. Please contact us to learn more about these plans.

23

Total  
Endowments

12

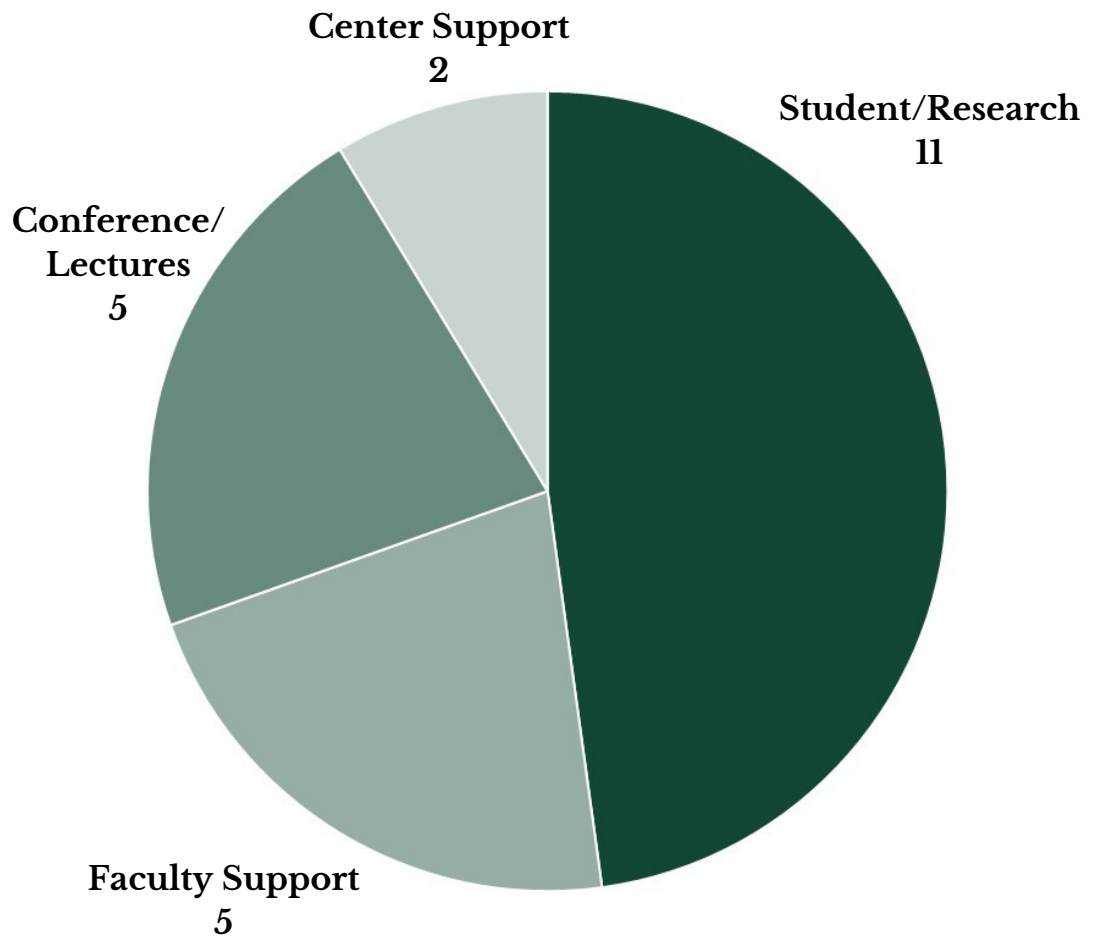
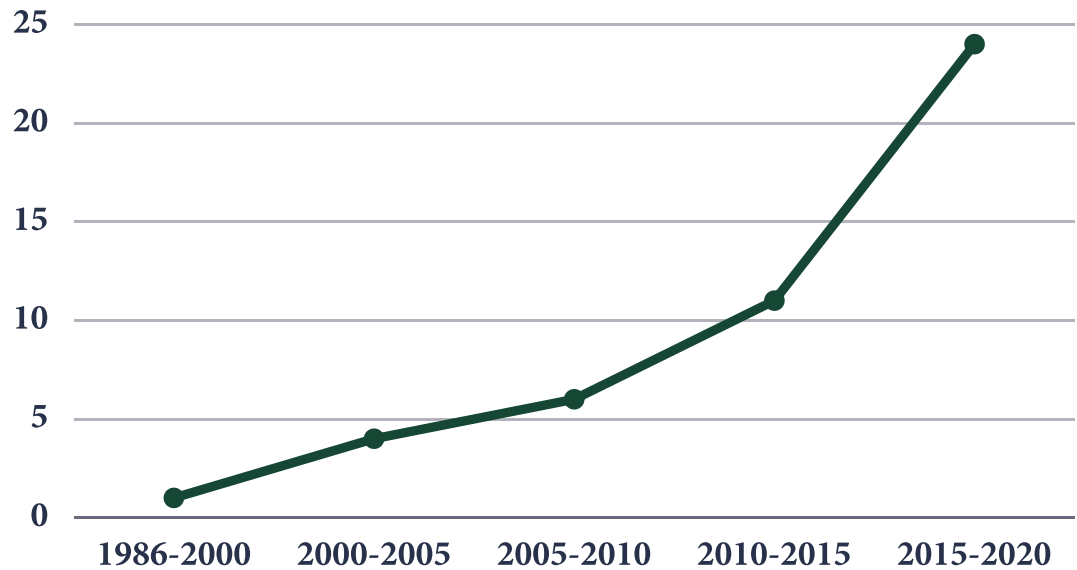
New  
Endowments  
Since 2015

5

Endowed  
Faculty  
Positions

# Endowments


Since the creation of our first endowment in 1986, we have seen tremendous growth thanks to the generosity of our supporters.





# Timeline

---

- 
- 1986 ● Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Collection Endowment Fund
  - 2002 ● The Einspruch Lectures on the Holocaust
  - 2003 ● Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies Endowment
  - 2004 ● Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
  - 2007 ● Selwin Belofsky Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust Studies
  - 2008 ● Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies
  - 2010 ● Stan and Barbara Rabin Professorship in Holocaust Studies
  - 2011 ● Holocaust Studies from the Perspective of the American Experience
  - 2012 ● Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies
  - 2013 ● Schuman-Ellman Opportunity Fund for the Ackerman Center
  - 2013 ● Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies
  - 2016 ● Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund
  - 2016 ● Herman Abrams Research Fund
  - 2016 ● Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Post-Doctoral Fellowship
  - 2017 ● Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies Conference and Lecture Fund
  - 2017 ● Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies
  - 2017 ● Charles M. Schwarz Endowment in Holocaust Studies
  - 2018 ● Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies
  - 2018 ● RFTF2: Researching for the Future
  - 2018 ● Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Annual Scholars' Conference Endowment
  - 2019 ● Max and Florence Wolens Research Fund
  - 2020 ● Jaffe Family Endowment for Holocaust Studies
  - 2020 ● Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

# Friends of the Ackerman Center

---

We are fortunate to have so many friends and supporters. We would like to give special thanks to the following friends, whose support and generosity has made so much possible.

## **\$500,000+ | Zsuzsi Circle**

Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett

## **\$100,000 – \$499,999 | Leadership Circle**

Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation

*Paula and Douglas Menendez*

*Caroline and David Ackerman*

*Samantha and James Ash*

*Beth and Eddie Ackerman*

Reneé and Hill Feinberg

Michael E. Jaffe and Elaine S. Jaffe

Elizabeth S. and John H. Massey

## **\$25,000 – \$99,999 | Visionary**

Dallas Jewish Community Foundation

Sara and Daniel C. Dunham

---

## **\$10,000 – \$24,999**

Joyce and Selly Belofsky

Neuberger Berman LLC

Ann and John Buser

Communities Foundation of Texas

Kerry and Michael Fagelman

Gateway Church

Geri Gundy & Steve and Shanie Gundy

Barbara and Stan Rabin

Terry and Bert Romberg

Charlotte Wolens Schuman

Jonathan Shofet

Anne and Brien Smith

David Stonberg

## **\$5,000 – \$9,999**

Diane Fagelman-Birk and David Birk  
Laurie and Charles Corson  
Susan and Laurence E. Hirsch  
Jane and Stephen Lerer and JLK, LTD

Judith A. Lifson  
Southwestern Medical Foundation  
Donna and Herbert D. Weitzman

## **\$1,000 – \$4,999**

Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.  
Raynette and Edward O. Boshell, Jr.  
Susan P. Bratton  
Susan and David E. Daniel  
Rachel and Michael Emmett  
Timothy G. Ewing  
Anne and Alan Feld  
Lynn and D. Gilbert Friedlander  
Leo & Rhea Fay Fruhman Foundation  
Judith and James Gibbs  
Rita Sue and Alan J. Gold  
Tricia and Matt Gold  
Lisa and Neil L. Goldberg  
HilltopSecurities, Inc.  
Ynette and James Hogue  
Patty and James Huffines  
The Mike Jacobs Holocaust Education Foundation  
Karen and Walter M. Levy  
Bobbi and Richard Massman  
MEMRI  
NCH Corporation  
Linda and Angel Negron  
David Newberger  
Kathleen Ozsváth and Elizabeth Bernardini  
Gerri and David Patterson  
Stanley Peskind  
Mary and Robert J. Potter  
Raelaine and Paul Radnitz  
Adrienne and Roger Rosenberg  
Steven Sanders

Michael B. Schiff  
Howard Schultz  
Ron Schwarz  
Lorraine and Phil Simpson  
Phyllis and Ronald G. Steinhart  
Catherine and Sam Susser  
Adele and B. Hobson Wildenthal  
Sheryl and Alan Yonack  
Andrew Yung  
Barbara and Donald Zale  
William & Sylvia Zale Foundation



## \$250 – \$999

Lisa Albert	Helen and Frank Risch
Rivka and Brad Altman	Cricket and Nils Roemer
Mary W. Bloom	Ann Marie and Charles Rosenfeld
Dayle and Meyer L. Bodoff	Eleanor Rudberg
Elinore and Benjamin A. Brown	Kerry Schonwald
Susan and Kenneth A. Chazanow	Kimberly and Avrum B. Schonwald
Rachelle and Paul T. Crane	Cynthia and Bryce Seton-Rogers
James A. Duncan	Nicole and Justin A. Small
Ragen and Roy D. Elterman	Sol Stein
Nina Cortell and Robert Fine	Temple Emanu-El
Linda Fisch	Jackie and Michael H. Wald
Peter T. Flaherty	Jackie and Stephen A. Waldman
The Fund for American Studies	Harriet Whiting
Marlene Gorin	Working Committee for Peace and Justice
Suzanne and Jack N. Greenman	Michael Zimmermann
William C. Herndon	
W. C. Herndon Land, INC.	
Wes Herndon	
Hochschule fuer Juedische Studien Heidelberg	
The Hockaday School	
Gregory M. Jaffe	
Nancy Kleinman and Mark Scott	
Christine Malina-Maxwell and Roger F. Malina	
Brenda Marcus	
Ann and Steven K. Meyer	
Sandy Nachman	
Christine C. Ozley	
Peter Ozsváth and Shevi Sperber	
Ruth and Jay Pack	
Ann H. Perryman	
Sally and Thomas R. Perryman	
Susan Chizeck and William Pervin	
The Professional's Referral Network	
Janine and Charles D. Pulman	
Eva and Robert Ratonyi	
Linda Rindler	
Lisa Albert	

## \$1 – \$249

Ethan Aaronson  
Sara S. Ahmed  
Dimple J. Ballou  
Stacy Barnett  
Gwendolyn A. Baumann  
Berthel Fisher & Company  
Renee Evan Bogar  
Bob Brenner  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Cohen  
Norman A. Cohen  
Jill W. Cohn  
Genny Darrouzet  
Deborah A. Dubsky  
Debra Weinberger and Steve T. Files  
Lois and Ross Finkelman  
Edward M. Gaffney  
Debra and Elliot J. Ginchansky  
Joan and Robert Glosser  
Esther M. Goldstein  
Pamela Graham  
Harriet P. Gross  
Dennis Guten  
Michele and Kevin Hanlon  
Brian E. Hansen  
Marcy C. Helfand  
Chad Herman  
Mark A. Herrera  
Maria and Angel Kosfiszter  
Abby and Dennis Kratz  
Barbara and Carl B. Lee  
Kathryn S. Legrand  
Toni A. Loftin  
Elaine and N. Michael Lowenkron  
Sherri and Sam Marcus  
Charlotte Mason  
Talia Sampson McAllister  
Michael and Holly Hull Miori  
Shulamit and Aharon Netzer  
Zsuzsanna Ozsváth  
Shri Pattabhi  
Anna Pattabhi

Debra H. Pfister  
Julie Piccirillo  
Gloria and Kenneth Price  
Rebecca Reyes  
Jolene F. Risch  
Andrew M. Robinson  
Mark J. Root  
Diana and Walter Root  
Helen C. Rosenberg  
Harriet and Allen Rubin  
Donna and Byron Rubin  
Gil Sadka  
Ellen and Michael Safley  
Sandra and Rainer Schulte  
Jacqueline and Myron Schwitzer  
Alvin Siwak  
Karla and Lawrence E. Steinberg  
Michael L. Tann  
Jewish Federation of Tulsa Foundation  
Jutka and Tamás Ungár  
Sarah R. Valente  
Maria A. Valente  
Junia D. Valente  
Miriam Vernon  
Helga and Gerardo Weinstein  
Caitlin C. West  
Susan Wisch  
Lisa and Mark Zale

From the beginning of his involvement with UT Dallas, Edward Ackerman was always looking forward to the future, and his question was always, "What's next?"

---

*Help us to write  
our next chapter.*

---





# You are a part of our mission

With your generosity, the Ackerman Center will be able to continue fulfilling its essential mission: teaching the history and lessons of the Holocaust to this and future generations.



Make checks payable to UT Dallas and mail with the attached form to:  
The Ackerman Center at UT Dallas  
800 W. Campbell Road, JO31  
Richardson, TX 75080

Gifts can also be made online:  
[giving.utdallas.edu/Ackerman](https://giving.utdallas.edu/Ackerman)

You can scan this QR code to go directly to our giving page.



I would like to make a gift of:

☐ Champion (\$25,000)

☐ Patron (\$10,000)

☐ Benefactor (\$5,000)

☐ Advocate (\$2,500)

☐ Mentor (\$1,000)

☐ Sponsor (\$500)

☐ Associate (\$250)

☐ Colleague (\$100)

☐ Friend (\$50)

☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to support:

☐ Annual Fund -  
Friends of the Ackerman Center

☐ Other:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Undesignated gifts will go to the  
Friends of the Ackerman Center Fund.*

☐ I do not wish to be recognized  
publicly for my gift

**Increase your gift's impact!**  
See if your company matches gifts  
at [utdallas.edu/match](https://utdallas.edu/match)

☐ I am interested in making a gift  
via pledge or planned giving.  
Please contact me.

☐ I would like to schedule a meeting.

My gift is in ☐ honor / ☐ memory of:

Please notify:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My contact information is:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your preferred method of contact:

☐ Physical Address ☐ Email ☐ Phone



## Ways to Give

The Ackerman Center welcomes contributions of all sizes and in various forms, including:

Cash

Appreciated stocks and securities

Artwork and collectibles

Business interests (privately held stocks)

Real estate and land

Charitable gift annuities

Charitable trusts

Intellectual property and royalties

Mineral interests

Gifts in will

Matching gifts

Life insurance

Individual retirement accounts

## Thank You

Everything that we have been able to do is because of supporters like you.

*For more information, please contact:*

**Holly Hull Miori**

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

[hmiori@utdallas.edu](mailto:hmiori@utdallas.edu) | 972-883-4119





# Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas



800 W. Campbell Road, JO 31  
Richardson, TX 75080



[holocauststudies@utdallas.edu](mailto:holocauststudies@utdallas.edu)



(972) 883-2100



[utdallas.edu/ackerman](http://utdallas.edu/ackerman)



[facebook.com/AckermanCenter](https://facebook.com/AckermanCenter)



[anchor.fm/ackermancenter](https://anchor.fm/ackermancenter)



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
School of Arts and Humanities