



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

*TEACHING THE PAST, CHANGING THE FUTURE*



# 2022-2023

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

### *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*

Founded by Holocaust scholar and survivor Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth in 1986 with the mission of *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*, the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas has earned an international reputation for excellence.

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is a distinguished and publicly-engaged academic center at The University of Texas at Dallas that offers an in-depth view of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies within a dedicated facility. The Ackerman Center provides an educational, engaging, and transformative experience for our diverse students, who carry our mission with them as educators, professionals, and leaders in America and around the world. By advancing a continuous engagement with the past, the Ackerman Center is a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world.

1986 ● Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Collection Endowed

2002 ● Einspruch Lectures on the Holocaust Series Endowed

2003 ● Leah and Paul Lewis Chair Established

2008 ● First Certificate in Holocaust Studies Awarded

Hillel A. Feinberg  
Distinguished Chair  
Established

2010 ● Stan and Barbara Rabin Professorship Established

2011 ● Ackerman Center Space Grand Opening

2015 ● Dr. Nils Roemer Named Director

2016 ● An Evening with Zsuzsi Event

2017 ● Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship Established

2018 ● Annual Scholars' Conference Moved to UT Dallas

2019 ● Stan and Barbara Rabin Professorship Distinguished

Ackerman Center  
Leadership Dinner

2020 ● Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair Established

2021 ● Hillel A. Feinberg Chair Distinguished

New Dimensions:  
The Campaign for  
UT Dallas Launched

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The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is a distinguished and publicly-engaged academic center at The University of Texas at Dallas.

# Director Letter

Fall – Richardson, Texas

In today's world of misinformation, intolerance, and division, the lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant.

Delving into history's darkest moments reminds us to nurture empathy, celebrate diversity, and confront injustice. We are committed to ensuring that the past's horrors enlighten future generations toward a peaceful world.

In 2022-2023, we expanded with new film, history, and literature courses, fostering academic growth and independent research. Beyond classrooms, we host free public events, including lectures and film screenings. In addition, renaming the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology following a transformational \$40M gift from the Harry W. Bass Jr. Foundation ensures continued development at the intersection of the arts, humanities, and technology. We are proud to be part of a thriving community of artists and scholars committed to courageous creativity and disruptive discovery.

Holocaust remembrance isn't just commemoration; it's a call to action against division and suffering. It urges engagement with painful histories and a collective effort to build a society based on dignity, tolerance, and respect.

Join us in our educational initiatives, attend our cultural events, and support the center as we teach the past to change the future. Your dedication is invaluable.

Sincerely,



*Dr. Nils Roemer  
Dean of the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology  
Director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies  
Arts, Humanities, and Technology Distinguished University Chair  
Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies*







Through public events, teaching students, and faculty lectures, the Ackerman Center made a worldwide impact.







THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts,  
Humanities, and Technology

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.

The Ackerman Center acknowledges the history and legacy of colonization. UT Dallas stands on land originally settled

and occupied by the Caddo, Wichita and Comanche people. We recognize the history of UT Dallas begins with the forced removal of the indigenous people through the legacy of colonization.

The Caddo people were the leaders of the Caddo Nation, an organized confederacy of at least 25 smaller tribes. The Caddo Confederacy was active until the 1800s and numbered 250,000 at the height of their existence. The Hasinai were among the 25 tribes of the Caddo Confederacy. Tejas is the Spanish spelling of Tayshas, the Hasinai word for those who are friends. The Caddo Confederacy was commonly known to the Spanish as "The Tejas". Texas is the English spelling of Tejas.

## Contact Us

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Ackerman  
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at The University of Texas at Dallas

# Faculty and Staff

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The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies works to promote and advance 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.

**Dr. Nils Roemer**

*Dean of the Harry W. Bass Jr. School  
of Arts, Humanities, and Technology  
Director of the Ackerman Center  
for Holocaust Studies  
Arts, Humanities, and Technology  
Distinguished University Chair  
Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished  
Professor in Holocaust Studies*

**Dr. David Patterson**

*Hillel A. Feinberg  
Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies*

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**Dr. Amy Kerner**

*Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald  
Professorship in Holocaust Studies  
2020-2023*

**Cindy Seton-Rogers**

*Academic & Outreach Events Manager*

**Dr. Debbie Pfister**

*Research Assistant Professor*

**Dr. Emily-Rose Baker**

*Visiting Assistant Professor  
2021 – 2022*

**Bonnie Gordon**

*Administrative Assistant*

The members of our 2022-2023 Advisory Board generously donate their time by attending events, guest speaking to our classes, and sharing their valuable insight and personal connections, resources, and experiences with the Holocaust.

David B. Ackerman, *Chairman*

Selwin Belofsky, *Past Chairman*

Burton C. Einspruch, *Past Chairman*

Eddie Ackerman

Edward Ackerman, *of blessed memory*

Samantha Ackerman Asch

Miriam Lewis Barnett

Mark Chazanow

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Nina Cortell

Michael Emmett

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Michael Wald

Herbert Weitzman

Alan P. Yonack

Donald Zale





## The Barbara Rabin Library

According to friends and family, Barbara Rabin was an amazing woman, leader and volunteer in the Dallas Jewish community and throughout the city. To honor her legacy, her husband, Stan Rabin, made a gift of \$350,000 to The University of Texas at Dallas to name the reference library at the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and continue to support a distinguished professorship within the center.

A ribbon-cutting for the Barbara Rabin Library in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center was held in late 2022.

“Barbara was an extraordinary woman who grew up in Borger, Texas, a town of about 12,000 people and 10 Jewish families,” Rabin said. “For her growing up in a small town like that and with her family being so involved there since the 1930s, engagement in the general community as well as the Jewish community was so important.”

Stan and Barbara Rabin married in 1965 in California where she was attending the University of California, Berkeley. In 1970 the couple moved to Dallas where Stan Rabin, an engineer, joined Commercial Metals Co. He was later appointed CEO and positioned the firm as an international leader in scrap metal processing. Barbara Rabin actively supported the company, as well as many organizations in her community, including the Ackerman Center, Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, Dallas Symphony Association, Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas and United Way. She died in 2020 after battling pancreatic cancer.

“The word ‘tenacity’ comes to mind when I think about this young woman who left her small hometown of Borger, Texas, and moved to California to attend Berkeley,” said Dr. Nils Roemer, dean of the School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology and director of the Ackerman Center. “She was a person who obviously valued her education together with the importance of community. So, naming this library, which is a place of community for our students, faculty and events for the public, in honor of Barbara is very appropriate.”

Roemer, the Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies, noted the importance of the philanthropic partnership between the Ackerman and Rabin families in supporting the Ackerman Center. According to Rabin, his wife’s involvement in the center showed her recognition of the importance of continuous education about the horrors of the Holocaust.

“The concept that you have to teach the past to change the future was so important to Barbara,” Rabin said. “Unfortunately, we’re seeing the rise of antisemitism and other human rights issues, so more than ever the Ackerman Center needs to flourish and keep growing.”



Stan Rabin and Nancy Rothfeder (center) take part in a ribbon-cutting to dedicate the Barbara Rabin Library alongside Provost Inga Musselman and Dr. Nils Roemer.

# TEACHING



The interdisciplinary structure of our courses offers students the opportunity to learn from multiple perspectives.

The Ackerman Center provides an educational, engaging, and transformative experience for our diverse students, who carry our mission with them as educators, professionals, and leaders in America and around the world. Our professors teach both undergraduate and graduate-level courses to one of the most diverse student populations in the nation. These students are able to take the lessons that they learn here back to their communities.

The Ackerman Center has five endowed faculty positions, which are complemented by graduate research assistants and additional part and full-time professors and lecturers.

The Ackerman Center offers graduate and undergraduate courses as well as a certificate and undergraduate micro-credential in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies.

The Graduate Certificate in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies is offered to MA and PhD students in the Bass School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology from the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas.

This certificate is designed for scholars and educators in schools, universities, museums, community professionals, community leaders, those involved in interfaith dialogue, and adult learners taking classes for personal enrichment or credit. Both degree and non-degree-seeking students are eligible for admission to the certificate program.

The certificate's courses are grouped as follows:



- + Two foundation courses
- + One course related to historic and aesthetic context
- + Two courses related to Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

Graduates of this fifteen-credit hour certificate will have a critical understanding of the Holocaust as well as modern Jewish culture, the history of antisemitism, and the major contemporary philosophical, aesthetic, and analytical responses to this major event. The certificate is awarded upon completion of the courses in the certificate program, separately from completion of the degree program.

Our undergraduate micro-credentials in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights were designed for the supplementation of bachelor's degrees with interdisciplinary skills within the study of mass murder, genocide, and persecution resulting from cultural, ethnic, political, religious, and racial differences. Its courses on the Holocaust and war and genocide are beneficial for students graduating with degrees in the humanities.



# Five Endowed FACULTY POSITIONS

The Ackerman Center advances Holocaust research and education by bringing together and engaging scholars, students, and members of the community.

## **Leah and Paul Lewis Chair of Holocaust Studies**

The chair was endowed in 2003 in honor of Leah and Paul Lewis by their daughter and son-in-law, Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett, with the support of many family members, friends and admirers of their path-breaking work to raise awareness about the Holocaust.

*This chair was held by Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth from 2003–2020.*

## **Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies**

Hillel A. Feinberg and Mr. and Mrs. John H. Massey established the endowed position in November 2007, which supports the scholarly, educational and community outreach activities of an internationally recognized scholar of Holocaust studies, including related aspects of European and American history. This includes literature, culture and politics that form the context of the Holocaust.

*This chair has been held by Dr. David Patterson since 2010 and was elevated to distinguished chair in 2019.*

## **Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies**

The Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair was established in 2020 by longtime supporters of the center, Mitchell L. and Miriam “Mimi” Lewis Barnett.

*Dr. Hanno Berger will be a fellow of this chair starting fall 2023.*

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

A donation from the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation in November 2007 created the professorship, which supports the scholarly, educational and community outreach activities of an internationally recognized scholar of Holocaust studies and the related aspects of European and American history, including literature, culture and politics that form the context of the Holocaust.

*This professorship has been held by Dr. Nils Roemer since 2010 and was elevated to a distinguished professorship in 2020.*

## **Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies**

Jacqueline and Michael Wald created the professorship in 2017 to increase knowledge of the Holocaust and to promote the understanding, avoidance and elimination of antisemitism, genocide, bigotry and similar societal malfeasance.

*Dr. Amy Kerner was the fellow of the Wald Professorship from 2020–2023.*



## Ackerman Center FACULTY

### Dr. David Patterson

Hillel A. Feinberg  
Distinguished Chair of  
Holocaust Studies



Dr. Patterson was invited to be part of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Brain Trust to fight antisemitism. This year he published his 41st book, *Eighteen Words to Sustain a Life: A Jewish Father's Ethical Will* with Wipf and Stock Publishers. He also published five articles and book chapters related to his research in Holocaust and post-Holocaust studies and studies in antisemitism. He was invited to present his research in thirteen international forums, and presented at three international conferences. Dr. Patterson taught two graduate courses and one undergraduate senior seminar and continues to mentor graduate students on independent research projects. He is committed to fighting antisemitism in North Texas and gave multiple lectures to local audiences.

#### Publications and Lectures:

"The Future of the Humanities and the Specter of Antisemitism: A Reflection on the Holiness of the Human Being," *Athenaeum Review*, Spring 2023: 83-91.

"My Journey into the Shoah" in Judy Baumel and Phyllis Lassner, eds, *Holocaust Literature and Representation: Their Lives, Our Words*, (London: Bloomsbury, 2023), pp. 69-79.

"Shoah, Torah, and Sacred History," in Zev Garber, ed., *Teaching the Shoah: Mandate and Momentum* (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2023), pp. 86-107.

### Dr. Nils Roemer

Stan and Barbara Rabin  
Distinguished Professor  
in Holocaust Studies



Dr. Roemer serves as the Director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies and Dean for the School of Arts, Humanities and Technology. He is a board member of the Leo Baeck Institute in London and co-editor of *Germanic Review*. In 2022-2023, he published several new articles, attended the Annual German Studies Conference in Houston, lectured at the University of Graz, the University of Toronto, and gave invited keynote lectures in Berlin and Tulsa. He also conducted research at the archives of Columbia University on the Frankfurt School. In addition, he supported two research assistants who worked on developing a new online class on the Holocaust and the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project.

#### Publications and Lectures:

"East, West, and a Gendering of Jewish Tradition during the First World War," *'A Man in the Street, a Jew at Home: New Views on the Culture and Politics of East Central and East European Jewry* (Wayne State University Press, 2023).

"Hermann Levin Goldschmidt and the Futurology of an Uncertain Future," *Philosophy Today* 67:3 (2023).

"Stanley Marcus: Fashioning a City," Paul Lerner, Anne Schenderlein and Uwe Spiekerman, eds. *Jewish Consumer Cultures in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Europe and North America* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022), 111-129.



**Dr. Amy Kerner**

*Fellow of the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship in Holocaust Studies (2020 – 2023)*



In the last year, Dr. Kerner wrote and revised a new, peer-reviewed research article, developed new courses, and made major progress on her book manuscript *A Transnational History of Argentine Yiddish* which, in part, works to place Yiddish in the context of Argentina's Dirty War, from 1976-1983.

**Dr. Debbie Pfister**

*Research Assistant Professor*



Over the last academic year, Dr. Pfister has written the curriculum for the undergraduate Micro-Credential Program in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights and helped launch the development stages of the Ackerman Center online teaching initiative. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, each summer, she organized and hosted a continuing education workshop for high school and middle school educators.

**Dr. Emily-Rose Baker**

*Visiting Assistant Professor (Fall 2022)*



In her final semester as a visiting assistant professor, Dr. Baker developed two new film studies courses and presented her research at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies Conference in Chicago. She also saw the publication of her co-edited volume *Dreams and Atrocity: The Oneiric in Representations of Trauma* in which her chapter "The Third Reich of Dreams: Resisting Fascism through the Unconscious" appears.

**Dr. Hanno Berger**

*Fellow of the Miriam Lewis Barnett Chair in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies (2023 – )*



The Ackerman Center is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Hanno Berger to our faculty this coming fall. He was appointed as assistant professor of film studies in the Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, earned his doctorate in film studies from the Freie Universität Berlin, and subsequently secured a postdoctoral position at Vanderbilt University.



# GRAD & UNDERGRAD COURSES

## GRADUATE COURSES

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### **The Holocaust**

*Dr. David Patterson*

An interdisciplinary approach to one of the most problematic events of human history: the Holocaust. Addressing questions of good and evil, of divinity and humanity, of truth and responsibility that arise from this event, the class sought to better understand its singular significance for human life.

### **Genocide in the Americas**

*Dr. Amy Kerner*

This course focused on interrogating the concept of genocide through a historical lens, by looking at indigenous histories from the 19th and 20th centuries, from Canada, the US, Guatemala, and the Southern Cone.

### **Literature and the Holocaust**

*Dr. David Patterson*

A graduate seminar exploring literary responses to the Holocaust in the genres of fiction, drama, and poetry, as well as theoretical issues surrounding the literary representation of the Holocaust.

### **Transnational Cinema & Holocaust**

*Dr. Emily-Rose Baker*

Students in this course studied the ethics and aesthetics of transnational Holocaust cinema, including pre-war Nazi propaganda film, Soviet liberation footage, and post-war documentary and fiction films from Europe, Asia and Israel.

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

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### **The Holocaust**

*Dr. Debbie Pfister*

This course explored the Holocaust and its aftermath, looking at the ways in which it was commemorated in the Nuremberg and Eichman trials, in survivor testimonies, in Holocaust literature, art, memorials, museums and films as well as the ways in which the Holocaust is often denied.

### **The Holocaust**

*Angie Simmons*

Exploring the background of The Holocaust, as well as the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts surrounding it, this course examined the development of anti-Semitism, as well as the conditions that allowed for the rise of National Socialism.

### **Film in Historical Context**

*Dr. Emily-Rose Baker*

Exploring the history and representation of horror in Slavic cinema from the 20th century-present, students studied the cultural importance of the genre to ideas about ethno-political identity, history, religion, gender, and the origins and influence of specific national myths including ghostly presences and the landscape.

### **World War II and the Holocaust**

*Dr. Debbie Pfister*

Focusing on the relationship between war and genocide, this course analyzed the geopolitical landscape of twentieth century Europe, Japan, and the United States and the issues which ultimately led to war in order to understand the barbarism which came to underscore the violence of the age.

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### Operation Barbarossa

*Dr. Debbie Pfister*

Providing an analysis of the German invasion of the Soviet Union and European anti-Semitism that decimated Jewish communities throughout that region, this course focused on several key battles, mass murders of this period, factors leading to Hitler's decision to move to the east, and Stalin's response to the long assault.

### Race and Ethnicity in Modern Latin America

*Dr. Amy Kerner*

Students engaged with history's key questions, approaches, and skills, through examples on the theme of race and ethnicity in modern Latin American history. The class will take a tour through the historians' toolkit, asking questions such as: What is historiography, and how and why do interpretations of the past change? What is an archive and how do historians use them? How do primary sources generate debate and disagreement?

### Desaparecidos in History, Fiction, and Law

*Dr. Amy Kerner*

The coordinated violence against civilians of late twentieth-century Latin American dictatorships augured in a new, traumatic political concept: the desaparecido or disappeared person. This course examined the historical contexts that produced the figure of the desaparecido, through a focused study of the Argentine Dirty War.

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### War/Liberation/Representation

*Dr. Debbie Pfister*

This course examined the nature of major conflicts in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, the formulation of national foreign policy, and the ways that society was impacted by its role as liberator; not only by media and primary accounts, but also by the art, literature, and film of the time.

### America and the Holocaust

*Dr. Debbie Pfister*

Through examining and analyzing the American response to the plight of the European Jews between 1933 and 1945 students explored the extent of racism and anti-Semitism in 20th Century America and how those feelings influenced the press, the public, and politicians up to the highest levels of government.

### Antisemitism

*Dr. David Patterson*

Taking an interdisciplinary approach to the Jewish condition, as well as the human condition, after the annihilation of European Jewry, this course explored the issues and challenges facing the Jewish people in the aftermath of the Holocaust. It examines the history of the Jewish state as a haven for the Jews, the standing of the Jewish people in the world, debates concerning the future of Judaism, and the crises in Jewish identity, thought, and purpose in the world after Auschwitz.



# Ackerman Center

## STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Ackerman Center has multiple endowed fellowships and research funds that attract the best and brightest students. Our students travel across the country and the globe to conduct and present their original research. Generous support makes the following endowments possible.

**The Selwin Belofsky Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust Studies** endowment was established in 2007 and provides cash distributions to support graduate students in the Bass School who are pursuing a degree on a topic consistent with the mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies. This fellowship positively impacts students and research at UT Dallas. It enables outstanding students to realize their potential and begin careers that will have a significant impact upon the field of Holocaust studies. Recipients for the 2022–2023 fellowship are as follows:

### Katie Fisher

*PhD Candidate,  
Visual and Performing Arts,  
Bass School*



As a visual artist, she is pursuing a creative dissertation project mapping the connections between ruined ecosystems, urban infrastructure, and traumatic memory. With the approval of her dissertation proposal in the Spring, she has begun research into the phenomenon of sinkholes in Mexico City and New Orleans as symptoms of traumatized landscapes.

Through the Belofsky Fellowship she was able to complete original research during a fieldwork trip to New Orleans and presented her work "Making Visible Historical Trauma: Counter-cartographies and Chronic Urban Trauma," at the International Association of Genocide Scholars in Barcelona, Spain.

### Angie Simmons

*PhD Candidate,  
History of Ideas,  
Bass School*



After having her proposal successfully approved in the spring, she is currently working on her dissertation, which explores the origins of utopian motivations that employ violence in Western culture and politics, focusing on the developing democracies of the Early Modern period.

The Belofsky Fellowship has provided her with the support to conduct original research, which she presented at the 53rd Annual Scholars' Conference in a presentation titled, "Turning Tribulations into Triumph: Nazi Germany and the Culture of Defeat."

**The Mike Jacobs Fellowship in Holocaust Studies** endowment was established in 2013 to support the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies in the School of Arts and Humanities at The University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas). Recipient for the 2022–2023 fellowship is:

**John Kalkanli**

*MA Humanities, 2023  
Bass School*

John completed a Master's degree in Humanities and the graduate certificate in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies. His research interests include Holocaust literature, representational justice in war crimes trials, the study of antisemitism, and the study of state-sponsored racism and eugenics.

**The Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies** endowment, established in 2012, provides support to graduate students enrolled in Holocaust Studies classes. The recipient for the 2022–2023 fellowship is:

**Jennifer Armstrong**

*PhD Candidate,  
History of Ideas,  
Bass School*

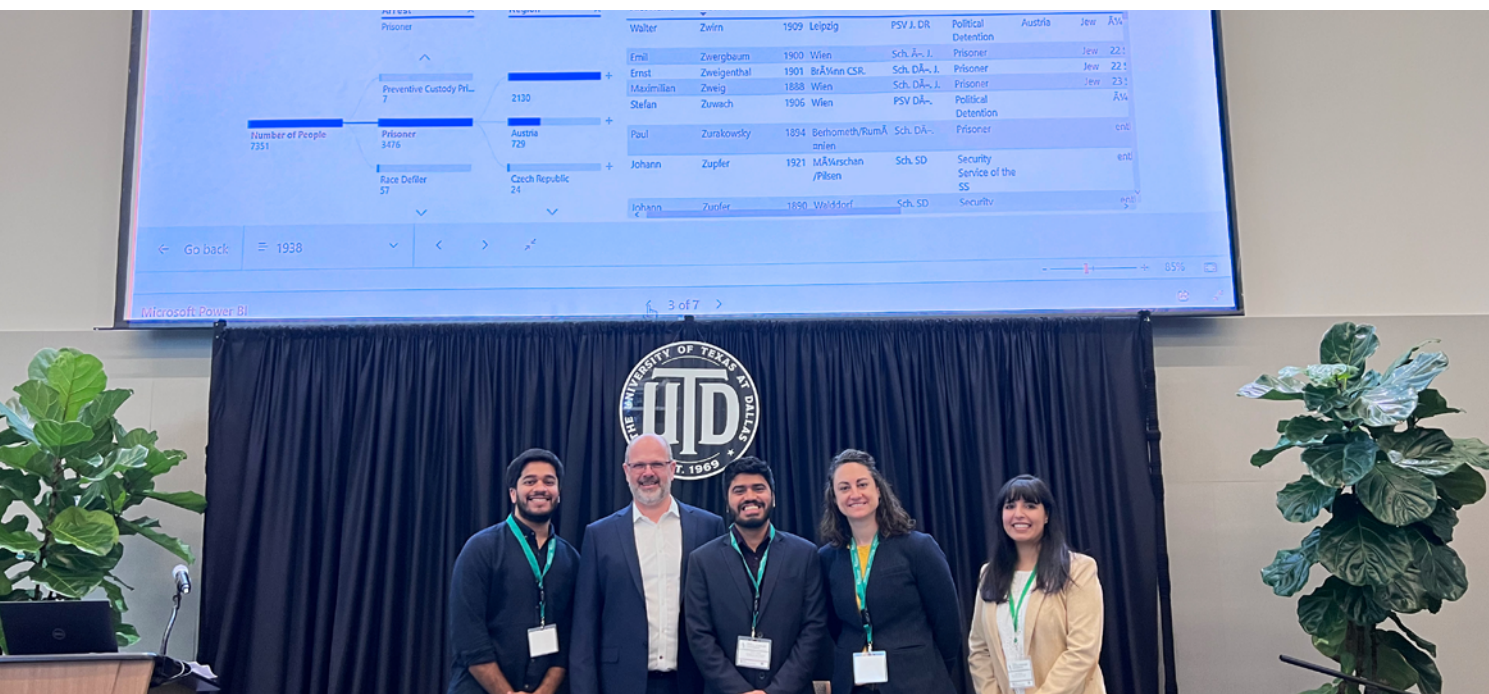
Through this fellowship she was enabled to purchase books for her dissertation research and to visit Holocaust Museums in Houston and San Antoni, which encouraged her to further expand her knowledge in Holocaust studies and to build connections for her original research.

**Ackerman Center research funds enabled students to conduct original research, attend conferences, give presentations, and launch projects.** The *Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth Research Fund*, *Herman Abrams Research Fund*, and *The Max and Florence Wolens Research Fund in honor of Istvan and Zsuzsanna Ozsváth* were created in 2016 as part of *An Evening with Zsuzsi* to help students in perpetuity to conduct original research in archives and libraries and to attend and present that research at conferences. The *Charles M. Schwarz Endowment in Holocaust Studies* and the *Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies* were created to help students present their original research in conjunction with the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

Ackerman Center students, Angie Simmons, Katie Fisher, Jennifer Armstrong, John Kalkanli, and Jennifer Cantrell-Sutor, attended the 53rd Annual Scholars' Conference.



The Digital Studies of the Holocaust team presenting their research on the Dachau Concentration Camp prisoner log at the Annual Scholars' Conference.



## RESEARCH



Collaborative research remains at the heart of the Ackerman Center's mission with ongoing projects advancing the scholarship of Holocaust studies and related fields.

The center's staff, research assistants, and faculty all office within a 3,500 square-foot dedicated facility located in the Erik Jonsson Academic Center. This allows the students to have greater access to our resources and professors, which is another of the many benefits that the center offers to its students. The Barbara Rabin Library, located within the Ackerman Center, holds the core texts and

videos from the Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Collection. This collection provides access to roughly 6,000 books and videos as well as to digital and archival resources, including the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive with more than 3,000 video testimonies of survivors. The majority of the collection is housed in the McDermott Library and available for students and faculty.



# URAP Summer 2023

The Ackerman Center participated in the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College Summer **Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP)**. The URAP provided an opportunity for Junior or Senior UT Dallas undergraduate students to expand their research and creative skills by working on a faculty member's project. The goal was to create a lively intellectual experience that mutually benefited both the student and the research project.

Yannis Kwon is a rising senior with a major in history and a minor in Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies. For ten weeks, she worked with the Ackerman Center's Digital Studies of the Holocaust project. Kwon contributed to the project by searching through the Arolsen Archives and the French Ministry of the Armies archive to find documents pertaining to seven prisoners from the Dachau prison logs. Her summer research followed seven French Resistance fighters from their arrest in France

in the summer of 1944 through the end of the war in Europe. The case study she wrote, "Between Liberation and Murder: The Lives of Seven Men in the Final Year of the War," is available on the Digital Studies of the Holocaust website.

Yannis Kwon presented her work at the SPUR Symposium. Access her interactive case study and visualization through this code.



Four students, along with associate professors Todd Fechter and Sean McComber, participated in an animation research project focused on the translation of educational graphic novels on genocide into a series of cinematic motion comic short films. This collaboration with the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum resulted in an engaging retelling of the graphic novel that explore Dr. Gregory Stanton's *Ten Stages of Genocide*. Each 2D panel within a given novel has been deconstructed into multiple image files and then reconstructed in multi-plane image composites allowing for visual depth, character performance, and visual effects.



Students Eesha Muddasani, Haley Rogers, Juliette Fernandez, and Jordan Prado presented their work at the SPUR Symposium.





# Digital Studies of the Holocaust

*Researching for the Future* represents an initiative that recognizes ways in which the digital age dramatically changes the way we read, see, interpret, and create.

This ongoing project, led by Dr. Nils Roemer, brings together faculty, visiting professors, graduate and undergraduate students, and alumni from diverse fields. The Digital Studies of the Holocaust team exchanges ideas, practices, and tools between historians, data analysts, and graphic designers to create an interactive digital humanities resource.

The Digital Studies of the Holocaust team has spent the past year working with records and logs from the Dachau section of the Captured German Records Collection that detail prisoners kept

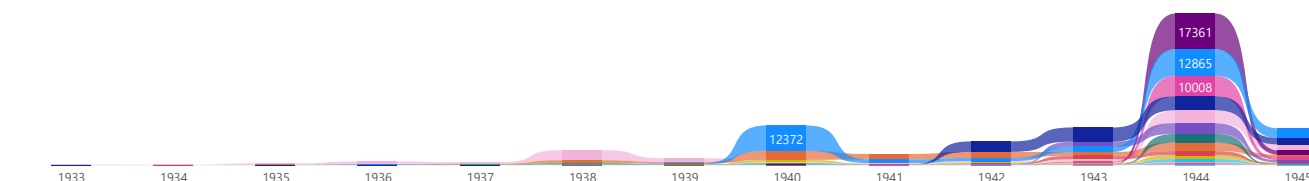
at the Dachau Concentration Camp from 1933 to the time of liberation in 1945. Through analyzing and visualizing the demographics of the records, the Digital Studies team was able to learn more about the ways in which the camp evolved along with Nazi policies. The below pictured dashboard comes from the comprehensive log analysis. From this main case study, the team was able to look into more detailed sections of the log including a comparison between the years 1933, 1938, and 1943. Five case studies regarding the Dachau camp records can be found

## Dachau Camp Records

1933-1945

Yearly Arrivals by Region 139518

Region ● Austria ● Belgium ● Czech Repu... ● France ● Germany ● Greece ● Hungary ● Italy ● Lithuania ● Luxembourg ● Netherlands ● Poland ● Romania ● Serbia ● Slovakia ● Stateless ● United Kin... ● USSR ● Yugoslavia



People Arriving by Region 143017



Year	Region	Race	Last Name	First Name	Category	Arrest	Region	Race	Disposition
1940	Austria		Ä.Rmer	Johann	Sch. Dr.	Prisoner	Austria		Entl. 18 Feb 1945
			Ä.É Campe	Willy	Sch. DR	Prisoner	Austria		entl. 12 Apr 1945
			Aa	Jacques	Sch. Hol. J.	Prisoner	Netherlands	Jew	befr. MÄ 1/4
			Aadahl	Per-Alster	Sch. DÄ	Prisoner			23 Mar 1945
			Aakra	Jan	Sch. Norw.	Prisoner			14 Sep 1945
			Aalberg	Karl	Sch. VD.	Prisoner			befr. Allach
			Aanesland	Claus	Sch. Nor.	Prisoner			Ä 1/4 berst. 2
			Aanesland	Franz	Sch. Nor.	Prisoner			Ä 1/4 berst. 2
			Aardema	Gaert	Sch. Holl.	Prisoner	Netherlands		befreit Da.
			Aarestrup	Thorleif	Sch. Norw.	Prisoner			23 Mar 1945
			Aarik	Johannes	Sch. Estl.	Prisoner	Stateless		22 Oct 1945

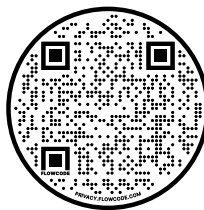
in the case study library including visualizations about Kristallnacht, missing or escaped persons, race defilement arrests, men arrested for homosexual activity, and the fate of seven French resistance fighters held at Dachau.

Visualizations and case studies were presented at the 53rd Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches as well as the Annual Summer Teachers' Institute. These resources are available for researchers and educators alike to learn from and teach a digital approach to memorializing the Holocaust and understanding trends alongside major events.

Episodes from the Ackerman Center Podcast are also available alongside the Digital Studies of the Holocaust website for educators

and researchers to cross-reference. Join Dr. Nils Roemer and Belofsky fellow Katie Fisher on a walking tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site outside of Munich, Germany.

The Digital Studies case study library can be found on our website or through this code.



Dr. Glenn Kurtz, Dr. Martin Dean, Angie Simmons, Dr. Nils Roemer, and Katie Fisher sit down to record a podcast at the Annual Scholars' Conference.



The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies started an ongoing partnership with the Austrian Service Abroad—an organization that allows young Austrians to fulfill their compulsory military service through alternative work at Holocaust research centers and Holocaust museums all over the world. This concept, known as Gedenkdienst, references the financially supported work of facing and taking responsibility for the darkest chapters of one's own country's history. Last October the Ackerman Center for Holocaust

Studies welcomed the first Austrian volunteer, Jakob Lutz, an eighteen-year-old from Innsbruck.

During his time at the Ackerman Center, Jakob joined the Digital Studies of the Holocaust team assisting in cleaning data files and translating Nazi records. He researched the exact location of 140 key events of WWII and the Holocaust and created an interactive PowerBi visualization using ArcGIS. He also translated over thirty hand-written German letters.







The Ackerman Center regularly hosts events that are free and open to the public. Learn more and sign up for upcoming events on our website.



# OUTREACH



Our academic program is complemented by a substantial outreach program that includes free public events such as teacher workshops, film screenings, and lectures from distinguished scholars.

September 6:	The Dressmakers of Auschwitz: The True Story of the Women Who Sewed to Survive
September 18-19:	Einspruch Lectures on the Holocaust Series
October 19:	Minorities in the Age of Majoritarian Pluralism
October 29-30:	International eConference on Holocaust Studies
November 1:	Dissemination of Holocaust Education in India: Academic Insights and Personal Reflections
November 6:	“Screening Genocide: Variables of Uncertain Futures”
December 8:	Film Screening, <i>Let Us Die</i>
January 23:	Dr. Kenneth P. Price Author Talk <i>Separated Together: The Incredible True WWII Story of Soulmates Stranded an Ocean Apart</i>
February 4:	“Music from the Promised Land” Concert with Duo Mantar
February 5:	“Rachel’s Mandolin” Concert with Duo Mantar
March 4-6th:	53rd Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches  Dr. Martin Dean Keynote: “1933, 1938, and 1943: The Evolution of the Holocaust”  Dr. Glenn Kurtz Keynote: “Three Minutes in Poland”
April 2:	The Ackerman Center's Spring Lecture Series: “Revisiting Deportations and War in 1943”
April 16:	The Ackerman Center's Spring Lecture Series: “Zivia Lubetkin's Days of Destruction and Revolt; Memories of a Female Ghetto Fighter.”
April 18:	Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration
June 22:	Summer Teacher Institute: Antisemitism and the Homefront

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Find recordings of past events on the UTDArts YouTube channel.



# Ackerman Center Annual Community Events

For more than two decades, the Ackerman Center has invited eminent scholars and prominent figures to share their research.

## EINSBRUCH LECTURES ON THE HOLOCAUST SERIES

*Dr. Dina Porat*  
*September 18-19, 2022*

Presented by Dr. Dina Porat, professor emerita of modern Jewish history at the Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University and the chief historian of Yad Vashem. She presented two lectures “‘To Me Belongeth Vengeance and Recompence’ A Major Post-Holocaust Revenge Attempt” and “The Working Definition of Antisemitism and the Debate around its Evolution and Implications”

She discussed the revenge attempt of young survivors, mostly partisans and ghetto fighters in which they attempted to

kill six million Germans for the six million Jews they killed during the Holocaust. She also presented on the adoption of the Working Definition of Antisemitism (WDA) by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

## SPRING LECTURE SERIES

### “Revisiting Deportations and War in 1943”

*Dr. Nils Roemer*  
*April 2, 2023*

Dr. Roemer sought to contextualize the genocidal policies of the Third Reich more firmly in the war by drawing on the intensified deportation presented in the visualizations of the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project in order to better comprehend how the Holocaust continued to be implemented on a local, regional, national, and European scale within the changing context of the war.

### “Zivia Lubetkin's *Days of Destruction and Revolt*; Memories of a Female Ghetto Fighter”

*Dr. David Patterson*  
*April 16, 2023*

Dr. Patterson explored highlights of Zivia Lubetkin's (1914 – 1978) memoir of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, *Days of Destruction and Revolt*. Lubetkin was a founder of the Warsaw Ghetto's Jewish Fighting Organization, one of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, and one of only thirty-four fighters to survive the war.



Dr. Dina Porat presenting the 2023 Einspruch Holocaust Lecture.

## SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE: ANTISEMITISM AND THE HOMEFRONT

June 22, 2023

This Year's Summer Teacher's Institute, featured Professor Laurel Leff, School of Journalism, Associate Director of Jewish Studies, Northeastern University. Professor Leff's talk, titled "The Role of Elite Antisemitism in the U.S. Response to the Holocaust," surveyed the ways in which anti-Jewish sentiment in academia, politics, and the press influenced American immigration policy and the overall response to the plight of the European Jews in the 1930s and 1940s.

In addition to Professor Leff's presentation, the workshop included talks by Dr. David Patterson who presented, "Antisemitism in the Academy: Then and Now" as well as PhD candidate Cynthia Seton-Rogers who spoke about "The Myth of American Exceptionalism." In a presentation of the Digital Studies Project given by PhD candidate and research assistant Katie Fisher, and Yannis Kwon a research apprentice through the Hobson Wildenthal Honors College summer program. Tea-



chers learned ways to incorporate digital humanities resources and projects into their classrooms and how to use free resources created by the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project. The Ackerman Center closed this year's session with a viewing of the animated short, "A Lasting Image," which chronicles Dr. Ozsváth's experiences during the Holocaust and was well-received by all in attendance. Teachers were provided with many resources including several books as well as access to teaching materials through the McDermott Library. These resources house an extensive bibliography and specially designed lesson plans with accompanying PowerPoint presentations for each discipline in which the Holocaust is taught.

Cynthia Seton-Rogers, PhD Candidate, speaking about antisemitism in America during the interwar period.

Dr. Jonathan Palant, Associate Dean of the Arts, directing the University Choir.

## Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 18, 2023

On April 18 we gathered to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) with a performance by the UT Dallas University Choir, a special interactive art experience by LabSynthe, as well as traditional readings by faculty, staff, students, and community members of poetry, prose, and personal testimony in a variety of languages.





# 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies invited members of the public to join scholars from across the globe at the 53rd Annual Scholars' Conference, which this year had the central theme "(Dis)Continuities in the Third Reich" marking the 90th, 85th, and 80th anniversaries, respectively of Hitler's rise to power, Kristallnacht, and the significant military losses and uprisings against the Nazis of 1943. The conference offers the opportunity to address the historical significance of the Holocaust through scholarship that is interfaith, international, and interdisciplinary.



## MICHAEL AND ELAINE JAFFE LECTURE:

**1933, 1938, and 1943:  
The Evolution of the Holocaust**  
*Dr. Martin Dean*

In this keynote address, Dr. Dean, research scholar at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, spoke about the evolution of the situation for the Jews over the course of the Holocaust highlighting events in the years 1933, 1938, and 1943.

## MITCHELL L. AND MIRIAM LEWIS BARNETT LECTURE:

**Three Minutes in Poland**  
*Dr. Glenn Kurtz*

Dr. Glenn Kurtz, author of *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film*, presented a lecture on his book and the documentary film it inspired titled *Three Minutes—A Lengthening*, directed by Bianca Stigter, co-produced by Academy Award-winner Steve McQueen, and narrated by Helena Bonham Carter, which premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September 2021. He discussed the processes that led to the writing of the book and production of the film, which was screened prior to the conference on March 1st at Studio Movie Grill.



# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

The Ackerman Center believes that our mission of *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future* should extend to as wide an audience as possible.

To that end, we have developed relationships with dozens of institutions and organizations across the United States and the world. These partnerships allow

us to reach a global audience as well as increase both national and international awareness of the Center. Here are a few of our partners and collaborators.



The Ackerman Center continues to develop new partnerships and collaborations with the belief that together we can do more than alone.



'23  
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## Edward M. Ackerman LEADERSHIP HONOREE

Dr. Burton C. Einspruch is the 2023 Edward M. Ackerman Leadership honoree. The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UT Dallas has granted the award to outstanding individuals or groups who demonstrate exceptional leadership and commitment to promoting education and increased awareness of the Holocaust and related human rights issues.

The honoree inspires and or empowers others to become involved and engaged in ways that echo the Center's mission: *Teaching the Past, Changing the Future.*

“Dr. Einspruch's unwavering commitment and immeasurable contributions, through both volunteerism and financial support, have been instrumental in empowering our university to impact the future positively,”

said Dr. Nils Roemer, AHT dean, Ackerman Center director, and Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies. “From bringing internationally renowned Holocaust scholars to our campus to funding endowments for further research, his dedication and generosity have left an indelible mark on our institution. We are deeply and forever grateful to him and his family.”

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Einspruch attending Highland Park High School.



Einspruch is a Dallas-based psychiatrist, well-known for his service and deep commitment to the North Texas Jewish community. He served as former chair of the Ackerman Center's board. He has also provided grants to endow the Burton C. Einspruch Holocaust Lecture Series and the Mala and Adolph Einspruch Fellowship for Holocaust Studies. Each year his namesake lecture series is host to eminent scholars and prominent figures in Holocaust studies. The public forums engage audiences in ground-breaking research, promoting a necessary exchange of ideas around the Shoah. “The



Ackerman Center's work goes far beyond studying the Holocaust," said Dr. Inga H. Musselman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for UT Dallas. "Its commitment to scholarship, education and the DFW community also has made it a widely respected source for information about genocide and human rights. I'm thankful for all the people who—like Dr. Einspruch—support its crucial mission of teaching the past and changing the future."

"I had decided to try to do something when I was in the military. I would ask people in the hospital: 'What is the difference between the Congo and the VietCong?' and they didn't know. Or 'what's the difference between a jail and a concentration camp?' And they didn't know," Einspruch said during a 2013 interview with The Dallas Jewish Historical Society. "I felt like this is a subject that, sooner or later, would drift further and further away from people's knowledge, and that they may come to believe that this was just a peculiar era."

Born in The Bronx in 1935, Einspruch is a first-generation American and the son of European immigrants. He moved to Dallas



at 11 and finished his school attending Highland Park High School, SMU, and medical school at UT Southwestern where he pursued psychiatry. He and his wife Barbara married in October 1960 and have three children. Today, the Einspruchs enjoy their role as grandparents to six grandchildren.

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Einspruch as a United States Air Force cadet.




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Dr. Burton C. Einspruch and Dr. Nils Roemer at a previous Einspruch Lecture event.





## 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 have made so much possible. Your support allows the Ackerman Center to fulfill its essential mission—teaching the history of the Holocaust and its implications for all people to this and future generations. The gifts recognized here are from the previous fiscal year.

### PLANNED GIVING

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies is grateful to the following individuals who have placed the Ackerman Center in their estate plans:

Susan P. Bratton PhD'97  
Sara and Daniel Dunham BA'18  
Michael K. Emmett  
Holly Hull Miori '18, '21 and Michael Miori  
Jackie and Michael Wald

*If you are interested in learning more about non-cash gifts and other smart giving strategies, please contact Holly Miori at [hmiori@utdallas.edu](mailto:hmiori@utdallas.edu), 972-883-4119, or visit [www.utdallasgiving.org](http://www.utdallasgiving.org)*



### LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$100,000 +)

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The cover image for this annual report was generated using AI technology and is not representative of an actual Holocaust memorial. We decided to generate this image to draw awareness to the massive changes we are experiencing with the availability of artificial intelligence. We are at a critical point with the increased framing of 'fake news' and the technologies to generate images that match that artificial reality are now freely available. It is not lost on us that this change in technology is happening at the same time that the majority of survivors of the Holocaust are passing away making efforts to collect, preserve, and consider real accounts all the more important.

