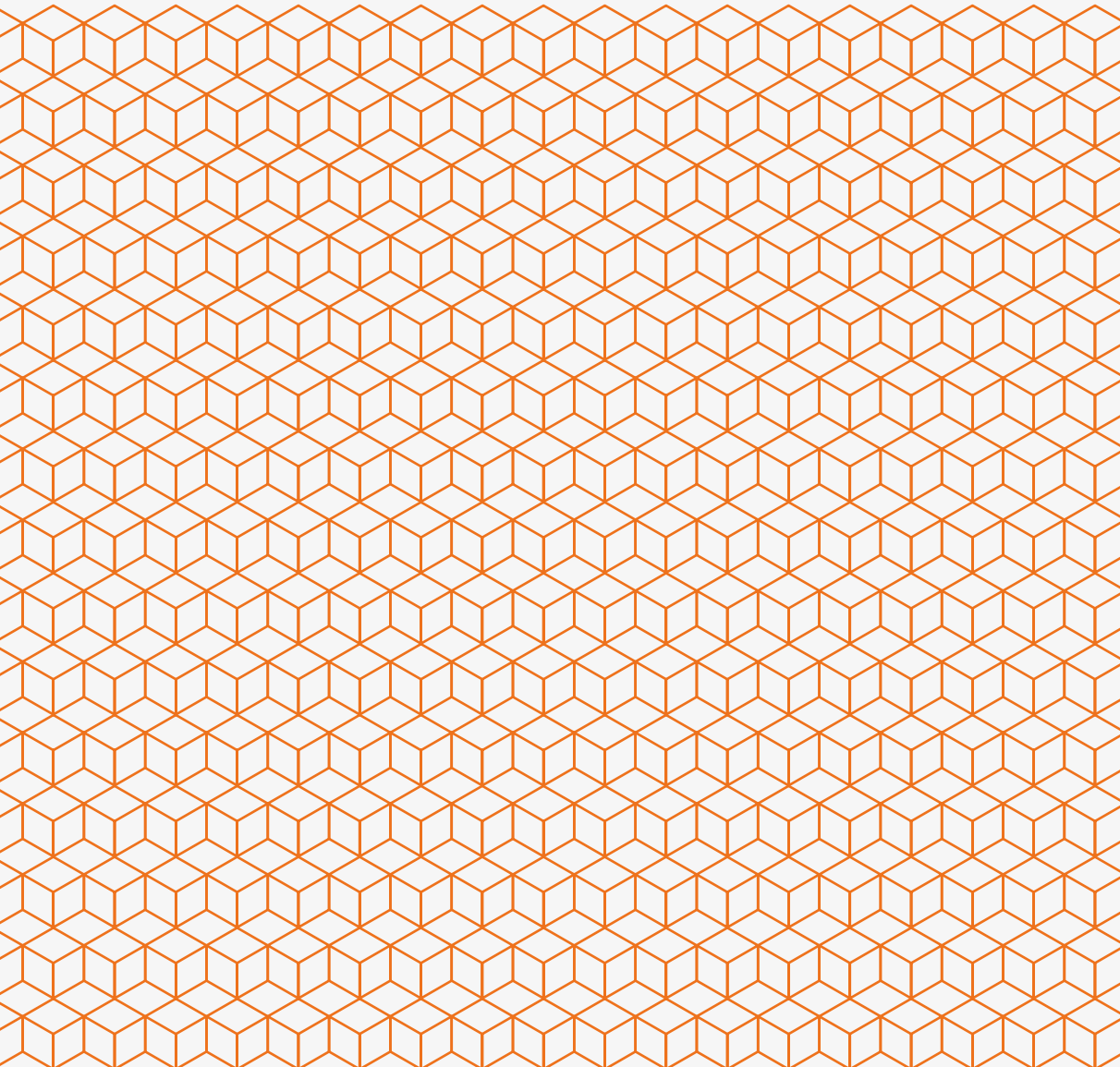


Ackerman  
Center for Holocaust Studies  
at The University of Texas at Dallas

2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

*Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*





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Special thanks to the Ackerman  
Center faculty, staff, and students who  
contributed to the creation of our 5<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Report.

# Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

at The University of Texas at Dallas



.....  
Learn more about the  
Ackerman Center and  
watch a short video  
through the link in this  
QR code.



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



## *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.

// Fall 2022 //

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am pleased to share with you some of our accomplishments from the past year, which we have highlighted here in our fifth annual report. In many ways, this past year has been one of new connections and growth. The Ackerman Center hired new faculty, added new students, expanded our global outreach, and increased the number of partners around the globe.

Ackerman Center professors collectively offered twelve classes this past academic year on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations. They also presented lectures both nationally and internationally. Along with research conducted by our faculty, the Ackerman Center values and promotes undergraduate and graduate research initiatives. It is with great excitement that we debuted our collaborative Digital Studies of the Holocaust project, making it publicly accessible for the first time. This year, our partnerships included projects with the United States Air Force Academy (USFA) and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City. Through these collaborations, we hosted USFA cadets as summer interns and sent a panel of faculty

and graduate students to the 8th International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference in Mexico City.

What we have accomplished in the last year, and what we hope to do in the coming year, continues to be possible due to the multiple generous contributions which I am pleased to announce in this annual report. As always, when we look to the future we ask ourselves, “What’s next?” The Ackerman Center’s work continues to prove relevant as we face uncertain times. Through teaching the past, we work to change the future and we are grateful to do this work with your support. Thank you for taking the time to learn about the work we continue to do at The University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas metroplex, and in the broader community with partners and collaborators.

Thank you,

Dr. Nils Roemer  
Director of the Ackerman Center for  
Holocaust Studies & Dean of the Arts,  
Humanities, and Technology



*“I want the Ackerman  
Center to be a hub that  
attracts people from  
all walks of life and  
from all kinds of places  
in ways in which we  
can’t even anticipate.”  
—Dr. Nils Roemer*



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



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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

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.

**UT Dallas is a public research university with more than 31,000 students & over 140 degree programs.**

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

*// A History of Excellence //*

Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth, founded the Holocaust Studies Program at UT Dallas in 1986. Since then, the program and the faculty have grown exponentially. Today, the Ackerman Center has an unprecedented five endowed faculty positions, which are complemented by additional part and full-time professors and lecturers. The center offers a unique multi-faceted learning environment supported by a research library housing the prestigious Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust Library Collection.

A DISTINGUISHED ACADEMIC CENTER  
THAT OFFERS A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY  
VIEW OF THE HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE,  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

1



### Teaching

Providing an educational, engaging, and transformative experience for our diverse student population, who carry our mission with them around the world

2



### Research

Collaborative research remains at the heart of our mission with ongoing projects advancing the scholarship of Holocaust studies and related fields

3



### Outreach

By advancing a continuous engagement with the past we promote solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world

# 2021-22

## 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, resources, and experiences with the Holocaust.

David B. Ackerman, *Chairman*  
Selwin Belofsky, *Past Chairman*  
Burton C. Einspruch, *Past Chairman*



James (left) and Samantha (center) Asch with Selwin Belofsky (right) at the Annual Scholars' Conference

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  
R. 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*

## THE ACKERMAN CENTER STAFF & FACULTY



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.

With the recent rise of antisemitism and human rights violations, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever in the 21st century. The Ackerman Center advances Holocaust research and education by bringing together and engaging scholars, students, and members of the community.

### // FACULTY //

Dr. Nils Roemer  
*Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies*  
*Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies*  
*Interim Dean, School of Arts and Humanities and School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication*

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

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  
*Assistant Professor of Instruction, 2021 – 2022*

Dr. Emily-Rose Baker  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, 2021 – present*


### // STAFF //


Holly Hull Miori, PhD  
*Senior Director of Development*


Cindy Seton-Rogers  
*Academic & Outreach Events Manager*

Bonnie Gordon  
*Administrative Assistant*

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## // YEAR IN REVIEW //

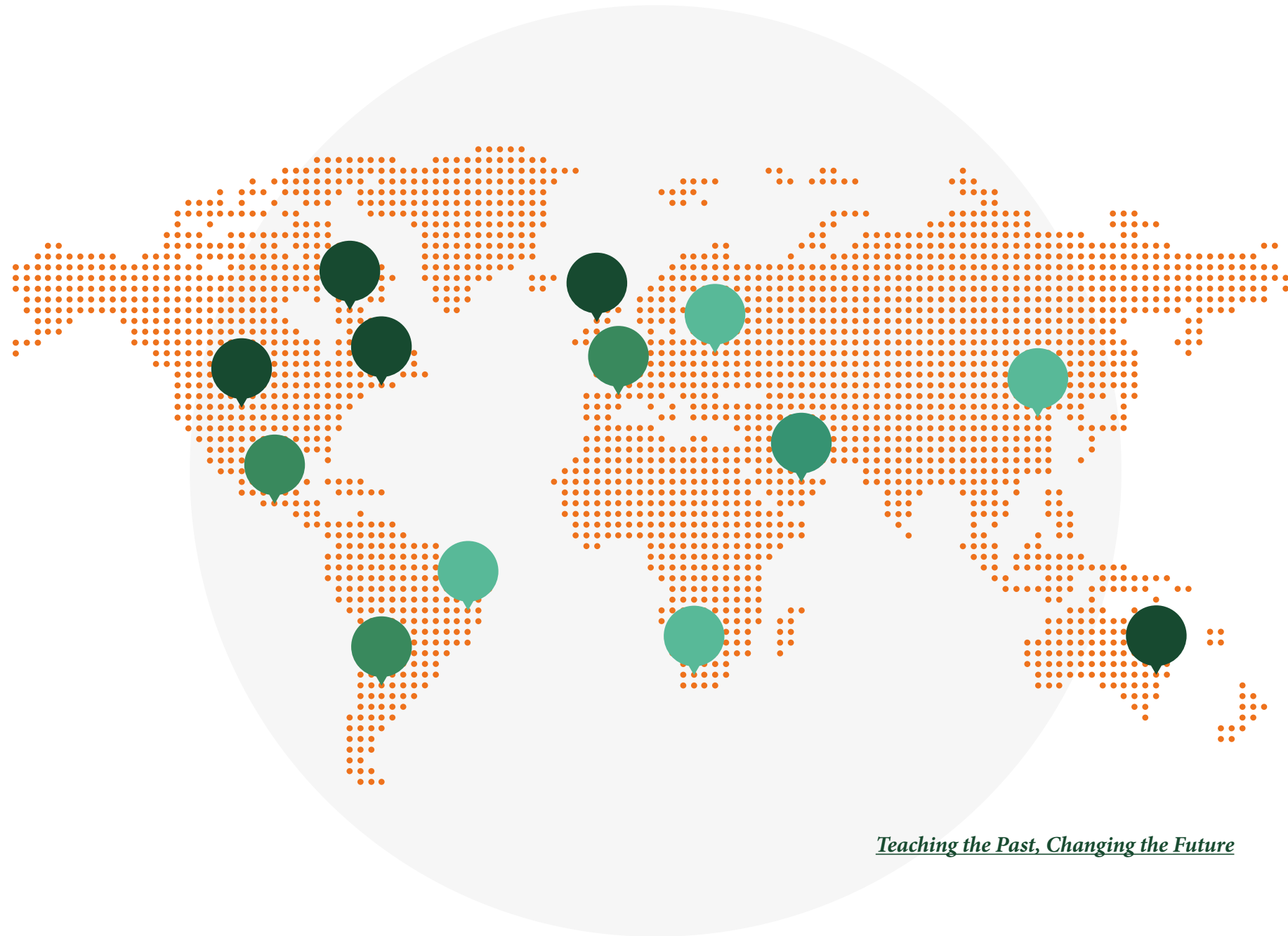
**ACKERMAN CENTER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Ackerman Center as we continue to expand our reach around the world and in new digital spaces. Last year, the University launched *New Dimensions: The Campaign for UT Dallas*, a \$750 million initiative to help students, support life-changing research and enhance the arts on campus. The Ackerman Center plays a crucial role in these core areas, and your support is critical to our success.

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

Throughout the year, Ackerman Center endowments enable faculty and graduate students to present their personal research. During the 2021-2022 academic year, our faculty gave lectures at the Memory and Tolerance Museum, Columbia University, Cambridge University, Arizona State University, University of Glasgow, University of Connecticut, Dartmouth, University of Toronto, Oxford University, and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies among others. Keep up to date with our upcoming events and news on our website.

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



*Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*



Enabling faculty to lecture  
in over 30 locations



Working with 35+ Partners  
and Collaborators



Engaging with people and hosting  
guest speakers from 52 countries

**1**

**TEACHING**



Ackerman Center professors offered twelve classes, presented lectures around the world, and conducted personal research.

**2**

**RESEARCH**



The collaborative Digital Studies of the Holocaust project became publicly accessible for the first time.

**3**

**OUTREACH**



Our partnerships included projects with the United States Air Force Academy and the Museum of Memory and Tolerance in Mexico City.

We look to the future by promoting the causes of justice and equality to a global audience.



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

5

**Endowed Faculty Positions**

12

**Classes Taught**

40+

**Students Mentored**

01

## TEACHING



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 home communities.

// TEACHING //

### ENDOWED FACULTY POSITIONS

#### 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, Miriam Lewis Barnett and Mitchell Barnett, with the support of many family members, friends and admirers of their path-breaking work to raise awareness about the Holocaust.

It 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.

#### 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 distinguished professorship in 2019.

#### 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 became a fellow of the Wald Professorship in 2020.

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



## // FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**HILLEL A. FEINBERG  
DISTINGUISHED CHAIR  
OF HOLOCAUST STUDIES***Dr. David Patterson*

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Dr. Patterson oversaw the completion of a PhD by student Sarah Snyder and supervised five students who successfully passed their field exams and had their dissertation proposals accepted.

Dr. Patterson also published two books this year:

*Jewish Thought,  
Antisemitism,  
and the Holocaust*



*The Nishmat Am Congregation honored Dr. Patterson with their Ner Tamid Award for his work in Judaism and the Jewish community.*

*Shoah and Torah* published by Routledge in January 2022 and *Judaism, Antisemitism, and the Holocaust: Making the Connections* in April 2022 by Cambridge University Press.

In addition to the two books, Dr. Patterson was guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Humanities* titled "The Literary Response to the Holocaust", that came out in Summer 2021. He also published six articles and book chapters on the Holocaust and antisemitism, as well as a piece titled "God's Memory and Humanity's Blindness."

Dr. Patterson also delivered sixteen invited lectures on a variety of topics pertaining to the Holocaust and antisemitism, both in person and virtually, nationally and internationally. He also gave fourteen presentations locally.

In May 2022, Nishmat Am Congregation honored him with their Ner Tamid Award for his work in Judaism and the Jewish community. Dr. Patterson also continued to serve in his capacity as a Senior Research Fellow for Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy and on the executive boards of the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches and the Witness Institute, which is a social activist organization dedicated to continuing the work and the vision of Elie Wiesel.



## // FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**STAN AND BARBARA RABIN  
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR  
IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES***Dr. Nils Roemer*

Dr. Nils Roemer is currently the Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas. In 2015, he was appointed director of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies. Beginning in the fall semester of 2022, he will be the inaugural dean of the newly-created School of the Arts, Humanities, and Technology.

In addition to these roles, as part of his commitment to

*Dr. Roemer has been named the first dean of the newly-created School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology.*

advancing the field of Holocaust studies, Roemer leads the Digital Studies of the Holocaust collaborative research project. The project, which he started in 2018, brings together a diverse group of faculty, students and alumni from various disciplines to introduce new ways of remembering and visualizing the Holocaust. This past year, Roemer and his team made considerable progress and transferred the project to a new platform, also making it publicly available.

During this last year, Dr. Roemer has presented several lectures, published two new articles, and continued his research on deportations. He also co-produced, with the Ackerman Center's Belofsky fellows, several podcasts. In July, Dr. Roemer recorded a podcast that was a walking tour of the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site outside of Munich, Germany.

Teaching and mentoring remain important to Dr. Roemer's work at UT Dallas, and he continues to teach and supervise graduate students, with several of those students earning their masters and doctorate degrees this past academic year.



Holocaust  
and Human  
Rights Studies

// FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**FELLOW OF THE  
JACQUELINE AND MICHAEL  
WALD PROFESSORSHIP IN  
HOLOCAUST STUDIES**

Dr. Amy Kerner

This spring, Dr. Kerner's book project *Bridge to Nowhere: Argentine Yiddish from Mass Migration to the Dirty War*, on the politics of Argentine Yiddish across the twentieth century won funding support from prestigious national and international fellowships. With support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Dr. Kerner was privileged to dedicate two months this summer to uninterrupted writing and revision. Upon completion of the manuscript, Dr. Kerner will have the possibility to continue revisions in Leipzig, Germany, next summer, with the support of a second fellowship from the Leibniz Institute Simon-Dubnow. This institute will provide Dr. Kerner with a unique opportunity to connect and exchange ideas with fellow researchers in Leipzig.

The newest dimension of the book—the history of the Yiddish language during Argentina's last dictatorship—came into focus over the past year, supported by Dr. Kerner's busy calendar of teaching and conferences. She taught two undergraduate courses on



Dr. Kerner received a summer stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities—a highly competitive award for pathbreaking research.

Holocaust Memory in Latin America and a graduate course on the practice of Oral History. Both courses surface the traumatic legacies for Jewish and non-Jewish Argentines during a state terror campaign in the context of the Cold War.

At the Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association, she presented a paper on Yiddish in post-dictatorship testimonial literature. With NEH support, Dr. Kerner will be expanding this research into a new and final chapter of her book-in-progress.

// FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**RESEARCH ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR**

Dr. Debbie Pfister

This academic year, Dr. Pfister wrote the core curriculum on the *History of Europe* (from the Ice-Age to the Present) for the UT Dallas Arts & Humanities program and the Minor in Holocaust Studies, both recently adopted by the school's faculty to be implemented in Fall 2022.

In addition, Dr. Pfister organized the annual Holocaust Continuing Education Teacher Institute for area educators that focuses on pedagogical and curricular development and affords teachers the opportunity to share ideas with their colleagues and glean the latest scholarly information from renowned lecturers in the field.

Dr. Pfister supervised the cadet summer internship program, which hosted students from the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) during the month of June. As a part of the Ackerman Center's ongoing partnership with USAFA, Dr. Pfister not only mentors students in Holocaust research but also involves them in the center's projects such as the annual Teacher Institute. Cadets took responsibility for the creation of curricular materials provided to area educators and gave a presentation on the use of

art as resistance during the Shoah. Dr. Pfister received a UT System Strada Grant to develop a Micro-Credentials program in *Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies*, which will be available in the coming academic year. She is also the co-recipient with Dr. Emily Rose-Baker of the *Uncertain Futures* grant to develop the Holocaust Studies Student Film Blog for the Ackerman Center website.

History and Representation  
of the Holocaust



Dr. Pfister received a UT System Strada Grant to develop a Micro-Credentials program in Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights Studies.



## // FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF INSTRUCTION***Dr. Pedro J. Gonzalez Corona*

The 2021-2022 academic year began with new positions for Dr. Gonzalez as Assistant to the Director of the Ackerman Center, and assistant professor of instruction that allowed him to continue international outreach on behalf of the center. In September of 2021, the Ackerman Center, established a partnership with the University Benito Juarez in Oaxaca, Mexico. As part of this collaboration, he was invited to lecture and conduct a workshop on Holocaust Studies.

Haya Romero, his advisee and the first visiting scholar to the center from the Emeritus University of Puebla, completed her thesis and helped the Ackerman Center with various tasks and research.

Dr. Gonzalez also joined the organizing committee of the 8th Annual Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars where he chaired an Ackerman Center panel focused on the Colonial Gaze, and moderated other panels in his capacity as the organizing scholar. He also continued in his fellowship at Columbia University, which culminated in an invitation to present in a panel at the 9th Annual Conference in Historical

Dialogue and Memory, NIOD (Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam). In addition, he presented lectures both virtually and in person in Amsterdam, Cambridge, New York, and Mexico.

In his professorial role, in the fall he co-taught both an undergraduate and graduate course and taught two undergraduate courses in the spring while also overseeing an independent study for a graduating student.



*At the ISGAP conference on Global Antisemitism held at Cambridge, UK Dr. Gonzalez presented his lecture “The New Jews: Mexican Antisemitism, Holocaust Distortion, and Political Productivity.”*

*Human Rights, Latin American Intellectual History & Antisemitism, and the Holocaust*



*Dr. Baker's co-edited special journal issue of Holocaust Studies "Decolonial Cultures of Holocaust Memory" was published in August.*

Holocaust Remembrance Day, co-organized a screening and director interview of *Fly So Far* (Celina Escher 2021) to commemorate the Day of No Violence Against Women, and delivered a lecture on Frank Pierson's *Conspiracy* (2001) as part of the center's Spring Lecture Series. She appeared as a guest on several Ackerman Center Podcast episodes, including two on recent filmic representations of the Second World War and the Holocaust. Together with Dr. Pfister, she also secured a grant to create a new Holocaust and Genocide Film encyclopedia—a staff-student project designed to platform students' writing on film and garner interest in the center's film library.

Dr. Baker also co-organized an international online conference on Space in Holocaust Memory and Representation, and delivered public lectures at the Annual Scholars' Conference in March, and the 8th Global Conference of the International Network of Genocide Scholars in Mexico City, among others. She has continued to work on her first monograph and has two forthcoming publications: a co-edited special issue of *Holocaust Studies*, and a co-edited volume on representations of trauma. She also contributed two articles for the Jewish Women's Archive blog.

## // FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**VISITING ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR, 2021 – 2022***Dr. Emily-Rose Baker*

The 2021-2022 academic year was Dr. Baker's first year as a visiting assistant professor of film within the Ackerman Center, over the course of which she taught a number of undergraduate and graduate courses in history and visual and performing arts, and contributed to various public events and projects.

In addition to holding film screenings for students, Baker organized and introduced a screening of Ferenc Török's *1945* (2017) to commemorate

*Holocaust Representation, Central and Eastern European History & Memory Politics, and Jewish-Slavic Relations*



## // FACULTY HIGHLIGHT //

**NER TAMID AWARD GIVEN TO DR. DAVID PATTERSON**

Congregation Nishmat Am presented its Ner Tamid Award to Dr. David Patterson at a gala luncheon on Sunday, May 22. Dr. Patterson was recognized for contributions to Nishmat Am and the Jewish community as teacher, writer, author and lecturer in the Holocaust, Jewish studies, literature, and history. Ner Tamid, which is Hebrew for “Eternal Light,” is an award given to a person who illuminates the space around him through creativity, wisdom, and teachings. Its recipient is chosen because of an exemplification as a source of light to students, family, community, and their relationships.

*“We are especially grateful for David’s work enriching adult education at Nishmat Am*

*through our ongoing Premier Speaker Series lectures. The partnerships Dr. Patterson crafted locally, nationally and internationally have greatly extended the reach of this remarkable lecture series via social media.”*

*—Bill McManaway,  
Nishmat Am president*

Upon learning of his selection to receive this award, Dr. Patterson expressed that he was humbled and compelled to a higher standard to live up to as an honoree. He said that, “The Ner Tamid [was] a profound symbol of what Judaism is about and the light that the Jews emanate unto the nations as witnesses. The honor leads [him] to realize [that he has] to strive on an even deeper level, to be witness to Torah, to the holiness of the human being, to the ethical urgency that Judaism brings. With g-d’s help, [he’ll] try to live up to it.”



*Dr. David Patterson (center) receives an award presented by Rabbi Yitzchak Cohen (left) with Dr. Nils Roemer (far left) and his wife, Gerri Patterson (right), looking on.*



## // ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS //

**ELIZABETH ADAMS**

*Director of Corporate Partnerships,  
Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum*

“The Ackerman Center instilled in me a profound understanding of the atrocities of the Holocaust and other genocides, and the importance of remembering their legacies to ensure that they never occur again.

Following my time at UTD, I was fortunate to join the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum where I could foster my dedication to honoring those affected by these terrible acts of hatred while changing attitudes through education. The knowledge and skills I gained

during my studies enables me to bring a deeper level of passion to achieve our mission and has helped me to be successful in my role at the Museum.

Among many memorable experiences at the Ackerman Center, one of my favorite courses was Dr. Pfister’s class on representation of the Holocaust in art, film, and literature. It provided a unique perspective on the impact, and responsibility, that artistic expression has on Holocaust history, memory, and historical consciousness.”

*Elizabeth Adams (left) with Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (right) at the An Evening with Zsuzsi event in 2016*

**DR. SUSAN P. BRATTON**

*Professor of Environmental Studies,  
Baylor University*

“The Holocaust Studies program provided the perfect opportunity to diversify and enhance my academic credentials and skills in humanities research, acting as a key step towards holding the Edward B. Lindaman Endowed Chair at Whitworth University, followed by the Chair of the Environmental Sciences Department at Baylor University. Additionally, the readings, discussions, and ethical explorations have enriched my intellectual, civic, and spiritual life.

While having published on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism,

the broader framework of social justice informs my research concerning the interface between religion and the environment. My current book project on the American wilderness idea and religion in the colonial and federalist contexts documents related problems, including demonization, representation of cultural ‘others,’ and various forms of religious exclusion.

I greatly enjoyed working with my major advisor and having the ability to conduct research that synthesized history, literature, and visual arts.”



// 2021-2022 COURSES //

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

The Holocaust

Dr. Nils Roemer  
Dr. Pedro Gonzalez  
Dr. Emily-Rose Baker

Exploring the Holocaust and its aftermath, this course looked at the ways in which it was commemorated through legal proceedings, art, film, literature, memorials, and museums. The course also examined ways in which the Holocaust is often denied.

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.

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.

Holocaust Memory in Latin America

Dr. Amy Kerner  
This course investigated the historical connections between the events of the Holocaust in Europe and the reception of refugees and survivors in Latin America. Students considered what impact the Holocaust had on popular conceptions of political violence and injustice in places like Argentina, Guatemala, and Chile.

Genocide on Screen

Dr. Emily-Rose Baker  
Films about genocide explored on-screen depictions of genocide and mass violence from the 20th century to the present. This brought up important questions about the nature of cinematic memory, trauma, and ethics. Students encountered a range of arthouse and mainstream films that represent the unrepresentable in order to examine the narrative forms, techniques, and methodologies of genocide film.

"This class helped me recognize what major I want to pursue. It was easily my favorite undergraduate course I’ve taken."

—Undergraduate Student

History of Human Rights

Dr. Pedro Gonzalez  
This course explored the history of human rights by analyzing its connections with multiple disciplines, intellectual schools of thought, and paradigmatic cases of violations. Students

examined the processes of othering, segregation, fabrication of identity, and genocidal events that constitute the global canon of human rights studies.

War and Genocide in the 20th Century - 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.

Nazism Ethics & Culture

Dr. Debbie Pfister  
Through the lens of the Nazi concept of *Volksgemeinschaft*, this course, sought to examine law, looting, and science during the Third Reich, and the impact of this Völkisch thought and its eliminationist philosophy that led a people to follow its Führer into the crime of genocide.

“The class discussion, the small class atmosphere, and the units that were chosen are all very valuable.”  
—Undergraduate Student

// 2021-2022 COURSES //

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

With the recent rise of antisemitism and human rights violations, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever in the 21st century.

// 2021-2022 COURSES //

GRADUATE COURSES

History & Legacies of Trauma

Dr. Nils Roemer

Dr. Pedro Gonzalez

Dr. Emily-Rose Baker

Focusing on the key historical movements and events of colonial genocide, the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and the aftermath of hurricane Katrina the course investigated the legacy of trauma and sought to contextualize historical and contemporary discussions of trauma.

The Holocaust

Dr. David Patterson

As an interdisciplinary approach to one of the most problematic events of human history: the Holocaust. The aim is to address the questions of good and evil, of divinity and humanity, of truth and responsibility that arise from this event, so that we may better understand its singular significance for human life.

Oral History in Theory & Practice

Dr. Amy Kerner

Looking at special oral history collections, students learned how to bridge theory and practice. Focusing on oral histories in and of Europe and Latin America this course considered the development of oral history projects including the Holocaust and genocide testimonies collected by the USC Shoah Foundation.

Screening Genocide

Dr. Emily-Rose Baker

Film in particular emerged during the century of genocide as a principal mode of expressing, vicariously, the experiences of ethnic, racial, or religious groups subjected to persecution and murder en masse. Students explored on screen representations of genocide and mass violence from the early twentieth century to the present, including colonial atrocities.



// TEACHING //

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

The Certificate in Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies is offered to MA and PhD students in the School of Arts and Humanities 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 15 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.

*"The instructor facilitated an open and accepting environment where all ideas were welcomed without judgment."*  
*—Graduate Student*

*Ackerman Center students and faculty at the 2022 Annual Scholars' Conference.*



Some of the courses offered to students:

Foundation Courses

- The Holocaust
- Representations of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights

Historic and Aesthetic Context

- Modernity, Culture, and the Jews
- Movements in Thought and Culture

Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies

- Latin American History
- Perceptions of the Past
- Literature and the Holocaust



## // STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS //

**ENDOWED  
STUDENT SUPPORT**

*The Ackerman Center has three endowed fellowships that attract the best and brightest students. Our students travel across the country and the globe to conduct and present their original research. (See page 33 to learn about funding student research.) Generous support makes the following endowments possible.*

**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). Recipients for the 2021–2022 fellowship are:

Jay Holder Pustějovský Bennett  
*PhD Student, Arts and Humanities*

With the assistance of this fellowship, Jay was able to attend a conference and access research materials to write papers on his chosen research topic of Holocaust anime through the Jewish lens.

Eric Sampson

*PhD Student, Arts and Humanities*

Eric is researching and writing his dissertation on German Jewish thought and its German philosophical context. His field of study is Jewish studies and German philosophy.

**THE MALA AND ADOLPH EINSBRUCH FELLOWSHIP FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES** endowment, established in 2012, provides support to graduate students enrolled in Holocaust Studies classes. The recipient for the 2021–2022 fellowship are:

Jennifer Armstrong

*PhD Student, Arts and Humanities*

Upon receiving the fellowship, she was able to attend a Holocaust Conference at Arizona State University where Father Patrick Debois, the author of *The Holocaust by Bullets*, gave two lectures.

Henry Hahn

*PhD Student, Arts and Humanities*

As a student of the History of Ideas PhD program, Henry's research focuses on studies of the history of the Holocaust with a particular emphasis on Holocaust representation in Germany.

*“This fellowship allowed me to secure research materials for three major papers and attend a conference.”*

*—Jay Bennett,  
PhD Student*

**THE SELWIN BELOFSKY****GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES**

endowment was established in 2007 and provides cash distributions to support graduate students in the School of Arts and Humanities 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 2021–2022 fellowship are as follows:



**Katie Fisher**

*PhD Student,  
Arts and Humanities*

Her fields of interest include the environmental humanities, trauma and landscapes, as well as the practice of studio-based research. As a visual artist, she is pursuing a creative dissertation project.

*“Working across disciplines has impacted my visual work making it more layered.”*



**Angie Simmons**

*PhD Student,  
Arts and Humanities*

Her research focuses on the connection between Early Modern western democratic thought and genocidal mass violence. She explores the Utopian motivations and political philosophies behind violent ideology and the role of memory in creating the conditions for violence.

*“I’ve been given access to scholarship and privileged to work with renowned scholars, which has greatly enriched my research.”*



*“My goal is very simple. It is to do everything in my capability to assist our faculty and staff to continue our impressive progress toward educating many of the best students of Texas and the world and to making major contributions to America’s efforts to discover, invent and create new knowledge.”*  
*- Dr. Hobson Wildenthal*  
*1958-2021*



## 52 Remembering Dr. Hobson Wildenthal

### Transformational Leader Paved Path for University’s Dynamic Future



For over three decades, Dr. Hobson Wildenthal helped steer The University of Texas at Dallas throughout its meteoric rise to become one of Texas’ top research universities. His death on September 4, 2021 at the age of 83 marked the end of an era defined by Wildenthal’s commitment to academic excellence and rapid growth fueled by long-term philanthropic investments.

When Wildenthal arrived at UT Dallas in 1992, the University was just two years removed from enrolling its first freshman class. As the University’s chief academic officer, Wildenthal was focused on recruiting talented graduate students and expanding UT Dallas’ new undergraduate program. While designing a core curriculum attractive to the high caliber students UT Dallas desired, Wildenthal had a key insight: scholarships build great universities.

Over the next 30 years, through his many roles at UT Dallas — as vice president, provost, executive vice president, interim president and distinguished scholar in residence — Wildenthal inspired philanthropic support for UT Dallas’ endowment at an unprecedented level.

*“Dr. Hobson Wildenthal’s name is synonymous with that of UT Dallas,” said UT Dallas President Richard C. Benson, the Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership. “His work, in great part, built the University into what it is today. He was a tireless advocate who was determined in his efforts to elevate the institution’s reputation and recruit top faculty, staff and students. His leadership helped build a well-rounded university with academic rigor at its core.”*

One cause dear to Wildenthal’s heart was supporting the mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies. Founded in 1986, the Ackerman Center is a unique home for research and advocacy, using the lessons of the Holocaust to promote the causes of equality and justice worldwide. Working with community supporters and center leadership, Wildenthal spearheaded efforts to grow the Holocaust Studies Program, securing a lead gift to name the center from Edward M. Ackerman and his wife, Wilhelmina, in 2006. The center now

has five endowed faculty positions. For his dedication to expanding the Ackerman Center, Wildenthal received the inaugural Edward M. Ackerman Leadership Award in 2019.

Upon being named interim president of UT Dallas in 2015, Wildenthal reflected on the purpose that drove all his work at the University.

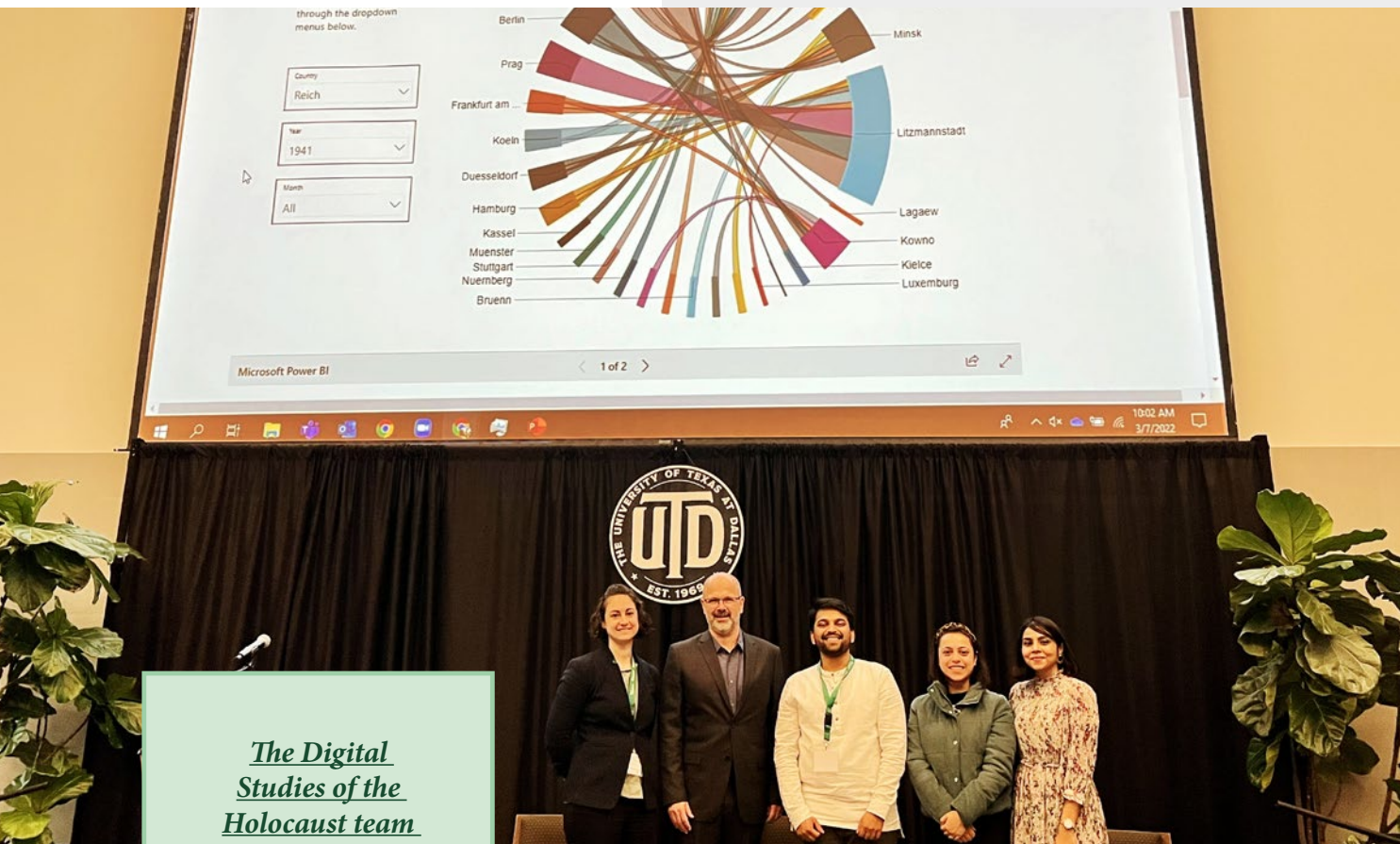
“My goal is very simple,” Wildenthal said. “It is to do everything in my capability to assist our faculty and staff to continue our impressive progress toward educating many of the best students of Texas and the world and to making major contributions to America’s efforts to discover, invent and create new knowledge.”

Thanks to decades of effort and an unparalleled commitment to expanding the University’s endowment, Wildenthal’s legacy will continue to foster excellence and transform lives at UT Dallas for generations.



*Dr. Zsuzsanna Ozsváth (left) with Dr. Hobson Wildenthal (right).*





*The Digital  
Studies of the  
Holocaust team  
presenting at the  
Annual Scholars'  
Conference.*

## 02. 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.

**6,000+**  
**Library References**

**5**  
**Research Endowments**

**2**  
**Gift Announcements**

// RESEARCH //

### THE READING ROOM & ARNOLD A. JAFFE HOLOCAUST LIBRARY COLLECTION

The reading room, located within the Ackerman Center, holds the core texts and videos from the Jaffe 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.



*Haya Romero (left) from the Emeritus University of Puebla completed her thesis under the guidance of Dr. Pedro Gonzalez and helped the Ackerman Center with research.*

### FUNDING STUDENT RESEARCH

The following endowments 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 Istvan and Zsuzsanna  
Ozsváth Research Fund*

*Herman Abrams Research Fund*

*The Max and Florence Wolens  
Research Fund  
in honor of Istvan and Zsuzsanna  
Ozsváth*

The following endowments were created to help students present their original research in conjunction with the Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches.

*Charles M. Schwarz  
Endowment in Holocaust Studies*

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



// RESEARCH //

**THE FRANKLIN H. LITTELL  
& MARCIA SACHS LITTELL COLLECTION***// Holocaust Collection Donated to UT Dallas'  
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies //*

More than 4,000 books and important archival materials related to the Holocaust were donated to The University of Texas at Dallas. The collection was donated recently by Dr. Marcia Sachs Littell.



Jennifer Sachs Dahnert spoke about the significance of her family's donation at the Annual Scholars' Conference hosted at UT Dallas in March.

*"The Littell Collection will join the previously donated Jaffe Collection to provide immense scholarly value for students at the Ackerman Center and the University at large," said Dr. Nils Roemer, director of the Ackerman Center, Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies, and interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication. "These materials instantly become an unparalleled research tool."*

Notable pieces in the collection include an early edition of Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and an original recording of a lecture by the imminent Jewish philosopher Emil Fackenheim.

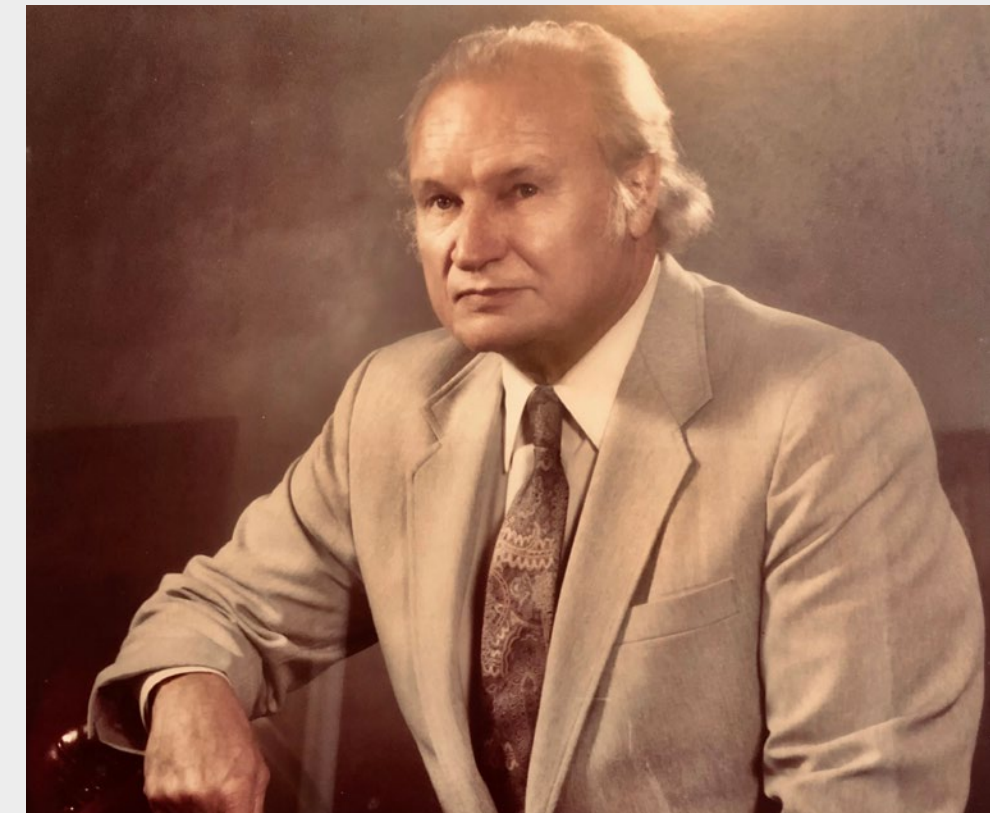
The late Rev. Dr. Franklin Littell and Dr. Marcia Littell, both leading Holocaust scholars, collected the books and materials over a number of years. The support of the Littell family on behalf of the Ackerman Center has played a vital role in expanding an internationally-renowned library for research and learning.

Franklin Littell (1917-2009) is often referred to as "The Father of Holocaust Studies in America." He established the first graduate program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the United States. His devotion to his studies provided important content for his publication of books, scholarly articles, and lectures throughout his long career.

Dr. David Patterson, Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies, said the Littell gift is not only creating a legacy of generosity and knowledge, but it is also helping future generations learn the lessons of the Holocaust.

"These volumes are full of insights and information to which very few students have access," Patterson said. "I expect that this collection will inspire numerous students to grow in knowledge and share that knowledge with the world."

On behalf of the Littell Family, Jennifer Sachs Dahnert also announced the donation of a bronze bust of Rev. Dr. Franklin H. Littell and a second sculpture, *Generations*, both by the famed artist Knud Knudsen.



*"Dr. Franklin H. Littell (pictured above) and Hubert Locke convened the first Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches in 1970, many deemed it the dawn of Holocaust Studies as an academic discipline."*

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



// RESEARCH //

## ACKERMAN CENTER PODCAST

The Ackerman Center Podcast provides a space for the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies to publicly engage in a thoughtful and in-depth conversation about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies. This podcast works to extend the conversation beyond academic audiences—providing an educational, engaging, and transformative experience. Through engaging with the past, we work to promote solutions for global justice and peace in our world.

Belofsky Fellows Angie Simmons and Katie Fisher currently produce and edit the Ackerman Center Podcast under the direction of Dr. Nils Roemer. The 2021-22 podcast season featured two notable episodes.

### *Ep. 38 “Ukraine and Russia’s War of Aggression”*

*A conversation between Dr. Nils Roemer, Dr. Emily-Rose Baker, and Dr. Yuliya Komska—a cultural historian and native Ukrainian who currently teaches at Dartmouth.*

### *Ep. 44 “Walking Tour: Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site”*

*An auditory experience capturing the sound of the present-day landscape, with its birdsong and tourist chatter, layered with historical context and references provided by Dr. Nils Roemer.*

// Find all of the Ackerman Center Podcasts on  
Spotify, Google Podcasts, and RadioPublic //



***Tune in to the podcast  
at [www.anchor.fm/ackermancenter](http://www.anchor.fm/ackermancenter) or  
through this QR Code.***

1

### The Years

Each episode focused on a specific event of the Third Reich. To complete this series, we continued the exploration of a single, significant event during each of the war years from 1939-1945.

2

### Interviews

Listeners are provided an opportunity to hear from and become acquainted with the Ackerman Center Faculty and their research and projects.

3

### Holocaust Film Studies

Film scholar Dr. Emily-Rose Baker joined the podcast team to discuss Holocaust and World War II representation in Netflix original content.

## DIGITAL STUDIES OF THE HOLOCAUST

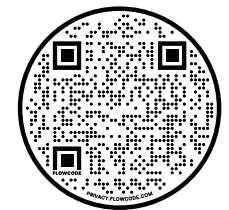
Researching for the Future represents an initiative that recognizes ways in which the digital age dramatically changes the way we read, see, interpret and create.

The students and faculty at the Ackerman Center who make up the team working on the Digital Studies of the Holocaust project aim to introduce new ways of seeing and remembering the Holocaust. Interactive and user-friendly tools are the result of this ongoing and collaborative project.

These tools analyze larger shifts in the pattern of deportations across Europe while visualizing the experience of individual victims. Now accessible on the Ackerman Center website, these tools are currently available to the public.

The image below shows an interactive map and timeline of key events unfolding from 1939 to 1945. As a fully scalable map, it displays locations of key events down to the street level or up to the world scale.

***This interactive map  
along with the videos  
about the Digital  
Studies project can be  
found on our website  
or through this code.***



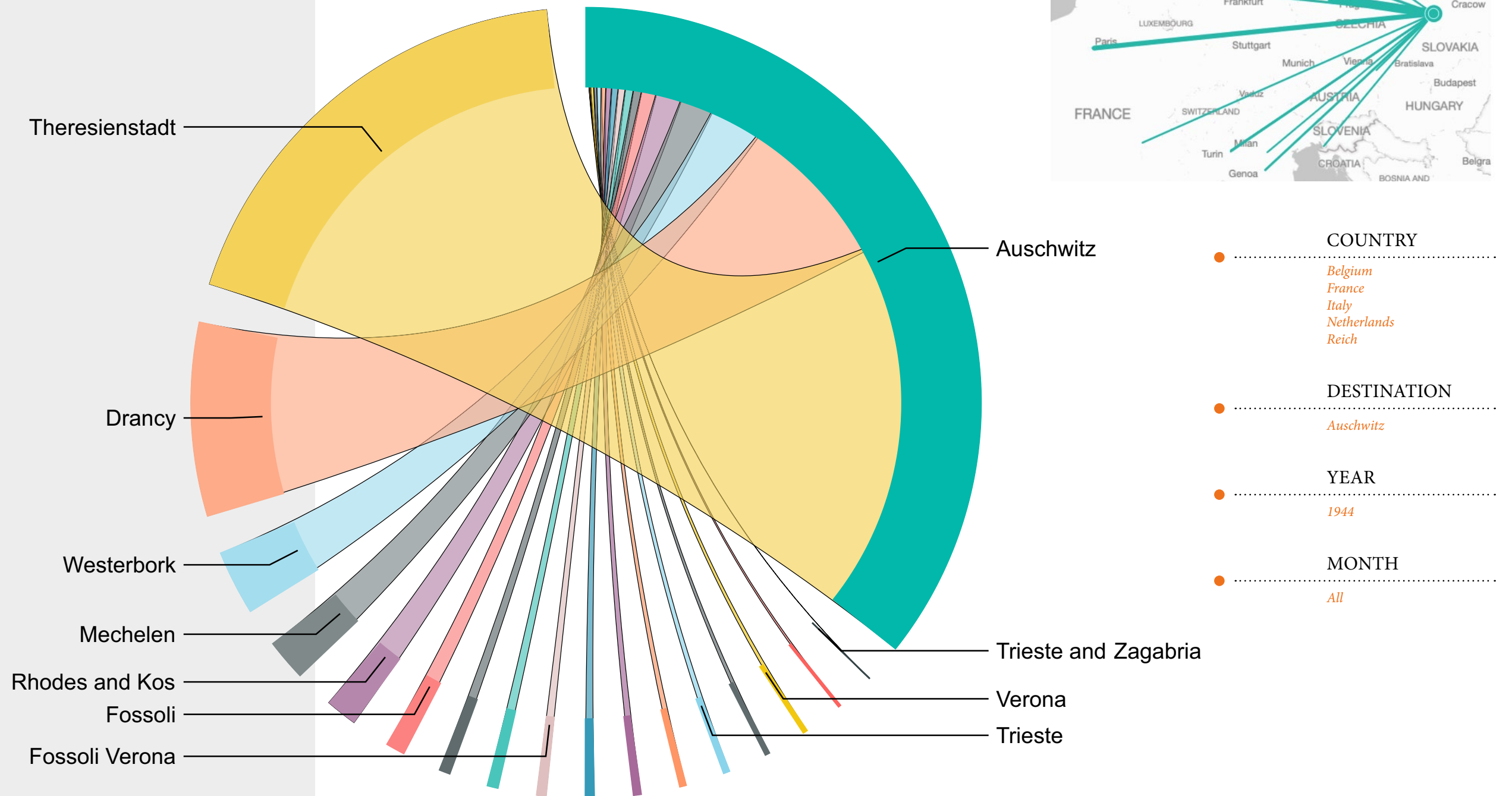
## // RESEARCH //

**DIGITAL STUDIES  
OF THE HOLOCAUST**

Archival materials of the Holocaust are exceptionally voluminous. Not only did the Nazis keep detailed records, but institutions such as Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum have compiled vast and accessible digital databases on every aspect of the Holocaust. In order to analyze such a massive scale of data, digital technologies allow us to simultaneously study the larger shifting patterns in the process of mass murder. This project works to dissect this complex process of mass killing and its constantly changing implementation within a large and shifting geographical space and to better comprehend the chronological unfolding of the Holocaust within the changing landscape.

*Deportations and Key Events  
of the Holocaust*

The visualization on the right comes from an interactive tool that uses one circo plot to create a comprehensive view of the deportations of Holocaust victims from the German Reich, Belgium, France, Luxemburg, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands from 1939 to 1945. The tool makes it possible to limit the data based on key factors.



*Team members of the 2021-22 Digital Studies of the Holocaust project include Dr. Nils Roemer (director), Katie Fisher, Piyush Kamdar, Shefali Sahu, and Riya Sood.*



// RESEARCH //

**STUDENT  
PROJECTS**

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies invited all undergraduate students, regardless of major, to participate in the Creative Responses to the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Violations Contest. Participants were encouraged to create original and innovative responses to current or historical events related to the topic. Responses included works of visual art, poetry, music, performance, animation, and film. The prizes were awarded as follows: 3rd Place was awarded to Holly Lilja Evans for her visual art piece; 2nd Place was awarded to Sarah Noorali Kara for her poem; 1st Place was awarded to Ofer Turjeman who wrote and performed slam poetry. She performed this poem live at the Holocaust Remembrance Day event.

*“Writing this poem provided an opportunity to spill all my feelings into a paper telling the story of my family and sharing a bit of the hardships that Jews and many others had to suffer during the Holocaust. This slam poem was written as a response to those that desire to erase history and lack understanding of the weight of this historical event, and the possibility of its recurrence.”*

*—Ofer Turjeman, ATEC Undergrad Student*

In Dr. Amy Kerner’s undergraduate seminar, “Holocaust Memory in Latin America,” student Kati Johnson produced an extraordinary final project that encapsulates the ways that Holocaust memory has emerged and circulated in modern Latin America.

In her explanation of the project, Kati says “I chose to envision three different newspapers, one for the Dirty War in Argentina, the Dirty War in Mexico, and the Guatemalan Genocide. I wrote and formatted articles for each political context. The juxtaposition of the three national cases illustrates similarities and differences across political environments, and displays the intersection of Holocaust memory with the memory of other, more local episodes of political violence. The articles thus illustrate specific episodes of political violence in Argentina, Mexico, and Guatemala, as well as how these invited engagement with Holocaust memory. This project sought to aesthetically demonstrate mechanisms of repression and knowledge control, while recognizing the similarities and differences among the Dirty War in Argentina, the Dirty War in Mexico, and the Guatemalan Genocide.”



*Dr. Emily-Rose Baker and Dr. Debbie Pfister lead undergraduate, graduate students, and alumni in a workshop dedicated to discussing films.*

**Screening Genocide**

*Uncertain Futures Film  
Encyclopedia Project*

During the Spring 2022 semester, the Arts & Humanities research initiative awarded Drs. Emily-Rose Baker and Debbie Pfister a grant to design and promote collaborative, cross-discipline work in the faculty. In doing so, the professors chose to focus on the role of film in shaping historical memory, particularly in the areas of genocide and the Holocaust. Combining the fields of film studies and history, ‘Screening Genocide’ is an interdisciplinary project that brings students and alumni together during monthly workshops to examine diverse

representations of genocide and their impact on cultural consciousness (and vice versa). The project will culminate in a new Ackerman Center webpage dedicated to archiving genocide films, featuring student blogs derived from the film discussion meetings. This exciting initiative will not only showcase the scholarship of undergraduate as well as graduate students at UTD, but will continue to promote dialogue on representations of atrocity and the ways in which cultural production influences genocide memorialization.

*“The opportunity to engage in meaningful faculty-student discussion of genocide film and to co-create a pedagogical tool for future students has been invaluable.” — Dr. Emily-Rose Baker*



## "Our Grandfather"

By Nicholas Adam Blitshtein

// This talk was originally presented at the Echoes of Atrocity in Ukraine and the Holocaust Remembrance Day events. //

Today, I would like to tell the story of my grandfather who came from a small town in Western Ukraine called Chechel'nyk. It sits approximately 22km North of Odessa and 26km South of Kiev. The two notable sites found in the quiet town today include its centuries old church and a petrol stop. Chechel'nyk was founded in the early 16th century as a Polish settlement. It eventually fell under the control of the Russian empire and became mainly populated by ethnic Ukrainians. Throughout the mid to late nineteenth century the town gained an increasingly large proportion of Jewish residents. Following the collapse of the Russian empire, the Ukrainian war of independence devastated the town as its large Jewish community made it vulnerable to raids by bandits and the Ukrainian army itself. By 1926, the village consisted of 1,660 Jews, making up over three quarters of the population.

In 1931 my grandfather, Misha Blitshtein, was born in Chechel'nyk into a large household, living with his two parents, an aunt and uncle, three sisters, and two brothers. His mother passed away from pneumonia when he was two years old, still too young to remember her. His two brothers moved to Tashkent after being drafted to the Red Army as well

as two of his sisters who followed their husbands who were also conscripted. Misha received two grade levels of education but chose not to continue his schooling due to being embarrassed about going to class with smaller children.

In 1941, a ten-year-old Misha found himself in a town under sudden Nazi occupation following the invasion of the Soviet Union by Germany.

The Nazis occupied the town with no resistance as collaborators within the village welcomed them cheering a popular phrase: "бей жидов спасай Россию," Kill the kike, save Russia. The ghetto was established quickly. Misha and other Jews in the ghetto were required to wear an armband with the star of David, with a similar depiction on their backs. Able-bodied men were forced into harsh labor, often away from the ghetto. Misha sometimes helped the laborers, but mostly ran various errands for the Nazi soldiers. He was kicked and stomped on by the guards for simply complying, however, he believes he avoided much of the harsher abuse due to his Ukrainian appearance. The Nazi brutality towards the Jews was sudden and extreme. Some Jews were able to pay bribes to the Nazis to avoid the almost daily executions, while others, mainly children, were hung along fences. Those who tried to flee for the forest were gunned down. Misha and the Jews of the ghetto had not nearly become accustomed to their new oppressed lives

when the Einsatzgruppen passed through the area. Men were ordered to bring shovels and dig a ditch which was to become their mass grave. Misha's father was one such man, however, he ended up arriving late. He was simply told, "since you are already here, help in burying the rest." Miraculously, he was spared.

The ghetto then experienced a major change. The majority of the Nazi soldiers were replaced with Romanians, with a few German officers left to oversee operations. Alongside them, over 1000 Jews deported from Bessarabia and Bukovina arrived, and the native residents were forced to house them. Misha's home of five gained twenty. There was not nearly enough living space for all of the newcomers. Those that were unable to find a place to live among the other ghetto residents were taken to an old monastery in the nearby woods where several hundred were crowded in, shoulder to shoulder, and burned alive. Only about 600 of the deportees remained alive in the ghetto. Under the harsh conditions, it did not take long before Misha's father contracted Typhus fever, which had spread throughout the ghetto. Their requests for outside medicine were denied, and the untreated illness quickly took his father's life. Misha had little time to grieve before his sister also fell ill with tuberculosis. Again, their requests for outside medicine were denied, and the untreated illness quickly took her life. By the time Misha was eleven, he was left in a home turned into

a barracks with only an elderly aunt and uncle. The absence of the Nazis became a minor blessing for Misha and the ghetto Jews as the Romanian guards were commonly susceptible to bribery to spare Jews and allow limited access to local bazaars. Ukrainian partisan groups also began operating in the surrounding forests. Those able to escape into the forests were rescued by such groups. Misha recalls one encounter when partisans dressed in the uniforms of Nazi officers arrived in the ghetto and stopped the execution of a group of Jews. The Ukrainian partisans continued disruptive operations in the surrounding area throughout the war, saving many lives. Unfortunately, the limited hope of salvation that their presence provided was all that could be done for the majority who remained in the ghetto.



Above is Misha and his wife, my grandmother, Ada, who is mentioned as she fled from Kharkiv when the Nazis invaded (she was 3 when her family fled).



My father Roman (left), my grandfather Misha (center), and my uncle Felic/Felix/Henry (right).





Here is Misha alongside my father Roman and their first car.

Despairingly, the ghetto eventually heard of the truth behind the mass killing centers and gas chambers across eastern and central Europe and expected a similar fate.

The daily cycle of desperate life in the ghetto was broken rather suddenly in early 1944 when the Red Army liberated the Chechel'nyk ghetto, by then Misha was thirteen. Their first act was to line the collaborators up and execute them. As the war came to a close in that region, an uncle from Odessa came to Chechel'nyk looking for Misha, believing him to be his sole surviving relative in the village. This uncle, who had lost an arm during the war, took Misha and brought him to Tashkent to live with one of his sisters. It was there that he was reunited with his remaining siblings. Life in Tashkent was far different than life in the ghetto, yet familiar. Jews continued to be looked down upon and were often beaten and robbed. Having lost his childhood, Misha began working as a barber at sixteen, and eventually met his wife, Ada, whose family fled Kharkiv when she was still an infant. They had their first child in 1959, and their second, my father, in 1966. Life was grim for the Blitshtein family in the Soviet Union, but their harsh life became normalcy. In 1979, they were presented with a

rare opportunity alongside a few other fortunate Jews to emigrate from the Soviet Union. Misha sought to emigrate before his first son was sent to die in the Soviet-Afghan war, a common fate for many Jews of Tashkent whose lives were considered expendable. The route of the exodus passed through Vienna, where the family stayed for ten days. There, Misha was suddenly surrounded by the German language for the first time since living in the ghetto. It was then that his family was able to see first-hand the results of his childhood trauma as every word spoken in the language of his once oppressors left him visibly distraught. Misha finally arrived in the United States when he was 48 years old, where he raised a successful family free from the levels of cruelty and brutality which he had experienced as a child, but he has not forgotten his past.

The barbaric cruelty that my grandfather experienced was a result of a rather simple historical trend: Men seeking power with absolutely no regard or empathy towards those who suffer for their gain. I hope that my grandfather's experience which I have shared with you today will serve as a lesson to those who fail to understand the consequences of such hubris.

## // RESEARCH //

### RICHARD GUNDY AND FAMILY ENDOWMENT

The Richard Gundy and Family Endowment was created due to a generous gift of \$100,000 from the Gundy Family. This new endowment will be used to create, enhance and maintain Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies collections that are related to the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights.

"As a family, we understand the real benefit of an endowment gift is that you give today and tomorrow. Today, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever. Tomorrow, the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten. The Gundy family supports the Ackerman Center's mission of Teaching the Past, Changing the Future!"  
—Steve Gundy



Ackerman Center board member, Steve Gundy (center), with family and friends

### Gundy Family History of Support

- 1999  
Steven Gundy graduates from UTD with a BA
- 2006  
The Gundy Family makes its first gift to the University
- 2017  
Richard Gundy & Steven Gundy Family Endowment in Holocaust Studies established
- 2018  
Steven Gundy joins the Ackerman Center Advisory Board
- 2019  
Gundy family supports the Ackerman Center Leadership Dinner
- 2021  
Richard Gundy and Family Endowment established



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

.....

**21**  
**Events Held**

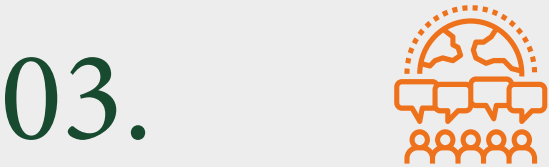
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**52**  
**Countries Engaged**

.....

**50+**  
**Teachers Mentored**

.....



03.

**OUTREACH**

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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. 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 will be a vital part of promoting solutions to the challenges to global justice and peace in our world.

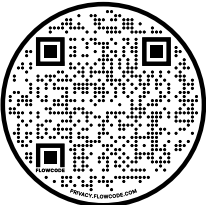
// OUTREACH //

**CALENDAR  
OF PAST EVENTS**

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- Oct. 5 The Surprising Global Legacy of Anne Frank
- Oct. 21 Human Rights in a Turbulent Era
- Oct. 28 Witnessing Humanity
- Nov. 5 Hannah Arendt
- Nov. 9 From Conviction To Freedom: Exonerating the Wrongfully Convicted
- Nov. 30 In Commemoration of The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Dec. 7 Operation Texas: LBJ and the Holocaust
- Jan. 19 The Righteous Among the Nations: People Like You and Me?
- Feb. 2 Architecture and Religion
- Feb. 6-7 The Visual Cultures of Race and Science Symposium
- Feb. 17 Film Discussion by Dr. David Patterson - Dallas Jewish Film Festival
- Mar. 5-7 52nd Annual Scholars' Conference  
From Kaiser's Genocide to Hitler's Rhineland Bastard  
The Ethics of Rescue: Stories Behind the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen
- Mar. 9 Spring Lecture Series - The Relevance and Representation of Wannsee: Frank Pierson's Conspiracy (2001)
- Mar. 21 The Kraków Ghetto Through the Eyes of Jewish Children
- Mar. 30 Spring Lecture Series - Was the Nazi Final Solution Decided at Wannensee?
- Apr. 3 Echoes of Atrocity in Ukraine
- Apr. 6 Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies: State of the Center
- Apr. 13 Spring Lecture Series - Germans Must Not Bury Their History: The Wannsee Conference in the Latin American Imaginary
- Apr. 28 Holocaust Remembrance Day

*The Ackerman Center regularly hosts events that are free and open to the public. Learn more and sign up for upcoming events here:*



Find recordings of past events on the utdarts youtube channel.



“Inviting the public to attend our events free of charge allows our outreach program to go beyond the classroom, teaching the lessons of the past to the community both locally and across the globe.”

—Cindy Seton-Rogers

Academic & Outreach Events Manager

### THE RIGHTEOUS AMONG THE NATIONS: PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME?

Beate Judith Wenker, Jewish Interactive Museum

Trying to determine whether the rescuers were “ordinary people,” Mrs. Wenker discussed the socioeconomic diversity of the recognized rescuers and the ways they helped the Jews. She also examined the Righteous’ psychological profiles to understand their courageous and determined behavior in carrying out extraordinary rescues.

### THE KRAKÓW GHETTO THROUGH THE EYES OF JEWISH CHILDREN

Dr. Joanna Sliwa

This lecture, presented virtually by Dr. Joanna Sliwa, author of the award winning book *Jewish Childhood in Kraków: A Microhistory of the Holocaust*, focused on young people’s survival strategies in the Kraków Ghetto and discussed children’s agency during the Holocaust.

### THE SURPRISING GLOBAL LEGACY OF ANNE FRANK

Gillian Walnes Perry, MBE

This talk shared some of the lesser known details of the Frank family’s life in Amsterdam until they were discovered in 1944. Also discussed was the global impact of the Anne Frank exhibition, which has traveled to several countries around the world.



// OUTREACH //

### ECHOES OF ATROCITY IN UKRAINE

In response to the unprovoked attack on Ukraine in February 2022 the Ackerman Center presented a program dedicated to the victims of the region. This event featured poetry readings, historical accounts, and presentations by Drs. Nils Roemer, David Patterson, and Emily-Rose Baker in addition to students, Raheel Ahmed and Nicholas Blitshtein. Also included in the event were musical performances by Artem Arutyunyan, Elisabeth Ann Bordelon, Nathan Mills, Dyuthi Arella, and Michael Ross. While paying tribute to Ukrainian suffering, both past and present, the Ackerman Center reflected on the troubled history of the country and its historical struggle through war, famine, and occupation. As the onslaught continues, Echoes of Ukraine brought attention to the need for humanitarian aid in the territory while emphasizing the importance of continuous vigilance against human rights violations across the globe.

Pictured (left) Dr. Nils Roemer speaking at the Echoes of Atrocity in Ukraine event



### HUMAN RIGHTS IN A TURBULENT ERA

Dr. Gráinne de Búrca, NYU Law

In the context of three case studies from Ireland, Argentina and Pakistan, de Búrca presented an experimentalist account of the human rights movement and argued that it remains a powerful and appealing one with widespread traction in many parts of the globe.

### IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies, the School of Arts and Humanities, and the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication gathered in person and online to commemorate the day with a series of short presentations from students, staff, faculty, and members of the community.

Pictured (left) the UTD choir led by Dr. Jonathan Palant



THE VISUAL CULTURES  
OF RACE AND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

The relationship between race and science is fraught with ambiguity, misunderstanding, and violence. For example, "race" is a term used to identify profound differences between individuals. Yet, all humans are 99.9% identical in their genetic makeup, so race is not even a scientific term. If language births such confusion, then art, imagery, and appearance propagate it. The speakers in this symposium explored the many visual cultures – the art, performance, pictures, images, and art-and-image fabrication – of race and science.



*"Martin's Eye Color Chart"*  
*This eye color chart was developed by the influential anthropologist Rudolf Martin (1864–1925). Photo: Håkon Bergseth, NTM / University of Oslo: Institute for Basic Medical Sciences*

“Market Aesthetics: Race, Materiality and Economics in the Atlantic World”

*Dr. Anna Arabindan-Kesson*  
*Assistant Professor, Department of African American Studies/Department of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ*

“Sexuality and Beauty: A Secular Theory of Race”

*Dr. Myrna Sheldon*  
*Assistant Professor of Gender & American Religion, Ohio University*

“Misunderstanding Art & Science in the Races of Mankind”

*Dr. Linda Kim*  
*Associate Professor of Art History Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA*

“Ancestry, Race, and the Visual Order: Becoming Responsible for How We Learn to See”

*Dr. Duana Fullwiley*  
*Associate Professor of Anthropology Stanford University, Stanford, CA*

“Transracial Futures? The CRISPR Sperm Bank”

*Dr. Eben Kirksey*  
*Associate Professor of Anthropology Deakin University, Geelong, Australia*

Graduate Seminar with Moderated Q&A

*Dr. Charissa N. Terranova*  
*Professor of Art and Architectural History University of Texas at Dallas*

ACKERMAN CENTER  
SPRING LECTURE SERIES



“The Relevance and Representation of Wannsee: Frank Pierson’s *Conspiracy* (2001)”

*Dr. Emily-Rose Baker, UT Dallas*

Dr. Baker presented a talk about American director Frank Pierson’s film *Conspiracy*, produced by HBO in 2001. She discussed how the film portrays the relevance of Wannsee itself and the significance of the film in building a picture of the conference—from which no full minutes remain—80 years on.



“Was the Nazi Final Solution Decided At Wannsee?”

*Dr. Amy Kerner, UT Dallas*

Dr. Kerner addressed the abiding infamy of the Wannsee Conference in popular and scholarly thought. She explored questions of the significance of the event and its place in the broader history of the Nazi Holocaust as well as how a fascination with Wannsee may shape or distort our understanding of how genocides unfold.



“Germans Must Not Bury Their History: The Wannsee Conference in the Latin American Imaginary.”

*Dr. Pedro Gonzalez Corona, UT Dallas*

Dr. Gonzalez presented on the Wannsee Conference in Latin American Imaginary. He chronicled the various channels of representation of the Wannsee Conference in Latin America and the public responses to it.



"Each year, the world's most prominent scholars and dedicated students come to UT Dallas for the ASC to engage the Holocaust, an event that transformed history and the understanding of our humanity."  
—Dr. David Patterson



## 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL SCHOLARS' CONFERENCE

MARCH 5-7, 2022



This conference, established by Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke more than fifty years ago, offers the opportunity to address the historical significance of the Holocaust through interfaith, international, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

The central theme of the 52nd ASC was "Expanding Perspectives of the Holocaust." 2022 marked the 80th anniversary of the Wannsee Conference, where Nazi leaders discussed the large-scale continental, European, and global plan for the murder of the Jewish people. The opening of state and regional archives of the former Soviet Union has led to a deeper understanding of the scale and geography of the Holocaust. Victims experienced the Holocaust within numerous local, regional, and national contexts. Thus, Holocaust studies has developed to promote a much broader, more varied history that exists in local, regional, national, and continental geographies.

### Mitchell L. and Miriam Lewis Barnett Lecture:

"THE ETHICS OF RESCUE:  
STORIES BEHIND THE LIBERATION  
OF BERGEN-BELSEN"

—Dr. Bernice Lerner

Dr. Bernice Lerner served as the director of Boston University's Center for Character and Social Responsibility, the dean of adult learning at Hebrew College, as well as a lecturer on the Holocaust at Boston University. In her latest book, *All the Horrors of War: A Jewish Girl, a British Doctor, and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen*, she describes the events that unfolded after a unit of the British Second Army entered the then largest Nazi concentration camp and found 60,000 desperate and emaciated inmates—25,000 of whom would die if they did not receive immediate care. She follows the actions of Brigadier Glyn Hughes, the Army's Deputy Director of Medical Services, who committed himself to the complex and harrowing task of trying to save lives. The book also follows Rachel Genuth a 15-year-old also at death's door whose parents and four siblings had been murdered in Auschwitz.



Dr. Lerner signs a book for  
Samantha and James Asch

### Michael and Elaine Jaffe Lecture:

"FROM KAISER'S GENOCIDE TO  
HITLER'S RHINELAND BASTARD"

—Dr. Abebe Zegeye

Dr. Abebe Zegeye conducts and publishes research on African and Social Identities. He is the author of the highly acclaimed book, *The Impossible Return: Struggle of the Ethiopian Jews*, *The Beta Isreal* (Red Sea Press, 2018) and the forthcoming book *Sites of Remembering* (African World Press 2022). Dr. Zegeye's lecture examined the common ideological threads that linked the effects of the brutality of European colonialism in Africa and the violence of National Socialism. In particular, he focused his talk on the case of Namibia and the theory that Nazi ideology found beginnings there. He discussed how the German racial stereotypes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries mutated into murderous Nazi racial ideology and discriminatory legislation and argued that Nazi racial theories did not begin with Hitler, but instead found their birth in the colonial activities of the Germans.



(Left to right) Dr. Pedro Gonzalez, Dr. Nils Roemer, Dr. Abebe Zegeye, Provost Inga H. Musselman, and Michael and Dr. Elaine Jaffe



YOM HASHOAH

## Holocaust Remembrance Day

This year, we transitioned back to an in-person commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event was held at the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology building on the UT Dallas campus. In a wonderful collective effort, over 70 people: faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Ackerman Center, gathered to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah). During this emotional and meaningful event, as has been done traditionally, participants read Holocaust poems in various languages. In addition, there were performances of songs, and there was a special presentation of a short animation video created by Dr. Christine Veras and students from the experimental animation lab.

Dr. David Patterson led this year's annual poetry translation workshop where they translated Dan Pagis's poem "Testimony" into multiple languages. These translations were read at the Holocaust Remembrance Day event.



Dr. Pedro Gonzalez (left) welcomes students, faculty, staff, and community members as they come together to observe Holocaust Remembrance Day and acknowledge the complex ways the Holocaust continues to impact communities worldwide.

## Annual Teacher Institute

This year, our annual Holocaust Teacher Institute, *An Opus of Remembrance: Voices of Resistance and Diaries of the Holocaust*, featured Maestro Murry Sidlin and Alexandra Zapruder of the Defiant Requiem Foundation. Examining the work of composers and artists imprisoned in Theresienstadt, the Maestro provided area educators with a unique experience in his exploration of art as resistance through the lens of Rafael Schächter and his production of Verdi's *Requiem*. In addition to Maestro Sidlin's talk, this full day seminar included presentations by Ms. Zapruder on children's Holocaust diaries, Dr. David Patterson on the power of language, and US Air Force Interns, Haley Hoffmeister and Annalise Webber on artistic representation during the Shoah. The impact of this yearly conference is reflected in a note received from an attendee after the event:

"Thank you, UTD and all the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies for organizing these very insightful and profound continuing education workshops, the resources, stories and personalities have made these

workshops an excellent tool for educators and at the same time a valuable avenue to preserve history."



Dr. Debbie Pfister speaking at the annual Holocaust Teacher Institute



## // OUTREACH //

PARTNERSHIPS AND  
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.



*(left photo) Dr. Pedro Gonzalez, Katie Fisher, Dr. Emily-Rose Baker, Jaijai Gu, and Dr. Nils Roemer. (right photo) Ackerman Center panel “Built by the Colonial Gaze”*

## 8<sup>th</sup> International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference Mexico City, June 26-28



*A Night Longer than 500 Years:  
Voice, Memory, and Dignity in Latin America*

The Ackerman Center sponsored and partnered in planning the 8th International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference (INoGS) in Mexico City, held June 26-28, 2022. Dr. Roemer, Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Baker, as well as two graduate students, Katie

Fisher and Jaijai Gu traveled to Mexico City to take part in the panel “Built by the Colonial Gaze: Cultural, Political, Social, and Physical Structures in The Global South.”

This year’s conference placed special interest on histories of genocide and mass atrocities in Mexico and central and south America—from the violent conquest and destruction of indigenous groups by European colonialists 500 years ago, to the recent and ongoing forced disappearances, torture, killings, and displacement of hundreds of thousands of people at the hands of state and non-state perpetrators.

Keynote speakers addressed the main theme from different disciplinary perspectives. The conference also featured two plenary roundtable sessions, one with Mexican martial artist Marisela Ugalde and Mayan human rights activist Rosalina Tuyuc Velásquez on indigenous societies and cultures in Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala, and Venezuela, and one with Lucía de Los Ángeles Díaz Genao, co-founder of Colectivo Solecito de Veracruz, and Karla I. Quintana Osuna, National Commissioner of the Comisión Nacional de Búsqueda, on the search to locate the hundreds of thousands of people who have been forcibly disappeared in Mexico.



## // COLLABORATIVE EVENTS//

**AIR FORCE CADET  
SUMMER PROGRAM**

*A joint endeavor between  
the United States Air Force  
Academy and  
The Ackerman Center*

Over the last two years, the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies developed a working relationship with the Humanities Division of the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). The summer cadet internship program collaboration with the Ackerman Center grew out of this association. Our partnership enables one or more cadets to spend approximately three weeks during the summer as interns on our campus as both researchers and students of the Shoah.

This summer our

interns, Doyle Gehring, Haley Hoffmeister, and Annalise Webber all brought diverse talents to our programmatic research endeavors and provided support for our annual Holocaust Teacher Workshop. In addition, they worked on their own Holocaust-focused independent study and capstone projects. The USAFA intern program expands the breadth of the center's academic excellence while developing future scholars and potential graduate students in the field of Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights.



*Airforce cadets (left photo) Doyle Gehring,  
(right photo) Haley Hoffmeister, and Annalise Webber.*

## // WHAT'S NEXT? //

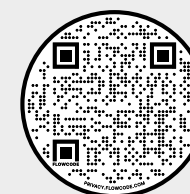
**NEW DIMENSIONS CAMPAIGN**

Last year, the University launched *New Dimensions: The Campaign for UT Dallas*, a \$750 million initiative to help students, support life-changing research, and enhance the arts on campus. The Ackerman Center plays a crucial role in these core areas. In our efforts to teach the past we aim to change the future. Your support for our students, faculty, and programs will be key to our success.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the Ackerman Center as we work to expand our reach around the world and in new digital spaces. We are counting on our loyal supporters to aid in our mission of remembrance, promoting the causes of justice and equality to a global audience.

If you would like to learn more about the Ackerman Center or the difference your gift could make, please contact Holly Hull Miori, senior director of development, at 972-883-4119 or [hmiori@utdallas.edu](mailto:hmiori@utdallas.edu).

.....  
Learn more about the  
Ackerman Center and  
watch a short video  
through the link in this  
QR code.



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



1986 ● Arnold A. Jaffe Holocaust  
Collection Endowed

2002 ● Einspruch Lecture  
Series Endowed

2003 ● Leah and Paul Lewis  
Chair Established

2008 ● First Certificate in Holocaust  
Studies Awarded

Hillel A. Feinberg  
Distinguished Chair Established

Stan and Barbara Rabin  
Distinguished 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 ● Ackerman Center  
Leadership Dinner

2020 ● Miriam Lewis Barnett  
Chair Established



2021 ● **NEW DIMENSIONS**  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UT DALLAS



// WHAT'S NEXT //

## FOUNDATION GIFT DRIVES ACKERMAN CENTER GROWTH

A \$1.1 million gift from the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation continues a family's multigenerational support of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas. The gift will support the center's internationally recognized scholarship while expanding its outreach mission through online learning.

"Today, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever, which means the Ackerman Center's mission is vital to continuing that engagement

with the past, a mission that means so much to my family," said David B. Ackerman, president of the Ackerman Foundation and chairman of the Ackerman Center Advisory Board. "I am pleased that the Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman Foundation is again

Dr. Inga Musselman (center), vice president for academic affairs and provost at UT Dallas, with Ackerman family members (from left) Eddie Ackerman, Paula Menendez, David B. Ackerman and Samantha Asch

"Today, the lessons of the Holocaust are more important than ever, which means the Ackerman Center's mission is vital to continuing that engagement with the past, a mission that means so much to my family," —David B. Ackerman

contributing to the ongoing, timeless mission of the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies."

Generous support from Edward and Wilhelmina Ackerman led to the naming of the center, and the family foundation has invested in graduate fellowships in Holocaust studies, the development of undergraduate programs and the growth of educational outreach.

Dr. Nils Roemer, interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities and the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, said the foundation's support has been transformational.

**"It's not just a way of supporting the work of the center but actually transforming it every time they've made a major gift," said Roemer, who also directs the center.**

The foundation's most recent contribution will benefit the center's endowment, support the growth of online educational programming and fund a new biennial awards dinner. According to Roemer, the funding for online and digital learning is particularly important because it will create new avenues for programs beyond the UT Dallas campus to fulfill its outreach mission.

"Over the last two and a half years, we have become early adopters of online learning technologies and this new leadership gift is compelling us to create what we call 'Ackerman Center 2.0' – in other words, a digital or online version of ourselves," Roemer said. "The support of the Ackerman family has been one of the driving forces behind this constant growth of the Ackerman Center."

*By Jeff Joiner  
Communications Manager,  
UT Dallas Office of Development  
and Alumni Relations*



// WHAT'S NEXT //

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.



Changing the future through  
promoting solutions for global  
justice and peace.

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  
Holly Hull Miori '18, '21 and Michael Miori  
Michael and Jackie 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) or at 972-883-4119 or visit [www.utdallasgiving.org](http://www.utdallasgiving.org)



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(\$500,000+)

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Paula and Douglas Menendez  
Caroline and David B. Ackerman  
Samantha and James Asch  
Beth and Eddie Ackerman



Leadership Circle

(\$100,000-\$499,000)

Gundy Family Endowment  
Marcia Sachs Littell  
Texas Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

Texas Research Incentive Program  
was designed to incentivize the private  
sector to help Texas build more Tier One  
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matching funding for private gifts given to  
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 Miriam Vernon  
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 Don Weitz

# Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

at The University of Texas at Dallas



*Teaching the Past, Changing the Future*

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