

# CONFERENCE

OF THE

**NETHERLANDS AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

AND

**BELGIAN LUXEMBOURG AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

in cooperation with the Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp

## **AMERICAN RESPONSES TO THE HOLOCAUST: TRANSATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES**

June 15-17, 2011



This conference aims to explore American responses to the Holocaust and the ways in which the systematic destruction of European Jewry during World War II has figured in American politics, in important cultural and social debates in the United States, in American literature and popular culture, and in other aspects of American life, such as religion, education, and jurisprudence.

The conference will include six excellent keynote speakers and 33 speakers from 11 different countries who offer multi- and interdisciplinary approaches to the topic. *American Responses to the Holocaust* will bring a new American Studies perspective to what has traditionally been the focus of Jewish Studies and Holocaust studies. The organizers have selected many papers that explore responses to the Holocaust from a transatlantic perspective in the belief that a comparative approach that takes into account the similarities and differences between responses in Europe and the United States is useful and enlightening for American studies scholars and can contribute new and valuable insights into the ways in which the Holocaust has figured in American life.

## Conference Program

(updates will be posted on [www.roosevelt.nl](http://www.roosevelt.nl))

	<b>June 15</b>	<b>Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 9, Middelburg</b>
12.30	Registration	With coffee and tea
13.15	Welcome	Presidents of the NASA and BLASA
13.20	Opening	Ambassador Fay Hartog Levin, U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands
13.30	<b>KEYNOTE 1</b>	Hasia Diner (New York University, USA), <i>The Engagement of American Jews with Germany in the First Two Decades after World War II and Its Visible Impact on America's Cold War Culture and Politics</i>
14.30	Session 1	<b>1: German and American Responses to the Holocaust:</b> - Jacob S. Eder (University of Pennsylvania, USA), <i>West German Reactions to American Holocaust Memorial Culture</i> - Rachael McLennan (University of East Anglia, UK), <i>American and European Representations of Anne Frank</i>
15.30	Coffee/Tea Break	
16.00	Parallel Sessions 2	<b>2a: Religious Responses to the Holocaust:</b> - Victoria J. Barnett (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, USA), <i>Complicated Conversations: U.S. Interfaith and Ecumenical Leaders and Europe, 1933-1945</i> - Caitlin Carenen (Eastern Connecticut State University, USA), <i>Political and Theological Responses of American Protestants to the Holocaust</i>  <b>2b: Aid Organizations and the Holocaust:</b> - Laura Hobson Faure (Sorbonne University, France), <i>Responding to the Shoah: American Jewish Organizations in Postwar France, 1944-1954</i> - Zohar Segev (University of Haifa, Israel), <i>National Identity, Cultural Revival, and National Struggle: American Jewry and the Challenge of Jewish Diaspora in the Shadow of the Holocaust</i>
17.00	Welcoming Reception	Roosevelt Study Center
18.15	Excursion to	Synagoge Middelburg, Herenstraat 14
	<b>June 16</b>	<b>Roosevelt Study Center, Abdij 9, Middelburg</b>
9.00	<b>KEYNOTE 2</b>	David Cesarani (University of London, United Kingdom), <i>After Eichmann: The Role of Jewish Presence in American and European Collective Memory of the Holocaust, 1960-1990</i>
10.00	Parallel Sessions 3	<b>3a: The Holocaust and the Politics of Memory:</b> - Gulie Ne'eman Arad (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel), <i>Memory without Borders: The Holocaust &amp; Identity Politics in Israel &amp; America</i> - Steven F. Sage (United States Holocaust Museum, USA), <i>Bulgaria, The US and the Holocaust 'Rescue' Mirage</i>  <b>3b: Dramatic Presentations of the Holocaust:</b> - Dana Rufolo (Therapy and Theater Research Institute of Europe, Luxembourg), <i>Characters Who Condemn; Characters Who Redeem: A Comparison of American with Austrian Holocaust Dramas</i> - Erika Hughes (Free University Berlin, Germany), <i>Generations and Generalizations: German and American Gang Violence in T-Money &amp; Wolf</i>

11.00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11.30	Parallel Sessions 4	<p><b>4a: Intellectuals' Responses to the Holocaust:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nadja Janssen (University of Sussex, United Kingdom), <i>"We Are Here to Stay ... This Is Home!" New York Jewish Intellectuals, Commentary Magazine and the Legacy of the Holocaust, 1945-1980</i></li> <li>- Steven Schouten (Scientific Council for Government Policy, Netherlands), <i>Jews, Academia, and American Foreign Policy after the Holocaust (1945-ca.1975)</i></li> </ul> <p><b>4b: Warnings in the US and Europe:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jan Lánícek (University of Southampton, United Kingdom), <i>Knowing or Believing? Responses to the Nazi Extermination Campaign against the Jews in Britain and the United States in 1944</i></li> <li>- Jeffrey Demsky (San Bernardino Valley College, USA), <i>A Curiously Loud "Abandonment": Reconsidering American Discursive Opposition to Nazi Anti-Semitism</i></li> </ul>
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Parallel Sessions 5	<p><b>5a: Government Responses to the Holocaust:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Elizabeth Morgenstern (Florida State University, USA), <i>Roosevelt's Rabbi: The Impact of Stephen S Wise on Roosevelt's Policies during the Holocaust</i></li> <li>- David Woolner (Marist College, USA), <i>Heroes or Villains? FDR, Pope Pius XII and the Evolution of Public Thought in Response to the Holocaust</i></li> <li>- Bat-Ami Zucker (Bar-Ilan University, Israel), <i>Madam Secretary Frances Perkins: A Friend in Need</i></li> </ul> <p><b>5b: Representations of the Holocaust in the Mass Media:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jonathan Gill (Manhattan School of Music, USA), <i>Realizing the Shoah: Jewish Authenticity, Authentic Judaism, and the American Reception of Holocaust</i></li> <li>- Malgorzata Pakier (Warsaw School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Poland), <i>Genre Confronts Trauma: The Holocaust in an Early American TV-Show</i></li> <li>- Emiliano Perra (University of Bristol, UK), <i>Italian Debates on the "Americanization" of the Holocaust</i></li> </ul>
15.30	Departure to Antwerp	By Bus (free of charge)
17.00	Arrival in Antwerp	Check in Hotel Prinse, Keizerstraat 63, Antwerp
	<b>June 16</b>	<b>Klooster der Grauwe Zusters, Lange Sint-Annastraat 7, Antwerp</b>
18.15	Speakers' Dinner	(Kosher) Buffet
19.45	Welcome	Vivian Liska, Director Institute of Jewish Studies, Uni. of Antwerp
20.00	<b>KEYNOTE PANEL</b>	<p><b>Contemporary Perspectives on the Holocaust:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Howard Gutman (U.S. Ambassador to Belgium), <i>Opening Talk</i></li> <li>- Dan Diner (University of Leipzig, Germany), <i>The Holocaust as Genocide: Transforming WWII in an Era of Globalization</i></li> <li>- Herman Van Goethem (Antwerp University, Belgium), <i>Commemorating the Holocaust in Belgium: A New Museum on Holocaust and Human Rights in Mechelen</i></li> </ul>
21.45	End of Panel	

	<b>June 17</b>	<b>UA Stadscampus, Grote Kauwenberg 18 / Prinsstraat 13, Rooms B.002 &amp; B.004</b>
9.00	<b>KEYNOTE 3</b>	Deborah Dwork (Clark University, USA), <i>And Then? Survivors Postwar</i>
10.00	Session 6	<b>6: The Holocaust and Memorial Culture I:</b> - Joost Krijnen (University of Groningen, Netherlands), <i>Does Memory Really Travel? Historical Consciousness and the Americanization of the Holocaust</i> - Rob Kroes (Utrecht University, Netherlands), <i>The Holocaust Remembered: Atrocity Photographs as Nomadic Objects</i>
11.00	Coffee/Tea Break	
11.30	Session 7	<b>7: The Holocaust and the Politics of Compensation:</b> - Lisiunia Romanienko (University of Wroclaw, Poland), <i>Exile, Inequality, and the Commodification of Catastrophe</i> - Christiane Grieb (University College London, United Kingdom), <i>American Responses to Forced Labor in the Holocaust</i>
12.30	Lunch	
13.30	Parallel Sessions 8	<b>8a: The Holocaust and Memorial Culture II:</b> - Stef Craps (Ghent University, Belgium), <i>Holocaust Impiety in Michael Chabon's The Final Solution</i> - Mercedes Peñalba (University of Salamanca, Spain), <i>Cynthia Ozick's Palimpsest Narratives</i> - Marieke Bentein & Philippe Codde (Ghent University, Belgium), <i>Approaching the Holocaust from the Other Side: Bystanders and Perpetrators in Seiffert's The Dark Room and Littell's The Kindly Ones</i>  <b>8b: The Holocaust and the Politics of Prevention:</b> - Dirk Visser (University of Groningen, Netherlands), <i>'This Isn't World War Two.' The Holocaust as Rhetorical Tool in American AIDS Discourse</i> - Mispá Coertse (University of Johannesburg, South Africa), <i>Early Warning of Genocide: Engaging the Holocaust as a Comparative Study</i> - David S. Frey (Military Academy Westpoint, USA) <i>The State Department's Treaty Violations Program and the Legacy of the Shoah in Hungary</i>
15.00	Coffee/Tea Break	
15.30	Session 9	<b>9: The Holocaust and Memorial Culture III:</b> - Viktoria Sukovata (Kharkiv Karazin National University, Ukraine), <i>Holocaust Studies in the USA and the Soviet Countries: Comparative Analyses</i> - Uta Larkey (Goucher College, USA), <i>Searching for the Roots our Parents Tried to Cut Off: Shared Memories in Holocaust Survivors' Families</i> - Stephanie Rotem (Tel Aviv University, Israel), <i>Lessons of the Holocaust Taught in Museums</i>
17.00	<b>End of Conference</b>	
17.30	Walking Tour Jewish Neighborhood	Start-End: Antwerp Central Station

	Conference Organizers	Gert Buelens (Ghent University) Hans Krabbendam (Roosevelt Study Center) Vivian Liska (Antwerp University) Derek Rubin (Utrecht University)
	Conference Addresses	<div> Roosevelt Study Center Abdij 9 4331 BK Middelburg The Netherlands The Netherlands </div> <div> Institute of Jewish Studies Antwerp University Lange Sint-Annastraat 7 (16/6) Grote Kauwenberg 18, B002 (17/6) Antwerp, Belgium </div>
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		<p><b>This conference has been made possible through grants (financial and in kind) by:</b></p> <p> <b>American Embassy, The Hague, The Netherlands</b>  <b>American Embassy, Brussels, Belgium</b>  <b>Antwerp University, Belgium</b>  <b>Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association</b>  <b>Institute of Jewish Studies, Antwerp, Belgium</b>  <b>Netherlands American Studies Association</b>  <b>Province of Zeeland, Middelburg, The Netherlands</b>  <b>Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands</b>  <b>Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences, Amsterdam, The Netherlands</b>  <b>The NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, The Netherlands</b> </p>

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

**David Cesarani** is Professor of History, Royal Holloway College, University of London, UK.

Recent Publications: *Major Farran's Hat: The Untold Story of the Struggle to Establish the Jewish State* (London 2010) and *Becoming Eichmann: Rethinking the Life, Crimes, and Trial of a "Desk Murderer"* (Cambridge, MA 2006) with Suzanne Bardgett, eds., *Belsen 1945: New Historical Perspectives* (Edgware 2006).

**Dan Diner** is Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture, University of Leipzig and Department of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.

Recent Publications: *Zeitenschwelle. Gegenwartsfragen an die Geschichte* (München 2010), *Lost in the Sacred. Why the Muslim World Stood Still* (Princeton 2009) *Beyond the Conceivable. Studies on Germany, Nazism and the Holocaust* (Berkeley 2000).

**Hasia Diner** is Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History; and Director of the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History, New York University, USA.

Recent Publications: with Shira M Kohn and Rachel Kranson *A Jewish Feminine Mystique?: Jewish Women in Postwar America* (New Brunswick, NJ 2010); *We Remember with Reverence and Love: American Jews and the Myth of Silence after the Holocaust, 1945-1962* (New York 2009); *The Jews of the United States, 1654 to 2000* (Berkeley 2006).

**Deborah Dwork** is Rose Professor of Holocaust History and Director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the Department of History, Clark University, Rochester, MA, USA.

Recent Publications: with R.J. van Pelt *Flight from the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933-1946* (New York 2009); and *Auschwitz* (New York 2008), with Marianne Zadikow May, *The Terezín album of Mariánka Zadikow* (Chicago 2008).

**Howard Gutman** was nominated by President Barack Obama to be U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 24, 2009. He was sworn in on August 14, 2009. Before being named Ambassador, Mr. Gutman was a partner with the Washington D.C. law firm of Williams & Connolly LLP. In his over twenty-six years with the firm, Mr. Gutman has been identified as one of "Washington's Top Lawyers" by Washingtonian magazine (December 2004, December 2007) and selected to numerous "Superlawyers" and similar attorney award lists. Earlier in his career, Mr. Gutman served as a Special Assistant to F.B.I Director William H. Webster, focusing on counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence; as a law clerk to Justice Potter Stewart (retd.) on the United States Supreme Court; and as a law clerk to Judge Irving L. Goldberg on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He is a 1980 graduate of Harvard Law School and a 1977 graduate of Columbia University.

**Herman Van Goethem** is Professor of History at Antwerp University and Director of the Museum on Holocaust and Human Rights in Mechelen, Belgium.

Recent Publications: *Belgium and the Monarchy: From National Independence to National Disintegration* (Brussels forthcoming) and edited, *Local Government in Occupied Europe (1939-1945)* (Ghent 2006) and *Oorlogsdagboeken 1940-1942* (Tielt, Belgium 1998).