

OXFORD HOLOCAUST STUDIES READING GROUP

Thursdays of even weeks, 2pm
Clarendon Institute, Room 207

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This reading group is a place for students and researchers to discuss our research within a supportive community. The group will meet four times a term to discuss issues around our research, some of the main Holocaust historiographical issues, and the latest research and publications in the field. Please email barnabas.balint@magd.ox.ac.uk or cailee.davis@st-annes.ox.ac.uk if you wish to be added to the circulation list.

Week 2 (25th January, Thursday, 2pm) – Holocaust Memorial Day

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day 2024, we would like to invite everyone to a discussion on this year's theme, the fragility of freedom. Join us as we explore testimonies from different conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries, exploring commonalities related to freedom, oppression, and other experiences of persecution.

Week 4 (8th February, Thursday, 1:30pm *note earlier time) – Presentation from Masters Student: Jonathan Marrow

In this session, we will hear from current Masters student Jonathan Marrow about his dissertation research. This will be followed by a brief Q & A and discussion session. If you are interested in presenting at a future session, please get in touch with the convenors.

Week 6 (22nd February, Thursday, 2pm) – Letter Writing and the Holocaust: Reflections on a Source

This week we will be joined by Charlie Knight, a doctoral candidate at the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations, University of Southampton. Charlie will deliver a brief talk on letters and letter-writing during the Holocaust and how these rich and varied sources continue to contribute to the study of the Holocaust.

Week 8 (7th March, Thursday, 2pm) – Youth & Gender in Mid-20th Century

Join us for a preview of an upcoming Special Issue of the *European Review of History* on youth and gender in the mid-20th century. For this reading group, we will consider the introduction and a selection of the papers, discussing the turn in recent historiography towards children's experiences of armed conflict.

Katharina Seibert and Barnabas Balint, 'Rallying Europe: Young women and men searching for a life and a future', *European Review of History* (2024)

Abstract: "The turmoil of the mid-twentieth century saw young people mobilised for action across Europe in an unprecedented manner. Concurrently, against the backdrop of the struggle between democratic and authoritarian projects, war and fragile peace, young people increasingly became a target of state legislation, (mass) organisations and other institutions. From the end of the First World War to the aftermath of the Second World War, Europe witnessed fundamental changes in the social regimes that determined societal power distribution. This special issue approaches the first half of the 20th century through the lens of age and gender as interdependent categories of analysis. In doing so, we reveal how adult perceptions of youth and gender framed young men and women's lives and their roles in society. Vice versa, we explore how these perceptions collided with youth agency, probing the specific age- and gender-related dynamics of empowerment and organization. By zooming in on the concrete young actors and the institutional settings that limited their scope of action, processes of wayward appropriations will be contrasted with institutionalised attempts to control and lead "the young". As such, we contribute to a global academic discussion on age, gender, the lifecycle, and intersectionality."