

October 25 – 26, 2009

THE MYTH OF SILENCE?

WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND WHEN

This conference hopes to explore the idea, frequently expressed but now increasingly called into question, that before the early 1960s (with the publication of Raul Hilberg's *Destruction of the European Jews* and the trial of Adolf Eichmann) there was a general "silence" in American circles about the events coming to be known as the Holocaust. The conference will probe this assumption and test the evidence for and against it. What kinds of inquiry and discussion—in survivor testimony, in historiography, in literature and the arts, or elsewhere—were taking place before the 1960s? What role was played by scholarship and commentary in Yiddish?

Images:

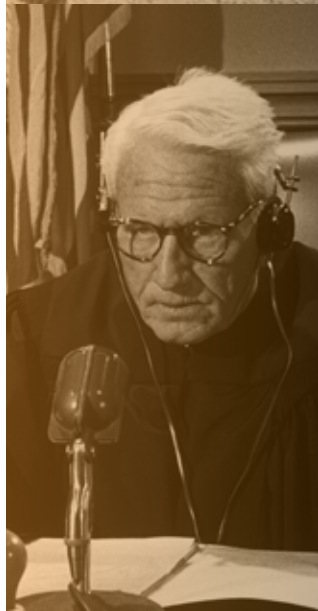
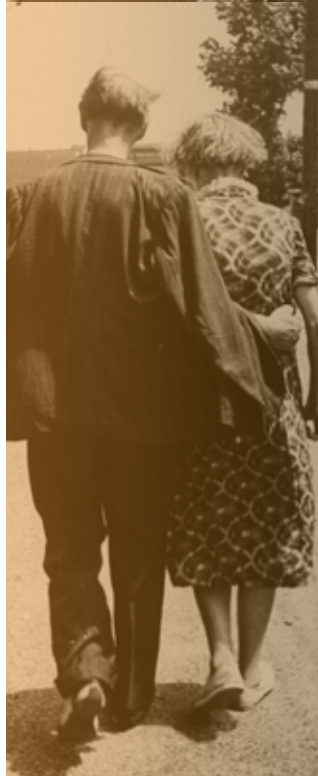
Cover

1. (top) Nazi leader Hermann Göring stands in the prisoner's box during his trial for war crimes in Nuremberg, Germany (1945).
2. (bottom left) Actor Montgomery Clift as Rudoph Peterson in the film *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961). Photographer: Allan Grant (April, 1961).
3. (bottom right) American military police admit a father and daughter, both displaced persons, to the refugee shelter at Fort Ontario. Oswego, New York, after August 4, 1944. (*National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md.*).

This page (top to bottom)

1. Nazi Physician and head of the Nazi euthanasia program, Karl Brandt, during his trial for war crimes in Nuremberg, Germany.
2. Mr. and Mrs. Michele Mikhailoff, artists from Russia and Jewish refugees rescued from wartime Nazi-occupied Europe at Fort Ontario in Oswego, NY. (Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt, 1944. LIFE Photo Archive)
3. Actor Spencer Tracy as Chief Judge Dan Hayward in the film *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961).

Photos of Nuremberg Trials credit: USHMM, courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration, College Park.



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EXPLORING DEBATES OVER THE POST-WAR
"SILENCE" ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Sponsored by
the UCLA/Mellon Program on the Holocaust in American & World Culture,
the UCLA Center for Jewish Studies,
and the "1939" Club



Sunday, October 25, 2009

Faculty Center

10 AM • Opening Remarks

Carol Bakhos (UCLA)

Eric Sundquist (UCLA)

10:15 AM • "Early Testimony by Displaced Persons"

Chair: **Monica Osborne** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Alan Rosen (Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah)

"We know very little in America":

David Boder and Un-Belated Testimony

Rachel Deblinger (UCLA)

David P. Boder:

Holocaust Memory in Displaced Persons Camps

Margarete Myers Feinstein (UCLA)

Acting the Part:

Theatrical Interpretations of the Holocaust in the Displaced Persons Camps of Germany

12 PM • Lunch Break

2 PM • "History, Theology, Film"

Chair: **Justin Cammy** (Smith College)

Presenters:

Mark Smith (UCLA)

No Silence in Yiddish: Popular and Scholarly Writing

about the Holocaust in the Early Postwar Years

John Roth (Claremont McKenna College)

If God was Silent, Absent, Dead, or Nonexistent, what about Philosophy or Theology? Some Aftereffects and Aftershocks of the Holocaust

Lawrence Baron (San Diego State University)

Trial by Audience: Bringing Nazi War Criminals to Justice in Hollywood Films, 1944-1959

5 PM • Dinner Break

7 PM • Keynote Address

David Cesarani (University of London)

Challenging the "Myth of Silence":

Post-War Responses to the Destruction of European Jewry

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The symposium is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. To RSVP to this event, please call (310)267-5327 or email cjsrsvp@humnet.ucla.edu.

Please note that a list of UCLA and Westwood restaurants open for lunch/dinner will be distributed at the conference.

Parking on Sunday will be available at lot 2 at the kiosk on the corner of Hilgard and Westholme from 9am-11am and 6pm-8pm. Parking for Monday will be available at most kiosks, such as the one on Hilgard and Westholme. For maps and parking information, please visit www.transportation.ucla.edu.

Monday, October 26, 2009

314 Royce Hall

10 AM • Opening Remarks

Eric Sundquist (UCLA)

10:15 AM • "Survivors, Perpetrators and American Culture"

Chair: **Aaron Hass** (California State University, Dominguez Hills)

Presenters:

Beth Cohen (California State University, Northridge)

The Myth of Silence: Survivors Tell a Different Story

Kirsten Fermaglich (Michigan State University)

"This Too is Partly Hitler's Doing": American Jewish Debates over Name-Changing in the Wake of the Holocaust

Michael Staub (Baruch College, CUNY)

Authoritarianism and the Making of Post-Holocaust Personality Studies

12 PM • Lunch Break

2 PM • "Silence Past and Future"

Chair: **Eric Sundquist** (UCLA)

Presenters:

Hasia Diner (New York University)

The Myth of Silence:

Post-War American Jews and the Holocaust

Alvin Rosenfeld (Indiana University)

The End of the Holocaust

4 PM • Reception

Images: (L-R)

1. Actress Judy Garland as Mrs. Irene Hoffman in the film *Judgment at Nuremberg* (1961).
2. David P. Boder, author of *I Did Not Interview the Dead* (University of Illinois Press, 1949). Photo courtesy of UCLA Archives Office.
3. Swiss Jew Eva Bass, formerly a nightclub singer in Paris, entering refugee camp at Fort Ontario, with her children Yolanda and Joachim, whom she carried on a sixty-kilometer trek through the fighting lines to reach American transport ship Henry Gibbins. (Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt, 1944. LIFE Photo Archive).
4. Jewish refugees from Europe arrive at the emergency refugee shelter at Fort Ontario. A father, holding his daughter, checks his tags. Oswego, New York, August 4, 1944. (National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Md.).
5. Francis Biddle and John J. Parker discussing evidence in the Palace of Justice at Nuremberg before the trials. (1945).
6. Jewish refugee from Tripoli Victor Franco and his daughter waiting at gate for arrival of his pregnant wife, who was transported to Fort Ontario by hospital car. (Oswego, New York. Photo by Alfred Eisenstaedt, 1944. LIFE Photo Archive).
7. Otto Ohlendorf pleads "not guilty" at the Nuremberg Trials. (1945).

