

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

October 11-13, 2023



AF UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

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

Ackerman
Center for Holocaust Studies

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Download our conference app for up-to-date information about the conference schedule, venue maps, and other details.

Available on Apple iOS and Google Android platforms

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

The Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at The University of Texas at Dallas and the United States Air Force Academy are pleased to present this interdisciplinary conference at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, October 11-13, 2023.

This conference offers an extraordinary opportunity to bring scholars together for cross-discipline dialogues on the critical topics associated with the intersectionality of War, the Holocaust, and Human Rights as well as their representation through various disciplines, lenses, and formats.

By expanding the discussion, this event introduces new approaches to our understanding of the ways in which war, genocide, and human rights intersect, while contributing new perspectives on crimes against humanity and their continued impact on vulnerable groups around the world.

A Message from the Conference Committee

On behalf of the entire conference committee, we welcome you to Colorado Springs and the War, the Holocaust, and Human Rights Conference. We look forward to meeting and engaging with you all in the days to come.

Dr. Meredith Scott
Associate Professor of History
Director of Development
US Air Force Academy

Dr. Debbie Pfister
Research Assistant Professor
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Keynote Speakers

2023 HARMON MEMORIAL LECTURE



Thursday, October 12 | 7 p.m.

Dr. Rana Mitter

ST Lee Chair of U.S.-Asia Relations
Harvard Kennedy School

“Why China Fought: How History Shaped Ideas of Just War and Why it Matters for the Asia-Pacific Today”



Thursday, October 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper

Associate Dean and
Director of Global Social Action
Simon Wiesenthal Center

“Xi, Putin, Kim Jung Un: What Tyrants and Dictators Teach Us About the Power of Faith and Human Rights”



Friday, October 13 | 10 a.m.

Dr. Patricia Heberer Rice

Director
Division of The Senior Historian and Senior Historian
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

“In Their Own Words: The World of the Child during the Holocaust”

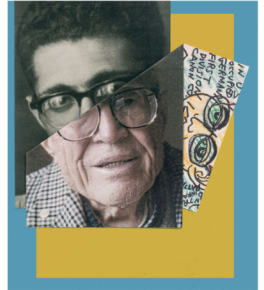
Special Presentations

Thursday, October 12 | 8:30 a.m.

Film Discussion: *Nathan-Ism*

Discussion with Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Mates
Temple Beth El of Boca Raton

*The full film will be screened on Thursday
from 1:15-2:35p.m. in the Arnold Hall Theater*



Thursday, October 12 | 4:10 p.m.

MSgt. Jeremy Lock, USAF (Ret.)

Seven-Time Military Photographer of the Year

*A selection of his photographs will be available for
viewing in the West Ballroom, Arnold Hall*



Friday, October 13 | 11:45 a.m.

Sabina Vajrača

Award-winning writer and director

Screening of short film, "Sevap/Mitzvah"

Winner of the 2023 Humanitas Prize



For more information about our keynotes,
please visit whhr.utdallas.edu/keynotes
or scan the QR code to the right.



About Us

The U.S. Air Force Academy is one of the nation's top academic institutions, providing an elite undergraduate education, world-class training in the profession of arms, rigorous physical education, and competitive athletics. The Academy's most unique characteristic is how these distinct elements collaborate in the shared mission of developing leaders of character, motivated to lead in service to our nation.

Whether graduates move forward in their careers as pilots, engineers, cyber warriors, space operators, or other military career specialists, they bring creative innovation, collaboration, and accountability to the future fight as U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force officers.

A Message from the Dean

Brigadier General Linell A. Letendre

It is an honor for the United States Air Force Academy to host this year's War, the Holocaust, and Human Rights Conference. It is essential that all individuals understand and are committed to protecting human rights, even in the midst of the horrors of war. This conference will deepen understanding and broaden perspectives, enabling faculty to be more potent and students to lead with more knowledge and courage. Thank you for your dedication to this important topic. I am so glad that you are here and I hope that you leave this conference inspired and energized to further develop yourselves and your students.

About Us

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 The University of Texas at Dallas has earned an international reputation for excellence. The Ackerman Center has grown into a distinguished and publicly-engaged academic center that offers an in-depth view of the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights studies within a dedicated facility. Among the top tier of Holocaust research programs in the country, the Ackerman Center has five endowed faculty positions, which are complemented by additional part and full-time professors and lecturers. 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.

A Message from the Director

Dr. Nils Roemer

The Ackerman Center is proud of our ongoing partnership with the US Air Force Academy, in particular because of our shared mission of teaching the past in order to shape our future leaders, educators, and professionals for generations to come. Hosting this conference allows us to take that commitment even further by providing a forum at which students and scholars can engage and learn from one another, and we hope that you all leave with new perspectives and knowledge about the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights.

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE



Schedule Overview

Wednesday, October 11

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Registration Open
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.	Welcome Reception

Thursday, October 12

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Registration Open
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Session 1
10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.	Session 2
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch with Keynote, Rabbi Cooper
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 3
2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Session 4
4:10 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Special Presentation, “Life Unfolds”
5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Harmon Memorial Lecture, Dr. Rana Mitter

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Schedule Overview

Friday, October 13

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Session 5
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Brunch with Keynote, Dr. Patricia Heberer Rice
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Session 6
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 7
2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Session 8

We encourage all attendees to stop by the West Ballroom in Arnold Hall to view research exhibits contributed by students from The University of Texas at Dallas and cadets from the US Air Force Academy and US Military Academy. Student posters will be on display for the duration of the conference.

Thank You

We are grateful to the United States Air Force Academy, The University of Texas at Dallas, and other organizations and individuals whose support has made this conference possible.

Visit whhr.utdallas.edu/community-partners or scan the QR Code to the right to see a list of community partners for the War, the Holocaust, and Human Rights Conference.



WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Wednesday, October 11

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Registration Open

Arnold Hall

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Arnold Hall Ballroom

Remarks by:

Dr. Nils Roemer, The University of Texas at Dallas

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

Director, Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies

Arts, Humanities and Technology Distinguished University Chair

Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies

Colonel J. Matthew Dietz, PhD, US Air Force Academy

History Department Head

Command Pilot, F-15E, T-38, and KC-135

USAFA Faculty Lead for Future Conflict

Senior Pilot, Dean of Faculty, T-53

Thursday, October 12

7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

Arnold Hall and Polaris Hall

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Registration Open

Arnold Hall

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Session 1

1A: Film Discussion: *Nathan-Ism* (Arnold Hall Theater)

Rabbi Jessica Spitalnic Mates

Temple Beth El of Boca Raton

1B: Memory in Literature (Polaris East Seminar Room)

Dr. Andrea Van Nort

Professor of English, USAFA

“Human Rights and the Role of the Artist: Stefan Zweig’s

Complicated Political Stance in *The World of Yesterday*”

Colonel David Buchanan

Associate Professor of English and Fine Arts, USAFA

“Etgar Keret, the Holocaust, and Memory of a Mother”

Mariah H. N. Hawkins

Masters Student, Weber State University

“Feminism in Redeployment”

1C: Roundtable Discussion (Polaris West Seminar Room)

“Holocaust Education for the 21st Century ”

Prof. Adam Rovner, University of Denver

Director, Center for Judaic Studies

Ingrid Weyher, University of Denver

Program Manager, Center for Judaic Studies

Isla Lader, University of Denver

Masters Student

Todd Hennessy, The Colorado Holocaust Educators

Director and Educator

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

10 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Session 2**

2A: Presentation by the USAFA Bluebarbs (Arnold Hall Theater)
“The Depth of Our Souls”: A Dramatic Performance on War, the Holocaust, and Human Rights

2B: Special Presentation (Polaris East Seminar Room)
“Dachau: Experiencing a Nazi Concentration Camp after Liberation”
Major L. Trent Bradford with Mrs. Heidi Huber Bradford
Assistant Professor of Law, USAFA

2C: Addressing Atrocity (Polaris West Seminar Room)
Sabro Atman

PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at Dallas
“Kurdish Participation in Assyrian Genocide”

Piotr Długołęcki

Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Polish Diplomatic Documents Series,
The Polish Institute of International Affairs

“Confronting the Holocaust: The Polish Government in Exile
Towards Jews”

Prof. Heidi Gilchrist

Professor & Co-Director of Legal Writing,
Brooklyn Law School

“Moral Outrage: International Law and Ukraine”

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch with Keynote Speaker
Arnold Hall Ballroom

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch with Keynote Speaker
Arnold Hall Ballroom

Keynote presented by:

Rabbi Abraham Cooper

Associate Dean and Director of Global Social Action,
Simon Wiesenthal Center

“Xi, Putin, Kim Jung Un: What Tyrants and Dictators Teach
Us About the Power of Faith and Human Rights”

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Session 3

3A: War and Human Rights (Polaris Hall)

Prof. Rachel E. VanLandingham

Irwin R. Buchalter Professor of Law,
Southwestern Law School
“War Speech”

Dr. David A. Messenger

Professor and Chair of History,
University of South Alabama

“Human Rights and Passive Defense in Spain during the
Civil War, 1936-1939”

Dr. Craig Smith

Northwestern Polytechnic

“Holocaust Commensurability in the Age of Human Rights
Abuses”

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Session 3 (Cont.)

3B: Roundtable Discussion (Polaris East Seminar Room)

“Teaching the Holocaust and Genocide Prevention to
Military Audiences”

Yael Friedman

Program Coordinator - Civic and Defense Initiatives,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Amanda Rooney Stierli

Program Manager - Civic and Defense Initiatives,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Dr. Sara Castro

Assistant Professor of History, USAFA

Dr. Meredith Scott

Associate Professor of History, USAFA

3C: The Holocaust in Context (Polaris West Seminar Room)

Dr. David L. Snead

Professor of History, Liberty University

“Failed Emphasis: Virginia Religious Periodicals Coverage
of the Holocaust”

Jonathan Cordish

Masters Candidate, The Citadel

“The Myth of the ‘Clean’ Wehrmacht: Postwar Representations
of the Wehrmacht and Their Impact on Holocaust Studies”

Dr. David Patterson

Hillel A. Feinberg Distinguished Chair of Holocaust Studies,
The University of Texas at Dallas

“Killing God: The Essence of Nazi Antisemitism”

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Session 4

4A: Panel Discussion (Polaris Hall)

“Casualties of War: Exploring the Impact of War on Human Trafficking and Criminal Enforcement”

Major Allen M. Tate

Assistant Professor of Law, USAFA

Dr. Andrew Hoskins

Vice President of Global Programs, The Exodus Road

Major Kyle R. Ratliff

Assistant Professor of Law, USAFA

4B: Holocaust in Contemporary Perspectives

(Polaris East Seminar Room)

Dr. Nils Roemer

Stan and Barbara Rabin Distinguished Professor in Holocaust Studies,

The University of Texas at Dallas

“Revisiting Deportations and War in 1943”

Prof. Paul R. Bartrop

Professor Emeritus of History, Florida Gulf Coast University

“Whose Life? The Choices of Three Women during the Holocaust”

Tiffany Sidders

PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas

“Re-Evaluating Women’s Roles in the Holocaust: From Victim to Perpetrator”

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Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Session 4 (Cont.)

4C: Masculinity, Honor, and Violence (Polaris West Seminar Room)

Prof. Timothy Pytell

California State-San Bernadino

“Sadism, Toxic Masculinity, Sexualized Violence and Genocide”

Lieutenant Colonel Taren Wellman (co-presenting)

Assistant Professor of Law and Senior Military Faculty, USAFA

“Disentangling War from Masculinity: A Framework for
Combatting Sexual Violence in Genocide”

Cadet Madisen R. Campbell, USAFA (co-presenting)

“Disentangling War from Masculinity: A Framework for
Combatting Sexual Violence in Genocide”

4:10 p.m. – 5 p.m.

“Life Unfolds”

Arnold Hall Theater

Master Sergeant Jeremy Lock, USAF (Ret.)

Seven-Time Military Photographer of the Year

5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Dinner

Arnold Hall Ballroom

Remarks by:

Brigadier General Linell A. Letendre, United States Air Force
Dean of the Faculty, U.S. Air Force Academy

Bar open in McCommas from 4:30-6pm

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Thursday, October 12 (Cont.)

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

2023 Harmon Memorial Lecture
Arnold Hall Theater

Presented by:

Dr. Rana Mitter

ST Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations,
Harvard Kennedy School

“Why China Fought: How History Shaped Ideas of Just War and
Why it Matters for the Asia-Pacific Today”

Reception in Arnold Hall to follow the lecture.

Friday, October 13

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Session 5**

5A: Representation on Screen (Polaris Hall)

Dr. Marc Napolitano

Director of Faculty Development, USAFA

“Enacting Evil: An Analysis of Cinematic Representations of
the Perpetrators of the Final Solution”

Dr. Mark Gagnon

Associate Professor of German, West Point

“‘The Legacy of Our Terrible Past’ - A German Perspective
on War in Edward Berger’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* (2022)”

Dr. Mark David Kaufman

Associate Professor of English, USAFA

“Nights of the Living Dead: Teaching the Holocaust through
Horror Films”

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Friday, October 13 (Cont.)

8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Session 5 (Cont.)

5B: Nazis on Trial (Polaris East Seminar Room)

Sgt. Jennifer Armstrong, US Army (Ret.)

PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas

“Shades of Murder: Pictorial Evidence of Nazi War Crimes
in the East”

Taylor N. Gee

PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas

“Accountability for SS Doctors”

John Doud

Masters Student, The University of Texas at Dallas

“A Reemergence of Holocaust Memory through Early
Broadcast Media: The Eichmann Trial”

5C: Principles of Conflict (Polaris West Seminar Room)

Yang Liu

Criminal Law Fellow,

United States District Court for the District of Columbia

“From Russian Filtration Operations to the Lex Ferenda of
Belligerent Occupation: How to Protect Biometrics and
Privacy in Occupied Territories”

Prof. R. Aubrey Davis III

Professor of Law and Emerging Technology, USAFA

“Preventing Future Holocaust Through AI”

Yitzhak Kerem, Bar Ilan University

“Sephardic and Romaniote Greek Sterilization Victims in the
Holocaust and Uyghur Sterilization Victims by the Current
Chinese Regime”

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Friday, October 13 (Cont.)

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Brunch with Keynote**
Arnold Hall Ballroom

Keynote presented by:

Dr. Patricia Heberer Rice

Director, Division of The Senior Historian and Senior Historian,
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

“In Their Own Words: The World of the Child during
the Holocaust”

11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. **Session 6**

6A: Presentation by the USAFA Bluebards (Arnold Hall Theater)

“The Depth of Our Souls”: A Dramatic Performance on War,
the Holocaust, and Human Rights

6B: Writer and Director, Sabina Vajrača (Polaris Hall)

Screening of the award-winning short film, “Sevap/Mitzvah”

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Session 7**

7A: Representation in Word (Polaris Hall)

Dr. Phillip A. Voight

Associate Professor, Gustavus Adolphus College

“Troubling Images: Graphic Novels and the Problems of
Representing the Cambodian Genocide”

Panel continued on next page

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Friday, October 13 (Cont.)

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Session 7

7A: Representation in Word (Polaris Hall)

Panel continued from previous page

Prof. Kathleen Harrington

Permanent Professor & Brigadier General (ret.), USAF

“Invoking the Holocaust in Contemporary Israeli Literature”

Julianna Lopez Kershen

Assistant Professor of English Language Arts Education,

The University of Oklahoma

“Critical Interrogations of Place in American Literature of the
Iraq War”

7B: Contested Narratives and Denial (Polaris East Seminar Room)

Igor A. Kotler

President and Executive Director,

Museum of Human Rights, Freedom, and Tolerance

“Indirect Denial of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union”

Armin Langer

DAAD Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Florida

“A Memorial for Victims of the German Occupation?:

Viktor Orban’s Attempt to Rewrite History”

Dr. Milena Gordon Baker

Yeshiva University

“Holocaust Denial: A Topic that Must Be Addressed in
the Classroom”

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Friday, October 13 (Cont.)

1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Session 7 (Cont.)

7C: Legacies of Conflict (Polaris West Seminar Room)

Juliana Taimoorazy

PhD Student, The University of Texas at Dallas

“Invasion of Iraq: Unraveling Tapestry of an Ancient Community”

Major Melissa Ken

Assistant Professor of Law, USAFA

“The Myanmar Upheaval: How to Stabilize the Nation and
Preserve Human Rights”

Prof. Erin R. McCoy

Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies,
USC Beaufort

“De-Mining Buried War Crimes: UXO Workers in Viet Nam
and Cambodia”

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. Session 8

8A: Special Panel Presentation (Polaris East Seminar Room)

“Suing for Peace . . . The Art of (Ending) War”

Prof. Chad Austin

Professor of Law, USAFA

Prof. Shawn McKelvy

Professor of Law, USAFA

Dr. David H. Sacko

Professor of Political Science, USAFA

Cadet Andrew Crawford, USAFA

WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Friday, October 13

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. Session 8 (Cont.)

8B: Liberation and Legacy (Polaris West Seminar Room)

Dr. Mark Celinscak

Louis and Frances Blumkin Professor of Holocaust and
Genocide Studies,

University of Nebraska at Omaha

“Allied Liberators, the Holocaust and Human Rights”

Victoria Van Orden Martínez

PhD Candidate, Linköping University

“Human Rights ‘From Below’: Survivors, Early Testimonies,
and Restorative Justice in the Aftermath of WWII”

Dr. David Frey

Professor of History, West Point

“From Pariah to Liberator, from Refugee to American.
The Story of Captain Walter Rothschild”

With Gratitude

The WHHR Conference Committee would like to extend a word of thanks to all of the volunteers who helped to make this conference possible. A special thank you to the US Air Force Academy cadets and faculty as well as the Ackerman Center staff, faculty, and students who have volunteered their time and talents – their contribution to the success of this conference has been invaluable.

2023 WAR, THE HOLOCAUST, AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Dr. Meredith Scott
Associate Professor of History
Director of Development
US Air Force Academy

Dr. Debbie Pfister
Research Assistant Professor
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FROM THE US AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Dr. Douglas Kennedy, Dr. Hugh Martin, Dr. Sara Castro,
Dr. Chad Austin, LTC Jake Couch, Major John Prince,
Dr. Maila Hallare, Lt Col Smokey Beaumont, and 2Lt Bennett Brewer

MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE FROM THE ACKERMAN CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Dr. Nils Roemer, Marshall Coleman, USMC (Ret.), and Bonnie Gordon

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Cynthia Seton-Rogers
Academic and Outreach Events Manager
Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies
The University of Texas at Dallas

CONFERENCE APP CONTENT EDITOR

Matteo Hubalek
The University of Texas at Dallas



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