"Oral Narratives and the Politics of History Making"

The Second International Oral History Conference
The Oral History Division
The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
December 6 – 8, 2016

Beit Maiersdorf
Mount Scopus
Rooms 404, 405

The National Library
Givat Ram
The Music Room
The Training Room

Tuesday, December 6, 2016
Beit Maiersdorf

09:00 – Registration
10:00 Opening Session (Room 405)

Chair: Margalit Bejarano
Greetings: **Uzi Rebhun** (Head, Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry)

**Eli Lederhendler** (Vice Dean, Hebrew University)

**Sharon Kangisser Cohen** (Yad Vashem)

**Yoel Finkelman** (National Library of Israel)

10:30-11:45 Keynote Address

Chair: **Vered Vinitzky Seroussi** (Hebrew University)

**Jeffery Olick** (University of Virginia)

Oral History and Memory Studies

**Session 1.a: 12:15-13:45** (Room 405)

**IMMIGRATION**

Chair: **Eliyana Adler**

**Barbora Císařová** (University of Hradec Králové, Czech Republic)

The Specifics of the Czechoslovakian-Jewish Emigration to Israel after the Year 1948

**Leah Lottan** (Ben Gurion University)

The Exodus of the Jewish Population out of Czechoslovakia 1968-1969

**Marina Polevoy** (Haifa University)

The Immigration of Jews and Greeks from the U.S.S.R. and the FSU to Israel and Greece: A Comparative Study of Narratives

**Session 1.b: 12:15-13:45** (Room 404)

**PERPETRATOR AND COLLABORATION: ORAL HISTORY**

Chair: **Michael Abrahams-Sprod**

**Yuri Radchenko** (Center for Research on Inter-Ethnic Relations in Eastern Europe, Kharkiv, Ukraine) Auxiliary Police, Self-Government and the Holocaust in Postwar Memories of Gentile Population: Case Study of Ukrainian-Russian-Belorussian Borderland

**Stefanie Rauch** (University College London)

Oral History, Perpetrator Testimonies, and the Search for Meaning
Verena Buser (Freie Universität Berlin/Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences and Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg) Survivors Speaking about Jewish Functionaries During the Shoah.

13:45-15:00 Lunch

Session 2.a: 15:00-16:30 (Room 404)

ORAL HISTORY AND THE ARCHIVE

Chair: Suzanne D. Rutland

Verena Lucia Nägel (Freie Universität Berlin)

Éva Kovács (Vienna Wiesenthal Inst/Center for Social Sciences HAS Budapest)
Large Scale Use of Oral History Accounts in the Historiography of the Shoah – The Case of the Hungarian-Jewish Slave Labours in Vienna (1944-45)

Adara Goldberg (Hebrew University)
Breathing Life into Memory: Narrating the Holocaust Through Canadian Oral History Archives

Session 2.b: 15:00-16:30

ORAL HISTORY AND THE NGO

Chair: Dalia Ofer

Nadav Weiman (Breaking the Silence)
Testimonies as a Form of Activism: Israeli Soldiers Talk About the Occupied Territories

Anat Ovadia Rosner (Hotline)
Asylum Seekers Narratives: The Challenge of Mediation

Raneen Jeries (Zochrot)
Oral History of Palestinian Refugees and IDPs

16:30-17:00 Coffee
Session 3.a: 17:00-18:30 Room (complete no.) Central Library

VIDEO CONFERENCE (Interactive Format)

Chair: Kobi Kabalek

Henry Greenspan (University of Michigan)

Please Don't Hug the Hologram....and Other Moments from a Life Among Survivors

Session 3.b: 17:00-18:30 (Room 405)

ORAL HISTORY AND IDENTITY

Chair: Paulette Schuster

Florenta Popescu-Simion (Romanian Academy)

Memories are All that Remain - Identity Construction through the Work of Memory

Cynthia Gabbay (Hebrew University)

Interviews to Street Artists (2012-2014) Putting 2001’s Argentine Crisis into Perspective: The Poetics of Oral Testimony

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Beit Maiersdorf

9:00 Coffee

9:30-10:30

Keynote Address (Room 405)

Chair: Guy Beiner (Ben Gurion University)

Amia Lieblich (Hebrew University, Academic College of Tel Aviv)

The Oral History of Neve Shalom- Wachat-al-salam

Session in Honor of Sharon Kangisser-Cohen, ex-Academic Director of the Oral History Division, Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University

Greetings by Dalia Ofer
**Session 4.a: 10:45-12:15** (Room 404)

**SURVIVOR ACCOUNTS AND ORAL HISTORY**

Chair: Christina Isabel Brüning (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, Zentrum Jüdische Studien)

Boaz Cohen (Western Galilee College)

Turning Oral History into an Historical Source: The Case of Holocaust Testimonies

Rita Horvath (Yad Vashem)

In the Force Field of Various Kinds of Truths: Employment of Literary Methods (Tropes) to convey Simultaneously Personal, Psychological, Factual and Historical Truths

Kobi Kabalek (Hebrew University)

"Professional Survivors" and the Politics of Holocaust Memory.

**Session 4.b: 10:45-12:15** (Room 405)

**WRITING ORAL HISTORY**

Chair: Dorothee Wierling (Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg)

Dagmāra Beitnere-Le Galla (University of Latvia)

From Life Stories to History and Back

Alexander von Plato (University of Hagen)

Oral History or Journalism? Reports from Russia

Irene Aue-Ben-David (Hebrew University) and Sharon Livne (Rosenzweig Minerva Center HU/University of Haifa)

Beyond and Behind the Documents: A History of the German-Israeli Cooperation in the Humanities.

Rina Lapidus (Bar-Ilan University)

Written and Oral in Historical Discourse

**Lunch: 12:15-13:30**

**Session 5.a: 13:30-15:00** (Room 405)

**MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT, ASYLUM**

Chair: Brian Schiff
Sabine Marschall (University of KwaZulu-Natal)
Memories of Forcible Displacement and the Revisit of the Lost Home

Julia Mirsky, Nelly Elias, Julia Lerner, Jackie Feldman, Galia Plotkin Amrami (Ben-Gurion University)
Documenting Migrants' Lives in Israel and Educating About Them

Michael John (University of Linz)
Austria as “Waiting Room” after 1945

Session 5.b: 13:30-15:00 (Room 404)

ORAL HISTORY AND FILM
Chair: Deborah Steinmetz

Danielle Schwartz (University of Chicago)
The film: Tmunat Mara’a

Liat Steir-Livny (Sapir Academic College, Open University)
Understanding the Past Through the Present: Oral History as a Subversive Narrative in the Documentary Film Oy Mama

Arua Oko Omaka (Federal University Nigeria)
Soldiers’ Orality: Hermeneutics of Music as a Form of Resistance in the Biafran Army, 1967-1970

Session 6.a: 15:00-16.30 (Room 404)

LATIN AMERICAN JEWRY
Chair: Margalit Bejarano

Silvina Schammah Gesser (Hebrew University)
Towards a New History of Non-Ashkenazi Jews in Argentina

Pedro Goldfarb (Hebrew University)

Session 6.b: 15:00-16.30 (Room 405)

ORAL HISTORY, MEMORY AND NARRATIVE
Chair: **Alina Bothe**

**Atalia Shragai** (Hebrew University)
"As luck would have it“ – Patterns of Narrative and Rhetoric Strategies in the Life Stories of U.S. Americans in Costa Rica, 1945-1980

**Michael Abrahams-Sprod** (University of Sydney)
Completing the Picture: The Role and Impact of Oral History on Writing the History of the Jews of Magdeburg under Nazism

**Paulette Kershenovitch Schuster** (Hebrew University)
“Porosity of Memory and Jewish Mexican Women’s Reminiscence”

16:30-17:00 Coffee

**Session 7.a: 17:00-18:30** (Room 405)

**ORAL HISTORY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS AND CHANGE**

Chair: **Alexander von Plato**

**Linde Apel** (Forschungsstelle für Zeitgeschichte in Hamburg)
Political Formation in the Seventies in the Shadow of a Leftist Majority

**Katja Schatte** (University of Washington)
Oral History as a Collaborative Practice and the Politics of East German Jewish History

**Joanna Wawrzyniak** (University of Warsaw)
Biographies, Emotions, Neoliberalism: Moral Economy of Transformation in Poland

**Session 7.b: 17:00-18:30** Room 404

**HISTORY AND MEMORY**

Chair: **Steven Bowman**

**Mary Fulbrook** (University College London)
Filtering Memories: The Significance of the Present in Shaping the Past

**Guy Beiner** (Ben-Gurion University)
‘Whatever you say, say nothing’: Tuning into the Sounds of Vernacular Silence in Northern Ireland

Gulay Kayacan (History Foundation, Istanbul), Esra Danacıoğlu Tamur (Yıldız Technical University, Istanbul), Gürel Tüzün (History Foundation, Istanbul) Voices of a Silent Past: An Oral History Project on the Past and Present Being “Afro-Turk”

Thursday, December 8, 2016

The National Library of Israel

09:00-10:00 Tour in the National Library

Session 8.a: 10:15-11:45 (The Music Room)

ORAL HISTORY AND THE SHOAH

Chair: Rita Horvath

Johannes-Dieter Steinert (University of Wolverhampton)
Jewish Child Slave Labourers, 1938-1945: A Workshop Report

Eliyana R. Adler (Pennsylvania State University)
Exile after Exile: Framing Refugee Religious Life in the USSR during WWII

Nava-Tova Barazani (Hebrew University)
An Italian School, the Caves and Lola, a Jewish Girl from Libya: A Short Colonial Story

Session 8.b: 10:15-11:45 (The Training Room)

RESEARCH AND ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

Chair: Rina Lapidus

Shlomi Chetrit (Israel Police Heritage Center)
The Israel Police Oral History Project

Dotan Brom (Haifa University) and Yoav Zaritsky
The Haifa Queer History Project

Lina Lifshitz Rozin (Ben-Gurion University)
Challenging the Myths of Cultural Congruence in Social Work Interventions
11:45-12:15 Coffee

Session 9.a: 12:15-13:45 (The Music Room)

ANALYZING TESTIMONIES ON THE SHOA

Chair: Johannes-Dieter Steinert

Christina Brüning (Pädagogische Hochschule Freiburg, Zentrum Jüdische Studien)
When Night Falls in Britain in 1946
Alina Bothe (Freie Universität Berlin)
Speaking Yiddish about Treblinke
Alexis Lerner (University of Toronto)
The Application of Social Scientific Methods to Oral Histories of the Holocaust

Session 9.b: 12:15-13:45 (The Training Room)

ORAL HISTORY IN THE ISRAELI CONTEXT

Chair: Dr. Judith Reifen Ronen

Brian Schiff (The American University of Paris)
Narrating Others
Haim Sandberg (The Stricks Law School)
Oral History as Legal Evidence for Individual and Collective Rights in Land
Amos Goldberg (Hebrew University)
The Poetics of the Nakba in Elias Khoury's Bab el Shams

Lunch: 13:45-14:45

Session 10.a: 15:30-17:00 (The Music Room)

INTERPRETATION OF ORAL HISTORIES

Chair: Michael John

Dana Ernst (Columbia University/ University of Pennsylvania)
Oral History and the Nonverbal: The Neglected Dimension in the Production of History

**Lilach Naishtat Bornstein** (Kibbutzim College of Education)

A Jew Bearing Witness in Germany: Conflicts in the Design of a Local History

**Steven Bowman** (University of Cincinnati) Stages in Recreating an Unknown Story. An Exercise in Oral History

**Session 10.b: 15:30-17:00** (The Training Room)

**INDIVIDUAL LIFE STORIES**

Chair: **Henry Green** (University of Miami)

**Judith Reifen-Ronen** (Israel Oral History Association)
Golda Meir: Image versus Deed

**Suzanne Rutland** (University of Sydney)
Challenging the Myth: Arthur Calwell and Postwar Survivor Migration to Australia

**Margalit Bejarano** (Hebrew University)
Between Research and Politics. The State's First Statistician

**Ruth Ginio** (Ben-Gurion University)
A Life Story of an African Soldier and the Challenging of Western Terminology

17:00-17:30 **Closing Session** (The Music Room)

**Guy Beiner**: Closing Remarks