MISSION
The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) promotes academic research, education and public awareness on the Shoah, other genocides and current forms of mass violence.
WHO WE ARE

“It happened, therefore it can happen again: this is the core of what we have to say. It can happen, and it can happen everywhere.”

– Primo Levi

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) was established in 1997 by Dr. Stephen Feinstein as an interdisciplinary research center at the University of Minnesota.

CHGS provides premiere academic programs, fostering a community of students studying genocide and mass violence while cultivating the essential connection between scholarly inquiry, education and outreach to different sectors of society. Our work is motivated by the hope to inspire future generations to fight hatred and strengthen democracy, thus ensuring a more peaceful and just world.

Front cover: Track 17 memorial at the Grunewald railway station, located on the western outskirts of Berlin, commemorates the deportations of Berlin Jews during the Nazi era, mostly to Theresienstadt or directly to the extermination camps. Photo courtesy of J. Elowitz

“Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe” erected in Berlin in 2003/04 by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold. Photo courtesy of J. Elowitz
EGLISE NTARAMA

SITE DU GENOCIDE: ± 5000 PERSONNES

NTARAMA CHURCH

GENOCIDE SITE: ± 5000 Persons

KIRIZIYA NTARAMA

AHABEREYE ITSEMBABWOKO

N'TSEMBATSEMBA BY'ABANTU BARENGA 5000
Three concepts form the core of CHGS’s approach: remembrance, responsibility and progress.

Promoting awareness of past genocides and gaining understanding of the causes and devastating consequences of mass violence are essential components of commitment to the prevention of future atrocities.

Interdisciplinary Research

CHGS collaborates and shares expertise and resources with centers, departments and individual faculty members at the University of Minnesota, across the United States and with international academic institutions.

While CHGS encourages research from all areas of Holocaust and genocide studies, it specializes in the following subjects:

- Post-mass violence scenarios and transitional justice
- Remembrance, representations and memory politics
- Holocaust art, literature and film
- Antisemitism studies
- Genocide and the media
The Center for Holocaust and Genocides Studies, founded by Dr. Stephen C. Feinstein.

Absence/Presence: The Artistic Memory of the Holocaust and Genocide, an art exhibition.

Petition signed by 126 Holocaust and genocide scholars affirming the incontestable fact of the Armenian genocide appears prominently in the New York Times.

Edward R. Murrow award for the groundbreaking documentary *Armenian Genocide: 90 Years Later*, a CHGS/Twin Cities Public Television production.

Armenian monument, Philadelphia

The outdoor exhibition *COEXISTENCE*, created by the Museum on the Seam, Jerusalem, is on display throughout the Twin Cities, bringing the message of diversity and acceptance of the “other” to our community.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.”

– Albert Einstein

Bearing Witness – 70 Years after the Liberation of Auschwitz, a commemoration.


2008
Partnership with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Science Museum of Minnesota, campus and community organizations for the Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race exhibition.

2011
International symposium Representing Genocide: Media, Law and Scholarship, exploring how representations of past genocides affect the way we understand and respond to unfolding events of mass violence.

2012
The Bernard and Fern Badzin Lecture Series features Deborah Lipstadt, one of the foremost scholars in the field of Holocaust denial.

2013
UMN College of Liberal Arts names Alejandro Baer Stephen C. Feinstein Chair and Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

2014
International conference Genocide and its Aftermath. Lessons from Rwanda, a collaboration with the Institute for Global Studies, the Human Rights Program and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

2015
Twentieth Anniversary of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

2016

2017

Important thing is to not stop questioning.” – Albert Einstein
CHGS guides and mentors undergraduate and graduate students by organizing courses and workshops, offering fellowships and providing unique opportunities for interaction with leading experts in the field.

“CHGS was a vital part of my graduate education. It provided me with opportunities to present and gain feedback on my research at the interdisciplinary graduate workshop on Holocaust, Genocide and Mass Violence. Through CHGS, I was also able to help plan a university conference on genocide and network with international genocide scholars and educators.”

– Hollie Nyseth Brehm, assistant professor of sociology at The Ohio State University

CHGS and the Department of History sponsor the Bernard and Fern Badzin Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies to support doctoral students in various disciplines who are completing dissertations in the field.

“The opportunities provided by the Badzin Fellowship have helped me grow as a scholar, enabling me to gain confidence in my work through the presentation of my findings and sharing my expertise with others interested in the topic of genocide.”

– Wahutu Siguru, 2013/2014 Badzin Fellow, PhD candidate in Sociology
CHGS supports educators through interactive workshops and seminars, facilitated by leading experts in Holocaust and genocide education. CHGS’s website offers a myriad of resources for teaching age-appropriate lessons about the Holocaust and genocide.

“I cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the workshop. I gained knowledge of the topics, as well as teaching strategies. It was also very momentous because I had never had the opportunity to meet a survivor and hear part of their story.”

— Participant in CHGS summer institute
The Holocaust in European Memory

Holocaust survivor Dora Zaidenweber shares her insights on Holocaust memory and her experiences after World War II in Germany, Poland and the U.S. at the 2013 Summer Institute for Secondary Educators. Photo courtesy of E. Janisch
THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE IN THE ARTS

CHGS studies a variety of artistic responses to the Holocaust, genocide, and mass atrocities. The arts are used as tools for the victims’ expression and healing as well as for remembrance and education. CHGS provides a forum for discussing the visual arts, film, literature, music and monuments both virtually on our website and through programming on campus and in the community.

“Portraying Memories is a portrait and video-art project that delves into the act of bearing witness. One local survivor told me that I had captured him sharing a pivotal moment from his past.”

– Félix de la Concha, visual artist
“We gave to CHGS because of the importance of continuing to shine a bright light on the issue of genocide, hatred and intolerance in our world.

Whether it was the Holocaust 75 years ago, or the atrocities we see in the media today, we need a constant reminder of what was, and what is likely to happen again if we don’t all make an effort to talk to one another, learn and hopefully evolve further.”

– Bob Kaufman, Health Care Futures

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your generous support is key to maintaining the important work of the Center. Donations help us continue to promote the highest quality of scholarship and provide the programs and resources we have created over the years. Generous annual gifts help to fund public events, undergraduate and graduate research, academic conferences and exhibitions. Endowments established by major contributions fund the ongoing operation of CHGS.

For more information on how you can make a difference, please contact:

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