How do we make “Never again” more than just a slogan, but a meaningful term that urges us to understand, to better anticipate and counter atrocity threats? This Center, forged by the extraordinary vision of Stephen Feinstein, its founding director, has provided significant responses to this challenging question. CHGS rests on a rich heritage of successful events and initiatives linking scholarship with public service and outreach to several different sectors of society.

During my first academic year as CHGS Director, the Center has strengthened old ties and built new relationships with colleagues and units across the University and with community representatives in the Twin Cities resulting in new collaborative efforts in programming events and outreach initiatives.

At the same time, 2012-2013 has served to lay the foundation of a new intellectual agenda of the Center. Last April’s international symposium on “Representing Genocide” our workshops and lecture series, epitomized a set of questions that we will continue to pursue from different disciplinary angles and through diverse endeavors such as conferences and collaborative research projects.

What challenges face Holocaust remembrance and education today? What is the impact of the Holocaust and its memory on unfolding events of mass violence, how they are represented, and on future collective memories? What is the role of organizations and institutions (such as the judicial world, human rights advocacy networks, mass media, and the academic community) that mediate the production and public articulation of representations of mass violence in different contexts?

A thorough examination of these questions is not only a relevant scholarly undertaking in advancing knowledge in the field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, but is also an essential component of global progress towards preventing or reducing future mass atrocities.

In the year ahead we will further develop CHGS as a major center of academic research, distinguished both by international scope and local sensitivity. Much is already underway. Graduate workshops, teacher seminars, film screenings, and an extraordinary line-up of top-level international speakers are only some of the items on the agenda.

None of this can be achieved without the Center´s staff and advisory board, community-based partners and friends, and with the support and collaboration of colleagues throughout the College of Liberal Arts and the University.

I very much look forward to a new academic year and to working together to reach these goals.

—Alejandro Baer, Stephen Feinstein Chair, Director Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Welcome to Alejandro Baer

In October of 2012, the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota named Professor Alejandro Baer as the Stephen Feinstein Chair and new director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

Professor Baer is a distinguished scholar of Holocaust memory and testimony. He grew up in Madrid, where he graduated in sociology and social anthropology from the Universidad Complutense. After completing his Ph.D. he held positions at universities in Madrid, Berlin, Bayreuth and Munich. He has authored numerous books and articles addressing issues of genocide, memory, and anti-semitism. He is currently engaged in research focusing on the uses and abuses of Holocaust history and memory in the Spanish-speaking world, as well as the transnationalization of memory.

Professor Baer has actively engaged the broader community on the issues addressed by his scholarship. He has directed the Spanish section of the Shoah Visual Archives project and has served as a member of the Spanish delegation to the International Task Force for Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research. With the support of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, Professor Baer co-founded Radio Sefarad, designed to spread Jewish culture through its history and current development to Spanish-speaking audiences. More recently, Baer has curated a traveling exhibition, Visas for Freedom: Spanish Diplomats and the Holocaust, which he plans to bring to the Twin Cities in the future.

In addition to serving as Director of the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Alejandro Baer has joined the Department of Sociology as an associate professor.

“The Center is embedded in a University with a strong commitment to Human Rights, and in a College with a clear understanding of the value and potential of a high quality liberal arts education and research. I believe CHGS not only fits well in this structure and vision, but will also contribute to it by unique approaches to the field of Genocide, Holocaust and Mass Violence studies,” stated Baer.
On April 5th and 6th, CHGS hosted the symposium, "Representing Genocide: Media, Law and Scholarship," to explore the intersections between journalistic, judicial and social scientific depictions of atrocities, with a focus on cases of the Holocaust, Darfur and Rwanda. Seventy-five participants attended the two-day symposium, which featured renowned scholars in the fields of law, sociology, history and journalism speaking to the increasing tension between local and global representations and memories of mass murder.

The symposium opened with an analysis of the term “genocide,” including an exploration of the term’s origins and a discussion on whether the Holocaust could be considered on its own or as a larger framework of genocide. Representations of genocide through the lens of law were also explored.

Corresponding with the anniversary of the start of the Rwanda Genocide, the failure of the international media to properly cover and define this horrific massacre was examined, as well as the political, physical and moral consequences of this neglect.

Scholars also examined how nation states’ own collective memories of genocide, as well as associations with global institutions such as the International Criminal Court, affect the reporting and discourse on the conflict and interventions in Darfur.

Furthermore, scholars addressed the Holocaust paradigm and how it has been contextualized in Spain in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War, as well as how the transnational memory of fascism and the Holocaust played a role in Argentina’s “Dirty War” in the 1970s.

These cases demonstrate how cross-historical memory movements can often contain politicalized narratives but also help us to understand the motivations for contemporary mass atrocities. The symposium allowed for a frank exchange that cultivated new ideas on how and when the memory of mass atrocities through distinct institutions can lead to effective anti-genocide policies.
CHGS is committed to guiding undergraduate and graduate student research on the Holocaust, other genocides, and further incidents of mass violence.

Wahutau Siguru awarded Badzin Fellowship

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and the Department of History, were pleased to award the Bernard and Fern Badzin Graduate Fellowship in Holocaust and Genocide Studies to Wahutau Siguru. Siguru’s research interests are in the Sociology of Media, Genocide, Mass Violence and Atrocities (specifically on issues of representation of conflicts in Africa), Collective Memory, and perhaps, somewhat tangentially, Democracy and Development in Africa.

Siguru was born and raised in Mombasa, Kenya and attended Moi University Law School from 2003-2007. Afterwards he moved to Minnesota and completed a double major in Sociology and Global Studies at the University of Minnesota in 2010 before beginning coursework towards a PhD in Sociology in 2011. He is currently analyzing data collected in the summer of 2012 in Johannesburg and Nairobi, which has resulted in a co-authored paper with Professor Joachim Savelberg on Representations of Darfur in Western and African Media.
Outreach

CHGS supports secondary-school classroom educators through workshops, curriculum materials, and expert assistance on teaching about the Holocaust and other genocides.

Visiting High School Students Study Primary Sources at CHGS

Students from Rosemount High School’s Advanced German Language Class visited the CHGS library and worked with the CHGS’ Outreach Coordinator, Jodi Elowitz, to learn about the Holocaust through German Primary Source documents owned by the Center. Students were introduced to the ideology and thought of the perpetrators and examined and interpreted German documents. They also watched Survivor testimony from the USC Shoah Foundation and were introduced to the wealth of resources the CHGS has to offer educators and students.

“We had an amazing time yesterday! We had a long conversation about our visit and they felt such excitement and ownership over the interpretation of the documents that we actually threw out their original essay assignment and decided to focus on a new assignment utilizing the resources on your website. Now the students are finding an artifact or a work of art, writing a bibliography on a person they choose. They will write the bibliography in German and create a presentation in English placing the artifacts, documents and art in the social and historical context of World War II and the Holocaust. We are all so excited to work on this together.”

...Susan Sullivan, German language teacher from Rosemount

CHGS Summer Institute for Secondary Educators

The Holocaust in European Memory

On July 8-11, 2013, CHGS held a workshop to examine questions such as how the Nazi murder of European Jews became “The Holocaust”? How is this story conveyed through public memorials, school curricula, art, literature and film? How has the Holocaust been contextualized and rendered meaningful within the diversity of European nations and in the distant US?

Twenty local educators joined internationally recognized scholars in the fields of history, sociology, literature and German/European studies from the University of Minnesota and Gustavus Adolphus College. While approaching the topic from an interdisciplinary perspective, speakers focused on historiography, testimony, media and visual arts and assisted educators in creating curriculum and lessons they can incorporate into their classrooms.
Educators also met with Holocaust survivor **Dora Zaidenweber**, who shared her insights on Holocaust memory and her experiences after World War II in Germany, Poland and the U.S. Zaidenweber recently completed the translation of her father’s memoir, *Sky Tinged Red*, a chronicle of the two years he spent as a prisoner in Auschwitz- Birkenau.

**Lectures, Programs and Events**

CHGS enlightens audiences through conferences, lectures, film screenings, art exhibitions, concerts, and theatrical performances at the University of Minnesota and throughout the state.

**Kristallnacht in Civil War Spain**

On November 13, 2012 Professor Baer spoke about the contrasting treatment given to the news of the German anti-Jewish pogroms on November 9 and 10, 1938 by the Francoist and Republican sides during the Spanish Civil War.

The Francoist press, Baer asserted, met the news with approval and glee, in contrast to the condemnations expressed in the Republican papers, which offered solidarity and support to the victims, even as the legitimate Spanish government approached the agony of its own death. The Spanish republicans soon recognized that their fate was intertwined with that of European Jews.

In addition to the lecture Professor Baer had an editorial in the Star Tribune on November 9, 2012, entitled "Remembering Kristallnacht: It starts with Apathy," writing about how the events of Kristallnacht teach a valuable lesson showing that a modern society can become numbed to the fate of its minorities.

**Campus Events**

- **Alan Astro**, Trinity University, October 26, 2012. *Did Elie Wiesel Christianize the Holocaust?* Wiesel’s Night in Yiddish and French: Critical Appraisals and a New Approach

- **NaziCapri (Exile): The Dakota Exile: Impact and Resistance** A Panel Discussion Featuring: Iyekiyapiwiŋ Darlene St. Clair, Caŋte Máza Neil McKay, Katherine Bean and Śišokaduta Joe Bendickson

- Special Film Screening: “The Future’s Past.” April 3rd, 2013, Director Susan Brandstaetter presented at the Bell Museum of Natural History Auditorium. Following the screening, Professor Baer joined Brandstatter for a Q & A session.

- **Natan Sznайдer**, Professor of Sociology, Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo, April 4, 2013. *Jewish Memory and the Cosmopolitan Order Towards a Sociology of Human Rights*


**Community Events**

- **Six Million and One**, a film by David Fisher and his siblings, March 3, 2013, co-sponsored by Children for Holocaust Survivors in Minnesota (CHAIRM)

- **Becoming Henry**, A nine-minute feature focusing on the life of local Holocaust survivor Henry Oertelt. March 10, 2013
Community

98th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

On April 24, CHGS joined the Armenian Cultural Organization of Minnesota to observe the 98th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The Anniversary’s theme was one of renewal (“the Armenian phoenix”) as participants looked towards the end of a century of genocide and a greater understanding of human rights for all.

At the St. Sahag Armenian Church, Professor Baer commemorated the anniversary with the following remarks:

In Genocide Scholarship we say that denial is the last stage of genocide. The Armenian community knows this all too well. The Republic of Turkey perpetuates this deadly legacy. As early as 1915, when the events were unfolding – and much before the Genocide convention was adopted – the governments of France, Britain and Russia denounced the massacre that was being committed by the Turkish Government as “a crime against humanity and civilization.” Also the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, called the murderous Turkish efforts to expel and kill the Armenian population “a campaign of race extermination.”

Why is it so important to remember and officially recognize these atrocious events as Genocide, some people may ask. There are probably several responses to this but I would like to highlight that this recognition has as much to do with the past as with the present, with our present.

1. “Even the dead will not be safe from the enemy if he wins,” said the philosopher Walter Benjamin. By remembering we will not give the perpetrators a posthumous victory.

2. Secondly, if the crimes are subject to statute of limitations if they are forgotten or covered up, what prevents the crimes from happening again? The opposite of forgetting is not only remembering, it is, above all, truth.

3. Finally, the term we use matters. With the advent of the Genocide convention, the act of genocide has become a crime under international law. And by making it a problem of international concern, the right of intervention on behalf of minorities slated for destruction has been established. How can we act when Genocide denial is still underway?

You, the Armenian community, have managed, against all odds, to keep the memory of the Genocide alive. And you have done it in a manner that serves as an example to others: bearing witness, telling the story and passing it from generation to generation, for almost 100 years. You remember and honor the victims by celebrating your culture and heritage and you understand memory as a tool for making this a better world.
Internationally recognized artist, Felix de la Concha, traveled to the Twin Cities from February 24 – March 1, to collaborate with CHGS and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese on his latest portrait series, ‘Portraits with Conversation.’ Felix met with Holocaust survivors in our community to paint their portraits and record the sessions.

Undertaken in an intimate setting, the survivors are invited to tell their story as their portrait is painted. In video, the sitter can be seen sharing their testimony, and the painting evolving from blank canvas to the very conclusion of the work.

The process produced some very powerful portraits to add to his existing collection of over 30 painted portraits of survivors residing in multiple countries. The completed portraits were donated to the University of Minnesota to be utilized by the Center for education, traveling exhibitions and to be included on the CHGS Virtual Museum web pages. In addition, in March of next year, CHGS will present an exhibit of Felix’s work in 2014.

To learn more about Felix de la Concha and his artwork visit his page on the CHGS Virtual Museum.

CHGS Traveling Exhibitions

From October 29 – November 27, 2012, the University of Northern Iowa’s Gallery of Art presented CHGS’ traveling exhibition, "Fritz Hirschberger: Sur-Rational Paintings and The Fifth Horseman."

At the exhibition’s opening, CHGS’ Outreach Coordinator, Jodi Elowitz, presented a lecture entitled, "After Such Knowledge: The Sur-Rational Holocaust Paintings of Fritz Hirschberger," in which she details the events and hardships of Hirschberger’s life that led to the deeply layered, richly colored and angry evocations of Nazi barbarities in his paintings.

Expelled from Germany in 1938, Hirschberger fought in the Polish Army against the Nazis, survived a Soviet labor camp, and later fought against Rommel’s forces in North Africa. Following the war, he studied art in London and New York where he began developing his skills; however, it was only after retirement in the 1980s that he began to truly concentrate on the horrors of World War II.

Drawing on European Renaissance, early 20th century German Expressionism, and medieval German Moritat traditions, Hirschberger filled his "Sur-Rational" and "Fifth Horseman" paintings with powerful and iconic imagery, many of which he paired with texts drawn from the works of Sylvia Plath, Alice Rogoff, and the testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

The exhibition and lecture were organized by the UNI Center for Holocaust and Genocide Education, and funded by the UNI College of Humanities, Art and Sciences and the UNI Faculty Senate.
When evidence that a Ukrainian man named Michael Karkoc, who immigrated to Minneapolis in 1949, may have served as a unit commander under orders from the Nazi-SS during World War II surfaced, CHGS was on hand to inform the Minnesota public of the historical context and potential implication of the allegations for international justice. Karkoc allegedly concealed his role as an officer and founding member of the infamous Ukrainian Self Defense Legion accused of burning villages filled with women and children. If sufficient evidence of the allegations is brought to light, Karkoc may face deportation and prosecution for war crimes in Germany or Poland.

In the June 17, 2013, Star Tribune article, “A Nazi in our midst? Pursuit of justice must persist,” Professor Baer emphasized that if Karkoc is connected with war crimes, then he must be held accountable.

“Can there still be justice, almost 70 years after the events? Yes — without any doubt. Continuing the fight initiated by Wiesenthal and others and relentlessly tracking down and uncovering former Nazi perpetrators sends a strong and vital message. Impunity is not an option. The crimes committed do not fall under any statute of limitation.

Anyone, regardless of his current age and of the time that has passed since the mass murders, must be held accountable and brought to justice. Acting otherwise not only would betray the victims, it would embolden present and even future perpetrators, offering them a carte blanche to commit atrocities. ‘The only value of nearly five decades of my work,’ wrote Simon Wiesenthal, ‘is a warning to the murderers of tomorrow, that they will never rest.’”

On June 14, the Center’s Outreach Coordinator, Jodi Elowitz, explained how Karkoc was able to immigrate to the U.S. after the war on KSTP-TV and further elaborated in an article entitled, “Immigration to America: the 1948 Displaced Persons Act.”

“Karkoc was admitted into this country under the 1948 Displaced Persons Act, designed to authorize for a limited period of time the admission into the United States of certain European displaced persons for permanent residence and or other purposes... The Displaced Persons Act at first was not specific or favorable to the Jewish DP’s and many Jews continued to wait to immigrate to the United States. It was not until 1950 that the act was amended and Jews had more accessibility to emigrate...”

When the news of Karkoc’s alleged Nazi past appeared on every Minnesota news and media outlet, local Holocaust survivors began to speak up, hoping that if he did indeed commit these crimes against his fellow Ukrainians and Poles, murdering women and children, that he would be brought to justice. Many wondered how he was able to slip into this country under the act that was designed to help people who had been victims of Nazi persecution and could not return home. As one survivor said, “The fact that he was let into the US and has lived a relatively quiet and happy life is problematic because justice has not been served.”

To read Baer’s and Elowitz’s articles in their entirety, please visit the CHGS’ website.
Why Holocaust and Genocide Studies

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (CHGS) is an academic research institution at the University of Minnesota, dedicated to educating all sectors of society about the Holocaust and other genocides. Our interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Holocaust and genocide takes the form of academic and historical inquiry aimed at raising individual and social awareness of the topic.

As we face a time when there are no more first hand witnesses to the Holocaust we are confronted with questions such as how should the Holocaust be represented in education, the arts and history? How does the Holocaust shape our understanding of other genocides? How will it help us to prevent or curtail episodes of mass violence and atrocity? Centers like ours will be at the forefront of these debates. Working across interdisciplinary lines, across campus, nationally and internationally we will continue to address the issues associated with the representation of the Holocaust.

CHGS has always prided itself on its ability to reach a large audience through its internationally acclaimed website which receives 2,000 hits a day, our programs, scholarly lectures, conferences and symposia. We engage students and educators with our workshops and individual research assistance. The Center has also been available to the media to provide expertise and historical content to help explain the news stories that affect our everyday lives.

How we continue to provide these services depends on the generosity of people like you. CHGS exists because of private endowments, and donations from all sectors of the society we reach with our resources, lectures, and programs. We hope that you will consider a gift to help us continue the important work we have been doing since 1997.

To learn how you can support CHGS please contact Mary Hicks
CLA External Relations at hicks002@umn.edu or by phone: 612-625-5541. You may also donate online at http://www.chgs.umn.edu/giving/index.html.

Exhibit of photos found, left by those who were murdered at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Credit: Auschwitz'Birkenau Processing Center (2013) J. Elowitz
Facebook and Newsletter

CHGS continues to expand its web presence, through our internationally renowned website, which receives 2,000 hits daily. In addition to the website the Center also has a presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. By utilizing the power of the internet and social media the Center has been able to reach a whole new audience of individuals that are unable to join us for on site programs, lectures and events.

Links:

Website: www.chgs.umn.edu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/chgsumn
Twitter: https://twitter.com/
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/CHGSumn

Newsletter

The Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies' monthly electronic newsletter is now available on our website. We post the newsletter after it has been sent to our subscribers. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter directly in your email box please subscribe by entering your name and email address in the box on the top right of our home page.

CHGS

Profiles

Jodi Elowitz, Outreach Coordinator

Jodi Elowitz is the Program Coordinator for CHGS and the European Studies Consortium. She began her career at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in 1997 as an intern and graduate student under the tutelage of former director Dr. Stephen Feinstein. She was the Director of Holocaust Education at the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas and the Executive Director of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. Jodi received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities and her Master of Liberal Studies degree at the University of Minnesota. Ms. Elowitz's specialty is dealing with artistic representation of the Holocaust. She is currently working on Holocaust representation in film as it deals with memory. She recently traveled to Poland on behalf of CHGS to attend the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum’s International Summer Academy dealing with Holocaust memory in Poland and at the memorial site.
Shannon Golden, Coordinator for the Workshops for Graduate Students & Faculty Genocide and Mass Violence Studies 2012-2013

Shannon Golden is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Sociology and an Interdisciplinary Doctoral Fellow with the Human Rights Program. Her dissertation "After Atrocity: Community Reconstruction in Northern Uganda" is about how communities rebuild after violent conflict and widespread human rights abuses. Golden is interested in processes of reconciliation, building collective identity, and constructing social solidarity. In 2013-2014 Golden will be a Post-doctoral Visiting Research Fellow at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame.

Tracy Baumgardt, Program Support Associate

Tracy Baumgardt graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs with a Masters of Public Policy and a minor in Human Rights. Baumgardt has worked as a Human Rights Field Officer with Peace Brigades International in Kathmandu, Nepal. There she supported at-risk human rights defenders through protective accompaniment, advocacy and capacity building. For almost three years she also served as the Program Coordinator for the Washington D.C.-based NGO Democracy Coalition Project which conducted research and advocacy related to the advancement of human rights internationally, particularly through United Nations mechanisms. Ms. Baumgardt is spending the next six months working with Peace Brigades International in Kenya.

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