The Holocaust and the Cold War
Culture and Justice

Joint Annual Conference, May 26–28, 2021
Fritz Bauer Institut, Frankfurt am Main
Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena
www.holocaust-and-cold-war.de

Scholarship on the Holocaust and its representations has benefitted beyond measure from the end of the Cold War thirty years ago. The manifold opportunities of improved access to archives in Central and Eastern Europe and increased exchange with scholars in the region have revitalized the field. Recently, early research conducted by witnesses and survivors of the Holocaust, post-war trials in Central and Eastern Europe, and the perspective of victims have come into focus of scholarship. While there is consensus on the Holocaust having been a transnational historical process, there is no understanding of the extent to which the Cold War conditioned, framed and formed the histories of the Holocaust constructed between 1945 and 1990.

The Fritz Bauer Institut in Frankfurt and the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena are joining forces to explore this field. The aim is to focus on the interplay between the gradual awareness of the Holocaust and the advancing Cold War and to look at the ways in which both influenced narratives about the other. Since a larger part of the knowledge about the Holocaust was produced between 1944 and 1989, the question arises to what extent the Cold War affected representations of the Holocaust in historiography, legal investigations and trials, the arts and how this has formatted political discourse until today. The conference will take stock of the confrontational nature of the Cold War and discuss how debating on the Holocaust became a discursive and ideological weapon in the arsenals of both blocks. Exploring artistic visions and moral values shared on both sides of the Iron Curtain promises new insights both into the culture of the Cold War and its effect on addressing the Holocaust after World War II. This will be the focus of the first part of the conference.

A special emphasis will be on the particularly significant arena of the 1960s Holocaust trials. After a series of highly publicized legal proceedings in all formerly occupied countries in the immediate post-war years, many trials were held in the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany during the 1960s. The second part of our conference will examine the confrontation with the crimes and the representation of the Holocaust in the trials, focusing on the interstate dynamics and competitions between Eastern Bloc states – a consideration that is often overlooked in the analysis of the systemic competition between East and West.

Prof. Dr. Sybille Steinbacher
Director of the Fritz Bauer Institut

Prof. Dr. Joachim von Puttkamer
Director of the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena

Please note: The conference will be held entirely online. In order to have enough time for the discussion, we decided to make the speakers' presentations available in advance. The video or audio recordings will be accessible on the conference website from May 10. The conference itself will focus on the discussion, therefore the presentations will only be briefly introduced by the moderators in the individual panels. We ask all participants to listen to and view the contributions before the conference to gain the necessary background for a meaningful participation. The discussions will be streamed live on YouTube, questions can be asked via the chat function. Access links can be found on the conference website.
A separate registration is required to attend the film screening on the evening of May 26. Please register by email at: h.hecker@fritz-bauer-institut.de

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Fritz Bauer Institut
Geschichte und Wirkung des Holocaust

IMRE KERTÉSZ KOLLEG JENA
Europas Osten im 20. Jahrhundert. Historische Erfahrungen im Vergleich

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Wednesday, May 26, 2021

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION | 4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Joachim von Puttkamer (Jena)
Sybille Steinbacher (Frankfurt am Main)

KEY NOTES | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Mary Fulbrook (London): The Holocaust as a European Project
Jan Tomasz Gross (Princeton/Berlin): Reflections about Jewish Life in Eastern Europe after the Second World War

Thursday, May 27, 2021

PANEL I: SOCIETIES | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Chair: **Raphael Utz** (Jena)
Ido de Haan (Utrecht): Fragmented Commemorations: The Cold War in Dutch Holocaust Memory
Simon Perego (Paris): Holocaust Memory in France during the Cold War: A Historiographical Reconsideration
Hana Kubátová (Prague): Guilt, Responsibility, and Trauma: Restoring Moral Self-Image in Post-war Slovakia

PANEL II: RESEARCH | 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Chair: **Paulina Gulińska-Jurgiel** (Halle)
Michael Fleming (London): The Polish Government-in-Exile and the Government in Warsaw
Alexander Walther (Jena): East German Survivor Historians and their Networks
Agata Pietrasik (Warsaw/Berlin): War Crimes Exhibitions in France and Poland

PANEL III: LITERATURES | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Chair: **Katrin Stoll** (Jena)
Elisa-Maria Hiemer (Gießen): Literature as a weapon? Polish Literature on the Holocaust and its Reception in East and West
Tamás Scheibner (Budapest): Imre Kertész and the Cold War
Urszula Kowalska-Nadolna (Poznań): The Czech Literary Response to the Holocaust

PANEL IV: FILMS | 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Chair: **Golnaz Sarkar-Farshi** (Jena)
Bernhard Groß (Jena): Western European Film and the Holocaust
Balázs Varga (Budapest): Hungarian Holocaust Film in the 1960s
Rita Horváth (Vienna): Cold Days (Hideg Napok) by András Kovács (Hungary 1966)

PANEL V: JURISDICTION HUNGARY
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

Chair: **Éva Kovács** (Vienna)
Kata Bohus (Tromsø): The Eichmann Trial in Hungarian Public: Holocaust Memory in the Socialist Press and Propaganda
András Kovács (Budapest): »This is not a Jewish question; this is a question of fascism and anti-fascism« – The Eichmann-case and the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party
Máté Zombory (Budapest): Holocaust Historian or Antifascist Nazi Hunter? Jenő Lévai and the Second Wave of War Crimes Trials

ONLINE FILM SCREENING | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Cold Days (Hideg Napok) by András Kovács, Hungary 1966, 97 min.
Live stream on the video platform Vimeo.
Registration at: h.hecker@fritz-bauer-institut.de

Friday, May 28, 2021

PANEL VI: JURISDICTION GDR | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Chair: **Annette Weinke** (Jena)
Hermann Wentker (Berlin): Trials of Nazi Perpetrators in the GDR in the 1960s: How Important was the Inner-German Context?
Lorena De Vita (Utrecht): Preparing for Jerusalem: The Eichmann Trial as a Warsaw Pact Concern
Katharina Rauschenberger (Frankfurt am Main): Friedrich Karl Kaul in Jerusalem and After: Trials in the Antifascist Campaigns

PANEL VII: JURISDICTION POLAND
10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Chair: **Andrea Rudorff** (Frankfurt am Main)
Audrey Kichelewski (Strasbourg): Local Collaborators on Trial: A Transnational Case Study in 1960s Poland
Łukasz Jasiński (Berlin): Under Political Pressure. The Main Commission for the Investigation of Hitlerite Crimes in Poland in 1967 – 1968
Zofia Wóycicka (Warsaw): Auschwitz in the 1950s – 1960s: Shared European Heritage?

PANEL VIII: JURISDICTION CZECHOSLOVAKIA | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Chair: **Nadège Ragaru** (Paris)
Michael Kraus (Middlebury/Vermont): Ota Kraus and Erich Kulka as Holocaust Historians
Jan Láníček (Sydney): Communist Use and Abuse of Wartime »Jewish Collaboration« in Trials during the 1940s and 1950s
Vojtech Kyncl (Prague): From the Eichmann Case to the Malloth Trial. The Czechoslovak Government Commission for the Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals (1965 – 1990)

PANEL IX: JURISDICTION SOVJET UNION
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Chair: **Dmitry Astashkin** (Moscow)
David Alan Rich (Bologna): Footsoldiers Face Justice: »Aktion Reinhard« Camp Guards' Soviet Trials, 1960 – 1970
Gintaré Malinauskaite (Vilnius): Holocaust and Soviet War Crimes Trials in the Cold War Context: The Case of Soviet Lithuania in the 1960s

COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS | 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Natalia Aleksiun (New York/Jena)
Norbert Frei (Jena)
Mary Fulbrook (London)
Joachim von Puttkamer (Jena)
Sybille Steinbacher (Frankfurt am Main)