

Dubnow

L. Dubnow
Institute

Looking at the Ghetto...

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising:
Eighty Years in Retrospect

International Conference

17–19 April 2023

Paulinum, Leipzig

Salles de Pologne, Leipzig



Topic

The memory of the uprising became controversial almost immediately after its repression by German forces. In 1948, Nathan Rapoport's memorial was inaugurated on the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto to commemorate the uprising's fifth anniversary. When the West German Chancellor Willy Brandt knelt before that monument during his state visit to Poland in December 1970, his gesture aroused agitated debates in Germany and beyond. The legacy of the uprising became a matter of dispute, among Jews and non-Jews alike: between rival political, social, and national groups and in different languages and cultural contexts.

With the greater attention paid to the Holocaust, the memory of the uprising gained a new dynamic. In Israel, alongside the political dispute regarding the role of the right-wing Jewish Military Union in the uprising, a controversy arose over the meaning of heroism, between struggle for survival and active resistance. In Poland, Marek Edelman's involvement in the Solidarity movement marked the entanglement of the commemorative history of the uprising with contemporary Polish history. Jan Błóński's 1987 article, "Poor Poles Look at the Ghetto" triggered an emotional debate regarding the role of the Polish population facing the Holocaust, which continues in different forms until today.

This conference will bring together the historical event and its memory. The contradictions relating to the memorial history of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising were born from the complexity of the event itself. Memorial icons will form the epistemological point of departure for the conference. Their emergence, impact, and transformations in various layers of time will be peeled back. Larger questions of universalism and particularism, nationalization and acculturation, experience and memory will be invoked, concerning the destruction of anthropological certitudes, the transformation of Jewish self-understanding, and the character of the ghetto as a point of transit between life and death.

Monday, 17 April 2023

Venue: Paulinum – Aula und Universitätskirche St. Pauli

The conference will take place in English and German,
with simultaneous translation being offered.

1 p.m. Welcome Remarks

Eva Inès Obergefell, Rector of the Leipzig University
Yfaat Weiss, Director of the Dubnow Institute

Introduction

Jan Gerber

1.30–3 p.m.

Remembering the Uprising

Chair: Andrzej Żbikowski

Greetings: Monika Krawczyk, Director of the
Jewish Historical Institute

Agnieszka Haska

History, Politics and Collective Memory: The Ongoing
Battle in the Landscape of the Former Warsaw Ghetto

Jan Gerber

Split Guilt: The Memory of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
in Divided Germany (*Lecture in German*)

3.30–5.30 p.m.

Driving Forces

Chair: Michał Trębacz

Greetings from the Museum of the History of Polish
Jews POLIN

Laurence Weinbaum

"They Must Leave an Imprint...": Unraveling the
Convolved Story of the ŻZW in the Warsaw Ghetto
Uprising

Matylda Jonas-Kowalik

"We Share the Same Goal – The Fight and the
Resistance:" A New Look on the Communist
Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto

Tom Navon

"Socialist Youth Were Still Fighting": The Warsaw
Ghetto Uprising and Modern Jewish Politics

6 p.m. Keynote Lecture

Chair: Yfaat Weiss

Jan Tomasz Gross

"It's Nothing. It's in the Ghetto." Reflections on the
80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Tuesday, 18 April 2023

Venue: Paulinum – Aula und Universitätskirche St. Pauli

9–11 a.m.

Outlook on the Uprising

Chair: Maren Röger

Luiza Nader

The Witness and the Bystander: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in Visual Works of Halina Ołomucka and Mieczysław Wejman

Agnieszka Kajczyk and Anna Duńczyk-Szulc

Anthology of Glances: Warsaw Ghetto and the Uprising in Films and Photographs

Christoph Kreutzmüller and Tal Bruttman

Shifting Perspective: The Stroop-Report Photos and the Ghetto Fighters

11.30 a.m.–1.30 p.m

Protagonists

Chair: Noam Rachmilevitch

Greetings from the Ghetto Fighters' House

Avihu Ronen

Women as Leaders: The Role of Women in the Jewish Resistance in Warsaw and Other Ghettos

Maria Ferenc

Making of the Hero: Memory of Mordechai Anielewicz in the First Years after the Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto (1943–1949)

Constance Pâris de Bollardière

A Multi-Directional Contextualization: Marek Edelman's Recovered Notes on the Warsaw Ghetto

2.30–4.30 p.m.

Bearing Witness

Chair: Tanja Zimmermann

Karolina Szymaniak

"Eyes Wide Open, Red from Smoke:" The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in the Work of Rachel Auerbach

Rivka Brot

Tzivia Lubetkin: The Private and the Public, The Symbol and the Body

Yehudit Dori Deston

Resistance, Memory and the Law: The Testimonies of Tzivia Lubetkin and Rachel Auerbach at the Eichmann Trial

5–6 p.m. **Main Lecture, digital**

Chair: Elisabeth Gallas

Havi Dreifuss

Disobedience, Escape and Hiding:
The Unknown Battle of the Masses

8 p.m. Memorial Concert for the 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Members of the Leipziger Universitätsorchester
Welcome: Jörg Deventer
Venue: Grassimuseum für Musikinstrumente

Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Venue: Salles de Pologne

9–11 a.m.

Wartime Perspectives

Chair: Bernd Karwen

Sebastian Musch

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the Bermuda Conference on Refugees: Global Connections of Two Events in April 1943 (*Lecture in German*)

Noam Leibman

Wartime Memoirs: Jewish Policemen' Attitudes Toward the Uprising

Noam Rachmilevitch

Wartime Commemoration: The Adolf Berman Collection

11.30 a.m.–1.30 p.m

Interpretation and Commemoration

Chair: Stefan Rohdewald

Stephan Stach

Ber(nard) Mark: Historian of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (*Lecture in German*)

Yechiel Weizman

The Dialectics of Commemoration: Anniversaries of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in Communist Poland

Paweł Dobrosielski

Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Anniversary Ceremonies 2015–2022 in the Shadows of the Polish Nationalistic Memory Politics: Public Discourse Analysis

2.30–4.30 p.m.

The Art of Memory

Chair: Noam Leibman
Greetings from Moreshet

Anna Artwińska

The First Witnesses: Władysław Szlengel's "What I Read to the Dead" and Jerzy Andrzejewski's "Holy Week" as Catastrophic Narratives and Social Diagnoses (*Lecture in German*)

Markus Roth

Staging Resistance: Resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto on Stage During the Holocaust and Afterwards (*Lecture in German*)

Samantha Baskind

"I like my Jews Mean and Fighting:" Leon Uris' "Mila 18" and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising in American Culture

5–7 p.m.

**Round Table Discussion
Between the Uprising and its Commemoration**

Chair: Tom Navon

with

Rachel Einwohner, Avinoam Patt, and Daniel Blatman

8 p.m.

**"Ahead of the Lord God:" Maria Schrader reading
Hanna Krall**

Chair: Anna Artwińska

followed by a conversation between Anna Artwińska
and Barbara Breysach (*in German*)

Speakers

Prof. Dr. Anna Artwińska, Leipzig University | **Prof. Dr. Samantha Baskind**, Cleveland State University, OH | **Prof. Dr. Daniel Blatman**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Warsaw Ghetto Museum | **PD Dr. Barbara Breysach**, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder) | **Dr. Rivka Brot**, Tel Aviv University | **Tal Bruttman**, École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris | **Prof. Dr. Jörg Deventer**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Paweł Dobrosielski**, Warsaw University | **Dr. Yehudit Dori Deston**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Prof. Dr. Havi Dreifuss**, Tel Aviv University/Yad Vashem | **Anna Duńczyk-Szulc**, Museum of Warsaw | **Prof. Dr. Rachel L. Einwohner**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN | **Dr. Maria Ferenc**, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw | **Dr. Elisabeth Gallas**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **PD Dr. Jan Gerber**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Jan Tomasz Gross**, Princeton University, NJ | **Dr. Agnieszka Haska**, The Polish Center for Holocaust Research, Warsaw | **Matylda Jonas-Kowalik**, Uppsala University | **Dr. Agnieszka Kajczyk**, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw | **Bernd Karwen**, Polish Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Christoph Kreutzmüller**, Last Seen. Pictures of Nazi Deportation, Bad Arolsen | **Noam Leibman**, Moreshet/University of Haifa | **Dr. Sebastian Musch**, Osnabrück University | **Dr. hab. Luiza Nader**, Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw | **Dr. Tom Navon**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Constance Pâris de Bollardière**, The American University of Paris | **Prof. Dr. Avinoam Patt**, University of Connecticut, CT | **Noam Rachmilevitch**, Ghetto Fighters' House Archive, Lohamei HaGeta'ot | **Prof. Dr. Maren Röger**, GWZO, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Stefan Rohdewald**, Leipzig University | **Avihu Ronen**, University of Haifa/Tel Hai College | **Dr. Markus Roth**, Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt a.M. | **Dr. Stephan Stach**, Stiftung Friedliche Revolution, Leipzig | **Dr. Karolina Szymaniak**, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw | **Dr. Michał Trębacz**, Museum of the History of Polish Jews POLIN, Warsaw | **Dr. Laurence Weinbaum**, Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs, Jerusalem | **Prof. Dr. Yfaat Weiss**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Yechiel Weizman**, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan | **Prof. Dr. Andrzej Żbikowski**, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw | **Prof. Dr. Tanja Zimmermann**, Leipzig University

Venues

Paulinum – Aula und Universitätskirche St. Pauli,
Augustusplatz, Leipzig (17–18 April)

Grassimuseum für Musikinstrumente der Universität
Leipzig, Johannisplatz 5-11, Leipzig (18 April, concert)

Salles de Pologne, Hainstraße 16/18, Leipzig (19 April)

Concept and Organization

Dr. Tom Navon/PD Dr. Jan Gerber/Lukas Böckmann

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Beit Lohamei Haghetatot – the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum; the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw; the Haifa Interdisciplinary Unit for Polish Studies, University of Haifa; Moreshet – the Mordechai Anielewicz Memorial Holocaust Study and Research Center; the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw; and the Professorship of Slavic Literature and Cultural Studies, Leipzig University

Participation and Registration

The conference will take place in English and German, with simultaneous translation being offered.



Registration is recommended. You can also participate digital. You can find the registration form and the link to the live stream on www.dubnow.de.

Contact

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Cover Illustration

Zbigniew Leszek Grzywaczewski, from the family archive of Maciej Grzywaczewski (detail).

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