



# Mass Murder of People with Disabilities and the Holocaust

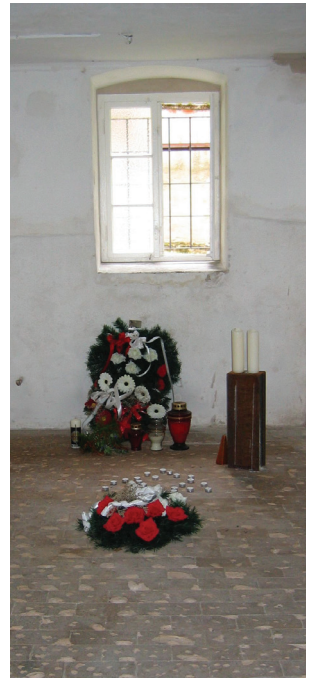
International Conference

**November 26, 2017**

PHBern, Hochschulzentrum vonRoll,  
Fabrikstrasse 6 und 8, 3012 Bern, Switzerland

## Organized by

- ▶ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)
- ▶ Pädagogische Hochschule Bern (PHBern)
- ▶ In cooperation with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) of Switzerland and the Swiss Chairmanship of the IHRA



Pirna-Sonnenstein, gas chamber, today memorial  
Thomas Lutz, Topographie des Terrors Berlin



**CHAIRMANSHIP  
2017**



**PHBern**  
Pädagogische Hochschule

# Program

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09:00	Registration of participants, welcome with coffee and cookies
09:30	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Brigitte Bailer, IHRA Committee for the Organization of the Conference</li></ul>
09:35	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Ambassador Benno Bättig, Chair of the IHRA, FDFA of Switzerland</li></ul>
09:40	<b>Greetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Prof. Dr. Andrea Schweizer, Deputy Director PHBern</li></ul>
09:45	<b>Panel 1: Ideology and the German and Austrian case</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Regula Argast, Swiss Eugenics and its Impact on Nazi Racial Hygiene</li><li>▶ Paul Weindling, Reconstructing the Lives, Deaths and Body Part Histories of the Victims of Nazi “Euthanasia” Killings in Germany and Annexed Austria</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Brigitte Bailer, Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance, Austria</p>
10:45	Coffee break
11:15	<b>Panel 2: Western Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ Isabelle von Bueltzingsloewen, Starvation in French Asylums during the German Occupation : Reality and Misinterpretations</li><li>▶ G.J.C. (Cecile) aan de Stegge, New data on the mortality in Dutch psychiatric institutions 1940–1945</li></ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Karel Berkhoff, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Netherlands</p>
12:15	Lunch

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13:30 **Panel 3: Eastern Europe**

- ▶ Michal Šimunek, The Action “T4” in Bohemia and Moravia in Context, 1939–1941
- ▶ Filip Marcinowski/Tadeusz Nasierowski, The Extermination of the Mentally Ill in Occupied Poland. The Beginning of Genocide
- ▶ Alexander Friedman, Extermination of people with disabilities in the occupied territories of the USSR. The Case of Belarus
- ▶ Björn M.Felder, Massmurder, Starvation, and Experimentation – Nazi Euthanasia in the Baltics 1941–1944

**Moderator:** Juliane Wetzel, Center for Research on Antisemitism  
Technical University Berlin, Germany

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15:30 Coffee break

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16:00 **Panel 4: Continuities and Comparisons**

- ▶ Sara Berger, “Murder was already their profession”. The Aktion T4 staff in the Aktion Reinhardt extermination camps
- ▶ Yehuda Bauer, Non-Jewish Victims of National Socialism: People with Disabilities and Others

**Moderator:** Dominique Trimbur, Foundation for the Remembrance of the Shoah, France

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17:00 Coffee break

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17:30 **Round Table**

Education on Mass Murder of people with disabilities and Holocaust education – similarities, possible synergies

**Participants:**

- ▶ Jan Erik Schulte (Gedenkstätte Hadamar, Germany)
- ▶ Florian Schwanninger (Hartheim Memorial, Austria)
- ▶ Thomas Lutz (Topographie des Terrors, Berlin, IHRA Museums and Memorial Working Group)
- ▶ Otto Rühl (Danish Institute for International Studies, IHRA Education Working Group)
- ▶ David Silberklang (Yad Vashem, Israel, IHRA Academic Working Group)

**Moderator:** Robert Williams, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, USA

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18:45 End of Conference

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## Speakers

- ▶ **Regula Argast** is professor in History at the Berne University of Education (Pädagogische Hochschule Bern). She received her PhD from the University of Zurich in 2005. Her research focuses on the history of citizenship and migration, and on the history of eugenics and genetics in Switzerland from a transnational perspective.
  
- ▶ **Yehuda Bauer**, 1926, was born in Prague and emigrated to Palestine in March 1939. He studied in Cardiff, Wales, and received a B.A. Hon, 1st Class, followed by his PhD in 1950 from the Hebrew University Jerusalem. From 1968–1996 he worked at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry (ICJ) at Hebrew University, Jerusalem; from 1973–1975 as Head of Holocaust Studies at the ICJ, and from 1977–1979 as Head of the ICJ. He was founding Chair of the Vidal Sassoon Center for the Study of Antisemitism, a Member of Academic Committee, Founding Editor of the Journal for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Yad Vashem Research Institute. He was also Academic Adviser at Yad Vashem and a member of the Israeli Academy of Science.

In the year 2000 Professor Bauer acted as Adviser to the government of Sweden as Chair of the Content Committee of the Stockholm Forum on Holocaust Education (2000), and on Genocide Prevention (2004). He went on to become Academic Adviser of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education and Research (ITF) – now IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance), and since 2005 has been the Honorary Chairman of the IHRA.

- ▶ **Sara Berger** (born 1978), is a researcher at the Fondazione Museo della Shoah in Rome and editor of the Italian part of the document collection *The Persecution and Murder of the European Jews by Nazi Germany, 1933–1945* (VEJ 14). She is author of *Experten der Vernichtung. Das T4-Reinhardt-Netzwerk in den Lagern Belzec, Sobibor und Treblinka* (2013), editor of *Gualtiero Cividalli: Lettere e pagine di diario* (1938–1946), 2016 and *I signori del terrore. Polizia nazista e persecuzione antiebraica in Italia* (1943–1945), 2016. She is also co-editor of the exhibition and catalogue *I Ghetti Nazisti* (2012) and *La razza nemica. La propaganda antisemita nazista e fascista* (2017).
  
- ▶ **Isabelle von Buetzingsloewen** is Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Lyon (- Lumière Lyon 2) and a researcher at the Laboratoire de recherche historique Rhône-Alpes (LARHRA). Her work focuses on the fate of civil “fragile” populations during the Second World War and the history of psychiatry and mental health care in contemporary France. Her publications include *L'Hécatombe des fous. La famine dans les hôpitaux psychiatriques français sous l'Occupation* (2007; second edition 2009).
  
- ▶ **Björn M. Felder**, received his PhD from the University of Tübingen in 2009. In 2013 he was a research fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute of the History of Science in Berlin, and from 2013 to 2014 a researcher at the History Department at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich. He is a lecturer in the History Department at the Georg-August-University Göttingen. His interests span comparative totalitarianism, Soviet and Russian history, Baltic history, and social and cultural dimensions of the history of medicine in Eastern Europe. He recently finished a project on eugenics, racial anthropology and biopolitics in the Baltics.

- ▶ **Alexander Friedman** graduated in History from the Belarusian State University in Minsk (1996–2001) and obtained an MA in Modern and Contemporary History, Philosophy and German as Foreign Language from the University of Saarland (2002–2005). He received his PhD from the University of Saarland University (2009). Currently he is a lecturer at the University of Saarland and the Sciences Po Paris in Nancy (German-French campus), WP coordinator of the research project WW2CRIMESONTRIAL1943-91 (CERCEC Paris, EHESS-CNRS) as well as a researcher for the documentary projects “Jews in the Third Reich” by Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) and “Resistance in the Rhineland, 1933–1945” (LVR-Institute for Regional Studies, Bonn).
  
- ▶ **Filip Marcinowski**, M.D., works in the Department of Psychiatry of Warsaw Medical University. His research is in the field of the history of psychiatry. His ongoing Ph.D. project deals with the relation between Polish psychiatry and German-language psychiatry before 1939.
  
- ▶ **Tadeusz Nasierowski**, M.D., Ph.D., works in the Department of Psychiatry of Warsaw Medical University. His research is in the field of clinical psychiatry and the history of psychiatry and he has authored many works including several books including *The Extermination of the Mentally Ill in Occupied Poland. The Beginning of Genocide* (Zagłada osób z zaburzeniami psychicznymi w okupowanej Polsce : początek ludobójstwa, 2008).

- ▶ **Michal V. Šimunek** PhD. studied history at the Faculty of Philosophy of the Charles University in Prague and obtained his PhD. degree from the Faculty of Science of the same university (history and philosophy of science). He deals with the history of life science in Bohemia and Moravia in the 19th and 20th century, with a particular focus on the history of genetics, eugenics, and their social implications. In his further research he also focuses on science policy during the Nazi occupation and its consequences, e.g. the annihilation of the scientific elite.
  
- ▶ **Cecile aan de Stegge** is a former psychiatric nurse with a masters' degree in Western Philosophy (1988). She had worked for around 20 years as a strategic policy advisor for psychiatric hospitals and the Dutch government, when she decided to write about the history of her former profession. After publishing her thesis (Maastricht, 2012) she started to research the high mortality within Dutch psychiatric institutions during the German Occupation.
  
- ▶ **Paul Weindling** is a Research Professor at Oxford Brookes University. He is currently researching the life histories of victims of coerced research under National Socialism, including the victims of brain research in a new project commissioned by the Max-Planck-Society. His most recent book is *Victims and Survivors of Nazi Human Experiments: Science and Suffering in the Holocaust* (London: Bloomsbury, 2014).

# Registration

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs  
State Secretariat, Conference & Event Service FDFA

**Link to registration** <http://www.eda.admin.ch/ihra-phb>

**End of registration** November 3, 2017

# Contact

If you have any questions about the

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