

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



## Childhood at War and Genocide

### Children's Experiences of Conflict in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Agency, Survival, Memory and Representation

*Munich, October 17 – 19, 2022*

#### **Cooperation Partners:**

Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History / Center for Holocaust Studies  
Fritz Bauer Institute  
UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, IAS

#### **Organizers:**

Dr. Anna Ullrich, Center for Holocaust Studies, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ)  
Dr. Yuliya von Saal, Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ)  
Prof. Dr. Joanna Michlic, UCL Centre for Collective Violence, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, IAS  
(UCL-ISA)  
PD Dr. Tobias Freimüller, Fritz Bauer Institute

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**October 17**

Until 2 pm conference registration

**14:00 Welcome** by Frank Bajohr (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History), Joanna Michlic (Institute for Advanced Studies at University College London), Sybille Steinbacher (Fritz Bauer Institute)

**14:15 Introduction** by Yuliya von Saal (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

**14:45 – 16:15 Panel 1: Soviet Childhood Experiences and WWII**

Chair: Anna Ullrich (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

- Oksana Vynnyk, University of Alberta (Canada): Surviving Starvation in Soviet Ukraine: Children and Soviet Healthcare in the early 1930s
- Natalie Belsky (via Zoom), University of Minnesota Duluth (USA): Into the Vast Unknown: Jewish Children's Experiences in Evacuation on the Soviet Home Front
- Lea Prais, Bar-Ilan University (Israel), Jewish Children in Family Camps in Byelorussia's forests

**16:15 – 16:30** Coffee/Tea break

**16:30 – 17:30 Panel 2: Children of the Shoah and their experiences of War**

Chair: Andrea Löw (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

- Dieter Steinert, University of Wolverhampton (UK): Testimonies of Jewish child forced labourers: Challenges and opportunities
- Dana Mihăilescu, University of Bucharest (Romania): Early Postwar Accounts about Romanian Jewish Orphans' Holocaust Experiences in Transnistria

**18:00**

**Keynote Lecture by Nicholas Stargardt (University of Oxford) "Restoring the subjectivities of children in the Holocaust"**

Welcome: Frank Bajohr

Introduction/Moderation: Sybille Steinbacher

Ca. **19:30** Reception

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**October 18**

**09:00 – 11:00 Panel 3: After the Genocide: Identities and Coming to terms, Part I**

Chair: Tobias Freimüller (Fritz Bauer Institute)

- Lorraine McEvoy, Trinity College Dublin (Ireland): Experiences and Recollections of Post-Second World War Recuperative Holidays
- Verena Buser, University of Applied Sciences Potsdam / Research Associate Western Galilee College (Germany/Israel): Close Encounters in liberated Germany: Displaced children in UN Children Centers
- Chiara Renzo, Ca Foscra University Venice (Italy): Italian Jewish children after the Holocaust and the debate around "Jewish education"
- Dror Sharon, Tel Aviv University (Israel): "The Spanish Youth and Girl Mature Very Early": Adolescent Refugees from Spain and the Boundaries of Childhood in Great Britain, 1937-1950

**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee/Tea break

**11:30 – 13:30 Panel 4: After the Genocide: Identities and Coming to terms, Part II**

Chair: Gaelle Fisher (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

- Sarah Rosen, Finkler Institute of Holocaust Research at Bar Ilan University (Israel): "The Most Fascinating and Happy Year of Our Lives": The Testimonies and Rehabilitation of Orphaned Children from Romania in Apeldoorn, Netherlands
- Jakub Gałęziowski, University of Warsaw (Poland): The best interests of the child in national terms – the inclusive policy of the Polish communist authorities towards the children of Polish female forced laborers and DPs and fathered by foreigners
- Silke Hackenesch, Universität zu Köln (Germany): "Orphans' of the War": The 'Brown Baby Plan' and Transnational Adoption from Germany to the US after 1945
- Rakefet Zalashik, Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel-Aviv University (Israel): From Victims of Genocide into Agents of Democracy: The Politics of Psychological Relief for Young Jewish Displaced Persons in the Aftermath of the Holocaust

**13:30** Lunch

**14:30 – 16:00 Panel 5: Forced Transfer of Children**

Chair: Rachel O'Sullivan (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

- Ruth Amir, Yezreel Valley College (Israel): What is Forcible Child Transfer? Conceptualization and Legal-Historical Comparisons

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- Edita Gzoyan, Genocide Museum-Institute Foundation (Armenia): Forcibly Transferred and Assimilated: Experiences of Armenian Children during the Armenian Genocide
- Lukas Schretter, Nadjeschda Stoffers, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on Consequences of War (Austria): Ambivalent but Not Indifferent: Identities and Emotions of Children Born in a Lebensborn Maternity Home

**16:00 – 16:30** Coffee/Tea break

## **16:30 – 18:30 Panel 6: Child Experts: First Studies of War Effects on Children**

Chair: Giles Bennett (Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History)

- David Freis, Universität Augsburg (Germany): Catastrophic Times: Childhood Trauma, Psychology, and Jewish Identity in Eastern Europe after the First World War
- Anna Parkinson, Northwestern University (USA): On the Other Side: Capturing Children's Wartime Experiences through the "Talking Cure"
- Claudia Moisel, Historisches Seminar LMU München (Germany): Orphans, Child Experts and Attachment Theory: Social Casework Files as Archives of Childhood in War
- Beverley Chalmers, Independent Scholar (Canada): Child Sex Abuse in the Holocaust: Concealing Sensitive Experiences

**19:00** Conference Dinner at Neuhauser Augustiner (Hübnerstraße 23)

## October 19

## **09:00 – 11:00 Panel 7: Testimonies and Sources of Children**

Chair: Veronika Duma (Goethe University Frankfurt)

- Zofia Trębacz, Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute (Poland), "Dear Daddy. You ask me how I spend the whole day, from morning to evening I think about you..". Children's letters and the emotions hidden behind them
- Wiebke Hiemesch, Universität Hildesheim (Germany): Children's Drawings of War and Genocide – Children's Voices, Witnessing and Politics
- Marcin Gołąb, University of Warsaw (Poland): Polish Children's Drawings of War with Easter Eggs on the Back. Practising Childhood in Postwar Poland (1944-46)
- Joanna Michlic, University College London (UK): The Missed Lessons from the Holocaust: Representations of Difficult and Painful Past in Testimonies of Child Survivors

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**11:00 – 11:30** Coffee/Tea break

**11:30 – 12:30 Closing remarks and outlook** by Andrea Löw, Joanna Michlic, Yuliya von Saal and Nick Stargardt (moderated by Anna Ullrich)

**12:30** Farewell Lunch

**Cover picture:**

*Children among Soviet Partisans 1944, Region Brest (BSSR)*