

International Conference "Holocaust Distortion and Counter Strategies"

 **Nov. 15–16, 2023 in Berlin**

Holocaust distortion is not a new phenomenon, but has reached a disturbingly new level in Europe and on a global scale. It often is based on antisemitic world views or nurtures antisemitic tropes. Expressions of Holocaust distortion can be found across the political spectrum, but they are increasingly instrumentalized by a growing Far Right, in nationalistic discourses, religious fundamentalism and online hate campaigns. Distortion of historical facts not only discriminates against victims and descendants, but also endangers our collective understanding of our own history, and historical truth. The dissemination of fake histories, propaganda, and hate speech aims directly at the foundations of our societies. It specifically attacks civil society, democratic institutions, and the credibility of scientific experts and independent media.

The Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism (KIgA e.V.) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are organizing an International Conference in cooperation with the Topography of Terror to address the issue of Holocaust distortion from the standpoint of considering educational strategies to counter some of its leading manifestations.

The conference will cover:

- What are expressions of Holocaust distortion and why and how is Holocaust distortion used for political purposes?
- What are the recommendations developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and which counter strategies do international and non-governmental organizations pursue?
- What are new approaches within Holocaust education to engage young audiences?
- Which role does social media play in spreading and in countering Holocaust distortion? Which new research is done in the field of monitoring and countering online Holocaust distortion? Which tasks remain for tech companies, legislation, administration and civil society to do and which alliances to find?

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will present and discuss its exhibition „Some Were Neighbors“ during the conference.

Please spread the word and register here:
[Link](#)

The conference language is English without translation.

13.00 – 13.30**Greetings**

TAD STAHNKE, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
DERVIŞ HIZARCI, KlgA e.V.

13.30 – 14.15**Opening Remarks: Holocaust Education and Holocaust Distortion – Challenges in a Challenging World**

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS, USC Shoah Foundation/UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education/International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (digital)

IN CONVERSATION WITH

JULIANE WETZEL, KlgA e.V./ ZfA (TU Berlin)/International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

14.30 – 16.00**Panel 1: Facing New Challenges in Holocaust Education****Blind spots and potentials in young Germans' perspectives on the time of national socialism. MEMO youth study**

MICHAEL PAPENDICK, IKG (University of Bielefeld)

Findings of the study "Gen Z and Nazi History"

FLORIANE AZOULAY, Arolsen Archives

Educational approaches for primary and secondary prevention of Holocaust distortion and antisemitism

WERNER DREIER, erinnern.at

MODERATOR: KLAUS MUELLER, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.00**Workshop: Ordinary People's Behavior in the Holocaust****Participatory and localized learning through the exhibition "Some Were Neighbors"**

(United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)

WORKSHOP MODERATOR: ALEISA FISHMAN, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

18.15 – 18.30

Closing Remarks

10.15 – 10.35**Greetings**

ANDREA RIEDLE, Topography of Terror
ROBERT KLINKE, Federal Foreign Office of Germany

10.35 – 11.00**Key Note Lecture: New Challenges Beyond Denial – Holocaust Distortion**

JULIANE WETZEL, KlgA e.V./ ZfA (TU Berlin)/International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

11.15 – 13.00**Panel 2: Exploitation and Distortion of the Holocaust by the (Far) Right****Distorted images of the Holocaust. Perceptions of bystander roles in central and Eastern Europe**

MICHAŁ BILEWICZ, University of Warsaw

Narratives and strategies of Holocaust denial and distortion before the digital age

MARIE MÜLLER-ZETZSCHE, Moses Mendelssohn Center (University of Potsdam)

Holocaust distortion in memorials and memorial discourse with a focus on commemoration of communist crimes

ENRICO HEITZER, Sachsenhausen Memorial (Brandenburg Memorials Foundation)

History under attack. Holocaust denial and distortion on social media

ANTONELLA MAIA PERINI, The Alan Turing Institute

MODERATOR: JULANA BREDTMANN, Memorials Museums Department (Topography of Terror)

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch Break

14.30 – 16.00

Panel 3: Combating Holocaust Distortion through Education and Litigation

Holocaust denial and distortion online as a legal matter – how to use advocacy and litigation to challenge social media platforms' historical truth

JOSEPHINE BALLON, HateAid gGmbH

Empowering various audiences – an introduction to the capacity building training program to counter Holocaust distortion developed by IHRA and UNESCO

ANDREA SZÖNYI, Zachor Foundation/International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance/ENCATE

MODERATOR: TAD STAHNKE, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

16.00 – 16.30

Coffee Break

16.30 – 18.15

Panel 4: Holocaust Distortion Online and Counter Strategies

The analysis of antisemitism and Holocaust distortion based on interdisciplinary social media studies

MATTHIAS J. BECKER, Decoding Antisemitism (ZfA, TU Berlin)

Social media literacy against antisemitism

MONIKA HÜBSCHER, University of Haifa/University of Duisburg-Essen

Which stakeholder alliances are needed to counter Holocaust distortion? Pan-European responses & best practices

HUBERTA V. VOSS, Institute for Strategic Dialogue gGmbH (ISD)

MODERATOR: STEFFEN JOST, Alfred Landecker Foundation

18.30 – 18.45

Closing Remarks

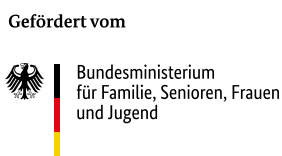
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