

# 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](http://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](mailto:h.hecker@fritz-bauer-institut.de)

#### **Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena**

Leutragraben 1  
D-07743 Jena  
+49.(0)3641.944 070  
[diana.joseph@uni-jena.de](mailto:diana.joseph@uni-jena.de)  
[www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de](http://www.imre-kertesz-kolleg.uni-jena.de)

#### **Fritz Bauer Institut**

Norbert-Wollheim-Platz 1  
D-60323 Frankfurt am Main  
+49.(0)69.798 322-40  
[info@fritz-bauer-institut.de](mailto:info@fritz-bauer-institut.de)  
[www.fritz-bauer-institut.de](http://www.fritz-bauer-institut.de)

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): Polish Literature on the Holocaust and its Reception in East and West

**Tamás Scheibner** (Budapest): Imre Kertész and the Helsinki Process

**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](mailto: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

**Lukasz 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)

**Ilja Altmann** and **Christina Winkler** (Moscow): »One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich«: Soviet Justice and the Perpetrators of the Holocaust

**David Alan Rich** (Bologna): Footsoldiers Face Justice: »Aktion Reinhard« Camp Guards' Soviet Trials, 1960–1970

**Gintarė 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 Aleksiu** (New York/Jena)

**Norbert Frei** (Jena)

**Mary Fulbrook** (London)

**Joachim von Puttkamer** (Jena)

**Sybille Steinbacher** (Frankfurt am Main)