Looking at the Ghetto...

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Eighty Years in Retrospect

International Conference
17–19 April 2023
Paulinum,
Salles de Pologne,
Leipzig
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. In 1987, Jan Błoński’s 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.  OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE
Welcome Remarks
Eva Ines Obergfell, 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 Convoluted 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

Agnieszka Kajczyk and Anna Duńczyk-Szulc
Anthology of Glances: The Warsaw Ghetto and the Uprising in Films and Photographs

Christoph Kreutzmüller and Tal Bruttmann
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 Remarks: 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's 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. BETWEEN THE UPRISING AND ITS COMMEMORATION
Round Table Discussion with
Rachel L. Einwohner, Avinoam Patt, and Daniel Blatman
Chair: Tom Navon

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 Bruttmann, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris | Prof. Dr. Jörg Deventer, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | Dr. Paweł Dobrosielski, Warsaw University | Dr. Yehudit Doré Deston, Hebrew University of Jerusalem | Prof. Dr. Havi Dreifuss, Tel Aviv University/Yad Vashem, Jerusalem | 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 Päris de Bollardiére, 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, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, 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. Michal 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)

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

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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.

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