

WEISS-LIVNAT ALUMNI TRAVELING SEMINAR 2023



VISION AND CONCEPT



The Weiss-Livnat alumni traveling seminar is a new initiative of the Weiss-Livnat Center for Holocaust Commemoration and Education, aimed to provide alumni with the opportunity to gain new perspectives on current trends in Holocaust education and commemoration. During the seminar, the participants visited various sites of remembrance, museums, and research institutions, guided by experts and scholars, allowing them to acquire new knowledge and insight into the behind-the-scenes of the different institutions and understand their daily challenges. Furthermore, the seminar provided opportunities for the participants to share experiences, generate discussions, understand each other's areas of focus, foster connections and collaborations, and ultimately inspire continued work, research, and commemoration of the Holocaust.

PARTICIPANTS

ANAT WEINER, DIRECTOR, WEISS-LIVNAT CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

LISA SCHULZ-YATSIV, SPECIAL PROJECTS AND INTERNSHIPS, WEISS-LIVNAT CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

EUGENIA MIHALCEA, ROMANIA, PHD CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA, RESEARCHER AND LECTURER AT THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, BUCHAREST

NOAH KRASMAN, USA/ISRAEL, RESEARCH ASSISTANT - "SITES OF TENSION - SHIFTS IN HOLOCAUST MEMORY, ANTISEMITISM, AND POLITICAL CONTESTATION IN EUROPE; AROlsen ARCHIVES: EVERY NAME COUNTS

RIVKA BAUM, NETHERLANDS, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE NETHERLANDS

YOAV YARON, ISRAEL, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF HOLOCAUST RESEARCH, WEISS-LIVNAT CENTER

SOU MYADITA SAHA, INDIA, PHD STUDENT IN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, TOPIC: INDIA'S RESPONSE AND ATTITUDE TO THE HOLOCAUST

REBBECCA FRANK, USA, CURATORIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT AT MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE, NEW YORK

SHANNON QUIGLEY, USA, PHD CANDIDATE AT UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA, TOPIC: WOMEN IN POST-SHOAH JEWISH-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE

IAN R MANAS, ISRAEL, TOUR GUIDE AT YAD VASHEM

SUZANA NAHUM ZILBERBERG, ISRAEL, TOUR GUIDE FOR YOUTH TO POLAND

EINAV IZRAELY, ISRAEL, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

LISA STORER, USA (CURRENTLY LITHUANIA), PHD CANDIDATE AT THE VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY, LITHUANIA

YANNICK FRANTZ, LUXEMBOURG, PHD CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG

CHRISTINA DAMGAARD ANDERSEN, DENMARK, CURATING FOR THE AUTOGRAPHERS - DOCUMENTING THE LIVES OF DANISH HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, THEIR DESCENDANTS AND RESCUERS.

AVSHALOM NACHMANI, ISRAEL, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

EFFI ADMONI, ISRAEL, ACTIVE IN SECOND GENERATION COMMEMORATION AND EDUCATION PROJECTS

VISITS AND WORKSHOPS



We visited various memorial sites and relevant institutions during the traveling seminar. The participants were chosen to represent different professional backgrounds (museums, archives, Ph.D., and education). We decided on various sites and institutions that would provide insights into these fields. The planning was thorough and meticulous, and we carefully selected our guides based on their expertise and experience to fit this unique, knowledgeable group of professionals. The traveling seminar aimed to gain in-depth historical knowledge and insights into the different sites' educational, commemorative, and research-related work. Furthermore, the seminar provided a comprehensive and comparative perspective for a deeper understanding of the ways the Holocaust is commemorated in both Germany and Poland and of the tensions therein.

7XJUNG – YOUR TRAINING GROUND FOR SOLIDARITY AND RESPECT



The artistic exhibition **7xjung – Your Training Ground for Solidarity and Respect** is the learning center by *Gesicht Zeigen* in the heart of Berlin. 7xjung offers extraordinary approaches for dealing with the past times of National Socialism and the present-day issues of identity, exclusion, and civil courage. 7xjung comes to life in intense, holistic workshops, which open up new perspectives on history, the present, the individual and personal possibilities of shaping society – starting in the own school and classroom.

The group had the chance to experience the unique educational approach and the workshops as well as discuss the relevance of these workshops for their professional context. Furthermore, the different workshops allowed the participants to learn more about each other and create an intimate atmosphere from the beginning of the seminar.



MUSEUM OTTO WEIDT'S WORKSHOP FOR THE BLIND



The Museum Otto Weidt's Workshop for the Blind tells the story of the workshop. In this small Berlin factory, the owner, Otto Weidt, employed mainly blind and deaf Jews during World War II. They produced brooms and brushes. Various life stories tell of Otto Weidt's efforts to protect his Jewish workers from persecution and deportation. When the threat grew ever greater, he found places for some of them to hide.

During the visit, the group gained knowledge of the specific story of Otto Weidt as well as the faith of the Berlin Jews during the Holocaust. We met with the head of the museum's educational department and an educator who works on the site. We discussed with them the role rescue played in the persecution of Jews in Germany and how this is discussed today in society and the educational system. Furthermore, they introduced their educational work and some of their workshops.

MEMORIAL RAVENSBRÜCK



Ravensbrück was a German concentration camp exclusively for women from 1939 to 1945, located in northern Germany, 90 km (56 mi) north of Berlin at a site near the village of Ravensbrück (part of Fürstenberg/Havel). The camp memorial estimated a figure of 132,000 women in the camp. The "Ravensbrück National Memorial" was opened in 1959 and was one of the GDR's three national memorials. Until 1994, the grounds of the former concentration camp were used for military purposes. In 1993, the Memorial became part of the Brandenburg Memorials Foundation. In 2013, the new permanent exhibition, "The Ravensbrück Women's Concentration Camp: History and Commemoration" was opened in the presence of former detainees.



TOPOGRAPHY OF TERROR – DOCUMENTATION CENTER



The Documentation Center is located at the site where, from 1933 to 1945, the most important institutions of the National-Socialist persecution and terror apparatus were headquartered: the secret police (Gestapo), Reich SS leadership, and Reich Main Security Office. The main exhibition deals with central institutions of the SS and police in the Third Reich and the crimes they committed across Europe.

An in-depth tour of the outside area and the main exhibition provided the participants with new historical knowledge, insights into the commemoration process of the site and political debates surrounding it, and current educational and commemorative challenges of the institution. The group also participated in a workshop to explore different historical documents (many unknown to the participants) and discussions on topics related to National-Socialist persecution and terror apparatus.

HOUSE OF THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE - A MEMORIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SITE



In today's Memorial and Educational Site, fifteen high-ranking representatives of the SS, the NSDAP, and various Reich ministries discussed their cooperation in the planned deportation and murder of the European Jews on January 20, 1942. In addition to its exhibitions, the Memorial and Educational Site offers a wide range of educational programs to learn about the history of the persecution and destruction of the European Jews, the history of National Socialism, its prehistory, and its consequences.

During our visit to the site, the participants had the opportunity to explore the exhibition individually and prepare questions and discussion inputs for the guided tour afterward. During the visit, we discussed the curational decisions for the newly created permanent exhibition, the educational concept, and the challenges and dilemmas the site deals with. The group also explored the issue of representation of perpetrator versus victim perspective, the focus on the specific history of the sites versus an overall history of the Holocaust, as well as the question of how to connect the past to the present.



MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU



During a two-day seminar at the Memorial, the participants had the opportunity to gain insight into the work of the different departments of the Memorial and Museum. The seminar included a 6 hours guided tour of the former KZ-camp Auschwitz 1 and the extermination camp Birkenau, a visit to the collections department with a focus on the function and meaning of illegal art made by prisoners in Auschwitz, a presentation on the Digital Repository department, presentation of the ICEAH educational offer and several workshops such as Women at KL Auschwitz, History Captured in Artifacts, The World After Auschwitz and What can we learn from Auschwitz?

The two-day seminar evoked many discussions on how the place and history should be presented to visitors – pure historical facts versus emotional connection or manipulation, the reflection of Polish commemoration politics at the Memorial, educational approaches and methods in Holocaust Education, etc.

FEEDBACK ON THE VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

“ANOTHER VERY POSITIVE ASPECT WAS THE DIVERSITY OF THE VISITED INSTITUTIONS. THROUGH THIS, I WAS ABLE TO TAKE AWAY VARIOUS THINGS THAT COULD BE HELPFUL TO ME IN MY CURRENT WORK AS A PHD STUDENT AND CURATOR OF A DIGITAL MEMORIAL IN LUXEMBOURG. THROUGH THE WORKSHOPS IN AUSCHWITZ, I REALIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERACTIVITY WITH LEARNERS OR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE TOPIC TO CREATE GREATER CONNECTIVITY.”



YANNICK



“I ALSO REALLY APPRECIATED GETTING TO MEET WITH PEOPLE WHO WORKED AT THE DIFFERENT MUSEUMS AND SITES AND GET MORE BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACCESS/INSIGHT. OVERALL, BOTH FROM GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND EXPOSURE TO SO MANY DIFFERENT MUSEUMS AND MEMORIAL SITES, I GAINED EXHIBITION IDEAS, CURATORIAL STRATEGIES, AND THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT THE POWER OF CLARITY IN MUSEUM EXHIBITION SETTINGS AND WITH LIMITED SPACE, WHAT STORIES AND TAKEAWAYS SHOULD WE EMPHASIZE IN HOLOCAUST AND JEWISH MUSEUMS.”

REBECCA

“BEING AT THE ACTUAL LOCATIONS WHERE THE EVENTS TOOK PLACE REALLY HELPS TO CONNECT IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN JUST READING ABOUT IT. ESPECIALLY THE DAY IN RAVENSBRÜCK WAS REALLY INSPIRING. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO EXPLORE MORE IN-DEPTH THE EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN THE HOLOCAUST AND ALSO THE ROLE OF FEMALE PERPETRATORS.”



CHRISTINA

FEEDBACK ON THE VISITS AND WORKSHOPS

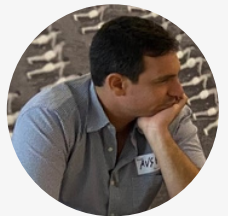


"IT WAS EYE-OPENING TO GET THE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF SITES THAT WE'VE ALL READ SO MUCH ABOUT AND TO LEARN ABOUT THE CHALLENGES THAT THEY FACE EVERY DAY."

RIVKA

"THE SEMINAR WAS VERY WELL BALANCED, INCLUDING RESEARCH SITES/MUSEUMS/HISTORICAL SITES IN A WAY THAT ALLOWED GAINING NEW KNOWLEDGE, BUT ALSO LOOKING THROUGH THE PROFESSIONAL PRISM OF AN EDUCATOR. MOST SITES LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR COLLABORATION OR INITIATIVES."

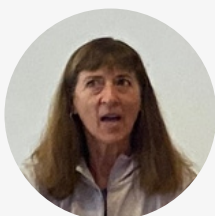
AVSHALOM



"I GAINED A COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE AND A MUCH DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WAYS THE HOLOCAUST IS COMMEMORATED IN BOTH GERMANY AND POLAND AND OF THE TENSIONS THEREIN. ALTHOUGH NOT MY FIRST TRIP TO EITHER BERLIN OR KRAKOW, THE SEMINAR ALLOWED ME TO DISCOVER THE PLACES ANEW AND VISIT SITES I WOULD NEVER HAVE VISITED OTHERWISE, SUCH AS THE WANNSEE CONFERENCE HOUSE OR THE OTTO WEIDT MUSEUM - BOTH HIGHLY ENRICHING VENUES THAT PROVIDED FRESH INSIGHTS AND STRENGTHENED MY HISTORICAL COMPREHENSION."

YOAV

FEEDBACK ON THE VISITS AND WORKSHOPS



"THE SEMINAR CREATED UNIQUE EXPERIENCES TO DISCUSS AND UNDERSTAND SITES OF REMEMBRANCE AND EXPLANATION. WHAT WE EXPERIENCED WAS NOT ABSTRACT AND WHAT WE ARTICULATED WAS IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO OUR SHARED EXPOSURE AS THE IMMEDIACY OF THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE SITES' RAMIFICATIONS TOOK PLACE FORMALLY IN THE LARGE GROUP, AND THEN IN THE MANY INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS THAT FOLLOWED AS WE RODE ON A BUS, WALKED DOWN A STREET, OR SHARED A MEAL. THE WAYS IN WHICH WE PROCESSED OUR EXPERIENCES AND THOUGHTS GENERATED UNEXPECTED POSSIBILITIES FOR INQUIRY AND COLLABORATION AS HISTORIANS."

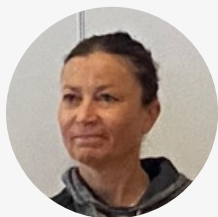
LISA



"I WAS QUITE YOUNG WHEN I LEARNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF MY GRANDPARENTS' FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. IT WAS NOT UNTIL THIS TRIP, NEARING 30, THAT I FIRST VISITED SUCH SITES THAT WERE FOREVER IMPRINTED ONTO MY MIND AS A YOUNG CHILD, AND I AM NOT SURE I WOULD HAVE HAD IT ANY OTHER WAY. VISITING THESE SITES FOR THE FIRST TIME, NO LONGER A YOUNG CHILD, I AM MOVED BY THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EACH'S HISTORY ON MY ACADEMIC AND CREATIVE THOUGHT PROCESSES AS I SETTLE IN BACK HOME. THE TRIP INSPIRED ME TO PURSUE MORE ORIGINAL RESEARCH, PLAN MORE TRIPS BACK TO EUROPE, AND RECONSIDER NOT ONLY MY OWN NARRATIVE AS THE GRANDSON OF SURVIVORS BUT AS A STUDENT AND ASPIRING RESEARCHER."

NOAH

FEEDBACK ON THE VISITS AND WORKSHOPS



"I APPRECIATED THE MANY VARIED PLACES WHERE WE VISITED IN BERLIN AND THE EXPERTISE WHICH WE WERE EXPOSED TO IN THE VARYING MUSEUMS AND EDUCATION CENTERS. A NUMBER OF THE PLACES THAT WE VISITED WERE PLACES THAT I HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO VISIT PREVIOUSLY, AND I AM VERY APPRECIATIVE THAT I WAS ABLE TO DO SO WITH SUCH AN OUTSTANDING GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO ARE ALSO SCHOLARS OF THE HOLOCAUST. THE PLACE THAT IMPACTED ME THE MOST RELATED TO MY RESEARCH WAS THE FORMER WOMEN'S CONCENTRATION CAMP, RAVENSBRÜCK. MY PH.D. RESEARCH FOCUSES ON WOMEN AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES IN THE POST-HOLOCAUST ERA, BUT I HAD NOT THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT RESEARCHING WOMEN AND RELIGION IN CONCENTRATION CAMP LIFE AND DURING THE HOLOCAUST."

SHANNON



"WE WERE EXPOSED TO UNUSUAL WAYS OF LEARNING AND EDUCATION, BOTH INTERESTING AND DIFFICULT. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS SEMINAR WAS PLANNED EXCELLENTLY FROM AN EARLY STAGE. IT WAS STRUCTURED PERFECTLY, STARTING GRADUALLY WITH SITES IN BERLIN AND THEIR EDUCATIONAL WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, AND THEN ONTO TWO DIFFICULT DAYS IN THE MEMORIAL OF AUSCHWITZ."

EFFI

NETWORKING AND PEER-LEARNING



The second goal of the seminar was to bring together a group of excellent alumni from different cohorts, backgrounds, and fields. The seminar was created for alumni to share experiences, generate discussions, understand each other's focus areas, develop connections, identify opportunities to collaborate, and ultimately inspire continued study of the Holocaust. Before the seminar, the participants were divided into groups according to their specialty area to prepare a presentation and discussion to be presented during the seminar: 1) Teachers, 2) Ph.D. candidates, 3) museums and archives, 4) Non-formal Holocaust commemoration or education projects. The main focus of the presentations was the challenges they are dealing with in their field.



NETWORKING AND PEER-LEARNING



Furthermore, the seminar provided a platform for new ideas, connections, and future collaboration opportunities. Some concrete plans were already discussed in the closure of the seminar:

- 1) Research – education: the idea of cooperation between graduates who work in education and those who do research. For example, Lisa and Avshalom want to create a lesson plan about Lithuania together.
- 2) Next traveling seminar/conference in Vilnius
- 3) Creating a platform for regular alumni meetings + Zoom meetings with presentations of alumni's work



FEEDBACK ON THE PEER-LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND NETWORKING



"THE WEISS LIVNAT MA PROGRAM GATHERED SUCH A DIVERSITY OF SCHOLARS OVER THE YEARS, FROM DIFFERENT CULTURES, RELIGIONS AND SO ON AND THIS IMPACTS ON THE DYNAMIC OF THIS TYPE OF SEMINARS. THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR DISCUSSIONS AND THE DIFFERENT APPROACHES ENRICH OUR KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE HOLOCAUST, OF ITS HISTORY AND MEMORY. WHAT I WANT TO STRESS IS THAT THIS MA PROGRAM IS INDEED AN INTERNATIONAL ONE. I FELT IT ALSO DURING THE SEMINAR."

EUGENIA

"IT WAS REALLY INSPIRING TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORK THE OTHER ALUMNI ARE DOING. IT REALLY MADE ME WANT TO CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF DOING A PH.D. IN THIS FIELD."

CHRISTINA



"THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND A WEEK WITH EMERGING SCHOLARS WHO SHARE COMMON PASSIONS AND INTEREST IN THE HOLOCAUST WAS IN ITSELF A PROFOUNDLY EDIFYING EXPERIENCE - A RARE CHANCE TO ENGAGE DEEPLY WITH AN INTELLECTUAL ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE DEDICATION TO PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF THE HOLOCAUST WERE PALPABLE."

YOAV

FEEDBACK ON THE PEER-LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND NETWORKING

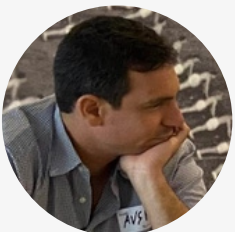


"MY INITIAL MOTIVATION FOR GOING ON THIS TRIP WAS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST BY VISITING THE SITES IN EUROPE. I HAD NOT REALIZED THAT ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WOULD MAKE THIS TRIP SO SPECIAL WAS THAT I JOINED WITH A GROUP OF KNOWLEDGEABLE AND PASSIONATE HOLOCAUST SCHOLARS AND EDUCATORS. THE DISCUSSIONS THAT WE HAD WITH EACH OTHER, DURING LUNCH OR DURING MORE FORMAL DISCUSSIONS, GAVE ME DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND TAUGHT ME MUCH ABOUT HOLOCAUST EDUCATION AND COMMEMORATION. I LEARNED AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT FROM MY PEERS."

YAIR

"THROUGH THE EXCHANGE WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE ALSO WORKING ON THEIR PHD THESIS, I WAS ABLE TO GET VALUABLE TIPS REGARDING THE WRITING PROCESS AND SOURCE ACQUISITION."

YANNICK



"THE SEMINAR INSPIRED FURTHER COLLABORATIONS WITH THE OTHER ALUMNI STUDENTS. WE ARE THINKING OF CREATING A LESSON/SETS/SERIES BASED ON THE RESEARCH OF OTHER ALUMNI. HOPEFULLY WE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS IN THE COMING YEARS."

AVSHALOM

FEEDBACK ON THE PEER-LEARNING EXPERIENCE AND NETWORKING



"THE SEMINAR INSPIRED ME IMMENSELY. IT REAWAKENED IN ME THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE RESEARCHING IN THE FIELD I STARTED DURING MY MASTER'S DEGREE AND I INTEND TO COME TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSULTATIONS REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF THE RESEARCH THAT HAS BEEN OCCUPYING MY HEAD SINCE GRADUATION. I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY WHEN WE VISITED THE MUSEUM AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER "TOPOGRAPHY OF TERROR" AND TALKED TO THE LECTURER ABOUT THE SUBJECT. THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT AND ENLIGHTENING CONVERSATION FOR ME."

EFFI



"THE SEMINAR'S INGENUOUS STRUCTURE CAUSED ME TO FORM VALUABLE RELATIONSHIPS, AS I LEARNED ABOUT OTHERS' WORK AND FUTURE PLANS THAT REVEALED POSSIBILITIES FOR SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION."

LISA

