

Preliminary Program

Holodomor Research and Education Consortium
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, University of Alberta

Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Genocide in Twentieth-Century History

The Power and the Problems of an Interpretive, Ethical-Political, and Legal Concept

October 19-20, 2018

Campbell Conference Facility
Munk School of Global Affairs
University of Toronto

Conference Concept

The conference will focus on how the concept of “genocide,” differentiated and contested from its inception, evolved and adapted in the face of a rapidly growing body of research that surged after the 1980s. While the genocide concept has proven crucial to the understanding of the twentieth century, the issues it raises also have become evident. The conference aims at exploring the history of the concept of genocide, how it evolved and has continued to evolve over time, and its strengths and weaknesses in light of new research. Finally, we will consider the future of the concept of genocide.

The panels will consist of comprehensive discussions of pre-circulated papers (well-structured and detailed abstracts are a possibility). Papers should not exceed 25 pages and are due September 1, 2018 to allow participants time to read them in advance of the event. Presentations will thus be brief (15-20’) and followed by in-depth general discussions. We also envision the participation of a number of other scholars, whose expenses we hope to be able to cover.

NOTE: *A follow-up workshop on the global history of ethnic cleansing will take place in 2019 at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:30 *Welcoming and Introductory Remarks*
Alon Confino, Andrea Graziosi, Frank Sysyn

10:00-12:30 **SESSION 1**

The emergence of a conflict-ridden term and its contradictions

How did the term “genocide” come about and what was the intention?
How did the concept evolve in the post-WWII environment?

- DOUGLAS IRVIN-ERICKSON, George Mason University, *The Origins of the Genocide Concept: Lemkin and His Many Milieux*
- ANTON WEISS-WENDT, Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities, Oslo, *Not My Crime: The Great Powers Negotiating the Genocide Convention, 1946-1948*
- BOYD VAN DIJK, King's College London (KCL), *The Colonial Question: Comparing Belgian, Dutch, and French Views on the Making of the Genocide Convention*

11-11:20 *Coffee Break*

11:20-12:45 **Discussion**

DIRK MOSES, University of Sydney, Moderator

12:45-14:15 *Lunch*

14:15-17:00 **SESSION 2**

The evolution of the concept of genocide (Holocaust-Shoah)

How did the concept of genocide develop before its surge in the 1990s?
How was the Holocaust/Shoah conceptualized in relation to the concept of genocide?

- ANNETTE F. TIMM, University of Calgary, *The Costs of Silencing Holocaust Victims: Why We Must Add Sexual Violence to our Definition of Genocide*
- DANI BLATMAN, Hebrew University, *Shoah and Genocide: Diverse Narratives or Separate Histories? - The Polish Case*
- RAZ SEGAL, Stockton University, *The Holocaust: The Origins of Mis-conceptualizing Genocide as an Event*

15:15-15:30 *Coffee Break*

15:30-17:00 **Discussion**

DORIS BERGEN, University of Toronto, and ANTONIO FERRARA, Anvur, Moderators

18:00 *Dinner*

19:30 Toronto Annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture:
The Holodomor as Genocide, or Genocidal
 LIUDMYLA HRYNEVYCH, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences;
 Director of the Holodomor Research and Education Centre, Ukraine
 Campbell Conference Facility, University of Toronto

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

9:15-12:45 SESSION 3, Panels 3A & 3B

Discovering the genocidal nature of the 20th century

How has research since 2000 changed our perspective on the twentieth century as genocidal?

9:15-11:15

Panel 3A: *The WWI-WWII period*

- RONALD G. SUNY, University of Michigan, *War of Liberation or Genocide? Narratives on the Fate of the Ottoman Armenians*
- ANDREA GRAZIOSI, Università di Napoli Federico II, *The Holodomor and the Kazakh Famine: National Un-building in the Soviet Union*
- NORMAN NAIMARK – Stanford University, *The Holodomor in the Context of Soviet Mass Killing in the 1930s*
- ALEXANDER KORB, University of Leicester, *Hitler's Genocidal Allies: Where and why did non-German Perpetrators Commit Genocide during WWII?*

10:15-10:30 *Coffee Break*

10:30-11:15 **Discussion**

MICHELLE TUSAN, University of Nevada and ALON CONFINO, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Moderators

11:15-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-13:15

Panel 3B: *The colonial–post-colonial experience*

- SCOTT STRAUS, University of Wisconsin, Madison, *The Concept of Genocide and Episodes of Mass Violence in the Great Lakes Region, 1959-2004*
- ROBERT CRIBB, Australian National University, *Genocidal Panic: Emotional Aspects of the Political Genocides in Indonesia, China and Cambodia*
- CHRISTIAN GERLACH, University of Bern, *Sounds of a Massacre: Chuknagar, East Pakistan, 20 May 1971*

12:30-13:15 Discussion

ALEX DE WAAL, Tufts University, Moderator

13:15-15:00 Lunch**15:00-17:00 SESSION 4****Rethinking the term “genocide”**

Why were there so many genocides in the 20th century? What is the “state of the art”? How do they relate to each other? What were their specific features and how do they compare to previous experiences of mass killings? What are the “interpretive” potentials and problems of the category? How can historians, political scientists, specialists in law, et al. meaningfully talk to each other?

Roundtable Discussion (10 minutes each)

Bohdan Klid, University of Alberta, Moderator

- ALON CONFINO, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- ANDREA GRAZIOSI, Università di Napoli Federico II
- CHRISTIAN GERLACH, University of Bern
- MARK KRAMER, Harvard University
- MICHELLE TUSAN, University of Nevada, *Is It Time to Forget Genocide?*
- DIRK MOSES, University of Sydney
- ANNA SHTERNSHIS, University of Toronto

18:00 Reception

19:00 Evening Public Lecture: *Is There a World History of Genocide?*
 NORMAN NAIMARK, Stanford University
 Campbell Conference Facility, University of Toronto