

**International Forum
on Holocaust Memory
and Learning in an Age
of Manipulated Information**

*Marking the 80th anniversary of the Liberation
of Auschwitz*

**Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland
January 28th - 29th, 2025**

www.metropolisconference.ca

REGISTRATION

Jagiellonian University
Reymonta 4, 30-059 Kraków, Poland

As of 8:30 AM

Coffee, Tea, and light refreshments

WIFI

Login: ieujwifi@uj.edu.pl
Password: hasl0-WIFI (0=zero)

International Forum on Holocaust Memory and Learning in an Age of Manipulated Information

January 28-29, 2025
Krakow, Poland

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp on January 27th, 2025, preserving the memory of the Holocaust and transmitting its lessons to future generations represent a growing challenge. While the Holocaust has the dubious distinction of being one of the best documented mass atrocities in human history, the passage of time is robbing us of the living evidence provided by survivors and eyewitnesses. The spread of disinformation on digital platforms have also facilitated and amplified narratives that excuse, minimize, or misrepresent the Holocaust.

During this Forum, the Metropolis Institute and the Jagiellonian University will convene educators, researchers, thought leaders, community representatives and Holocaust survivors and their children in order to:

- assess the global state of Holocaust knowledge;
- examine the key challenges posed by Holocaust denial and distortion;
- identify best practices in preserving memory and conveying Holocaust knowledge through education, museums, etc. and;
- outline the lessons to be learned in the ongoing fight against anti-Semitism and all forms of racism.

Światowe Forum Pamięci i Wiedzy o Holokauście w czasach zmanipulowanych informacji w 80. rocznicę wyzwolenia obozu Auschwitz

28-29 STYCZNIA 2025 roku
Krakowie, Polska

W miarę zbliżania się 80. rocznicy wyzwolenia obozu zagłady Auschwitz (27 stycznia 2025 r.) zachowanie pamięci o Holokauście i przekazanie płynących zeń nauk przyszłym pokoleniom stanowi coraz większe wyzwanie. Pomimo tego, że Holokaust jest jedną z najlepiej udokumentowanych masowych zbrodni w historii ludzkości, upływ czasu pozbawia nas żywych dowodów dostarczanych przez ocalałych i naocznych świadków. Rozprzestrzenianie się dezinformacji na platformach cyfrowych również ułatwia i wzmacnia narrację, która usprawiedliwia, minimalizuje lub fałszywie przedstawia Holokaust.

W dniach 28 i 29 stycznia 2025 roku z inicjatywy Instytutu Metropolis i Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego zgromadzą się w Krakowie edukatorzy, badacze, autorytety intelektualne, a także przedstawiciele lokalnych społeczności oraz ocalali z Holokaustu i ich dzieci, by:

- ocenić globalny stan wiedzy o Holokauście;
- zanalizować kluczowe wyzwania związane z negowaniem i wypaczeniem Holokaustu;
- określić najlepsze praktyki w dziedzinie dbałości o pamięć i przekazywanie wiedzy o Holokauście;
- sformułować wnioski z toczącej się walki z antysemityzmem i wszelkimi formami rasizmu.

Forum Co-Chairs



Dr. Jack Jedwab is President and CEO of the Association for Canadian Studies and the Metropolis Institute. He holds a Ph.D. in Canadian History from Concordia University. Prior to 1998, he served as executive director of the Quebec branch of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He is an author and contributor to academic publications, government reports and newspapers across the country in the fields of immigration, multiculturalism, diversity, human rights and official languages.

He holds a Ph.D. in Canadian History from Concordia University, and he has taught at McGill University and the Université du Québec à Montréal.



Dr Katarzyna du Vall holds a research and teaching position at the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University. She is also an attorney at law and holds a doctor of law degree. She graduated from the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University. Dr. du Vall teaches classes in intellectual property law and media law.

Welcoming Message



January 27th marks 80 years since the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. Ceremonies will be held in several countries to honor the remaining survivors, remember the six million Jews that were murdered and the countless other victims of what is widely regarded as the 20th century's most horrific crime.

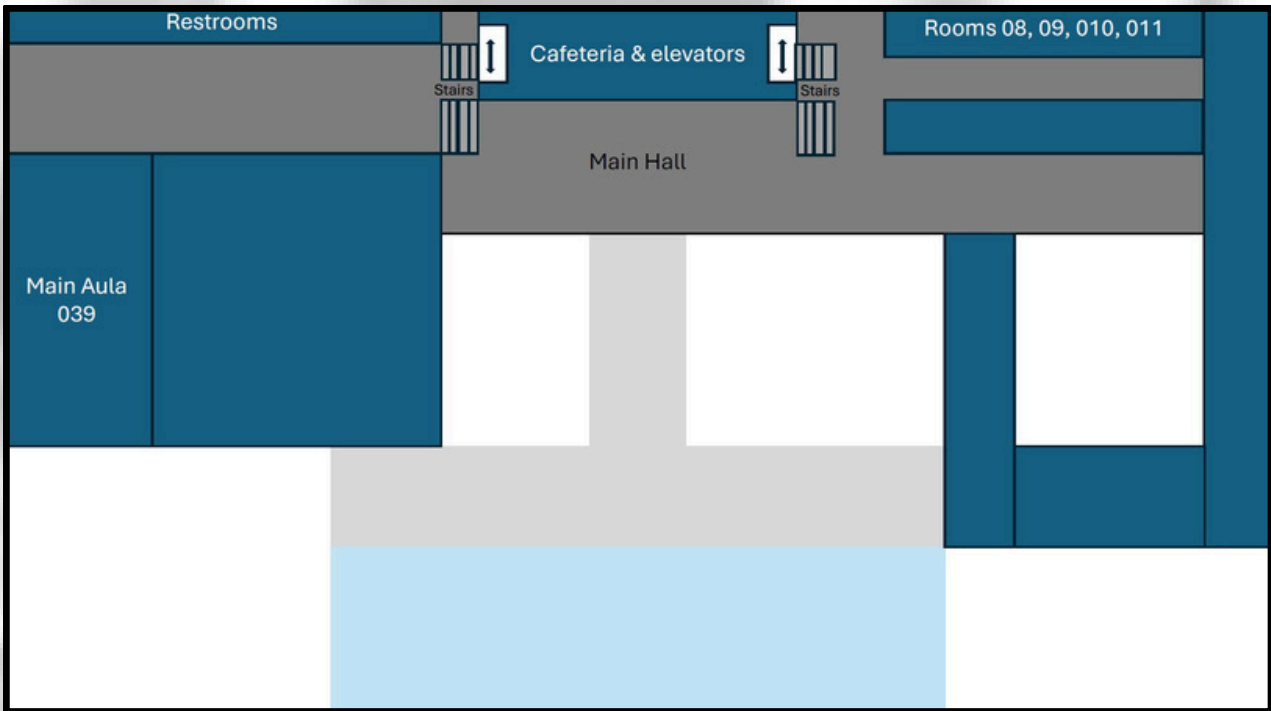
In several countries, significant initiatives have been launched to increase awareness about the Holocaust through mandatory school programs, museum expansion and support for film and literature.

Such initiatives reflect the strong commitment to ensure that the critical lessons of the Holocaust are not lost on future generations. Yet this goal is facing the continued threat from ongoing denial, distortion, dilution and the growing spread of disinformation about the Holocaust. Another challenge is evolving interpretation of Holocaust history and what it implies for contemporary lessons is rife with tests to our moral compass.

It is with this in mind that I'm pleased to co-Chair this International Forum on "Holocaust Memory and Learning in an Age of Manipulated Information." Over the course of the program, the aim is to generate ideas for addressing the evolving challenges for the promotion of knowledge about the Holocaust. I want to thank my co-Chair Professor Katarzyna du Vall and Jagiellonian University for hosting the Forum. Thanks as well to all the speakers who have agreed to participate. Finally I wish to express my appreciation to the organizing team from the Metropolis Institute led by Miriam Taylor and Raïssa Sintcheu.

Jack Jedwab

FLOOR PLAN



**International Forum on Holocaust
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28
January

**Jagiellonian University,
Reymonta 4, 30-059 Kraków, Poland**

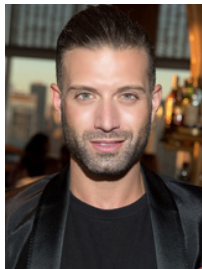
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM
Opening Remarks

 **Main Aula 039**

- **Jack Jedwab** - CEO & President of the Metropolis Institute, Canada
- **Dr Katarzyna Du Vall** - assistant professor at the Institute of Political Sciences and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University, Poland

9:30 AM - 10:00 AM
Keynote Speaker

 **Main Aula 039**



Q and A with Omar Sharif Jr

Omar Sharif Jr - Descendant of Auschwitz survivors, Canadian actor and author, Canada

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Opening Presentation

 **Main Aula 039**

Comparing Public Opinion on Knowledge About the Holocaust in Canada and the United States

Some one in six North Americans between the ages of 18 and 24 believe that the Holocaust is exaggerated. The view that the Holocaust is exaggerated presents an important challenge for contemporary educators and policy-makers. This session will examine the extent to which such opinions are held, the sources of information supporting such views and what underlies them.

- **Jack Jedwab** - CEO & President of the Metropolis Institute
- Commentator: **Michal Jacob** - Office of the Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Canada

28
January

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10:40 AM - 11:40 AM

 **Room 08**

A1 Workshop - Panel Presentation

Teaching the Holocaust and other Genocides in a Comparative and Interdisciplinary approach

The pedagogical guide *Studying Genocide* proposes a comparative analysis and an interdisciplinary approach, combining history, sociology, ethics and literature. To ensure that learning about the Holocaust becomes more relevant for students, they are invited to think critically in an anti-racist outlook that they can apply to the analysis of other historical and social phenomena. In this session, we will present the comparative approach that allows the understanding of the genocidal process, the anti-racist approach we adopt in doing so, and the way it is implemented through the use of literature.

- **Sivane Hirsch** - University of Laval, Quebec, Canada
- **Sabrina Moisan** - University of Sherbrooke, Canada
- **Audrey Bélanger** - Université of Laval, Quebec, Canada

11:45 AM - 12:45 PM

 **Room 09**

A2 Workshop - Panel Presentation

What could impactful Holocaust education be in 2025?

The panel discussion, moderated by Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning's director, Helise Lieberman, will highlight experiences gained from providing Jewish heritage tours and educational programs in Poland through diverse professional perspectives on conveying the history and impact of the Holocaust in 2025 and going forward. We will discuss the particularist and universalist perspectives on teaching about the Holocaust, the impact of contextualization and dialogue, contemporary approaches among Polish educators, and the future implications of the transmission of memory and history.

- **Moderator: Helise Lieberman** - Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning, Poland
- **Kamil Gut** - Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation, Poland
- **Hila Weisz-Gut** - Jewish Center Foundation, Poland
- **Marta Eichelberge-Jankowska** - Taube Foundation for Jewish Life & Learning, Poland
- **Katarzyna Suszkiewicz** - Galicia Jewish Museum, Poland
- **Aga Kocur Smoleń & Olga Adamowska** - JCC Krakow

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12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

LUNCH BREAK

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

 **Room 08**

A3 Workshop - Panel Presentation

Scotland as a Model for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust

The report entitled Education After Auschwitz highlighted Scotland “as a model for future scholarly work in Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust (TLH)” (Pistone et al, 2021:87). Our purpose is to explain and discuss this “model”. Presenters will speak on three aspects of TLH in the classroom: the benefits of a national schools’ programme in TLH, one school’s growing commitment and development of TLH and research findings from teachers on the present challenges of TLH in the changing world. The presentation will include a short school-based film that enhances participants’ understanding of TLH in the Scottish context.

- **Susan Brownlie** - St Andrew’s and St Bride’s High School, South Lanarkshire, Scotland
- **Dr Paula Cowan** - Vision Schools Scotland, University of the West of Scotland
- **Dr Elysha Ramage** - Vision Schools Scotland, University of the West of Scotland

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

 **Room 09**

A4 Workshop - Panel Presentation

The Holocaust in Film and Literature

Panelists will look at the role of film and literature in raising awareness about the Holocaust and how the personalization of survivor stories plays a critical role at a time of generational transition as the second and third generations consider how to preserve and transmit Holocaust history and knowledge.

- **Moderator : Elise Herzig** - JIAS Toronto, Canada
- **Melissa Hacker** - Executive Director, The Kindertransport Association, Filmmaker, USA
- **Jamie Michaels** - Filmmaker, Canada

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4:10 PM - 5:10 PM

 **Room 09**

A5 Workshop - Panel Presentation

AI and the future of Holocaust memory and learning

In this panel, we will discuss the implications of the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) for the future of Holocaust memory and education. The growing adoption of AI for finding and generating information about the past enables new possibilities, but also risks for learning about the Holocaust. Some of these risks include the loss of trust towards historical facts and amplification of hate speech and denialism. To address these risks, we discuss the new approaches for conceptually and empirically assessing the impact of AI systems on Holocaust memory and education together with strategies for translating these assessments into policy actions.

- **Mykola Makhortykh** - Bern University
- **Victoria Richardson-Walden** - University of Sussex
- **Nathalie Rücker** - Institute for Strategic Dialogue

From 6 PM



FORUM RECEPTION

Jewish community center - Miodowa 24, 31-055 Kraków, Poland

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9:00 AM - 10:30 AM



Room 010

History of Holocaust Denial and Distortion

This session examines the evolution of Holocaust denial and distortion, their progression toward radicalization, and proposes solutions to counter their impact in the era of social media and artificial intelligence.

Then it will examine the intersection of Holocaust denial rhetoric and contemporary research on genocide materiality and necropolitics, while exploring denial and distortion in post-communist contexts, with a particular focus on Poland.

- **Dr. Stephanie SHARE** (The London Centre for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, UK and The Comper Center for Contemporary Antisemitism of the University of Haifa, Israel): "Holocaust Denial and Distortion: Understanding, Addressing, and Countering the Threat"
- **Dr. Lev TOPOR** (The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP); The Academic College of Tel Aviv-Yaffo, Israel): "Digital Cloaks of Antisemitism: Analyzing Holocaust Denial in Anonymous Online Spaces"
- **Marija LJUBINKOVIC** (World Jewish Congress's Technology and Human Rights Institute): "Machine Learning against Human Harm: The Role of AI in Cases of Holocaust Denial, Distortion and Other Forms of Antisemitism in the Online Sphere"

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10:30 AM - 10:45 AM



Main AULA 039

Closing Remarks

11:00 AM

Departure to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum

