

**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

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 of the Association for Canadian Studies (ACS) and the Metropolis Institute, which oversees Canada's largest conference on immigration and integration. He is also the Director of Metropolis Americas, and founder and publisher of Canadian Diversity and Canadian Issues.

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 Val 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.

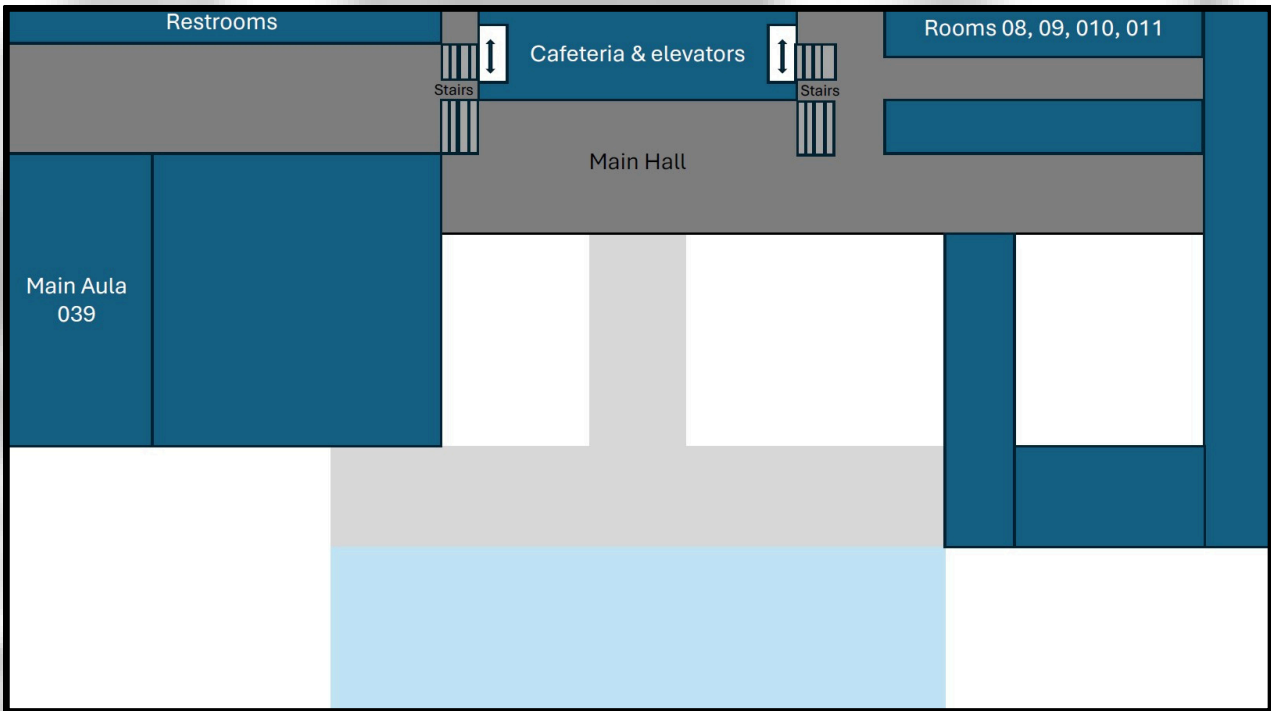
In several countries, significant initiatives have been launched to increase awareness about the Holocaust through mandatory school programs, museum expansion and support for film and literature.

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 Duvall 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



28
January

Jagiellonian University,
Gołębia 24, 31-007 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

28
January

**Jagiellonian University,
Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków, Poland**

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 focus on insights from Jewish heritage tours and educational programs, the impact on participants, and what it means for Poland and its Jewish communities.

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.

It will be followed by small group discussions that explore different approaches.

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

28
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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

29

January

**Jagiellonian University,
Gołębia 24, 31-007 Kraków, Poland**

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Block of concurrent sessions (workshops and roundtables)

B1 - History of Holocaust Denial and Distortion - A



Room 010

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.

- **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"

B2 - History of Holocaust Denial and Distortion - B



Room 011

This session examines 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. Nicholas TERRY** (The University of Exeter, UK): "The Necropolitics of Holocaust Denial: The Pseudo-Forensics of Killing Sites and Camps"
- **Dr. hab. Anna ZAWADZKA** (The Institute of Slavic Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland): "The Denial and Distortion of Holocaust Memory in Post-Communist Eastern Europe"

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10:30 AM - 10:45 AM



Main AULA 039

Closing Remarks

11:00 AM

Departure to the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial

