

Facing the Holocaust Today

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND ANNOTATIONS

MAIN PROGRAM

ANTISEMITISM THEN AND NOW

Miloslav Szabó (SK), Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia

Antisemitism is one of the most widespread and at the same time least understood and controversial political terms. Its usage relates to diverse situations, including the remembrance of the holocaust to the conflict in the Middle East. This lecture sheds light onto this issue: a brief excursion into the 19th and 20th century shows under which circumstances modern antisemitism (with all its characteristics) emerged. Next, the lecture covers the extent to which the heritage of antisemitism survived the holocaust, and how antisemitism adapted to the new circumstances. Last but not least, the lecture discusses the relationship between antisemitism and antizionism.

45 min., Slovak language (translated into English)

9th Sept. 14:10 - 14:55, Zoom

"THEY REFUSED TO GET ON BOARD" - PUPILS' FILM SCREENING

Miroslava Bažantová (CZ), ZUŠ Benešov, Czech Republic

"They Refused to Get on Board" is an animated movie about the destiny of a Jewish family during WW2, narrated through the eyes of a child. The movie is based on the stories told by the survivor Eva Benešová about the courage it takes to not follow orders and to not board the Holocaust trains. The movie has received numerous awards, including international ones, and was produced by the students of the Arts Elementary School J. Suk in Benešov - Chocerady Campus. Following the screening, the method of using film in class shall be discussed.

45 min., Czech language (translated into English)

9th Sept. 17:05 - 17:50, Zoom

ORAL HISTORY METHODOLOGY

Monika Vrzgulová (SK), Institute of Ethnology and Social Anthropology Slovak Academy of Science

"Oral history" is nowadays not only a well known methodology in the academic setting, but also through its results, i.e. talks with contemporary witnesses, accessed by pedagogues, journalists, artists, and the broader public. This session shall be driven by the following questions: What constitutes this methodology? How has it been developing in the Slovak context? And what are its possible uses in education?

45 min., Slovak language (translated into English)

10th Sept. 14:05 - 14:50, Zoom

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THE ROAD TO HOLOCAUST AND THE DESTINY OF SURVIVORS

Eva Mosnáková (SK), Jewish Religious Community Bratislava

The structured discussion with Eva Mosnáková and Monika Vrzgulová shall be led in the spirit of storytelling. The key theme shall be Eva's own childhood experience with the Holocaust and what preceded the genocide in society. Eva shall also discuss how she supports survivors today and contributes to the Jewish community in Bratislava.

60 min., Slovak language (translated into English)

10th Sept. 14:55 - 15:55, Zoom

WHAT WE FORGET & WHAT WE SHOULD NOT WHEN EDUCATING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST

Michala Lônčíková (SK), Institute of Contemporary History Academy of Science of Czech Republic

This session shall reflect insights from numerous seminars for high-school students who usually learn about Jewish heritage only in the context of the Holocaust. In particular, issues of identity within the Jewish community in light of the changes brought along with the modernization of society, the development of relations between Jews and non-Jews, and the exploration of Jewish history in specific local settings (e.g. cities, streets, and places of remembrance) shall be discussed.

50 min., Slovak language (translated into English)

10th Sept. 16:55 - 17:45, Zoom

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LETTERS TO TISO - POWER OF HISTORICAL SOURCES IN EDUCATIONAL PRAXIS

Madeline Vadkerty (US), Milan Šimečka Foundation, Slovakia & Alžbeta Šniežko (SK), Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice, Slovakia

Madeline Vadkerty found hundreds of personal letters addressed to president Jozef Tiso which portray a previously unknown picture of Slovakia. She researched the destinies of the authors of those letters. In her book, "Your Honor Mr. President", she presents thirteen documentary stories about how the antisemitic politics of the Slovak State during WW2 destroyed the lives of ordinary people, and designated some as second class citizens just because they were Jewish. Alžbeta Šniežko cooperated with Madeline Vadkerty to develop an educational tool that allows educators to use the aforementioned book, as well as the stories and sources it employs, in an academic setting.

*60 min., Slovak and English languages (simultaneously translated)
11th Sept. 15:50 - 16:50, Zoom*

INCLUSIVE HISTORY - WHO OWNS HISTORY?

Tereza Štepková (CZ), International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance & Terezín Initiative Institute

What is the difference between history and the past? Is history a "matter of the past"? What does inclusiveness mean, and does an "exclusive" approach to history exist? Is it possible to appropriate history? How did the understanding of the Holocaust change over time? Together with Tereza Štepková, we shall aim to answer these questions.

*45 min., Czech language (translated into English)
11.9. 16:05 - 16:50, Zoom*

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THE STORY OF THE DYCHOVÝ FAMILY FROM THE VILLAGE HRUŠKY: DOCUMENTING ROMA AND SINTI VICTIMS OF THE NAZI GENOCIDE IN CZECHIA

Michal Schuster (CZ), International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance & Terezín Initiative Institute

Reconstructing the lives of the Dychový family from Southern Moravia bears witness to the status of Roma and Sinti during the interwar period and WWII during which they were persecuted as "gypsies". At the beginning of May 1943, Jozef and Ester Dychoví, along their eight children, were deported to the "gypsy family camp" in Auschwitz-Birkenau where they were subsequently murdered. The only family member who escaped the deportations and survived the Holocaust was the extramarital son of Jozef, Damián Dychový. His survival is due to the actions of two citizens from the village Hruška: the mayor and his predecessor.

60 min., Czech language (translated into English)

11.9. 16:55 - 17:55, Zoom

THE "JEWISH CODEX" AND ITS LEGACY

Pavol Makyna (SR) - historian, National Memory Institute

On September 9, 1941, the Slovak Government adopted the decree no. 198/1941 on the legal standing of Jews which became known as the "Jewish Codex". It was the most comprehensive legal text produced by the Slovak Government during the 1939-1945 period. The decree comprised over 270 paragraphs which classified Jews as a "race", prescribed the wearing of the Star of David, and limited personal, religious, civic as well as property rights. The adoption of the "Jewish Codex" constituted the culmination of Slovakia's race legislation which saw Jews as a designated social problem that was addressed by the "Final Solution", i.e. deportations to death camps built on land occupied by Nazi Germany.

45 min., Slovak language (translated into English)

11.9. 14:05 - 14:50, Zoom

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Workshops

"HOOLIGANS" AT A HIGH SCHOOL

Lukáš Zorád (SK), PDCS

This workshop shall be in the form of a role-play in which participants are put in the shoes of high-school teachers who face the radicalization of their students. They shall be tasked with addressing the emerging issues through depolarizing and cultivating dialogue in the challenging environment of a divided classroom. Following the role-play, a debriefing analysis and discussion shall be held.

120 min., max. capacity = 15 teachers, Slovak language (only)

9th Sept. 14:15 - 16:15, Zoom

THE HOLOCAUST BEGAN SOONER

Andrej Návojský (SK), Milan Šimečka Foundation

This teaching activity focuses on uncovering the fact that the Holocaust began much sooner than the first Holocaust trains. It analyzes the first, often unnoticed steps, such as the segregation of a minority group, propaganda, gradual discrimination, hate speech, which can lead to genocide, if they are left ignored.

60 min, max. capacity = 30 teachers, Slovak language (only)

9th Sept. 16:30 - 17:30, Zoom

EDUCATION, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND PERSONAL HISTORY

Andrea Szőnyi (HU), director, Zachor Foundation & Head of Programs for International Education, USC Shoah Foundation

Introduction to video-testimony based education and two digital platforms using testimonies of the University of South California Shoah Foundation: the IWitness platform and the IWalk app.

90 min, max. capacity = 30 teachers, English language (only)

10th Sept. 14:00 - 15:30, Zoom

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DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING IN ONESLF AND IN THE CLASSROOM

Hana Skljarszka (SK), Academy of Critical Thinking

The development of critical thinking (i.e. the ability to see the world from different perspectives, to systematically wonder and amaze, to evaluate the wealth of information surrounding us, and mainly to think about one's own values and attitudes) became one of the most discussed topics in education, the corporate sphere and the governmental sector. The workshop shall provide participants basic tools that can be employed to develop critical thinking not only in the classroom but also in everyday situations.

45 min, max. capacity = 15 teachers, Slovak language (only)

10th Sept. 15:00 - 15:45, Zoom

STORIES THAT MOVE - EDUCATIONAL TOOL

Peter Drál (SK) & Nina Galanská (SK), Milan Šimečka Foundation

How can personal stories of different people help us explain history? The international educational portal "Stories that move" deconstructs themes of identity, diversity, and discrimination using authentic narratives of young people and personalities of the recent and more distant past. Next to presenting the portal itself, the workshop shall also introduce participants to the many possible uses of it as an educational tool in formal and informal educational settings.

60 min., max. capacity = 30 teachers, Slovak language (only)

10th Sept. 15:40 - 16:40, Zoom



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