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**International Conference**

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Abstract (for dissemination)	In this deliverable we describe the goal, preparation, programme and the actual event of the EHRI Phase 2 Final Conference 'Holocaust Studies in its Social Setting. Challenges and Trends'. The conference took place on 4 October 2019 in Pakhuis de Zwijger, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. At the end of the deliverable we draw some conclusions from the experience.
Management Summary	n/a

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## 1 Introduction

Our goal was to organise a major international conference in the final year of the second phase of the EHRI project, where we could also showcase our results. The conference should bring together historians, archivists and digital humanists to discuss, and reflect upon, the achievements of EHRI, and to explore the impact the EHRI infrastructure may have on the future of Holocaust research and documentation.

A year before the conference was to take place, we started planning for the event. It was already early on decided that this conference would take place in Amsterdam, the location of the coordinator of EHRI.

Important considerations at the beginning of the planning process for a conference are the target audience and the core message that is to be conveyed. An important factor in this case was that the conference would coincide with another EHRI conference, the WP6 Concluding conference with experts in Holocaust documentation and research and cultural and digital industry ([D6.2](#)), entitled 'Holocaust Studies in the Digital Age'. During the whole planning process, we cooperated closely with the organisers of this event.

A logical consequence of the fact that the WP6 conference targeted experts of Holocaust research, was that the WP2 conference should focus more on a bigger and general audience. It was devised to have a lower threshold and reach out to a group of people who may be interested in the Holocaust and Holocaust research, but who are not necessarily professional experts in the field. The (potential) users of EHRI and their experience were another key target group.

## 2 Preparation

With our target group in mind we looked for, and quickly found, a suitable venue, [Pakhuis de Zwijger](#) in Amsterdam, a former warehouse that now functions successfully as a debate centre of the 21st century, putting dialogue before debate and connection before opposition.

Then we turned our attention to creating a programme that would cater for a seriously interested but not too professional audience, putting the users in the spotlight. Looking for an angle that would engage a modern audience regarding the Holocaust, we titled the conference 'Holocaust Studies in its Social Setting'. Holocaust Studies is a dynamic multidisciplinary research field that is dedicated to the Holocaust itself but also includes aspects of the post-Holocaust world such as memory, human rights, antisemitism, Jewish life or international relations. The research field has a manifest public dimension.

A programme was drafted that featured contributions from European policymakers, prominent Holocaust historians, archivists and digital humanists, as well as representatives of the EHRI project and the users themselves. The event was widely advertised. With the help of designers a recognisable 'conference logo' was developed that was used to promote the event and also throughout the event.



1 Conference 'logo'. This logo represents the EHRI network. The circles represent the EHRI partners and the lines between them shows how EHRI connects these international organizations. The photograph in the background displays the Dutch Auschwitz Monument in Amsterdam, designed by artist Jan Wolkers.

### 3 Programme

The entire programme of the conference can be found in appendix 1 or on the EHRI website, <https://ehri-project.eu/open-invitation-international-ehri-conference-holocaust-studies-and-its-social-setting>.

The programme started with two keynotes of well-known Holocaust researchers, giving their view on Holocaust Studies relevance for society today. After that, actual users of the EHRI infrastructure were interviewed about their fellowship experiences. A short video on the subject of [EHRI's Human Network](#) premiered shortly before the panel.



2 Keynote speaker Wendy Lower and (right) panel of fellows

During the breaks, a side programme was offered where participants could talk to EHRI experts and visit a marketplace with information from partners and associates.



After the lunchbreak, two roundtable discussions with experts from various fields, talked about ‘Societal Challenges and the Role of Holocaust Expertise’, and ‘Challenges and Innovations in Holocaust Studies Today’. In between, two musicians from the Leo Smit Foundation performed music from Jewish composers whose music was forbidden during the Second World War.



3 Panel with from left to right Veerle Vanden Daelen, Yolanta Ambrosewicz, Wichert ten Have and Katharina von Schnurbein; music performance (right).

## 4 Conference

At the outset we had targeted an audience of around 150-200 people. We received 214 registrations. We had 54 no-shows on the day and 14 late registrations, meaning that 171 people visited the conference and, therefore, that we reached our self-imposed target of 150 attendees.



4 Market place

The event run very smoothly, without any serious complaints, but plenty of positive feedback. The only critical comment that was made is that we had not left sufficient room for questions or discussion at the end of the roundtables. This was done intentionally, because we had an already very complete programme, but the remark is nevertheless valid.

## 5 Concluding remarks

By placing EHRI’s activities and achievements in its wider social settings, and by highlighting the enormous social, cultural and political relevance of trans-national Holocaust studies, the

concluding WP2 conference marked a fitting end to EHRI's current phase. By co-locating and co-scheduling this conference with the WP6 conference [Holocaust Studies in the Digital Age](#), we could explore EHRI's achievements and their larger context from different angles and in front of diverse audiences. It has thereby provided us with an excellent opportunity to highlight EHRI's relevance, and to explore some of the pertinent trends and challenges, both scholarly as well as social and political, that will influence EHRI's future development.

The quality of the plenary presentations and the liveliness of subsequent informal discussions, demonstrate that the field of Holocaust Studies is in good health, and that EHRI is an important forum to advance its trans-national and inter-disciplinary agenda, now and in the future.

A full report on the conference can be read on the EHRI website, <https://ehri-project.eu/final-conference-second-phase-ehri-project>.



5 Last panel 'Challenges and Innovations in Holocaust Studies Today'



## Appendix 1

The programme of the EHRI Conference Holocaust Studies in its Social Setting. Challenges and Trends, on 3 July 2019.



## Holocaust Studies and its Social Setting Challenges and Trends

International Conference within the Framework of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure

**Date:** Wednesday, 3 July 2019  
**Location:** Pakhuis de Zwijger, Piet Heinkade 179, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
**Duration:** 09:15 – 18:30 hrs.

Holocaust Studies is a dynamic multidisciplinary research field that is dedicated to the Holocaust itself but also includes aspects of the post-Holocaust world such as memory, human rights, Jewish life or international relations. At the same time, the research field has a



manifest public dimension. To examine these diverse and intertwined dimensions, EHRI and its partner institution NIOD, Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, organise two conferences in July 2019.

### **Holocaust Studies today**

This conference *Holocaust Studies and its Social Setting: Challenges and Trends*, on **Wednesday 3 July**, will focus on the importance of EHRI's human network and the public dimension of Holocaust Studies. Renowned Holocaust researchers and policymakers will speak at the conference, discuss EHRI's achievements and reflect on the interaction of Holocaust research with society at large. This conference also marks the conclusion of the second phase of the EHRI project.

The other EHRI conference *Holocaust Studies in the Digital Age. What's new?* takes place a day before on Tuesday, 2 July 2019, in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam.

## **CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

### **9:15 – 10:00 REGISTRATION**

#### **10:00 – 10:10 Introduction**

**Conference chair:** EHRI Project Director **Karel Berkhoff**, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Amsterdam, The Netherlands;

#### **10:10 – 10:45 Keynote I *Do Our Societies Need Holocaust Studies?***

**Dieter Pohl**, Institut für Geschichte der Universität Klagenfurt, Austria

#### **10:45 – 11:20 Keynote II *Holocaust Studies: Trends and Promises***

**Wendy Lower**, Claremont McKenna College, United States

### **11:20 – 11:40 COFFEE BREAK**

#### **11:40 – 11:45 Video presentation about EHRI's Human Network**

#### **11:45 – 12:35 Panel Discussion *Accessing Historical Documents and creating Expert Networks***

- **Denisa Nešt'áková**, Research associate at the Department of General History, Faculty of Arts, Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia
- **Anna Veronica Pobbe**, doctoral researcher at the University of Trento, Italy
- **Florian Zabransky**, doctoral researcher at the University of Sussex, United Kingdom
- **Daniela Ozacky-Stern**, Post-doctoral researcher in the Institute of Holocaust Research, Bar-Ilan University, and Director of Moreshet Archive, Givat Haviva, Israel
- **Laurence Prempain**, associate researcher Laboratoire de Recherches Historiques Rhône-Alpes, France

**Moderator: Anna Ullrich**, Zentrum für Holocaust-Studien am Institut für Zeitgeschichte, Munich, Germany

#### 12:35 – 14:00 LUNCH

#### 14:00 – 14:50 Roundtable discussion *Societal Challenges and the Role of Holocaust Expertise*

- **Katharina von Schnurbein**, European Coordinator on combating Antisemitism
- **Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs**, Lecturer at the UNESCO Chair for Education about the Holocaust at the Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University, Krakow
- **Wichert ten Have**, Advisor to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, former director of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, NIOD, Amsterdam

**Moderator: Veerle Vanden Daelen**, Kazerne Dossin: Memorial, Museum and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights, Mechelen, Belgium

#### 14:50 – 15:25 Music performance by the Leo Smit Foundation

Young musicians Violetta Adamova and Lev Bogino will perform music for two violins by Dick Kattenburg (1919-1944) and Géza Frid (1904-1989). Both composers were Jewish and their music was forbidden during the Second World War.

#### 15:25 – 15:50 COFFEE BREAK

#### 15:50 – 16:50 Roundtable Discussion *Challenges and Innovations in Holocaust Studies Today*

- **Susanne Heim**, Freiburg University, Project Coordinator *Dokumentenedition zur Verfolgung und Ermordung der Europäischen Juden*, Germany

- **David Silberklang**, Senior Historian at the International Institute for Holocaust Research, Editor-in-Chief of *Yad Vashem Studies*, Israel
  - **Gadi Luzzatto Voghera**, Director of the Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea, Milan, Italy
  - **Diana Dumitru**, Associate professor at the Department of World History, Ion Creangă State Pedagogical University, Chisinau, Moldova
- Moderators: Anne-Lise Bobeldijk (NIOD) and Karel Berkhoff**

**16:50 – 17:00 Concluding remarks by Karel Berkhoff**

**17:00 – 18:30 RECEPTION**



[www.ehri-project.eu](http://www.ehri-project.eu)



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[www.facebook.com/EHRIproject](https://www.facebook.com/EHRIproject)

**Conference logo and related (moving) images:**

**Anchopology & Zeezeilen, [www.anchopology.com](http://www.anchopology.com) & [www.zzln.nl](http://www.zzln.nl)**

**Video *EHRI: A Human Network*:**

**Tim Guiking Film Productions, [www.timguiking.tv](http://www.timguiking.tv)**