

2024 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL LECTURE

# From Treblinka and Trawniki

Forensic Archaeological Investigations  
at Sites of Nazi Persecution

Featuring **PROFESSOR CAROLINE STURDY COLLS**

**Tuesday, September 24 | 6 p.m.**

Mabel Brown Room, L.P. Young Student Center  
Keene State College, Keene, NH



Cohen Center for Holocaust  
and Genocide Studies  
KEENE STATE COLLEGE

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# Tonight's Program

## **2024 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL LECTURE**

**Tuesday, September 24 | 6:00 p.m.**

*Hosted in the Mabel Brown Room, L.P. Young Student Center  
and online via livestream*

### **Institutional Welcome**

Dr. Melinda Treadwell '90

*President, Keene State College*

### **Introductory Remarks**

Dr. Kate Gibeault

*Director, Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies*

### **Lecture**

"From Treblinka and Trawniki: Forensic Archaeological  
Investigations at Sites of Nazi Persecution"

*Featuring Professor Caroline Sturdy Colls*

### **Questions & Discussion**

### **Coffee Reception**

*Hosted in the Mabel Brown Room, L.P. Young Student Center*

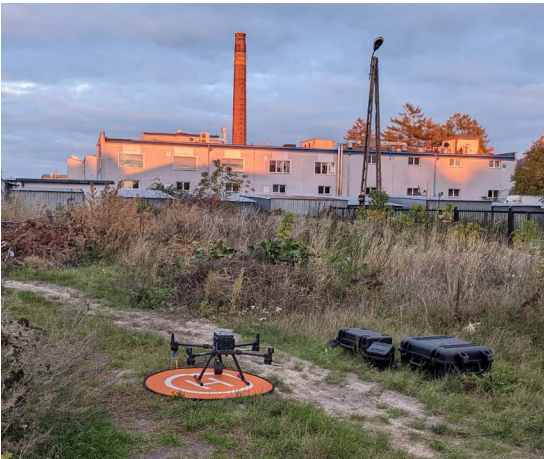
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# About Tonight's Featured Speaker

**Professor Caroline Sturdy Colls** is a Professor of Holocaust Archaeology and Genocide Investigation and the Director of the Centre of Archaeology at the University of Huddersfield (UK). Her expertise lies in the investigation of Holocaust landscapes and other sites of mass and interpersonal violence using forensic archaeological approaches.



Since 2010, Professor Sturdy Colls has conducted the first archaeological investigations at Treblinka extermination and labor camps, and she recently completed her monograph, *Finding Treblinka: Forensic and Archaeological Perspectives* (Cornell University Press, 2025), which will provide new historical, spatial, and material perspectives on the crimes perpetrated there.



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She has also supervised projects at more than 60 other Holocaust sites. Currently, she is the Principal Investigator on the project “Trawniki: Nexus of the Final Solution,” funded by the Claims Conference. She is also supervising a post-doctoral research project regarding mass grave investigation in Ukraine and has a long-running collaborative project with the Lake District Holocaust Project.

She has published extensively on the subjects of Holocaust archaeology, forensic archaeology, and missing persons. Her notable and recent monographs include *Holocaust Archaeologies: Approaches and Future Directions*, the *Handbook on Missing Persons*, and *‘Adolf Island’: The Nazi Occupation of Alderney*.

Professor Sturdy Colls was a Visiting Fellow at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 2016, and she delivered the prestigious Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Annual Lecture in 2020. In 2016, she was awarded the European Archaeological Heritage Prize for her work in modern conflict archaeology.

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*Cover Photo: A former sugar factory that was incorporated into the Trawniki training and labor camp. Today, it forms part of a chemical factory.*

*Photos on Page 2 —*

*Left: A drone survey at the site of the former Trawniki training and labor camp undertaken as part of a project in October 2022.*

*Top Right: A rose-shaped brooch found near the site of the Old Gas Chambers during excavations at Treblinka extermination camp in 2013.*

*Bottom Right: Hair combs found near the site of the Old Gas Chambers during excavations at Treblinka extermination camp in 2013.*

*All photos courtesy of Prof. Caroline Sturdy Colls*

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## With Gratitude

Tonight's lecture is made possible in part due to an endowed gift that was established by **Norma and Lester Cohen**.

The Cohen Center would also like to thank **New Hampshire Humanities (NHH)** for supporting this event



through a Mini Community Project Grant, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This funding allowed the Cohen Center to partner with reading groups across the state at Cheshire Academy for Life-long Learning, Keene Public Library, Keene State College, Kingston Community Library, the Monadnock Co-Op, and Portsmouth Public Library. Copies of Professor Sturdy Colls's co-authored book, *Treblinka: Archaeological and Artistic Responses*, were provided to these groups at no cost, and they were invited to submit questions for tonight's speaker in advance of the lecture.

If you are part of a book group that would like to partner with the Cohen Center for future opportunities, please email us at [cohencenter@keene.edu](mailto:cohencenter@keene.edu).

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Additionally, many individuals have contributed their talents, time, and support to the planning and implementation of this event.

The Cohen Center team—Dr. Kate Gibeault, Michele Kuiawa, Tom White, and Dr. Catherine Winters-Michaud—wish to express special gratitude to the following partners on campus:

Katie Arsenault

Christopher Buckley

Chad Cassin

Bonnie Chamberlin

Russell Cobb

Julio Del Sesto and  
the livestreaming team

Jessica Gagne Cloutier

Amarrah Gates

Juliona Hastings

Misty Kennedy

Paul Miller

Trinity Nay

Celia Rabinowitz

Robyn Stello

Pat Wright

Will Wrobel



*The memorial at Treblinka extermination camp which commemorates the 800,000-  
one million people who were murdered  
there from 1942-1943.*

*Photo courtesy of Prof. Caroline Sturdy Colls*

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## Future Offerings

Please join the Cohen Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies for other offerings in our year-long series on “Forensics and Genocide” or at our other events and programs throughout the year.

**Save the date for the 2025 Genocide Awareness Lecture,** “Friends Who Disappear: Documenting the Guatemalan Genocide and Forced Disappearance,” featuring Professor Victoria Sanford on Wednesday, April 2, 2025!

A full list of public events can be found on our [events calendar](#). We also encourage you to [sign up for our monthly e-newsletter](#) to receive event notifications and resources throughout the academic year.

## Support Our Mission

The Cohen Center’s mission is sustained financially by our supporters and benefactors, without whom we could not maintain or grow our offerings. If you wish to make a tax-deductible charitable gift, please visit [giving.keene.edu/cchgs](https://giving.keene.edu/cchgs) to learn more about the impact your gift can have.



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