

Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies

2022 SUMMER INSTITUTE ON THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE



PRESENTERS



Rabbi Daniel Aronson holds a BA in Judaic Studies from Brown University, Masters Degrees in Jewish Communal Service and Jewish Education from Brandeis University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, respectively, and rabbinic ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College. He was especially fortunate to receive a coveted Wexner Graduate Fellowship to attend RRC and continues to be engaged in the Fellowship's alumni association. In addition, he enjoys sharing with those in his care the varied skills he has developed through training in Clinical Pastoral Education, Bibliodrama and an approach to Hebrew instruction called Hebrew through Movement. Rabbi Dan is passionate about Israel, Jewish education and caring for all God's creatures. He also enjoys cooking, walking in nature, playing games, reading, eating ice cream, and making puns and dad jokes of questionable quality. In addition, while Rabbi Dan has been a fan of sports teams in Philadelphia and Houston, his primary allegiances have always remained with New England's teams, and he is thrilled to be back in their broadcast area.



Dr. Lisa DiGiovanni's interdisciplinary research and teaching centers on representations of war, dictatorial violence and genocide in 20th - 21st century Spain and Latin America (with a focus on Chile). She deals with narrative (novels, short stories, graphic novels) and films (fiction and documentary) that render visible the multiple traumas related to state repression and militaristic culture. She takes an intersectional approach, examining how culturally constructed identity positions (gender, class, race, sexuality) shape both the enactment of genocidal violence, as well as the experience of subjugation and resistance. In her first book, *Unsettling Nostalgia: Longing for Resistance in Spanish and Chilean Fiction and Film* DiGiovanni proposes the concept of unsettling nostalgia to understand how authors and filmmakers represent memories of the pre-dictatorial pasts in Spain and Chile, as well as the anti-fascist resistance to the military regimes of Francisco Franco (1939-1975) and Augusto Pinochet (1973-1990). In her second book, titled *Militarized Masculinity in Spain and Chile: Torture and Resistance Through Film and Narrative*, she argues that until we connect the dots between masculinity, militarism, and violence, we cannot fully comprehend the causes and consequences of mass atrocity crimes. Dr. DiGiovanni is also the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. Her work is published in both English and Spanish. Dr. DiGiovanni is bilingual and holds a split appointment in Keene State College's Departments of Holocaust and Genocide Studies and Modern Languages and Cultures.



Ashley Harbel has worked in education for the last 15 years. She has taught both middle and high school English in CT and NH. She currently works as an assistant principal at Timberlane Regional High School in Plaistow, NH. In addition to teaching Holocaust literature as part of the regular English curriculum, she created and taught a year-long Holocaust Studies elective and works with staff and students to provide education around the Holocaust. Ashley has also run a yearly trip to Germany and Poland for her high school students, which has included visits to the Warsaw Ghetto and Auschwitz-Birkenau. She is a proud member of the Echoes and Reflections family, having served on the advisory council and participated in the 8th and 10th annual Charlotte and Jacques Wolf Conference in NYC. Ashley also spent a week visiting ghettos, deportation sites, concentration and death camps as part of the first annual Educational Journey through Poland with Yad Vashem. Ashley is currently taking part in the The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights (TOLI) New York flagship seminar, in which she has spent the past year and a half working with

educators across the country on Holocaust and human rights education. In New Hampshire, Ashley has worked with various stakeholders to mandate Holocaust and Genocide Education within the state. She currently serves on the NH Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education, representing high school educators for the state of NH and working with the members of the commission to bring the mandate to fruition and provide resources for educators in NH.



Dottie Morris is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Equity at Keene State College. She is a member of the Keene State College President’s Cabinet. Her main foci are providing support and direction to the Executive, Academic Affairs, Enrollment and Student Engagement, Advancement, and Finance and Administration divisions of the college as the institution works to fulfill its commitment to diversity and multiculturalism. For years, Dottie has worked with undergraduate and graduate students in the capacity of counselor, teacher, academic advisor, and advisor of student groups. She has demonstrated a consistent and persistent dedication and devotion to diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism and social justice over the past two decades. Prior to her position as Associate Vice President of Institutional Diversity and Equity at KSC, she served as the Associate Dean for Student Learning at World Learning School for International Training Institute (SIT) in Brattleboro, VT, the Director of Student Affairs for the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at Antioch University New England in Keene and staff counselor at the Colorado State University Counseling Center and the Coordinator of the Employee Assistance Program.



Rodney Obien is an associate professor and Head of Special Collections & Archives. He teaches in the M.A. programs in History and Archives. Obien holds a M.S. in Library Science from the Catholic University of America. He has held archival and museum positions at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, SUNY Buffalo, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Obien currently serves on the boards of the New Hampshire Historical Records Advisory Board, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, and the Collection Care & Conservation Alliance.



Vahidin Omanovic is a professional trainer in nonviolent communication and conflict resolution who co-founded and co-directs the Center for Peacebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For years he believed that revenge would relieve him of his anger and heal the scars he carried from the war. However, from 1997-2002, Vahidin experienced a personal transformation while participating in interethnic dialogue and trauma healing sessions sponsored by an American organization Karuna Center for Peacebuilding. He found that reconciliation was the only way forward for his community and country. Before founding the Center for Peacebuilding in 2004, Vahidin received a Master’s degree at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont in International Relations with a concentration in Conflict Transformation. Additionally, Vahidin served as a teaching assistant in SIT’s Conflict Transformation Across Cultures (CONTACT) program, where he taught classes on forgiveness and conflict transformation. He has attended peace workshops and trainings throughout the world, including in Switzerland, the Philippines, Georgia, Germany, USA, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Nepal. In 2011, the Threshold Foundation from Germany honored Vahidin with the 5th International Bremen Peace Award, naming him the year’s “Unknown Peace Worker.” In 2015 Vahidin was awarded the Cohen Center’s Susan J. Herman Award for Leadership in Holocaust & Genocide Awareness (Keene, NH, USA). In 2014, Center for Peacebuilding won a Tomorrow’s Peacebuilder peace award

given by Peace Direct, UK. In 2021 Center's project „Garden of Opportunities“ won Austrian Intercultural Achievement Award in the Sustainability category. He is also a regular instructor at the AIPG Lemkin Seminars.



Kathy Preston was born in 1939 in a small town in Transylvania. Her father was Jewish and her mother was Catholic. Her father's parents were from a small Jewish village in Russia and had been murdered by Cossacks in a pogrom. Her mother, a Catholic, was a successful dressmaker and seamstress. At five years old, Kathy escaped the Nazi roundup of Jews in Hungary when a neighbor hid her under the hay in the attic of her barn. Her father was forced into a ghetto and was arrested by the Hungarian police when he snuck out to try to see his daughter. He would perish in Auschwitz along with 27 other members of his family. Kathy and her mother survived.



Celia Rabinowitz is Dean of Mason Library and Interim Director of the Cohen Center. She has a MLS from Rutgers University and a PhD in Theology from Fordham University. She has been at Keene State since 2014. Rabinowitz has published widely about information literacy and the connections between research and writing, served on several national editorial boards, and contributes to a wide range of service activities on the Keene State campus.



Irina Rubinshteyn grew up in a Jewish family in Kiev, Ukraine. Her family instilled in her great love for music and learning, as well as deep value of human life and respect for people's unique experiences. Irina's first year of pedagogical college coincided with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Soviet Union. As the situation continued to worsen for the Jews, her family decided to leave Ukraine, and a few years later they found refuge in the United States. After learning English and getting her political science degree from St. Anselm College, Irina continued to follow her passion of teaching. In addition to music and languages, Irina shares her story and the story of her family as it fits into the world history. She is a graduate of the 2008 Cohen Center Summer Institute. Ms. Rubinshteyn lives in NH with her husband, their daughter, and many pets.



Dr. Martin Rumscheidt is an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada, a distinguished and well-known theologian in both North America and Europe, and professor emeritus of systematic theology at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he taught from 1970 until his retirement earlier this year. Dr. Rumscheidt was born in Germany on July, 24, 1935 at Leuna, Germany (near Leipzig), third child of Dr. Carl and Marie Rumscheidt (née Oeckinghaus). His passion for Holocaust studies is directly related to his own compelling family story. Living a privileged life in Nazi Germany, he would discover after the war that his beloved parents were important Nazi industrialists and perpetrators. His father had visited Auschwitz to recruit slave labor and Martin's playmates were the children of the commandant of Auschwitz-Buna. Martin has ever since wrestled with his parents' responsibility and facing his own individual shame. Dr. Rumscheidt, who completed both his undergraduate and graduate education at McGill University in the 1950s and 60s, has enjoyed a distinguished career in teaching and scholarly research. He has authored, edited, and translated numerous books and articles, and

he is especially well known for his excellent translation of the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer—Adolf Hitler’s most renowned Christian martyr. He has received numerous Fellowships and Awards as a theologian and professor.



Dr. Dana Smith is an assistant professor in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College, where she teaches on topics related to the Holocaust and Jewish history – including courses on “Nazi Germany and the Holocaust,” “Women and the Holocaust,” “Art and the Holocaust,” “Antisemitism,” and “Holocaust Memory and Popular Culture.” Her first book, *Jewish Art in Nazi Germany*, is forthcoming with Routledge Press in 2022. Academically, her interests are focused on German history, German Jewish history, cultural studies of the Third Reich, and contemporary Holocaust memory. She received her PhD from Queen Mary, University of London.

Patrick Smith has devoted his professional life to helping refugees and preventing genocide. In 1981 he and the UNHCR Staff working in Bosnia were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (1981) and in 2018 was awarded the Susan J Herman Award for Leadership In Holocaust and Genocide Awareness by the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. In his words, he accepted the award “on behalf of those who ever really deserve it: those I am ever here to serve: the victims of genocide”. Patrick has served as Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Field Officer-Sana’a, Yemen; CRS Field Officer-Beirut, Lebanon; Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Officer in Salt Lake City, Utah; CRS Field Officer-Rabat, Morocco; U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Field Officer-Sudan; UNHCR North Africa/Middle East Desk Officer-Geneva, Switzerland (Extended Missions to the Field, e.g., Mauritania, Algeria, Yemen); Head of UNHCR Office-Ban Vinai, Thailand; UNHCR Field Officer-Afghanistan, Pakistan,/Tajikistan/and Uzbekistan; Head of UNHCR Emergency Office-Baku, Azerbaijan; Head of UNHCR Office-Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Head of Office, International Rescue Committee (IRC)-Hargeisa, Somalia; Now retired in Sunapee, New Hampshire he will speak about his powerful return trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina hosted by the Center for Peacebuilding in Bosnia-Hercegovina in 2019.

Mary Smith was educated at the University of Ceylon, Sri Lanka and Portsmouth, UK. Mary has served as Case Manager/Administrator with Euro Action Accord (British Voluntary Agency for Refugee aid) and Case Manager with Joint Voluntary Agencies for Refugee Resettlement in the USA, Khartoum, Sudan; the Head of Finance and Administration – International Textiles and Clothing Bureau – Geneva Switzerland; and as a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services LLC.



Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey is the Endowed Chair in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College. Before this, she was the Dr. Marsha Raticoff Grossman Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University in New Jersey, where she also directed the master’s program in Holocaust and Genocide Studies and founded the world’s first academic, graduate-level Genocide Prevention Certificate Program. She is former President of Genocide Watch, former First Vice President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, and founder of the Iraq Project for Genocide Prevention (IPG). She received her MA and PhD in History from the University of Pennsylvania and her BA from Columbia University. She has received fellowships from the Social Science Research Council, the Ford Foundation, and the MacArthur

Foundation. She has taught undergraduate and graduate courses on the Holocaust, comparative genocide, gender, sexual violence, war, human rights, imperialism, and genocide prevention at several universities and has lectured and published widely on these topics. Her most recent book is the edited volume, *The Cultural History of Genocide, Vol. 5: The Era of Total War*, forthcoming in 2021 from Bloomsbury Press.



Thomas M. White is the Coordinator of Educational Outreach for the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College. He taught for 16 years at Keene High School before receiving a fellowship to create his current position. He has served as a researcher for Stephen Hooper's documentary film: *An American Nurse At War* and as historical consultant for David DeArville's documentary film, *Telling Their Stories: NH Holocaust Survivors Speak Out*, produced in 2004. He served on the Diocese of Manchester's Diocesan Ecumenical Commission for Interfaith Relations; chairs the Cohen Center's annual Kristallnacht Remembrance; serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Holocaust Organizations (AHO); has participated as observer and facilitator in the Global Raphael Lemkin Seminar for Genocide Prevention at the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR); received NEA New Hampshire's Champion of Human and Civil Rights Award in 2009; and in 2015 was named a Peace Ambassador by the Center for Peacebuilding from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his position he is responsible for public advocacy; organizing Holocaust and genocide awareness and prevention educational programs; developing educational materials; assisting teachers and school districts with curriculum development; training teachers in institutes, staff development programs, and through an annual workshop series; working with survivors and witnesses; maintaining a speakers' bureau; visiting schools; speaking to civic and community groups; maintaining the Center's website and social media sites; coordinating the CCHGS listserv for teachers; and coordinating events commemorating April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention month in New Hampshire. He currently serves on the NH Governor's Commission on Holocaust and Genocide Education where he chairs the implementation committee.

Interns:



Isabella (Bella) Paris attends Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Bella developed her love of social studies and global relations while taking numerous Social Studies courses in high school. She knew early on that she wanted to be involved with helping people on a global level. She is triple majoring in International Relations/Global Studies, Urban Development, and Hispanic Studies/Spanish Language. She will be studying abroad her Junior year in Barcelona, Spain, and Rome, Italy. She is thrilled to be able to be part of the Cohen Center summer institute and is looking forward to meeting and working with all the participants.



Connor White is a senior at Ithaca College (NY) majoring in Cinema and Photography. He will be interning in Los Angeles in the fall. Connor was exposed to Holocaust and genocide studies from an early age and is deeply interested in history and issues of social justice and human rights. He is excited to be part of this year's summer institute and is looking forward to working with all the participants.