

Experiences of Violence and Notions of Temporality in Jewish History

International Conference
Hamburg 27–29 March 2023

Convenors: Ilay Halpern (University of Hamburg), Monica Rütters (University of Hamburg) and
Kim Wünschmann (Institute for the History of the German Jews)

Research Unit “GewaltZeiten/Times of Violence: Temporality in Violent Undertakings”
funded by the Research Program of the City of Hamburg (LFF)

Monday, 27 March 2023

13:30 Registration and Welcome

14:00 Introduction

14:15 Keynote Address

Elissa Bemporad (New York)

A Time to Live and A Time to Die, A Time to Remember and a Time to Forget:
Temporality and Violence in the Modern Jewish Experience

15:30–17:00 Panel 1: Violence, Time and Agency I

Chair: Kim Wünschmann (Hamburg)

Laura Jockusch (Brandeis), A Question of Time: Revenge during and after the
Holocaust (Zoom)

Elisabeth Gallas (Leipzig) In Anticipation of Violence: Legal Legacies of the
Schwarzbard Trial 1927

17:00–17:30 Tea & Coffee

17:30–19:00 Panel 2: Violence, Time and Agency II

Chair: Ilay Halpern (Hamburg)

Tal Hever-Chybowski (Paris), Temporalities of Violence in Leib Kvitko’s poem
“Forgiveness?...”

Jan Rybak (London), Jewish Security in a New Era: Nation, State, Self-Defence, and
Galicia’s Jewish Militias after the First World War (Zoom)

Tuesday, 28 March 2023

9:30–11:00 Panel 3: Experiences of violence in Jewish memory and Israeli historiography
Chair: Amos Goldberg (Jerusalem/Hamburg)

Noga Wolff (Rishon LeZion/Jerusalem), The recruitment of the “long-term” perspective on the Holocaust and anti-Semitism as a cause for the growing political violence in the Israeli society

Ilay Halpern (Hamburg), “From war to war, from pogrom to pogrom...” The integration of violence in the general shtetl narrative as reflected in Yizkor books

11:00–11:30 Tea & Coffee

11:30–13:00 Panel 4: Eschatological vs. historicist interpretations of violence I
Chair: Karen Körber (Hamburg)

Bogdan Ovcharuk (Toronto), Messianic Temporality, Baroque Machiavellianism, and Constituent Revelation in Walter Benjamin

Gershon Greenberg (Washington DC), The Nullification of Time in Ultra-Orthodox Responses to the Holocaust

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:30 Panel 5: Eschatological vs. historicist interpretations of violence II
Chair: Elke Morlok (Frankfurt am Main)

Alan Rosen (Jerusalem), 17 Elul 5699: Why the Beginning of World War II in Jewish Time Matters (Zoom)

Ofer Dynes (New York), From Blood Libel to Biography: Trauma and Temporality in Pinhas Katzenellenbogen’s Yesh Manhilin (1758–1764)

15:30–16:00 Tea & Coffee

16:00–18:00 Panel 6: Experience and anticipation of violence – Violence and Temporality
Chair: Björn Siegel (Hamburg)

Anna Ullrich (Munich) and David Jünger (Rostock), In Hindsight – German Jews, the Holocaust and the (Re-)Construction of the German-Jewish Past

Anne-Christin Klotz (Jerusalem), Remembering means Fighting: How Eastern European Jews anticipated, understood and confronted Nazi-Germany and antisemitic Violence through Tradition and Novelty

Wednesday, 29 March 2023

9:30–12:00 Panel 7: Violence and Material Culture: Experiences and perpetration of looting and dispossession

Chair: Birthe Kundrus (Hamburg)

Magdalena Waligorska (Berlin), Looting in the Shtetl: Genocidal Dispossession during the Holocaust in the Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian Borderlands as Seen from the Jewish Perspective

Carolin Lange (Hamburg), After They Left: The Dispossession of Jewish Assets in Nazi Germany and the Factor of Time

Monica Rùthers (Hamburg) and Natalia Kuzuzova (Kherson), Life and Death, Violence and Temporality – A Preliminary Reading of Photographs from the Tcherikower Collection Showing Pogrom Victims and Pogromists

12:00–12:30 Tea & Coffee

12:30–14:00 Concluding Roundtable:

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Elissa Bemporad (New York), Alfred Bodenheimer (Basel), Amos Goldberg (Jerusalem/Hamburg), Kim Wünschmann (Hamburg)

The conference is funded by:

