

**International Research Symposium
at the University of Copenhagen
(with Ph.D. Course in Political Psychology)**

UNDERSTANDING GENOCIDE

August 25 - 28, 2008

Background: The burgeoning field of genocide studies is slowly finding its footing in a cross-disciplinary academic space. What is the role for psychology in relation to this larger effort to understand and confront continuing occurrences of mass murder? How can psychological theory contribute to the study of genocide? What are the limitations of psychological approaches? What can psychology do to help individuals and societies come to terms with a genocidal past? These are the main questions that this symposium seeks to explore. In order to become an intellectual force within this cross-disciplinary field, psychology must broaden its conceptual focus and incorporate aspects of history, political science, sociology, ethnology, anthropology, and philosophy into its theoretical framework. The present symposium represents an attempt toward this end. The general theme will be explored in combination with a focus on concrete issues, including the cognitive, emotional and socio-psychological dynamics of genocide, questions concerning memory and emotion, and issues arising from therapy and rehabilitation.

Location: *Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen, Building 1, Room 1.1.18, Øster Farimagsgade 5, Copenhagen. See below for further practical information and requirements.*

The Research Symposium and Ph.D. Course is hosted and funded by:

The Danish Research School of Psychology;

University of Copenhagen, Department of Psychology;

Roskilde University, Department of Psychology and Educational Studies;

Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims;

The Danish Institute for International Studies, Department of Holocaust and Genocide Studies; and

The Danish Psychological Association

Organizers: Ph.D. Fellow Johannes Lang, Dr. Thomas Brudholm, and Professor Lars Dencik

Monday, August 25:

Theme: **THE SOCIAL DYNAMICS OF MASS MURDER**

10.00-11.00: Registration, morning coffee and tea

11.00-11.15: Dr. *Thomas Brudholm* and Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*:
Opening the Symposium

11.15-11.30: Prof. *Rolf Kuschel*, University of Copenhagen: Introducing the
theme of the day

11.30-12.45: Prof. *Ervin Staub*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA:
The Origins of Genocide and Other Mass Violence

12.45-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-15.15: Prof. *Harald Welzer*, Center for Interdisciplinary Memory
Research, Essen, Germany: **The Morality of Perpetrators**

15.15 -15.30: Coffee and fruit break

15.30-16.45: Prof. *Jacques Semelin*, J. S. Sciences Po./CERI, Paris, France:
Vertigo: Crossing the Threshold into Massacre

16.45-17.00: Coffee and fruit break

17.00-17.30: Discussion on **The Social Dynamics of Mass Murder**, co-
chaired by Prof. *Rolf Kuschel* and Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*. On the panel:
Prof. *Ervin Staub*, Prof. *Harald Welzer*, and Prof. *Jacques Semelin*

17.30-19.00: Reception at the Department of Psychology, University of
Copenhagen (outside lecture hall)

Tuesday, August 26:

Theme: DEALING WITH EMOTIONS AND MEMORY: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

09.00 -09.15 Morning coffee and tea

09.15-09.30 Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*, University of Copenhagen: Introducing the theme of the day

09.30-10.45: Prof. *Lawrence L. Langer*, Simmons College, Boston, USA: **Wounded Memory and Identity: Understanding Holocaust Testimonies**

10.45-11.00: Coffee and fruit break

11.00-12.15: Prof. *Jacques Semelin*, J. S. Sciences Po./CERI, Paris, France: **Massacre and Its Aftermath: The War of Memories**

12.15-13.30: Lunch break

13.30-14.30 Dr. *Thomas Brudholm*, Danish Institute for International Studies, Dept. of Holocaust and Genocide Studies: **On Ressentiment and Other Emotional Responses to Atrocity**

14.30-14.45: Coffee and fruit break

14.45-16.00: Prof. *Ervin Staub*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA: **Reconciliation, Psychological Recovery, and Prevention: General Principles and an Approach Used in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region**

16.00 -16.15: Coffee and fruit break

16.15-17.00: Discussion on **Dealing with Emotions and Memory**, chaired by Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*. On the panel: Prof. *Lawrence L. Langer*, Prof. *Jacques Semelin*, Prof. *Ervin Staub*, and Dr. *Thomas Brudholm*

Wednesday, August 27:

Theme: **POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITS OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES**

09.00-09.10 Morning coffee and tea

09.10-09.30: Dr. *Andrew M. Jefferson*, RCT, Copenhagen: Introducing the theme of the day

09.30-10.15: Dr. *Suzanne Kaplan*, Psychoanalyst, Stockholm, Sweden: **Children in Genocide: Extreme Traumatization, Affect Regulation, and Transmission of Trauma**

10.15-10.30: Coffee and fruit break

10.30-11.15 Dr. *Hédi Fried*, Psychotherapist, Stockholm, Sweden: **Therapy with Holocaust Survivors: The Perspective of a Psychologist and Survivor**

11.15-11.30: Coffee and fruit break

11.30-12.45: Prof. *Lawrence L. Langer*, Simmons College, Boston, USA: **Psychological Responses to the Holocaust**

12.45-14.00: Lunch break

14.00-15.15: Stud. *Dative Ukubereyimfura*, survivor, National University of Rwanda, Huye, Rwanda: **How We Moved on: Survivor Families and Social Life after Genocide**

15.15-15.30: Coffee and fruit break

15.30-16.15: Discussion on **The Possibilities and Limits of the Psychological Perspectives**, chaired by Dr. *Andrew M. Jefferson*. On the panel: Dr. *Suzanne Kaplan*, Dr. *Hédi Fried*, and Prof. *Lawrence L. Langer*

16.15-16.30: Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*, University of Copenhagen: Concluding the Symposium

Thursday, August 28:

09.00 -17.00 **Closed Session**

Ph.D. students attending the course present relevant research projects or papers, and discuss issues raised during the conference

Discussants:

Dr. *Thomas Brudholm*, Dr. *Andrew M. Jefferson*, and Ph.D. Fellow *Johannes Lang*

The symposium is free of charge and open to students and researchers. Space is limited and registration required. Please send an email with your name, position, and affiliation to Anette.Andersen@psy.ku.dk by July 1 and await confirmation.

If you are a Ph.D. student, please follow instructions and fill out the form at: www.drsp.dk (the event is listed under 'Social and Cultural Psychology').

Recommended preparatory reading will be listed at the symposium's webpage (as above: www.drsp.dk).

List of speakers:

Thomas Brudholm

Dr. Brudholm is a philosopher and researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies. His work focuses on ethical issues arising in the aftermath of mass atrocities. He is the author and editor of several books and articles on responses to political mass violence, including *Resentment's Virtue: Jean Améry and the Refusal to Forgive* (Temple University Press, 2008) and *The Religious in Responses to Mass Atrocity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming).

Hédi Fried

Hédi Fried is an Auschwitz survivor and psychologist. In 1984, she opened the psycho-social daycare center "Café 84" for Holocaust survivors. She gives talks at schools and Universities, and introduced a syllabus at Stockholm University entitled, "What can we learn from Auschwitz?" Besides this, Fried also works with genocide prevention. She has written several books in Swedish, of which *The Road to Auschwitz* has been translated into five languages. Several awards have been bestowed upon her, among them "European of the Year" and an honorary doctorate from the University of Stockholm.

Andrew M. Jefferson

Andrew M. Jefferson has a PhD in psychology and conducts ethnographic research on prisons and justice sector reform interventions in West Africa. The research falls under a broader theme about how to prevent torture and organized violence. Jefferson has an ambivalent attitude toward psychology and is looking forward to the development of an expansive transdisciplinary social science.

Suzanne Kaplan

Dr. Suzanne Kaplan is a psychologist and training psychoanalyst in the Swedish Psychoanalytical Society. She has a PhD in education and is an affiliated researcher at the Programme for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Uppsala University. She is a researcher in the field of extreme traumatization, the author *Children in Genocide - Extreme Traumatization and Affect regulation*, and co-author of the book *Hämnd - och att avstå från att ge igen* ("Revenge and Rectification").

Rolf Kuschel

Rolf Kuschel is professor of social psychology at the University of Copenhagen. He wrote his doctoral thesis on the psychology of revenge, teaches a class on the psychology of evil, and is currently working on a book about psychologists' participation in unethical experiments and their part in developing torture-like interrogation techniques. His most recent publication was a study on prejudice.

Johannes Lang

Johannes Lang is a Ph.D. Fellow at the University of Copenhagen. He wrote his MSc thesis on the perpetrators of genocide and is currently completing his doctoral dissertation, exploring the psychological intricacies of Holocaust survival and psychology's theoretical possibilities and limitations in the encounter with extreme suffering.

Lawrence L. Langer

Lawrence L. Langer is Professor Emeritus at Simmons College and a scholar of the Holocaust. His *Holocaust Testimonies: The Ruins of Memory* was named one of the "Ten Best Books of 1991" by the *New York Times Book Review* and won a National Book Critics Circle Award the same year. Before that, *The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination* was shortlisted for a National Book Award in 1976. His analyses of survivor testimonies and the literature of the Holocaust have had an impact on how researchers approach and understand the effects of the Holocaust on the human mind.

Jacques Semelin

Professor Jacques Semelin is currently teaching an interdisciplinary course on genocides and the processes of “prevention” and “reconciliation” at the J. S. Sciences Po. Paris (Centre for International Research and Studies), France. He has been a consultant for the Centre d'Analyse et de Prévision (CAP) of the French Foreign Ministry and for the Secrétariat Général à la Défense Nationale. He is currently a member of the European Network of Genocides Scholars (ENOGS) as well as the International Genocide Scholars Association (IAGS), and on the boards of the *Journal of Genocide Research*, the *Journal of European History*, and the contemporary history journal *Vingtième Siècle*. He recently published *Purify and Destroy: The Political Uses of Massacre and Genocide* (Columbia University Press, 2007).

Ervin Staub

Ervin Staub is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and Founding Director of the Ph.D. concentration in the Psychology of peace and the prevention of violence. He taught at Harvard and was visiting professor at Stanford, the University of Hawaii, and LSE. He has studied the origins and prevention of mass violence, reconciliation in post-conflict settings, the development of positive group relations, and the role of passive and active bystanders. His books include *The Roots of Evil: The Origins of Genocide and Other Group Violence* (1989); and *The Psychology of Good and Evil* (2003). He has worked in varied field settings, including projects in Rwanda to promote healing, reconciliation, and the prevention of new violence. Professor Staub is the recipient of numerous awards within the fields of psychology and human rights.

Dative Ukubereyimfura

Dative Ukubereyimfura is a student at the National University of Rwanda. She is a survivor of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and has been active as both secretary and counsellor for the Survivor Students Association. Dative is also working as a volunteer, mentoring young girls in a forum for the education of African women. Currently, Dative is working as a counsellor on a mental health empowerment project concerning, among other things, the psycho-education of secondary school students on PTSD and trauma-related topics.

Harald Welzer

Professor Harald Welzer is head of the research group “Interdisciplinary Memory Research” at Essen. He teaches social and political psychology at the universities of Hanover and Witten-Herdecke. His publications include *'Opa war kein Nazi': Nationalsozialismus und Holocaust im Familiengedächtnis* (2002) and *Täter: Wie aus ganz normalen Menschen Massenmörder werden* (2005).