

Genocide 60 Years after the Convention

Brighton, England, 4th and 5th December 2008

On 9th December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It had taken less than five years since Raphael Lemkin first published his idea of 'genocide' for it to become defined as a supreme international crime, in one of the most potent legal and political documents of the post-war international order. Yet sixty years later, genocide has recurred on the international agenda from Cambodia to Bosnia and Rwanda to Darfur, and international political and legal action to 'prevent and punish' it remains very limited.

However, two types of development could be considered more hopeful: *legal developments*, in the first international prosecutions for genocide by the Yugoslav and Rwandan tribunals and the incorporation of genocide law into the statutes of the new International Criminal Court and *wider academic developments*, which have seen scholars in history, sociology, anthropology and international relations, as well as law, develop increasingly wide-ranging scholarship in the new interdisciplinary field of 'genocide studies', which has given us many new insights into historical and contemporary genocidal violence.

On the 60th anniversary of the Convention, this symposium will, therefore, address issues surrounding three main questions of the current genocide studies agenda:

- How have genocide and the patterns of its occurrence developed over the last 60 years?
- How adequate has the Convention proved, and how has international law responded to new challenges of genocidal practice?
- How adequate has the historiography and social science of genocide been in responding to the challenges of understanding genocide?

The symposium will be held at the Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton. Registration: £20 (students £10): cheques, made out to 'University of Sussex', should be sent to:

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Further information at: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/justice/1-4-1.html>.

Enquiries: genocide@sussex.ac.uk

GENOCIDE 60 YEARS AFTER THE CONVENTION

University of Sussex
Justice and Violence Research Centre Symposium
Brighton, England, 4th and 5th December 2008

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER

10:30AM – 11AM REGISTRATION, COFFEE AND TEA

11am **Welcome:** Robert J. Allison (Pro-Vice-Chancellor [Research] University of Sussex).
11:10am **Introduction:** Martin Shaw (International Relations, University of Sussex).

11:20AM	FIRST SESSION
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Chair: Martin Shaw (International Relations, University of Sussex).

25 minutes **Title:** *The "Final Solution" in European Context.*
Presenter: Donald Bloxham (History, University of Edinburgh).

25 minutes **Title:** *"Russia is our India": The Holocaust in Postcolonial Perspective.*
Presenter: Juergen Zimmerer (Centre for the Study of Genocide & Mass Violence, University of Sheffield).

40 minutes Questions/Discussion

12:50pm Lunch

2:15PM-3:45PM	SECOND SESSION
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Chair: Marie-Benedicte Dembour (Law, University of Sussex).

25 minutes **Title:** *Integrating Genocide into a Narrative of Progress: The Peculiar False Premise of the Lemkin Legacy*
Presenter: Mark Levene (History, University of Southampton).

25 minutes **Title:** *1948: Between Two Ages of Genocide*
Presenter: Martin Shaw (International Relations, University of Sussex).

40 minutes Questions/Discussion

3:45pm Coffee and tea

4PM - 5:30PM	THIRD SESSION
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Chair: Jane Cowan (Anthropology, University of Sussex)

25 minutes **Title:** *The Genocide Convention at 60: Pensionable or Venerable: An International Criminal Lawyer's View*
Presenter: Rob Cryer (Law, University of Birmingham).

25 minutes **Title:** *Legal Responsibility for Genocide: The Convention and Beyond*
Presenter: Craig Barker (Law, University of Sussex).

40 minutes Questions/Discussion

FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

9:30AM-11AM **FOURTH SESSION**

Chair: Richard Vogler (Law, University of Sussex)

25 minutes

Title: *The East Pakistan Secession, the United Nations and the International Community, 1971-1973*

Presenter: A. Dirk Moses (History, University of Sydney).

25 minutes

Title: *A Futile/Flawed Convention?: Lessons from the Genocide of the Unión Patriótica in Colombia.*

Presenter: Andrei Gomez-Suarez (International Relations, University of Sussex).

40 minutes

Questions/Discussion

11am

Tea and coffee

11:15AM – 12:45PM **FIFTH SESSION**

Chair: Zdenek Kavan (International Relations, University of Sussex)

25 minutes

Title: *Margins of Misappreciation: How Rwanda Rewrote the Genocide Convention*

Presenter: Lars Waldorf (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London).

25 minutes

Title: *The History and Sociology of Genocide: Some New Interpretations*

Presenter: Jack Nusan Porter (Emeritus, Boston University).

40 minutes

Questions/Discussion

12:45pm

Lunch

2PM – 3:30PM **SIXTH SESSION**

Chair: Martin Coward (International Relations, University of Sussex)

25 minutes

Title: *The Last Stage of Genocide: Acknowledgment vs. Denial (A Socio-psychological Perspective).*

Presenter: Sabina Cehajic-Clancy (Political Science & International Relations, Sarajevo School of Science & Technology).

25 minutes

Title: *“We are not a truth commission”: Genocide Trials and Oral History at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.*

Presenter: Nigel Eltringham (Anthropology, University of Sussex).

40 minutes

Questions/Discussion

3:30PM – 4PM **CLOSING COMMENTS**

Nigel Eltringham (Anthropology, University of Sussex).

Venue

Brighton Friends' Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

