HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

THE POWER OF WORDS

Wednesday 7 February 2018

Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts,
University of Sussex, Gardner Centre Road, Brighton BN1 9RA
Programme

1:30 pm  Welcome

Adam Tickell, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex
Frida Gustafsson, President, University of Sussex
Students’ Union
Michael Newman, Chief Executive, The Association of
Jewish Refugees
Gideon Reuveni, Director, Centre for German-Jewish
Studies

1:45 pm  Philippe Sands, Professor of Law at University College
London and barrister

*East West Street: A Personal History of Genocide and
Crimes Against Humanity*

Philippe Sands explores how personal lives and history
are interwoven. He connects his work on ‘crimes against
humanity’ and ‘genocide’, the events that overwhelmed his
family during the Second World War, and an untold story at
the heart of the Nuremberg Trial that pits lawyers Rafael
Lemkin and Hersch Lauterpacht against Hans Frank,
defendant number 7 and Adolf Hitler’s former lawyer.

The talk will be followed by a Q&A session, chaired by
Andrew Sanders, Professor of Criminal Law and
Criminology, Head of School of Law, Politics and Sociology,
University of Sussex

2:45 pm  Short break
3:00 pm  **Susan Pollack**, survivor of Auschwitz, Gubben slave labour camp and Bergen Belsen will speak about her experiences during the Holocaust.

Chair: **Professor David Tal**, Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies, University of Sussex

4.00 pm  **Tea in ACCA foyer**

4:30 pm  **Film: Not Idly By: Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust’**

A documentary by Pierre Sauvage (Winner, documentary award, Toronto Jewish Film Festival)

This documentary tells the story of Hillel Kook, also known as Peter Bergson, a nephew of the first chief rabbi of Palestine and a founder of the Irgun, who travelled with the Revisionist Zionist leader Vladimir Jabotinsky to the United States in 1940 to raise money and warn American Jews of the fate that awaited their families in Europe.

After the showing of the film, Astra Kook Temko and Becky Kook, daughters of Hillel Kook will discuss the film.

Chair: **Gideon Reuveni**
Philippe Sands QC is Professor of Law at University College London and a barrister and arbitrator at Matrix Chambers. He is the author of *Lawless World* (2005) and *Torture Team* (2008), of academic books on international law, and contributes to the *The New York Review of Books, Vanity Fair, the Financial Times* and *The Guardian*. Philippe Sands is a vice president of the Hay Festival and a member of the board of English PEN @philippesands

His latest book is *East West Street: On the Origins of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide* (Alfred Knopf/Weidenfeld & Nicolson), winner of the 2016 Baillie Gifford (Samuel Johnson) Prize and 2017 British Book Awards Non-Fiction Book of the Year. This book is part family history, part legal thriller, through which Sands connects his work on crimes against humanity and genocide with the events that overwhelmed his family during the Second World War. The book features an untold story at the heart of the Nuremberg Trial that pits lawyers Rafael Lemkin and Hersch Lauterpacht against Hans Frank, defendant number 7 and Adolf Hitler’s former lawyer. Philippe Sands lives in North London with his wife and three children.
Susan Pollack, who was born Zsuzsanna Biall on 9 September 1930 in Felsögód, Hungary, was arrested in 1944 and held in the Vacghetto and Monor internment camp. Then with her mother and brother she was moved to Auschwitz in the last transport of Hungarian Jews. Her mother was gassed on arrival; her brother survived, in the squad moving bodies to the ovens.

Susan was transferred to the Gubben slave labour camp and finally force-marched to Bergen-Belsen.

With other young people, she was sent to Sweden and then to Canada, where she married fellow Hungarian Abraham Pollack, a survivor of Mauthausen.

She published her story in the book Witness and continues to bear Holocaust testimony.

Because I was there, I speak for those who can't. The great evil that pervaded so many minds in a civilized country destroyed more than fifty members of my family. It is a lesson for all time: will later generations stand up for the rights of others, or remain the silent majority?

My hope is for a unified protest against all evil, which diminishes not only the victim, but humanity as a whole.

I have to speak for the ones that didn’t make it - for my mother, my father, for my extended family who were murdered. If I had remained silent it would be a betrayal of the ones I have lost.
Rebecca Kook

Rebecca Kook is a senior lecturer in the department of politics and government at Ben Gurion University in Israel. Her focus is on Israeli politics and society, the politics of collective memory and issues related to multiculturalism and minority right.

Astra Kook Temko

Astra Kook Temko is a child psychotherapist and psycho-analyst practising in London.

Not Idly By

Not Idly By: Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust is a documentary by Pierre Sauvage which was released in September 2014, providing first-hand testimony of the charismatic and eloquent Kook/Bergson, who comments on the response to the crisis by non-European Jews and describes his determined efforts to fight the Holocaust: the innovative and provocative full-page political ads in major newspapers, the fiery 1943 Ben Hecht/Kurt Weill pageant We Will Never Die (Madison Square Garden, Hollywood Bowl) – heard extensively for the first time since 1943! – the rabbis’ march in Washington before Yom Kippur 1943, the creation of various activist committees and the energetic and productive lobbying of American government officials that ultimately helped lead to the establishment of a U.S. rescue agency.

Advert for the 1943 “We Will Never Die”
The Centre for German-Jewish Studies

Since its establishment in 1994, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies has developed into a major institution for the study of the history, culture and thought of Jews in Central Europe and for the training of a new generation of teachers and researchers in this field.

The primary aim of the Centre’s activities is the re-evaluation of how the history of Jews in German-speaking lands is studied. The Centre attracts international scholars who actively contribute to scholarship in German-Jewish studies through teaching and research, focusing on political, social, literary and intellectual German-Jewish history.

The Centre’s archival collection, located in The Keep, is being developed and there is particular interest in documenting the histories of German-Jewish families since the Enlightenment, including diaries, letters, oral testimony, survival narratives and other sources recording the history of refugees.

www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs

Association of Jewish Refugees

Free entry to this event is made possible by the generous support of the Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR). The AJR represents and supports Holocaust refugees and survivors throughout the country delivering critical social and welfare services. As well as being a regular sponsor of Sussex University’s Holocaust Memorial Day event, the AJR is a prominent benefactor to several of the UK’s leading institutions that develop Holocaust educational and commemorative projects.
This event is open to all, however booking is essential as seating is limited

Book your place for this event:
www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/hmd
or E: events@sussex.ac.uk

For further information please contact:

Diana Franklin, Centre Manager
+44 (0)1273 678771 | +44 (0)20 8455 4785
E: d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk

Centre for German-Jewish Studies
University of Sussex | Brighton BN1 9QN | United Kingdom
www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs

Cover image
Woman with Headscarf: calligraphic portrait incorporating the names of Jewish prisoners who perished at Mikhailowka by Arnold Daghani (Arnold Daghani Collection, University of Sussex © Arnold Daghani Trust)