

# Practices of Reunification

## The Continuation of Refugee Life after 1945

The liberation of the Nazi-occupied territories during and after the end of the Second World War created the possibility for millions of displaced or exiled people to think about restoring and continuing their prewar lives. For many of those scattered throughout Europe and other parts of the world, the search for surviving family members and friends began. So far, research on exile communities after 1945 has been dominated by aspects such as the „end of exile“ and „return“, while institutional re-establishment or the practice of re-continuing a new beginning have been largely ignored. This conference seeks to examine different practices of reunification and processes of continuity, not only to bridge research between exile, return migration and the founding of new ethnic communities, but also to focus on an aspect of refugee life in Central Europe largely unnoticed so far.

Conference Venue:  
Stiftung Universität Hildesheim  
Aula im Hohen Haus  
Domänenstraße, 31141 Hildesheim  
Wednesday, 29 June 2022



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**Welcome and Introduction | 9:15**

**Susanne Korbel** (University of Graz) and **Philipp Strobl** (University of Vienna)

**Keynote | 9:30 - 10:30**

**Michael Gehler** (Stiftung Universität Hildesheim): 1945: Surviving and Living in a Divided World

**Coffee Break | 10:30 - 11:00**

**Panel 1 | 11:00 - 12:30**

**Emotions of Survival and Reconnection**

**Eliyana R. Adler** (Pennsylvania State University): *Yizkor Bikher* and the resurrection of Dead Communities

**Andrea Wuerth** (Independent Scholar, Chapel Hill): The possibilities of a Single Story: Oral History's Contribution to Understanding What it means to Survive the Holocaust

**Swen Steinberg** (Carleton University Ottawa): Forced Migrants in Transit: A Global Perspective on Refugees from Nazi-occupied Europe

*Chair: Philipp Strobl (University of Vienna)*

**Panel 2 | 13:30 - 14:30**

**Networks of Continuation**

**Maria Tarasova Chomard** (Université Paris 8): To Save the Saviors: Reorganizing the Jewish Anarchists Humanitarian Network in Europe, 1945-1950

**Rachel Blumenthal** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem): To Those Near and Far: Reconnecting with Family Members after the Holocaust

*Chair: Susanne Korbel (University of Graz)*

**Coffee Break | 14:30 - 15:00**

**Panel 3 | 15:00 - 16:00**

**Practices of Reunification – Case Studies I**

**Nikolaus Hagen** (Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg): Beyond the Camp – New Beginnings and Continuities for Jewish DPs in Munich

**Marcus Velke-Schmidt** (Network DP Research Germany): A Forgotten Exile Community? “Heimatlose Ausländer” (homeless foreigners) in the Federal Republic of Germany

*Chair: Jonas Kaiser (Stiftung Universität Hildesheim)*

**Coffee Break | 16:00 - 16:30**

**Panel 4 | 16:30 - 18:30**

**Practices of Reunification – Case Studies II**

**Naida-Michal Brandl** (University of Zagreb): Restitution and Citizenship: Jewish Survivors in Croatia in the immediate postwar period

**Anna Cichopek-Gajraj** (Arizona State University): Postwar Journeys of Jewish and Polish Refugees from Poland (1940s-1950s)

**Andrea Strutz** (LBI for Research on Consequences of War and University of Graz): Vienna – Shanghai – Toronto: Displacement and Reconstruction of Life after 1945

*Chair: Nikolaus Hagen (Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg)*

**Conference Dinner | 19:00**