

THE 37TH ANNUAL HOLOCAUST LECTURE SERIES

October–November 2014

vanderbilt.edu/holocaust

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Oct. 7 • 7 p.m.

Science, Technology, and the Holocaust

with Peter Hayes
Wilson Hall 126

Our first lecture in this year's series will be given by Prof. Peter Hayes of Northwestern University, a historian of the Holocaust and an expert on German industrial firms and their role in the Holocaust. Prof. Hayes received his doctorate from Yale University in 1982, and he is currently the Theodore Zev Weiss Holocaust Educational Foundation Professor at Northwestern. He is the author or editor of eleven books, including the prize winners *Industry and Ideology: IG Farben in the Nazi Era* and *Lessons; and Legacies I: The Meaning of the Holocaust in a Changing World*; as well as *The Oxford Handbook of Holocaust Studies* (ed. with John K. Roth); and the forthcoming *How Was It Possible? A Holocaust Reader*. Prof. Hayes has received numerous teaching awards at Northwestern, and in June 2014, he became the chair of the Academic Committee at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 • 7 p.m.

Amen

Directed by Costa-Gavras
Divinity School Art Room

Our second event will be the 2002 film *Amen*, by the Greek director Costa-Gavras. The film is based loosely on the story of a Nazi SS officer, Kurt Gerstein, whose scientific research on water purification led to the development of the poison Zyklon B, which was widely used in the death camps for the mass killing of Jews. Gerstein's horror at the uses to which his invention were put, and his courageous attempts to alert Swedish diplomats and Vatican officials about what was happening in the camps, make for a gripping narrative about the tensions between scientific ideals, national allegiance, religious conscience, and the demands of moral engagement in a time of war. After the film screening, we will have a discussion of the film and its themes.

Tues., Oct. 21 • 7 p.m.

Eugenics

with Arleen Tuchman
Wilson Hall 126

For our next lecture, Vanderbilt history professor Arleen Tuchman will discuss the impact of the international eugenics movement on developments in Germany. The term "eugenics," first coined in the late nineteenth century by Francis Galton, reflected a desire among some social thinkers to find ways to "improve the quality" of the population of their country. Prof. Tuchman addresses the role of eugenic thinking and eugenic practices in the

United States in paving the way for the Holocaust and in shaping its development. Prof. Tuchman received her doctorate in the history of science and medicine from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985; her research interests include the cultural history of health and disease, the rise of scientific medicine, and scientific and medical constructions of gender and sexuality. Tuchman is the author of *Science, Medicine, and the State in Germany* (Oxford University Press, 1993), and *Science Has No Sex: The Life of Marie Zakrzewska, M.D.* (U. of North Carolina Press, 2006). She is currently writing a cultural history of type 2 diabetes in the United States, 1880-1980. At Vanderbilt, Tuchman has directed the Center for Medicine, Health, and Society, and she teaches courses on the history of medicine, women and health, disease and culture, the body, and scientific and medical constructions of gender and sexuality.

Tuesday, Oct. 28 • 7 p.m.

Human Experimentation, Mengele, and Forgiveness

with Eva Kor

Enslaved Scientists

with Arthur Allen

Commons Center MPR

For our fourth event, we will host two speakers—Eva Kor, a Romanian woman who was subjected to human experimentation under the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele at Auschwitz, and the historian Arthur Allen, author of a new book, *The Fantastic Laboratory of Dr. Weigl*.

Both of Eva Kor's parents and two older sisters were killed at Auschwitz; only she and her sister Miriam survived. Kor received international attention when she publicly forgave the Nazis for what had been done to her family. Her story was later explored in the documentary *Forgiving Dr. Mengele*. Allen will discuss the case of two Polish scientists, Rudolf Weigl and Ludwik Fleck, who were coerced by Nazi authorities into producing vaccines for the Wehrmacht, but who remained secretly defiant throughout the war and took every opportunity they could to subvert the Nazi war machine.

Tuesday, Nov. 4 • 7 p.m.

Science and the Holocaust in Italy with Vittorio Luzzati

Commons Center MPR

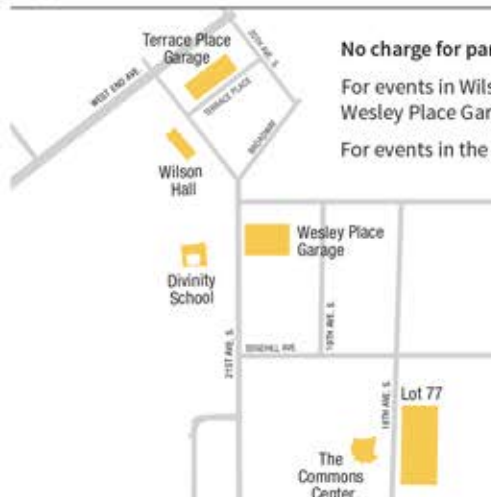
Our final speaker will be the scientist Vittorio Luzzati, who was born in Italy at almost the same time as Fascism itself and is a cousin of the eminent Holocaust writer Primo Levi. Luzzati witnessed as a teenager the rise of Mussolini's anti-Semitism, until his family managed to flee to Argentina in the late 1930s. In 1947, after completing his university education in Argentina, Luzzati returned to Europe and pursued a distinguished scientific career in France.

He will participate in a Q&A session in which audience members can ask him questions about the experience of growing up as a Jew in Mussolini's Italy, of becoming a scientist, and of adapting to such diverse cultural milieus.

Luzzati worked as a crystallographer in the early postwar years when the fields of crystallography and biology first entered into fruitful connection with each other, and he witnessed firsthand the discovery of the structure of DNA and the determination of the 3D structure of proteins. He was awarded the 2009 Guinier Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Small-Angle Scattering with macromolecules and lipids in solution. Luzzati will also be a speaker at the Vanderbilt Institute of Chemical Biology on November 5.

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For events in the Commons Center MPR, please park in Lot 77.

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