

Trauma and Secondary Traumatization in Studies of Genocide and Massive Political Violence – An International Symposium

21–23 May 2012, Uppsala, Sweden

Organized by the Hugo Valentin Centre at Uppsala University, Sweden
The Symposium is sponsored by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond

The aim of the Symposium is to bring together international scholars from different scientific fields, all of whom have experience and reflections concerning secondary traumatization from research on and engagement with genocide and massive political violence. With secondary traumatization, we mean the subject's effect on us as researchers, students and teachers.

The local organizers and those responsible for the Symposium are initiators and founding members of the TRAST (Trauma and Secondary Traumatization) Network: Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Ivana Maček, Associate Professor of Education, Psychoanalyst Suzanne Kaplan, and Researcher in History of Ideas, Stéphane Bruchfeld, all staff at The Hugo Valentin Centre, Unit for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Uppsala, Sweden. The purpose of TRAST is to contribute to the understanding of massive traumas and their long-term effects, as well secondary traumatization.

The Hugo Valentin Centre is an inter-disciplinary forum at Uppsala University with research as its prime task. Research is carried out within two prioritized areas: on the one hand cultural and social phenomena and processes of change related to the ethnic dimension in human life, on the other hand the Holocaust and other cases of genocide and severe crimes against human rights. To these subject fields belong minority studies and Holocaust and genocide studies as well as related and adjacent subjects where the Centre has a marked specialisation: Holocaust history, massive violence, discrimination, multilingualism, migration and integration. The Centre's activities encompass research, education at post-graduate level, documentation and information.

Monday, May 21

Symposium opening

Please note:

All sessions and meals will take place at
Norrlands Nation (student club) Fest & Konferens
Västra Ågatan 14, Uppsala

16:30–17:30

Welcome remarks followed by light meal
(invited speakers only)
Suzanne Kaplan and Tania Langerova
The Hugo Valentin Centre

- 17:30 – 18:00 Dr. Suzanne Kaplan
Trauma and Affects: Presentation of the symposiums' themes and goals
- 18:00 – 19:50 Stéphane Bruchfeld
The Hugo Valentin Centre
Film *KZ* (see below): Film screening followed by panel discussion and questions.
- 20:00 – 21:00 Stéphane Bruchfeld,
Ola Larsmo, Author and
Tomas Böhm, Psychoanalyst; Author:
Panel discussion of the film KZ

Tuesday, May 22

Understanding Secondary Traumatization

- 8:30 – 9:00 COFFEE AND TEA
- 9:00 – 9:30 Dr. Laurie Anne Pearlman:
Vicarious Traumatization: Theory, Experience, and Transformation
- Focus A: Reflections on a Life long Research Career**
- 9:30 – 10:00 Professor Debórah Dwork:
To work with the History of the Holocaust
- 10:00 – 10:30 Professor Ervin Staub:
Life in the Trenches: Hope in the Midst of Human Tragedy
- 10:30 – 11:00 Discussion of Focus A, moderated by Tomas Böhm,
Author; Psychoanalyst
- 11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE AND TEA
- Focus B: Being a Teacher and/or a Student**
- 11:30 – 12:00 Dr. Kathy Bischooping:
Magneto and Me, or, Heroic and Realistic Narratives of the Holocaust

- 12:00 – 12:30 Dr. Johanna Vollhardt:
The Question of Legitimacy in Studying Collective Trauma
- 12:30– 13:00 Discussion Focus B, moderated by Professor Leena Huss
The Hugo Valentin Centre
- 13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH (invited speakers only)
- Focus C: *Field Work: The Ethical, Practical and Emotional Dilemmas***
- 14:30 – 15:00 Professor Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela:
Conscious and Unconscious Dimensions of Working through Trauma
- 15:00 – 15:30 Dr. Giorgia Doná:
Research Methodologies in Conflict: Empathic and Psycho-Social Traumatization.
- 15:30 – 16:00 Dr. Sverker Finnström:
The Ethnographer - Traveling in and out of Cultures with a Backpack of Traumas?
- 16:00 – 16:30 Discussion Focus C, moderated by Olga Klauber,
Psychotherapist
- 16:30 – 17:00 COFFEE AND TEA
- Focus D: *Concepts, Theory and Working Models for Secondary Traumatization***
- 17:00 – 17:30 Dr. Ivana Maček:
Researchers and Research on Political Mass Violence - TRAST as a Working model
- 17:30 – 18:00 Dr. Laurie Anne Pearlman:
Vicarious Trauma – Theoretical Aspects in Research on Genocide and Massive Political Violence
- 19:00- 19:30 Informal Wine Reception (invited speakers only)
- 19:30 DINNER (invited speakers only)
Welcome remarks Suzanne Kaplan and Ivana Maček

Wednesday, May 23 Planning future cooperation

9:00- 9:30

COFFEE AND TEA

9:30 – 10:30

Reflections from the Symposium

10:30 – 12:00

Planning Continued International Cooperation about
Studies of Genocide and Mass Political Violence
moderated by Dr. Ivana Maček.

TOPIC FOR FILM DISCUSSION

The film KZ by Rex Bloomstein (2006) - “perhaps the first postmodern Holocaust movie,” is about the former concentration camp of Mauthausen in Austria. Bloomstein followed tourists and museum guides, and interviewed inhabitants of the town of Mauthausen. The film has been adapted for school use, and the school material is introduced by following words: “When the story of the unspeakable has been told a thousand times, when the images of the unimaginable have been shown a thousand times, when the mind is numb, where do you go from there? You have to start anew.” We would like to introduce our symposium by screening and discussing KZ, paying special attention to the tour guides and their work at Mauthausen. What does it mean for the researcher, teacher and guide to be confronted with the artifacts, testimonies, images and documents over and over again, and to tell “the story of the unspeakable a thousand times”? We also wish to reflect on the ‘*hows*’ and ‘*whys*,’ and what it is that we wish to achieve both on an individual and societal level. Can we avoid secondary traumatization in ourselves and others when we approach our subjects deeply and seriously, or is it a necessary or even desirable consequence?

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

The symposium is free of charge.

Space is limited and registration required. Please send an email with your name, position, and/or affiliation to suzanne.kaplan@valentin.uu.se no later than May 1 and await confirmation.

For further information, please contact:

Suzanne Kaplan
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LIST OF SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Katherine Bischooping

Katherine Bischooping (Ph.D. 1995 University of Michigan) is an Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Program in Sociology at York University, Toronto, Canada. A research methodologist, her genocide-related publications in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, and *Contemporary Jewry* focus primarily on public opinion surveys and knowledge about the Holocaust. Katherine's study with Natalie Fingerhut of the place of Indigenous genocides in genocide studies was published in *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, and republished, with Ramazan Yelzen, in Turkey's *Afyon Kocatepe University Journal of Social Sciences*. Her work has recently taken a turn toward cultural studies and narrative analysis. Focusing on the relation of sociological and theatrical methods of inquiry, she has turned her hand to absurdist playwrighting, with works including *The Demise of Ordinary Objects* (draft89) and the Ibsen adaptation *Auditioning for Nora* (Scotiabank Nuit Blanche).

Stéphane Bruchfeld

Stéphane Bruchfeld is working on a thesis in intellectual history/the history of ideas, on the origins and emergence of Holocaust denial in Sweden. He is a teacher in Holocaust history and historiography at the Hugo Valentin Centre, and is co-author (together with Paul Levine) of the book "Tell ye your Children", which in its German version ("Erzählt es euren Kindern") was nominated for the Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis in 2001. In recent years he has begun studying the multi-generational consequences of traumatic events, taking a special interest in systemic approaches.

Tomas Böhm

Tomas Böhm is MD, specialist in psychiatry and psychoanalyst in private practice. He is an author and lecturer in subjects like relational problems, prejudices and xenophobia. Among his publications are: *Inte som vi - psykologiska synpunkter på främlingsfientlighet och rasism* (1993), *Att ha rätt - om ortodoxi och fundamentalism* (1996), *Hämnd eller Upprättelse - om hämndspiralens psykologi* (with S. Kaplan) also in English: *Revenge - On the Dynamics of a Frightening Urge and its Taming* (2011) and German: *Rache. Zur Psychodynamik einer unheimlichen Lust und ihrer Zähmung* (2009). He has also written novels where xenophobia is a theme, *The Vienna Jazz Trio* (2000), (in English 2010). Tomas Böhm is a member of the *Prejudice Group* of the International Psychoanalytic Association.

Giorgia Doná

Dr. Giorgia Doná is Reader in Refugee Studies in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of East London, United Kingdom. Her main research interests

are in the areas of socio-political violence and forced migration, culture and wellbeing, children in conflict and post-conflict, and participatory research methodologies. She was awarded the Leverhulme Fellowship for the project 'Bystanders to violence: revisiting genocide narratives and reconciliation initiatives' and is working on a book on the subject. She was Guest Editor of the Themed Issue *Child and Youth Migration: Changing Trends and Responses* for the International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care (2006) and the 20th Anniversary Special Issue on *Refugee Research Methodologies* for the Journal of Refugee Studies (with Voutira, 2007). Closely relevant for this presentation are two publications: Doná, G. (2011) Researching children and violence in evolving socio-political contexts, in, J. Pottier, L. Hammond and C. Cramer (eds) *Caught in the Crossfire: Ethical and Methodological Challenges to Researching Violence in Africa, Leiden: The Netherlands*: Brill Publishers, pp. 39-59 and Doná, G. (2007) The micro-physics of participation in refugee research, *Journal of Refugee Studies* 20(2): 210-229.

Debórah Dwork

Debórah Dwork is the Rose Professor of Holocaust History and the Director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. She has given shape to an exciting forum for education and scholarship about the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and other genocides around the world. Her now classic *Children With A Star* gave voice to the silenced children of the Holocaust. *Children With A Star* received international critical acclaim. *Auschwitz* is co-authored with Robert Jan van Pelt. Dwork and van Pelt argued that Germany sought to reconstruct Central Europe in its own image, and the Germans' program at Auschwitz was key to that ambition. *Auschwitz* received the National Jewish Book Award and the Spiro Kostof Award, given every other year to the best book on the physical environment. Further research yielded *Holocaust: A History*, which spans the long and broad history in which the Holocaust was rooted, from the middle ages to the middle of the twentieth century, and across the continent of Europe. *Flight From the Reich: Refugee Jews, 1933-1946* encompasses all the occupied and host countries and includes all manner of participants. Dwork and van Pelt integrate the history of events with the history of people, moving back and forth between the private and the public realms, between personal memory and official history. Dwork's recent publication is *The Terezín Album of Marianka Zadików*. In her annotations and introduction, Dwork explores the meaning and significance of creative work to the inmates of Theresienstadt. She has received many academic awards and honors. She has been, inter alia, a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies. Her book *Voices and Views: A History of the Holocaust*, an edited, annotated, and illustrated collection, with introductions, is a scholarly project undertaken for public service. It serves as the cornerstone text for the national Holocaust education program of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous, as well as for a number of local teacher education programs throughout the country and high school and college courses on Holocaust history.

Sverker Finnström

Sverker Finnström is associate professor of cultural anthropology at The Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University, where he is a researcher in political violence and genocide studies. Since 1997 he has conducted recurrent fieldwork in war-torn Uganda, with a focus on how young adults, born into civil war, understand and attempt to control their moral and material circumstances. He is the author of *Living with Bad Surroundings: War, History, and Everyday Moments in Northern Uganda* (Duke University Press, 2008), for which he received the Margaret Mead Award of the American Anthropological Association and the Society for Applied Anthropology, and he has edited (with Neil L. Whitehead) *War and Magical Death: Technologies and Imaginaries for Terror and Killing* (Duke University Press, forthcoming).

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela is professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cape Town. After serving on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of South Africa as co-ordinator of victims' public testimonies, and as facilitator of encounters between family members of victims and perpetrators who appeared before the TRC, Gobodo-Madikizela has been involved in the study of the process of forgiving in order to deepen understanding of its reparative elements in the aftermath of gross human rights violations and mass trauma. Her current research applies the insights emerging from her study of forgiveness in victim-perpetrator encounters to explore the psychoanalytic dimensions of empathy in the context of perpetrators' remorse and victims' forgiveness. Her interests in relation to empathy focus on the web of feelings and the transformative shifts that open up in dialogue processes between former enemies. Her critically acclaimed book on these topics, *A Human Being Died that Night: A South African Story of Forgiveness* won the Alan Paton Award in South Africa, and the Christopher Award in the United States. Her other books include *Narrating our Healing: Perspectives on Healing Trauma*, as co-author; and as co-editor of *Memory, Narrative and Forgiveness: Perspectives on the Unfinished Journeys of the Past*.

Leena Huss

Leena Huss is professor and research director of minority studies at the Hugo Valentin Centre at Uppsala University. She has published on reversing language shift in northern Scandinavia, contact linguistics and multilingualism, and edited and co-edited anthologies on managing multilingualism in Sweden, linguistic revitalization in education and language emancipation in Europe and beyond. Her current research interests include language policies and language planning in Scandinavia, multilingualism, and linguistic revitalization in the South Sámi area in Sweden. During 2000-2004, she was the Swedish member of the Council of Europe expert committee monitoring the implementation of the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in Europe.

Suzanne Kaplan

Suzanne Kaplan is a Psychologist, Psychoanalyst and Associate Professor of Education at The Hugo Valentin Centre / Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden. She was the co ordinator in Sweden for USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education and co ordinated 330 interviews 1996-99. She used the archive testimonies as a point of departure for her research. Subsequent studies were carried out in Rwanda. She is a recipient of the Hayman Prize for published work pertaining to traumatized children and adults (2001 and 2007). Publications include: the article Children in genocide – Extreme traumatization and the ‘affect propeller’ (2006) and the books *Children in Genocide: Extreme Traumatization and Affect Regulation* (2008) and (with T. Böhm) *Revenge – On the Dynamics of a Frightening Urge and its’ Taming* (2011).

Olga Klauber

Psychologist and psychotherapist with long experience of treatment of Victims of War and Torture, at Red Cross Center, Uppsala

Ola Larsmo

Ola Larsmo is an author, former editor for BLM 1983-1990 and contributor to various newspapers. Published books that are closely relevant for the topic of the Symposium include *En glänta i skogen* (2004, A Glen in the Forest), a novel about Sweden’s policy against occupied Norway during WW II and *Djävulssonaten* (2007, The Devil Sonata), essays concerning antisemitism in Sweden during WWII.

Ivana Maček

Ivana Maček is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology, Licensed Psychotherapist, and Senior Lecturer in Genocide Studies at the Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University, Sweden. She is one of the initiators of the TRAST network and the TRAST international symposium in 2012. Her major publication is the anthropological monograph on the everyday life during the siege of Sarajevo: *Sarajevo Under Siege: Anthropology in Wartime* (PENN, 2009), based on extensive fieldwork in war-zones of Croatia, Bosnia and Hercegovina during the 1990s. She is currently writing up the results of a post-doctoral research-project about Swedes who choose to take a professional assignment in war-zones. She is responsible for the newly started two years Master Programme in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Uppsala University. Her other current writing projects concern partly the role of the war in Sarajevo today, and methodological questions of working with mass political violence.

Laurie Anne Pearlman

Laurie Anne Pearlman is a clinical psychologist and independent trauma consultant based in western Massachusetts. She publishes and presents nationally and internationally on both direct and indirect psychological trauma. She is a member of the complex trauma task force of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies; a fellow of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence and of the Trauma Division of the American Psychological Association (APA) and chair of Trauma Division Fellows committee; senior psychological consultant for the Headington Institute; co-founder and immediate past president of the Trauma Research, Education, and Training Institute; and co-founder and former co-director and research director of the Traumatic Stress Institute/Center for Adult & Adolescent Psychotherapy. She has received awards for her clinical and scientific contributions from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) and the Connecticut Psychological Association; for her work in media and trauma from ISTSS; and for contributions to professional practice from the APA Trauma Division. She is currently collaborating on a book about treating traumatic bereavement. Since 1999, she has been working with Professor Ervin Staub on promoting trauma recovery and preventing violence in east Africa.

Ervin Staub

Ervin Staub is Professor Emeritus and Founding Director of the doctoral program in the psychology of peace and violence at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, USA. He received a Ph.D. from Stanford, and taught at Harvard. He has studied the roots of altruism, and the origins of genocide and mass killing as well as violent conflict, terrorism, their prevention, psychological recovery and reconciliation. His books include the two volume *Positive social behavior and morality*; *The roots of evil: the origins of genocide and other group violence*; *The psychology of good and evil: Why children, adults and groups help and harm others*; *Overcoming evil: genocide, violent conflict and terrorism* (2011) and a number of edited books. A forthcoming book is *The roots of goodness: The development of inclusive caring, moral courage, altruism born of suffering, active bystandership and heroism*. He is past president of the International Society for Political Psychology and of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence. His projects in field settings include a training program for the state of California after the Rodney King incident to reduce the use of unnecessary force by police, in the Netherlands to improve Dutch-Muslim relations, in New Orleans to promote reconciliation after hurricane Katrina, since 1998 trainings, seminars and educational radio projects in Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo to promote psychological recovery and reconciliation, workshops for raising caring and non-violent children, and a program for Training Active Bystander in schools to reduce harmful behavior by students. For varied awards and downloads of articles, see www.ervinstaub.com

Johanna Ray Vollhardt

Johanna Ray Vollhardt is currently Assistant Professor of Psychology at Clark University and affiliated with the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, with a concentration in the Psychology of Peace and Violence. For her dissertation work she has received the Best Dissertation Award of the International Society of Political Psychology and the Gert Sommer Award for Peace Psychology. Her research focuses on inclusive victim consciousness, prosocial behavior, and intergroup relations in the aftermath of collective violence. Together with Michal Bilewicz, she is currently editing a special issue of the *Journal of Social Issues* on “The Aftermath of Genocide: Psychological Perspectives.” She also has been working with the NGO La Beneveloncija in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Congo since 2005.