GENOCIDE IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY HISTORY:
THE POWER AND THE PROBLEMS OF AN INTERPRETIVE, ETHICAL-POLITICAL, AND LEGAL CONCEPT
CONFERENCE CONCEPT

The conference will focus on how the concept of “genocide,” differentiated and contested from its inception, evolved and adapted in the face of a rapidly growing body of research that surged after the 1980s. While the genocide concept has proven crucial to the understanding of the twentieth century, the issues it raises have also become evident. The conference aims at exploring the history of the concept of genocide, how it evolved and has continued to evolve over time, and its strengths and weaknesses in light of new research. Finally, we will consider the future of the concept of genocide.

The conference panels will feature brief presentations of pre-circulated papers followed by comprehensive discussion.

A follow-up workshop on the global history of ethnic cleansing will take place in 2019 at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

The Vivian and David Campbell Conference Facility
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto
1 Devonshire Place | Toronto

08:45-09:30   Breakfast and Registration

09:30-10:00   Welcome and Introductory Remarks
ALON CONFINO, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
ANDREA GRAZIOSI, Università di Napoli Federico II
FRANK SYSYN, University of Alberta

LESLEY CORMACK, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta
RANDALL HANSEN, Interim Director, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, University of Toronto

SESSION I | The emergence of a conflict-ridden term and its contradictions

10:00 -11:00   Session I | Panel
How did the term “genocide” come about and what was the intention?
How did the concept evolve in the post-WWII environment?

DOUGLAS IRVIN-ERICKSON, George Mason University, The Origins of the Genocide Concept: Lemkin and His Many Milieux
CAROLINE FOURNET, University Groningen, The Orchestrated Inapplicability of the Law of Crimes against Humanity and Genocide to the Colonial Past – une exception française?

11:00-11:15   Coffee break

11:15-12:45   Session I | Discussion
Discussant: DIRK MOSES, University of Sydney

12:45-14:30   Lunch
SESSION II | The evolution of the concept of genocide (Holocaust-Shoah)

14:30-15:30  Session II | Panel

How did the concept of genocide develop before its surge in the 1990s? How was the Holocaust/Shoah conceptualized in relation to the concept of genocide?

ANNETTE F. TIMM, University of Calgary, *The Costs of Silencing Holocaust Victims: Why We Must Add Sexual Violence to Our Definition of Genocide*

DANI BLATMAN, Hebrew University, *Diverse Narratives or Separate Histories?: The Polish-Israeli Debate over the So-called “Polish Holocaust Law”*

ROTEM GILADI, Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture–Simon Dubnow, *Genocide and Jewish Nationalism(s): Raphael Lemkin, the Genocide Convention, and the Jewish State*

15:30-15:45  Coffee break

15:45-17:15  Session II | Discussion

Discussants: DORIS BERGEN, University of Toronto, and ANTONIO FERRARA, National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR), Italy

17:15-17:30  Break

17:30-18:30  Evening Public Lecture

*Is There a World History of Genocide?*

NORMAN NAIMARK, Stanford University

18:45-20:30  Reception

Observatory Site, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy University of Toronto | 315 Bloor St. West | Toronto
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

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08:30-09:15  Breakfast

SESSION III | (Panels A & B) Discovering the genocidal nature of the twentieth century

How has research since 2000 changed our perspective on the twentieth century as genocidal?

09:15-10:30  Session III, Panel A | The WWI-WWII period

RONALD G. SUNY, University of Michigan, War of Liberation or Genocide? Narratives on the Fate of the Ottoman Armenians
ANDREA GRAZIOSI, Università di Napoli Federico II, The Kazakh Famine, the Holodomor, and the Soviet 1930-33 Famine: Starvation and National Un-building in the Soviet Union
NORMAN NAIMARK, Stanford University, The Holodomor in the Context of Soviet Mass Killing in the 1930s
ALEXANDER KORB, University of Leicester, Hitler’s Genocidal Allies: Where and Why Did Non-German Perpetrators Commit Genocide during WWII?

10:30-10:45  Coffee break

10:45-12:15  Session III, Panel A | Discussion

Discussants: MICHELLE TUSAN, University of Nevada and ALON CONFINO, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

12:15-13:45  Lunch
13:45-14:45  **Session III, Panel B | The colonial–post-colonial experience**

SCOTT STRAUS, University of Wisconsin, Madison, *The Concept of Genocide and Episodes of Mass Violence in the Great Lakes Region, 1959-2004*

ROBERT CRIBB, Australian National University, *Genocidal Panic: Emotional Aspects of the Political Genocides in Indonesia, China, and Cambodia*

CHRISTIAN GERLACH, University of Bern, *Sounds of a Massacre: Chuknagar, East Pakistan, 20 May 1971*

14:45-15:00  **Coffee break**

15:00-16:00  **Session III, Panel B | Discussion**

Discussant: DEBORAH MAYERSEN, University of Wollongong

16:00-16:15  **Coffee break**

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**SESSION IV | Rethinking the term “genocide”**

**16:15-17:30  Session IV | Roundtable**

What is the “state of the art” in genocide studies? Why were there so many genocides in the 20th century? How do they relate to each other? What were their specific features and how do they compare to previous experiences of mass killings? What are the “interpretive” potentials and problems of the category? How can historians, political scientists, specialists in law, et al. meaningfully talk to each other?

Moderator: BOHDAN KLID, University of Alberta

ALON CONFINO, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, *Jews on Genocide, Israeli-Jews on Genocide*


CHRISTIAN GERLACH, University of Bern, *The Eichmannization of History and Its Implications*

MARK KRAMER, Harvard University, *Genocide as a Concept, “Genocide” as a Political Weapon*
MICHELLE TUSAN, University of Nevada, Is It Time to Forget Genocide?
DIRK MOSES, University of Sydney, Genocide as a Security Crime
ANNA SHTERNSHIS, University of Toronto, Music and Genocide

17:30-18:15 Roundtable | Open Discussion

18:15-18:30 Break

18:30-19:30 Toronto Annual Ukrainian Famine Lecture
Genocide in Ukraine: The Holodomor and its Lessons for the Future

LIUDMYLA HRYNEVYCH, Ukrainian Academy of Sciences; Director of the Holodomor Research and Education Centre, Ukraine

19:30-21:30 Reception
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University of Toronto | 315 Bloor St. West | Toronto
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