Denial: The Final Stage of Genocide

First International Conference of the Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies

April 13-14, 2019
UNC Charlotte Center City, 320 E. 9th Street, Charlotte 28202

This conference brings together scholars, activists, educators, and students to discuss origins, significance, and potential responses to official and popular genocide denial throughout the world. Given the contemporary rhetoric of “fake news” and the increasing avenues for almost anyone to share or promote stories without factual underpinning, the need to confront genocide denial is more urgent than ever.

We are delighted to welcome participants from around the world. Approximately 15 countries are represented. The conference is truly interdisciplinary as well as international. We succeeded beyond our hopes in attracting a highly diverse and exiting array of topics and themes as well as presenters.

UNC Charlotte's Center for Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies

The Center is committed to innovative research and to education, recognizing the need to not only learn from the past but to challenge injustice and promote human rights in our own world.

Research
• Our faculty are engaged in cutting-edge research.
• “Denial: The Final Stage of Genocide” is the first of a series of international conferences.
• The Center organizes research projects and symposia with graduate and undergraduate students.
• We bring leading and emerging scholars, artists, and activists to the campus and community.
• This fall we will launch an undergraduate research journal.

Education
• The Center organizes annual Study Abroad trips.
• We offer a minor in HGHR Studies.
• The Center works with other educators to offer workshops and teacher-training initiatives.
• We will soon launch a Master's program in genocide and human-rights studies.

Outreach and Action
• We organize speaker series, film-showings, musical performances, and art exhibits.
• We work with partners in the region to support our refugee and immigrant neighbors.
• The HGHR Center organizes and supports initiatives to advance women’s rights and LGBTQ rights and to counter poverty, racism, sexism, and other social ills.
Conference schedule

Saturday
9:00am-10:30am
10:45am-12:15pm
Lunch break
1:30pm-3:00pm
3:15pm-4:45pm
5:00pm-6:15pm: Keynote Address

Sunday
9:00am-10:30am
10:45am-12:15pm
Lunch break
1:30pm-3:00pm
3:15pm-4:30pm: Closing Address

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th

9:00am-10:30am

Panel 1: In Denial of Indigenous Genocide, Room 1104
“Native American Genocide: Realities and Denials,” Thomas Keefe, Rocky Mountain College
“Language: Denial in the National Discourse of the United States,” Kerri J. Malloy, Humboldt State University
“All We Wanted Was Peace and to be Left Alone: State Removal of Native American Children in South Dakota and the Question of Genocide,” Alexis Poston, Stockton University
“Beyond Erasure: Indigenous Genocide Denial and Settler Colonialism,” Michelle Stanley, UNC Charlotte

Panel 2: Genocide Denial in Legal Contexts, Room 1105
“Analysis of the ICTY Decisions on Mladic and Karadzic,” Tarik Borogovac, National Congress of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
“Weaponizing the First Amendment: Denial of the Armenian Genocide and the U.S. Courts,” Marc Mamigonian, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)

10:45am-12:15pm

Panel 1: Epistemologies of Genocide Denial, Room 1102
“Denial is the Condition for Evil: An Anthropological Reading of Reiner Schürmann,” Jean-Philippe Belleau, University of Massachusetts at Boston
“Negating the Necrospective: Understanding and Culpability in Germany and in Yemen,” Lane Hepburn, UNC Asheville
“The Continuum of Denial at Srebrenica,” Simon Massey, former Senior Prosecutor in the Complex Casework Unit of the Crown Prosecution Service (UK)
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th (continued)

Panel 2: Sexual Violence in Genocide Denial, Room 1105
“Claiming the ‘Illegal’ and the Unwanted: Honor Crime ‘Victims’ and Guerrilla Funerals in Turkey-Kurdistan,” Ruken Isik, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
“Japan’s State-Sanctioned Denial of the Japanese Military Sexual Slavery System (so-called ‘Comfort Women’ System) as Gendered Necropolitics,” Tomomi Kinukawa, San Francisco State University
“Breaking the Silence on Rape During the Holocaust,” Beth Lilach, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center & Clark University
“Breaking the Silence on Rape During the Ovaherero and Nama Genocides of 1904-1908,” Kavemuii Murangi, Ovaherero/Mbanderu and Nama Genocide Institute (ONGI)

Panel 3: Obscured in the Shadows of Other Genocides, Room 1104
“Seventy Years of Genocide: Palestinian Identity, Israel Denial and Al-Nakba,” Adam Hasian, UNC Charlotte
“Denying the Genocide of the Ottoman Greeks,” Theodosios Kyriakidis, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
“Democratisation as a Protective Layering for Crimes Against Humanity,” Anna Plunkett, King’s College

1:30pm-3:00pm
Panel 1: Memory, Genocidal Trauma, and Reconciliation, Room 1104
“The Construction of Historical Memory in Colombia: Challenges Against Denial and Oblivion,” Felix Burgos, Indiana University East
“Second Generation of Witnesses, Past-to-Present Ideology of Harm, and Intergenerational Trauma in the Iranian Diaspora,” Sonya Kazemi Hill, Ohio State University
“Confronting Denial: A Thirty-Year Journey,” Sikhululekile Mkandla-Mashingaidze, University of the Free State
“Collective Historical Trauma and Retelling the Past: Toward a Trauma-Informed Transitional Justice,” Jeremy Rinker, UNC Greensboro

Panel 2: Celebrating and Profiting from Genocide Denial, Room 1102
“Denial as Defense: General Praljak’s Trial and Memory among his Defenders in Bosnia and Croatia,” Emily Makas, UNC Charlotte
“Triumphalism: The Eleventh Stage in the Bosnian Genocide,” Hikmet Karčić, Institute for Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks
“The Circassian Genocide: 150 years of Russian Denial,” Sufian Zhemukhov, George Washington University

Panel 3: Genocide Denial in Film and Music, Room 1105
“Cabaret Songs as a Remedy to the Theresienstadt Zone of Denial,” James A. Grymes, UNC Charlotte
“Polish Identity and Nationality: Shifting Representations in Holocaust Films,” Theresa McMackin, Stockton University

12:15pm-1:30pm – LUNCH BREAK
There are numerous options within short walking distance of the Center City building. Lists of nearby eateries and cafes, with maps, are included in your conference folder.
SATURDAY, APRIL 13th (continued)


“Reclaiming the Denied Genocide Victim Identity through Music: From ‘Die Yaman’ to Modern Armenian Pop Music,” Margarita Tadevosyan, George Mason University

3:15pm-4:45pm

Panel 1: Memory, Museums, Monuments, Room 1102

“Constituting Histories Through Culture in Iraqi Kurdistan,” Autumn Cockrell, University of North Georgia

“Denial: The Final Stage of Genocide—The Case of the KLNa,” Diana Henry, Independent Scholar and Photographer

“The Babi Yar Massacre and the Problems with Commemoration of the Holocaust in Modern Ukraine,” Victoria Khiterer, Millersville University

“Erect a Memorial and Erase the Past: The Hungarian ‘Memorial to the Victims of the German Invasion’ in Context,” András Szécsényi, Eötvös Loránd University

Panel 2: Confronting Armenian Genocide Across Nations, Room 1104

“Regaining Their Voices: Testimonies of Armenian Women Survivors Who Fled to Brazil,” Mariana Boujikian Felipe, NUMAS (Núcleo de Estudos dos Marcadores Sociais da Diferença)

“Tigran Hovhannisian: The First ‘Denial-Fighter’,” Suren Manukyan, Yerevan State University

“British Discourse, Representations and Conceptualisations of the Armenian Genocide during WWI and the Seeds of Denial,” Peter Morgan, University of Brighton

“La Negacion [Denial] by Alejandro Genes: Staging the Armenian Genocide in Post-Dictatorial Argentina,” Ariel Strichartz, St. Olaf College

Panel 3: Holocaust Testimonies and Testimonials, Room 1105

“Combating Denial: American Millennials and the Memory of the Holocaust,” Sarah Coykendall, Kean University

“Vishneva, Belarus Soviet Union Poland: The Importance of Memory,” Jacob J. Podber, Southern Illinois University

“Nikto ne zabyt? The Soviet Denial of Murdered Jews’ Identity During and After the Great Patriotic War,” Thomas Earl Porter, North Carolina A&T State University

5:00pm-6:15pm – 2nd Floor Auditorium

KEYNOTE ADDRESS by Lerna Ekmekcioglu, Ph.D., McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History, MIT:

“What Can Genocide and its Denial Do to Feminism? The Existential Paradoxes of Armenians in Post-Genocide Turkey”

Dr. Lerna Ekmekcioglu is the McMillan-Stewart Associate Professor of History at MIT. Her books include a monograph titled Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post Genocide Turkey (Stanford University Press, 2016) and a co-edited volume titled A Cry for Justice: Five Armenian Feminist Writers from the Ottoman Empire to the Turkish Republic (in Turkish, Aras Yayincilik, 2006). Currently she is collaborating with Dr. Melissa Bilal on a book and documentary website project titled Feminism in Armenian: An Interpretive Anthology and Digital Archive.
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th
9:00am-10:30am

Panel 1: Literary and Narrative Critiques of Genocide Denial, Room 1104
“That is Really Meme: What the Nazification of Pepe the Frog Portends for American Holocaust Memory in a ‘Fake News’ Age,” Jeffrey Demsky, San Bernardino Valley College
“The Translator as Reconciliator: How Astrid Berger Brought Exile Writer Eva Kollisch Back Into the Austrian Literary Field,” Karin Hanta, Middlebury College
“Uncovering Spain’s Genocidal Puericulture State through Allegories of Disobedience in Ana Maria Matute’s 1956 Los niños tontos (The Foolish Children), Lora L. Looney, University of Portland
“Denying the Animosity: Narratives of Harmony in Pre-Conflict India,” Jabeen Yasmeen, IIT Bombay

Panel 2: Genocide Denial in the Era of “Fake News”, Room 1102
“Fake News and Genocide Denial,” Shantanu Gajjar, UNC Charlotte
“Holocaust Denial: Implications for a General Assault on Historical Truth,” Georgi Verbeeck, Maastricht University
“Cycles of Denial: Historical Memory and the (Re) Emergence of Genocidal Ideology and Practice in the United States Today,” Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Stockton University
“Fake News and the Ethics of (Dis)Belief,” Jacob Waldenmaier, Ursuline College

10:45am-12:15pm

Panel 1: European Colonialism as Genocide, Room 1105
“Dutch Memories of Colonial Violence Against Indigenous Peoples: Comparing New Netherland and the Banda Islands,” Mark Meuwese, University of Winnipeg

Panel 2: Confronting Holocaust Denial, Room 1104
“Fake News and Genocide Denial,” Shantanu Gajjar, UNC Charlotte
“Holocaust Denial: Implications for a General Assault on Historical Truth,” Georgi Verbeeck, Maastricht University
“Cycles of Denial: Historical Memory and the (Re) Emergence of Genocidal Ideology and Practice in the United States Today,” Elisa von Joeden-Forgey, Stockton University
“Fake News and the Ethics of (Dis)Belief,” Jacob Waldenmaier, Ursuline College

12:15pm-1:30pm – LUNCH BREAK

Panel 1: European Colonialism as Genocide, Room 1105
“Dutch Memories of Colonial Violence Against Indigenous Peoples: Comparing New Netherland and the Banda Islands,” Mark Meuwese, University of Winnipeg

1:30pm-3:00pm

Panel 1: Genocide Across Sexual and Racial Difference, Room 1102
SUNDAY, APRIL 14th (continued)

“An Impossible Means Towards Equity: The Role of Denial toward Inhibiting Effective Social Development for Black Americans,” Crystal Ellis, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee

“Denying the Feminine,” Charlotte Mears, Kingston University

“Narrative Space where Recognition and Rejection of Past Wartime Responsibilities Coexist,” Tetsushi Ogata, Soka University of America

Panel 2: Remembering Genocide?, Room1104

“Holodomor and Holocaust Memory in Competition and Cooperation,” Kristen Dyck, Poltava National V.G. Korolenko Pedagogical University

“Denying Rwanda, Denying Congo,” Adam Jones, University of British Columbia

“Genocide Denial in Serb Media: An Analysis of Post-War Years,” Harun Karčić, Al-Jazeera Balkans

3:15pm-4:30pm – 2nd Floor Auditorium

CLOSING ADDRESS by Henry C. Theriault, Ph.D., President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars:

“Is Denial Truly the Final Stage? Consolidation and the Metaphysical Dimensions of Denial”

Theriault’s research focuses on reparations, victim-perpetrator relations, denial, atrocity prevention, and mass violence against women and girls. He has lectured around the world and published numerous journal articles and book chapters, edited two books, and coauthored with Samuel Totten The UN Genocide Convention: A Primer (forthcoming, University of Toronto Press). He is founding co-editor of the journal Genocide Studies International, and from 2007 to 2012 he was co-editor of the journal Genocide Studies and Prevention. Since 2007 he has chaired the Armenian Genocide Reparations Study Group and is co-author of its 2015 report, Resolution with Justice.

The conference is supported by the UNC Charlotte Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund and by our College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

We also thank the following UNC Charlotte departments and programs for their generous sponsorship and support: Women’s & Gender Studies; Latin American Studies; Philosophy; History; English; Africana Studies; and special thanks to our university’s Center for Professional & Applied Ethics. The North Carolina Council on the Holocaust also merits our sincere gratitude.

Henry Theriault is President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Worcester State University, after 19 years in its Philosophy Department.
UNC CHARLOTTE PRESENTS

DENIAL: THE FINAL STAGE OF GENOCIDE

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST, GENOCIDE & HUMAN RIGHTS STUDIES

UNC Charlotte Center City
320 E. 9th Street
All sessions free and open to the public

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Lerna Ekmekcioğlu
Author of Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey

CLOSING ADDRESS — Henry C. Theriault
President of the International Association of Genocide Scholars

APRIL 13-14, 2019

HTTP://GLOBALSTUDIES.UNCC.EDU/GHHR-CONFERENCE

This event is supported by the UNC Charlotte Chancellor’s Diversity Challenge Fund and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, as well as UNC Charlotte’s Women’s & Gender Studies program, Center for Professional and Applied Ethics, and Department of Global Studies, among others. See our website for complete list of sponsors.