

Conference

“The Holocaust in Transnational Memory”

December 11, 2006, Berlin

dbb-Forum, Friedrichstraße 169/170

**Organised by
The German Federal Agency for Civic Education (FACE)
in co-operation with the Centre for Research on Anti-semitism
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Initial Considerations

Leading scientists and academics agree that the Holocaust is one of the most intensively researched events of the 20th century. In societies across the globe, it has become a symbol, an epitome of the systematic violation of human rights. Yet even in the face of overwhelming evidence, some individuals and groups continue to try to cast doubts on the results of Holocaust research. In extreme cases, they deny the Holocaust even occurred. Statements from right-wing parties and their members in Germany and throughout Europe are recent examples of this belief, as is the stance taken by Iranian President Ahmadinejad and others throughout the Islamic world. The announcement that Iran wanted to call a conference seeking to discredit or even disprove the Holocaust provoked sharp rebukes internationally. Even so, we cannot ignore the fact that, in spite of a variety of motivations and ideologies, these proponents of Holocaust denial are pursuing international ties with others who share a common goal – calling into question Israel's right to exist. In an attempt to give their own agenda more legitimacy by tying it to Ahmadinejad's policies, for example, members of the right-wing German NPD party waved the Iranian flag during last summer's World Cup. New alliances like these do not only seek to call Israel's right to exist into question. On a fundamental level, they seek to cast doubt on the principles of Western democracy by polarising the Muslim and Western worlds while trying to strengthen the position of right-wing parties in Europe.

Against this background, the German Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpbb) and the Centre for Research on Anti-semitism view the upcoming Human Rights Day as an opportunity to organise an international conference on the impact of the Holocaust in a transnational era. Starting with the results of Holocaust research and the respective related discussions in Germany, the conference will move on to focus on global reception of those results. What mechanisms and intentions lie at the root of the various forms of Holocaust denial? What conclusions and/or false conclusions have been reached during the current debate surrounding Holocaust denial, and what are the challenges faced by both civil society and German, European and international politics?

Registration and Organisation:

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Monday, 11th December, 2006	
9:00 a.m.	<p>Opening Comments from the Organisers</p> <p>Thomas Krüger, Federal Agency for Civic Education, Bonn</p> <p>Wolfgang Benz, Centre for Research on Anti-semitism, Berlin</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Ernst-Reinhard Beck, Parliamentarian, Chairman of the FACE Board of Trustees, Berlin</p>
9:30 a.m.	<p>Opening Results from Holocaust Research</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>Raul Hilberg (em.), University of Vermont, Burlington (USA)</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>Peter Longerich, Research Centre for the Holocaust and Twentieth-Century History, University of London</p>
11:00 a.m.	<p>The Holocaust in Transnational Memory</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Natan Sznaider, Academic College, Tel Aviv</p> <p>Panel</p> <p>Bernward Dörner, Centre for Research on Anti-semitism, Berlin</p> <p>Navid Kermani, Author/Expert on Islamic Studies , Cologne</p> <p>Natan Sznaider, Academic College, Tel Aviv</p> <p>Gert Weisskirchen, Parliamentarian /Personal Representative of the Chairman-in- Office of the OSSCE on Combating Anti-semitism, Berlin</p> <p>Harald Welzer, Centre for Interdisciplinary Memory Research, Essen</p> <p>Moderation: Claus Christian Malzahn, SPIEGEL ONLINE, Berlin</p> <p>Break for Lunch</p>
1:00 p.m.	

<p>2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Anti-semitism and Holocaust Denial in Germany and Europe – Current Findings and Counter-strategies</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Wolfgang Benz, Centre for Research on Anti-semitism, Berlin</p> <p>Panel</p> <p>Wolfgang Benz, Centre for Research on Anti-semitism, Berlin Jean-Yves Camus, Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques, Paris Michael Kiefer, Expert on Islamic Studies, Düsseldorf Wolfgang Kraushaar, Hamburg Institute for Social Research</p> <p>Moderation: Jürgen Wiebicke, WDR-Moderator, Cologne</p>
<p>4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>5:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Wolf Biermann (requested)</p>
<p>5:30 p.m.</p> <p>7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Holocaust and the Muslim World – Current Discussions and Problems with Mediation</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>David Menashri, University of Tel Aviv</p> <p>Panel</p> <p>Katajun Amirpur, Expert on Islamic Studies / Journalist, Cologne Gitta Connemann, Parliamentarian / Deputy Chairwoman of the German-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group, Berlin David Menashri, University of Tel Aviv Carsten von Nahmen, Deutsche Welle, Berlin Esther Schapira, Hessischer Rundfunk, Frankfurt a.M. Ahmet Senyurt, Journalist, Cologne</p> <p>Moderation: Caroline Fetscher, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin</p> <p>Reception</p>