

Lunch break

Panel 6

**The Legacy of Nazi Crime Documentation
and its Reinterpretations**

14:30–16:00

Chair: Vojtěch Kyncl

Monika Rogers

**The Narratives of Doubts: Documents
of the Soviet Trials and Repressive
Institutions in Contemporary
Lithuanian Academic Research
and Memory Culture**

Tatiana Voronina

**Politicians, Witnesses, and Narrators:
Leningrad Siege Testimony in the Discourse
of WWII in the USSR and Russia**

Discussant: Matthias Uhl

Short break

Concluding discussion

16:15–17:00

Chairs: Gintarė Malinauskaitė, Walter Sperling



Photo: Juozas Jakaitis: Išdavystės keliu [On the Road of Betrayal]
(Vilnius: Mintis, 1976).

Conference Venue

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

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Conference language

English

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The Politics and Poetics of Evidence

**The Soviet Documentation of Nazi Crimes,
the Myth of the Great Patriotic War,
and their Legacies**

Conference

Vilnius, 12–13 October 2023



Ein Institut der

**Max Weber
Stiftung**

Deutsche
Geisteswissenschaftliche
Institute im Ausland

LIETUVOS NACIONALINĖ
MARTYNO MAŽVYDO
BIBLIOTEKA

LIETUVOS ISTORIJOS
INSTITUTAS

Deutsches
Historisches Institut
Warschau
Niemiecki
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

Außenstelle Vilnius

30 NIH w Warszawie
DHI Warszawa

The conference seeks to reconstruct the formation and instrumentalization of Soviet knowledge on Nazi crimes. It also aims to understand and to deconstruct the very poetics of the documentary evidence and the politics of its selection, which were deployed to convince the people inside and outside of the postwar USSR. Besides memory studies, research has addressed this powerful link between the documentation of war crimes and the poetics of evidence in a rather unsystematic way. If archives exercise power, if collections of written, photographic, and filmic materials create veracity by virtue of their authenticity, represent a form of 'inner truth', the question arises as to what role the archives of knowledge created under Soviet rule played in the constitution of postwar societies and the postwar order in Europe. To explore these questions, the conference wants to engage the different fields of historical research as well as cultural studies in dialogue.



Thursday, 12 October

9:00–9:30
Welcome

9:30–10:30
Keynote

Franziska Exeler
What Counts as a Reliable Source and for Whom? Some Reflections on Soviet Justice during and in the Aftermath of the Second World War

Coffee break

Panel 1
Documenting Nazi Crimes During and After the War
11:00–13:00

Chair: Dovilė Bataitytė

Jochen Hellbeck
Ilya Ehrenburg: The First Soviet Wartime Documentarist

Vojtěch Kyncl
Documenting Nazi Crimes in Court. The Audiotapes of the Karl Hermann Frank Trial in Czechoslovakia, 1946

Viktorija Naumenko
A History of Heroes/Bandits: Soviet Partisan Testimonies in the Collection of the Commission on the History of the Great Patriotic War

Discussant: Karsten Brüggemann

Lunch break

Panel 2
Nazi Crimes and their Visual Documentation
14:30–16:00

Chair: Sandra Dahlke

Agata Pietrasik
Visualizing the Notion of “Nazi War Crimes” in the Immediate Aftermath of the War in Poland

Irina Tcherneva
Marks of Crime in the Lens of Soviet Cameras: Methodological and Epistemological Issues of Historicization

Discussant: Gintarė Malinauskaitė

Coffee break

Panel 3
Witnessing and Mediating between Narratives
16:30–18:00

Chair: Tatiana Voronina

Nathalie Moine
The Writer, the Doctor, and the Filmmaker: Kharkov/ Kharkiv 1943. The Participation of the Soviet Intelligentsia in the Construction of the Documentation of the Nazi Occupation and its Legacy

Ulrike Huhn
Rediscovering the Shtetl, Reassessing the Holocaust: The Leningrad Jewish Independent Movement in the 1980s

Discussant: Tomas Vaiseta

Dinner

Friday, 13 October

Panel 4
Soviet “Truth-Making” and the Archives
9:00–11:00

Chair: Karsten Brüggemann

Walter Sperling
A Soviet “Fetish” in the Archives. The German Trophy Files in the Aftermath of War

Gintarė Malinauskaitė
Holocaust and the Public Re(Use) of Nazi Documents in Soviet Lithuania in the 1960s: Archival Documents as Public Embodiments of the Enemies

Matthias Uhl
The Heusinger File. Trophy documents and Kompromat in the Cold War

Discussant: Vladas Sirutavičius

Coffee break

Panel 5
Contesting Authenticity in Global Cold War
11:30–13:30

Chair: Jochen Hellbeck

Justas Stončius
“Documents Accuse”. The Soviet Regime Against Lithuanian War Criminals in America

Vanessa Voisin
Evidence Reassessed? The Fedorenko Case and Soviet Cold War Game, 1973–1986

Discussant: Kristina Burinskaitė