

**Thursday, 8 December 2011**

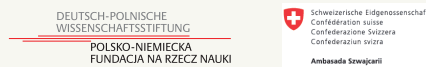
10.00 – 11.30: Visit of conference participants  
to the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw  
(optional)

**Conference organized by**

German Historical Institute Warsaw  
Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw  
Nordost-Institut Lüneburg

**With the financial support of**

Deutsch-Polnische Wissenschaftsstiftung  
and Embassy of Switzerland, Warsaw



**To stay or go?  
Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath  
of the Holocaust**

The conference deals with possibilities for and perspectives of Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust. In view of the scale of the Holocaust, post-war political turmoil, a pervading sense of emptiness after the death of the nation, the persistence of anti-Semitism in general as well as repeated incidents of brutal anti-Semitic violence following the liberation, many Jews were faced with the following question: should they return to their places of origin and start anew or should they emigrate from Europe? Did Jews find their place in post-war European societies? Was the attempt to rebuild Jewish life, institutions and culture successful and if so, to what extent? Who decided not to participate in this endeavour and why? These are the main questions of the conference. Its aim is to examine the situation in individual countries. However, the ultimate goal is to establish clearly similarities and dissimilarities in the situations of Jews after the war in Western and Eastern Europe.

**Concept and organization:**

Helena Datner (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)  
Katrín Steffen (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg)  
Katrín Stoll (German Historical Institute Warsaw)

The conference will be held at the German Historical  
Institute Warsaw

**Conference languages:**

English/Polish

Simultaneous translation will be provided

**Contact**

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Commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Photo: Jewish Historical Institute Warsaw

# TO STAY OR GO?

Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust

5–7 December 2011  
International Conference  
at the German Historical Institute Warsaw

Zydowski Instytut Historyczny  
im. Emanuela Ringelbluma

Deutsches  
Historisches Institut  
Warschau  
Niemiecki  
Instytut Historyczny  
w Warszawie

NORD  
OST  
INSTITUT

## Monday, 5 December 2011

9.30 – 10.00: Welcome address: Director GHIW (*Eduard Mühle*), Director JHI (Paweł Śpiwak), Director Nordost-Institut Lüneburg (*Joachim Tauber*)  
Introduction: *Helena Datner* (Warsaw), *Katrin Steffen* (Lüneburg), *Katrin Stoll* (Warsaw)

### Keynote Speeches

10.00 – 11.00: *Frank Golczewski* (Hamburg): The post-war period: a completely new world? [delivered in Polish]  
*Joanna Tokarska-Bakir* (Warsaw): The post-war dilemmas of the Kupferblum Family from Sandomierz. Polish Memory and Jewish Memory [delivered in Polish]

Chair: *Eduard Mühle* (Warsaw)

11.00 – 11.30: Discussion

11.30 – 12.00: Break

### Section I: Post-war Displacement of Jews

Chair: *Dariusz Stola* (Warsaw)

12.00 – 12.20: *Anna Lipphardt* (Freiburg): A Community on the move: the Holocaust Survivors from Vilna between 1944/45 and 1948

12.20 – 12.40: *Albert Kaganovitch* (Winnipeg): How illegal was “illegal Jewish Emigration” from post-war Poland?

12.40 – 13.00: *Marcos Silber* (Haifa): To stay or go? To return! Return Migration from Palestine/Israel to Poland until the early '50s

13.00 – 13.45: Commentary: *Dariusz Stola* and discussion

14.00 – 16.00: Break

16.00 – 16.20: *Julia Maspéro* (Paris): The Exodus of Jews from Eastern Europe through France and French Occupation Zones

16.20 – 16.40: *Frank Caestecker* (Ghent): Belgium as an Immigration, Transit and Emigration Country for Jewish Survivors (1945-1948)

16.40 – 17.00: *Isaac Herszkowitz* (Ramat-Gan): Rabbis as ‘Shapers of Identity’: Agents of the Past in the post-war European DP Camps

17.00 – 17.45: Commentary: *Feliks Tych* and discussion

17.45 – 18.10: Break

### Section II: The Jewish Communities after the Holocaust

Chair: *Katrin Stoll* (Warsaw)

18.10 – 18.30: *Gershon Greenberg* (Washington D.C.): Orthodox Jewish Religious Considerations

18.30 – 19.00: Commentary: *Isaac Herszkowitz* and discussion

## Tuesday, 6 December 2011

### Section II: The Jewish Communities after the Holocaust

Chair: *Katrin Steffen* (Lüneburg)

9.00 – 9.20: *Andrea Sinn* (Munich): “How can you possibly live in Germany?” Jewish politics and the question of Jewish life in post-war Germany

9.20 – 9.40: *Elizabeth Anthony* (Worcester): The First Wave: The return of Jewish Concentration Camp Survivors and Refugees to Vienna in the immediate post-war period

9.40 – 10.30: Commentary: *Ruth Leiserowitz* and discussion

10.30 – 11.00: Break

11.00 – 11.20: *Łukasz Krzyżanowski* (Warsaw): Homecomers: Jews and Gentiles in post-war Radom [delivered in Polish]

11.20 – 11.40: *Ewa Koźmińska-Frejłak* (Warsaw): Assimilation to Polishness as an adapting strategy of Polish Jewish Holocaust Survivors [delivered in Polish]

11.40 – 12.00: *Magdalena Ruta* (Kraków): “Jecijes Pojln” or “Nusech Pojln”: literary discussions of the Jewish presence in Poland against the background of the revival of Yiddish cultural life in the years 1945-1949 [delivered in Polish]

12.00 – 12.45: Commentary: *August Grabski* and discussion

13.00 – 14.30: Break

14.30 – 14.50: *Constance Pâris de Bollardière* (Paris): The Jewish Labor Committee and the reconstruction of a Bundist oriented Jewish Labor Movement in France, 1944-1949

14.50 – 15.10: *Arnaud Bozzini* (Brussels): Identity (re-)construction and political engagement. Jewish activists and the Communist Party of Belgium after World War II

15.10 – 16.00: Commentary: *August Grabski* and discussion

16.00 – 16.30: Break

### Section III: Attitudes of the political Establishment and Civil Society towards the Jews

Chair: *Joachim Tauber* (Lüneburg)

16.30 – 16.50: *Daniel Gerson* (Basel): Refuge without the right to permanent residence: Holocaust Survivors in Switzerland, 1945-1948

16.50 – 17.10: *Kateřina Čapková* (Prague): Germans or Jews? German-speaking Jews in Poland and Czechoslovakia after 1945

17.10 – 17.30: *Regina Fritz* (Vienna): The myth of “Jewish revenge” – post-war Anti-Semitism in Hungary and the Pogroms of 1946

17.30 – 18.30: Commentary: *Katrin Steffen* and discussion

## Wednesday, 7 December 2011

### Section III: Attitudes of the political Establishment and Civil Society towards the Jews

Chair: *Andrzej Żbikowski* (Warsaw)

9.00 – 9.20: *Natan Sznaider* (Tel Aviv): Culture and Memory: The role of Jewish Cultural Property

9.20 – 9.40: *Matthias Barelkowsky* (Gießen): How was the issue of “abandoned” Jewish property in Poznań and Wrocław dealt with after World War II? Conflicts as a result of new laws, post-war daily life, demands for the return of property, and of political principles [delivered in Polish]

9.40 – 10.30: Commentary: *Marcin Zaremba* and discussion

10.30 – 11.00: Break

11.00 – 11.20: *Bożena Szaynok* (Wrocław): Poland: Jews – Communism – Poles [delivered in Polish]

11.20 – 11.40: *Katarzyna Person* (London): Polish-Jewish Relations in the DP Camps [delivered in Polish]

11.40 – 12.00: *Zuzanna Radzik* (Warsaw): Remorse of the Churches? Changes in European Christian attitudes towards the Jews immediately after the Holocaust [delivered in Polish]

12.00 – 13.00: Commentary: *Marcin Zaremba* and discussion

13.15 – 15.00: Break

### Section IV: Early forms of Holocaust Documentation, Research and Commemoration

Chair: *Imke Hansen* (Hamburg)

15.00 – 15.20: *Natalia Aleksium* (New York): Philip Friedman and the emergence of Holocaust Scholarship

15.20 – 15.40: *Johanna Schüller* (Potsdam): Genia Silkes – A pedagogue at the Central Committee of Polish Jews (CKŻWP) and the Jewish Historical Institute (ŻIH) in post-war Poland

15.40 – 16.00: *Beata Przymuszała* (Poznań): Ways of interpreting the Extermination of the Jews in the 1940s: “The Organization of rage” by Michał Borwicz [delivered in Polish]

16.00 – 16.50: Commentary: *Katrin Stoll* and discussion

16.50 – 17.15: Break

17.15 – 17.35: *David E. Fishman* (New York): In the Shadow of the Holocaust: The Vilna Jewish Museum, 1944-1949

17.35 – 17.55: *Boaz Cohen* (Akko): The Jewish voice: Holocaust Testimonies 1945-1949

17.55 – 18.15: *Noah Benninga* (Jerusalem): Holocaust Testimony as Sources for (a) Cultural History of the Holocaust

18.15 – 19.00: Commentary: *Katrin Stoll* and discussion

19.00 – 19.15: Break

19.15 – 20.00: Summary and final discussion

Chair: *Helena Datner*