

About the workshop

During the persecution and extermination of Jews throughout Europe during the Second World War thousands of Jewish children were forced to hide in improvised surroundings. Many spent the duration of the Holocaust in secret attics and Catholic convents. Some lived openly with foreign Christian families. They had to struggle with a sense of being in constant danger and they spent their childhoods living under life-threatening conditions. During the post-war years, whilst adjusting to their new lives, these hidden children experienced a double trauma. Firstly, many were hidden when they were still infants, and therefore had no recollection of their parents. Others lost their families who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators. The children who returned home to their parents, grandparents or siblings experienced significant psychological problems and had to adapt to their new way of life with their war-traumatised relatives. Secondly, during the war, these children not only had to live separately from their relatives, they also had to change their identity, and in some cases were compelled to forget their first language.

Thus in the post-war years these hidden children faced the double hurdle of adjusting to their psychologically damaged parents and to re-acustoming themselves with their pre-war Jewish identities. In many countries after the war the fates of these secret Holocaust survivors who grew up and lived their own lives have been forgotten, or at best their stories received very little attention. This workshop aims to revisit and reclaim the stories of these children in their respective countries and to examine the impact their hiding experiences had on them in their post-war lives.

Organizers:

Ruth Leiserowitz (German Historical Institute Warsaw)
Gintarė Malinauskaitė (Branch Office of the German Historical Institute Warsaw in Vilnius)

Event site:

Valdas Adamkus Presidential Library Museum
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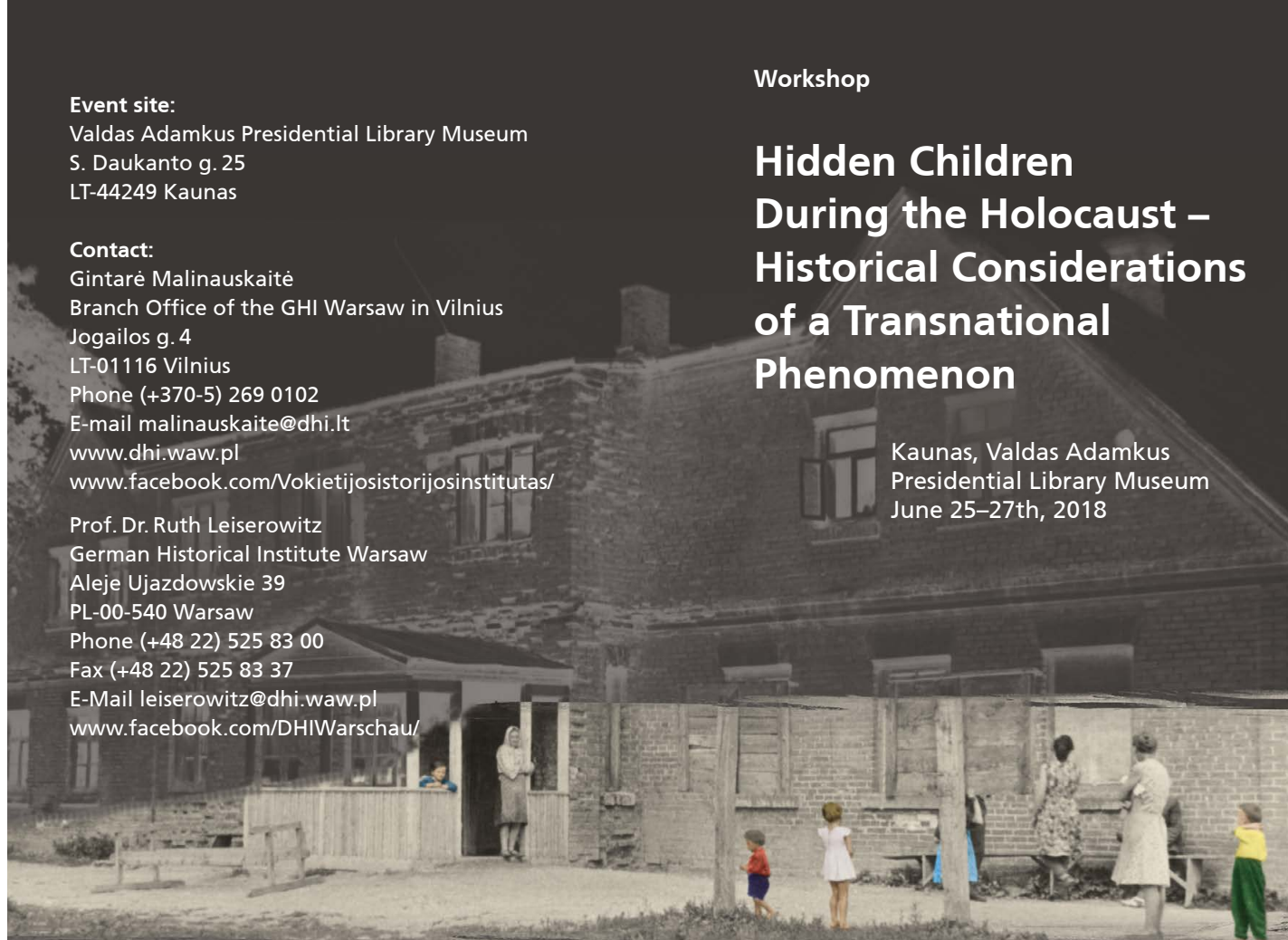
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Workshop

Hidden Children During the Holocaust – Historical Considerations of a Transnational Phenomenon

Kaunas, Valdas Adamkus
Presidential Library Museum
June 25–27th, 2018



PREZIDENTO VALDO ADAMKAUS
BIBLIOTEKA - MUZIEJUS

Photography → Pakamačiai estate in Pasvalys region where Tamara Lazersonaitė, with the help of Vera Effertienė and Petras Effertas, lived during the spring and summer of 1944. Source: Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum, Archive of the Department for Commemoration of Rescuers of Jews

Max Weber
Stiftung

Deutsche
Geisteswissenschaftliche
Institute im Ausland

Monday, June 25th

10 am

Welcome

Gintarė Malinauskaitė

(Branch Office of the German Historical Institute Warsaw in Vilnius)

Introduction

Ruth Leiserowitz

(German Historical Institute Warsaw)

10.30–11.30 am

Keynote: Boaz Cohen

(Western Galilee College, Akko / Shaanan College, Haifa)

The War against the Jewish Child.
Nazi Policies Towards Jewish Children

11.30 am–12 pm

Coffee break

12–14 pm

Paolo Tagini

(The Institute for the History of Resistance and Contemporary Society, Vicenza)

Jews Hidden Children During Nazi-Fascist Persecution: The Italian Case (1943-1945)

Annelise Forst

(University of Salzburg)

Hidden Children in France During the Shoah

14–15.30 pm

Lunch

15.30–16.30 pm

Danutė Selčinskaja

(Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum)

Children in the Kaunas Ghetto. Never Ending Killing Actions in the Kaunas Ghetto, Children's Tragic Destiny and Fighting for Each Child's Life

16.30–17 pm

Coffee break

17–19 pm

Excursion

19 pm

Dinner

Tuesday, June 26th

10–11 am

Aurelia Kalisky

(Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL) Berlin)

Psychoanalyst Hans Keilson

11–11.30 am

Coffee break



11.30 am–14 pm

Interviews with survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust

14–15.30 pm

Lunch

15.30–17.30 pm

Brigitte van Kann

(journalist and author, Hamburg)

Living in Order to Survive. Reli Alfandari Pardo's Report on Her Childhood in Occupied Belgrade

Wilhelm Kuehs

(University of Klagenfurt)

Saving Them All – How Diana Budisavljević Rescued More than 10,000 Children

18 pm

Dinner

Wednesday, June 27th

10–11 am

Nikita Hock

(University of Bern)

A Sound Hide-Out. The Role of the Sonic in Jewish Child Diaries

11–11.30 am

Coffee break

11.30 am–12.30 pm

Concluding discussion