

Advance Information Sheet

MATTERS OF TESTIMONY INTERPRETING THE SCROLLS OF AUSCHWITZ

Nicholas Chare and Dominic Williams

Key Points

- The first book-length examination of the significance of the Scrolls of Auschwitz as Holocaust testimony.
- Discusses the unique insights the Scrolls provide and challenges the idea that most significant Holocaust testimony was produced retrospectively.
- Examines testimony from both Eastern-European and Greek Jews who were members of the Sonderkommando exploring the heterogeneity of their experiences.
- Develops innovative interpretations that move beyond debates about authenticity and towards a consideration of questions around material modes of bearing witness.

Summary

In 1944, members of the *Sonderkommando*—the “special squads,” composed almost exclusively of Jewish prisoners, who ensured the smooth operation of the gas chambers and had firsthand knowledge of the extermination process—buried on the grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau a series of remarkable eyewitness accounts of Nazi genocide. This careful and penetrating study examines anew these “Scrolls of Auschwitz,” which were gradually recovered, in damaged and fragmentary form, in the years following the camp’s liberation. It painstakingly reconstructs their historical context and textual content, revealing complex literary works that resist narrow moral judgment and engage difficult questions about the limits of testimony.

Check out Nicholas Chare and Dominic Williams’s piece on [Slate’s The Vault](#) and also [Searching for Feelings: The Scrolls of Auschwitz and Son of Saul](#) on the Berghahn Blog.

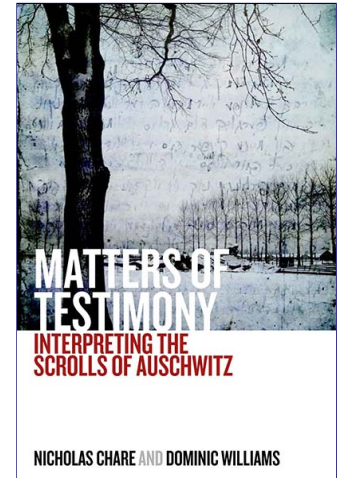
“This is a profoundly moving book. It is more than just the most complete analysis of the Sonderkommando writings in the English language, it is a study that challenges readers to ask fundamental questions about how we access the past. In doing so, Matters of Testimony is a manifesto for the importance of historical and literary analysis even when scholars are confronted with this most difficult and traumatic material.” • Tom Lawson, Northumbria University

“This is a major book that changes the field. It is a brilliant and original work of superb historical research and profoundly affecting cultural analysis.” • Griselda Pollock, University of Leeds

“The authors’ analyses are meticulous and fascinating, and are invariably based on equally impressive research. It is unusual to be able to say that an academic monograph on Holocaust literature serves as not just an analysis of but also a memorial for its subject, but that is the case here.” • Sue Vice, University of Sheffield

About the Authors

Nicholas Chare is Associate Professor of Art History at the Université de Montréal. He is the author of *Auschwitz and Afterimages: Abjection, Witnessing and Representation* and *After Francis Bacon: Synaesthesia and Sex in Paint*, and the co-editor, with Dominic Williams, of *Representing Auschwitz: At the Margins of Testimony*.



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Dominic Williams is a Montague Burton Fellow in Jewish Studies at the University of Leeds. He has published articles on modernism, the First World War, contemporary poetry and the Holocaust. In addition to co-editing *Representing Auschwitz*, he has co-edited, with Fabio A. Durão, *Modernist Group Dynamics: The Politics and Poetics of Friendship*.

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Advance Information Sheet

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE OTHER

Edited by Michael Patrick Cullinane and David Ryan

Key Points

Investigates American identity and its effect on foreign relations

Only book to examine the idea of the “other” with relation to U.S. foreign policy

Examines foreign relations over three centuries

Provides another concept for deciphering historical contexts of U.S. foreign relations

Summary

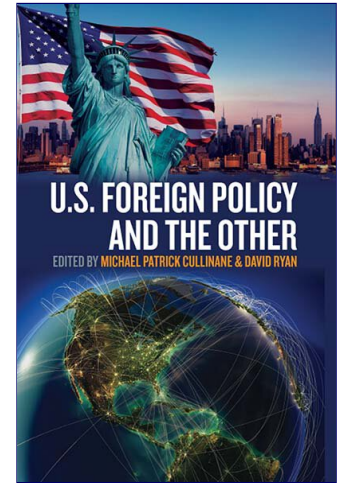
John Quincy Adams warned Americans not to search abroad for monsters to destroy, yet such figures have frequently habituated the discourses of U.S. foreign policy. This collection of essays focuses on counter-identities in American consciousness to explain how foreign policies and the discourse surrounding them develop. Whether it is the seemingly ubiquitous evil of Hitler during World War II or the more complicated perceptions of communism throughout the Cold War, these essays illuminate the cultural contexts that constructed rival identities. The authors challenge our understanding of “others,” looking at early applications of the concept in the eighteenth century to recent twenty-first century conflicts, establishing how this phenomenon is central to decision making through centuries of conflict.

“...the book is a valuable contribution to the field of U.S. foreign policy literature. Its greatest contribution will be in its elucidation of the symbiotic relationship between U.S. identity and the identification of U.S. adversaries, with the recognition that a nuanced understanding of its adversaries may facilitate the drafting of more successful foreign policies... The book should find a wide audience within the foreign policy analysis field and become a valuable addition to many libraries.” · International Social Science Review

“The ambitious scope of this book could make it a profitable addition to an advanced undergraduate or graduate seminar. Because each essay is brief, the collection could be assigned with complementary texts to encourage students to put scholars into conversation with each other.” · Journal of American History

“...[a] superb, nuanced, and sophisticated discussion of how U.S. foreign policy and processes of Othering have been intertwined in American history that Cullinane’s and Ryan’s edited book provides.” · H-Soz-Kult

“This is an outstanding collection of essays, organized around questions of identity and ‘othering’. The editors are themselves prominent scholars of United States foreign policy. They have assembled an impressive collection of scholars to examine the interplay of identity and policy from colonial times to the 21st century. The combination of social constructivist methodology and historically rigorous scholarship gives this collection an original and distinctive



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quality.” · John Dumbrell, Durham University

“This is a terrific work, one that would be used very profitably by any faculty member teaching a U.S. diplomatic survey course. This manuscript provides an important and engaging counterpoint to triumphalist notions about the great American progress, and as such, it will engender lively classroom discussion.” · Christopher Jespersen, University of North Georgia

About the Editors

Michael Patrick Cullinane is Reader in U.S. history at Northumbria University. He is the author of *Liberty and American Anti-Imperialism, 1898-1909* (2012) and numerous articles on diplomatic history in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era.

David Ryan is Professor and Chair of Modern History at University College Cork, Ireland. He is the author of *US Foreign Policy in World History* (2000) and *Frustrated Empire: US Foreign Policy, 9/11 to Iraq* (2007), and he has co-edited *Vietnam in Iraq: Tactics, Lessons, Legacies and Ghosts* (2007, with John Dumbrell) and *America and Iraq: Policy-Making, Intervention, and Regional Politics* (2009, with Patrick Kiely).

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Advance Information Sheet

A WORLD OF POPULATIONS TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEMOGRAPHY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Edited by Heinrich Hartmann and Corinna R. Unger

Key Points

- Regional diversity, emphasis on local situations
- The essays in this collection provide a new approach to demography: history of knowledge
- The text is among the few publications in the field that cover the whole 20th century

Summary

Demographic study and the idea of a “population” was developed and modified over the course of the twentieth century, mirroring the political, social, and cultural situations and aspirations of different societies. This growing field adapted itself to specific policy concerns and was therefore never apolitical, despite the protestations of practitioners that demography was “natural.” Demographics were transformed into public policies that shaped family planning, population growth, medical practice, and environmental conservation. While covering a variety of regions and time periods, the essays in this book share an interest in the transnational dynamics of emerging demographic discourses and practices. Together, they present a global picture of the history of demographic knowledge.

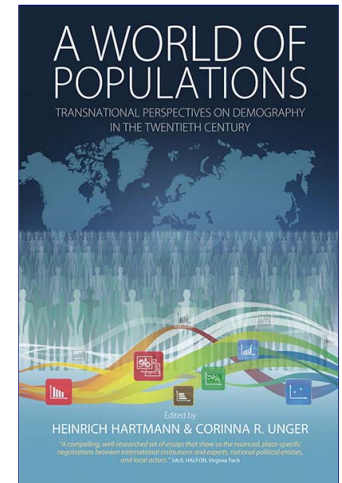
“...an important step in writing global or transnational histories of demographic ideas and discourses... The volume offers insights into global and local interactions, covers major aspects of global family planning programmes and “overpopulation” debates, as well as contains case studies on the United States, Poland, Chile, South Korea, Turkey, Kenya, and Melanesia.” · H-Soz-Kult

“I learned something new on almost every page of A World of Populations, despite having worked very closely in this field. The case studies herein are surprising and fascinating, offering new geographies and perspectives. This book has made me intrigued and curious about demography and world population all over again.” · Alison Bashford, University of Cambridge, author of Global Population

“Overall, this is a compelling, well-researched set of essays..[that] show us the nuanced, place-specific negotiations between international institutions and experts, national political entities, and local actors... Both the overall picture and the specific stories provided in this text are important contributions to the emerging literature on the history and social studies of demography and population policy.” · Saul Halfon, Virginia Tech

About the Editors

Heinrich Hartmann is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Basel, Switzerland. His book, *Der Volkskörper bei der Musterung. Militärstatistik und Demographie in Europa vor dem Ersten Weltkrieg* (Wallstein 2011) received the Henry E. Sigerist Award in 2012. His research focuses on the history of nineteenth and twentieth century demography in Europe and on the



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history of Turkish modernization in a transnational perspective.

Corinna R. Unger is Professor of Global and Colonial History (19th and 20th centuries) at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

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Advance Information Sheet

JEWISH MEDICAL RESISTANCE IN THE HOLOCAUST

Edited by Michael A. Grodin

Foreword by Joseph Polak

Afterword by Yulian Rafes

Key Points

- This book is a unique study into the work of Jewish doctors in the ghettos and concentration camps of the Holocaust
- The text utilises archival material and memoirs of Holocaust survivors to explore an unknown chapter of the Holocaust
- The volume illustrates how human morality can survive in an inhumane and degrading environment

Summary

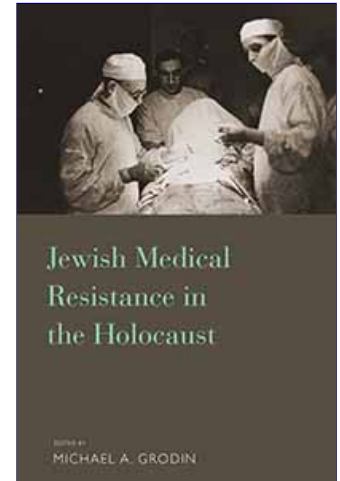
Faced with infectious diseases, starvation, lack of medicines, lack of clean water, and safe sewage, Jewish physicians practiced medicine under severe conditions in the ghettos and concentration camps of the Holocaust. Despite the odds against them, physicians managed to supply public health education, enforce hygiene protocols, inspect buildings and latrines, enact quarantine, and perform triage. Many gave their lives to help fellow prisoners. Based on archival materials and featuring memoirs of Holocaust survivors, this volume offers a rich array of both tragic and inspiring studies of the sanctification of life as practiced by Jewish medical professionals. More than simply a medical story, these histories represent the finest exemplification of a humanist moral imperative during a dark hour of recent history.

“The 20 chapters in this four-part volume are well researched, based extensively on primary sources, and highly readable. This book should be read by anyone interested in understanding more about resistance to the Holocaust and the complex roles that medicine played in defying the genocidal intentions of the ‘Final Solution’.” · **Choice**

“[Grodin] compiled a fascinating series of articles documenting a little-known aspect of the Holocaust: medical resistance by Jewish physicians and health care workers...The articles cover a wide range of topics related to health care...[and] are fascinating to read. They inspire both compassion for those affected and awe of the courage of the health care professionals who risked their own lives to assist and save fellow Jews. Their sanctification of life, the core Jewish value, is duly honoured here. Libraries supporting programs in medical history, Holocaust studies, and bioethics will definitely want this book for their collections.” · **Association of Jewish Libraries**

Reviews

“[A] brilliant scholarly piece of work, very well written, underpinned with rich sources. The list of authors - some of them survivors, or children of survivors - is impressive...The book covers a hitherto fairly new and unknown chapter on the Holocaust...The stories of these physicians can serve as a model for future generations of doctors on how to preserve humaneness, morality and loyalty to the basic ethical principles of medicine in a deeply inhumane and destructive environment.” · **Christian Pross, Zentrum Überleben**



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“This is an interesting and important publication on Jewish medical resistance, a subject rarely covered in the literature on the Holocaust...the overall amount of information, the variety of approaches and the general insight given into this emotionally laden topic makes this volume unique and outstanding. And while the personal accounts as well as the scholarly data paint the picture of horrific suffering, they also leave the reader with hope in the realization of the nurses’ and doctors’ determination to alleviate suffering even under near impossible circumstances.” · Sabine Hildebrandt, Harvard Medical School

About the Editor

Michael A. Grodin, M.D. is Professor of Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights at the Boston University School of Public Health, where he is also Director of the Project on Medicine and the Holocaust, and Senior Faculty at the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies and the Division of Religious and Theological Studies. As a practicing physician, Dr. Grodin has been named one of America’s Top Physicians and has received a national Humanism in Medicine Award for “compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients and their families.” An internationally recognized scholar on the Holocaust, Dr. Grodin has received a special citation from the United State Holocaust Memorial Museum for “profound contributions- through original and creative research - to the cause of Holocaust education and remembrance.”

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Advance Information Sheet

SOUNDS OF MODERN HISTORY AUDITORY CULTURES IN 19TH- AND 20TH-CENTURY EUROPE

Edited by Daniel Morat

Key Points

- Presents current research by mostly younger scholars in the field of sound history.
- Brings a thoroughly historical approach to the field of sound studies (in contrast to many collections/studies in the field of sound studies with a more contemporary or media studies approach)
- Advocates the significance of sound for the understanding of modern history.

Summary

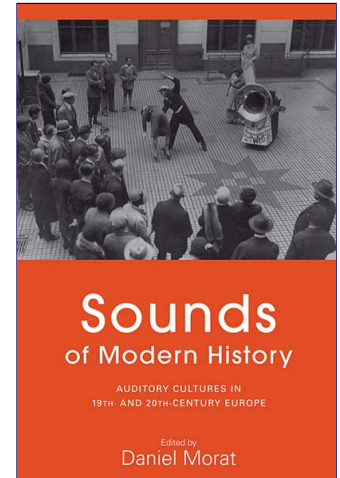
Long ignored by scholars in the humanities, sound has just begun to take its place as an important object of study in the last few years. Since the late 19th century, there has been a paradigmatic shift in auditory cultures and practices in European societies. This change was brought about by modern phenomena such as urbanization, industrialization and mechanization, the rise of modern sciences, and of course the emergence of new sound recording and transmission media. This book contributes to our understanding of modern European history through the lens of sound by examining diverse subjects such as performed and recorded music, auditory technologies like the telephone and stethoscope, and the ambient noise of the city.

"...this highly readable and well-sequenced text synthesises key research on the history of sound, bringing the work of the burgeoning field's seminal figures into dialogue with that of emerging scholars of the history of European sound cultures." • **Melbourne Historical Journal**

"As a whole, this collection provides a fine introduction to Sound Studies for historians of modern Europe and, at the same time, contributes new material to the growing body of work in this field. The collective work on World War I is perhaps the most original and compelling, but there is excellent scholarship throughout." • **German History**

"...presents an excellent contribution to the social studies of sound...In contrast to the more common ocular-centricity of the history of the senses, this book explores the social dimensions of sound as an independent and new area of research." • **Sounds of Modern History**

"...represents a significant contribution to the ongoing process of defining the comparatively young field of 'Sound History'. As the editor notes in his introduction, the field is still characterized by a multitude of different perspectives, and a corresponding range of approaches such that even a stable set of terminologies have yet to be settled upon... This book does an excellent job of show-casing the variety of possibilities and potentials present in the field, and is to be thoroughly recommended on those grounds alone." • **Sehepunkte**



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“Sound has to be recognized as another, co-modifying factor of the multi-sensory world. Thanks to the publisher, the editor, and all the contributors to *Sounds of Modern History*, sound now receives this long-missed recognition. I have to congratulate everyone involved in this project, as it opens up new perspectives and adds great depth and variety to contemporary soundscape studies.” ·

CritCom. Journal of Reviews & Critical Commentar

“This is a timely intervention in sound studies, one of the most innovative fields to have emerged in the past 10 years. It brings together work by some established figures in the field (e.g. Mark Smith), but also essays by emerging scholars... One of the key aspects of the collection is the focus on aurality as part of a wider history of modernity.” · **Veit Erlmann**, University of Texas at Austin

“*Sounds of Modern History* offers a strong collection of essays, by younger as well as established scholars, bringing the vanguard of European sound studies scholarship in direct dialogue with... scholarship focused on North America.” · **Art Blake**, Ryerson University

About the Editor

Daniel Morat is a Research Fellow and Lecturer in the History Department of the Free University Berlin. He currently holds a Diltthey Fellowship from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation, and since 2012 has directed the international research network “Auditory Knowledge in Transition: An Epistemic History of Listening in Modernity.” His publications include *Von der Tat zur Gelassenheit. Konservatives Denken bei Martin Heidegger, Ernst Jünger und Friedrich Georg Jünger 1920-1960* (Göttingen 2007).

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