PROBING THE LIMITS OF CATEGORIZATION:
THE ‘Bystander’ IN HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Amsterdam, September 24-26, 2015

CONFERENCE PROGRAM
Thursday, September 24, 2015
Location: Doelenzaal, University of Amsterdam, Singel 425

14:00 Welcome and Introduction
Christina Morina/Krijn Thijs (German Studies Institute, Amsterdam);
Frank Bajohr (Center for Holocaust Studies, Munich)

15:00-17:00 Panel 1 (plenum):
Concept History: Genesis of an Elusive Category
Raul Hilberg and the ‘Discovery’ of Bystanders in Holocaust Historiography
René Schlott (Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam)
The Bystanders/Sasiedzi in Poland since 1939
Jan Grabowski (Ottawa/Warsaw)
From Victim to Perpetrator. The Changing Image of the Bystander in the
Memory of the Holocaust in the Netherlands
Ido De Haan (University of Utrecht)
Commentary: Norbert Frei (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena)

17:00-17:30 Refreshments
17:30-18:30 Keynote Lecture: Mary Fulbrook, London
Introduction: Frank Bajohr (Center for Holocaust Studies, Munich)
18:30-19:30 Buffet
20:00-22:00 Film & Discussion “Shoah” and beyond at Tuschinski
Nicole Colin (University of Aix-en-Provence) & Wulf Kansteiner (Aarhus University)

Friday, September 25, 2015
Location: Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam

9:00-11:00 Panel 2:
The “Bystander” avant la lettre: Categorizations and Narrations in the early Postwar Years
Before By-Standers: Early Jewish Conceptualizations of Local Collaboration and Rescue
Natallia Aleksiun (Touro College New York)
‘He is not an Antisemite’: Early Attempts at Assessing Responsibilities for Anti-Jewish Persecutions in the Bulgarian People’s Court (1944-1945)
Nadège Ragaru (Sciences Po, Paris)
Dutch Local Authorities as Bystanders?
Peter Romijn (Amsterdam)
Commentary: Ismee Tames (Amsterdam)

Panel 3:
Social Dynamics I: Societal Processes of Exclusion and Disintegration
Indifferent Dutch and valiant Danes. The Dangers of Teleology
Bart van der Boom (University of Leiden)
‘What Have you Done to these People?’ Bystanders in the End Phase of the Holocaust
Adam R. Seipp (Texas A&M University)
Putting the By-stander in Context: Public Spheres under Occupation and the Holocaust
Dieter Pohl (University of Klagenfurt)
Commentary: Frank Bajohr (Munich)
11:30-13:30

Panel 4: Depictions: Visual Evidence of and by Bystanders

Photographing Bystanders
Christoph Kreutzmueller
House of the Wannsee Conference (Berlin)

The Figure of the Bystander between Onlooker, Spectator and Accomplice in Photographs of Wehrmacht Soldiers
Petra Bopp (Hamburg/Jena)

Bystanders as Visual Subjects: Spectators, Observers, Onlookers?
Roma Sendyka (Jagiellonian University, Krakow)

Commentary: Andrea Löw (Munich)

Panel 5: Reflections: The Bystander through the Victim’s Eyes during and after the Holocaust

The Bystander Category in Victims’ Narratives. The Example of Ida Fink’s Short Stories
Aránzazu Calderón Puerta (Warsaw University)

On the “French Paradox:” How Did 75% of the Jews in France Survive the Holocaust?
Jacques Séminel (CERI-Sciences Po Paris)

Transatlantic Reinventions of the Bystander
The autobiographies of three Jewish German-American historians: George Mosse, Peter Gay and Fritz Stern
Merel Leeman (University of Amsterdam)

Commentary: Dienke Hondius (Amsterdam)

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:30

Panel 6: Attitudes and Agency: Shades of Bystanding Behavior

The Bystander as a Non-Jew
Remco Ensel (Nijmegen)/Evelien Gans (Amsterdam)

Spectators: Aware and Active
Bożena Keff (Jewish Historical Institute & Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw)

Standing by on ‘The Invisible Front of the Secret Spiritual Germany’: Martin Heidegger’s Anti-Semitism in the Schwarze Hefte
Adam Knowles (Drexel University)

Commentary: Ulrich Herbert (Freiburg)

Panel 7: Social Dynamics II: Interactions and Relations in Local Communities

Agnieszka W. Wierzcholska, Freie Universität Berlin

Were There ‘Bystanders’ in Topolcany?
Concept Formation and Stretching
Hana Kubátová (Charles University in Prague)

How Amsterdam Residents Experienced the Persecution of the Jews
Guus Meershoek (University of Twente)

Commentary: Katja Happe (Feiburg)

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-19:00 Panel 8 (Plenum): Cultures of Violence: Presence, Participation, Incrimination

Stand by Your Man: Women in the SS-Sippengemeinschaft
Susanne C. Knittel (University of Utrecht)
Participating Observers? The German Project and the Local Contexts in Occupied Poland
Elżbieta Janicka (Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw)

Sensing Nazi Terror: Sensory Bystanding and the Volksgemeinschaft, 1933-1945
Paul Moore (University of Leicester)

Commentary: Tatjana Tönsmeyer (University of Wuppertal/KWI Essen)

20:00 Conference Dinner

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**Saturday, September 26, 2015**
**Location:** Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam

9:00 -11:00

**Panel 9:** Representations: Bystanders in Film and Museum

Cinematic Representation of Collective Active-Bystanding in Verhoeven’s ‘Human Failure’
Hilla Lavie (The Hebrew University, Jerusalem)

The Power of Reenactment: Bystanders Performing the Past
Aleksandra Szczepan (Jagiellonian University Krakow)

Uses of the Concept and Term ‘Bystander’ in Exhibitions at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1993-2015
Susan Bachrach (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC)

Commentary: Jan Grabowski (Ottawa, Warsaw)

**Panel 10:** Adoptions: In Search of New Categories

‘I am not, what I am’: A Multidimensional Approach to Actor Classification in Genocide
Timothy Williams (Centre for Conflict Studies at Marburg University)

Understanding Bystander Behavior as Social System
Froukje Demant (University of Amsterdam)

Revisiting ‘the Bystander’
Fabian van Samang (Leuven, Belgium)

Commentary: Mary Fulbrook (UCL, London)

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:30 Final Panel & Plenary Discussion:
The Holocaust and other Genocides: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives on Social Violence and Human Agency

Tatjana Tönsmeyer (Wuppertal/ Essen)
Jacques Sémein (Paris)
Ido De Haan (Utrecht)
Wulf Kansteiner (Aarhus)

Moderators: Christina Morina (Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam/Jena) & Krijn Thijs (Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam)

13:30 Lunch (to go)

14:00 End of conference