



# PROBING THE LIMITS OF CATEGORIZATION: THE 'BYSTANDER' IN HOLOCAUST HISTORY

Amsterdam, September 24-26, 2015

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Credits: large foto: Arrest of Jewish men in Baden-Baden, Germany, Nov. 1938, Bundesarchiv Koblenz - small foto top left: residents looking at deportation of Jews in Lörrach, Germany, Oct. 22, 1940, Stadtarchiv Lörrach



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NIOD  
instituut voor  
oorlogs, holocaust-  
en genocidestudies

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

13:30                    **Registration**

14:00                    **Welcome and Introduction**

**Frank van Vree** (Amsterdam)  
**Krijn Thijs/Christina Morina** (Amsterdam)  
**Frank Bajohr** (Munich)

15:00-17:00            **Panel 1 (plenary session):**  
**Concept History: Genesis of an Elusive Category**

*Raul Hilberg and the 'Discovery' of Bystanders in Holocaust Historiography*  
**René Schlott** (Potsdam)

*The Bystanders/Sąsiedzi 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** (Utrecht)

Commentary: **Norbert Frei** (Jena)  
Chair: **Krijn Thijs** (Amsterdam)

17:00-17:30            *Refreshments*

17:30-18:30            **Keynote Lecture: Mary Fulbrook (London): Bystanders: Catchall Concept, Alluring Alibi or Crucial Clue?**

Introduction: **Frank Bajohr** (Munich)

18:30-19:30            *Buffet*

20:00-22:00            **Film & Discussion: Between Guilt, Heroism, and a Great Deal of Seductive Normality: Nazi Bystanders as Cultural Icons in Film and Television**

Location: Cinema Tuschinski, Reguliersbreestraat 26-34, Amsterdam  
Language: English and German

**Nicole Colin** (Aix-en-Provence) & **Wulf Kansteiner** (Aarhus)

**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*  
**Natalia Aleksion** (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** (Paris)

**Panel 3:**  
**Social Dynamics I: Societal Processes of Exclusion and Disintegration**

*Indifferent Dutch and Valiant Danes. The Dangers of Teleology*  
**Bart van der Boom** (Leiden)

*'What Have you Done to these People?' Bystanders in the End Phase of the Holocaust*  
**Adam R. Seipp** (College Station, Texas)

*Dutch Local Authorities as Bystanders?*

**Peter Romijn** (Amsterdam)

Commentary: **Ismee Tames** (Amsterdam)

Chair: **Maurits Hortensius** (Amsterdam)

11:00-11:30 *Coffee break*

11:30-13:30

#### **Panel 4:**

#### **Depictions: Visual Evidence of and by Bystanders**

*Photographing Bystanders*

**Christoph Kreutzmüller** (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** (Krakow)

Commentary: **Andrea Löw** (Munich)

Chair: **Bas von Benda-Beckmann** (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)

*Guardians of Fatum*

**Bożena Keff** (Warsaw)

*Standing by on ,The Invisible Front of the Secret Spiritual Germany': Martin Heidegger's Anti-Semitism in the Schwarze Hefte*

**Adam Knowles** (Drexel)

Commentary: **Bob Moore** (Sheffield)

Chair: **Ilse Raaijmakers** (Utrecht)

*Putting the By-Stander in Context: Public*

*Spheres under Occupation and the Holocaust*

**Dieter Pohl** (Klagenfurt)

Commentary: **Frank Bajohr** (Munich)

Chair: **Moritz Föllmer** (Amsterdam)

#### **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)

*The French Paradox: Is the Bystander Category Useful to Explain why 75% of the Jews Survived in this Country?*

**Jacques Sémelin** (Paris)

*Transatlantic Reinventions of the Bystander.*

*The Autobiographies of three Jewish German-American Historians: George Mosse, Peter Gay and Fritz Stern*

**Merel Leeman** (Amsterdam)

Commentary: **Dienke Hondius** (Amsterdam)

Chair: **Barbara Henkes** (Groningen)

#### **Panel 7:**

#### **Social Dynamics II: Interactions and Relations in Local Communities**

*Tarnow, 1939-45: Social Practices and Norms. The Value of Micro-Historical Studies*

**Agnieszka W. Wiercholska** (Berlin)

*Were There 'Bystanders' in Topolcany? Concept Formation and Stretching*

**Hana Kubátová** (Prague)

*Recognition, Fear, Denial, Shame, Antisemitism. Responses by Amsterdam Citizens to the Genocide of the Jews 1938-1943*

**Guus Meershoek** (Enschede)

Commentary: **Katja Happe** (Freiburg)

Chair: **Bas Kromhout** (Amsterdam)

16:30-17:00

Coffee Break

17:00-19:00

**Panel 8 (plenary session):  
Cultures of Violence: Presence, Participation, Incrimination**

*Stand by Your Man: Women in the SS-Sippengemeinschaft*  
**Susanne C. Knittel** (Utrecht)

*Participating Observers? The German Project and the Local Contexts in Occupied Poland*  
**Elżbieta Janicka** (Warsaw)

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

Commentary: **Tatjana Tönsmeier** (Wuppertal/ Essen)  
Chair: **Nicole Immler** (Utrecht)

**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** (Jerusalem)

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

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

Commentary: **Jan Grabowski** (Ottawa/Warsaw)  
Chair: **Hanco Jürgens** (Amsterdam)

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

*'I am not, what I am.' Thinking Beyond Perpetrators, Bystanders, Rescuers – A Typology of Action Roles in Genocide*  
**Timothy Williams** (Marburg)

*Understanding Bystander Behavior as Social System*  
**Froukje Demant** (Amsterdam)

*'The Bystander as a Philosophical and Discursive Entity'*  
**Fabian van Samang** (Brussels)

Commentary: **Mary Fulbrook** (London)  
Chair: **Katja Happe** (Freiburg)

11:00-11:30

Coffee Break

11:30-13:30

**Final Panel: The Holocaust and other Genocides: Synchronic and Diachronic Perspectives on Social Violence and Human Agency**

**Tatjana Tönsmeier** (Wuppertal/Essen)  
**Jacques Sémelin** (Paris)  
**Ido De Haan** (Utrecht)  
**Wulf Kansteiner** (Aarhus)

Moderators: **Christina Morina** (Amsterdam) & **Krijn Thijs** (Amsterdam)

13:30

Lunch (to go)

14:00

End of conference