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

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/Sąsiędzi 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 Aleksiun (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)
**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)

13:00-14:30 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)

**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 Sémeлин* (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)
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 Tönsmeyer (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 Tönsmeyer (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