

# Lezing & gesprek | Unwanted: West German Democracy and the Victims of the Nazi Regime

met Stefanie Schüler-Springorum

## Veranstaltung des Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam

**Datum:** Dinsdag 14 April 2026 om 19:30 Uhr  
**Ort:** Goethe-Institut Niederlande, Herengracht 470, Amsterdam  
**Information:** Voertaal: Engels; aanmelden via [Eventbrite](#)  
**Zugang:** Gratis

Stefanie Schüler-Springorum's nieuwe boek *Unerwünscht. Die westdeutsche Demokratie und die Verfolgten des NS-Regimes* laat zien in welke schrikbarende mate antisemitisme, racisme en haat tegen homoseksuelen na 1945 in de West-Duitse samenleving voortduurden. Op 14 april geeft zij een lezing in het Goethe-Institut Amsterdam en gaat zij in gesprek met Meta Huijsmans, promovendus aan het NIOD.

*De voertaal van dit evenement is Engels.*

Stefanie Schüler-Springorum's new study, *Unerwünscht: Die westdeutsche Demokratie und die Verfolgten des NS-Regimes*, reveals the alarming extent to which anti-Semitism, racism, and hatred toward homosexuals persisted in West German society after 1945.

In her lecture, she describes the experiences of Jewish survivors, Sinti and Roma, former forced laborers, and homosexuals in West Germany during the postwar period. These stories of exclusion cast a shadow on the common perception of the Federal Republic's successful democratization. The experiences of those formerly persecuted show that the hatred and resentment directed against them were deeply rooted in people's minds and, in some cases, remain so to this day.

Following her presentation, Stefanie Schüler-Springorum will discuss the findings of her study with Meta Huijsmans of NIOD Amsterdam. The discussion will also draw on Huijsmans' research about how Jewish survivors were treated by postwar Dutch society in Zwolle.

The presentation and discussion will be moderated by Hanno Balz.

## [Register](#)

About the speakers

[Stefanie Schüler-Springorum](#) is a professor at the Technical University of Berlin and director of its Center for Research on Anti-Semitism. Her publications include *Krieg und Fliegen. Die Legion Condor im Spanischen Bürgerkrieg 1936-1939* (2010), *Perspektiven deutsch-jüdischer Geschichte: Geschlecht und Differenz* (2014) and *Hans Litten - Anwalt gegen Hitler. Eine Biographie* (2022).

[Meta Huijsmans](#) is a PhD candidate affiliated with the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. The research project in which she is involved focuses on the looting and dispossession of Jews in Zwolle during the Second World War and on post-war legal restitution. In addition, her research concentrates on the theme of return: the experiences and responses of survivors from Zwolle who tried to build a new life after the war.

[Hanno Balz](#) is a historian and cultural studies scholar and has been working as a DAAD visiting scholar at the Duitsland Instituut Amsterdam since September 2025. Prior to that, he taught at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and at the University of Cambridge on behalf of the DAAD.

This event is a collaboration with the [Goethe Institute Netherlands](#), Amsterdam.

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