

Memory, experience and testimony of the Holocaust

Much of my scholarship focuses seeks to recover victim and perpetrator experience while analyzing the refracting lenses of testimony and memory.

I seek to identify the particular difficulties of perception and reflection that the Holocaust presents to us, and to find narrative strategies to render these difficulties transparent to the reader; indeed to take the reader on a journey to test out the limits of what can be known.

This is partly about rendering the historian's craft visible, while not undermining history's narrative charms. But more fundamentally it is about how to interpret the bent and refracted light from Nazism's dark star, both in terms of assessing conditions on that distant world, and understanding how others have made sense of its visible remains.



Image: Memory

Publications

Books

Jewish Responses to Persecution, 1933-1946: Volume I, 1933-1938 (Documenting Life and Destruction: Holocaust Sources in Context) with Jürgen Matthäus, (Lanham, Md: Alta Mira, 2010) 508 pp.

The past in hiding (Harmondsworth: Allen Lane, the Penguin Press 2000). 576 pp.

Shorter research monographs

The barbarians from our "Kulturkreis." Nazi perpetrators in the eyes of German Jews Accepted, awaiting translation for Yad Vashem Publications (2015)

Journal Articles

"...but of revenge not a sign.' Germans' Fear of Jewish Revenge after World War II", in *Jahrbuch für Antisemitismusforschung* Vol 22 (2013): 79-98

"Archivierte und präsentierte Geschichte: Ein Spannungsverhältnis. Rede zur Eröffnung des Hauses der Essener Geschichte/Stadtarchiv am 15 Juni 2011", *Essener Beiträge. Beiträge zur Geschichte von Stadt und Stift Essen*, vol. 124 (2011): 25-35

"Surviving memory: truth and inaccuracy in Holocaust testimony" in *Journal of Holocaust Education* Vol. 8 (1999) 1: 1-20 reprinted in David Cesarani (ed.) *Holocaust: critical concepts in historical studies, Volume VI: The end of the 'final solution' and its aftermaths* (London, New York, Routledge 2004) and in Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson (eds.), *The oral history reader* (London, New York: Routledge, 2006))

"Erinnerung und Überleben: Wahrheit und Widerspruch in dem Zeugnis einer Holocaust-Überlebenden" in *BIOS* Vol. 11(1998), issue 2: 263-279

'La memoria contra la verdad', in *Historia Antropolgia y Fuentes Orales* vol 20 (1998): 33-44.

Book chapters

"Der Dank des Vaterlandes: Memories and Chronicles of German Jewry in the 1930s" in Hilary Earl and Karl Schleunes (eds.) *Lessons and Legacies XI: Expanding Perspectives on the Holocaust in a Changing World* (Evanston; Northwestern University Press, 2014), 309-322

"Aus der Nähe, aus der Ferne: Holocaust-Täter aus der Sicht der Opfer" in Martin Cüppers, Jürgen Matthäus, Andrej Angrick (eds.), *Naziverbrechen: Täter, Taten, Bewältigungsversuche*, (Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft, 2013), pp.227-243

"Holocaust Perpetrators in victims' eyes", in Christian Wiese and Paul Betts, eds., *Years of Persecution, Years of Extermination: Saul Friedländer and the Future of Holocaust Studies*, (London: Continuum, 2010), pp. 81-100

"'It went on for years and years'. Der Wiedergutmachungsantrag der Marianne Ellenbogen" in Norbert Frei, José Brunner and Constantin Goschlar (eds.), *Die Praxis der Wiedergutmachung: Geschichte, Erfahrung und Wirkung in Deutschland und Israel*, (Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag 2009), pp.51-78

"Contexts and contradictions: writing the biography of a Holocaust survivor" in Simone Laessig and Volker Berghahn (eds.), *Biography between Structure and Agency: Central European lives in international historiography* (Oxford, New York: Berghahn Press, 2008), pp.201-214

"Memoria sobrevivente: verdade e inexistência nos depoimentos sobre o Holocausto", in Marieta de Moraes Ferreira, Tania Maria Fernandes, Verena Alberti (eds.), *Historia Oral. Desafios para o século XXI* (Rio de Janeiro: Editora Fiocruz, 2000), pp.123-134.

"The fugitive, the transport, the BBC and mass murder: A BBC broadcast about gassings in Auschwitz in June 1944" in S.Wright, L.Hantrais and J.Howarth (eds.), *Language, politics and society. The new languages department. Festschrift in honour of Professor Dennis Ager* (Clevedon, Buffalo, Toronto Sydney; Multilingual matters 2000), pp.26-39.

"Erinnern und Überleben: Wahrheit und Widerspruch in dem Zeugnis einer Holocaust-Überlebenden" in Friedhelm Boll & Annette Kaminsky (eds.), *Gedenkstättenarbeit und Oral history* (Berlin: Berlin Verlag 1999), pp.41-62.