

Università degli Studi Roma Tre

XXXI Convegno Internazionale di Studi Cinematografici

40 + 40 = 80 Years of Images about the Shoah (1945-1985-2025)

a cura di Ivelise Perniola e Francesco Pitassio

17 - 18 novembre 2025

Dipartimento di Filosofia, Comunicazione e Spettacolo

Via Ostiense, 139

Museo Fondazione Shoah

Via del Portico d'Ottavia, 29

Le immagini per dire. Esporre, comparare, studiare le immagini della Shoah

Lunedì 17 novembre ore 17:30 -18:30

Come and See – Visualizing and Mapping Holocaust Images

Marcell Sebők (Central European University)

The paper presents a new initiative that aims to develop a system that would support Holocaust research. Its core is an open-access online map that could present photos taken during the Holocaust. In other words, this is an online platform that shows in real space and time the locations of Holocaust histories. The underlying methodological issue is connected to the dynamization of various data in the context of mapping. To probe/test this concern, we concentrate on Holocaust images – as testimonies of a well-defined historical event – and ask how this visual documentation could be enriched by the utilization of related spatial, geolocational, and temporal data. As a pilot for this initiative, collecting the images of the Hungarian Holocaust and their visualization through a well-defined metadata system had already been started. As a practical implementation of the data, a demo version site was developed to introduce these findings. It is important to note that there have been other initiatives which aimed to present a certain dramatic periods of Hungarian history: the one that visualized the so-called “yellow-star houses” in Budapest for segregated Jews in 1944, or the other for mapping the images of the Hungarian uprising in 1956, but our project intends to offer a more complex platform for understanding images. “The Holocaust is not only history, but a warning.” This project has a lot to do with remembrance and oblivion: it is our intention to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive via novel contextualization of images, and in this way, the geolocational visualization is a “dynamic lieux de mémoire”. Creators of the project, however, are aware of the scarcity of the visual resources of the Holocaust, and thus, believe in an international cooperation that would reveal new images and resources for such an endeavor.

Marcell Sebők is an associate professor at the Department of Historical Studies, CEU, Vienna, a cultural historian of the history of knowledge, collections, and heritage. Originally a scholar of early modern studies, though, recently, his research focus has turned to modernity, and he is preparing a monograph on a 20th century couple, suffering and surviving their times.