

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

Martedì 18 novembre ore 11:15 – 13:00

Naming and Displaying Genocide in Early Jewish Curated Exhibitions

Taylor Dwyer (University of Southern California)

This paper will explore the curation of early Holocaust exhibitions by Jewish organizations in the United States, Israel and Europe through the analysis of three exhibitions held between 1945-1952. The author will explore similarities and differences between three exhibitions:

- Martyrs and Heroes of the Ghettos: an exhibition dedicated to the Second Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising held in New York City, April 19 to May 29, 1945, and curated by the Jewish Labor Committee.
- חורבן לעתן פון = לאחרון מהחורבן =Extermination of a people = l'extermination d'un people = von der letzten Vernichtung held in Munich, 1948, and curated by the Central Historical Commission and Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US Zone of Germany.
- 1939-1945: ובאמנות בספרות והמד השואה ha-Sho'ah y eha-mered ba-sifrut uva-omanut: 1939-1945 held in Haifa Feb. 21-March 22, 1952, and curated by the Ghetto Fighters' House and the Municipal Museum of Modern Art in Haifa.

The author will explore the use of Biblical terms including Sho'ah, Mered and Hurban to describe and characterize the Holocaust, and explore the exhibitions' emphasis on Jewish Resistance within the ghettos and camps, exhibited through documentary photographs, written memoirs, paintings and drawings. Ultimately, this paper will argue early exhibitions of the Holocaust curated by Jewish organizations emphasized Jewish peoplehood by characterizing the Holocaust as a modern experience of destruction related to the Jewish past.

Taylor Dwyer is a librarian with a focus on Judaica and Holocaust collections. She has six years' experience in academic, school and specialized libraries. She completed her undergraduate degree in History at Chapman University, and her Master of Library and Information Science at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). She has studied Hebrew, Yiddish and German. She is currently Curator of Feuchtwanger Memorial Library at the University of Southern California (USC), where she manages the rare book and archival collection of Lion and Marta Feuchtwanger, German exile collections, and Holocaust and genocide materials in Special Collections.