

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

***A picture is worth 1000 words: what the photograph of the volunteers of the 101st battalion tells us of the understanding of the Shoah in Luxembourg***

Blandine Landau (Zentrum fir politesch Bildung, Luxembourg - École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris)

In December 2019 a photograph of a commando of the 1st company of the 101st reserve police battalion led by a Luxemburger, showing them after a successful “Jews hunt” was rediscovered by historians of the Musée National de la Résistance et des Droits Humains (Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg)<sup>1</sup>. After much debate, it found its way into the permanent exhibition of the museum, where it is now exhibited in the new section devoted to the Shoah in Luxembourg, a section that didn't exist until the museum's renovation in 2024.

The status and perception of the picture is a good example of the long and difficult recognition of the victims of the Shoah in the Great-Duchy. The presentation draws the parallel between the historiography of this picture and the lack of interest or manipulated use of the video testimonies of Shoah survivors in a country where the authorities only admitted their responsibility in the persecution of people considered as Jews in 2015, and where this group – as opposed to “forced recruits” – is still not recognized legally as a victim, either of War or of Nazism. It shows the recent evolution of both academic and education policies, especially through the projects “Living Memory” (led by the Zentrum fir politesch Bildung, May 2024 – July 2025) and the “Digital Memorial of the Shoah in Luxembourg” (Center for Contemporary and Digital History – University of Luxembourg – October 2021 – September 2027). These complementary projects, promoting a new approach to the collection of video testimonies and their use in a collaborative digital “work in progress”, show how visual documents can be used in common projects to promote a new way of teaching the Shoah in Luxembourg and fight the form of negationism that long prevailed in this country.

**Blandine Landau**, after her degrees in Art History and Museology and a career in museums, in 2024, successfully defended her PhD in contemporary History, focusing on the dispossession of the Jews in Luxembourg during World War II in Luxembourg (C<sup>2</sup>DH- University of Luxembourg – *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales*, Paris). She then developed the project “Living Memory” (2024-2025) and is now a postdoctoral researcher at the C<sup>2</sup>DH- University of Luxembourg, leading projects linked to the Digital Memorial of the Shoah in Luxembourg.