

# POLIN MEETING POINT

July 17–31, 2016

 POLIN MEETING POINT  
SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL  
NISSENBAUM FAMILY EDUCATIONAL FUND

POLIN 

 Association of the Jewish  
Historical  
Institute  
of Poland

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## PROGRAM

POLIN   
MUZEUM HISTORII  
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 Association of the Jewish  
Historical  
Institute  
of Poland



# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

NISSENBAUM FAMILY EDUCATIONAL FUND

Polin Meeting Point – Summer Educational School 2016  
July 17-31, Warsaw

## **AFTER THE WAR** **Rebirth of Jewish life in Poland and Germany** **and the creation of the state of Israel**

Polin Meeting Point is already in its second year of bringing together university students from Israel, Poland and Germany about topics related to identity in postwar society. This year's summer school will explore issues related to post World War II reconstruction, the emergence of new identities in Poland and Germany, and the creation of Israeli statehood and citizenship.

Together with scholars from Israel, Poland and Germany the participants will discuss the effort to rebuild Jewish communities, dealing with Holocaust trauma, postwar violence and various narratives and debates. We shall approach these difficult subjects from different personal and national perspectives: Israeli, Polish and German.

The summer school's program will last two weeks and will consist of lectures, workshops, discussions, study tours and in depth work with the Museum's core exhibition. The students will draw on witness accounts, also learning how to work with oral history material.

Polin Meeting Point is aimed at promoting POLIN Museum's mission and humanitarian values among Polish, Israeli and German youth and offers a unique opportunity for them to meet, interact intellectually and form lasting friendships and relationships. It emphasizes the topics of intercultural dialogue, overcoming prejudices and finding ways to deal with historical issues between nations. Every year the participants will confront various topics concerning Polish-German-Israeli history (including Jewish history).

The project is made possible due to the generous support of the Nissenbaum Family Foundation.

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## Polin Meeting Point – Summer Educational School 2016 July 17-31, Warsaw

### AFTER THE WAR Rebirth of Jewish life in Poland and Germany and the creation of the state of Israel

#### PROGRAM

#### Monday – July 18

10:00 – 12:00	Organization meeting, integration workshop
12:00 – 12:15	Coffee break
12:15 – 13:00	Introduction: What is Polin Meeting Point? Prof. Bianka Pietrow-Ennker (University of Konstanz)
13:00 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 16:30	Visit to the core exhibition of the POLIN Museum of the history of Polish Jews
16:30 – 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 – 17:45	Meeting with exhibition creators
18:00	Dinner

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Tuesday - July 19

10:00 - 13:00	Poles and Jews after the War. Sources and events of anti-Jewish violence. Jewish emigration from Poland to DP camps and to Israel. Shall we remain or leave? Dr. hab. Jolanta Żyndul (POLIN Museum)
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:30	“The Surviving Remnant” in Occupied Germany: Jewish Identity, Experience, and Memory after the Catastrophe Prof. Dr. Atina Grossmann (The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art)
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 17:45	Oral History Workshops – Introduction Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa (University of Warsaw)
18:00	Dinner



# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Tuesday – July 19

## “The Surviving Remnant” in Occupied Germany: Jewish Identity, Experience, and Memory after the Catastrophe

**Prof. Dr. Atina Grossmann (The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art)**

In 1933, at the beginning of the National Socialist regime, Germany counted approximately 500,000 Jews. In 1946/47, three years after the National Socialists had declared Germany judenrein, over a quarter of a million Jews were gathered in Germany, most of them in the American zone. Only c. 15,000 were German Jews, of whom almost half were in Berlin. The majority were Eastern European Jews, gathered as “displaced persons” in Allied-occupied Germany, only a minority were direct survivors of the Nazi “Final Solution.” The largest group among the “DPs” and the least studied or recognized – comprised perhaps 200,000 Jews who had fled or been deported into the Soviet interior and after the German defeat, were repatriated to Poland. They left a harsh but life-saving refuge in the USSR and fled again, from postwar Polish anti-Semitism into the American zone of occupied Germany.

Despite the enormous amount of sources and significant prior scholarship, scholars and students of the Holocaust have only recently focused on the social (and gender) history of the highly diverse population that constituted this She’erit Hapletah, the surviving remnant of European Jewry gathered under Allied “care and control” in defeated Germany. Jewish DPs insisted that, “My world was divided into two parts, those who had lived outside the camp and those who lived inside. Outside the camp were enemies.” But in fact, the “enemies”, as well as the victors who supervised both the survivors and the defeated, were always present, in varied ways, especially in regard to key aspects of daily existence, such as food, housing, policing, medical and child-care, within and outside the camp. This presentation addresses research areas that have been marginalized and neglected in history, representation, and memory: the impact of the Soviet experience on definitions and memories of being a “survivor;” the reconstruction, even in transit, of lives and families after catastrophe; and the multiple postwar encounters – unexpected and often temporary – between Jews and Germans, as commonplace as they were complicated, simultaneously loaded with symbolic meaning and part of everyday life.

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**Tuesday – July 19**

Oral History Workshops – Introduction

**Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa (University of Warsaw)**

Oral history is the art of dialogue. At its core is an intergenerational encounter, an exchange with a witness of history, whose story of the past becomes a starting point – at once an inspiration and source material for further interpretation and creative work.

Within the framework of this year's program we will be talking to witnesses of history about their postwar experiences related to movement of various kinds (exile, emigration, displacement). To do this, we will learn the basics of oral history: how to prepare and conduct an interview, and how to use oral testimonies in educational, research, artistic and political projects. At the end of this stage, we will conduct interviews with witnesses of history which will, in turn, serve as a point of departure for further work on preparing a final presentation about the experience of postwar witnesses of history and of the project participants themselves in talking about the past.

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## Wednesday – July 20

10:00 – 13:00	The post-war reconstruction of Warsaw, case study: Muranów district Jana Fuchs and Beata Chomątowska
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 16:15	Oral history workshops: Prep work for talking to eyewitnesses – USC Shoah Foundation testimonies Konrad Bielecki/Dr. Patrycja Dołowy/Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa
16:15 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 18:00	From Genocide to Holocaust and back: Hannah Arendt, Rachel Lemkin and the Jewish Experience Prof. Dr. Natan Sznajder (Academic College Tel Aviv-Yafo)
18:15	Dinner



# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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Wednesday – July 20

**From Genocide to Holocaust and back: Hannah Arendt, Rachel Lemkin and the Jewish Experience**

**Prof. Dr. Natan Sznajder (Academic College Tel Aviv-Yafo)**

Some people view the Holocaust as the culmination of the history of anti-Semitism, some see it as the apogee of the history of racism, and some consider it a crime against humanity. The differences between these points of view are subtle but crucial. Anti-Semitism is suffered only by Jews; racism, a broader category, can be experienced by anyone who is different or other; crimes against humanity are broader still, and may even be considered a crime against the human condition. The Holocaust (the term was not used until several years after the war) constitutes an epochal break with the past, regardless of the scope of the definition. It thus has the potential to challenge some basic assumptions – about the sovereign law of nation-states, for example – and to create a new public and political space that reinforces moral interdependencies.

In this lecture I would like to show how these political and intellectual developments changed in the period between the world wars and were part of the Jewish lived experience, an experience in which Jewish intellectuals like Hannah Arendt and Raphael Lemkin played a crucial intellectual role at various junctures. Before the concept of the Holocaust as a description of the Nazi murder of the Jews came into being, Raphael Lemkin gave the world the concept of genocide. This lecture will follow these historical trajectories and develop the idea that genocide, crimes against humanity and human rights are concepts derived from the Jewish experience. I will argue in this lecture that Arendt's and Lemkin's political views and praxis can be understood as exemplary of Jewish thinking and conduct before and after the catastrophe. It is the intention of this lecture to locate their thinking within the context of Jewish history and experience without neglecting the universal claims they consistently worked to develop. Thus, Jewish history and universal history are seen not as two different lenses through which to view the past but as part of one common project.

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## Thursday - July 21

10:00 - 11:30	Social Court at CKŻP, Jewish community in Poland settles the war Prof. Andrzej Żbikowski (Jewish Historical Institute)
11:30 - 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 - 13:15	Law and Memory: The Role of Jewish Cultural Property after the Holocaust Prof. Dr. Natan Sznajder
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 17:15	Oral History Workshops: Work Day Konrad Bielecki/Dr. Patrycja Dołowy/Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa
17:30	Dinner

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

NISSENBAUM FAMILY EDUCATIONAL FUND

Thursday – July 21

## Law and Memory: The Role of Jewish Cultural Property after the Holocaust

**Prof. Dr. Natan Sznajder**

In this lecture we will explore the connections between law and memory from a Jewish perspective. The mass murder of the Jews put an end to cosmopolitan Europe as a cultural reference point for diasporic Jews.

When World War II was over, the future of the Jewish cultural past needed to be negotiated anew. The task at hand was not only the rebuilding of Jewish lives but also the rescue of Jewish cultural materials confiscated by the Nazis. Clearly, the Jews (but not only Jews) faced a conceptual dilemma after the Holocaust. The Nazis categorized Jews as a separate nation, regardless of their citizenship. In contradistinction, classical international law did not recognize nations without territory. There were no legal categories that could provide the Jews, as Jews, with a lawful right to make collective claims for their looted property. How could stateless and exiled people come forward and file legally recognizable claims? This is, of course, not a Jewish problem alone, but one of general significance in the study of the aftermath of genocide: is the entirety of a people, as a collective to whom a destroyed minority belongs, entitled to the property left to its kin? This was the major question confronting the Jews as a people without a state of their own after World War II (the foundation of the state of Israel changed some of the parameters in 1948).

We pay special attention to Jewish political activists (like Hannah Arendt and Salo Baron for example) who pressed their case and demanded the Jews to be legally treated as though they belonged to a state. This new de-territorialized politics changed Jewish legal frames after 1945. Thus this lecture also deals with the pre-history of restitution, a crucial juncture in the German-Israeli relationship. Before claims for restitution could be made, a legal framework had to be formulated. International law, according to which only states could claim restitution, had to be modified. Formerly private property needed to be transformed into collective property as a consequence of historical catastrophe.

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## Friday – July 22

10:00 – 11:30	<b>The return of Jewish emigrants to Germany after 1945</b> Prof. Michael Brenner (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee Break
11:45 – 13:15	<b>Jews and Germans after the Holocaust</b> Prof. Michael Brenner
13:14 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:45	<b>Facing the Nazi past:</b> Summarizing discussion
17:00	Participation in March of Remembrance

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

NISSENBAUM FAMILY EDUCATIONAL FUND

Friday – July 22

## The return of Jewish emigrants to Germany after 1945

**Prof. Michael Brenner (Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich)**

After 1945 only a very small portion of the Jewish emigrés returned to Germany. This lecture will give an overview of this return, their involvement in German society and the hurdles they faced. It will also give special emphasis on returnees in the cultural and academic realm.

## Jews and Germans after the Holocaust

**Prof. Michael Brenner**

This lecture will analyze the situation of a new Jewish community in Germany from the 1950s onwards. It focuses on the difficult relationship between Jews and non-Jews in postwar Germany and includes a discussion of some of the major debates relating to the German past up to our own days.

## March of Remembrance

The fifth March commemorating the 74th anniversary of the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto. During this year's edition of the March, we want to honor the doctors and medical personnel who provided help to those in need in the Ghetto. The March will end by the former Bersohn and Bauman Children's Hospital, where actors will read out the testimonies of doctors from the Warsaw Ghetto. The March is organized by the E. Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute.

Meeting place: Umschlagplatz Monument, at the corner of Stawki and Dzika Street

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## Saturday - July 23

13:00 - 18:00	Oral history workshops
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## Sunday - July 24

11:00 - 12:30	Visit to the exhibition at Jewish Historical Institute (optional)
13:00 - 18:00	Oral history workshops





# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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## Monday – July 25

10:00 – 11:30	1945-1948 Struggle, War, and Independence Prof. Eyal Naveh (Tel Aviv University)
11:30 – 11:45	Coffee break
11:45 – 13:15	1949-1961 The Trauma of the Holocaust in the First Decade of Israel's Existence Prof. Eyal Naveh
13:14 – 14:15	Lunch
14:15 – 15:45	Bumpy Road – Soviet Block and Israel 1947-1950 Dr. Maciej Kozłowski
15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	Oral history workshops: Discussion and evaluation of interviews Konrad Bielecki/Dr. Patrycja Dołowy/Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa/Maria Porzyc
18:00	Dinner

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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**Monday – July 25**

## 1945-1948 Struggle, War, and Independence

**Prof. Eyal Naveh (Tel Aviv University)**

This lecture will discuss the last years of the British Mandate in Palestine and the development that led to the termination of the Mandate, the declaration of Independence and the War against the Palestinians and the Arabs known as the War of Independence. We will explore the role that the Holocaust played in changing Zionist policy and the implementation of this policy in regards to declaring a Jewish state.

## 1949-1961 The Trauma of the Holocaust in the First Decade of Israel's Existence

**Prof. Eyal Naveh**

This lecture will analyze the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli society. We will discuss the political implication of the events that emerged during the debate over the reparations programs, the attitude of Israeli society toward Holocaust survivors, the first trials against alleged Jewish collaborators with the Nazis and the tensions between official memory and private memory during this period.

## Bumpy Road – Soviet Block and Israel 1947-1950

**Dr. Maciej Kozłowski**

Since the beginning communist ideologies stood in sharp contrast to Zionism, when in May 1947 the Soviet delegate to the UN, Gromyko, supported the division of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab, it came as shock to the whole world. Subsequent diplomatic and military support by the Soviet Union and the whole Soviet Block became a decisive factor for Israel's survival.

But very soon the Kremlin policies changed and the once supportive international entity became an archenemy for Israel.

This lecture will try to answer the reasons behind the changes in Soviet policies towards Israel and how other countries within the Soviet Block, in particular Poland, played into this scenario.

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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## Tuesday – July 26

9:00 – 10:30	The Jewish Community of Łódź after 1945 Prof. Krystyna Radziszewska (University of Łódź)
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:15	Comment Prof. Shimon Redlich (Ben Gurion University)
12:15 – 13:00	Lunch
13:50	Departure for Wrocław

## Wednesday – July 27

11:00 – 14:00	Jewish Life after the War in Lower Silesia: Walk around Jewish Wrocław
17:20	Return to Warsaw

# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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## Tuesday – July 26

### The Jewish Community of Łódź after 1945

#### Prof. Krystyna Radziszewska (University of Łódź)

In 1945, Łódź was one of the most important centres of Jewish life in Poland. In late 1945, the city had 29,892 Jewish residents, i.e. 37.3% of the entire population of Polish Jews. Łódź was home to the Central Jewish Historical Commission, the Association of Jewish Writers and Journalists, and the Association of Jewish Painters and Sculptors. The Dos Naje Buch publishing house printed in Yiddish the surviving texts from the Łódź Ghetto. The Dos Naje Lebn newspaper, with a circulation of 10,000, was published twice a week, as well as the literary monthly Jidisze Szriftn – cajtshrift far literatut, teater un kultur. The city had a Jewish theatre which was managed by outstanding actress, Ida Kamińska, after she returned from the Soviet Union. Films such as *Undzere Kinder* and *Mir lebengeblibene* were made in the Kinor film cooperative. Aleksander Ford returned to Łódź with the Polish army, and made his movies there. Until 1968, Jewish students could learn in Łódź's Perec School, which was closed down after the events of March 1968. Łódź was also home to political parties, numerous Jewish organisations and cooperatives. In 1946, after the Kielce pogrom, emigration intensified, and the events of March 1968 had a particularly strong impact on the lives of Łódź Jews. Currently, Jewish life is being restored in the city. The small Jewish community tries to be very active. Łódź has a small synagogue, ritual bath, day care centre, hotel, and a kosher store. Yiddish language courses and celebrations of the most important Jewish holidays are also organised there.

Comments after the lecture will be delivered by Prof. Shimon Redlich.

## Wednesday – July 27

Jewish Life after the War in Lower Silesia: Walk around Jewish Wrocław  
Visit to Wrocław will help us understand why Lower Silesia became one of the most important places for rebuilding Jewish communities in Poland.

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## Thursday - July 28

09:30 - 12:30	<b>Oral history workshops: Work Day</b> Konrad Bielecki/Dr. Patrycja Dołowy/Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa/Maria Porzyc
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 16:00	Screening of "Ida" and discussion Dr. Joanna Ostrowska
16:00 - 16:15	Coffee break
16:15 - 17:45	<b>Children of the Holocaust:</b> meeting with witnesses of history and discussion moderator: Joanna Król
17:45	Dinner

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## Friday – July 29

10:00 – 13:00	Oral history workshops: <i>Work Day</i> Konrad Bielecki/Dr. Patrycja Dołowy/Dr. Dobrochna Kałwa/Maria Porzyc
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	“After the War”: Summarizing discussion Prof. Bianka Pietrow-Ennker, Dr. hab. Jolanta Żyndul
21:00	Shabbat dinner with donors



# POLIN MEETING POINT SUMMER EDUCATION SCHOOL

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## Saturday – July 30

Free day

## Sunday – July 31

15:00	Meeting with donors
16:00 – 18:00	Polin Meeting Point finisage, discussion with invited guests, presentation of the participants' works, open to the public

The program has been developed in consultation with the Advisory Board, composed of:

Dr. Yael Granot-Bein (University of Haifa),

Prof. Dr. hab. Bianka Pietrow-Ennker (University of Konstanz),

Dr. hab. Jolanta Żyndul (POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews).

Program Coordinator: Magdalena Dopieralska

Substantive and organizational support:

Nili Amit – Coordinator for Israel

Ewa Chomicka – Manager, Adult Education Unit

Łucja Koch – Manager, Education Department

Jessica Longe – Co-worker, Education Department

Anna Majewska – Senior Specialist, Education Department

Tsipy Zeiri – Coordinator of the Program in Israel

Katarzyna Zadworny – Promotion

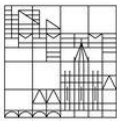
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