



Conference Liberation Footage – Atrocity Pictures

May 7–8, 2015
IFK
Reichsratsstraße 17, 1010 Vienna
ÖFM
Augustinerstraße 1, 1010 Vienna

“The things I saw beggar description.” General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s remark on concentration camp Ohrdruf: a sentence like a monument, defying its translation into German in its idiomatic form. The things he saw lack, exhaust, and surpass description.

What did Eisenhower and thousands of Allied soldiers see during the liberation of the concentration camps in April and May 1945, and what didn’t they see? What couldn’t they see because it had taken place elsewhere, at another time? What do we see today when viewing the pictures taken by Allied cameramen in the camps, and how has that changed in the years since liberation, at different moments in time in diverse historical and cultural contexts? Furthermore what has not been seen because cameras arrived too late, because of insufficient equipment and training of cameramen, because the images did not fit prevailing narratives, or because films were buried in archives or private collections? Moreover, what is the difference between film and photography? Seventy years after the end of the Holocaust and thirty years after Claude Lanzmann’s film “Shoah,” it is time to find new ways of questioning the images of the Holocaust and the much-cited ban on images.

This conference is dedicated to Siegfried Mattl (February 26, 1954 – April 25, 2015) who introduced its topic to the academic discourse in Vienna and who was supposed to be chair of Panel 1.

IFK	Conference	Thu, May 7, 2015
14.00	Welcome Address Helmut Lethen Introduction Ingo Zechner I. POLITICS THROUGH IMAGES Chair: Michael Loebenstein	
14.30	Ulrike Weckel <i>Public Shaming. Allied Atrocity-Film Screenings in Germany and Austria, 1945–46</i>	
15.30	Coffee Break	
16.00	Habbo Knoch <i>Framing Nazi Violence: The politics of moral pictures in 1945</i>	

ÖFM	Film Retrospective (Program 7–8 of 8)	Thu, May 7, 2015
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- 18.30 **NUREMBERG EVIDENCE FILMS**
- Nazi Concentration Camps (USA 1945), Production: U.S. Counsel for the Prosecution of Axis Criminality/George C. Stevens, 35mm, b/w, 59 min, Engl. OV
(Document 2430-PS, Exhibit USA 79)
Introduction: Stuart Liebman
- Kinodokumenty o zverstvach nemecko-fašistskich zachvatčikov (Atrocities by the German Fascist Aggressors in the USSR) (USSR 1945/46), Production: Vladimir Bol'sincov, Camera: Roman Karmen et al., 35mm, b/w, 59 min, Russ. OVeST
(Document USSR-81)
Introduction: Jeremy Hicks
- 21.00 **PODIUM DISCUSSION: FILM EVIDENCE**
- Toby Haggith, Jeremy Hicks, Stuart Liebman, Michael Loebenstein, Leslie Swift, Ulrike Weckel**
- Belsen Camp Evidence Film (GB 1945), Production: British Army Film and Photographic Unit, HD, b/w, 22 min
Introduction: Toby Haggith

IFK	Conference	Fri, May 8, 2015
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- II. ALLIES FILMING IN ACTION**
Chair: **Leslie Swift**
- 9.30 **Jeremy Hicks**
The Making and Shaping of Soviet Films of Nazi Atrocities: The Problem of the Camps
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 11.00 **Stuart Liebman**
From Propaganda to Truth: Soviet Atrocity Footage and its Impact in the U.S.
- 12.00 **Toby Haggith**
Spoken accounts of the Nazi terror: 1945 sound recordings of interviews with survivors, perpetrators and liberators
- 13.00 Lunch Break
- III. AMBITION, AMATEURISM, AND AFTERWARDSNESS**
Chair: **Lindsay Zarwell**
- 14.30 **Ingo Zechner**
Special Film Project 186: The U.S. Army Air Forces' War in Color
- 15.30 Coffee Break
- 16.00 **Marsha Gordon**
Untrained Eyes: GIs Shooting Movies at the Close of World War II

17.00	Drehli Robnik <i>Liberated / Belated: On Hollywood's Deferred Mode of Remembering the Liberation of Nazi Camps</i>
18.00	End

CONCEPT

Ingo Zechner (IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna)

PARTICIPANTS

Marsha Gordon (Film Studies, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC)

Toby Haggith (Imperial War Museum, London)

Jeremy Hicks (Department of Russian, Queen Mary University of London)

Habbo Knoch (Historisches Institut – Neuere Geschichte, Universität zu Köln)

Stuart Liebman (Department of Media Studies, Queens College, New York, NY)

Michael Loebenstein (National Film and Sound Archive, Canberra)

Drehli Robnik (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for History and Society, Vienna)

Leslie Swift (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.)

Ulrike Weckel (Historisches Institut – Fachjournalistik Geschichte, Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen)

Lindsay Zarwell (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.)

Ingo Zechner (IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, Vienna)

The conference on May 7 and 8 takes place at the IFK, the film retrospective from May 3 to May 7 at the Austrian Film Museum (ÖFM).

The film retrospective "Bilder der Befreiung: Liberation Footage – Atrocity Pictures" is a joint event of the Austrian Film Museum and the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, The University of Art and Design Linz, in cooperation with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Austrian Future Fund-project "Ephemeral Films: National Socialism in Austria".

Basic research for the concept of both the conference and the retrospective was made possible through the Raab Foundation Fellowship 2013 of the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

[As of 2015-04-26]

