An International Conference

EXPLORING

Women’s Testimony

War
Revolution
Genocide
The Holocaust
Human Rights

OCTOBER 8-10, 2014

Sponsored by:

Colby College
The University of Maine at Augusta
The Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine

Co-chairs: Audrey Brunetaux (Colby College) and Robert Katz (University of Maine at Augusta)
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
Schedule
October 8-10, 2014

“Exploring Women’s Testimony: Genocide, War, Revolution, the Holocaust and Human Rights”

Colby College
University of Maine at Augusta
Holocaust & Human Rights Center of Maine

Wednesday, October 8

5:00pm Conference convenes for the presenters at the Fireside Lounge in the Randall Building on the campus of the University of Maine at Augusta.
Brief welcome (Robert Katz and Audrey Brunetaux)

5:30-6:45pm Dinner reception for presenters, moderators, and guests.

7:00-8:30pm Public presentation & screening of Were the House Still Standing at the Michael Klahr Center

Thursday, October 9

Venue: The Michael Klahr Center at the University of Maine at Augusta, Augusta.

8:00am Conference participants will be picked up at the Comfort Inn Hotel

8:30-9:00am Welcome / Coffee / Registration for students, teachers and general public

9:00-10:15am PANEL – Women’s Voices in Were the House Still Standing
Moderator: Douglas Quin (Syracuse University)

Ellen Taylor (University of Maine at Augusta): The House as Metaphor: Women’s Testimony in Were The House Still Standing

Audrey Brunetaux (Colby College): Women’s Voices & The Holocaust in Were The House Still Standing

10:15-10:30am Coffee Break

10:30-11:45am PANEL – Holocaust Testimonies: Screening the Pain & Digital Circulation
Moderator: Lisa Botshon (University of Maine at Augusta)

Ethel Brooks (Rutgers University): Out of place: Romani Women’s Holocaust Testimony, Digital Circulations and the Possibility of Critique

Jennifer Cazenave (Hobart and William Smith Colleges): Exploring the Unseen: Women’s Testimonies in the Shoah Archive

11:45-12:45pm Lunch Break
1:00-2:15pm  
PANEL – Seeing & Staging the Shoah  
Moderator: Audrey Brunetaux (Colby College)

Anna Norris (Michigan State University): Testimonies from French Women at the French Archival Project Le Mémorial de la Shoah: A Gender-Specific View at the Shoah

Christine Holden (University of Southern Maine): Joie de (Sur)vivre: A French Operetta in and about Ravensbrück concentration camp

2:15-2:30pm  
Coffee break

2:30-3:50pm  
PANEL – Art & Representation of Women’s Trauma  
Moderator: Peter Precourt (University of Maine at Augusta)

Shu-chin Tsui (Bowdoin College): The Body and Pain: From Gendering the Body: Women’s Visual Art in Contemporary China

Sarah Lightman (Artist, Curator & Filmmaker): Metamorphosing Difficulties: Women Transforming Traumatic Events into Graphic Novels

4:00-5:00pm  
Break

5:30-7:00pm  
Dinner for presenters and moderators in Hallowell

7:15-8:30pm  
An evening with Joyce Van Dyke (Harvard Extension School/Northeastern University) – A special reading of the award winning play Deported/A Dream Story (This event will take place at the Michael Klahr Center on the campus of the University of Maine at Augusta)

Moderator: David Greenham (Holocaust & Human Rights Center of Maine)

Friday, October 10

Venue:  
The Schair-Swenson-Watson Alumni Center (Parker-Reed room) at Colby College, Waterville.

7:45am  
Conference participants will be picked up at the Comfort Inn Hotel

8:00-8:45am  
Welcome / Coffee / Registration for students, teachers and general public

8:45-9:00am  
Opening remarks

9:00-10:40am  
PANEL – Facing War & Revolution  
Moderator: Shaina Katz (Cultural Vistas)


Parnian Nazary (Women for Afghan Women): The struggle for Afghan Women’s Rights

Elmina Kulasic (Bridging the Future Association): Women and Children: The Conceptualization of Personal and Public Memorialization of War

10:40-10:50am  
Coffee break
10:50-12:30pm  PANEL – Voices from Rwanda and Uganda
Moderator: Sonja Thomas (Colby College)
Alexandre E. Dauge (Bates College): **Women's Transformative Voices Within the Literature Bearing witness to the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda**
Bea Gallimore (University of Missouri): **Confronting the Double Unspeakable: A Sociolinguistic Study of Genocidal Rape Survivors in Rwanda**
Clare Byarugaba (Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law): **Early Genocide Warnings in Relation to the Growing Levels of Homophobia in Uganda, a Cause of Grave Concern?**

12:30-1:15pm  Lunch Break

1:30-2:40pm  **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** Jacqueline Zimowski (Slavery Today NGO)
**Shattering Myths: Her Voice Unfiltered**
Deep Listening and Self-examination.

2:50-4:00pm  PANEL – The United-States: New Perspectives on Women’s Lost Voices and Stories
Moderator: Jennifer Yoder (Colby College)
Chris Myers Asch (Independent Scholar): **“We ain’t free yet”: Fannie Lou Hamer and the Long Movement for Economic Justice**
Rhea Cote Robbins (University of Maine): **The Literary Situation and the Deprivation of Story for the Generations—Past, Present and Future: Who Stands to Lose?**

4:15-5:15pm  Tour of the Colby Museum (Colby College)

5:30-7:00pm  Dinner reception for presenters, and moderators, guests - hosted by Colby College
(Closing remarks – Audrey Brunetaux)

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**THIS EVENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS:**

**COLBY COLLEGE**
**THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES; JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM;**
**OAK INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS;**
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**GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT;**
**WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM;**
**RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT; CINEMA STUDIES PROGRAM;**
**FRENCH & ITALIAN DEPARTMENT**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT AUGUSTA**
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STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

**THE HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER OF MAINETEXT_**
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
October 8-10, 2014

“Exploring Women’s Testimony: Genocide, War, Revolution, the Holocaust and Human Rights”

Colby College
University of Maine at Augusta
Holocaust & Human Rights Center of Maine

(Prepared and organized by Professor Robert Katz and Assistant Professor Audrey Brunetaux)

1/ OUR THEMATIC APPROACH

“The dignified gaze of these women looking out at viewers passed silent judgment on their condition. This was an artist’s tribute to communities of people who have been ignored and often mistreated.” By Françoise Drocqier from Women Are Heroes.

In the fall of 2014, the University of Maine at Augusta, Colby College and the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine are collaborating to organize an international conference in Maine entitled Exploring Women’s Testimony: Genocide, War, Revolution, the Holocaust and Human Rights.

This conference will examine gendered issues in relation to human rights abuses, while exploring the works of memory and survival through women’s testimony. Our guest presenters will share their unique perspective on those very issues and analyze a variety of narratives through the lens of contemporary literature, art, film, and new media. Scholars, artists and social activists will initiate conversation about Afghanistan, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, China, Egypt, England, France, Rwanda, Uganda and the United States.

This program will attract educators, students, scholars, and social activists. The conference will initiate a conversation across academic disciplines, including the social sciences, the arts and humanities.

This two-day conference will convene at the Michael Klahr Center on the campus of the University of Maine at Augusta and at Colby College, Waterville, Maine.

2/ OUR PRESENTERS & TOPICS

- **Ethel Brooks** is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, and the Undergraduate Director in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies. She is a Tate-TrA IN Transnational Fellow, and was the 2011-2012 US-UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair, at the University of the Arts London. Dr. Brooks is the author of Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women’s Work, winner of the 2010 Outstanding Book from the Global Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She has contributed articles to a number of books and journals, including We Roma, Nevi Sara Kali, International Working Class History, Sweatshop USA and Sociology Confronts the Holocaust, as well as editorials for The Guardian. Topic for her presentation: **Out of Place: Romani Women’s Holocaust Testimony**, Digital Circulations and the Possibility of Critique.

- **Audrey Brunetaux** is one of the key organizers of this conference. She is an Assistant Professor of French Studies at Colby College. Her research focuses on 20th-century French literature, culture and cinema with an emphasis on Holocaust narratives and films. Her publications cover a wide range of topics related to Vichy France and the Shoah and have appeared in academic journals such as History & Memory, Holocaust Studies: Journal of Culture & History, French Review, Women in French Studies to name a few. Dr. Brunetaux has worked extensively on Holocaust writer/survivor Charlotte Delbo and is currently editing a new volume of essays on Seeing Charlotte Delbo/Seeing the Shoah, exploring the concept of visuality in Delbo’s texts. She has presented her research at numerous international conferences and serves on the board of directors at the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine. Topic for her presentation: **Women’s Voices & the Holocaust** in *Were The House Still Standing*. 
• **Clare Byarugaba** is a Human Rights Defender and has been working as a Co-ordinator of the Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law since 2012. She has been one of the leaders in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Inter sex (LGBTI) movement in Uganda since 2011 and is honored to be part of a strong movement of activists who work in one of the most volatile and harshest environments for LGBTI rights. Her work is mainly to enforce the recognition of LGBT rights as Human Rights in Uganda, while ensuring that these rights are respected in a society rippled with large scale intolerance and state-sponsored homophobia toward the LGBT community. The Coalition has sustained a national fight against the Anti-Homosexuality Law since 2009, and continues to use both political and legal advocacy to mitigate the negative impacts of the law and ultimately the repeal of all laws against homosexuality. She, along with other members of the Coalition, received the U.S Department of State 2011 Human Rights Defenders Award for their work to protect the rights of sexual and gender minorities and for the groundbreaking advocacy work around the Anti-Homosexuality Law. Clare is the 2014 Oak Human Rights Fellow at Colby College. Topic for her presentation: *Early Genocide Warnings in Relation to the Growing Levels of Homophobia in Uganda, A Cause of Grave Concern?*

• **Jennifer Cazenave** completed a dual PhD in French Literature and Film and in Comparative Literature at Northwestern University and at the Université Paris7-Diderot in 2011, writing a dissertation on the limited visual representation of women in Claude Lanzmann’s *Shoah*. Dr. Cazenave was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Cinema, Radio, and Television at the University of São Paulo where she worked on a project centered on diary films made by French and Francophone women filmmakers. Presently, she is a Post-doctoral Teaching Fellow at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. She is currently preparing a manuscript on the representation of women in *Shoah* and in the outtakes of the film, and she has published articles on visual and literary representations of the Holocaust, autobiographical cinema, and film criticism in postwar France. Topic for her presentation: *Exploring the Unseen: Women’s Testimonies in the Shoah Archive.*

• **Rhea Côté Robbins** was raised bilingually in a Franco American community in Maine. She attended the University of Maine at Presque Isle receiving an A.A. in art. She then earned her B. S. and M.A degrees from the University of Maine. Rhea has worked as an editor of an international, bilingual socio-cultural journal entitled, *Le FORUM* and she was the winner of the Maine Chapbook Award for her work of creative nonfiction entitled, *Wednesday’s Child*. She has written a sequel entitled, ‘Down the Plains’ and is now researching the contributions of French heritage women and their connections to race, ethnicity, class, etc. She is a founder and Executive Director of the Franco-American Women’s Institute. Topic for her presentation: *The Literary Situation and the Deprivation of Story for the Generations-Past, Present and Future: Who Stands to Lose?*

• **Alexandre E. Dauge-Roth** is an Associate Professor of French and Francophone Studies at Bates College. His scholarship and teaching investigate the social dynamics and polemical tensions between personal memory and collective trauma through testimonial literature, cinema, and documentaries. Dr. Dauge-Roth published *Writing and Filming the Genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda: Dismembering and Remembering Traumatic History* in 2010. In 2007 he founded the non-profit “Friends of Tumbo” to provide scholarship to orphans of the genocide who want to pursue a university education in Rwanda. Topic for his presentation: *Women’s Transformative Voices Within the Literature Bearing witness to the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.*

• **Joyce Van Dyke** is an award-winning playwright. Her plays (*The Oil Thief, A Girls War and Love in the Gulf*) have been produced at the Boston Playwrights’ Theater, New Repertory Theater, Arts Emerson, Ensemble Studio Theater, Golden Thread Productions and at the San Diego Actors Alliance Festival. She is also a MacDowell Colony Fellow, a Huntington Theater Playwriting Fellow and a winner of Boston’s Elliot Norton Award. Joyce Van Dyke is a descendent of Armenian genocide survivors. *Deported/a dream play* was produced in 2012 and played to sold-out houses at Boston’s Modern Theater. This theatrical production was developed from true stories of her own family. The characters in this play include her grandmother, Elmas Sarajian Boyajian, and her best friend, Varter Nazarian Deranian, who were deported during the 1915 genocide of Armenians in Turkey. This production was honored by the Massachusetts State House Joint House-Senate Resolution and was chosen as a finalist at the O’Neil National Playwrights Conference. Joyce received her PhD from the University of Virginia and a BA from Stanford University. She also completed a Masters degree in playwriting at Boston University. She currently teaches courses in Shakespeare at Harvard University’s Extension School. Topic for her presentation: *Deported/ a dream story. The Narrative of the Saga of Two Women in the Turkish Desert and its Aftermath.*
• Mona El-Naggar is a video journalist at The New York Times. She completed her undergraduate studies in political economy at Georgetown University. She became an assistant producer for BBC Arabic Radio and then joined The New York Times Cairo Bureau, where she was a print reporter for seven years covering stories in the Middle East. During those years she documented the complicated dynamics that eventually led to the popular Arab uprisings as well as the rise of Islamic identity among youth in the region. She was also a regular contributor to the International Herald Tribune’s Female Factor column. Mona moved to New York in the end of 2011 and obtained a Masters degree in video and documentary from New York University. She produced her first film, *Islam*, in 2013. It explores the Muslim Brotherhood's grassroots work and prevailing attitude towards women. Topic for her presentation: *Egypt: Revolution, Women and the Search for Identity*.

• Rangira (Béa) Gallimore is the founder and president of Step Up! American Association for Rwandan Women. She is also a co-founder and member of the board of the Interdisciplinary Genocide Studies Center in Rwanda. Dr. Gallimore is an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri—Columbia where she teaches and researches on women and violence. She has published books and articles in the area of Francophone Studies and on the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. She served as an expert consultant to UNESCO and other international organizations on the role of women in post-conflict recovery. She also served as a consultant for USA State Department on the implementation of Gender Based Violence Law in Rwanda. She has worked with the National Commission for the Fight Against Genocide (CNLG) in Rwanda, where she has served as a Special Advisor to the CNLG Executive Secretary. Dr. Gallimore is also a trained trauma counselor and a member of the Step Up trauma training team. Topic for her presentation: *Confronting the Double Unspeakable: A Sociolinguistic Study of Genocidal Rape Survivors in Rwanda*.

• Christine Holden is Associate Professor of History Emerita from the University of Southern Maine, where she taught courses in European and Russian history, including European Women's History, and the first college-level class on the Holocaust in Maine. Dr. Holden has been visiting the Ravensbrück Memorial Site annually for twenty years, and has written articles and given papers on the camp, and the museum. Title for her presentation: *Joie de (Sur)vivre: A French Operetta in and about Ravensbrück concentration camp*.

• Elmina Kulasić works as the Executive Director at the Association for Transitional Justice, Accountability and Remembrance. She served as the Project Development Coordinator and Interviewer at the Cinema for Peace Foundation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where she was responsible for the collection of testimonies for the Genocide Film Library in Bosnia-Herzegovina Project. She previously spent two years working with the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Washington DC. She has a Masters degree in Public Policy from the Central European University in Budapest and a Masters degree in Human Rights and Democracy from the University of Bologna and the University of Sarajevo. Elmina organized the first Srebrenica Genocide Commemoration in Washington and in Skopje, Macedonia. Topic for her presentation: *Women and Children: The Conceptualization of Personal and Public Memorialization of War*.

• Sarah Lightman is a London-based artist, curator, writer and filmmaker. Her art focuses on graphic novels. She is the co-founder of Laydeez do Comics, the first women’s led autobiographical comic forum in the UK. Sarah studied at the Slade School of Art for her BA and MFA and is currently pursuing a PhD, researching *Autobiography in Comics* at the University of Glasgow. She has been awarded numerous grants and has exhibited her art in London, Israel, Bucharest, Toronto, Washington DC and at Yeshiva University in New York. Topic for her presentation: “Metamorphosing Difficulties”: Women Transforming Traumatic Events into Graphic Novels.

• Chris Myers Asch recently moved to Maine from his hometown of Washington D.C. He is a graduate of Duke University with a PhD in American History from the University of North Carolina. Chris is an alumnus of Teach for America and an Echoing Green Fellow. He co-founded the Sunflower Country Freedom Project that provides educational opportunities to children in rural Mississippi. His first book, *The Senator and the Sharecropper: The Freedom Struggles of James O. Eastland and Fannie Lou Hamer*, earned the Liberty Legacy Foundation Prize from the Organization of American Historians, the McLemore Prize from the Mississippi Historical Society, and the Mississippi Library Association Non-Fiction Award. Topic for his presentation: “We ain’t free yet”: Fannie Lou Hamer and the Long Movement for Economic Justice.
• Parnian Nazary is an Advocacy Manager for Women for Afghan Women (WAW), a women's human rights organization operating 28 centers in Afghanistan and a center in New York. Prior to joining WAW, she worked with the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum, a program of the Social Science Research Council. From 2010-2012, she was a Program Officer for Afghanistan Regional Program at New York University's Center on International Cooperation. She is a graduate of Seeds of Peace program. She is a volunteer for the Paula Loyd Foundation. She worked with the Embassy of Afghanistan in DC, the Institute of International Education – Iraqi Scholar Rescue Fund, and the American University of Afghanistan in Kabul. She earned her BA in 2010 from Wellesley College, where she double majored in Middle Eastern Studies and South Asian Studies concentratting in history and politics. She grew up in Afghanistan and Pakistan and is fluent in Dari/Farsi, Urdu, and Arabic and conversational in Pashto and Hindi. She is currently studying German. Topic for her presentation: The Struggle for Afghan Women's Rights.

• Anna Norris is a Professor of French Studies at Michigan State University. She earned her PhD in French literature from the University of Virginia. She has published two books on prison writings and women and war, and has edited essays and book chapters on 19th and 20th French literature, French and Francophone cinema, women’s and gender studies, Holocaust studies and Jewish studies. Dr. Norris was named the Chevalier des Palmes Académiques by the French Ministry for Higher Education and Research. She is currently finishing a book manuscript on Marie Cappelle LaFarge who was convicted of murdering her husband with arsenic in 1840 and was the first person to be convicted of a crime by direct forensic toxicological evidence. Topic for her presentation: Testimonies from French Women at the French Archival Project Le Mémorial de la Shoah: A Gender-Specific View at the Shoah.

• Ellen Taylor is a published poet. She earned her PhD from Harvard University, Division of Language and Literacy. Her doctoral thesis was entitled More Than Words: Roles of Personal Narrative Writing. Dr. Taylor is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Maine at Augusta where she teaches courses that include American Short Story, Contemporary Latin American Literature, Literature of the Holocaust, Poetic Forms and Women’s Studies. Dr. Taylor also teaches literature courses at the Maine State Prison and she has traveled extensively through Nicaragua researching contemporary Latin American Literature. Topic for her presentation: The House as Metaphor: Women’s Testimony in Were The House Still Standing.

• Shu-chin Tsui completed her undergraduate studies at Xi’an University in China. She went on to earn her PhD in Cinema and Cultural Studies at the University of Michigan and is currently an Associate Professor of Asian Studies and Film Studies at Bowdoin College. She is the author of Women Through the Lens: Gender and Nation in a Century of Chinese Cinema. Her new manuscript is, Inscribing the Body and Gendering the Canon: Women and Visual Art in Contemporary China. Most recently, Dr. Tsui helped curate the exhibition, Breakthrough: Work by Contemporary Chinese Women Artists that is on exhibit at the Bowdoin College Art Museum. Topic for her presentation: Body and Pain: From Gendering the Body: Women’s Visual Art in Contemporary China.

• Jacqueline Zimowski - KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Shattering Myths: Her Voice Unfiltered

Deep Listening and Self-examination

Jacqueline Zimowski is Executive Director of Slavery Today, which hosts an international resource library and the Slavery Today Journal: A Multidisciplinary Peer Review Journal of Human Trafficking Solutions. Jacqueline began her journey into cognizance of gender issues in the military at age 17, becoming the first woman Fighter Aircraft Weapons Specialist in Europe. She also worked in Cold War era Intelligence. Five years overseas taught Jacqueline the disparity of cultural and geographical impact on societal perceptions of gender roles. From bias in her job field to overcoming sexual assault, Jacqueline’s sensitivity and discernment came sharply into focus. Jacqueline’s passion for counter slavery work was born from lifelong direct experience. She experienced sexual trafficking from pre-school age of through 9 years old. Jacqueline never had a “frame” for those years until her 40’s, when drawn into the work, she read Benjamin Skinner’s A Crime So Monstrous. Mr. Skinner was the first person she publicly told she had been trafficked. They both cried. Jacqueline is endlessly fascinated with people and travels much. A mother, grandmother, spouse, nurturer of waifs and many animals, and photographer, documenting it all.