

**To stay or go?
Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath
of the Holocaust, Part II**

The conference deals with possibilities for and perspectives of Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust. In view of the scale of the Holocaust, post-war political turmoil, a pervading sense of emptiness after the death of the nation, the persistence of anti-Semitism in general as well as repeated incidents of brutal anti-Semitic violence following the liberation, many Jews were faced with the following question: should they return to their places of origin and start anew or should they emigrate from Europe? Did Jews find their place in post-war European societies? Was the attempt to rebuild Jewish life, institutions and culture successful and if so, to what extent? Who decided not to participate in this endeavour and why? These are the main questions of the conference. Its aim is to examine the situation in individual countries. However, the ultimate goal is to establish clearly similarities and dissimilarities in the situations of Jews after the war in Western and Eastern Europe.

Concept and organization:

Helena Datner (Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw)

Katrin Steffen (Nordost-Institut Lüneburg)

Katrin Stoll (German Historical Institute Warsaw)

The conference will be held at the Jewish Historical Institute

Conference languages:

English/Polish

Simultaneous translation will be provided

Contact

German Historical Institute
Warsaw
Pałac Karnickich
Aleje Ujazdowskie 39
00-540 Warszawa

Tel: +48 22 525 83 00

Fax: +48 22 525 83 37

E-mail: stoll@dhi.waw.pl
www.dhi.waw.pl

Nordost-Institut Lüneburg
Conventstraße 1
21335 Lüneburg

Tel: + 49 (0)41 31 - 400 59 – 0

Fax: + 49 (0)41 31 - 400 59 – 59

E-Mail: sekretariat@ikgn.de
www.ikgn.de

Żydowski Instytut Historyczny
im. Emanuela Ringelbluma
ul. Tłomackie 3/5
00-090 Warszawa

Tel: +48 22 827 92 21

Fax: +48 22 827 83 72

E-mail: secretary@jhi.pl
www.jhi.pl



Commemorating the 4th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

Photo: Jewish Historical Institute Warsaw

TO STAY OR GO?

Jews in Europe in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust

Part II

14-15 May 2012

International Conference
at the Jewish Historical Institute

 Żydowski Instytut Historyczny
im. Emanuela Ringelbluma

 Nordost
Institut Historisches Institut
Warschau

 Nord
ost
Institut

Monday, 14 May 2012

9.30 – 10.00: Welcome address:
Director JHI (*Paweł Śpiwak*),
Director GHIW (*Eduard Mühle*),

Introduction: *Helena Datner* (Warsaw),
Katrin Steffen (Lüneburg),
Katrin Stoll (Warsaw)

Section I: Post-war Displacement of Jews

Chair: *Dariusz Stola* (Warsaw)

10.00 – 10.20: *Kierra Crago-Schneider* (Los Angeles):
Emigration by any means necessary: Jewish
Displaced Persons and their attempts to leave
Europe, 1945-1950

10.20 – 10.40: *Kiril Feferman* (Moscow):
Hardly welcome: The Soviet Jewish return
to liberated regions, 1944-1946

10.40 – 11.15: Discussion

11.15 – 11.45: Coffee break

11.45 – 12.10: *Izabela Kazejak* (Florence):
On the reasons for the arrival of Jews in Wrocław
and Lvov after 1945, and the reasons for the
emigration of Jews from these cities

12.10 – 12.30: *Tamara Włodarczyk* (Wrocław):
The situation of German Jews in Lower Silesia
in the years 1945 to 1948

12.30 – 12.50: *Emunah Nachmany-Gafny* (Jerusalem):
The question of the removal of Jewish orphans
from Poland in the post-Holocaust period

12.50 – 13.30: Discussion

13.30 – 15.30: Lunch break

Section II: The Jewish Communities after the Holocaust

Chair: *Helena Datner* (Warsaw)

15.30 – 15.50: *Miri Freilich* (Beit Berl):
The unsuccessful attempts to reorganize the Betar
Movement in Poland at the end of the Second
World War (1945-1946)

15.50 – 16.10: *Agnieszka Żółkiewska* (Warsaw):
“Self-displacement”: The Jewish intelligentsia in
postwar Poland

16.10 – 16.45: Discussion

16.45 – 17.15: Coffee break

17.15 – 17.35: *David Weinberg* (Detroit):
The revival of French Jewry after World War II,
1945-1955: challenges and opportunities in the
immediate post-war period

17.35 – 17.55: *Gidó Attila* (Cluj-Napoca):
The Romanian Jewish community after the
Holocaust. The case of the World Jewish Congress
and the Northern Transylvanian Jews

17.55 – 18.30: Discussion

Tuesday, 15 May 2012

Section III: Attitudes of the political Establishment and Civil Society towards the Jews

Chair: *Katrin Steffen* (Lüneburg)

10.00 – 10.20: *Viktoria Pollmann* (Frankfurt):
The municipality of Frankfurt on the Main and
the surviving Jews, April to November 1945

10.20 – 10.40: *Jan Lániček* (New York):
The Czechoslovak Government-in-Exile and the
“Jewish minority question” in post-war Europe

10.40 – 11.00: *Gish Amit* (Berlin):
“The largest Jewish Library in the World”:
the redistribution of Jewish cultural assets after
World War II

11.00 – 11.50: Discussion

11.50 – 12.20: Coffee break

Section IV: Early forms of Holocaust Documentation, Research and Commemoration

Chair: *Katrin Stoll* (Warsaw)

12.20 – 12.40: *Martyna Rusiniak-Karwat* (Warsaw):
The Historical Commission of the Bund
in Poland – forms of commemorating
the Holocaust in Poland

12.40 – 13.00: *Ewa Rogalewska* (Białystok):
Guardians of Memory. Advocates of Justice.
The Provincial Jewish Historical Commission
in Białystok

13.00 – 13.45: Discussion

13.45 – 15.45: Lunch break

15.45 – 16.05: *Eliyana R. Adler* (Jerusalem/Maryland):
“Five of us fled to the Bolsheviks, three went
back to the Germans. Now I’m all alone”: early
testimonies of Polish Jewish refugees evacuated
in the USSR

16.05 – 16.25: *Miri Freilich* (Beit Berl):
Vitka Kempner-Kovner: the relevance of a late
oral testimony

16.25 – 17.00: Discussion

17.00 – 17.30: Coffee Break

17.30 – 17.50: *Hanna Węgrzynek* (Warsaw):
Constructing an official model of Holocaust
presentation, 1943-1951 – the example of school
programmes and textbooks

17.50 – 18.30: Final discussion