



The Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities • The Israeli
Inter-University Partnership in Russian and East European Studies
• The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Antisemitism and
Racism • The Minerva Institute for German History



Symposium:

Confronting the Past in Post-World War II West Germany

Sunday • March 18th, 2018 • 17:00-19:00

Tel Aviv University • Gilman Building • Room 458

Dr. Stefanie Fischer, University of Potsdam

The Dead Among the Living: German Jewish Refugees and the Dead in German Jewish Cemeteries, 1945-1968

Stefanie Fischer explores how Jewish survivors who re-established their lives outside of Europe took care of their family graves in their former hometowns in post-war Germany. Jewish families—who found themselves scattered around the globe after the Shoah—practiced new ways of mourning by creating transnational, liminal spaces between local Jewish communities in Europe, refugee communities abroad and non-Jewish actors at Jewish burial sites. This research project brings into focus new ways of Jewish mourning after the Shoah and thus highlights new, transnational Jewish ways of grieving that create global Jewish memory-spaces.

Dr. Iris Nachum, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Holocaust Survivors, Ethnic Germans and the West-German Compensation Laws

Some historians see a close connection between “Wiedergutmachung” - the compensation payments of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) to the persecutees of the Third Reich - and West Germany’s successful (in their opinion) coping with Nazism after 1945. Others argue that post-war West German society was neither primarily concerned with coming to terms with Nazism nor with redress to Holocaust survivors. Rather, West Germans cared about compensation payments to ethnic German expellees. The aim of this presentation is to question this dichotomous discourse about West Germany’s engagement with the Nazi past and to present a new interpretation of the debate.