

***From Janek to Johann:***

***'National Indifference' and 'Ethnic German' Police in the Lodz Ghetto***

**Prof. Winson Chu, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

In his lecture, Prof. Chu described how for many Poles who considered themselves *Volksdeutsch* it wasn't a question of being ethnically German or knowing the German language well but merely of being part of a larger German brotherhood – *Kamerad* – in the reality created during the Nazi occupation of Lodz.

Other conclusions presented in his lecture included the observation that the Lodz ghetto wasn't hermetically sealed as is often thought since there was no more than a simple wooden fence surrounding it as well as hundreds of reports describing ghetto residents who were found outside the ghetto perimeters. Prof. Chu believes that the fence was made passable so that Jews could bring more valuables for commerce and bribes in their dealings with non-Jews outside of the ghetto.