

EUROPEAN JEWS FACING THE IMMINENCE OF THE HOLOCAUST

CALL FOR PAPERS
International Conference
23-25 April 2023
POLIN Museum – Warsaw, Poland



DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 27 NOVEMBER 2022

ORGANIZERS

- POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
- Polish Center for Holocaust Research, Polish Academy of Sciences
- Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

CONFERENCE THEME

In the summer of 1941, Nazi Germany began systematically murdering Europe's Jews. At first, there were mass executions of civilians in the East, followed by deportations to extermination camps established in occupied Poland. At times, rumors and reports about the mass murders made it clear to the Jews that they were facing a nearly inescapable death sentence. The aim of the conference is to identify and describe Jewish experience of life amidst the imminent threat of destruction. How did information about mass killings spread? How did Jews adapt to extreme conditions? What was their day-to-day life like under these conditions? What were their experiences and emotions and awareness of their further fate?

Although the period of Nazi persecution as a whole was an extreme situation for Jews, we have chosen the most extreme experiences of European Jews during the Shoah as the theme of this conference. We are interested in the experience of extreme situations, such as:

- daily life in the ghettos during German deportation operations,
- the experience of surviving mass execution,
- participation in death marches,
- living in bunkers, hiding places, in forests, and family camps,
- the experience of traveling on deportation transports and escaping from them,
- and finally, daily life in German transit camps, labor and concentration camps, and death camps, including work in the Sonderkommando.

The Conference will take place around the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It will be complemented by the exhibition "Around Us a Sea of Fire" at the POLIN Museum, which is dedicated to the civilian experience during the Uprising in April 1943.

APPLICATIONS

We invite applications from scholars ranging from advanced doctoral candidates to full professors. Please send a 300–500 word abstract of your paper in English (indicating the preferred language of your presentation: English or Polish) as well as a biographical note providing your institutional affiliation, an outline of your research experience, and contact details via the **online application form**:
<https://polin.pl/en/form/conference-european-jews-facing>

The application materials must be received by **27 November 2022**. Incomplete or late submissions will not be considered. The selected participants will be notified by **20 December 2022**.

ORGANIZATION

The organizers will reimburse invited speakers' travel costs to and from the conference (economy class tickets) and will provide lodgings during the event.

The conference will be conducted in English and Polish with simultaneous translation. The organizers reserve the right to publish the conference materials.

For additional information please contact us at: geopconference2023@polin.pl

Steering Committee

Suzanne Brown-Fleming (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), Barbara Engelking (Polish Center for Holocaust Research), Agnieszka Haska (Polish Center for Holocaust Research), Tom Navon (Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow), Daniel Newman (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum), Krzysztof Persak (POLIN Museum), Michał Trębacz (POLIN Museum).

The conference is organized within
the Global Education Outreach Program



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FOUNDATION

