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Dresden University of Technology

HANNAH ARENDT INSTITUTE for Totalitarianism Studies at the TU Dresden

Healing after the Holocaust: Survivors in Postwar Europe

International Lecture Series at TU Dresden

CHAIR: PD. DR. FRIEDERIKE KIND-KOVÁCS (HAIT)

This international lecture series explores the rehabilitation of Holocaust survivors across Europe, from the immediate aftermath of WWII to longer-term processes of recovery. In view of the immense atrocities committed during the Holocaust, the series of talks aims to engage students with a set of fundamental questions: What did rehabilitation mean for Holocaust survivors after 1945? Who determined what recovery should look like? Can we at all speak of 'healing' when many of the physical, emotional, and psychological wounds endured by survivors remained with them throughout their lives?

Across 13 international lectures, renowned scholars from Sweden, Germany, the US, Ireland, Norway, the UK, and Israel offer insights into their research on various survivor groups across different age groups and their experiences with physical and psychological rehabilitation. Through the lectures we will approach the notion of 'healing' not solely as a medical undertaking but as a multifaceted endeavor encompassing the tracing of survivors, the reunification of families, medical treatment, nursing and convalescence, emotional and psychological support, as well as access to education. The talks explore various sites of rehabilitation including DP camps, hospitals, convalescent homes, care facilities or children's institutions, while engaging with the work of relief organizations such as UNRRA, the Red Cross, and Jewish aid organizations. Several lectures also touch on the role of archives and museums as repositories of survivor testimonies and consider their contribution to the preservation of memory and to survivors' long-term recovery.

Combining in-person lectures in Dresden with digital lectures, the series seeks to bring students at TU Dresden into conversation with international scholars, both through presentations and discussions. Taken together, the lecture seeks to raise questions about genocide, age, medicine, humanitarianism, memory, and survivors' agency in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

The colloquium will be held in a hybrid format, in person at TU Dresden and/or online via Zoom.

To participate, scan the QR code or visit t1p.de/2zn83

DRESDEN concept

This lecture series is financed by the Saxon State government out of the State budget approved by the Saxon State Parliament.

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Healing after the Holocaust: Survivors in Postwar Europe

International Lecture Series at TU Dresden

The lecture series takes place every **Wednesday from 2:50–4:20 p.m. CET**

To participate, please scan the QR code or visit https://t1p.de/2zn83

Participation

about the lectures

14.10.2026 hybrid
Healing After the Holocaust: Survivors in Postwar Europe
PD Dr. Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT/TU Dresden)

21.10.2026 hybrid
More Than Objects of Relief: Displaced Ukrainian Children, International Humanitarianism and Family Tracing
Dr. Olga Gnydiuk (Berlin)

28.10.2026 online
Rehabilitation and the Making of Child Holocaust Survivors
Prof. Rebecca Clifford (Durham University, UK)

4.11.2026 hybrid
Returning or Healing? Displaced Persons Camps and Child Migration for Access to Healthcare
Dr. Aisling Shalvey (University College Cork, Ireland)

11.11.2026 hybrid
“Occupational Therapy”: Healing Through Work and Higher Education in the Aftermath of the Holocaust
Dr. Victoria Van Orden Martínez (Lund University, Sweden)

25.11.2026 hybrid
Healing the Female Body after the Holocaust: Young Hungarian Women and Girls in Swedish Rehabilitation
Dr. Kata Bohus (UiT the Arctic University of Norway, Norway)

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Participation

about the lectures

2.12.2026 online
Reconnecting Families after the Holocaust: Hungarian Child Survivors in Sweden
PD Dr. Friederike Kind-Kovács (HAIT/TU Dresden)

9.12.2026 online
Forging Postwar Kinship: Sterilization, Reproduction, and Family
Dr. Tiarra Maznick (Northwestern University, US)

16.12.2026 online
Challenging the Discourse on Age and the Holocaust: Archiving the Elderly with Nelly Wolffheim
Dr. Christine Schmidt (Wiener Holocaust Library London, UK)

6.1.2027 online
Seven Lives: Representing Survivors at the Swedish Holocaust Museum
Dr. Britta Zetterström Geschwind (The Swedish Holocaust Museum, Stockholm, Sweden)

13.1.2027 online
After the Holocaust: Survivors, Sabras, and the Meaning of Home
Dr. Joshua Coleman (Council on Contemporary Families, US)

20.1.2027 online
The Emotional Toll on Child Survivors of the Shoah: Examining the Work of Dr. Paul Friedman
Dr. Sharon Kangisser Cohen (Yad Vashem, Israel)

27.1.2027 online
Restitution as A Chance to Heal: Holocaust Survivors in Restitution Trials in Soviet-Occupied Germany
Stefan Hellmuth (Jena University/HAIT)

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