



PLUNDERED LIVES

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Looted Objects &

Interdisciplinary Methods of Field-Research

Berlin, 27-28 May 2024

Workshop Programme

Workshop Venues:

Jewish Museum Berlin, Lindenstrasse 9-14

Institute of European Ethnology, Humboldt University, Mohrenstrasse 40-41, ROOM 409

Monday, May 27

Venue: Jewish Museum Berlin, Lindenstrasse 9-14, Conference Room

10:00 Welcome and Introductions

10:30-12.30 Looted Jewish Property in the Collections of the Jewish Museum Berlin

Curatorial Highlights & Discussion with Elisabeth Weber (Provenance Research)

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Part One: How to Address Difficult Subjects in Field Research?

We define difficult subjects as topics that are surrounded with taboo, trigger shame, relate to experiences that are socially stigmatized, are surrounded by communal silence or are difficult to verbalize, and, last but not least, can potentially create risks for the interviewer (in particular when the topics relate to communal violence, historical wrongdoing or criminal behaviour). In this first part of the workshop, we want all workshop participants to share their experiences of “difficult interviewing” and prepare short, **5 min inputs** that address two questions: 1) How have you coped with difficult subjects in your own field research? 2) What tools/approaches/strategies have you developed to introduce a difficult subject in an interview in ways that offer a safe environment for both the interviewee and the interviewer? This short introductory round, which will offer us a first glimpse into each other’s field work, will be continued as a

round-table exchange focused around particular challenges of difficult interviewing.

14:00-15:30 Round Table Discussion

5 min inputs of workshops participants & round-table quiz

15:30-15:45 coffee break

15:45-17:00 Ethical Issues in Sensitive Interviewing (Round Table continued)

Brainstorming for best practice guidelines

Tuesday, May 28

Part Two: Sensitive Interviewing on the Crossroads of History and Psychology

10:00-10:15 *Bernadetta Janusz*: Transfer of Intersubjective-Recipient Design Interviewing into Oral History

[+15 min discussion / questions & responses]

10:30-10:45 *Anssi Peräkylä*: Verbal and Non-Verbal expression of Emotion in Difficult Interviewing

[+15 min discussion / questions & responses]

11:00-11:15 *Tilmann Habermas*: Material Objects as Interview Facilitators

[+15 min discussion / questions & responses]

12:00-12:15 coffee break

Part Three: Modes of Performative Interventions in Situ: The Nomadic Shtetl Archive

12:15-12:45 *Natalia Romik*: What Can the Nomadic Shtetl Archive Do?

13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-15:30 Modes of Performative Interventions in Situ: Discussion

- how to employ design & mobile exhibition space to facilitate historical research on Holocaust dispossession?
- how to transfer research results into exhibition content?

15:30-17:00 Part Four: Brainstorming Session: Crowdsourcing for Looted Objects

Discussion points:

- How to frame a successful online call for looted Jewish objects?
- How to build a functional crowdsourcing platform and ensure its success?

Workshop Participants:

Anna Bikont, Warsaw, journalist & author | perpetrator communities interviews

Marta Duch-Dyngosz, Jagiellonian University, sociologist | interviews with bystander communities in Poland

Tilmann Habermas, University of Frankfurt, psychologist | biographical narratives

Marta Havryshko, Clarks University, historian of Ukraine | war trauma | sexual violence | perpetrator interviews

Bernadetta Janusz, Jagiellonian University, social psychologist and ethnographer | trauma, mourning

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, NYU, anthropologist | Jewish heritage in Eastern Europe

Magdalena Lubańska, Warsaw University, anthropologist/religion scholar | research on postwar murders in Dębrzyn | perpetrator communities interviews

Iryna Makhouskaya, European Humanities University Vilnius, anthropologist | biographical narratives

Anssi Peräkylä, University of Helsinki, sociologist, psychotherapist | shame in social interactions

Natalia Romik, Warsaw, curator, architect, artist, public historian | Jewish material heritage

Ina Sorkina, Hrodna/Warsaw University | historian of the shtetl | bystander communities in Belarus

Magdalena Waligórska, Humboldt University Berlin, historian | Holocaust survivors and bystander communities interviews

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