

Members of the Romanian Forum

Sylvia Hershcovitz, Forum Coordinator - "Spiegel Fellow", the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust, Bar-Ilan University; PhD candidate Bar Ilan University

Dr. Sara Rosen, Forum Historical Advisor - "Spiegel Fellow", the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust, Bar-Ilan University.

Dr. Anna Maria Barbulescu, The National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania-Elie Wiesel, Bucharest; University of Bucharest.

Paula Greta Barak, Independent Researcher

Dr. Liviu Carare United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Library and Research orientation.

Adrian Cioflanca, The Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania, Director; a member of the Collegium of the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives; Researcher with the „A. D. Xenopol” Institute of History (belonging to the Romanian Academy) PhD Candidate.

Dr. Diana Dumitru Associate Professor of History at Ion Creangă State University of Moldova.

Dr. Ronit Fisher, University of Haifa

Emanuel-Marius Grec, University of Heidelberg, Germany, Ph.D candidate.

Dr. Radu Ioanid, Romanian Ambassador to Israel

Dr. Sonia Katrina "Holocaust Memoryscapes", Research Director, The National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania-Elie Wiesel, Bucharest

Dr. Natalya Lazar, Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

Dr. Dana Mihailescu Associate Professor of English/American Studies at the University of Bucharest.

Eugenia Mihalcea University of Haifa, Israel, PhD candidate

Tyly Moshe "Spiegel Fellow", the Arnold and Leona Finkler Institute of Holocaust, Bar-Ilan University, MA Candidate

Kamila Palubika, NGO Kultureben Germany Ph.D. candidate

Astrid Rottman, Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism, Romania, PhD candidate

Olga Stefan, Independent Researcher

Dr. Felicia Waldman, Center for Hebrew Studies, Department of Letters, University of Bucharest, Center Coordinator.

Dr. Avi Weber, Lawyer

Pninah Zilberman, Fundatia Tarbut Sighet- Cultura si Educatie Iudaica” – Tarbut Foundation- Culture and Iudaica Education” FTS; a member of AEJP- European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture & Heritage.

Here We Are!



Paula-Greta Barak



Paula-Greta Barak holds a BA and MA in Comparative Literature and Jewish Studies awarded by Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, and a second MA in Israel Studies, from the University of Haifa. She received the Israel Foreign Affairs Scholarship for the summer Hebrew Ulpan (2015) and a second grant for 8 months' enrollment in the Israel Studies MA Program, at the University of Haifa (2016-2017).

Both her BA and MA thesis dealt with Holocaust and its memory representations in literature. Part of her BA thesis was published as an article in *Studia Judaica*, 2015 (English): "The Identity Construct Between Fiction and History in Amos Oz's Tale of Love and Darkness". Other academic publications: "The Image of Bukovina in Aharon Appelfeld's writing. Specters of marginality", *Studia Judaica*, 2017 (English); "Nava Semel, a Voice of Holocaust Memory and Commemoration. In memoriam", in *Trenul Nostru*, 2017 (Romanian).

She worked as a researcher at Hashava (The Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims' Assets), where she engaged among other things, in historical, genealogical and archival research about Holocaust victims in Northern Romania. She was an active contributor to The Remembrance Museum/The Virtual Museum of the Holocaust in Northern Transylvania of Babeş-Bolyai University, interviewing Holocaust survivors from Northern Transylvania and cataloguing documents for the museum exhibition. After relocating to Israel, she continued to work as an independent researcher in the field of Romanian Jewry. She also held a position as paralegal in a lawyer office, conducting historical research and giving her expertise on the Holocaust in Romania – mainly for legal support of Holocaust survivors' compensation claims, from Germany and Romania.

Dr. Ana Bărbulescu



Dr. Ana Bărbulescu holds a PhD in sociology, is a researcher at INSHR-EW, Bucharest, and an associate professor at the University of Bucharest. She works on topics related to the social history of Transnistria ghettos, forced labor of the Romanian Jews during the Holocaust, antisemitism in interwar Romania, Holocaust memory in post-communist Romania.

Dr. Sonia Catrina



Dr. Sonia Catrina is a cultural studies scholar interested in heritage-making and memory-work, in relation to authorized institutions to it, but also to access and expression by minority groups. Her research focuses on nationalism, ethnicity and identity, collective memory, anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Since 2015, she has been specializing in the field of the Holocaust studies, Genocide, and Memory Studies.

The way in which the past is reconstructed through memory is another major interest of CATRINA's research as seen through her study "Voicing the death of Jews from Northern Transylvania through heritage and its social appropriation". More recently, she participated as a research project manager in the competition for "young research teams", with the research proposal "Coming to Terms with National History and Participation in Contemporary Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Post-communist Countries", which received financial support from the UEFISCDI – the Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation.

As a research director of the "Holocaust Memoryscapes" Project (<https://www.inshr-ew.ro/portfolio-item/holocaust-memoryscapes/>), she was the main organizer of an International colloquium on the "Contemporary Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern European Countries" (<https://www.inshr-ew.ro/call-for-papers-international-colloquium/>).

By focusing on perceptions regarding the foundation in Bucharest of two National Museums, one of the Jewish History and the Holocaust, the other of Communism, she examined the spatialities of traumatic memory reflecting a multidirectional exchange and critical encounter in a paper entitled "The legacies of difficult pasts in Post-communist Romania: Spatialities of traumatic memory, (dis)connected politics of memory and anti-Semitic social attitudes.

Adrian Cioflâncă



Adrian Cioflâncă is a PhD candidate in History. He is the Director of the Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania and a member of the Collegium of the National Council for the Study of the Securitate Archives. He is a researcher with the "A. D. Xenopol" Institute of History (belonging to the Romanian Academy).

He was a member of the International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania (2003-2004) and expert in The Presidential Commission for the Analysis of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania (2006), co-author of the Final Reports of the two commissions. Since 2005, he is a member of the Romanian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. He is a Tziporah Wiesel Fellow of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington (2009). Between 2010 - 2012, he was the Director of a department in the Institute for the Investigation of the Communist Crimes and the Memory of the Romanian Exile. Adrian Cioflâncă edited, in collaboration, seven volumes. He also authored studies in fields like the history of the Holocaust, history of communism, political violence, cultural history, the theory of history.

Prof. Diana Dumitru



Prof. Diana Dumitru is an Associate Professor of History at Ion Creangă State University of Moldova. Her fields of expertise include the Holocaust in Romania, Jewish-gentile relations, and postwar trials. She is currently working on a book about Jewish life in Moldova after the Holocaust.

Dr. Ronit Fisher



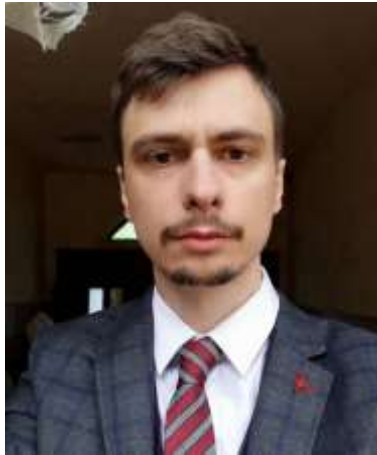
Dr. Ronit Fisher was born in Israel, to Holocaust survivor parents. Since 2010 she teaches courses about the Holocaust for MA students, at the department of Jewish History at the University of Haifa.

Since mid-2013 she also works as a "Historian-Consultant" specialist for the history of Romania Jewry during the Holocaust at the legal division of the Authority for the Holocaust survivors' rights, at the Israeli Ministry of Finance. In the past she was the Academic coordinator of the Research Center of the history of Romanian Jewry at the Hebrew University, the **Dean of Students** at the Academic Yzreel Valley College (2006 – 2008), and the Director of the Haifa's branch of the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel (NGO), (2004-2006).

Dr. Fisher has published numerous publications, books and articles, about the Holocaust with emphasis on the fate of Romanian Jewry. She has lectured at symposia and conference on the Holocaust in Israel and abroad.

Dr. Fisher will continue her studies of the history of the Jews of Czernowitz during the Holocaust and of love and marriage during the Holocaust.

Emanuel – Marius Grec



Emanuel – Marius Grec is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. His interests include transitional justice and Jewish memory in postwar Romania, trials of Holocaust perpetrators, collaboration during the war in Romanian-occupied lands, as well as the history of Jews in Western Romania. His PhD thesis deals with trials of war criminals and perpetrators in postwar Romania. He is funded in his research by Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk, the foundation for Jewish students and studies in the Republic of Germany. Having graduated from Vasile Goldis Western University in Arad, he also has an MA in Comparative History from Central European University and one in Jewish Civilizations from the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg. He has also graduated from the One Year program in Jewish Studies from Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden. His publications include articles and pieces on the People’s Tribunals in Romania, the Jewish life of Arad in the 1930s, the role of Mihail Sebastian in Romanian literature and history, as well as the rise in antisemitism in modern Romania. Emanuel-Marius Grec is a member of the Center for Jewish Studies in Arad, Romania since 2010.

Sylvia Hershcovitz



Sylvia Hershcovitz is a PhD candidate in the Israel and Golda Koschitsky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar Ilan University, and is writing under the supervision of Prof. Moshe Rosman. She is also the coordinator of the Institute's "Rumania Forum".

Her research is about the missing link: The Jewish Women and their Organizations in Romania during the First Part of the 20th Century. She concentrates on the daily life of these women, their identity, activities and their unique contribution to the women and children's lives during this period of time in Romania. In addition, the research illuminates the role of Jewish women role as part of the Zionist movement and their participation in the Nation building process.

The dissertation also includes the challenges the women met while trying to carry on their activities during the Holocaust in Romania and the part they took in rescuing thousands of children and orphans including the Transnistria orphans.

Research: As a Spiegel fellow, she will look into the activities of Wizo Romania and the Jewish Center for the Protection of Mother and Child which operated during the war and the Holocaust in Romania.

Dr Radu Ioanid



Dr. Radu Ioanid is the Director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum's International Archival Programs Division and the author of several books on Romanian history and the Holocaust, including *The Holocaust in Romania* and *The Ransom of the Jews: The Story of the Extraordinary Secret Bargain Between Romania and Israel*. He earned his first doctorate at the University of Cluj, Romania, and his second doctorate at École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. From 2018 to present he is an Associate Professor at Political Science Department, University of Cluj. From 2003 to 2004 he served as the Vice-President for the International Commission for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania, chaired by Elie Wiesel. In 2006 Ioanid received the distinguished rank of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres, conferred by the French Minister of Culture; promoted in 2014 Officier des Arts et des Lettres. He received the 2018 Independent Publisher Book Award, Europe-Best Regional Non-Fiction , GOLD (tie) for his book *The Iasi Pogrom, June-July 1941, A Photo Documentary from the Holocaust in Romania*, Indiana University Press, 2017

Natalya Lazar



Natalya Lazar holds a doctorate in political science from Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine. In addition, she is also receiving a second PhD from the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her dissertation is entitled “*Czernowitz Jews and the Holocaust: Interethnic Relations, Violence, and Survival in a Borderland City, 1940-1946*”. She has been a recipient of several academic fellowships, including Saul Kagan Claims Fellowship for the Advanced Shoah Studies, the Black Sea Link Fellowship at the New Europe College (Bucharest, Romania), and VWS Fellowship in the Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the NIOD and Amsterdam University among others. Her research was supported by research grants from Foundation for Urban and Regional Studies at the University of Oxford (United Kingdom), Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, Sharon Abramson Research Grant of the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, and Hevrony Trust Fellowship at Clark University.

Natalya Lazar is a Program Manager of Initiative for Ukrainian-Jewish Shared History and the Holocaust in Ukraine at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM, Washington, DC). There, she is responsible for building scholarly programs that focus on the Holocaust as it occurred in Ukraine.

Dana Mihăilescu



Dana Mihăilescu is an Associate Professor of English/American Studies at the University of Bucharest. Her main research interests concern the Holocaust in Romania, especially child survivors' testimonies and (post)war identities; transcultural networks of resistance, aid, remembrance in the case of Romanian Jews affected by the Holocaust; the input of multiple testimonies by the same survivor on the memory of the Holocaust in Romania; Romanian Jewish Holocaust survivors and migration – reasons, challenges, legacies.

She has published numerous books and articles about various aspects of the Holocaust.

Eugenia Mihalcea



Eugenia Mihalcea is a PhD candidate at the University of Haifa in the Department of General History. She is a graduate of the Weiss-Livnat International MA Program in Holocaust Studies at the University of Haifa. She also holds an MA diploma from the University of Bucharest and wrote her MA thesis about Children survivors of the Holocaust in Transnistria as a Visiting Research Fellow at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

She began her research about the Holocaust in Transnistria a few years ago at the “Elie Wiesel” National Institute for the Study of Holocaust in Romania as an intern. She continued this project in Israel at Yad Vashem where she had an internship. Prior to this she worked as a journalist for the main national newspapers in Bucharest, Romania.

She is writing her dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Stefan Ihrig on the topic of "(Re)constructing the history and memory of the Holocaust in Transnistria in Romania and Israel between 1945 and 1989". The aim of the project is to examine how the narratives about the Holocaust in Transnistria were constructed in Communist Romania and Israel between 1945 and 1989. The study of the official discourses and the contexts in which the narratives about the Holocaust in Transnistria evolved will analyze how and why the past is remembered in this way. The research will explain how the same history was used by different ideologies and what it was used for. For example: who profited from ignoring Romanian perpetrators and who pushed debates about Romanian responsibilities in the Holocaust.

Tilly Moshe



Tilly Moshe completed her MA degree in general history at Haifa University, specializing in the subject of the Nazi rise to power and years of persecution, 1933-1939. She has a history teacher's certificate from Haifa University.

Tilly was a guide at the Hedva Eybeschutz Institute of Holocaust Studies in Haifa. She teaches at the HILA Youth Advancement Program (a program of basic studies and education completion), where she prepares students for a 12 years of study examination in history with an emphasis on the rise of nationalism in Europe and Zionism.

As part of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, she served as a guide at the "Pisgat Ahuza" Nursing Home in Haifa and gave a lecture on the topic "From Antisemitism to Holocaust".

She is writing an MA thesis at the Jewish history department in Haifa University on the subject of forced labor in the Regat in Romania between 1941-1945.

Kamila Pałubicka



Kamila Pałubicka is a PhD candidate and co-founder and the chairman of the NGO KULTUREBEN e.V (www.kulturerben.com). Since 2011 she has coordinated, led, trained and developed workshops and exhibitions in the field of Memorial Culture between Poland and Germany. She studied painting and graphics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich (2009 Diploma) and attended the master's degree program in European Cultural Heritage (M.A.) in Frankfurt O. in 2011. She wrote her master's thesis on "Memories and historical documents of the concentration camp Sonnenburg. Preservation of historical events in the context of social perception and active remembrance."

Since 2013 she has been working as a teacher. Today she teaches Fine Arts and Computer Science at the German School in Bucharest (Romania). She is currently developing and managing the Erasmus+ project: "Decipher Totalitarianism and Empower Democracy". It runs as a cross-curricular project with a specific focus on historical contents in the field of memorial culture. Young people from Greece, Spain, Germany and Romania will meet in Bucharest to study the Holocaust in Romania for 4 days to reflect about the future of the present generation of people through remembrance and contextualization of the history of the Holocaust.

She has published books on the Holocaust.

Dr. Sara Rosen



Dr. Sara Rosen is a historian dealing with the Holocaust in Romania. She wrote her MA at the Institute of Contemporary Judaism at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on "The Survival of the Jews in the Shragorod Ghetto in Transnistria", under the direction of Prof. Dalia Ofer. Her PhD dissertation was written under the direction of Prof. Ofer on the topic of "Public and Individual, Organization and Family, The Lives of the Jews in the North Transnistrian Ghettos (Mogilev, Schrogorod, Djurin, Murfa and Bershad) 1944-1941.

During her research, she attended numerous conferences in Israel and abroad in her research, and published articles on the fate of Transnistrian Jews in the Holocaust. Along with Prof. Dalia Ofer, she was the scientific editor of the Diary of Limpens Konstad Ghetto in Transnistria, which should be published in early 2020. Dr. Rosen also served as a historian in Boris's film imploring "Beyond Nistro" about Transnistrian Jews.

Dr. Rosen was a part of the Yad Vashem's team that researched and published the open ghettos report in the Regat, Romania

Dr. Rosen investigates the history of Appeldorn - Ilania: the children's village in the Netherlands for rescuing children from Romania and bringing them to Israel, as well as the Holocaust events in Romania (in the Regat) 1941-1944.

Astrid Rottman



Astrid Rottman is a practicing architect, senior partner at Asdesign 95 architecture office. She teaches architectural design at The Interior Design Department at UAUIM Bucharest and as a Ph.D student she currently develops a research thesis about Holocaust memorial architecture. During her professional activity, her works have been awarded in different Romanian architecture expositions such as Architecture Biennial and Bucharest Annual of Architecture and also in some of the national architecture contests

Her dissertation deals with the Architecture of Voices: In a maximum 10-15 years, the direct testimony of the Holocaust survivors reaches their biological limits. Their voices will be replaced exclusively by symbolic representations - books, performances, films, and exhibitions. What will be the consistency and significance of this memory? How this type of representation will create a living and affective connection with a distant past? How it will be received? And how it will be transmitted later?

To answer this question she deals with Memorial architecture in different form. The main purpose of the research thesis is to analyze the imaginary volumetric intersection between both realities that overlap in the memorial space: memory and the spectator. Also to build a concept and a theoretical model possible to follow in the memorialist architecture representation of the Holocaust in Romania based on local events.

Olga Stefan



Olga Stefan was born in Romania, raised in Chicago, and is currently living in Switzerland. She is an independent researcher, curator, arts writer and documentarian whose focus is the Holocaust in Romania. She records survivors, organizes exhibitions, and develops Holocaust remembrance programs highlighting forgotten artists and individuals, as well as hidden chapters of Holocaust historiography.

Stefan launched the transnational platform for Holocaust remembrance through art and media, The Future of Memory

<http://www.thefutureofmemory.ro> to make her research and work accessible to the public.

Dr. Felicia Waldman



Dr. Felicia Waldman (PhD 2001) is associate professor at the Center for Hebrew Studies, Department of Letters, University of Bucharest. She coordinates the Center and edits its academic journal, *Studia Hebraica*. Her expertise covers Jewish mysticism, Holocaust education in Romania and the Romanian Jewish heritage. She has published 4 books and over 30 articles and co-edited 3 volumes on these topics.

She has been involved in Holocaust education since 1998, when it was introduced as a mandatory topic in secondary education in Romania and organizes training sessions for history teachers in Holocaust education in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and various expert organizations from Romania and abroad.

She was invited to lecture at various conferences and programs, is the deputy head of the Romanian Delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and former chair of the organization's Education Working Group. She has participated in numerous international research projects on Holocaust education, Jewish heritage, and the teaching of religion.

Dr. Avi Weber



Dr. iur. Avraham Weber , LL.M., is a lawyer at Weber & Co. specializing in German and European law. Since 2008 he is the consultant to the Ministry for Senior Citizens chartered by the Israeli government to negotiate with foreign governments for restitution of property and Jewish rights. Due to his academic studies in Germany followed by a work experience at the German Bundestag, Dr. Weber holds good contacts and knowledge of both Israeli and German Political, Academic and Economical circles. As of 2005 he is a board member of the Israeli German chamber of commerce (IHK) and as of 2010 is a member founder of the Czech Israeli chamber of commerce. In 2012 he was appointed by the Tel Aviv Bar association to chair the Czech-Tel Aviv lawyers' friendship association. As of August 2020 he is a member of the board of EVZ fund.

Peninah Zilberman



Peninah Zilberman was born in Israel to survivor parents from Romania - Sighet Maramures and Bucharest. She served the Toronto Jewish Community for over 40 years in various capacities as a Jewish educator and Holocaust Museum Director and past Sisterhood President of Adath Israel Synagogue. Since 2018 she is the Heritage & PR Consultant for UK Artist Beverley – Jane Stewart for her upcoming exhibits “Romanian Heritage: A Journey In Time”, across Romania, London and TLV.

In 2014 she established “**Fundatia Tarbut Sighet- Cultura si Educatie Iudaica**” – Tarbut Foundation- Culture and Iudaica Education”. FTS, is a member of AEJP- European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture & Heritage.

Ms. Zilberman is a Jewish and Holocaust Education consultant for theatre directors, playwrights, musicians and authors. She lectures on “Second Generation overcoming Trauma”, “Telling our Parents Stories”, and “Inspirational Writing: What, Why, When and Where”.

She has been blessed with three children and six grandchildren, who are always involved in servicing their Communities in Canada and Israel.