

## Forum Switzerland: List of Members

**Dr. Daniel Gerson** (Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Bern and Second Generation Member), Senior Scholar and Forum Coordinator

**Prof. Jacques Eherenfreund** (Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Lausanne)

**Prof. Muriel Katz** ( Psychology, University of Lausanne)

**Prof. Hans-Lukas Kieser** (University of Zurich; University of Newcastle, Australia)

**Dr. Bianca Matzek** (Publishing director, Peter Lang Publishers, Bern)

**Fabienne Mayer** (Lucern, Bern, Researcher of Swiss Holocaust Memorials)

**Prof. Jacques Picard** (Prof. Emeritus University of Basel)

**Prof. Christina Spaeti** (University of Fribourg)

**Dr. Walter Stoffel** (University of Fribourg)

**Urs Urech** (Education Foundation for Tolerance)

**Anita Winter** (Director, Gamaraal Foundation, Zurich, and Second Generation member)

# Here We Are!



## Prof. Jacques Ehrenfreund



**Prof. Jacques Ehrenfreund** is the Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Lausanne. He specializes in the history of Jews and Judaism in modern and contemporary times and is interested in the question of the construction of groups and social identities in the era of nationalization of European societies and the role filled by religious legacies in this setting.

He works on the plural modes of secularization of Judaism, putting them into perspective with those operating in the management of other legacies. German-language Judaism, a veritable laboratory of Judaism's modes of thinking in modernity, was the center of its work. It is from this angle that he is more interested in the question of the interaction between politics and religion.

Among his topics of interest are the history of Jews and of Modern and Contemporary Judaism, Israel, Diaspora, Socio-cultural history and the Shoah.

## **Dr. Daniel Gerson**



**Dr. Daniel Gerson** was born in Zurich in 1963. In 1989 he received his Lizentiat / Master in History at Basel University. In 2004 he received his PhD. at the Center for Research on Antisemitism (Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benz), Technical University Berlin. Between 2007-2011 he was a Scientific Assistant at the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Basel. Since 2011 he has been a scientific assistant and lecturer in Modern Jewish History at the Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Bern. His main fields of interest: European-Jewish History after the Holocaust; Swiss-Jewish History; French-Jewish History; Modern Antisemitism.

**Dr. Gerson** is the Forum's Senior Scholar and Coordinator.

## Prof. Muriel Katz



**Prof. Muriel Katz** is a professor of psychology at the University of Lausanne. During the past five years she specializes in the transmission across generations in the context of social violence and political repression.

One project in which she examines this topic is called *Participating in a Story and a Genealogy after the Shoah: the test of genealogical crime on psychic transmission*. It has been conducted with the support of the *Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah* in Paris. In this qualitative research project, the issue of subjective and group repercussions of the Shoah is studied from the double point of view of clinical psychology and history (with Prof. J. Ehrenfreund, UNIL).

On a *methodological* level, it shows how to account for the traumatic impact of genocide on historicization process; how to account for the unconscious impact of genealogical crime on representation of family ties; it also explores whether the free realization of a genealogical tree is an adequate projective tool to explore the fantasmatic dimension of family ties in the context of social violence.

On a *thematic* level, it shows how survivors of genocide and descendent of survivors elaborate their life stories, which kind of symbolic resources are used in life stories process about social catastrophe, which are the traumatic traces of innumerable deaths when realizing a genealogical tree after a genocide, what is the impact of social violence on cultural markers.

## Prof. Hans-Lukas Kieser



**Prof. Hans-Lukas Kieser**, historian, is an Associate Professor at the University of Newcastle, Australia and an honorary adjunct professor at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. His teaching focus is Modern Global and Middle Eastern History. His research focus is late Ottoman and early post-Ottoman history, especially of violence and peace-making. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Federal Foundation Flight, Expulsion in Berlin; President of the Republic of Armenia Prize for “significant contribution to the history of the Armenian genocide” (2017). His recent publications include: *Talaat Pasha: Father of modern Turkey, architect of genocide* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018); He co-edited *End of the Ottomans: The genocide of 1915 and the politics of Turkish nationalism* (London: I.B. Tauris-Bloomsbury, 2019).

## Dr. Bianca Matzek



**Dr. Bianca Matzek** is a publisher, editor and media expert. Born in Bonn Germany in 1968, she attended the Clara Fey High School, the University of Bonn, Trier and the University of Economics in Vienna (WU Wien).

She is a Professor of Media and Publishing and a Founding Director of Akalem e.V. an association for the promotion of art and culture at the International School of Management (ISM) in Cologne. She lectures on Global HR Management and Intercultural Communication and Media Management. As publishing director of Peter Lang Publishing she produces high quality academic international and multilingual peer-reviewed publications within the humanities and social sciences, including many books pertaining to the Holocaust, and is in touch with authors worldwide publishing on that subject. These publications are not only rooted in traditional fields of research, but also reflect the latest academic trends and developments. She maintains close and long-standing collaborations with authors, series and journal editors as well as with academic institutions both in Switzerland and abroad. Her personal subject areas are German literature & culture, media, education, art, architecture, music and cultural studies.

She lives in Cologne and Bern.



## Fabienne Meyer



**Fabienne Meyer** received her Masters of Arts in History at the University of Zürich. She is an expert on Swiss memorials, lives in Lucerne and works in Berne. She wrote her Master's Thesis on the history of Holocaust memorials in Switzerland under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Hans-Lukas Kieser. In her Thesis, she documented the Holocaust memorials found throughout the country and analyzed their history and significance.

She works for the Swiss Army as a scientific assistant and wrote a book about the history and background of memorials remembering plane crashes and accidents of the Swiss Air Force titled "'Mais de temps à autre, l'un d'eux ne rentrait pas...' Denkmäler für Abstürze, Abschüsse und Unfälle in der Schweizer Militäraviatik". She is responsible for creating an inventory list and a documentation of war memorials in Switzerland, as well as consulting and assisting the establishment of a memorial commemorating the deceased members of the Swiss Army.

Fabienne Meyer is also part of an editing team for a collection dealing with different strands of Holocaust remembrance in a transnational perspective but with a focus on Switzerland. The publication is part of a debate on the appropriateness in Switzerland of public commemoration of victims of the National Socialism in general and of Swiss victims of National Socialism in particular, which have been launched since 2018. The collection is expected to be published in 2020. Meyer takes also part in a steering group, demanding and conceptualizing the establishment of a Swiss memorial for the victims of the Holocaust.



## Prof. Jacques Picard



**Prof. Jacques Picard** is Prof. emeritus for General and Jewish History and Modern Cultures at the University of Basel. From 2001 to 2009, he served as Director of the Institute for Jewish Studies, and from 2010 to 2017 as co-Director of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology. He was Dean of Research of the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Basel. He had been a member of the governing body of the Center for Cultural Topographies of the University of Basel.

His studies in history and literature at the Universities of Friborg (licentiate) and Berne (doctorate) were followed by research stays in New York, New Mexico and Israel. From 1985 to 2001 he worked as a lecturer in culture, politics and history at the University of Applied Sciences Bern, where he was head of the department of wood engineers. From 1996 to 2001, he was a member of the Independent Commission of Experts Switzerland - World War II, appointed by the Swiss government, and was research director in its development phase. Since then he is a member of Swiss delegations to international organizations (OSCE, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, ITF Holocaust Research, Education and Remembrance). Today he is a member of the Foundation for Contemporary Jewish History at the Archives of Contemporary History of the Swiss Federal Institute of Science and Technology (ETH) at Zürich, and he is a Fellow of the University of Haifa (Herzl Institute).

His publications include "Switzerland and the Jews 1933-1945" and "Gebrochene Zeit". His research focuses on migration societies and their cultural forms and forums, the relationship of cultures of minorities to the social mainstream, the cultural perception of the individual and others in everyday life and discourses, the transformation of traditions in Europe and North America as well as the history of ideas and intellectual history in the modern age. In 2016, he received a National Jewish Book Award for the Anthology "Makers of Jewish Modernity" (Princeton UP).

## Prof. Christina Späti



**Christina Späti** is a Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Her research focuses on the Holocaust and processes of dealing with the National Socialist past, as well as anti-Zionism, antisemitism and Orientalism. Her recent publications include: “Arrests, Internments and Deportations of Swiss Jews in France and the Reactions of Swiss Authorities, 1941–1944,” in: *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* vol. 35, no. 1 (Spring 2021); “Die Schweiz und der Holocaust: Rezeption, Erinnerung und museale Repräsentation”, in: Andrea Brait/Anja Früh (eds), *Museen als Orte geschichtspolitischer Verhandlungen. Ethnografische und historische Museen im Wandel*, Itinera 43 (2017), 61-76; “Historiografie des Nationalsozialismus in der Schweiz: punktuell, aber bedeutsam”, in: Olivier Dard, Michel Grunewald, Reiner Marcowitz, Uwe Puschner (eds), *Confrontations au national-socialisme dans l'Europe francophone et germanophone / Auseinandersetzungen mit dem Nationalsozialismus im deutsch- und französischsprachigen Europa (1919-1949)*, Bern etc. 2017, 63-83.

## Dr. Walter A. Stoffel



**Dr. Walter A. Stoffel** (Dr. iur., University of Fribourg/Switzerland, 1979; LL.M. Yale Law School, 1976; admitted at the Zurich Bar, 1979) is a Full Professor for Company Law, Competition Law and Private International Law at the Faculty of Law of the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). He researches and publishes extensively in the field of competition and company law. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the Swiss Review of Business Law (SZW/RSDA) the American Journal of Comparative Law (AJCL). He is a Foreign Expert Member of the Belgian National Research Foundation and was a Foreign Legal Expert for the German *Gesellschaft fuer technische Zusammenarbeit* on various occasions. He holds membership in numerous national and international professional associations. He lectured in universities in Italy, Canada, Australia, the United States, France and Turkey, as well as in Israel, Spain, Germany, Denmark, China, Serbia and Taiwan.

He was the President of the Swiss Competition Commission from 2003 to 2010. In this capacity, he also represented Switzerland in the Competition Committee of the OECD which meets three times a year. Walter Stoffel practiced as a lawyer in Zurich from 1979 to 1980, before becoming Vice-director of the Swiss Institute of Comparative Law in Lausanne, and in 1987, Full Professor at the University of Fribourg, dean of the Faculty of Law from 1998-2001. He was the Scientific Director of the International Association of Legal Science (IALS; 1995-2001), Member of the Board of the European Association of Law Faculties (ELFA; 1998-2001), and Member of the Swiss Council of Science and Technology (2003-2016).

Walter Stoffel directs, together with Lucie Bader, a cycle “Law in the Movies”, comprising seminars, screenings and round table discussions bringing together lawyers, film directors and experts of various fields.

## Urs Urech



**Urs Urech** was born in 1969, and is a teacher and trainer, social worker and community organizer. Has twenty years of experience in Peacework, Christian-Jewish Dialogue and Holocaust Education in Switzerland. Has led dozens of Holocaust testimonies with survivors in schools and churches, Co-author of a curriculum about the Holocaust from a Swiss perspective for Primary Schools „Verfolgt und Vertrieben. Lernen mit Biografien von jüdischen Flüchtlingskindern.“

Has published Video Testimonials of Swiss Gentiles who saved Jews „Mutige Menschen“. Urs was responsible for the Shoah Education Programme and the International Holocaust Memorial Day at the School of Education (FHNW), Brugg, Switzerland from 2010-2018.

Urs Urech is a member of the Swiss IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance), President of the National Christian-Jewish Association in Switzerland, and the Executive Director of SET, the Education Foundation for Tolerance, [www.set.ch](http://www.set.ch).

## Anita Winter



**Anita Winter** is a daughter of Holocaust refugees and the founder and president of the GAMARAAL Foundation, a Swiss Foundation that grants financial support to survivors living in poverty and furthers projects in the fields of Holocaust Education and genocide prevention. She is a member of the Swiss Begleitgruppe of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) of the Swiss Federal Department for Foreign Affairs and has served as a visiting lecturer in Holocaust education at the University of Tirana in Albania.

She has an official accreditation as the main representative of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations and as a representative of B'nai B'rith International at the United Nations in Geneva.

She also is appointed as Honorary Consul for the Republic of Albania in Switzerland.

She is married with four adult children.