

Raphael Lemkin Seminar

*Raphael Lemkin Center– Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation
Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Heinrich Boell Foundation, Ford Foundation
Jagiellonian University, The ‘Remembrance Responsibility and Future Foundation’
Humanity United, US State Department, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kraków - Oświęcim
26 October - 1 November, 2009*

DAY ONE, MONDAY – 26TH OCTOBER	
Morning and afternoon	<i>Arrival to Kraków. Check in Holiday Inn hotel. Visiting the city. Krakow old city tour</i>
Evening/19.00	Introductory session and dinner

DAY TWO, TUESDAY – 27TH OCTOBER	
Morning	<i>Arrival to Oświęcim</i>
11.00-14.30	<p><i>The Definition of Genocide – Dr. James Waller</i></p> <p>This opening module will begin with a review of the origins of the term “genocide,” with a particular focus on the role of Raphael Lemkin, and his life experiences, in the development of this term. Attention also will be paid to the historical development of the United Nation’s Genocide Convention as well as to a careful and critical review of the definition of “genocide” as laid out in the convention. Participants will then engage in an interactive exercise that unpacks the UN definition and points to its strengths and limitations. Finally, now that the concept of “genocide” has been defined, this module will close with a discussion of the term “Holocaust” and its meaning from a historical perspective (attempted extermination of the European Jews), a Nazi perspective (Die Endlosung), an etymological perspective (Greek holokauston), and a theological perspective (Sho’ah).</p>
14.30-15.30	<i>Break for lunch</i>
16.00-19.00	<p><i>History of Genocide – Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey</i></p> <p>This module will examine the history of modern genocides with an emphasis on the insights offered by historical analysis into the long-and short-term causes and indicators of genocide as well as the disappointing history of international response to the problem. We will discuss both the classic examples of twentieth-century genocide as well as lesser known cases, with the aim of discussing how a comparative historical framework can help us understand genocide as an historical process that often looks very different in its early stages than it does once it reaches the point of mass death. Building on this historical background, and using some more recent conflicts as examples, participants will work interactively to pinpoint the early warning signs of potentially genocidal situations.</p>
19.10-20.10	<i>Dinner</i>

DAY THREE, WEDNESDAY – 28TH OCTOBER	
7.30-8.00	<i>Breakfast</i>

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8.00-8.15	Evaluation meeting – participants only
8.15	Bus to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
8.30-10.30	<p><i>The role of government officials and German army leaders in the Holocaust – Dr. Wolf Kaiser</i></p> <p>An introductory presentation will deal the transition from democracy to dictatorship in Germany and the specific characteristics of the Nazi regime in order to explain its dynamics and destructiveness. Afterwards documents will be studied showing attitudes and actions of government officials from the judiciary, the foreign office, and the army leadership during the Holocaust. The workshop can be concluded by discussing whether insights relevant for the participants in their role as citizens and in their professional work could be gained from studying this history.</p>
10.30-12.30	Guided study visit of the former camp Auschwitz I (<i>in smaller groups</i>)
12.30	Bus to Centre of Dialogue and Prayer
13.00-14.00	<i>Break for lunch</i>
14.00	Bus to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
14.30-17.30	<p><i>Psychology of Genocide – Dr. James Waller</i></p> <p>Following on the heels of that morning’s visit to Auschwitz, this module will use the lens of psychology to bring some focus to the “incomprehensibility” of what happens in genocide. First, we will examine the human capacity for resilience by looking at the psychology of victims and survivors, with a particular focus on the psychological aftermath of survival. Second, we will focus on an understanding of the human capacity for evil by discussing how perpetrators are “made” and can be “unmade.” Third, we will address the human capacity for good by looking at the psychology of resisters and rescuers, with a particular focus on the experiential and motivational factors influencing resistance and rescue. Fourth, and finally, we will review the human capacity for indifference by examining the psychology of bystanders and, particularly, the factors encouraging bystander intervention in times of crisis.</p>
17.30	Bus to Centre of Dialogue and Prayer
18.00-19.00	<i>Dinner</i>

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DAY FOUR, THURSDAY – 29TH OCTOBER	
7.30-8.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
8.00-8.15	Evaluation meeting – participants only
8.15	Bus to the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
8.30-11.30	Guided study visit of the former camp Auschwitz II - Birkenau <i>(in smaller groups)</i>
11.30	Bus to Centre of Dialogue and Prayer
11.45-12.30	<i>Coffee break and debrief</i>
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch</i>
13:30-15:00	<i>KL Auschwitz in the Nazi program of the Mass Murder of European Jews – Dr. Piotr Setkiewicz</i>
15.10-16.40	<i>Social Science Models for Genocide Prevention – Tibi Galis</i>
16.45-17.15	<i>Transportation to Auschwitz Jewish Center</i>
17.30-20.30	<i>Military Mechanisms for Genocide Prevention – Max Kelly</i>
Evening	<i>The Pub Basil jazz evening, Oświęcim with informal pizza-kebab dinner</i>

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DAY FIVE, FRIDAY – 30TH OCTOBER	
7.30-8.00	<i>Breakfast</i>
8.00-8.15 Evaluation meeting – participants only	
8:30-12:30	<p><i>Foreseeing, Preventing, and Responding to Genocide: The Legal Framework– Prof. Sheri Rosenberg</i></p> <p>The last century has witnessed repeated instances of systematic and intentional government-sponsored genocide. This module will help participants understand (i) genocide as a process; (ii) warning signs that often precede mass atrocity crimes, and potential responses to those warning signs; (iii) the developing legal responses to genocide; and (iv) actions that participants may take to reduce the likelihood that a genocide will occur.</p>
12.45-13.45	<i>Break for lunch</i>
14:00-16:30	<p><i>The Office of the United Nations’ Secretary General’s Special Adviser on Genocide Prevention: Genocide Prevention and Early Warning in the UN System</i></p> <p>The module will address the following topics: 1) the role, mandate and work of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; 2) OSAPG Framework of Analysis - assessment of situations at risk; 3) State Responsibility to Prevent under the 1948 Genocide Convention.</p>
16:00-16:15	<i>Tea break</i>
16.15-17.45	<i>Transitional Justice – Tibi Galis</i>
18:00-19:00	<i>Building Institutions to Counteract Genocide I – Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program</i>
19.00-20.00	Departure for Krakow
19.00-19.30	Check in Holiday Inn hotel
Evening	<i>Free time in Krakow</i>

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DAY SIX, SATURDAY – 31TH OCTOBER	
7.00-7.45	<i>Breakfast</i>
7.45-8.00	Evaluation meeting – participants only
8.00	Bus to Przegorzaly
8.30-12.30	<p><i>Negotiating Genocide? Exploring the Limits of Dialogue – Stephan Sonnenberg & Kyle Glover – Harvard Law School</i></p> <p>It is often difficult to conceive of any role for negotiation in situations of genocide or mass social violence, at least when it comes to dealing with perpetrators. And yet the truth is that every such situation involves multiple layers of negotiation, either directly with the perpetrating stakeholders or among coalitions of interveners wishing to influence the situation. All of these negotiations take place in the shadow of genocidal violence, and thus pose quite challenging ethical dilemmas for any potential negotiator. This four-hour module aims to give participants a basic understanding of the strategic choices negotiators face as they seek to counteract genocide and other forms of mass social violence. The sessions will draw from the fields of conflict resolution and narrative social psychology. Participants will learn the importance of understanding stakeholder narratives (including the narratives of perpetrators), and practice engaging with these narratives in ways that promote respect for civilians and their livelihoods.</p>
12.30-14.00	Break for Lunch
14.00-16.00	<p><i>Media and Mass Communication and Genocide Prevention – Andrew Stroeblein</i></p> <p>Media and mass communication can play a key role in the prevention of genocide and other mass atrocity crimes, though too often they are on the wrong side of the equation, promoting the atrocities, covering them up or ignoring them altogether. We have to look at two broad categories of media: national and international. With the former, the issue is one first of monitoring in areas of potential genocide situations, and though we’ve seen some successes, it is shocking how little independent monitoring of vernacular media is happening in some regions. A number of initiatives are also working with local media to professionalise their work and help make journalism a tool for promoting peace. With the latter, the issue is primarily how, in the context of the rapidly changing nature of international news reporting, outside media can set their priorities properly, perform the functions of early warning and pressure for action by the international community, and not be hoodwinked by governments and other players restricting access and spinning the story against the victims. There is a lot of excited talk that new media avenues will help alter the balance of information power in favour of the weak, but there are a lot of frightening potentials here, too, so my message on this would be: don’t get your hopes up.</p>
16.00-16.20	<i>Coffee break</i>
16.20-18.20	<i>Building Institutions to Counteract Genocide II – Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program</i>
18:30 – 19:30	<i>Seminar Wrap Up</i>

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19.45	Bus to Holiday inn hotel
Evening	<i>Closing dinner</i>

DAY SEVENTH, SUNDAY – 1TH NOVEMBER	
morning	<i>Departures</i>