Legacies of Violence and Genocide: Can Memorials and Museums Help Us Build a Better Future?

Avril Alba, Ph.D., is senior lecturer in Holocaust studies and Jewish civilization in the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney. She teaches and researches in the areas of Holocaust and modern Jewish history with a focus on Jewish and Holocaust museums.

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David Cunningham, Ph.D., is professor and chair of Sociology at Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on the causes and consequences of racial contention, with an emphasis on the scope and legacy of organized white supremacist action.

MODERATOR Erin McGlothlin, Ph.D., is chair of Germanic Languages and Literatures and professor of German and Jewish studies at Washington University in St. Louis. Her main research interests are in the areas of Holocaust literature and film and German-Jewish literature.

Holocaust Memorial Lecture
5 pm | Thursday, November 12, 2020
Free and open to all
Zoom - please RSVP for link
sites/wustl.edu/holocaust

Can memory prevent injustice and violence? Panelists of this virtual roundtable will discuss the role of museums and memorials in building the bridge between history, understanding, empathy, and action. In recent years, questions about the representation of history in public spaces have become more pressing than ever.

The legacies of the Holocaust, colonial violence, and racist exploitation are at the center of resulting debates and actions that range from redesigning commemorative and exhibition spaces to toppling monuments. Can museums and memorials fulfill the tasks of remembrance, reconciliation, and prevention that genocidal and other instances of mass violence pose? The roundtable takes the history of the Holocaust as a starting point for a conversation on the capacity of public portrayals of complex histories of violence to shape a more just future.