



Holocaust  
Research Institute

# MA HOLOCAUST STUDIES HANDBOOK, 2024/2025

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### 1. Welcome

We are delighted that you have chosen to enrol in the MA Holocaust Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London. The MA Holocaust Studies is the flagship course of the Holocaust Research Institute, coordinated by the History Department. It draws on the research expertise of academic staff in the Holocaust Research Institute, History, and other departments and schools at Royal Holloway. The History Department is part of the School of Humanities and all administrative matters pertaining to postgraduate taught modules should be addressed to: [humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:humanities-school@rhul.ac.uk) or 01784 276882. For academic matters, please contact the Director of the MA Holocaust Studies, Dr Simone Gigliotti ([simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk)).

The Holocaust Research Institute fosters an active and vibrant postgraduate student research culture, and its core and affiliated staff supervise a broad range of dissertation topics at the MA and PhD levels. In addition to research, postgraduate students have been active in advising and guiding in Holocaust museums in London, the UK and abroad. Students have also travelled abroad for their research and as part of their MA study.

This Handbook introduces you to the history of the Holocaust Research Institute and covers the content of the MA Holocaust Studies and associated learning and research support.

### 2. Key Contacts: School of Humanities and the History Department

#### **Executive Dean, School of Humanities:**

Professor Giuliana Pieri ([G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:G.Pieri@rhul.ac.uk))

#### **Director of Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Education:**

Dr Alastair Bennett ([Alastair.Bennett@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Alastair.Bennett@rhul.ac.uk))

**Head of the History Department:** Dr Robert Priest ([Robert.Priest@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.Priest@rhul.ac.uk))

**PGT Department Lead (History):** Dr Patrick Doyle ([Patrick.Doyle@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Patrick.Doyle@rhul.ac.uk))

### **3. The Holocaust Research Institute: history and academic staff**

Royal Holloway's Holocaust Research Institute (HRI) was established in 2000 by former RHUL professor in German, Peter Longerich, and was headed by Prof. David Cesarani until his sudden passing in October 2015. Through their efforts, and continued by the current members of staff, the HRI has gone from strength to strength. It is the leading institute of its kind in the UK devoted to research into the Nazi regime and specifically the origins of Nazi racial-biological policies, their implementation, impact, and long-term consequences in relation to European history, Holocaust history, memory and commemorations and debates on post-Holocaust memory cultures.

The HRI is uniquely interdisciplinary and embraces research into Nazi culture, representations of Nazism, the history of the Holocaust, and its representation in film, photography, on TV, in literature, museums and digital media. The centre also fosters the study of Holocaust remembrance, commemoration, and the work of museums – in cooperation with major libraries, archives and exhibitions in the UK and other countries. It situates research into Nazi genocidal politics within the study of genocide more broadly. Crucially, it encompasses the experience of the survivors of Nazi persecution, mass murder and genocide. It supports research on survivor testimony and memoirs, frequently involving work with survivors, as well as the portrayal of survivors in various media. It enjoys partnerships and working relationships with scholars, museums and institutions across the United Kingdom, Europe, Israel, and the United States, including the Holocaust Educational Foundation (USA), the USC Shoah Foundation Archive (USA), The Wiener Holocaust

Library in central London, the Imperial War Museum, the Pears Foundation (UK), the Toni Schiff Memorial Fund, and the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) in the Netherlands, and the recently inaugurated EHRI-UK.

#### **Events and outreach**

The Holocaust Research Institute's active programme of events, including the David Cesarani Memorial Lecture as part of annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations, research workshops, public-facing events, and academic development of students inside and outside of the teaching context reflects the reputation it enjoys at Royal Holloway, in London, the UK and abroad. It is inherently interdisciplinary, and its staff are active researchers engaging in various projects, collaborations and regularly receive highly competitive research grant funding. In September 2016, the HRI initiated a newsletter which profiles our activity, impact, and events. In March 2017, the Holocaust Research Institute received the team category of The Principal's Exceptional Citizen Award at RHUL,

for: "Willingness to extend themselves to help others; Improving the quality of life in the University and/or wider community; Demonstrating good citizenship". Recordings of some of our past events, lectures and workshops can be accessed at [Backdoor Broadcasting](#) (enter "Holocaust" into the search platform). Others are available on The Wiener Holocaust Library's YouTube channel.

In 2024, the HRI was awarded a "Sustainability and Enhancement" grant by the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe (RFHE), which has, among other things, brought several postdoctoral scholars and visiting lectures to the College. In addition, and courtesy of the RFHE, we will offer free Yiddish language classes in January 2025 (Term 2) and encourage all MA students to enrol. Details will be circulated late in Term 1 (these classes are in Egham on Monday evenings – in person only).

### **Academic Staff**

HRI academic staff are active in research, engage in advisory roles to UK and international bodies, and regularly deliver invited keynote and public lectures in the UK, Europe and internationally. Their email addresses are outlined below. Feedback and consultation hours are conducted in person and via MS Teams. Please contact your tutor / module leader to confirm their available hours and contact mode.

### **HRI Teaching staff in 2024/2025**

**\*Any HRI staff member who is actively teaching during 2024/2025 can be approached to supervise your HS5790 dissertation, but you should decide on one. Please note the varying availability of staff to supervise dissertations.**

### **History Department (School of Humanities)**

Professor Dan Stone (Director of the Holocaust Research Institute): [d.stone@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:d.stone@rhul.ac.uk)

Dr Paris Chronakis (Lecturer in Modern Greek History): [paris.chronakis@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:paris.chronakis@rhul.ac.uk)

Dr Simone Gigliotti (Reader in Holocaust Studies; Deputy Director, Holocaust Research Institute): [simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk)

Dr Rebecca (Becky) Jinks: [rebecca.jinks@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:rebecca.jinks@rhul.ac.uk) (Senior Lecturer in Modern History)

### **English Department (School of Humanities)**

Professor Robert (Bob) Eaglestone: [r.eaglestone@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:r.eaglestone@rhul.ac.uk)

### **Media Arts (School of Performing and Digital Arts)**

Professor Barry Langford: [b.langford@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:b.langford@rhul.ac.uk)

**Our HRI Administrator** is Ms. Julie Fitzpatrick (Administrator): [HolocaustRI@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:HolocaustRI@rhul.ac.uk) (Julie is also a PhD student in the HRI).

**Staff research/activities in detail (in last name, alphabetical order)**

**Dr. Paris Chronakis (History)** teaches and researches on the history and memory of the Modern Mediterranean. His work explores questions of transition from empire to nation-state bringing together the interrelated histories of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian urban middle classes from the late Ottoman Empire to the Holocaust. In the last years, his research and publications have expanded to post-imperial urban identities, Balkan War refugees, Zionism and anti-Zionism in interwar Europe, the Holocaust of Sephardi Jewry, and digital Holocaust Studies. Currently, he is spearheading a digital history project to map and visualise the social networks of Jewish deportees in Nazi concentration camps. Dr Chronakis is on the editorial board of the *Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique Moderne et Contemporain*.

**Professor Robert (Bob) Eaglestone** (English) (BA, MA, PhD, FEA, FHEA) is Professor of Contemporary Literature and Thought at Royal Holloway, University of London. He works on contemporary literature and literary theory, contemporary philosophy and on Holocaust and Genocide studies. He was Deputy Director of the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway from 2000 to 2016.

He is the author of seven books including *Postmodernism and Holocaust Denial* (Icon 2001), *The Holocaust and the Postmodern* (Oxford UP 2004) and *The Broken Voice: Reading Post-Holocaust Literature* (Oxford UP, 2017); he is the editor or co-editor of ten further books including *Teaching Holocaust Literature and Film* (Palgrave 2008). His work has been translated into eight languages and he has spoken widely at universities and conferences in the UK, the USA and Europe. He is a member of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation Academic Advisory Board. He has advised the UK government's Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority, DfE, OfQual and British Council and is on the Executive committee of the Forum for European Philosophy.

He has spoken at many Literary Festivals and on Radio 4, including "In Our Time" (on Hannah Arendt), "Great Lives" (on Elie Wiesel) and he writes in the national and educational press.

**Dr Simone Gigliotti (History)** teaches and researches on the history, geography, and representation of the Holocaust. Of late, her research has addressed the histories and testimonies of German-Jewish transnational refugees' journeys, including those of liberation, postwar Displaced Persons camps, voyaging, and *Brichah* geographies in Germany, Italy, and Austria. Her interests are in history, testimony, spatial and cartographic approaches to, and remediations of, the Holocaust, film, Jewish refugee diasporas, and Holocaust technologies – some of which coalesce in her digital and open access book, *Restless Archive: The Holocaust and the Cinema of the Displaced* (Indiana University Press, 2023). Simone holds editorial positions with *The Journal of Holocaust Research* and *Journal of Genocide Research* as well as several external positions dedicated to building Holocaust research infrastructures in the UK. In 2021-2022, she was part of a creative team that produced "Promenade," a documentary virtual reality experience about Cypriot immigrants in interwar and postwar Blackpool (see [Meta Quest](#)) that has since screened in numerous festivals across the UK.

**Dr Rebecca Jinks (History)** is an historian of comparative genocide and humanitarianism. Before returning to Royal Holloway, where she completed her doctoral degree in 2013, she

taught in the History departments of the University of East Anglia and the University of Exeter. Her PhD thesis was published in 2016 with Bloomsbury, entitled *Representing Genocide: The Holocaust as Paradigm?*.

It examines the ways in which representations of the Holocaust have influenced how other genocides are understood and represented, focusing on the 'canonical' cases of genocide – Armenia, Cambodia, Bosnia, and Rwanda – and the process by which they became canonised, using film, literature, photography, and memorialisation.

Rebecca recently held an AHRC Research, Development and Engagement Fellow (2022-2024) 'Genocidal Captivity: (Re)Telling the Stories of Armenian and Yazidi Women Survivors'. She worked with three project partners (the Armenian Institute, The Wiener Holocaust Library, and Free Yazidi Foundation) and an internationally renowned photojournalist (Emilienne Malfatto) to compare the experiences and representation of Armenian women during and after 1915, and Yazidi women during and after the ISIS genocide of 2014. As well as a monograph aimed at a wider public, the project collected oral testimonies of Yazidi women survivors, produced a comparative exhibition at the Wiener Holocaust Library which explored questions of voice and humanitarian representation, engaged with NGOs on those same questions, and led a peer workshop which considers the difficult question of how historians can best 'write violence'.

**Professor Barry Langford (Media Arts)** specialises in the place of the Holocaust in contemporary visual culture, with particular emphasis on cinematic and televisual representations. Recent publications include studies of Holocaust film as genre, a discussion of the "unrepresentability" of mass death and an analysis of the unacknowledged shadow of the Holocaust in the film writings of Siegfried Kracauer. His other research interests include critical theory; American and European cinema; theories of mass culture; postmodernism. He is the author of *Post-Classical Hollywood* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010) and co-edited with Robert Eaglestone *Teaching Holocaust Literature and Film* (London: Palgrave, 2008). Prof. Langford's short film, *Torte Bluma*, was the recipient of several awards in 2005, and he is currently working on a second, longer, Holocaust-related film.

**Professor Dan Stone (History)** works on the history and historiography of the Holocaust, postwar Europe, comparative genocide, history of anthropology, history of fascism and theory of history. As well as more than eighty scholarly articles, his publications (since 2010) include *Histories of the Holocaust* (OUP, 2010); *The Holocaust and Historical Methodology* (ed., Berghahn Books, 2012); *The Oxford Handbook of Postwar European History* (ed., OUP, 2012); *The Holocaust, Fascism and Memory: Essays in the History of Ideas* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013); *Goodbye to All That? The Story of Europe since 1945* (OUP, 2014); *The Liberation of the Camps: The End of the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (Yale, 2015); *Concentration Camps: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2019); and *Fascism, Nazism and the Holocaust: Challenging Histories* (Routledge, 2021). Dan was co-editor of the *Journal of Genocide Research* and *Patterns of Prejudice* for many years and is on the advisory board of several other journals including the *Journal of Holocaust Research* and *History of Communism in Europe*. Dan was on research leave from 2016 to 2019 to work on a Leverhulme Trust funded project, "Tracing the Holocaust: The International Tracing Service and European History". His book *Fate Unknown: Tracing the Missing after the Holocaust and*

*World War II* was published in 2023, as was *The Holocaust: An Unfinished History* for Penguin's revived Pelican series. He is also co-editor (with Mark Roseman) of volume 1 of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of the Holocaust*.

Dan was the chair of the academic advisory board for the Imperial War Museum's redesigned Holocaust Galleries (which opened in October 2021) and a member of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust's Experts Reference Group.

## 4. MA HOLOCAUST STUDIES 2024/2025

### a. Course Structure

**Course director:** Dr Simone Gigliotti for all queries via programming, structure and H5790 supervision in the first instance) (simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk)

**The MA Holocaust Studies degree consists of 180 credits:**

- **Full-time students** take a total of 4 modules.
  - o In Term 1, students must take the Core Module: HS5730/37 (30 credits) and ONE further option module (30 credits, totalling 60 credits in term 1).
  - o In Term 2, students must take the Core Module: HS5731/38 (30 credits) and ONE further option module (30 credits; totalling 60 credits in term 2).
  - o The dissertation (60 credits) is submitted in September 2025.
  - o Total credit weight: 180 credits. Of these, at least one option module must be from a list of specified courses in MA Holocaust Studies.
- **Part-time students** take 2 modules in the first year (for example the core modules) and then 2 option modules (one in each term), together with the dissertation, in Year 2. Of these, at least one option module must be from a list of specified courses in MA Holocaust Studies.
- By approval of the Course Director, courses from MA History at RHUL or at other University of London Colleges may be taken, so long as they have temporal or thematic relevance to the MA Holocaust Studies.
- Your tutors are available to read a 1-page plan (excl. bibliography) of essays. Plans should be submitted at least 2 weeks before the deadline. Please discuss ideas, and plans, etc, with relevant module tutors. Students design their own essay questions in consultation with tutors. Module will provide information on other coursework assessment.
- **Word lengths:** All assessments are inclusive of footnotes/endnotes and exclusive of bibliography, appendices, cover pages, etc.

### Assessment and submission

- **All module essays and dissertations** submitted for assessment must be uploaded to Turnitin and submitted to Moodle with a Turnitin digital receipt number by the advertised deadline.
- Please add all relevant information (including type of assessment, candidate number and module code).
- All modules (except the dissertation) are assessed by two pieces of coursework.

- Students will be enrolled in relevant modules by the School of Humanities Office. Weekly and further readings and information about assessment are located on each module's Moodle page.

### **RHUL Library**

- At Royal Holloway: the collection of relevant books in the main campus Library is very good and growing and the HRI also has an archive relating mainly to the Irving Trial (please ask the HRI administrator for more details). Many journals and other resources are available electronically – ask the library staff for help (for Humanities – it is Emma Burnett and Vicky Falconer). Note especially the College's access to the USC Shoah Visual History Archive. At The Wiener Holocaust Library, you can access the Postwar Europe and Holocaust Testimony collections, as well as the UN War Crimes Trials records and the International Tracing Service digital archive.
- Many of these links are included in the HS5790: Dissertation Moodle page.

## **4b. Technical Platforms and Onboarding**

### **How to use Moodle and Turnitin**

- For students unfamiliar with these platforms, please see the following sites:
- [IT Essentials](#)
- [Getting Started with IT at Royal Holloway](#)

## **4c. Teaching Schedule, 2024/2025**

### **Term 1 dates: 30 September 2024 - 13 December 2024**

- Reading week: 4 - 8 November 2024 (no teaching)
- Assessment week: 13 - 17 January (no teaching)

### **Term 2 dates: 20 January 2025 - 4 April 2025**

- Reading week: 24 - 28 February 2025 (no teaching)
- Holiday break: 7 April 2025 - 2 May 2025
- Summer Term / Assessment (no teaching): 6 May 2025 - 13 June 2025

### **Please note:**

- Modules marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory for MA Holocaust Studies students.
- Locations are subject to change (check your web timetables regularly)
- \*Due dates for all modules will be uploaded to Moodle pages in late September 2024.

**TERM 1  
MODULES**



Module code	Module title	Day / time	Location	Tutor	Assessments and due dates*
<b>CORE:</b> HS5730/37	*The Holocaust: History and Debates	Thursdays 11-1pm	<b>LONDON:</b> Senate House, Room 103	Dan Stone	Book review: (1,000 words; 20%). Essay (5,000 words; 80%)
<b>OPTION 1:</b> HS5129	A Transnational Holocaust	Thursdays 2-4pm	<b>LONDON:</b> Senate House, Room 103	Simone Gigliotti	Digital museum/exhibit review (1,500 words; 30%). Essay (4,500 words; 70%)
<b>OPTION 2:</b> HS5648	Refugees, Diasporas and Minorities	Tuesdays 10am- 12pm	<b>EGHAM:</b> IN-148 (International Building, Room 148)	Paris Chronakis	Portfolio review (1,500 words; 30%). Essay (4,500 words; 70%)
<b>TERM 2 MODULES</b>					
Module code	Module title	Day / time	Location	Tutor	Assessments and due dates
<b>CORE:</b> HS5731/5738	*Interpreting the Holocaust	Thursdays 11-1pm	<b>LONDON:</b> Senate House, Room 103	Simone Gigliotti	Book review: (1,000 words; 20%). Essay (5,000 words; 80%)
<b>OPTION 1:</b> EN5126	The Holocaust in Literature and Screen Media	Thursdays 2-4pm	<b>LONDON:</b> Senate House, Room 103	Bob Eaglestone and Barry Langford	Book OR film review (1,000 words; 20%). Essay (5,000 words; 80%)
<b>OPTION 2:</b> HS5131	Genocide: Comparative Approaches	Tuesdays 3-5pm	<b>EGHAM:</b> room TBC	Rebecca Jinks	Book review OR Digital resource review (1,000 words; 20%). Essay (5,000 words; 80%)
<b>TERMS 2 &amp; 3</b>					
<b>CORE:</b> HS5790	Dissertation		Self-directed with supervision	<b>Coordinator:</b> Simone Gigliotti	15,000 words (100%) Due date: early September 2025; tbc

#### 4d. Teaching Locations

- Core and option modules: [Senate House](#)
  - o See more about its [History](#). As with RHUL's Egham Campus, it's a much in-demand filming location.
- Other locations: Bedford Square, Bloomsbury (London)

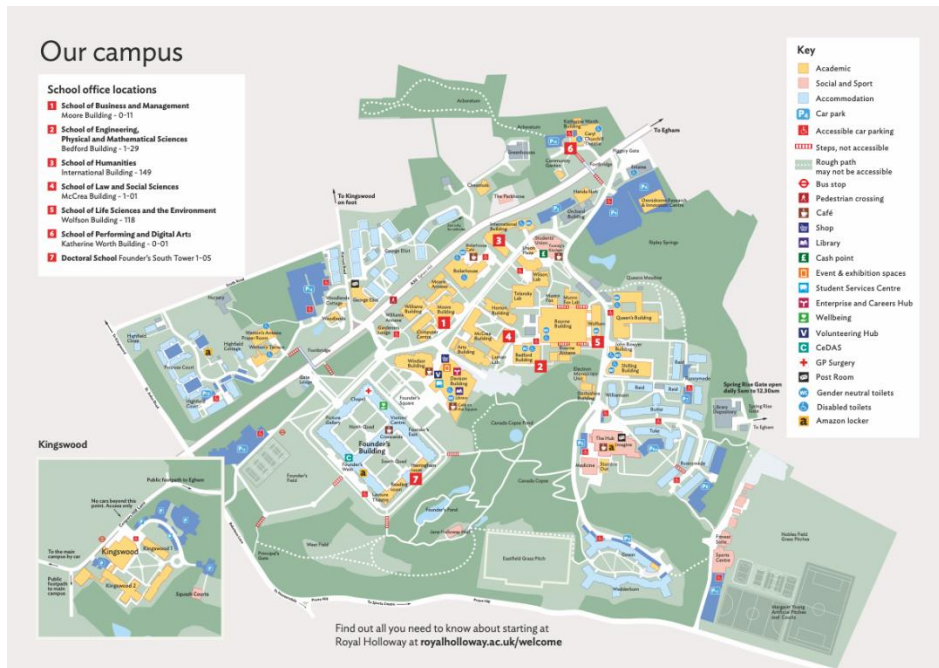


[Senate House](#) (Main entry)



[RHUL Bedford Square](#) (11 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RE)

- Egham Campus Map (see image below), or see [RHUL Campus Map](#)
- [RHUL Virtual Experience](#) (with 360-degree videos)



## 4e. Modules Directory

### TERMS 1 & 2 CORE MODULES

**Term 1: HS5730/5737 The Holocaust: History and Debates** (30 credits)

**Location:** Senate House, Room 103

**Tutor:** Professor Dan Stone (D.Stone@rhul.ac.uk)

**Teaching:** One two-hour weekly seminar throughout Term 1

**Term 2: HS5731/5738 Interpreting the Holocaust** (30 credits)

**Location:** Senate House, Room 103

**Tutor:** Dr Simone Gigliotti (simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk)

**Teaching:** One two-hour weekly seminar throughout Term 2

**Description:** These modules introduce students to the complex history and historiography of the Holocaust. They present the murder of the European Jews in a broad historical context and make students aware of its impact on the histories of several European nations. The modules focus on the major topics that have dominated academic debate (not only in historiography but in other areas in the humanities) and public consciousness in recent years.

### TERM 1 OPTION MODULES

### **HS5129: A Transnational Holocaust: Jewish Refugees and their flight from Nazi Europe**

(30 credits)

**Module Tutor:** Dr Simone Gigliotti ([simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:simone.gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk))

**Description:** This module introduces students to the history, impact, and memory of forced movement of Jewish victims of the Nazi regime outside of the familiar places of ghettos and camps. Whereas the core MA courses introduce (HS5730 and HS5731) students to the history of the Holocaust and postwar interpretative debates, this course presents a 'moving' transnational and trans local history of the Holocaust. It upends the conventional chronology, beginning in the mid-1920s and concluding in the early 1950s (on the eve of decolonization, the founding of Israel, the passage of DP (Displaced Persons) Acts in the US in 1948/1949, humanitarian conventions, the division of Germany, and the UN refugee convention). The module analyses the journeys and experiences of victims of forced movement and their emerging spatial agency in new locations and focuses on the geo-political contexts of the locations they moved through and stayed in (whether by circumstance or choice). The module draws on emerging research in Holocaust studies on refugee diasporas, transnationalism, and landscapes of the Holocaust. The module also draws on literature on postwar Europe, humanitarian relief organizations, and histories of asylum seeking pertinent to Jewish, European, and as relevant, refugee diasporas in regional locations of Africa, the Caribbean and South America.

### **HS5648: Diasporas, Refugees and Minorities in Modern Europe and the Mediterranean**

(30 credits)

**Module Tutor:** Dr Paris Chronakis ([Paris.Chronakis@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Paris.Chronakis@rhul.ac.uk))

**Description:** This module offers a historical and conceptual approach to Jewish, Muslim, and Christian diasporas, refugees, and minorities in the imperial and post-imperial lands of Europe and the Mediterranean of the late 19th and 20th centuries. It maps the complex transformation of ethno-religious diasporas into refugees and minorities amidst war, genocide and forced relocation and considers their enduring legacy in Europe and beyond. Diasporas, refugees, and minorities are often treated separately, but this course points to significant overlaps and interchangeable positions in their histories as Jewish minorities interacted with Christian refugees or became refugees themselves before, during and after the Holocaust.

Topics include diasporas and empires; Europe's "minority question"; war, ethnic cleansing and forced migrations; global humanitarianism; refugees, minorities and the state; formation and mutations of "refugee" and "minority" identities; the Holocaust, Jewish refugeehood and Christian minorities; refugee memory and minority counter-memory; the refugeehood of things. The module draws on cutting-edge research on transnationalism, borders, mobility, and sovereignty in the fields of history, social anthropology, political science and material studies and introduces students to the notion and practices of the "refugee archive."

**TERM 2 OPTION MODULES**

**EN5126: Holocaust Literature and Screen Media** (30 credits)

**Module Tutors:** Bob Eaglestone ([R.Eaglestone@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:R.Eaglestone@rhul.ac.uk))

and Barry Langford ([B.Langford@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:B.Langford@rhul.ac.uk))

**Description:** The aim of this course is to explore the representation of the Holocaust in literature and screen media (film, television, and digital platforms). It will focus on the role of testimonies and reflections on the Holocaust; the relationship between literature, visual media, history and thought, innovations in form and the impact of the Holocaust upon writing and moving-image representations thereof; and questions concerning the ethics of representation in writing and visual media.

**HS5131: Genocide: Comparative Approaches** (30 credits)

**Module Tutor:** Rebecca Jinks ([Rebecca.Jinks@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Jinks@rhul.ac.uk))

**Description:** The recurrence of the global phenomenon of genocide invites a comparative approach, whether to further historical understanding or in the hope of prevention in the future. Although the field of study has at times been plagued by intense debates over the 'morals' of comparison, scholars have sought and found many productive points of comparison between different cases of genocide: some arise from the central themes of modern scholarship (modernity, state violence, gender), others from the phenomenon itself (child transfers, the use of memories of past violence to justify genocide in the present). This module examines a number of these comparative themes through a variety of case studies, giving students a critical purchase on up-to-date scholarship and a contextualised understanding of the complex causes and dynamics of genocide. Each class is focused on a core theoretical and comparative reading, supplemented by readings from a choice of relevant case studies, running from colonial genocide in north America and Australia through to genocide in Darfur: in this way students will develop a solid understanding of comparative methodologies, as well as of a range of case studies of genocide.

#### 4f. TERMS 2-3: The Dissertation

**HS5790: Dissertation** (60 credits)

**Coordinator:** Dr Simone Gigliotti

**Supervisor:** various

**Length:** 15,000 words, inclusive of footnotes and exclusive of bibliography

**The dissertation submission deadline will be advised (likely in the first week of September 2025)**

**Description:** An important dimension of the MA is to give you the opportunity to begin serious work on a topic that might lead to a PhD. The dissertation is a crucial element in this preparation. It is researched and written mainly in the third term (Spring) and the summer, but we strongly advise that you commence earlier than that due to possible restrictions on physical access to resources. The programme director will be overseeing the smooth allocation of supervisors, and students' progress.

**Dissertation process:** each student must work with a supervisor, who gives advice on the selection of the topic, supervises the research programme, and provides feedback on no more than 20-25% of the dissertation (usually a detailed proposal, chapter outline and introduction or chapter of no more than 3,500 words in total). The dissertation supervisor welcomes discussions of the possibility of doctoral work from suitable students.

All students are supervised usually by one or two members of staff from one or two departments, depending on the nature of the topic. Most of the time, supervisors come from within HRI teaching staff but are not limited to it. You should be willing to reach out to prospective supervisors by the end of Term 1 and have additionally completed a consultation meeting by that time.

The dissertation topic is proposed by the student after discussion with the tutor(s) of appropriate modules and must be approved by the MA Holocaust Studies Course Director. Students should note that whilst the dissertation may address a related or cognate topic to that covered in assessed essays, it must be a self-sufficient piece of work and may not reuse – whether verbatim or by paraphrasing – previous work as part of the MA Holocaust Studies degree, and must not rely on, or re-use, undergraduate essays and dissertations completed at Royal Holloway or at other universities.

Students and staff are normally expected to meet individually three times (online or in person), for around thirty minutes each time, to discuss the dissertation and its developments, research, and writing. In addition, staff are available via email for feedback and queries.

### **Dissertation and Research skills schedule (2024/2025)**

Please adhere to the suggested timeframe where submission of formative work is recommended.

- **Autumn Term 2024**
  - Students to consider possible areas of study.
  - Library introduction (Week 4)
  - By December, approach prospective supervisor(s) (1 or 2 sessions).
- **Spring Term**
  - **Mid-March 2025:** Library skills workshop (organized by the RHUL library) and Holocaust Archives Discovery Workshop (HRI Staff)
  - **Late March – late April 2025:** Supervisor(s) to have no more than two meetings per student during this period. Continue working on research for dissertation.
- **Summer Term**
  - **June 2025:** Course Director and Supervisor(s) to receive a final title, and a one-paragraph overview of each chapter.
  - **June 2025:** Students send supervisors a draft of work to read (supervisors do not read more than 25% of the draft, i.e., 3,000 words). The draft can comprise EITHER one chapter of no more than 3,000 words OR an introduction with a detailed chapter plan. In both cases, the 3,000 word-limit is inclusive of footnotes but excluding the bibliography.
  - **Early June 2025:** Geospatial methods workshop (optional)
- **Early July 2025:** Dissertation workshop for HS5790 students submitting in September 2025 (students will present an overview of their dissertation plans and

work completed to date). Part-time students will present their work at the same time in June 2026 (with the 2025/2026 cohort).

- **Rest of summer 2025 (July and August), complete writing of dissertation:** It is possible that staff can meet students for 1-2 online MS Teams meetings during this period. Please ensure you arrange meetings with your supervisor (in advance of the summer period). If there are urgent, unexpected queries/supervisory needs over the summer when a member of staff is not available, you should contact the Course Director or another member of staff, who will either contact the supervisor or redirect your query.
- **Early September 2025:** Online submission via the HS5790 Moodle page.

## 5. HRI Workshops and Holocaust-related events

- **Holocaust Research Institute (HRI) Workshops:** The HRI, the Imperial War Museum, and The Wiener Holocaust Library often run several one-day workshops and an annual lecture each academic year on recent research in Holocaust studies. MA students are encouraged to attend these workshops and the workshops are free to Royal Holloway students. The themes of the upcoming workshops will be posted on our website as they are announced.
- Additional training sessions may be provided to students in terms 1 and 2 as part of the History Department's postgraduate training, and these will be communicated to students as they are organized.
- All MA students have access, if desired, to seminars at The Wiener Holocaust Library, the Institute of Historical Research, the German Historical Institute, and the Institute of Romance and Germanic Studies involving information on standard reference materials, literary/linguistic tools, both printed and electronic. Many of these seminars will be held online. Please check relevant websites.
- Many of the recommended locations mentioned below will have restricted access to libraries, archives, and other resources. It is highly recommended that you email or call the institutes concerned and check in advance if on-site access is permitted and if any restrictions are in effect.

## 6. Holocaust Libraries, Archives, and related institutes in London

### In London

**The Wiener Holocaust Library** (29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP; Tel: +44 (0) 20 7636 7247) is the main resource for Holocaust history in London and of significant historical importance as the world's first Holocaust archive. The department has a membership, and you are allowed to use the library, including borrowing books, for free. But you will need to register as an individual at the library to borrow books. See [What's On](#) for events and talks. Many students use the library before or after the core seminar on Thursdays. You can access many University of London libraries and others across the UK, but you have to register first with the relevant library, and oftentimes, via the [SCONUL Access](#) scheme.

**German Historical Institute** (17 Bloomsbury Square) contains a superb collection of relevant books and journals. Free to join, and a quiet place to work.

**Imperial War Museum**: archive of oral history and much more. The reading room has a useful collection, but you must make an appointment first.

**Jewish Studies Library**, University College London, (Gower Street): your student card will give you access to the best collection on Jewish history in London, including, of course, much on Holocaust.

**School of Slavonic and East European Studies** (SSEES) (University College, London) is very useful for central, east central, eastern European and some Jewish history; just present your student card to the librarian. "The Basics" contains catalogue, contact and visiting information.

**Senate House** has an excellent library, and café.

## 7. Student Support Services

- General administrative and overall academic support will be undertaken by the History Department and the School of Humanities (IN149; email: [Humanities-School@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:Humanities-School@rhul.ac.uk)).
- Please keep up to date with Royal Holloway news and events on the [Information Hub](#) website. It is vital that you are aware of relevant services on campus and online, including how to book study spaces, and access to support services, and information about [extensions and extenuating circumstances](#).
- **Supporting your learning journey and achievement:** Each student will be allocated a personal advisor (usually the Course Director) whose role is to offer advice on pastoral and welfare issues. If the advisor should also be the supervisor of the dissertation, you may, if you wish, ask for a new personal advisor. The personal advisor's role is to see students at regular intervals, during their advertised office hours, throughout the programme. It is their responsibility to keep your progress under review, to see you at the beginning of the first term and as often thereafter as necessary to discuss difficulties that may arise at any stage of the course or with any component. At least two sessions per term should be held with



the personal advisor, one of which should fall soon after written work has been handed back and discussed by Module Tutors.

- Your personal advisor will ensure that you are made aware of any performance that is placing the passing of the degree in jeopardy. In conjunction with the supervisor of the dissertation, your personal advisor will also be responsible for help and advice with applications for further (doctoral) study.
- Students enjoy access to all University support services, including the Careers, Student Counselling Service, the Health Centre, the Education Support Unit for students with special needs, and CeDAS, the Centre for the Development of Academic Skills, which offers excellent one-to-one support for academic writing. For a full list of services and opportunities, see the [Student Intranet](#).

## 8. The Holocaust Research Institute on social media and online



Feel free to follow us by clicking on the icons.

Please email Julie Fitzpatrick ([HolocaustRI@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:HolocaustRI@rhul.ac.uk)) for enquiries about the Institute's activities and to be added to the termly newsletter. Events, news items and talks by HRI staff and students are often featured on these pages, as well as talks by visitors.

### Disclaimer

This document was published in September 2024 and correct at that time. The Department of History reserves the right to modify any statement, if necessary, make variations to the content or methods of delivery of programmes of study, to discontinue programmes, or merge or combine programmes if such actions are reasonably considered to be necessary by the College. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum, and to give as much notice as possible.

An electronic copy of this handbook can be found on your [Departmental website](#) where it will be possible to follow the hyperlinks to relevant webpages.

This Handbook contains information on the academic unit which teaches the MA, the Holocaust Research Institute, and administrative information on the MA Holocaust Studies course.