

CHILDREN'S EGO-DOCUMENTS AS SOURCES FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

"My beloved parents, my father, my mother, and even my sister were killed during the liquidation of the Kraków ghetto. In all those camps, I worked very hard, I walked around without clothes and was badly beaten, I also suffered from many diseases, and all this when I was still a child."

Workshop organized by the Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin in cooperation with the Holocaust Studies Program at the Western Galilee College in Israel.

Date and place:

October 8, 2025

Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin
Majakowskiring 47, 13156 Berlin

Programme

09:00–09:30

Registration

09:30–10:00

Welcoming by Dr. Joanna Szkolnicka and Prof. Igor Kąkolewski,
Director of the Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences
in Berlin

Introduction: *Children's Ego-Documents as Sources for Historical Research*
(Dr. Verena Buser, Western Galilee College, Akko)

10:30–12:00

PANEL I.

Moderation: Dr. Agnieszka Witkowska-Krych (Pilecki Institute)
Dr. Agnieszka Witkowska-Krych, *Voices Almost Inaudible: Exploring the Sources on
the Fate of the Jewish Orphans in the Warsaw Ghetto*

Dr. Verena Laubinger (Göttingen): *Ego-Documents in Educational Media: War and
Genocide in the 1930s and 1940*

Nehama Grenimann-Bauch (Brunel University of London): *Like in a Frozen Pause':
Parent-Child Joint Paintings by Ukrainian Refugee Mothers and Their Children*

12:00–13:30

Lunch

13:30–15:30

PANEL II.

Moderation: Prof. Igor Kąkolewski (Center for Historical Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin)

Omar Ndizeye (Inkuru Library, Ruanda): *Children's Experience of Loss, Survival, and Resilience in Post-Genocide Rwanda (online)*

Dr. Amy Williams (Association of Jewish Refugees, UK): *Newly Discovered Kindertransport Lists: How These Documents Connect to Kindertransport Testimony (online)*

Iryna Korolets (Magister der Psychologie, PSZ "KommMit" e. V. in Brandenburg): *Trauma muss ein Ende haben*

Dr. Machteld Venken (University of Luxembourg): *Child Forced Labour: An Analysis of Ego-Documents Throughout Time (online)*

15:30–16:00

Coffee break

16:00–17:30

Panel III.

Moderation: Dr. Verena Buser (Western Galilee College, Akko)

Dr. Wiebke Hiemesch (Universität Hildesheim): *Traces of War, Violence and Genocide – Children's Drawings and Their Materiality as Historical Sources*

Dr. Joanna Szkolnicka, *From Patriotic Fervor and War Enthusiasm to Pacifism: Diary From World War I by a Teenage Girl From Schneidemühl (Piła)*

Dr. Jürgen Drygas (Hamburg) and Claus-Peter Rathjen (Museum Elbinsel Wilhelmsburg): *Drawings from Art Classes by Wilhelmsburg Schoolchildren at the Beginning of the First World War*

17:30–18:00

Final discussion

18:30

Dinner in Pankow

