

## Sexual Violence in the Concentration Camps - What Popular Stories Reveal

The subject of sexual violence has long been ignored in official historiography of the War of Annihilation and the Holocaust. Already during WW II, however, stories about rape and sexual enslavement of Jewish women by Nazi men began to circulate in newsprint, liturgy, and literature within the Jewish communities of North America and the Yishuv (pre-state Israel).

The lecture explores such narratives, when and where they first emerged, and how they compare to the historical record. These stories are shown to have played an important role in making sense of the Holocaust, in the Jewish communities in which they circulated. Their particular social-political contexts matter as they affected reception and dissemination, and led to particular narratives becoming dominant while others remained unspeakable. Indeed, many of the stories had a profound symbolic impact as well as an actual silencing effect on Holocaust survivors in these communities. They were taken to be historically accurate, and hindered the exploration of actual experiences of sexual violence for decades.

**Professor Pascale Bos**, Germanic Studies am College of Liberal Arts an der Universität Texas (Austin)

Einführung und Moderation: **Dr. Regina Mühlhäuser und Gaby Zipfel**, AK „Krieg und Geschlecht“ im Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung und Internationale Forschungsgruppe „Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict (SVAC)“

Öffentlicher Vortrag im Rahmen des nicht-öffentlichen Workshops „Constellations and Dynamics of Sexual Violence“ am **13. Juni 2013** um **18 Uhr** (Einlass ab 17.30 Uhr),

Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung, Mittelweg 36, 20148 Hamburg

Sie erreichen das HIS mit dem Bus 109, Haltestelle Böttgerstraße,

mit dem Bus 15, Haltestelle Alsterchausee, mit der U1, Haltestelle Hallerstraße.

SVAC

International Research Group «Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict»

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**Pascale Bos**

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**in the Concentration Camps**

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