



## AUSCHWITZ JEWISH CENTER FELLOWS PROGRAM – A BRIDGE TO HISTORY FELLOWS 2016

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### **Alexandra Birch**

Arizona State University  
Degree: Doctor of Musical Arts  
Field: Violin Performance  
Previous Degrees: Bachelors, Masters of Music  
Graduation Year: 2017

Violinist and Violist Alexandra Birch is a Doctor of Musical Arts student with Dr. Katherine McLin at Arizona State University. As a soloist and chamber musician, Alexandra has toured extensively in over 20 countries, including performances in Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the Bolshoi Theatre, and the Mariinski Theater. She is a prizewinner in numerous national and international competitions. She maintains an active research and academic presence with a focus on music in Soviet regimes, music from the Holocaust, and undiscovered composers. She has conducted research, with generous support, at the USHMM, Yad Vashem, GARF (Russia), and VNLU (Ukraine). She frequently presents at conferences addressing genocide and the arts, and preservation of cultures through music. Alexandra is a committed teacher who performs Holocaust and Soviet era works herself, but also who is a sought-after clinician to promote new works to students in masterclasses in the USA, Germany, and Russia.

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### **Alana Holland**

University of Kansas  
Degree: Ph.D.  
Field: Modern Russian and Eastern European History  
Previous Degrees: B.A. in History, M.A. in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies  
Graduation Year: 2020

After completing her B.A. at Arkansas State University, Alana Holland moved to Russia for language study, during which time she volunteered at the Russian Research and Educational Holocaust Center and with the Memorial Society. She is currently in the first year of her Ph.D. program, where she is a 2015 University Graduate Fellow. Her research focuses primarily on confronting the Holocaust in former Soviet and socialist territory. She is broadly interested in memory and identity in the context of dynamic social change and mass violence in modern Russia and Eastern Europe. Her current research examines Soviet and Polish responses to the war and the Holocaust in the early post-liberation period.

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### **Sebastian Huebel**

University of British Columbia  
Degree: Ph.D.  
Field: History  
Previous Degrees: B.A. in History and Geography, M.A. in History  
Graduation Year: 2017

Sebastian emigrated from Germany to Canada in 2003 and completed his B.A. at Thompson Rivers University. In 2007, he began his Master's at the University of Victoria, which focused on the Berlin and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras in the Third Reich. Sebastian received a Social Sciences and Humanities Fellowship by the Canadian government for his Masters. In 2012, Sebastian started his Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, where he researches German-Jewish masculinities in the Third Reich. He is particularly interested in how Nazis targeted German Jewish men as well as how, in gendered ways, Jews perceived their discrimination and tried to (re-)assert their gender roles. Since 2014, Sebastian has also been an instructor at Simon Fraser University.

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### **Jane'a Johnson**

Brown University

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: Modern Culture and Media

Previous Degrees: B.A. in Philosophy, M.A. in Cinema and Media Studies

Graduation Year: 2019

Jane'a Johnson completed her Bachelor of Arts in philosophy at Spelman College, where she was a Mellon Library Research Fellow at Woodruff Library; during her M.A., she was an archival research assistant for Professor Allyson Field in the area of early African American 'uplift' films. She also studied at the University of Amsterdam as an IES scholar, completing a research project on Dutch cinematic and historical relationships with World War Two, Anne Frank, The Hungry Winter, and Occupation. Currently, Jane'a studies visual archives and trauma, with a special emphasis on medical experiments around the world and their relationship photography. Her work is focused on the second lives of images—the ethics of display, exhibition, circulation, and reuse.

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### **Charlotte Kiechel**

Yale University

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: International and Modern European History

Previous Degree: B.A. in History

Graduation Year: 2021

Charlotte Kiechel is a Ph.D. student at Yale University, focusing her research on the history and memory of the Holocaust, as well as the politics of commemoration and genocide prevention in postwar America and Western Europe. For her pre-dissertation research, she is investigating how beginning in the 1970s calls to "remember the Holocaust" became intertwined with larger genocide prevention initiatives. Prior to attending Yale, she worked on the Camps and Ghettos Encyclopedia Project at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well the transcription and publication of the diary of Lucien Dreyfus, a Holocaust victim. She has been awarded The Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, the Robert C.L. Scott Prize in History and a Fulbright Fellowship. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa, highest honors, from Williams College.

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### **Amber Nickell**

Purdue University

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: Modern East Central European and Eurasian History

Previous Degrees: B.A. in European History, M.A. in American History  
Graduation Year: 2019

Having completed her B.A. and M.A. with the Dean's Citation for Excellence at the University of Northern Colorado, Amber Nickell is currently a Ph.D. student and Ross fellow in the Department of History at Purdue University. Amber also serves as the RA for the new Human Rights Program on Purdue's campus. Employing transitional methodologies, she studies comparative diaspora and inter-ethnic relations in Soviet and post-Soviet spaces. Her dissertation, tentatively titled "Journeys into the Whirlwinds: the Crossed Paths of Ethnic Germans and Jews the Soviet Union, 1917-1965," examines the impact of revolution, civil war, famines, ethno-nationalism, WWII, multiple occupations, genocide, evacuations, and deportations on the relationships between both nationalities in Southern Ukraine and their Central Asian sites of displacement. Amber recently participated in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's seminar for advanced students on "The Holocaust in the Soviet Union." She has presented her research at several national, regional, and graduate conferences and her Master's thesis, entitled "Diaspora Evolved: The Germans from Russia, 1919-Present" has, to date, yielded one peer-reviewed article.

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### **Rebecca Pollack**

The City University of New York

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: Art History

Previous Degrees: B.A. in Art History and Sculpture

Graduation Year: 2020

As a Ph.D. student of art history at the CUNY Graduate Center, Rebecca Pollack focuses on 20th and 21st century public art, specializing in memorials. Rebecca is particularly interested in site specificity and the engagement of public art with its environment. Her dissertation will examine publicly funded Holocaust memorials in the United States, United Kingdom, and Israel and evaluate how these memorials create a unique national perspective of the Holocaust and its memorialization. Through her research she hopes to demonstrate how these memorials intersect within contemporary society and to determine if they inform other contemporary memorial practices, like memorials to acts of terrorism, and to see if a typology can be seen in each nationality. Rebecca teaches art history at Brooklyn College and Hunter College.

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### **Meghan Riley**

Indiana University

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: Modern European History

Previous Degrees: B.A. in English and History

Graduation Year: 2020

After completing dual Bachelors' degrees from the University of Oklahoma, Meghan Riley is focusing her doctoral research on the interactions between European Jews and Spanish Republican refugees in Spanish and French camps in the 1930s and 1940s. In addition to having done research at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, in Spain, and in France, Meghan has also participated in the Vilnius Yiddish Institute. As an AJC Fellow, she is excited to learn more about prewar Jewish life and culture in Poland. In her limited free time, she enjoys traveling, all things related to the Oklahoma Sooners, and spending time with her cat, Norman.

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**Trey Vickers**

Brandeis University

Degree: M.A.

Field: History

Previous Degree: B.A. in History, minor in Political Science and Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies

Graduation Year: 2016

While an undergraduate at Appalachian State University, Trey founded and served for three years as President of the Center Fellows, a student organization for Appalachian's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies. During his junior year, he completed an internship with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. As a member of the Heltzer Honors College, Trey wrote his Honors Thesis entitled "The Weapons in Our Hands are Limitless: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion's Influence on Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany." Trey is currently a graduate student in history at Brandeis University where he is completing a Master's thesis under the advisement of Professor Jonathan Sarna. This research juxtaposes the Protocols of the Elders of Zion with Henry Ford's infamous International Jew, and examines the impact of Ford's work towards the development of a distinctive Americanized anti-Semitism. Trey's research interests lie in the study of hate, particularly as it manifests in American anti-Semitism and racism, and comparative genocide studies.

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**Lucas Wilson**

Florida Atlantic University

Degree: Ph.D.

Field: Comparative Studies

Previous Degrees: B.A., M.A. in English, MTS

Graduation Year: 2020

After completing his B.A. summa cum laude, Lucas wrote his Master's thesis on Elie Wiesel's Night and A.M. Klein's The Second Scroll. Recently, he completed his MTS from Vanderbilt University with a graduate certificate in Jewish Studies, and wrote his thesis on Veit Harlan's Jud Süß. Lucas has presented at numerous conferences and was the recipient of the Zaglembier Society Scholarship, awarded by The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies. Most recently, he received a research grant to study the emerging video archive of second generation Holocaust witnesses at the University of Hartford. Currently, he is an adjunct professor of English at Lipscomb University and an intern at the Tennessee Holocaust Commission. His research interests include second generation Holocaust literature, Nazi propaganda, Jewish American modernisms, Holocaust literature, oral history, and Canadian literature. He will be starting his Ph.D. at Florida Atlantic University in the fall.

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