

The Strange World of Ritual Murder: Culture, Politics, and Belief in Eastern Europe and Beyond

October 13-14, 2014
Alice Campbell Alumni Center

Conference Program

October 13

8:30-9:00 Breakfast

9:00-9:15 Welcome by Eugene M. Avrutin (University of Illinois)

9:15-11:00 Neighborly Feuds // Diane Koenker (University of Illinois)

Michael Ostling (The University of Queensland) "Imagined Crimes, Real Communities: Witchcraft and Ritual Murder."

Darius Staliūnas (Lithuanian Institute of History) "The Blood Libel in Nineteenth-Century Lithuania"

Gennady Estraikh (NYU) "The Gindin Case in Moscow, April 1922."

11:00-11:15 Coffee Break

11:15 – 1:00 Narratives & Ritual // Bruce Rosenstock (University of Illinois)

Haya Bar-Itzhak (University of Haifa) "Blood Libel: A Folkloristic Perspective."

Magda Teter (Wesleyan University) "Sandomierz and Its Paintings as Lieux de mémoire."

Jeffrey Veidlinger (University of Michigan) "Doctor's Plot as Blood Libel."

1:00-3:00 – Lunch

3:00-4:45 Power, Politics, Belief // Nadezda Berkovich (University of Illinois)

Marina Mogilner (University of Illinois, Chicago) "From External 'Blood Libel' to Internal 'Blood Racial Stigma': Redefining Jewish Otherness in Modern Terms in the Russian Imperial Situation."

Ellisa Bemporad (CUNY) "Jews, State and Citizenship: Confronting the Ritual Murder Accusation in Interwar Soviet Union and Poland."

Joanna Tokarska-Bakir (Polish Academy of Sciences) "Polish Research on the Blood Libel, 2005-2013."

5:00-6:00 Keynote Talk

Hillel Kieval (Washington University) "Yahrzeits, Condolences, and other Close Encounters: Neighborly Relations and Ritual Murder Accusations in Germany and Austria-Hungary."

October 14

8:30 – 9:00 Breakfast

9:00-10:45 The Beilis Affair // Mark D. Steinberg (University of Illinois)

Harriet Murav (University of Illinois) "Ritual Murder in the Context of Fin-de-Siecle Culture."

Jonathan Dekel-Chen (Hebrew University) "A Half-Full Cup? Transnational Responses to the Beilis Affair."

Robert Weinberg (Swarthmore College) "Connecting the Dots: Jewish Mysticism, Ritual Murder, and the Trial of Mendel Beilis."

10:45-11:00 Coffee

11:00 - 12:00 Concluding Remarks by Helmut W. Smith (Vanderbilt University)

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