

EHRI-UK Summer 2026 Newsletter



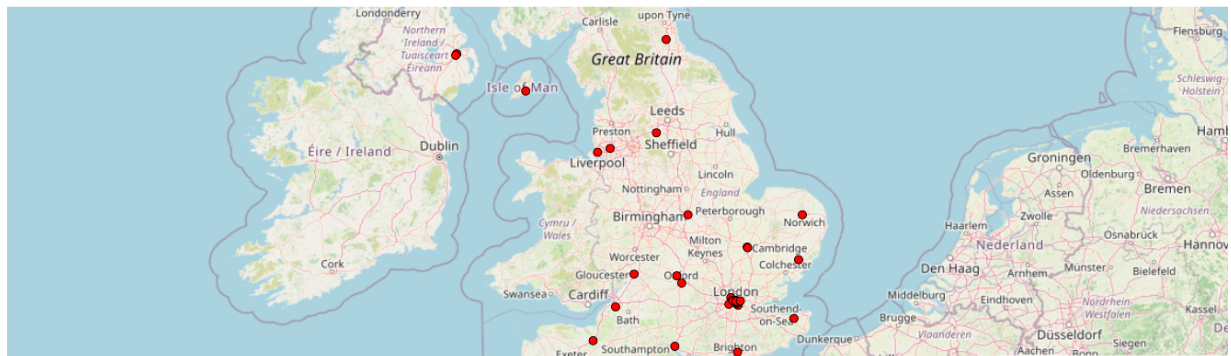
EHRI-UK Director, Dr Rachel Pistol with Lorraine Bourke,
Head of Private Records and Rebecca Geddes, Curator at
the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

Welcome back to the EHRI-UK Summer 2026 Newsletter! After a busy Spring, we have lots of news to share about our activities, partners and collections across the United Kingdom. Find out about events in Belfast, London and Southampton, meet two of our recent National Fellows and our new National Fellowships Administrator, and explore our new map of UK Holocaust Collections. We hope you enjoy this edition and feel free to share it within your networks!

Explore our map of UK Holocaust Collections

Mapping UK collections

Explore our interactive map by clicking below on the 'Ok' button and finding out more about the collections already in discussion with us about making their collections more visible. This is a growing resource so will be updated, and if you work with a collection not currently on the map, please get in touch with us at info@ehri-uk.org to tell us more.



During 2025, EHRI-UK carried out a Holocaust Collections survey in partnership with The National Archives. We were delighted to receive responses from across the UK and have mapped these collections to help make Holocaust collections more visible, assisting researchers, individuals and organisations to find records much more easily. Visit the [EHRI-UK homepage](#) to view and explore our new map and find collections in your area. If you work with a collection not currently on the map, please get in touch with us at info@ehri-uk.org to tell us more.

National Research Fellowships at Holocaust Centre North & The Wiener Holocaust Library

Following on from the creation of the EHRI-UK National Research Fellowships scheme, we are pleased to share updated from two more Fellows, Hannah Buckley and Molly Harris.

Hannah Buckley undertook her research at Holocaust Centre North during March 2026, where she researched Rebuilding 'Home' in the North: Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Yorkshire. Hannah is a PhD researcher in History at Northumbria University. Her doctoral research explores the postwar lives of Holocaust survivors in Yorkshire and the wider North of England, focusing on community, belonging, and identity to understand how survivors rebuilt a sense of “home” after the Holocaust. She told us how her EHRI-UK National Research Fellowship facilitated her research at Holocaust Centre North, bringing overlooked regional histories of survivor resettlement into view:

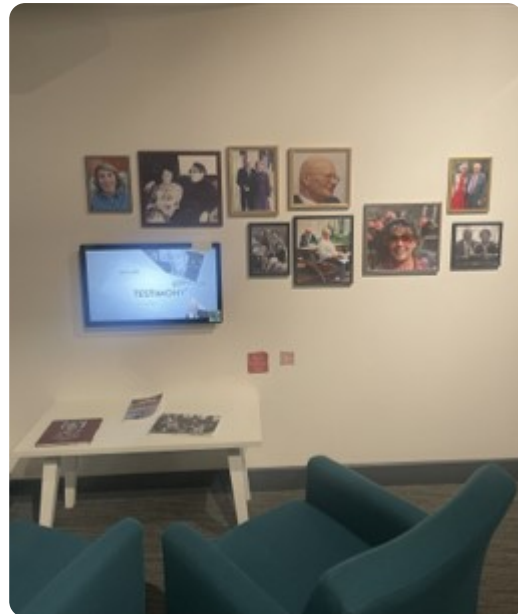
My EHRI fellowship provided significant intellectual and professional development, centred on my research into postwar survivor resettlement in Britain. A central part of this was the opportunity to work extensively with uncatalogued archival material, which strengthened my ability to navigate complex and, at times, fragmentary records and developed my confidence in working beyond structured catalogues. This required a careful and sustained approach to reading across files, identifying connections, and building a clearer picture of both the material itself and its wider context. As a result, the fellowship has meaningfully enhanced my archival research skills and methodological approach.



Working with Holocaust Centre North's collections also deepened my understanding of how institutional and organisational contexts shape the recording and interpretation of survivor experiences. Examining administrative and governance records alongside testimony project materials allowed me to consider more closely the processes through which survivor voices are collected, organised, and presented. This has been particularly valuable in expanding my research beyond individual testimonies, enabling me to situate survivor experiences within broader institutional and regional frameworks. The fellowship further reinforced the importance of locality in my research. Spending dedicated time with collections rooted in the North of England allowed me to engage more fully with the regional dimensions of survivor experience, how place, community, and local networks shaped the processes of rebuilding and belonging in ways that are distinct from national narratives. This has opened new lines of inquiry into how regional context can reframe our understanding of Holocaust survivor experience in postwar Britain.

In addition, working closely with the archivist and wider team provided valuable insight into the organisation's approach to archival practice, education, and public engagement. This collaborative environment highlighted the ways in which archival work, research, and educational outreach are closely interconnected. These

insights will directly inform both my ongoing research and my development as an educator, particularly in thinking about how archival materials can be meaningfully integrated into teaching and public-facing work, including the development of resources that bring survivor histories to wider audiences. Overall, the fellowship has made a lasting contribution to both my research and professional development, providing the time, access, and support necessary to engage deeply with important and underexplored collections.



Molly Harris is a postgraduate research student at the University of Huddersfield, looking at the Operation Reinhard camps and how victims encountered deception through varying routes. She currently volunteers with the British and Irish Association for Holocaust Studies and Holocaust Centre North. Molly undertook her National Research Fellowship at The Wiener Holocaust Library and spoke to us about how her time there deepened her knowledge of camp experiences and structures.

The research opportunity at the Wiener Holocaust Library was very beneficial to my work, as it allowed me to view documents and books that were unavailable to me at my institution. Examples of these included the original Belzec publication by survivor Rudolf Reder, notes on the Belzec camp by Robin O'Neil, and the Sobibor photo album publication. These, along with others, aided me in reconstructing specific areas of the Operation Reinhard camps, such as the appearance of the Belzec 'Hackenholt Institute' (Gas Chambers) and the Sobibor 'Himmelfahrtstrasse' (Pathway to the Gas Chambers). These structures, deliberately designed to obscure the reality of the camps to the victims, have been difficult to analyse due to near complete perpetrator destruction of these buildings, as well as documents related to them. Together, these documents provided me with a foundation for further analysis of the interactions of victims with deceptive structures during their routing through camp spaces. These further aided me in placing certain perpetrators at areas of the camps, which helped me analyse the use of deception through perpetrator behaviour. Alongside these, I also gained knowledge on the Belzec labour camp, situated near the Belzec extermination camp. Although not directly relevant for my project, the descriptions of Roma and Sinti experiences in the adjacent Labour camp aided me in developing my understanding of overall Roma and Sinti experiences, of which I had limited knowledge. Above all, I have been able to access essential documents at the Wiener Holocaust Library, which

have aided me in working around significant research challenges, such as limited testimony and remaining structures. Not only was this research trip valuable because of the documents I examined for my current research project, but it also highlighted further areas of interest beyond the scope of my topic.

We thank Hannah and Molly for sharing their Fellowship experiences with us and wish them the best of luck for their future research and publications.



Holocaust collections in Northern Ireland

EHRI-UK April 2026 visit

During April 2026, EHRI-UK held its first event in Northern Ireland and met with a range of organisations to explore Holocaust collections in the region. EHRI-UK Director, Dr Rachel Pistol and Project Assistant, Dr Pamela Linden Aveyard, received a warm welcome from library staff at Queen's University Belfast where an in-person seminar was held to mark the release of the Rabbi Jacob Shachter Collection later in the year. Deirdre Wildy, Head of Special Collections & Archives and Library Assistant, Keira Dobbin, gave an overview of Jewish collections at QUB and active collecting of material relating to the Holocaust and Jewish refugees. Pamela gave a short report on Holocaust-related correspondence in the Shachter collection and Rachel provided an overview of the work of EHRI-ERIC and services provided locally by EHRI-UK. It was a great opportunity to meet with friends and supporters, including Professor Olwen Purdue who chaired the seminar, representatives from National Museums Northern Ireland, members of the Belfast Jewish Community congregation, and Constatin Torve, a PhD student who worked on the Shachter collection during the 2025 EHRI-UK Regional Placement Scheme.



Images clockwise from top left: Deirdre Wildy; Keira Dobbin; Pamela Aveyard; Rachel Pistol; a selection of records relating to the Jewish community in Belfast at PRONI; Lorraine Bourke, Pamela Aveyard, Rachel Pistol & Rebecca Geddes: Department of Commerce records relating to applications from Vienna, 1938 (PRONI, COM/17/3/1-50)

The following day, EHRI-UK staff enjoyed a guided tour of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), where Lorraine Bourke, Head of Private Records at PRONI, and Curator, Rebecca Geddes, displayed a range of material relating to Jewish communities in Northern Ireland and shared plans for an exhibition of material relating to refugees that will take place later in the year. Rachel and Pamela had the chance to view Department of Commerce records documenting Jewish individuals and families who tried to escape Vienna during 1938. A [searchable index](#) of the fifty Ministry of Commerce files (COM/17/3/1-50) collates the information relating to the letters and to the indexes created by the Ministry of Commerce. This index was completed with assistance from [Mischa Gerrard who completed a EHRI-UK Regional Placement](#) with the Private Records Team during summer 2025.

EHRI-UK wishes to thank our hosts for their kind hospitality and generous support and are looking forward to strengthening relationships with archivists, researchers and educators in Northern Ireland in the future.

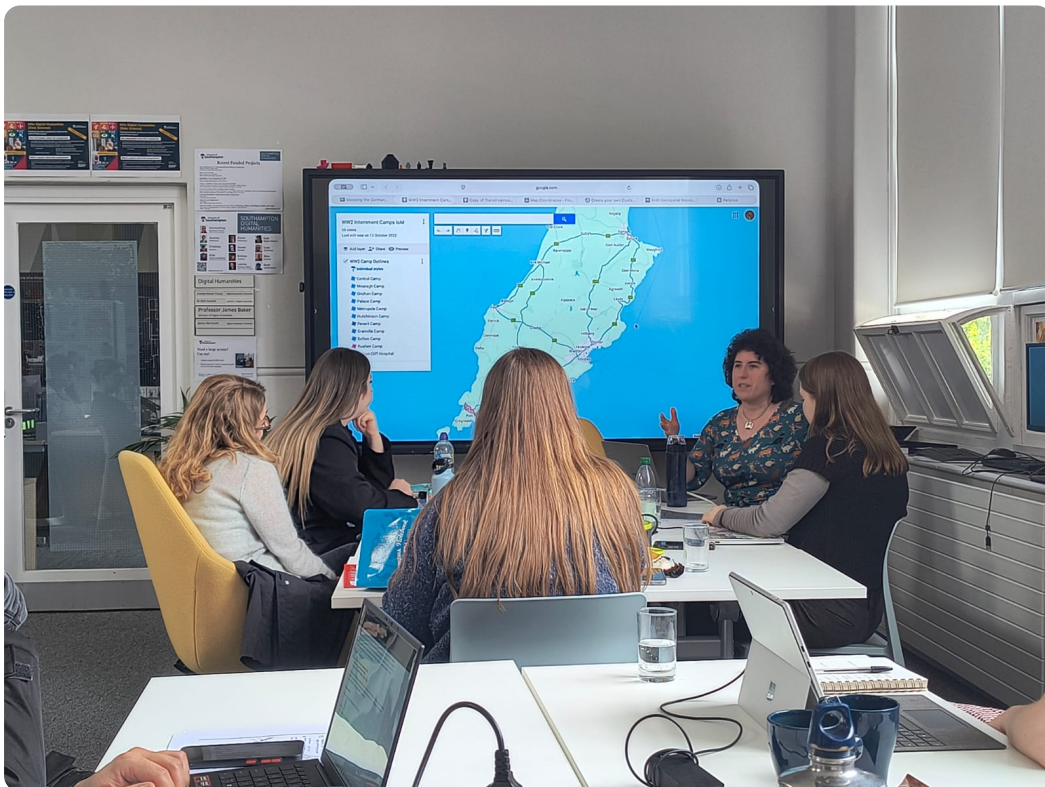
Meet our new National Research Fellowships Administrator

We are delighted to welcome our new National Fellowships Administrator, **Elise Bath**. Elise Bath is the ITS Programme Manager at The Wiener Holocaust Library, where she has worked for nine years. She prioritises a trauma-informed, person-centred approach to Holocaust research, as well as collaborative engagement with institutions

and communities with a focus on meaningful public engagement. She holds an MLitt which analyses gendered experiences in concentration camp memoirs, and an MA in Museum Studies, both from Newcastle University. Elise has authored articles on fertility in concentration camp memoirs, Nazi and post-war persecution of the Roma and Sinti, research ethics, and trauma in historical research. Elise will be managing EHRI-UK's National Fellowship Programme, more details of which will be released in our Autumn newsletter. We wish Elise a warm welcome and look forward to working with her supporting Holocaust research at institutions in the United Kingdom and British Isles.



Reorienting the Holocaust: A training workshop on digital mapping, historical data, and spatial stories



We caught up with Dr Simone Gigliotti, Academic & Technical Partner Lead at EHRI-UK, to find out about a digital mapping training workshop for students she convened earlier this month:

On Tuesday 2 June, the Digital Humanities Hub at the University of Southampton welcomed twelve postgraduate researchers from universities across the United Kingdom to participate in a one-day workshop, “Reorienting the Holocaust: A training workshop on digital mapping, historical data, and spatial stories.” Dr Simone Gigliotti (Holocaust Research Institute, Royal Holloway, University of London), organised the workshop with support from EHRI-UK Director, Dr Rachel Pistol, and Dr Delphine Demelas, lecturer in Humanities Data Science at the University of Southampton.

The workshop provided introductory sessions by scholars at varying stages of their careers, and who were united in their approach to rethinking the Holocaust’s geographies and spatialities. The workshop’s objectives were broad – to showcase diverse interpretations of maps, and to discuss how technological practice, digitisation, mapping software and LLMs, have fundamentally revolutionised multi-scalar approaches to the Holocaust.

Professor Tim Cole from the University of Bristol (Session 1) reflected on shifting spatialities of the Budapest Ghetto and what pauses in testimony can reveal about oral history geographies. In Session 2, Dr Olaf Simons from Martin Luther King University in Halle-Saale (Germany) introduced students to the Wikibase crowdsourcing platform, FactGrid. He encouraged students to utilise existing data on internment in concentration camps and contribute their own datasets in the future. Dr Aleksandra Szczepan (Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe) revealed the untapped wealth of mapping and memorial orientation as included in Yizkor books during Session 3. The transformation of historical data into usable spatial representations in ArcGIS was the basis of Ms Laurisa Sastoque Pabón’s presentation during Session 4. Based at the University of Southampton / University of Cambridge, Laurisa demonstrated the immense possibilities of ArcGIS and StoryMaps as dissemination tools and methods for Holocaust research. Finally, in Session 5, Dr Rachel Pistol introduced students to creating datasets for mapping Second World War internment in the UK.



All workshop sessions were very well received by the participants. One noted that “The first session introduced the necessity for mapping really beautifully and then the last two sessions allowed for me to get a chance to play with the platforms, giving me the confidence to use the mapping programmes.” Others highlighted the fact that more basic training is needed in building spreadsheets and datasets to realise the potential of digital cartographic platforms for Holocaust research and spatial analysis.

Overall, the workshop enabled participants to share ideas and approaches that were previously theoretical and somewhat elusive. It also revealed that extended, week-long workshops or summer schools aimed at in-depth practical sessions, alongside discussion of qualitative mapping and dataset building, could be future training priorities for the Holocaust Research Institute and EHRI-UK.

Our sincere thanks to Dr Gigliotti for her work delivering this training session and for her report.

Mémorial de la Shoah Teacher Training Event, Belfast

During 20 and 21 May, Mémorial de la Shoah delivered a teacher training event at Crumlin Road Gaol Visitor Attraction and Conference Centre (Belfast), co-organised by the Northern Ireland History Teachers' Association and Education Authority. Dr Pamela Linden Aveyard, EHRI-UK Project Assistant, was invited to deliver a session on 'The United Kingdom, Ireland, and the Holocaust' which explored broad themes of wartime government priorities and migration legislation, as well as local stories documenting Jewish refugees and Holocaust survivors who came to Ireland and Northern Ireland.



Members of the Mémorial de la Shoah team delivered pedagogical training relating to the events, geography and terminology of the Holocaust, Nazi ideology and antisemitism, and Professor Marie Coleman (Queen's University Belfast) spoke to the group about 'Challenging points in History between Great Britain and Ireland until 1969'. Pamela had a very productive two days meeting with teachers and offered guidance on how to access Holocaust-related collections in local archives and libraries, and methods to incorporate archival records into KS5 teaching resources. Our thanks to Mémorial de la Shoah for their kind invitation to participate in the event and to the Claims Conference, who co-financed the event. (Image credit: Mémorial de la Shoah)

EHRI-ERIC General Assembly



On 21 & 21 May 2026, EHRI-ERIC held its first in-person General Assembly. The EHRI-ERIC is a consortium of states (EU member states, associated countries and third countries) represented by ministries or national research funds, whose members



form a **General Assembly**, EHRI-ERIC's decision-making body. **The Arts and Humanities Research Council** (AHRC) generously offered to host this first in-person General Assembly, and delegates enjoyed the opportunity to meet face-to-face over a very productive two days of meetings. The group enjoyed tours of the Wiener Holocaust Library and were kindly provided with meeting space at Imperial War Museum London. Dr Jaideep Gupte, Director of Research, Strategy, Innovation at the Arts and Humanities Research Council (pictured left), delivered an eloquent welcome on Wednesday which set the scene for later

discussions. We thank all who attended and contributed to make the event a great success.

Call for applications: USHMM International Research Workshop

Global Geographies of the Holocaust: Mapping Jewish Refugee Resettlement

Moskowitz/Rafalowicz International Research Workshop, 5-7 October 2026 and 26-30 July 2027. [Application deadline Friday, 17 July 2026](#)

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invites applications for the Moskowitz/Rafalowicz International Research Workshop Global Geographies of the Holocaust: Mapping Jewish Refugee Resettlement. The Mandel Center will co-convene this workshop with Sandra Gruner-Domic and Pragya Kaul Guido in cooperation with NYU Washington, DC. Anne Kelly Knowles, the 2026-27 Ina Levine Invitational Scholar, will serve as an advisor to the workshop participants. The workshop will meet in two sessions in Washington, DC, and will include research and convenings at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and NYU Washington, DC. The first session will be held October 5–7, 2026 and the second July 26–30, 2027.

Applications are welcome from scholars in any relevant academic discipline, including but not limited to anthropology, geography, Jewish studies, history, sociology, and political science. The Mandel Center will reimburse the costs of round-trip economy-class air tickets to/from the Washington, D.C. metro area and provide hotel accommodation for the duration of both sessions of the workshop. For eligibility and more information on the application process visit the USHMM [webpage here](#).

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