EHRI-UK Spring 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back to the EHRI-UK newsletter. This Spring, we have a lot to share with you including exciting news about our second student Regional Placement scheme, our first event in Northern Ireland, reports from our National Research Fellows and a feature on one of our founding partners, The Wiener Holocaust Library. We hope you enjoy our Spring newsletter and please forward or share it within your own networks.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2026

EHRI-UK Director, Dr Rachel Pistol, attended the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration, co-hosted with the Embassy of Israel, on 26 January 2026. Yvette Cooper, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, addressed the audience and thanked Holocaust survivor, Mala Tribich, for her attendance and her dedicated advocacy of Holocaust Education. The Foreign Secretary announced that Jon Pearce MP will be appointed as UK Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues and updated the audience on developments relating to a national Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre. Meg Davis, one of EHRI-UK's 2025 Regional Placement students, attended the event in her capacity as Young Ambassador of the Holocaust Educational Trust. You can watch a recording of the full conversation between the Foreign Secretary and Mala Tribich MBE here:

EHRI-UK 2026 Regional Placement Scheme is opening soon!

Image credit: © Imperial War Museums. IWM (D 8792)

We are pleased to announce the return of our EHRI-UK Regional Placement Scheme that will take place at nine organisations across Britain during summer 2026. The EHRI-UK Placements are open to both undergraduate and postgraduate students based in the UK looking to improve their employability and learn new skills whilst undertaking project work at museums, archives and charities. There are a variety of projects available that are of interest to students across the humanities as well as those enrolled in Library and Information Management studies. Each placement is designed for 150 hours of work spread over 6-10 weeks which is undertaken between late June and September (the exact details will be agreed between the host institution and the successful student). Upon successful completion of the placement, each student receives an honorarium of £1,500.

This following organisations will be offering placements during 2026:

Brunel University of London: Heinz Wolff Centenary Project
Imperial War Museums (IWM London): IWM Holocaust Collections
Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum: The Oxfordshire Yeomanry at the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen
Senate House Library: Cataloguing the Lotte Reizenstein Papers
The Fed (My Voice Project): My Voice Book Categorisation and Theme Development
The Wiener Holocaust Library: Cataloguing the Wiener Library's Printed Collections
University of Southampton Archives & Special Collections: Curating a refugee archive
University of Sussex Library: Digitisation and Discovery Assistant (German-Jewish collections)
World Jewish Relief: Reuniting Families with Kindertransport Histories

Applications close on Sunday 19 April 2026. For more information on eligibility and how to apply visit our website.

EHRI-UK Belfast event

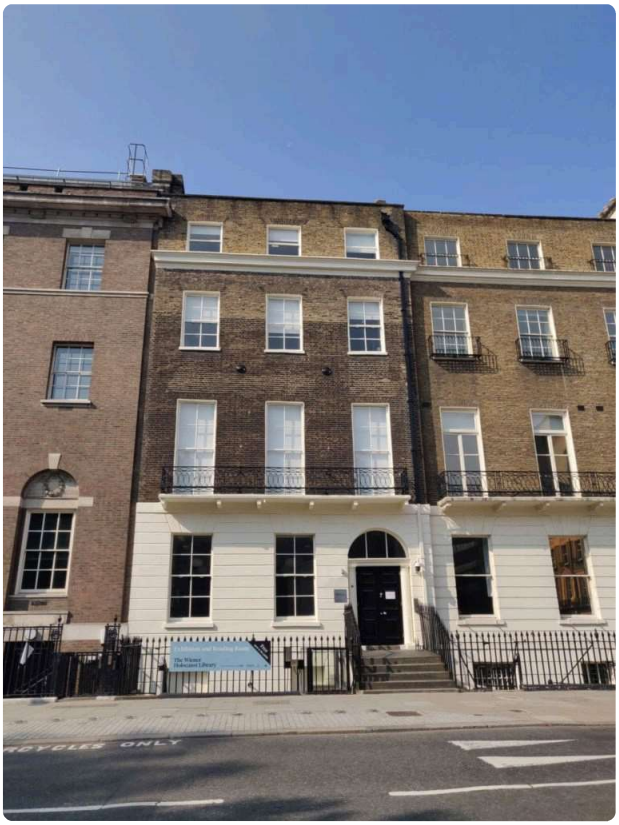
We are pleased to announce that our first Northern Ireland event will take place next month at Queen's University Belfast.

📢 EHRI-UK Seminar: Holocaust-related and Jewish refugee collections at Queen's University Belfast Special Collections & Archives 🗓️ 23 April 2026, 13:00-15:30 📍 McClay Library Auditorium, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK ⏳ Register via Eventbrite before 21 April 2026:

This in-person seminar will explore the provenance and development of Holocaust-related collections at QUB Special Collections & Archives and will introduce the work of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, including opportunities for training and fellowships. The event is free, but registration is necessary. **Register here now.**

Focus on EHRI-UK Partner The Wiener Holocaust Library

EHRI-UK is supported by four partner organisations, each of which focuses on a different aspect of our portfolio. The Wiener Holocaust Library is one of these organisations, along with The National Archives, the Holocaust Research Institute at Royal Holloway, University of London and the Parkes Institute at the University of Southampton. The Wiener Holocaust Library has a long association with the work of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure and is one of the founding members of EHRI-UK. Dr Christine Schmidt, Co-Director of the Wiener Holocaust Library, is the Deputy National Coordinator of EHRI-UK. In addition to Christine's decade of experience as Head of Research at the library, she has many years of experience of teaching, curating and consulting on exhibitions. Her extensive publications include the recently published co-edited collection *'Older Jews and the Holocaust: Persecution, Displacement, and Survival'*.



EHRI-UK supports two members of staff based at The Wiener Holocaust Library. Dr Clara Dijkstra is EHRI-UK's Fellowship Administrator based at the library, where she is also employed as Research and Curation Officer. Clara completed her doctorate in History at the University of Cambridge in 2025 where her research examined the experiences of Jewish and Roma prisoners in French internment camps between 1939 and 1946. She has a BA and an Mst in History from the University of Oxford and also held fellowships at the USC Dornsife Centre for Advanced Genocide Research in Los Angeles, and the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam.

Anastasia Gallan is the EHRI-UK Finance and Grants Officer based at the Wiener Holocaust Library. She provides support to the finance manager and relevant departments and her day-to-day responsibilities range from managing finance admin, handling EHRI-UK fellows' claims and assisting the finance manager with work in relation to EHRI-UK. We are delighted to have Anastasia and Clara as part of our team and appreciate the wider support of staff from the Wiener Holocaust Library.

EHRI-UK National Research Fellowships

The last few months have been an exciting time for our National Research Fellowships, with two fellows completing their placements. In this newsletter we hear about fellowships at The Wiener Holocaust Library and Imperial War Museums.

Dr Hannah Wilson outside IWM London. Image credit: Hannah Wilson

During February, Dr Hannah Wilson, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Manchester, undertook a two-week EHRI-UK National Research Fellowship at the Imperial War Museum London. We caught up with Hannah to find out more about her project and how the placement informed her research:

> *My fellowship at Imperial War Museums proved to be an exceptionally productive and stimulating placement, and one which has significantly advanced my postdoctoral research into Holocaust material culture, familial memory and domestic spaces. A particular highlight was the opportunity to walk through the IWM's Holocaust Galleries with Tim Locke and Lesley Urbach, both second-generation descendants of Kindertransport survivors whose family collections form a central part of my research. Tim and Lesley each inherited their parents' personal collections after their passing, and have either donated these to the museum, or are in the process of completing their acquisition. Both, however, have a number of objects, photographs, and documents pertaining to their parents, and to other relatives who did not survive the Holocaust, currently on display.*
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> *Walking the galleries alongside them offered a rare and moving perspective: seeing first-hand which objects are on public display and which remain in storage, and understanding, from those most intimately connected to these collections, the deeply personal decisions involved in donation and acquisition. These conversations illuminated how family narratives are integrated, and at*

times necessarily mediated, within a major public institution and the complex negotiations around visibility, authenticity, and legacy that this entails. Beyond these gallery visits, the placement afforded rich access to the IWM's broader holdings. I was able to examine numerous objects from the archive directly, including items from collections that are not available online and would otherwise remain inaccessible. I also engaged extensively with the IWM's collection of recorded interviews with the survivors themselves (some on cassette tapes!), as well as descendants of survivors, which provided invaluable contextual material for understanding how these donated objects sit within wider family histories and memories. Taken together, these experiences have meaningfully deepened my understanding of how familial Holocaust memory is transformed when it enters institutional frameworks — a question at the heart of my research — and have generated new avenues of inquiry that I look forward to pursuing in the months ahead.

Interior of The Wiener Holocaust Library. Image credit: The Wiener Holocaust Library.

Hari Jonkers, Archivist at Holocaust Centre North, spent a week at The Wiener Holocaust Library during December 2025 for her EHRI-UK National Research Fellowship placement. She told us how the fellowship combined research with the

opportunity to meet Library staff and gain insight into their collections care, cataloguing practices, and digital preservation strategy:

> *In terms of archival practice, the placement provided specific insight into digitisation and digital preservation workflows that will directly inform our work at Holocaust Centre North. The conversations around sector-wide concerns—for instance the opportunities and threats posed by AI and rapidly changing technologies—were very helpful. The fellowship also allowed me the time to reflect strategically on the development of our Centre's archive and service as well as how our regionally focused organisation can complement the work of a larger institution that has a much wider breadth of collections. Having dedicated research time—and in such a beautiful reading room—was truly inspiring and a privilege. My research focused on identifying links between Library collections and individuals or families represented in Holocaust Centre North's archive i.e. those with connections to the north of England. I also worked to expand my knowledge of several historical topics: primarily the Kindertransport scheme and those children's experiences, as well as the tribunal process for interning 'enemy aliens', the Kitchener Camp, the experience of German prisoners-of-war in the UK, and the British Jewish defence leagues and wider anti-fascist movements in the immediate post-war period.*
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> *I examined the David Makofski papers within the Leeds Jewish Refugee Committee collection in detail. This revealed numerous records of Kindertransport refugees whose personal papers and testimonies our Centre holds, as well as new names of individuals and organisations worth researching and potentially contacting, including the York Refugee Committee and various guarantors and employers in Leeds and Huddersfield. The Makofski papers deepened my understanding of the day-to-day challenges and limitations faced by people administering the Kindertransport scheme, for instance the high proportion of rejected applications, and placement issues when boys were unhappy and wanted to move. This research will enable me to cross-reference findings with our Centre's collections and share discoveries with collection donor families—many of whom are second- and third-generation survivors keen to broaden their understanding of the historical context surrounding their relatives' experiences. Overall, my newly gained knowledge and deepened understanding has made me better equipped to respond to research enquiries and to assist students, researchers and collection donors in their requests. I'm really looking forward to sharing my discoveries with donor families and following up on the research leads and potential contacts identified.*

Our thanks to both Hari and Hannah for sharing their National Fellowship experiences with us. We wish them both every success in their future research!

EHRI network Call for papers

We have a number of very interesting seminars and calls for papers/participants from across our EHRI-ERIC network during Spring 2026:

📢 EHRI-PL Call for Papers | International Conference “Documenting the Holocaust: Testimonies as Historical Evidence” 📅 16-17 June 2026 📍 Location: The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw, Poland | Language: English ⏳ **Deadline for applications: March 31, 2026**. More details can be found here.

📢 EHRI Network | Early-career Holocaust research seminar (Part online and in-person). 💻 Online content commences 11 October 2026 | 📍Location: In person at POLIN Museum 📅 14-18 December 2026 | **Deadline for applications: 15 April 2026** | With the contribution of the EHRI MOOC “It Must All be Recorded Without a Single Fact Left Out” – The Holocaust through the Perspective of Primary Sources. Yad Vashem and USC Shoah Foundation partner in the framework of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to offer a free early-career Holocaust research seminar. This seminar brings together PhD students and early-career researchers (PhD conferred 2021-2026) from IHRA member, observer, and liaison countries to broaden and deepen their subject expertise, teaching and research capabilities, and professional networks. More details on eligibility and application can be found here.

📢 Call for Participants📢 Reorienting the Holocaust: A training workshop on digital mapping, historical data, and spatial stories 📅 Tuesday 2 June 2026 (09.00-17.00; in person) 📍 Location: The Digital Humanities Hub at the University of Southampton, UK ⏳ Apply using the online form here by **10 April 2026**. Places are limited, so please apply early. 🔊NB: Participants' travel expenses will be reimbursed.

✉️ Queries/Convener: Dr Simone Gigliotti Royal Holloway, University of London, United Kingdom email: Simone.Gigliotti@rhul.ac.uk

This scholar-led training workshop is for MA and PhD students who are currently enrolled at UK universities and want to acquire and apply knowledge about trends in digital Holocaust and Jewish geographies research. Participants will learn how

leading scholars have framed the design of their spatial and scholarly projects using multidisciplinary approaches, analogue and digital methods, and diverse data sources. Workshop sessions will combine instruction, platform demonstrations, and group discussion.

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