

# Reflections on Images of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe Budapest - December 7, 2022

“I was taken to Auschwitz from the ghetto of Beregszász. Our arrival was very sad, because I was separated from my husband and relatives. They took away all my belongings in the bath, including a photo of my two sons.”

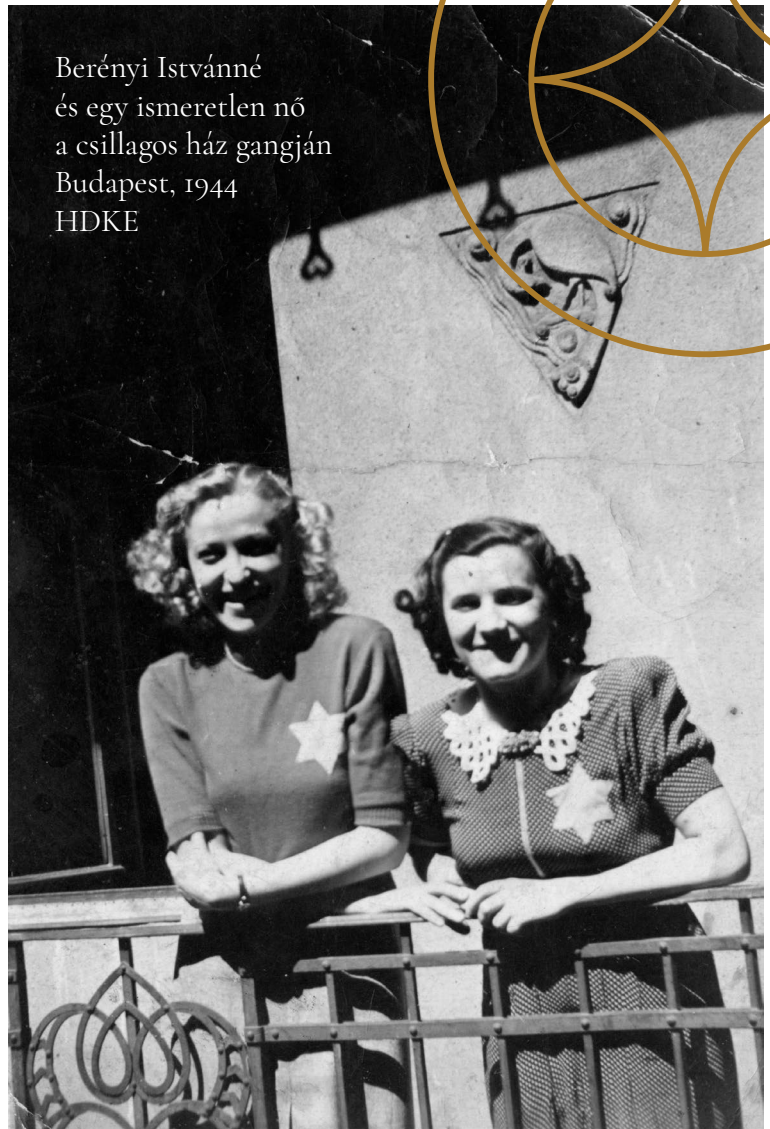
(Interview of Klára Vincze Budapest July 5, 1945)



MINISZTERELNÖKSÉG



BETHLEN GÁBOR  
Alapkezelő Zrt.



Berényi Istvánné  
és egy ismeretlen nő  
a csillagos ház gangján  
Budapest, 1944  
HDKE

Photographs have an immediate emotional impact and can be seen as windows into past realities. They are important historical sources and priceless possessions of those who lost their families and other loved ones. Yet they are also all too often only seen as *illustrations*, as somehow less significant than textual and other materials. In co-operation with the *European Holocaust Research Infrastructure*, EHRI, the Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest is organizing a conference to reflect on the significance of photographs of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe.

Members of the EHRI Holocaust Photographs expert group of historians, researchers, museum curators, archivists and educators and several other specialists will discuss and examine methods of looking at and working with photographs from the Holocaust period – taken by perpetrators, onlookers/bystanders, Jews, resistance movements and Allied forces at the end of the war. Presentations and discussions will reflect on key questions about these images: What were the circumstances in which the photos were taken? Who took them? Why were they taken? How were the images used at the time? What was their intended use? How have they been used and contextualized since?

The presentations, in English with live translation into Hungarian, will be streamed live on Zoom and Facebook. All persons interested in the live stream are welcome to register at:  
<https://forms.gle/9uAyfQFyuKp4RS6QA>

## PROGRAMME

(time is Central European Time)

- 9:00 – 9:15 Registration  
9:15 – 9:25 **Welcome:** András Zima (Holocaust Memorial Center, Director)  
9:25 - 9:30 **Opening remarks:** Karel Berkhoff (Co-director, European Holocaust Research Infrastructure and Senior Researcher, NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies)
- 9:30 – 10:10 **Keynote:** Janina Struk (Independent scholar)  
**Reflections and Interpretations on photographs taken during the Holocaust**  
10:10 – 10:20 Questions and discussion

### PANEL I. TRADITIONS & NARRATIVES: PHOTOGRAPHING THE HOLOCAUST.

Chair: László Csósz

- 10:20-10:40 Maaty Frenkelzon (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)  
*Between Photography and Ideology: Soviet Photography on the Eastern Front during World War II*  
10:40-11:00 András Lénárt (Holocaust Memorial Center, Budapest)  
*Photos of the forced labour service in Hungary*  
11:00 - 11:20 Questions and discussion  
11:20 – 11:40 *Coffee break*

### PANEL II. PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS: USING HOLOCAUST PHOTOS.

Chair: Christoph Kreutzmüller

- 11:40 - 12:00 Tom Haward (University College London)  
*To see or not to see? The ethics of viewing Holocaust photography*  
12:00 - 12:20 Hedvig Turai (International Business School, Budapest)  
*Holocaust photos: Uses, misuses, hijacking in exhibition contexts*  
12:20 - 12:40 Adrian Cioflâncă (Wilhelm Filderman Center for the Study of Jewish History in Romania, Bucharest)  
*Exhibiting mass-killings: The public use of atrocity photos in Romania during and after WWII*  
12:40 - 13:00 Questions and discussion  
13:00 – 14:20 *Lunch break*

### PANEL III. DECONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTIONS: PROBING NARRATIVES.

Chair: András Lénárt

- 14:20 - 14:40 Christoph Kreutzmüller (Project #Last Seen)  
*Traces of the Deportations from the West in the East*  
14:40 - 15:00 Tal Bruttman (Fondation pour la mémoire de la Shoah)  
*Warsaw 1943: An SS narrative for a Jewish uprising*  
15:00 - 15:20 Ramona Bechtauf (Göttingen University)  
*Handling the Sonderkommando Photographs. A Praxeological Approach to Historical Photographs*  
15:20 - 15:40 Questions and discussion  
15:40 – 15:50 **Closing remarks:** András Lénárt and Christoph Kreutzmüller