Early Holocaust Memory in Sweden
Archives, Testimonies and Reflections

14–15 MAY 2018
Conference programme
Early Holocaust Memory in Sweden
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Venue: Main University Building (Universitetshuset), Hall VIII

Conference programme

Monday, 14 May

13:15–14:00 Introduction,
Johannes Heuman, Pontus Rudberg and Tomislav Dulić

14:00–14:45 Keynote: No Generation of Silence: American Jews Confront the Holocaust, 1945–1963
Hasia Diner, New York University

14:45–15:30 Coffee and discussion

15:30–17:30 Session I

16:00–16:30 ‘The sentenced to death testifies’:
The Tegens and their collection of Holocaust testimonies
Lars M. Andersson, Department of History, Uppsala University

16:30–17:00 In search of documentation:
Nella Rost and the Jewish Historical Commission in Stockholm
Johannes Heuman, Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University

17:00–17:30 Jewish experiences and the collection of the Polish Institute of Source Research in Lund
Izabela Dahl, School of Humanities, Education and Social Science, Örebro University

17:30–18:00 Holocaust testimonies in Jewish claims for restitutions
Pontus Rudberg, Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University

19:00 Dinner
Tuesday, 15 May

9:15–10:45  
Session 2

9:15–9:45  
**Heading for utopia?:**
Swedish rescue operations and the arrival of Holocaust survivors in 1945
Ulf Zander, Department of History at Lund University

9:45–10:15  
**Tracing the Holocaust in early post-war historiography in Sweden**
Karin Kvist Geverts, Royal Library in Stockholm

10:15–10:45  
**Hugo Valentin and the Swedish memory of the Holocaust:**
Publicist, historian, activist
Olof Bortz, Department of history, Stockholm University

10:45–11:15  
**Coffee break**

11:15–12:15  
Session 3

11:15–11:45  
**‘A Hellish Nightmare’:**
The Swedish press and the construction of early Holocaust narratives, 1945–1950
Antero Holmila, University of Jyväskylä, Finland

11:45–12:15  
**The Holocaust and the Jewish survivors in the Swedish Jewish Press 1945–1955**
Malin Thor Tureby, Department for Studies of Social Change and Culture, Linköping University

12:15–13:15  
**Lunch**

13:15–14:15  
Session 4

13:15–13:45  
**Jews, Gender and the Scandinavian Subject: Understanding the context and content of the film Vittnesbördet [the Testimony]**
Kristin Wagrell, Department for Studies of Social Change and Culture, Linköping University

13:45–14:15  
**The ethical dimension of memory: Swedish-Jewish reactions to justice and retribution**
Julia Sahlström, Master Student at the Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University

14:15–15:00  
**Final discussion**
The collection of testimonies along with other efforts to bring attention to the Holocaust during the first two post-war decades contributed, in different ways, to historical research, judicial processes, public debate and victim commemoration. Yet despite their proximity in time to the genocide, these efforts have seldom been recognized and the Holocaust testimonies have only to a very limited degree been used in Holocaust research. These early initiatives provide insights into how the memory of the Holocaust began to take shape during the development of the Swedish welfare state in the 1940’s and 1950’s, long before this event became a major concern for the political leadership and school curriculum. The conference, *Early Holocaust Memory in Sweden: Archives, Testimonies and Reflections*, gathers researchers from multiple disciplines in order to discuss these early initiatives to document and spread information about the Holocaust. The purpose is to contribute to a revision of how the memory of the Holocaust developed during the post-war period and to stimulate new research in a field that has been overlooked in Sweden and that also intersects with European and Jewish history.

The conference is organised by *The Hugo Valentin Centre*, an interdisciplinary unit at the Department of History which focuses on research and education within two prioritised areas. One area centres on cultural and social phenomena and processes of change related to the ethnic dimension of human life, and the other on Holocaust and genocide studies. The latter field includes research on Holocaust history and memory, the study of genocide and similar atrocities, as well as the effect of violence on individuals and society.

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**RIKS BANKENS JUBL EUMSFOND**

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**HUGO VALENTIN CENTRUM**

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