



University
of Victoria

Graduate Studies

Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Master of Arts

of

MYRIAM GERBER

BA (University of Victoria, 2008)

“Beyond the Memory: the Era of Witnessing – Analyzing Processes of Knowledge Production and Memorialization of the Holocaust through the Concepts of Translocal Assemblage and Witness Creation”

Interdisciplinary Studies

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

9:00AM

Cornett Building

Room A319

Supervisory Committee:

Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, Department of Anthropology, University of Victoria (Co-Supervisor)

Dr. Charlotte Schallie, Department of German and Slavic Studies, UVic (Co-Supervisor)

External Examiner:

Dr. Erica Lehrer, Department of History / Anthropology, Concordia University

Chair of Oral Examination:

Dr. Nigel Horspool, Department of Computer Science, UVic

Abstract

This paper considers the symbiotic relationship between iconic visual representations of the Holocaust – specifically film and Holocaust sites – and processes of Holocaust memorialization. In conjunction, specific sites and objects related to the Holocaust have become icons. I suggest that specific Holocaust sites as well as Holocaust films can be perceived as elements of one and/or multiple translocal assemblage/s. My focus in this analysis is on the role of knowledge production and witness creation in Holocaust memorialization. It is not my intention to diminish the role of Holocaust memorialization; rather, I seek to look beyond representational aspects, and consider the processual relationships involved in the commemoration of the Holocaust in institutions, such as memorial sites and museums, as well as through elements of popular culture, such as films. Furthermore, I analyze the tangible and intangible layers of memories and meaning present in Holocaust films and sites through the lens of palimpsests. These conceptual frameworks allow me to consider how visual representations of the Holocaust, such as film, and site inform each other? How are specific representations of Holocaust sites and objects shaping and informing the commemoration of the Holocaust in the 21st century?