



**HL-SENTERET**  
The Norwegian Center for  
Holocaust and Minority Studies



**Kaplan Centre**  
JEWISH STUDIES

# Hate Speech Against Religious Minorities in South Africa: Manifestations, Experiences and Interventions

**CAPE TOWN, 13-15 NOVEMBER 2024**

## PROGRAM

### DAY 1- NOVEMBER 13 2024

#### Evening program

|        |                                                                                 |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5:30pm | Arrival plus drinks and introductions                                           |
| 6:00pm | <b>Gavaza Maluleke</b> on <i>"Hate in South African Society"</i>                |
| 6:30pm | Starter                                                                         |
| 7:00pm | <b>Adv. Michael Bishop</b> on <i>"Minorities in the Courts in South Africa"</i> |
| 7.30pm | Main Course                                                                     |
| 8:00pm | Dessert and Q&A                                                                 |

### DAY 2- NOVEMBER 14 2024

#### **Hate speech: Global and Local Narratives**

Kaplan Centre, University of Cape Town

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|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:30am          | Arrival. Coffee and pastries                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9:00am          | Welcoming: <b>Adam Mendelsohn</b> and <b>Vibeke Moe Jan Eriksen</b> , Counsellor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria: <i>The Embassy's Work Related to Human Rights and Minorities in South Africa</i> |
| 9:30am-10:30am  | Keynote: <i>An Overview of Antisemitism in South Africa</i> : <b>Milton Shain</b>                                                                                                                             |
| 10:30am-11:00am | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



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|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00am–<br>12:30pm | Panel:<br><i>Antisemitic Hate Speech in SA Social Media after October 7: <b>Adam Mendelsohn</b></i><br><i>Experiences from the Annotators: <b>Sarah Saacks</b> and <b>Lara Kassel</b></i><br><i>The Experience of the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre post 7 October: <b>Jakub Nowakowski</b></i><br>Chair: <b>Cora Alexa Døving</b>    |
| 12:30pm–<br>1:30pm  | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1:30pm–<br>2:30pm   | Keynote. <i>Hate Speech and the Jews: Text and Context:</i> <b>Hanna Yablonka</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2:30pm–<br>2:45pm   | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 2:45pm–<br>3:45pm   | Presentations: <i>Russian Narrative about Ukraine: 2012 and 2024</i><br><br><i>Use of «Nazi» Term in the Biggest State Russian TV channels in 2012–2024: <b>Ruslan Kavatsiuk</b></i><br><br><i>Results from the Analysis: A Comprehensive Picture Consisting of 30 Distinct Narratives within Four Main Categories: <b>Oleksiy Makhukin</b></i> |
| 3:45pm–<br>4:00pm   | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 4:00pm–<br>4:30pm   | Presentation: <i>Pet eating, Rusty Dog Whistles, and White Genocide:</i> <b>Alexander Hinton</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 4:30pm–<br>5:30pm   | Keynote. <i>Interreligious Relations: Problems, Explanations, and Opportunities:</i> <b>Vibeke Moe</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



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## DAY 3 – NOVEMBER 15 2024

### Interventions and Implementation

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| 8:30am              | Arrival. Coffee and pastries                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9:00am–<br>9:15am   | <i>Connections and Reflections:</i> <b>Tali Nates</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9:15am–<br>10:15am  | <i>Minority Strategies in the New South Africa:</i> <b>Mary Kluk</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 10:15am–<br>10:45am | Coffee Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 10:45am–<br>12:15pm | <p>Panel: <i>Experiences and Best Practices: How do Minority Groups Work against Discrimination and Hate Speech in SA?</i></p> <p><i>How do NGOs in South Africa Interpret and Combat Hate Speech on Social Media?</i> <b>Cora Alexa Døving</b></p> <p><i>Responding to Hate: the Case Study of the Change Makers Programme:</i> <b>Tali Nates</b></p> <p><i>Teaching about Minorities at a Museum: The Case Study of the Durban Holocaust &amp; Genocide Centre:</i> <b>Claudia Hooper</b> and <b>Eric Badise</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Vibeke Moe</b></p> |
| 12:15pm–<br>1:15pm  | <p>Keynote: <i>From Non-Alignment To Active Engagement: South Africa's Evolving Role And Motivations In Addressing Issues Of International Criminal Justice:</i> <b>Dr. Mispa Roux</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1:15pm–<br>2:15pm   | Lunch Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



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| 2:15pm–<br>3:45pm | <p>Panel: <i>Hate speech Education Program</i></p> <p><i>Designing a Toolkit to Counter Hate in Educational Settings:</i> <b>Catherine Boyd, Cathy Wilson, Mduduzi Ntuli</b></p> <p><i>Hate Speech in Digital Media and the AI – Possibilities and New Challenges:</i> <b>Ethan Roberts</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Nela Navarro</b></p>                                                                                                            |
| 3:45pm–<br>4:15pm | <p>Coffee Break</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4:15pm–<br>5:45pm | <p>Panel: <i>Media literacy and Language Policies</i></p> <p><i>Mainstreaming Peace Pedagogies in Teacher Education: Reclaiming Humanity in Teaching and Learning:</i> <b>Larisa Kasumagić Kafedžić</b></p> <p><i>Assimilationist Discourse: A Prelude to Hate Speech:</i> <b>Nela Navarro</b></p> <p><i>Network Dialogues in the Digital World: Is Populism Undemocratic:</i> <b>Dr. Andreas Ströhl</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Tali Nates</b></p> |
| 5:45pm–<br>6:15pm | <p>Reflections and Closing: <b>Vibeke Moe</b> and <b>Adam Mendelsohn</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |



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## SPEAKERS

**DAY 1- NOVEMBER 13 2024**

**Gavaza Maluleke** works as a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Studies at the University of Cape Town. Her research interests are in digital activism, transnational feminisms, migration, gendered violence, masculinities and new media studies in Africa.

### **Presentation:**

#### ***"Hate in Post-1994 South Africa"***

This presentation offers a critical analysis of hate-driven violence in post-1994 South Africa, focusing on xenophobic attacks and violence against womxn, particularly femicide, sexual violence, and the corrective rape of lesbians. These forms of violence, deeply rooted in colonial history and exacerbated by modern societal dynamics, reveal persistent and systemic issues within South African society. To address these pressing concerns, the presentation employs the Xintu/Sintu framework, which offers a lens for understanding and experiencing the world through the principles of African languages and logics. This framework highlights an often-overlooked yet vital perspective for tackling social challenges, facilitating a deeper exploration of family, belonging, and relationality. By integrating these indigenous insights, the presentation seeks to encourage a re-membling of African ways of knowing and being to combat violence and facilitate change in South Africa.

**Michael Bishop** is an advocate specialising in public law. He holds the degrees BA, LLB, LLM (Critical Legal Theory) from the University of Pretoria (all cum laude), and an LLM from Columbia University where he was a James Kent scholar. He is a former clerk to Chief Justice Pius Langa, and worked as in-house counsel in the Constitutional Litigation Unit of the Legal Resources Centre. He appears regularly in the Constitutional Court and other courts in public law matters. He has taught constitutional and administrative law to LLM students at the University of Pretoria and the University of Cape Town. He is a managing editor of Constitutional Law of South Africa and the Constitutional Court Review. Together with Jason Brickhill, he has authored the constitutional law contributions for Juta's Quarterly Review and the Yearbook of South African Law (and its predecessor, the Annual Survey) since 2009. His previous books include *A Transformative Justice: Essays in Honour of Pius Langa* (Juta, 2015) and *Constitutional Conversations* (PULP, 2008).



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## DAY 2- NOVEMBER 14 2024

**Jan Eriksen** is a Counsellor at the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria since August 2024. His main areas are Domestic politics, Human Rights and Democracy as well as Climate and Environment. He holds a Master Degree in Geography from the University of Bergen, Norway. He has background from public administration in Norway, for many years in Norad; the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation. Jan Eriksen has been posted at the Norwegian Embassies in Brazil, Nepal and Mozambique. He was also working at the Norwegian Embassy in Pretoria from 2002-2006.

**Milton Shain** is Emeritus Professor of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town. He has written, co-authored and co-edited over a dozen books on South African Jewish history, South African politics, and the history of antisemitism, . Milton Shain's latest book *Fascists, Fabricators and Fantasists. Antisemitism in South Africa from 1948 to the Present* (Jacana Media, 2023) is the final volume in his trilogy on the history of antisemitism in South Africa. In 2014 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa.



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### **Biography:**

#### **Professor Adam D.**

**Mendelsohn** holds the Isidore and Theresa Cohen Chair in Jewish Civilisation at the University of Cape Town where he is Director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Head of the Department of Historical Studies. The Centre, the only of its kind in Africa, conducts research focused on Jews in southern Africa, past and present.

### **Presentation:**

#### ***"Antisemitic Hate Speech on Social Media in South Africa since October 7"***

Building on its prior project that tracked racism, xenophobia and the antisemitism on social media in South Africa in 2020 and 2021, the Kaplan Centre initiated a project focused on assessing the extent and nature of antisemitic content on social media after October 7. The project was undertaken with the support of the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies. Using a digital ethnography approach, a team of annotators has tracked antisemitic content on Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok. This presentation will report on the key findings of the research team, offer analysis of recurrent themes found in the data, and discuss the implications of the findings for Jews in South Africa.



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## Biographies:

**Sarah Saacks** is a postgraduate student in Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town. She recently completed her Honours thesis on Herero and Nama reparation activism in Namibia. Sarah has worked with the Kaplan Centre on capturing and annotating online antisemitism in South Africa following the events of October 7th.

**Lara Kassel** holds a Bachelor of Social Science from the University of Cape Town majoring in Political Science and Law. She is currently in the final year of her LLB and will be pursuing a Master of Laws (LLM) in Dispute Resolution next year. Raised in a proudly and traditionally Jewish household, Lara has a deep connection with her culture and passion for the Jewish ethos. She is honoured to speak at this event and believes that conversations about hate speech are more critical than ever in promoting understanding and safeguarding the rights of all communities.

### **Presentation: *"Experiences from the Annotators"***

During their presentation Sarah and Lara will offer insights and reflections drawn from their recent project tracking antisemitism on social media.



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## Biography:

### Jakub Nowakowski

Born and raised in Kazimierz, the former Jewish district of Kraków (Poland). In 2007 Nowakowski graduated from the Department of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University, where he wrote a thesis on Jewish resistance in Kraków during the Second World War. In 2010, after an international competition, Nowakowski was appointed as the director of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, Poland. In 2023 he was appointed as the director of the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre. Jakub Nowakowski is the author and co-author of numerous articles and publications, as well as co-curator of the Museum exhibitions, including *The Girl in the Diary*. Searching for Rywka from the Lodz Ghetto, which since 2018 has been presented in the most important Holocaust and Jewish Museums in the United States.

## Presentation:

### *"The Experience of the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre Post-October 7th"*

The Hamas attack on Israel on October 7th had a profound impact on the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre (CTHGC). The ramifications were multifaceted, ranging from heightened security concerns to attempts by various groups to influence the Centre's actions and messaging. In addition, challenges arose in maintaining relationships with partners, with many institutions taking polarized positions. Schools canceled scheduled visits, citing safety or political concerns, leading to a reduction in educational engagement. Financial tensions emerged as many donors, both local and international decided to redirect their support toward Israel. Beyond these operational issues, the conflict and the subsequent eruption of antisemitism worldwide, coupled with the widespread misuse of Holocaust-related vocabulary, prompted a deeper reflection within the CTHGC. The Centre was compelled to critically evaluate the ways in which Holocaust and genocide education has been conducted, recognizing gaps in combating ignorance and addressing new forms of intolerance. This paper will delve into these experiences, examining the challenges faced by the CTHGC and how these events have influenced its mission, prompting a reimagining of its role in educating about the Holocaust and fostering empathy and understanding in a deeply divided world.



## Biography:

**Prof. Hanna Yablonka** is affiliated with the History Department at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Her research has focused on the cultural and social impact of the Shoah on Israeli society. She pioneered the research field dealing with the survivors of the Holocaust after 1945. In her research, she has emphasized the resilience and activism of the survivors, instrumental in the building of the State of Israel. Prof. Yablonka was also the founder and Chair of the Israel Studies department. Hanna Yablonka is the author of over 40 scientific articles, The editor of 4 books, and the author of six books. Her last book: Yeladim Besseder Gamur (children by the book) became a best seller.

She currently is a member of the Yad Vashem Council and was the academic advisor of Yad Vashem's exhibition marking the 50th and 60th anniversary of the State of Israel. Hanna Yablonka is the chair of Governors of the Memorial Museum of the Hungarian Speaking Jewry in Safed and the chief Historian of the Ghetto Fighters Museum for the last 25 years.

## Presentation:

### ***"Hate Speech and The Jews: Text And Context"***

This presentation opens with a drawing of the unique profile of the Jewish people as a minority.—are they seen as an ethnic, religious, or national minority? Why are they so dispersed and often targets of hate speech and violence? It examines the lingering and new hate rhetoric from the 20th and 21st centuries, emphasizing the importance of context in understanding these texts.

To illustrate rhetorical changes, two key events are analyzed: the path to the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, which shifted the Jewish status from a passive group to an active political force. The presentation also addresses a period of relative silence in anti-Jewish hate speech and its implications. Finally, it discusses the current state of affairs and raises further questions for consideration



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**Biographies:**

**Ruslan Kavatsiu** is the manager of the *"Ukrainian History: Global Initiative"*, as well as the operations director in Ukraine of the French organization "Yahad - In Unum", which collects evidence of war crimes committed by russians against Ukrainians in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. Ruslan also manages defence projects of the Spirit of America in Ukraine. Before the full-scale invasion, he worked as the deputy CEO of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, being responsible for academic studies. Ruslan is a former adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine and adviser to the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (2015-2017). As a co-founder of the Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group at the Ukraine Crisis Media Center, Ruslan was engaged in researching russian propaganda narratives about Ukraine and other countries of Europe and North America. In 2010-2014, Ruslan was the head of corporate and government affairs and a member of the board of management of Mondelez Ukraine (formerly Kraft Foods).

**Oleksiy Makukhin** is the CEO of the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center in Kyiv. With over 20 years of experience, including 9 years in executive roles, he has led significant cultural and communication projects. As an advisor to Ukraine's Minister of Defense, Oleksiy produced acclaimed war documentaries and launched the country's first military radio station, ArmyFM. He also co-founded the Hybrid Warfare Analytical Group, focusing on Russian disinformation analysis for European and U.S. institutions. For his contributions, Oleksiy was awarded a Medal by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. He holds a MSc in PR from Kyiv Institute of International Relations.

**Presentation:**

***"Use of «Nazi» Term in the Biggest State Russian TV Channels in 2012-2024."***

This study aims to perform a narrative analysis of the terms "Nazi" and "Nazism" in major news programs on leading Russian TV-channels. Our research focuses on daily and weekly newscasts from Pervyi, Rossiya-1, and NTV, specifically analyzing programs such as Vesti, Vesti nedeli, Vremya, Voskresnoye Vremya, Segodnya, and Itogi. The analysis includes over 3,000 news episodes which include these key terms, covering the period from January 2012 to July 2024. We identified several broad narrative groups - those about the West, Ukraine, the USSR/Russia and its allies, and neutral narratives. Within these larger categories, more than 30 distinct narratives were classified. Each news episode was assigned between one and three narratives depending on its content. Additionally, the study tracks mentions of countries, alliances, and unions portrayed as enemies or labeled as "Nazis."

Our objective is to analyze how the distribution of these narratives has shifted over time and how rhetorical attacks on different countries have evolved within Russian media discourse



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## Biography:

**Alexander Hinton** is a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, Director of the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights, UNESCO Chair on Genocide Prevention, and the award-winning author or editor of seventeen books, including, most recently, *It Can Happen Here: White Power and the Rising Threat of Genocide in the US* (NYU, 2021), *Anthropological Witness: Lessons from the Khmer Rouge Tribunal* (Cornell, 2022) and *Perpetrators: Encountering Humanity's Dark Side* (Stanford, 2023). Most recently, he received the American Anthropological Association's Anthropology in the Media Award in 2022, a 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Network of Genocide Scholars, and a H. F. Guggenheim Distinguished Scholar Award in 2024.

## Presentation:

### ***"Pet eating, Rusty Dog Whistles, and White Genocide"***

Starting with rumors of Haitian immigrant pet eating in the US ahead of the 2024 election, this paper will explore how the antisemitic trope of white genocide, including its more recent great replacement iterations, serves as a rusty dog whistle that populists, demagogues, and extremists use to galvanize their followers.



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## Biography:

**Vibeke Moe Bjørnbekk** is a senior researcher at the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies in Oslo, Norway. Her research focuses on contemporary antisemitism and Islamophobia, as well as Muslim and Jewish experiences. Moe Bjørnbekk has a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Oslo. Her doctoral thesis explored Muslim-Jewish relations in contemporary Norway. She was project manager of the two last waves of the pioneering Norwegian surveys on antisemitism and Islamophobia (2011, 2017, 2022, and 2024). Among Moe Bjørnbekk's recent English publications are: *The Shifting Boundaries of Prejudice: Antisemitism and Islamophobia in Contemporary Norway* (ed.) (Scandinavian University Press, 2020) and *Narratives about Jews among Muslims in Norway* (De Gruyter, 2024).

## Presentation:

### ***"Interreligious Relations: Problems, Explanations, and Opportunities"***

The term "*interreligious relations*" in research often refers to interreligious dialogue, specifically conversations between adherents of different religions. However, the term encompasses a far broader meaning of "relations." It includes, among other things, discursive constructions of religious "others," attitudes between people, as well as theological scriptural interpretation. Research on interreligious relations is connected to human rights issues, particularly freedom of religion and belief, and anti-discrimination laws. This presentation explores interreligious relations between Christians, Muslims, and Jews from a historical perspective while outlining some ways that this multifaceted history is relevant for relations today, including dialogue as a way to combat hate.

Increased initiatives for religious dialogue do not guarantee greater openness and understanding. Historical and contemporary examples show that established relations can devolve into conflict, perpetuating stereotypes and enemy constructions. In connection with new conflicts, old prejudices are reintroduced. What explains the nature of interreligious relations will vary in different countries. It is linked to the specific history and culture of the countries, it is formed by the narratives that exist about this history, and to international and intercultural heritages. Interreligious relations are therefore never purely religious but exist in interplay with specific social, historical, and political situations and constitute an integral part of society.



## DAY 3- NOVEMBER 15 2024

### Biography:

**Mary Kluk** is a prominent educator, human rights activist and Jewish communal leader in South Africa. She is the Director of the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre, which she founded in 2008 to provide support to educators and learners, following the inclusion of the study of Nazi Germany and the Holocaust in the South African Education Department's National Curriculum. In 2011, Mary was elected National Chairperson of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) she served two terms as chairperson and three as President of the SAJBD and is now a National Vice-President. Since 2011, Mary has served as an Executive Member and Head of Security Committee of the World Jewish Congress, which represents Jewish communities in 100 countries around the world. Mary is the President of the Africa Australia Region of the World Jewish Congress and serves on the Leadership Council of the Claims Conference. In addition to her ongoing involvement in Jewish communal affairs, Mary is a trustee or patron of a number of leading Durban charitable foundations, including the Beare Foundation, Dennis Hurley Centre, Israel South Africa Foundation and HIAS South Africa.

### Presentation:

#### ***"Minority Strategies in the New South Africa"***

The Freedom Charter of South Africa states that '*South Africa belongs to all who live in it*'. What does this mean? And how do we give effect to these brave words?

South Africa is made up of numerous minority groupings – spread across a wide spectrum of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious and gender groups as well as multiple languages.

Minorities are identified both numerically but also related to their level of powerlessness and vulnerability in society.

At the dawn of Democracy in 1994 a tenuous unity emerged across these groupings, but this seems to be fraying. The infamous Xenophobic attacks of 2008 were the beginning of a move to identifying all migrants as 'the other'. Xenophobia has since become rife to the extent that it was used in political campaigning during the recent National election receiving great support.

A recent example of this hateful rhetoric was when a finalist in the Miss SA pageant was forced to withdraw due to Xenophobic online threats she received related to her identity.

The aim of this presentation will be to use my experience as Director of the DHGC and as a Jewish Communal Leader to look at strategies that can be applied to protect minorities.

This is specifically against the background of the S A Constitution which so strongly protects minority rights.



## **Biography:**

**Cora Alexa Døving** is a research professor at the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies. She has a PhD in sociology of religion from the University of Oslo. Her field of competence is Minority- and majority relations, racism, Islamophobia and Antisemitism. She was the leader of a recently concluded research project on Jewish life in contemporary Norway and is professional responsible for the exhibition IN/Visible – Everyday racism in Norway. Her latest publication is "Jewish in a multicultural society: from a particular to a universal minority consciousness" in Jewish Culture and History, Volume 24, issue 3, 2023.

## **Presentation:**

***"How do NGOs in South Africa Interpret and Combat Hate Speech on Social Media?"***

Xenophobia and hate crime are not only part of society's everyday life, but it is also part of a virtual reality: How is this reality – an international increase of online hate speech – interpreted and met by NGOs combatting discrimination "on the ground"? In this paper Døving will present some of the preliminary findings in an ongoing interview study with representatives of different organizations working for the rights of minorities in South Africa. Amongst the themes presented is how the organizations assess a possible connection between online hate and concrete incidents of violence and what patterns they see in the accusations towards the group they represent. Another central theme is what the different organizations consider to be the triggers that initiate hate-speech towards different groups of the society. Finally, the paper will address how the NGOs combat hate speech: Do they use the legal system – and what are their main challenges?



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## **Biography:**

### **Tali Nates**

Founder and director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), a historian who lectures internationally on Holocaust and genocide education, memory, reconciliation, and human rights. Born to a family of Holocaust survivors, her father and uncle were saved by Oskar Schindler. Tali has been involved in the creation and production of dozens of documentary films, curated exhibitions, published articles and contributed chapters to books. She won many awards in South Africa and globally, the latest were the Goethe Medal (2022, Germany), the Secretary of State International Religious Freedom Award (2023, USA) and the International Network of Genocide Scholars' Impact Award (2024).

## **Presentation:**

### ***"Responding to Hate: the Case Study of the Change Makers Programme":***

The Change Makers' Programme (CMP), initiated at the Salzburg Global Seminar in 2016, was developed and spearheaded by the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) in partnership with the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation (SAHGF) and Aegis Trust, Rwanda. This leadership programme strives to build resilience and resistance to violence, to help develop the necessary skills to challenge the idea of hate speech and extremism and encourage participants to become upstanders and change-makers in their society.

The CMP utilizes the histories of the Holocaust, the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, the genocide in Cambodia and apartheid in South Africa as primary case studies, examining choices of the different actors in these mass atrocities and genocides. CMP motivates participants from participating countries to develop their own local case studies. CMP has a strong leadership skills development that includes the arts, drama, writing, photovoice, sound and storytelling are all utilised.

The workshop is accompanied by a travelling exhibition about the Holocaust and genocide which is now permanently available in South Africa, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Gambia, Rwanda, Zambia and the Philippines. So far, the CMP was launched in 14 countries in Africa and Asia.



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## **Biographies:**

### **Claudia Blythe-Hooper**

Education Manager at the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre (DHGC). She curates the Centre's adult and learner education programmes. She has led hundreds of groups and together with her team, interacts with close to five thousand learners who come through the DHGC doors in a year. Claudia started the DHGC outreach project, taking the Centre's programmes out to underprivileged schools. As part of her work, she is involved in advocating for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Ethekeeni. She has previously been involved in outreach projects for food security, literacy, and sanitation.

### **Eric Badise**

Education Facilitator at the Durban Holocaust and Genocide Centre (DHGC). He strives to inspire critical thinking and empathy, working towards a more informed and compassionate society. Eric is an accomplished bookseller and dealer. As a volunteer at the Denis Hurley Centre, he empowers homeless youth to become independent entrepreneurs by providing second-hand books donated by the Durban community. Eric curates book collections and develops educational programs promoting literacy and community development.

## **Presentation:**

### ***"Teaching about Minorities at a Museum: The Case Study of the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre"***

In response to the rise in Xenophobia and Afrophobia in South Africa over the past two decades the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre (DHGC) has recognised the pivotal role it can play in engaging with these societal challenges. There are connections that can be made between these contemporary issues and the historical case studies covered by the DHGC, namely the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda targeting the Tutsi. By drawing parallels between historical and contemporary narratives, the DHGC aims to foster empathy and understanding among diverse communities. This presentation will connect the stories of Holocaust victims who sought refuge to the experiences of today's migrants and refugees, illustrating the enduring human experience of migration as well as the struggle against hate and discrimination.



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## Biography:

### Dr Mispa Roux

Education and Research Specialist, focusing on international criminal, human rights, and humanitarian law. She joined the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC) in April 2024. Prior to this, she was a Senior Lecturer at the University of Johannesburg's Law Faculty and the Deputy Director of the South African Institute for Advanced Constitutional, Public, Human Rights and International Law (SAIFAC), a research centre affiliated with the University of Johannesburg. Dr Roux also worked as a Project Coordinator at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria.

Her research primarily centres on international criminal law, with a particular emphasis on genocide, crimes against humanity, and sexual and gender-based violence within these contexts. Dr Roux has published in several leading academic journals and peer-reviewed books, presented papers at both national and international conferences, and written opinion pieces on her areas of expertise. Her publications focus on early warning systems for genocide and crimes against humanity, their prevention and prosecution, state responsibility, and achieving justice for victims.

## Presentation:

### ***"Keynote: From Non-Alignment To Active Engagement: South Africa's Evolving Role And Motivations In Addressing Issues Of International Criminal Justice"***

This paper examines South Africa's inconsistent and shifting relationship with international criminal justice. Historically, the country's human rights record has been tainted by colonialism, slavery, apartheid, extreme poverty, corruption, xenophobia, and hate crimes. Its approach to international criminal justice has often been contradictory, from actively supporting the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to refusing to arrest Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir in 2015, despite an ICC warrant. South Africa also invited Russian President Vladimir Putin (who has an ICC arrest warrant) to a BRICS summit, and it failed to cooperate with the IRMCT for years in arresting Rwandan genocide suspect Fulgence Kayishema. These actions reflected South Africa's previous stance of non-alignment, advocating peace through diplomatic dialogue, mediation and negotiation rather than criminal justice, arguing for absolute immunity for incumbent senior government officials to avoid jeopardising peace efforts. Recently, however, South Africa shifted by taking a proactive role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, initiating proceedings at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and referring the matter to the ICC. This marked change raises questions about South Africa's evolving stance on international criminal justice, which this paper explores by analysing the factors driving these policy shifts.



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## Biographies:

### Catherine Boyd, Head of Education

Boyd joined the JHGC in 2017 as a member of the education and marketing teams. She oversees the education programming from outreach and promotion, to planning and facilitating student, tertiary and adult workshops. She manages the education team and together, they create, develop and pilot new education programmes. She is a key facilitator of the Change Makers Programme and Educator Training Workshops taking place internationally and across South Africa. She holds an honours degree in History of Art from the University of Witwatersrand and a diploma in Graphic Design from the Cape Peninsular University of Technology.

### Mduduzi Ntuli, Educators and Development Head

Ntuli began his work in Holocaust and genocide education, initially with the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre for 5 years as an Education Officer, and in 2019 relocated to Johannesburg where he joined the JHGC's education department. He also runs the Centre's podcast series and is often involved in hosting public events. He holds an honours degree and an MA in Gender Studies from UKZN. Mduduzi is a 2022 alumni of The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP): the U.S. Department of State's premier professional exchange programme.

### Catherine Wilson, Educational Facilitator

Wilson co-creates and facilitates education programmes that foster an understanding of the present, through exploring the histories of the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. She assists with Educator Training Workshops, the Change Makers Programme, conference presentations and diversity workshops as well as conducting tours of the JHGC. She graduated with a Cum Laude BA Degree in Politics and Philosophy and holds an Honours in Philosophy through the University of Johannesburg.

## Presentation:

### *"Empowering Resilience in Youth: Utilising Holocaust and Genocide Education to Counter Online Hate"*

Many academics, survivors, and former perpetrators recognize that inflammatory and dangerous expressions can precipitate mass killings, including genocide. By instilling the belief that certain groups are less than human or pose a threat, influential figures can make atrocities seem justifiable and necessary [Benesch, 2014]. The three Holocaust & Genocide Centres in South Africa have consistently encouraged connections between historical case studies and contemporary issues of 'othering.' Recently, the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre's education team has incorporated the dangers of 'hate speech' into their programming. With thousands of learners visiting annually, this is an opportunity to foster resilience and resistance to hate speech, thus diminishing the risks of mass violence.

The three Centres are collaborating to create a toolkit for teachers used to warn learners about the potential dangers of the words they encounter online. By providing definitions, historical case studies, and activities, the toolkit encourages a deeper understanding of the consequences of silence and indifference, promoting dialogue around a complex and potentially triggering topic.



## **Biography:**

### **Ethan Roberts**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Cape Town. His research focuses on Machine Learning and Bayesian statistics, with a particular emphasis on Large Language Models and their applications in scientific domains. Dr. Roberts' work explores the intersection of AI technologies and their potential to drive innovation across various scientific disciplines.

## **Presentation:**

### ***"Annotator Influence in Hate Speech Detection"***

Large Language Models (LLMs) are ubiquitous in modern Natural Language Processing (NLP), and have been leveraged for many tasks outside of the generative domain. One such domain is that of text classification, and in particular the classification of offensive and hateful content on social media. This work examines the efficacy of this approach on Twitter data in South Africa, using Language-agnostic BERT Sentence Embeddings (LaBSE). This dataset is described by Roberts, (2023). I assess the Inter-Annotator Agreement on this dataset, and analyse the change in annotation performance over time with respect to both the population of annotators and the resulting machine classification. Additionally, I report on the comparison of annotations in this dataset with a gold standard dataset, a subset of the aforementioned with expert-level annotations. I find that the gold standard dataset yields superior classification performance, even on out-of-set annotations, and with ~5% of the training data.



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## Biography:

### Larisa Kasumagić Kafedžić

Associate Professor at the University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For the past 25 years, she has been actively involved in peaceful actions, community youth development programs, the philosophy of nonviolence, teacher development, and intercultural pedagogy in language education. She holds an MPS in International Development and Education from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in English Language Pedagogy and Intercultural Education from Sarajevo University. She is an associate professor at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo. Her research interests are in the fields of intercultural education, peace pedagogy, language education, teacher development, reflective pedagogies, and action research in teacher education. She is also the founder and president of the Peace Education Hub established at the University of Sarajevo in early 2020. Her latest publication *Peace Pedagogies in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Theory and Practice in Formal Education* (Springer, 2023) focuses on institutionalizing peace pedagogy in formal education and teacher training in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Presentation:

### *"Mainstreaming Peace Pedagogies in Teacher Education:*

### *Reclaiming Humanity in Teaching and Learning"*

The integration of peace pedagogies into teacher education is examined in this paper, with particular attention to the reasons and methods behind the grammars of peace that continue to be in a state of flux and uncertainty within global educational systems. In addition to the new educational orientations that prioritize the commodification of knowledge and the privatization of educational institutions, it argues that mainstreaming peace-focused and peace-integrated approaches to learning and teaching has the potential to transform educational practices even in situations where teacher identities and intergenerational perspectives on education for peace are heavily influenced by historical events and particular socio-political contexts of divisiveness, fragmentation, and segregation. Using Bosnia and Herzegovina as a case study, the paper will examine the opportunities and difficulties of creating peace pedagogical practices within the sociopolitical system where education is perceived as a victim and accomplice to the conflict. Ultimately, the paper will advocate for a paradigm shift in teacher education which needs to prioritize the cultivation and systematic integration of pedagogies that emphasize social justice, critical media literacy, peaceful communication, community engagement, and nonviolent conflict transformation, inviting thus for a more civic responsibility of universities in general to urgently advocate for and actively commit to peaceful, compassionate and equitable societies.



## Biography:

### Nela Navarro

Assistant Teaching Professor in the Department of English, Director of Education & Associate Director at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights (CGHR) at Rutgers University. Her research interests include language and social justice, linguistic discrimination and hate speech, linguicide, writing studies, language rights, critical pedagogy, human rights, genocide, and peace education. She regularly contributes to rights-based and culturally responsive curriculum and professional development initiatives. Recent works include, *Towards a Just Society: The Personal Journeys of Human Rights Educators*, (University of Minnesota 2015) *Translingual Identities and Transnational Realities in the College Classroom* (Routledge 2020) and *Advancing Socially Driven Scholarship: The STAR Scholar Certified Researcher Training Program*. (Star Scholars 2023)

## Presentation:

### ***"Assimilationist Discourse: A Prelude to Hate Speech"***

Linguistic discrimination often emerges through assimilationist discourse, where dominant groups impose linguistic uniformity on historically minoritized speakers, erasing cultural identities and creating a significant power imbalance. This process can act as a prelude to hate speech, as it normalizes marginalization and dehumanization based on language. In contemporary Ukraine, at war with Russia, the push to protect and promote Ukrainian language amid historical Russian influence has fueled tensions, with linguistic assimilation deepening national divides. Similarly, in South Africa, efforts to prioritize English and Afrikaans over indigenous languages continue to echo colonial and apartheid-era hierarchies, fostering discrimination and social fragmentation. In both cases, linguistic discrimination acts as an early stage leading to increasingly explicit forms of hate speech, intensifying social conflicts. This work will inform the development of an educational toolkit designed to raise awareness to address the detrimental impact of monolingual dispositions, and linguistic discrimination to promote inclusive dialogue.



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### Biography:

**Dr. Andreas Ströhl**, born in Munich, West-Germany in 1962, Magister artium (on phenomena of exchange and Goethe) in Modern German Literature in Munich, Dr. phil. in European Ethnology in Marburg on Flusser's Theory of Communication. Journalist, with the Goethe-Institut since 1988, Director of the Munich Filmfest (2003-11). Numerous books and essays on media theories. Director of the Goethe-Institut Johannesburg and the region of Sub-Saharan Africa at the Goethe-Institut since 2023.

### Presentation:

***"Network Dialogues in the Digital World: Is Populism Undemocratic?"***

With the advent of digital, dialogical media half a century ago came a hope. Real democracy, direct rule, political equity would now become a reality. Privileged, elitist gatekeepers would soon be a thing of the past. In public discourse, it is often assumed, that the digital barrier, fake news and other alleged childhood illnesses of the new media ecology are to blame for the obvious flaws and increasing problems of Western democracies. But what if these issues do not originate in the limitations of accessibility to the media but, rather on the contrary, in the fact that in Western societies they are so easily at hand, that they make visible a sediment of undemocratic, barbarian beliefs and attitudes that has always been here? Have digital, dialogical media not changed society as much as shed a light into its formerly dark corners?



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