



Seminar

DIETER POHL

University Professor of Contemporary History, specializing in Eastern and
South-eastern Europe, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt

The Making of an Anti-Jewish Europe 1935-1940

In conversation with **DAN DINER**, EURIAS Fellow, SCAS. Professor of Modern European History,
the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Director, Simon-Dubnow-Institut für jüdische
Geschichte und Kultur, and Professor of History, Universität Leipzig

Wednesday, 25 February, 4:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala
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In collaboration with the *Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University*

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ABOUT DIETER POHL

Dieter Pohl has been University Professor of Contemporary History, specializing in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, at the Alpen-Adria-Universität in Klagenfurt since 2010. Among his publications are *Die Herrschaft der Wehrmacht: Deutsche Militärbesatzung und einheimische Bevölkerung in der Sowjetunion 1941-1944* (München 2008), *Der Holocaust als offenes Geheimnis: Die Deutschen, das NS-Regime und die Alliierten* (with Frank Bajohr; München 2006), *Verfolgung und Massenmord in der NS-Zeit* (Darmstadt 2003) and *Nationalsozialistische Judenverfolgung in Ostgalizien 1941-1944* (München 1996). Pohl will give the 2015 Hugo Valentin Lecture at Uppsala University on 26 February, on the theme “The New Empires of Violence 1930–1950: Global Perspectives on the Decades of Mass Violence”.

ABSTRACT

Holocaust research of the last decade has demonstrated the broad involvement of non-Germans in the persecution and sometimes even in the murder of European Jewry during the Second World War. While the dynamics for mass murder originated in German politics and societal participation, the behavior of non-Germans, especially those under German occupation, requires more explanation. It is common knowledge that the 1930s were an era of rising fascist movements in all of Europe, and that these movements especially in East Central Europe were highly anti-semitic. Recent historiography, however, has also shown that anti-semitism in most European countries grew on a much larger societal basis than just Fascist groups, predominately among ethno-nationalist milieus.

This seminar will take a closer look at the general political shifts in all of Europe (except Germany) during the 1930s, and its effects on the Jewish minorities. In most countries of East Central Europe, authoritarian politics tended to discriminate all national minorities, as can be seen already both during the retreat from the minorities treaty in Poland and the first discriminatory Romanian law in 1934. In 1935/36 the shift to the right became obvious: In Hungary an anti-semitic party won the elections, in Poland authoritarian rule and its anti-Jewish bias radicalized after the death of Pilsudski. In Western Europe, however, the political polarization in France and Spain fostered the rise of anti-semitic discourses. This general trend culminated in the anti-Jewish laws, which were issued first in Romania, Hungary and Italy in 1938, and finally even in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria in 1940/41.

The seminar will address this political shift to the right, but also the effect of the Nazi takeover in Germany on right wing politics in all of Europe, especially on anti-semitic discourses. It will also deal with the rise of anti-semitic violence outside Germany from 1935 on, and the debates on Jewish refugees in the immigration countries. Finally, it also takes a look at Jewish reactions to this wave of anti-semitism, and contemporary efforts to analyse it.

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ABOUT DAN DINER

Since 1999, Dan Diner is Director of the Simon-Dubnow-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur, and Professor of History, both at Universität Leipzig. Since 2001, he is also Professor of Modern European History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Among his more recent publications are *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe's Edge* (Madison 2008), *Beyond the Conceivable: Studies on Germany, Nazism, and the Holocaust* (Berkeley 2000), *Gegenläufige Gedächtnisse: Über Geltung und Wirkung des Holocaust* (Göttingen 2007), *Lost in the Sacred: Why the Muslim World Stood Still* (Princeton 2009), and *Zeitenschwelle: Gegenwartsfragen an die Geschichte* (Muünchen 2010). Diner is currently in residence at SCAS.