

# Martin-Springer Institute

## Global Engagement Through Holocaust Awareness

MSI Review

Fall 2017

### LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

For decades, we took for granted that certain types of hate speech were banned to the fringes of our society. But recently hateful and disrespectful talk has, to a worrisome degree, seeped into the mainstream public sphere. The decline of reasoned conversation and civil discourse undermines civility and threatens democratic governance.

These illiberal trends can be observed in many places around the world. They create new challenges to centers that are—like the Martin-Springer Institute—dedicated to learn from the past and are committed to assure safety and respect for all human beings.

In the last twelve months, we have expanded our work at the Institute. We offered a total of 61 programs and events and reached over 6,000 people. Our programs ranged from rigorous, long-term projects with small student-faculty teams to large public speaker events, from scholarly symposia to teacher training seminars, from a summer study tour to Israel to working with the community at the intersection of “town and gown.”

We create respectful environments in which “difficult dialogues” can take place. This is one of the hallmarks of our Institute. We expect an increased need for such spaces in the coming years.

Please consider supporting us in these endeavors. We depend on your support and your generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure.



Björn Krondorfer,  
Director, Martin-Springer Institute  
& Endowed Professor of Religious Studies



### 2016-2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Year-long Student-Faculty Research Project: *Flagstaff Jewish Lives During and After the Holocaust and World War II.*

Eric Fair Presentation: *War, Torture, and Consequence,* International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Summer study program in southern Israel and northern Arizona: *Borders, Identities, and Social Repair,* with students from NAU and Ben Gurion University.

Month-long *Germany Today* Exhibit: with talks on “Jewish Lives” and “Syrian Refugees,” with a grant from the German Embassy.

Our exhibit, *Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in the Bedzin Ghetto* has been shown at many Arizona schools.

Testimonies by survivors, and presentations on the Holocaust at NAU.

### Summer Program in Southern Israel/Northern Arizona

*“It was remarkable how Native Americans and Bedouins positively influence the world around them, despite the challenges they face. I emerged from this program with a renewed interest in learning about the history and laws concerning the relations between minorities and majorities in Israel and Arizona. I also want to do my part helping Native Americans and other minorities in addressing their conflicts.”*

Dustin Rector, NAU Student (English)



# People

## ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWS

*"As the new Dean for the College of Arts and Letters, I am very excited to partner with the Martin-Springer Institute in its programming and vision. My experiences in discussing the future of the Institute with the director suggest an ever-increasing desire to bring together faculty, students, and members of the Flagstaff and broader Arizona communities to discuss the big questions of our time, especially as they pertain to the ethics of engagement between peoples and viewpoints that, now more than ever, need to be in dialogue with each other."*



Dr. Valerio C. Ferme,  
Dean, College of Arts and Letters, Northern Arizona University



*"Serving on the MSI Advisory Council has given me the opportunity to watch and learn. At first, it was the thoughtful programming that enriched me; later I got involved in the development of the Institute's Israel program with Ben Gurion University. In 2015, I myself had taken a brief but impactful trip to Israel and Palestine. As a life-long practicing Catholic, my desire was to connect a place, an emotion, a physicality with my faith practice. Important also was the process of getting to know other people, cultures, and practices. How do we respect one another's truth and perspective? How can we create peace and put politics aside?"*

*In August, my family and I had the honor of hosting American and Israeli students in our home for a farewell dinner. Listening to them was inspiring. They all spoke of being physically and emotionally exhausted from the itinerary, the intense discussions, and the new knowledge gained from each other and community leaders. I am grateful to know people involved with the Institute's programming. What an enriching opportunity!"*

Laura Nicol,  
MSI Advisory Council Member, Flagstaff

Bob and Michelle Casselman hosted a fantastic reception for the exhibit *Through the Eyes of Youth: Life and Death in the Bedzin Ghetto* at Scottsdale's Valley of the Sun Jewish Community Center on September 11, 2016. More than 80 people from across Arizona attended. Thank you Michelle, thank you Bob.



## MSI CELEBRATES DORIS MARTIN'S 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



Doris Martin was surrounded by friends at the celebration of her 90th birthday. Over 50 guests gathered at the Flagstaff home of Dorlee and Tom Henderson and expressed their gratitude to Doris and Ralph for their commitment to Holocaust and social justice education through the Martin-Springer Institute.

*"The birthday gathering was very special for Doris and Ralph, but also for all in attendance. Thanks to our hosts for making it happen."*

David Kader,  
Chair,  
MSI Advisory Council

*"I served many years on the MSI board, and I have profound respect for both Doris and Ralph. It was great to get to chat with them and to congratulate (and thank) Doris."*

Daniel L. Kain,  
NAU Provost and  
Vice President for Academic  
Affairs

# Our Year in Review

## WAR, TORTURE, AND CONSEQUENCE



*"Author Eric Fair addressed a highly diverse audience that filled Prochnow Auditorium at NAU. His book, Consequence: A Memoir, framed his presentation, aided by questions from the moderators on stage and later by students in the audience. It was evident that people were intrigued by this quiet and unassuming former American interrogator at Abu Ghraib in Iraq. His interrogation techniques, which he concluded were methods of torture, have been seared into his*



Eric Fair with moderators Björn Krondorfer and Julie Piering

*conscience as a judge against him despite his religious background. Herein audiences were confronted with a person living within an infernal moral dilemma. I had a chance for a private talk backstage before the public event. Our conversation was sincere and straightforward as we discussed the matter of forgiveness. For Eric, self-forgiveness is not an act for him to embrace because he is a man at peace with a conscience that condemns him."*

Steven Smith, Retired Naval Officer, Author, Educator, Consultant

*"To confront torture elicits unnerving responses. This best describes my reaction to hearing Eric Fair discuss his role as a former torturer in Abu Graib and Fallujah. Eric painted a bleak picture of a loss in humanity. We can't forget the raw truth about government-sanctioned torture. In a time of irrational governmental actions, truth is knowledge, and Eric showed his truth for the sake of all those who continue to be subjected to these barbaric actions."*

Matthew Baxter, NAU Student (Criminal Justice)

## STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECT: *Flagstaff Jewish Lives During and After the Holocaust and WWII*



Book release reception held at Bright Side Bookshop

*"It has been a pleasure working with the Martin-Springer Institute. In particular, I enjoyed seeing the students begin a research project and develop an interesting and readable publication. While I knew the outlines of my grandmother's efforts to save her husband's German cousins, the students' research certainly added details and nuance. While this part of the family died in tragedy, I know that my grandmother's efforts also had successes. I am hopeful that additional work with the Institute can document some of them."*

Maury Herman, Flagstaff Resident

*"The FLJ project involved a team of NAU students and faculty mentors to work together on what I would call 'investigative history.' The Jewish presence in northern Arizona and Flagstaff has left little physical evidence, so we combed through archives, public records, newspapers, and publications to find their traces. We also conducted interviews with long-term residents to get an idea of how Jews were involved in the community, and how the community viewed them. I also investigated the experiences of other minority groups in Flagstaff's history to compare them with Jewish lives. I can't thank Björn, Melissa, and the Institute enough for this fantastic opportunity. Buy the book!"*

Jacob Ollanik, NAU Student (Education)

# Our Year in Review

## SOUTHERN ISRAEL/NORTHERN ARIZONA: SUMMER STUDY PROGRAM Borders, Identities, Social Repair - Majority Cultures and Indigenous Lives (July 14-August 2, 2017)

*"To be part of this amazing program comes once in a lifetime. When in Israel, we did not feel like tourists but rather visitors with a purpose, and I felt the same when we returned to my own country. My conversations with Jewish and Bedouin Israeli students deepened my understanding of the relationships between majority and minority cultures and how this affects their daily lives and fears. As an outsider to the conflicts in Israel I could ask difficult questions about the way the US has treated Native Americans in my country. It allowed me to have a new perspective on a conflict that is frequently overlooked, and I ask myself what it truly means to stand in solidarity."*

Noemi Uribe, NAU Alumni (Public Health, Religious Studies)



*"As an unofficial ambassador for Hopi, this summer I took students from the Martin-Springer Institute to the Niman (Going Home) Katsina ceremony at Sipaulovi village. Katsina's are deities that visit the Hopi mesas during late spring into the final days of summer. They dance for the people and sing songs filled with prayers for nourishing rain and for good things in life. For the students it was an once-in-a-lifetime chance to witness a ceremony that will never be duplicated outside of Hopi. We also visited 'Prophecy Rock' petroglyphs and Old Oraibi Village, the oldest continuously inhabited place in the United States. In Hotevilla Village, over a traditional Hopi meal of Noquovi (Mutton stew), piki, green chili, oven bread, cookies and watermelon, the students learned about Hopi life and culture, the roles of men and women, and dry farming. As we sat and talked, clouds gathered and blessed us with a downpour of rain. Rain comes when the people have good hearts. The downpour assured me that the students will always remember their short visit to Hopi in a good way. Askwali."*

LuAnn Leonard,  
Executive Director,  
Hopi Education Endowment Fund

*"The little I knew about Bedouin society came from Jewish Israeli sources, such as lectures, news media, and stories. Meeting Bedouin women during our summer seminar was a real eye-opener. One group cannot presume to tell the story of another group or to solve their problems- an insight that was sharpened when we arrived in Arizona. People from the Native American communities shared worrisome and painful statistics, opened their homes to host us, and invited us to observe a fascinating sacred ceremony. Both parts of the journey—in my own land and in Arizona, with students representing different communities—made me understand that respect, listening, and humility are key to knowing people who are different than I. I learned that perhaps I needed to travel to the other side of the globe in order to deepen my relationship with my own Bedouin neighbors."*

Sahar Almog, Student, Ben Gurion University, Israel

# Our Year in Review

In any given year, the Martin-Springer Institute is involved in dozens of small and large events that address topics relevant to our mission. We invite speakers, we support student field trips to learn about the humanitarian crisis along the Arizona-Mexico border, we teach educators from across Arizona, we go to communities to give presentations, we do joint programming with NAU units, we meet with individual students, teachers, community leaders, and others. We pursue our educational mandate within the value parameters of moral courage, empathy, reconciliation, and justice, and we do so in the spirit of dialogue that enriches our knowledge and awareness.

Below, a sampling of some of our programs in 2016-2017:

**U.S. MEETS GERMANY**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016**  
 4:30-6:00 p.m., NAU's Student Union, 2nd Floor

**Borders, Bridges, Walls**  
 Reception at the Berlin Wall exhibit  
 Free and open to the public



7:30 p.m., NAU's Liberal Arts Building, Room 136

**Syrian Refugees along the Migrant Trail**  
 Presentation by **Jacobia Dahm**  
 Photographer: New York, Berlin  
 Free and open to the public



Supported by a grant from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany  
 Cosponsored by the Martin-Springer Institute and the Department of Global Languages & Cult.  
 Contact Bjorn.Krondorfer@nau.edu for more information

**Visiting Scholar Series: 2nd talk**

**Björn Krondorfer**  
**Unsettling Empathy in the Holy Land:**  
 Dialogical meetings with Israelis and Palestinians



For several years, Krondorfer has facilitated dialogical meetings for Palestinians and Israelis, including German participants. They have met in Israel, Palestine, Germany, and Greece to foster relationships based on a minimum of trust rather than distrust and hate.

Is there hope in the holy land? In his work with groups in conflict, Krondorfer has learned that compassion alone is insufficient; instead, transformative power rests in what he calls "unsettling empathy."

**Wednesday, Nov. 30, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona**  
 54 Bowstring Dr, Sedona, AZ 86336



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3rd talk: Feb. 22, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. **Fundamentalisms in the Abrahamic Traditions**

MSI Fall Lecture Series  
 in Remembrance of Nazi Germany's "Night of Broken Glass"

**Surviving the Holocaust**  
**1933-1945**



Join us as we host a talk with **Oskar Noble**, born in Leipzig, Germany, 1925

**7:30 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, November 16, 2016**  
**NAU's Liberal Arts Building, Room 136**

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
 For more information, contact bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu

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**From Cape Town to Flagstaff:**  
**Migrant Lives and Leadership**

*This EXHIBIT celebrates migrant leadership.*  
 Through the use of interviews and photographs, migrants from Cape Town, South Africa and Flagstaff, Arizona share their stories.



**April 14 - May 12, 2017**  
**NAU's Riles Building**  
**3rd Floor**  
**Weekdays 8am-5pm**  
 Free and open to the public



**Join us for the Opening Reception**  
**Thursday, April 20,**  
**4:30-6:00pm**

The exhibit was created by NAU students from Leah Mundell's Civic Engagement Seminar and Laura Camden's Photojournalism Capstone, the Immigration Action Learning Team, and Northern Arizona Interfaith Council.

This exhibit was made possible by the Martin-Springer Institute.  
 Please contact melissa.cohen@nau.edu for more information.

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MSI Fall Lecture Series  
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**Returning Home:**  
**Austrian Holocaust Survivors in Postwar Vienna**

**Dr. Elizabeth Anthony**  
 Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies  
 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.



**7:30 p.m.**  
**November 2, 2016**  
**NAU's Liberal Arts Building, Room**  
**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 For more information, contact bjorn.krondorfer@

This Program is made possible by the Campus Outreach Lecture Program of the United States Holocaust Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, supported by Jack and Gailie Wolfe Miller.

**Visiting Scholar Series: 3rd talk**

**Björn Krondorfer**  
**Fundamentalisms in the Abrahamic Traditions**



Whatever we think about fundamentalism, it is a very dynamic religious movement that attracts men and women alike. How can we identify fundamentalism? What are its features, origins, and values? Is fundamentalism rigidly pietistic or radically activist?



**Wednesday, Feb. 22, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**  
**Church of the Red Rocks, Sedona**  
 54 Bowstring Dr, Sedona, AZ 86336

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# Works in Progress

## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY, FUTURE GOALS

By Björn Krondorfer

After my first five years of directing the Institute, I would like to take a moment to speak about resources. Without funding we would not be able to offer the many quality programs we do.



Since 2012, we have dramatically increased the number of our annual event offerings and reached more diversified audiences—over 6,000 people in 2016-2017 alone. Through fiscal prudence, collaboration with external agents, grant writing, and fundraising efforts, we are able to move into 2017-2018 with a healthy budget.

News about a sound budget are comforting, but the challenges of securing funds are always present. The original endowment's yield of our generous founders, Ralph and Doris Martin, makes up about 1/3 of our annual budget; the rest is raised through our continuous efforts.

**It is time for us to begin taking a leap to a new level—strengthening our NAU programs in Arizona and gaining higher visibility and presence nationally and internationally.** In the past years I have travelled to many places within the United States and also abroad, meeting students, faculty, groups, and community leaders. The people I meet recognize the merit of our educational, civic engagement work, especially in the areas of reconciliation, empathy, and moral courage; they also value the creative and dynamic ways with which we approach traumatic memories, social conflict, and injustices. I get requests from people all over the world to collaborate with us; I also get queries from graduate students and early-career scholars about spending time with us at the Institute—to learn, but also to assist us with research and teaching. Currently, we have no means to follow-up on such requests.

Importantly, we want to assure that no student is prevented from participating in opportunities we offer because they can't afford them, such as special field trips, summer studies, or internships. This requires us to raise funds for their support. We are reaching out to underserved and minority student populations and we want to assure their ability to participate.

**To this effect, we are starting a five year, multi-million dollar fundraising campaign to help us get to the next level.** One-time donations or endowments, unrestricted funds or start-up monies for pilot projects—any help to reach our goal is welcome. We hope you can be part of this exciting journey.

## THE TRAUMATIZED SUBJECT: ART EXHIBIT

Art Historian Tara Kohn and Director Björn Krondorfer are co-curating an art exhibit on *The Traumatized Subject*. This invitational group show will feature artists from around the nation and the world and also local artists. The exhibit will feature paintings, sculpture, video, photography, and textiles. April-June 2018 at the Coconino Center for the Arts.



Kohn and Krondorfer write:  
*"Trauma is a felt-experience of real pain, destruction, and dislocation—a severe shattering of the self. The devastating dynamic of traumatization makes it nearly impossible to speak about it. But art—as a third space—can bring into articulation that which refuses to be articulated. The works chosen for this exhibit explore the ways that art can draw us closer into the ungraspable darkness of suffering and loss."*

### To view MSI resources, please visit:

- [facebook.com/MSIatNAU](https://facebook.com/MSIatNAU)
- [nau.edu/martin-springer/](https://nau.edu/martin-springer/)
- [bedzinexhibit.org](https://bedzinexhibit.org)
- [librarything.com/catalog/martin-springer](https://librarything.com/catalog/martin-springer)
- [azmemory.azlibrary.gov](https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov)

# Upcoming 2017-2018

## STRANGERS OR NEIGHBORS?

### Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Perspectives on Refugees

From October 15-17, 2017 the Institute will host a three-day symposium on refugees from the perspectives of the Abrahamic traditions.

Given the wave of refugees worldwide, and given the responses by various nation states—ranging from cautious welcoming to overt hostility—we want to engage the scholars on religious traditions regarding questions related to refugees. Are they strangers to be feared? Are they prospective neighbors to be welcomed? Are they stateless people in desperate need of help?

Roger Waldinger:  
**Searching for Refuge in a  
World on the Move**

7:30 p.m.,  
Sunday, October 15, 2017  
Cline Library

Free and open to the public



Dr. Waldinger's talk will be followed by a panel discussion with scholars of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The event is supported by a grant from Arizona Humanities.

On Monday and Tuesday (October 16-17) invited scholars will hold roundtable conversations. These are open to NAU students, faculty and staff.

For more information on location and times, email [bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu](mailto:bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu).



Photo credit Michelle Frankfurter

The Symposium is convened and supported by the Martin-Springer Institute and the National Catholic Center for Holocaust Education. NAU's Center for International Education has also contributed to this program.



A Palestinian Peace Activist  
and an Orthodox Jewish Settler  
Talk Peace:

An Evening with Antwan Saca  
and Hanan Schlesinger

7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, October 24, 2017  
Room 120, Liberal Arts

Free and open to the public

Holocaust Survivor  
Testimony with  
Dr. Jacob Eisenbach

7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 1, 2017  
NAU's Cline Library  
Assembly Hall

Free and open to the public

Cosponsored by  
Chabad of Flagstaff



MSI is currently planning  
the following events in 2018:

- A program on the plight of Yazidis in Iraq and Syria
- Film screening of Jewish Refugees in Shanghai
- Lectures on controversies over displays of Native American culture in museums
- Global interfaith leaders meeting at NAU

Please check  
[facebook.com/MSIatNAU](https://www.facebook.com/MSIatNAU)  
for future announcements

# Thank You to Our Donors

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**NAU Foundation  
Account 5138**

For gifts of stocks, or to  
include us in your estate  
planning:

**please contact Liz Rock at  
elizabeth.rock@nau.edu**

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MSI Director  
Björn Krondorfer, 928-523-5029  
bjorn.krondorfer@nau.edu

Program Coordinator  
Melissa Cohen, 928-523-2464  
melissa.cohen@nau.edu

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Martin-Springer Institute

P O Box 5624  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5624



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