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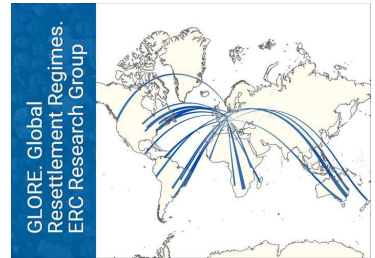


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Rethinking “Family” in Postwar Displacement

Structures, Strategies and Experiences

Venue: Graben Hotel, Dorotheergasse 3, 1010 Vienna (Room Altenberg)

Monday
22 June,
9-16h



Cover Picture: USHMM. 2000.27, Saul Sorrin. Photograph Number 20138. <http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1076340> (10.03.2026). “Young families at Neu Freimann DP-Camp Munich, Germany”.

This workshop explores the lived realities of DP families in the context of postwar displacement. It focuses on how individuals navigated social, legal and economic constraints while negotiating different forms of family life. The workshop thereby addresses three interrelated levels: first, legal and administrative frameworks that defined the family status and eligibility for assistance or resettlement; second, the flexible and situational character of family arrangements that emerged in response to displacement and the precarious living conditions and the agency revealed within these settings; and third, evolving concepts of family, childhood and care, including extended family networks, surrogate caregivers, and institutional forms of upbringing in children's centres.

Program

9 h -9.30 h Welcome and Introduction (Kerstin von Lingen)

9.30-10.30 h

Ruth Balint, Sydney: "Marriage and divorce in the Jewish family after 1945"

Silvia Salvatici, Florence: "Weddings in Displacement: Marriage, Family, and the Making of Home in Post-War Germany"

10.30-11 Coffee

11-12 h

Franziska Lamp-Miechowiecki, Vienna: "Single Women on the move: intersectional perspectives on the resettlement chances and practices of displaced women"

Sarah Cramsey, Leiden: "Postwar Reparations and the 'wartime' Jewish fetus: Reflections on the beginning of family life"

12-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.30 h

Raphaella Bollwein, Vienna: "'To Ease the Shock of the Breakup of Family Life': Surrogate Families in DP Children's Centers"

Laurien Vastenhout, NIOD: "Reversed Roles, Fractured Families: 'Mixed' couples and Family Life During and After the Holocaust"

14.30-15 h Coffee

15 h -16 h

Johannes Glack, Vienna: "The Impact of Health on Migration Paths of Survivor Families in Austrian DP-Camps in the 1950s"

Lena Christoph, Vienna: "Bureaucratising Family. Russian Displaced Persons in Tubabao (Philippines) between Lived Realities and Administrative Categories"