



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY
Office of Communications and Public Relations
Press Release
February 3, 2016

Contact: Angela Daidone
201-684-7477
adaidon1@ramapo.edu

Historian to Probe Relationship between Polish Underground and the Jews in World War II

MAHWAH, N.J. – Dr. Joshua D. Zimmerman, Professor of History and the Eli and Diana Zborowski Professorial Chair in Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University in New York, will discuss his recent book “The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939–1945” on Wednesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. in the Trustees Pavilion at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will sponsor this event.

Dr. Zimmerman will examine one of the central problems in the history of Polish-Jewish relations: the attitude and behavior of the Polish Underground toward the Jews during World War II. Using a variety of archival documents, testimonies and memoirs, Zimmerman offers a careful, dispassionate narrative, arguing that the reaction of the Polish Underground to the catastrophe that befell European Jewry was immensely varied, ranging from aggressive aid to acts of murder.

By analyzing the military, civilian and political wings of the Polish Underground and offering portraits of the organization’s main leaders, his book is the first full-length scholarly monograph in any language to provide a thorough examination of the Polish Underground’s attitude and behavior towards the Jews during the entire period of World War II. For its readability as well as its scholarly and dispassionate approach, the book has won wide praise around the world, including in Poland.

Dr. Zimmerman received his Ph.D. in comparative history from Brandeis University. He also holds an M.A. in history from the University of California at Los Angeles and a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. His interests include East European Jewish history, modern Europe and Russia/Eastern Europe, and nationalism.

In addition to *The Polish Underground and the Jews, 1939-1945*, he is also the author of *Poles, Jews and the Politics of Nationality: The Bund and the Polish Socialist Party in Late Tsarist Russia*, and several published scholarly articles in *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, and *Jewish Political Studies Review*.

###

Ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as fifth in the Best Regional Public Universities North category, Ramapo College of New Jersey is sometimes mistaken for a private college. This is, in part, due to its unique interdisciplinary academic structure, its size of approximately 6,000 students and its pastoral setting in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains on the New Jersey/New York border.

Established in 1969, Ramapo College offers bachelor's degrees in the arts, business, humanities, social sciences and the sciences, as well as in professional studies, which include nursing and social work. In addition, Ramapo College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels. The College also offers eight graduate programs as well as articulated programs with Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New York Chiropractic College, New York University College of Dentistry, SUNY State College of Optometry and New York College of Podiatric Medicine.