



**RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY**

**Office of Communications and Public Relations**

**Press Release**

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## **Historian to Provide Revised Landscape of Jewish Persecution and Survival During and After World War II**

MAHWAH, N.J. – Dr. Atina Grossmann, Professor of History in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Cooper Union in New York City, will discuss her recent work on “Remapping Survival: Jewish Refugees and Lost Memories of Displacement, Trauma, and Rescue in the Soviet Union, Iran, and India” on Friday, September 23 at 2 p.m. in Friends Hall (SC219) of the Robert A. Scott Student Center at Ramapo College of New Jersey. The Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will sponsor this event.

Dr. Grossmann will address a transnational Holocaust story that has remained marginalized in both historiography and commemoration. She will map Jewish death, survival, and displacement via what she calls the geographical margins – the colonial and semi-colonial regions including the Soviet interior, Central Asia, Iran, and British India – before returning to Poland and Germany after the war.

Approximately 3.3 million Jews resided in pre-war Poland. Perhaps 10 percent survived (around 330,000 people). Grossmann explained that between two-thirds and 80 percent of all Polish Jews who survived the Nazi occupation escaped to the Soviet Union. Stalin’s Soviet Union provided a refuge in the Soviet interior (Siberia) and then in Central Asia. The refuge may have been inadvertent and involuntary, and conditions were extremely harsh for those who endured them, but they survived.

Atina Grossmann teaches Modern European and German history, and Women’s and Gender Studies. A graduate of the City College of New York (B.A.) and Rutgers University (MA, Ph.D.), she has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, German Marshall Fund, American Council of Learned Societies, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and the American Academy in Berlin, as well as Guest Professorships at the Humboldt University Berlin and the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena in Germany.

Dr. Grossmann is author of *Jews, Germans, and Allies: Close Encounters in Occupied*

*Germany 1945–1949* (2007), which won the George L. Mosse Prize in 2007 from the American Historical Association for the best book on European intellectual and cultural history and was one of five HSKult ListServ Best Books of the Year in 2008. The manuscript for the book won the Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History from the Wiener Library in London in 2006.

She is also author of *Reforming Sex: The German Movement For Birth Control and Abortion Reform 1920–1950* (1995) and co-author of *After the Racial State: Difference and Democracy in Germany and Europe* with Rita Chin, Heide Fehrenbach, and Geoff Eley (2009). She co-edited *Crimes of War: Guilt and Denial in the Twentieth Century* with Omer Bartov and Mary Nolan (2002), as well as *When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany*, with Renate Bridenthal and Marion Kaplan (1984).

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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.