



RAMAPO COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Office of Marketing and Communications

Press Release

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Scholar to Speak about Fate of Jews in Hiding in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust

MAHWAH, N.J. – Natalia Aleksion, Ph.D., associate professor of modern Jewish history at the Graduate School of Touro College, will speak about “Gender and the Daily Lives of Jews Hiding in Nazi Occupied Eastern Europe during the Holocaust,” on Tuesday, October 30 at 7 p.m. at Ramapo College of New Jersey in the Robert A. Scott Student Center Alumni Lounges, SC-158. The lecture will be presented under the auspices of the Gross Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and is free and open to the public.

Aleksion examines how the hidden Jews of Eastern Galicia passed the time together, cared for one another, worked out survival strategies, and divided resources and labor during their concealment. This research contributes to the understanding of the social and emotional dynamics of the Holocaust experience through its framing as a local case study that analyzes the impact of fear and oppressive conditions on life in the bunkers—in particular, on familial and other relationships, including those that formed within the hideouts, among Jews who spanned the full spectrum of ages and social background.

Her work draws heavily on survivor testimonies collected by the Central Jewish Historical Commission and the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and by Yad Vashem, as well as from the Museum’s oral history and eyewitness testimony collections. Diaries, chronicles and memoirs written by Jews who hid in East Galicia, as well as the Museum’s International Tracing Service collection, also contributed greatly to her project.

Aleksion studied Polish and Jewish history at the Warsaw University, the Graduate School of Social Studies in Warsaw and Hebrew University in Jerusalem and New York University. She received her doctorate from Warsaw University in 2001. Her dissertation won the Polish Prime Minister’s Award for doctoral students and appeared in print as *Where to? The Zionist Movement in Poland, 1944-1950* (in Polish) in 2002. In 2010, she received her second Ph.D. from New York University based on her dissertation entitled: “Ammunition in the Struggle for National Rights: Jewish Historians in Poland between the Two World Wars.” She was a co-editor of the twentieth volume of *Polin*, devoted to the memory of the Holocaust.

She has published in *Yad Vashem Studies*, *Polish Review*, *Dapim*, *East European Jewish Affairs*, *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, *Polin*, *Gal Ed*, *East European Societies and Politics* and *German History*. Together with Brian Horowitz she is editing a volume 29 of *Polin* titled *Writing Jewish History*. She is currently working on a book about the so-called cadaver affair at European Universities in the 1920s and 1930s and on a project dealing with the daily lives of Jews in hiding in Galicia during the Holocaust.

For information or to request disability-related accommodations for this event, please contact holgen@ramapo.edu or call 201-684-7409.

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Ramapo College of New Jersey is the state's premier public liberal arts college. Ranked among the top colleges in the region by College Choice and recognized by, among others, U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review, Colleges of Distinction and, also designated by Victory Media as a "Military Friendly College," Ramapo College is committed to academic excellence through interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and international and intercultural understanding.

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 business, education, nursing and social work. In addition, the College offers courses leading to teacher certification at the elementary and secondary levels, and offers graduate programs leading to degrees in Accounting, Business Administration, Educational Technology, Educational Leadership, Nursing, Social Work and Special Education.