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Scholars share current work-in-progress in the fields of Memory Studies and Trauma Studies (Memory Studies Association), with discussion and helpful insights to follow. All are welcome.

May 6, 2024 at 09:00 am EST

Presenters: Arleen Ionescu, Alan Martell

Arleen Ionescu: Healing Past Wounds: The Shanghai Jewish Refugees

Abstract: This presentation is based on the last chapter of a book I have been working on for 2 years, provisionally titled: *From Trauma to Healing: The Shanghai Jewish Refugees*. The book focuses on the salvation of Jews during WW2, when Shanghai was a haven for approximately 18,000 refugees. I analyze a corpus of 22 narratives comprising the only oral history on the Shanghai exile published in book form, memoirs and what I call 'vicarious memoirs', a term by which I designate a non-fiction biographical genre written in the first person by second generation survivors who spoke on behalf of their parents. The protagonists of these narratives have fled from Germany, Austria and Poland after 1938 to Shanghai, where they lived until the end of the war. None remained in Shanghai. The surviving Shanghai Jewish refugees left China in the late 40's to US, Israel, Canada, and Australia which became their homes to the end of their lives. The book follows Judith Herman's tripartite schema of trauma healing: establishing safety, reconstructing the trauma story and regaining community. In the chapter I am going to present (still work in progress), I am attempting to divide the refugees into 2 main groups who remembered events, felt, and responded to trauma differently, hence dealing with two different versions of healing (writing as cure and writing as duty). Using memory and trauma studies, as well as psychoanalysis, I am exploring the reaction to trauma and healing of the first generation

and of what Suleiman called '1.5 generation'. I end with some reflections on the second generation who assumed the role of completing the story (and the healing process) of their parents who remained silent.

Bio: Arleen Ionescu is Tenured Professor of English Literature and Critical Theory at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Her major research interests are in the fields of Memory Studies, Holocaust and Trauma Studies. Her work has appeared in academic journals, among which *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Memory Studies*, *Oxford Literary Review*, *Parallax*, *Paragraph*, *Partial Answers*, and *Style*. Her books include *The Memorial Ethics of Libeskind's Berlin Jewish Museum* (2017). With Maria Margaroni she co-edited *Arts of Healing: Cultural Narratives of Trauma* (2020). With Simona Mitroiu she co-edited an issue for *Parallax*, entitled 'Holocaust Narratives in the Post-testimonial Era' (2023). At present she is working on a monograph on the Shanghai Jewish refugees during WW2.

Allan A. Martell: The Role of Affect in Shaping Queer Archivists' Experiences while Documenting the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (Allan Martell will present the findings of a collaborative project in which he worked with Travis Wagner, and Shannon Oltman)

Abstract: In this presentation, we draw from the case study of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States to explore the affective experiences of the archivists who documented this epidemic. Specifically, we investigate archivists' affective experiences and their coping strategies to document a crisis. Relying on convenience sampling and grounded theory, our study builds upon interview data with 25 archivists working in LGBTQIA+ archives. In this presentation, we present our provisional results, which indicate that archivists articulated their experiences as both an inspiration and a burden. As an inspiration, archival work motivated participants to evince the structural injustices faced by the LGBTQIA+ community. As a burden, archival labor led our participants to experience shock, sorrow, and grief, emotions that they navigated with a combination of individual and relational strategies. Despite these burdens, participants found meaning in pushing through their difficult emotions because they believed it was important to make HIV/AIDS records accessible. Our results expand ongoing conversations in archival studies and information sciences about the affective dimension of information curation, the links between archives and memory, and strategies to process trauma and crisis-related collections. This article is part of a larger collaborative project by researchers from three R1 universities in the United States.

Bio: Allan A. Martell is Assistant Professor at the Department of Information and Library Science at Indiana University, Bloomington. In his work, Martell explores how societies negotiate social memories of violence, the role of information curation in shaping such memories, and possible frameworks to promote more critical, nuanced memories. His work has been published in *Archivaria*, *The Memory Studies Journal*, and the edited volume: *Memory and Sociocultural Transformation in El Salvador* (ed. Carlos Lara, University of El Salvador 2023). Martell is currently studying the role of affect in memory activism among queer archivists and analyzing the frames of remembrance in social media representations of the January 6 insurrection in the United States.