

The Ray Wolpow Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, Genocide, and Crimes Against Humanity

Creating positive change and building inclusive communities through Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Education

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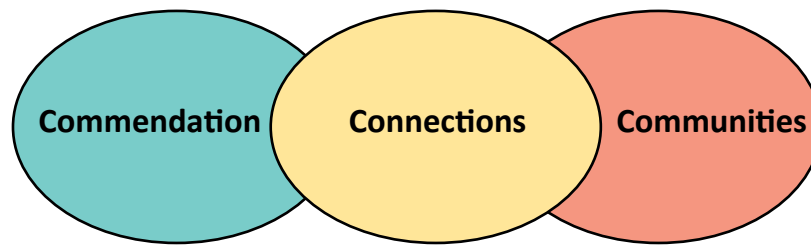
In line with the university's focus on academic excellence and inclusive achievement, we make a positive impact in the state and the world by engaging our students in cross- and interdisciplinary undergraduate programs and extra-curricular development opportunities. Our mission is to advance knowledge about the Holocaust and genocide, including ethnic and religious conflict as well as attendant human rights abuses. Students engaged in studying the Holocaust, genocide, and crimes against humanity learn the critical tools to analyze, understand, and differentiate their underlying complexities and to work towards their prevention. As a community of life-long learners, we share and uphold Western's community values and the institution's commitment to equity and justice, and respect for the rights and dignity of others.



"I would not have gone to Western Washington University without the opportunity to study at the Wolpow Institute."

—Petra McDonnell-Ingoglia, Class of 2022

Holocaust & Genocide Studies Minor & Recipient of the Kohlmeier Mikulencak Scholarship
Engineering Advisor & Outreach Specialist, Whatcom Community College; Graduate student, currently pursuing a Master of Education, MEd, Adult and Higher Education, Woodring College



COMMENDATION

Developing curriculum & teacher training for Washington state

Western Washington University has achieved significant recognition in the field of Holocaust and Genocide Education, as evidenced, for example, by the recent unsolicited \$100,000 allocation from the Washington state legislature to the Ray Wolpov Institute. This substantial investment underscores the institute's pivotal role within the state. Our proven track record of providing exceptional professional development opportunities for higher education faculty and schoolteachers has positioned us as a leader in the field. By partnering with the Office of the Superintendent for Public Schools, we are poised to make a lasting impact on the quality of Holocaust and Genocide education across the state and broaden our impact even more. This initiative not only strengthens our commitment to academic excellence but also reinforces our dedication to creating positive change at Western and beyond.

CONNECTIONS

Building inclusive communities

The institute's interdisciplinary curriculum is a testament to the university's commitment to academic excellence and inclusive achievement. We continue to be the only public university in the state of Washington with a minor in Holocaust & Genocide Studies (2019). By offering two undergraduate minors, including in Human Rights (2021), we provide students with a comprehensive understanding of mass atrocities and contemporary human rights challenges. Enriched by a collection of over 150 courses spanning five colleges, our programs empower students to become informed, engaged citizens who make a positive impact in the lives of others. As we confront rising ethnonationalism, global tensions, racism, the resurgence of hate speech, threats to democratic institutions worldwide, and armed conflict, the relevance of our programs has never been more critical. By collaborating with leading institutions nationally and internationally, we provide our students, faculty, and the broader community access to world-class expertise, research, and resources that help them understand and counter the challenges of our times. Students' academic studies are supported by a generous annual scholarship from Bernhard Kohlmeier and Lisa Ann Mikulencak. Recent graduates are working in non-profits (e.g. International Rescue Committee), government (e.g. Community Preparedness, Washington State House of Representatives) and education (e.g. Hillel Director of Jewish Student Life) or are pursuing graduate degrees (e.g. Law, Higher Education Policy, Education).

COMMUNITIES

Multiplying impact through partnerships

The Wolpov Institute is committed to delivering exceptional educational experiences that extend beyond campus. Since 2016, we have offered more than 100 in-person and online programs that have reached thousands of participants regionally, nationally, and internationally. Our monthly newsletter is read by audiences in Australia, Canada, Germany, Israel, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and South Africa. Through strategic partnerships with leading organizations in the field such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, and the Consortium of Higher Education Centers for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies, we offer a range of high-quality programs, including conferences, lectures, and professional development workshops. We also work with local community partners and faith organizations, such as the Bellingham School District and Congregation Beth Israel. Our Advisory Board consists of members representing different organizations in the community and the state. By collaborating with leading institutions nationally and internationally we provide our students, faculty, and the broader community access to world-class expertise, research, and resources that help them understand and counter the challenges of our times.

“The Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University sponsors some of the most important programs in the field of Holocaust Studies, including the biennial Lessons & Legacies Conference and the Annual Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilization. In 2019, as part of our strategic vision for HEFNU and the field, we implemented a series of Regional Institutes – two-day intensive seminars intended to foster networks of Holocaust scholars in various regions. The Ray Wolpow Institute, was our first Regional Institute Partner. Alfers’s vision for the RWI as a willing partner with other Holocaust organizations was a tremendous boon to Regional Institutes. After that first iteration – in large part due to the tremendous work and impressive reach of the RWI – an external review committee already saw Regional Institutes as a “successful” program of HEFNU. Our repeated work with the RWI in spring 2024 extended our reach into Southwest Canada and illustrates that the RWI is an important organization in the field of Holocaust Studies. Our cooperation with the RWI continues. We appreciate the professionalism, scholarship, and collegiality of the RWI and look forward to our ongoing relationship with them to expand Holocaust Studies in the Pacific Northwest and internationally.”



Holocaust Educational Foundation
of Northwestern University
FOUNDED BY THEODORE ZEV AND ALICE R. WEISS

**-Sarah Cushman, Director, The Holocaust
Educational Foundation of Northwestern University (HEFNU)**

