



## HUMANITY, WAR AND MORAL CHOICE THE POWER OF NARRATIVE TO SHAPE MORAL ACTS

How do people keep their humanity during war? Indeed, what does the very term *humanity* signify during political upheavals in which simply surviving becomes an act of faith, courage and desperation? Scholars (Lawrence Langer) have suggested it is meaningless to speak in terms of morality and ethics when dealing with events such as the Holocaust. Is this true? In the face of the brutality of war must we abrogate our morality? How can we best gain insight into these questions and what role does narrative play in the process? The series of panels on this topic will discuss how people keep their humanity during war and, in particular, how the stories people tell about their lives during war both help us understand how people think about such topics and how the construction of particular narratives shapes and leads us to different moral outcomes.

**March 17-18, 2017**

**Social & Behavioral Science Gateway-Room 1517**

**University of California, Irvine, CA**

**Open to the public free of charge**

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**MARCH 17, 2016**

- 9:00 – 9:30 Registration, Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 – 9:45 Welcome and Introductions - Kristen Monroe, Director UCI Ethics Center and Carol Burke and Cecile Whiting. Directors Digital War, Mellon Foundation
- 10:00 – 12:00 *Defying the Nazis* Film by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky  
Discussion: Artemis Joukowsky and Elizabeth Bolger. *Moral Courage in the Family*. Paula Garb, Citizen Peace-Building. Discussant: Kristen Monroe
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH – Courtyard**
- 1:00 – 3:00 *The Ethics of Narrative. Personal Stories, Family Stories*. Alice Fahs and Mimi Chubb. *An Artist as Soldier: Seeking Refuge in Love and Art in Wartime*. Barbara Heisler
- 3:15 -3:30 BREAK**
- 3:30 – 4:30 *The Importance of Stories during War*. Jim Glass, U of Maryland  
*Human complexity and how people's way of thinking about their past trauma can lead them not just to survival but to human flourishing*. Peter Suedfeld. UBC.  
Martin Heisler, Maryland, Discussant
- 4:30 -5:30 *Moral Injury and Meaning Making in and after War*. Michael Spezio. Psychology & Neuroscience, Scripps College & Institute for Systems Neuroscience, University of Hamburg Medical Center, Eppendorf, Hamburg
- 5:30 ADJOURN**
- 7:00 – 8:30 DINNER – TBD**

## **GENOCIDE STORIES AND THE LEGACY OF POLITICAL TRAUMA**

**March 18<sup>th</sup>**

- 9:00 – 9:30 Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 – 10:30 *Is there a place for the past in the future? Narratives of continuity in post-war Cambodia.* Katrin Travouillon, UCI Tobis Fellow. Jim Glass, U of Maryland, Discussant
- 10:00 – 11:00 Martin Heisler, *Contextualizing the Ethics and Morality of Actions in Traumatic Times: A Political Sociology Perspective.* U of Maryland
- 11:00-12 Peter Suedfeld.
- 12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH - Courtyard**
- 1:00 – 2:00 Lawrence Sporty and Aaron Kheriaty, UCI
- 3:00 – 3:30 BREAK**
- 3:30 – 4:30 *The Contemporary Syrian Refugee Crisis.* Angeliki Kanavou, Tobis Fellow, UCI
- 4:30 -5:30 *Digital Representation of War.* Cecile Whiting and Carol Burke
- 5:30 **Wrap up session**  
**ADJOURN**

**The Ethics Center greatly acknowledges and appreciates support from:**

**The UCI Medical Humanities Initiative**

**The Department of Political Science**

**The Joukowsky Family Foundation**

Conference is open, free of charge, to the public. Please contact Marilu Daum at [daumm@uci.edu](mailto:daumm@uci.edu) or 949 824 2566 for information and directions or consult

[www.ethicscenter.uci.edu](http://www.ethicscenter.uci.edu)