

Alexandra Kramen

B.A., History and Political Science (Holocaust Studies Special Interest Program), Albright College, Reading, PA, 2006

J.D., Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA, 2009

M.A., Holocaust & Genocide Studies, West Chester University of Pennsylvania, 2015

Claims Conference Fellow Alexandra Kramen holds the Marlene and David Persky Research Award for her work examining notions of justice and symbolic revenge among Jewish Holocaust survivors living in Displaced Persons Camp Föhrenwald between 1945 and 1957. The longest operating all-Jewish DP camp, Föhrenwald offers the opportunity to investigate the immediate postwar lives of Jewish survivors and their psychological needs in the aftermath of genocide. Kramen's previous work on Föhrenwald has focused on the lives and experiences of Jewish DPs residing there, as well as Jewish aid workers from the United States and Britain working there, to bring to life the complexity of the postwar experience for displaced Jewish survivors. Her dissertation will highlight how interactions with various international and local forces shaped the lives of Jewish DPs and their quests for justice for the injuries they sustained during the Holocaust. Kramen will shed light on mechanisms outside of the international criminal tribunal system which might serve to restore a sense of justice to survivors of mass violence, a crucial component in the reconciliation process.

As a 2018 Summer Graduate Student Research Fellow at the USHMM, Kramen examined the extensive resources related to Föhrenwald in their archives. She is currently reviewing survivor oral testimonies related to the camp within the USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive and the Yale University Library Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies. She will spend the 2020-2021 academic year conducting research at the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, the Center for Jewish History in New York, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives in New York and Jerusalem, and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.

In November 2018, Kramen presented her findings on Jewish survivors' conceptions of revenge at the time of liberation in postwar Germany at the Exploring Refugee Data Workshop, a joint initiative of EHRI and the Masaryk Institute held at the Masaryk Institute in Prague, Czech Republic. She also presented a public lecture on the role of historical documentation as a form of wartime resistance and postwar justice for the Worcester Public Library's 2019 Yom HaShoah Program. In June, Kramen participated in

the USHMM's 2019 Curt C. and Else Silberman Faculty Seminar, "Displacement, Migration, and the Holocaust," where she helped to create a course unit addressing the interplay between the individual, the local community, and political frameworks and regulations in relation to Holocaust-era displacement and migration. After completing the 2019 Naomi Praver Kadar Intensive Yiddish Summer Program this past summer at Tel Aviv University she conducted initial research at the Yad Vashem Archives with additional support from the Naomi Foundation.