

Daan de Leeuw

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Claims Conference Fellow Daan de Leeuw, who holds the Jacob Nyman research award, studies Dutch Jewish slave laborers during the second half of World War II (1942-1945). He analyzes the movement of these Jewish slave laborers through the concentration camp system, and how these relocations affected the social structure among prisoners. De Leeuw focuses on 9 of the 103 trains that ran between the Netherlands and German concentration and death camps between July 1942 and September 1944. Drawing on survivor testimonies and administrative records, he maps the routes of individual deportees and follows their journeys through the concentration camp system. De Leeuw applies geographic information system (GIS) and manual cartography to visualize the paths of individuals and groups of deportees to open a fresh perspective on the plight of Dutch Jewish slave laborers, social dynamics of concentration camp inmates, and the German effort to win the war through the ruthless exploitation of prisoners. This doctoral research project includes both qualitative and quantitative data, seeking to contribute to the knowledge on Jewish slave labor during the Holocaust as well as to the development of digital methods.