

Gabrielle Hauth

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Richard M. Cohen MD Fellow Gabrielle Hauth examines intimate relations during the Holocaust in her dissertation, *Intimacy in Ravensbrück: Sex, Violence, and Survival in a Nazi Concentration Camp*. Her research focuses specifically on the concentration camp setting where inmates and perpetrators were forced to adapt to an environment that challenged civilian sexual norms. This study is limited to the history of Ravensbrück, a camp that employed both male and female guards and in the latter part of World War II held male and female prisoners, in order to explore how intimacy functioned in that violent atmosphere and how it affected the everyday experience of both prisoners and perpetrators. In this project, Hauth delves into the anatomy of intimacy, from its companionate function to its sexual elements. The nuances of passion are especially interesting to her as she seeks to challenge the linear model of sexuality often understood in terms of force, coercion, and consent in order to create a mosaic of sexual experiences that illuminates the roles of agency and power in camp society. Hauth will examine camp prisoners as well as camp guards in these settings— their relationships with those of their own group as well as relationships between members of the different groups. Studying all of these factions is imperative to understanding the varied functions of sexuality in such settings. This previously under examined aspect of concentration camp life confronts stereotypes of heroic victims, morally compromised survivors, and sadistic guards to highlight the varied and nuanced existences in concentration camps.

Hauth's sources include published memoirs, unpublished prisoner testimony, post-war correspondence and diaries, trial records, and official Nazi personnel records. Her research has been funded by the Central European History Society and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). She was the 2019 Ben and Zelda Cohen Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies.