

**IUC REPORT 2008**  
**Dubrovnik, May 11-18, 2008**

**COURSE:**

**WAR CRIMES, GENOCIDE AND MEMORIES /  
THE ROOTS OF EVIL: I WANT TO UNDERSTAND**

The Course was established in 2002 by Janja Bec-Neumann  
[www.war-crimes-genocide-memories.org](http://www.war-crimes-genocide-memories.org)

*"Walker, there is no road.  
The road is made as you walk.  
As you walk the road is made  
and when you look behind you  
you see the trail  
you will never step on again.  
Wanderer, there is no road -  
Only wakes upon the sea"*

*Antonio Machado*



October 3, 1938 Haifa-September 4,  
2008 Tel Aviv



March 9, 1945 Waldburg- September 19,  
2008 Hamburg

**DAN BAR-ON AND PETER RIEDESSER** two Course Directors passed away in September, 2008; Dan on September 4, 2008 in Tel Aviv and Peter on September 19, 2008 in Hamburg.

We met for the first time in Hamburg, in May 2002, during the Hamburg Conference "Studenten bauen Bruecken" ("Students Build Bridges") and discussed the urgent need of starting the course about war crimes and genocide in the region of former Yugoslavia, which was not only post-wars but post-genocide region. At the time it was almost unthinkable. Just a few months after Hamburg Conference in November, 2002, the Course was "born" at the Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, University of Sarajevo, as a small part of ERMA (European Regional Master's Degree in Human Rights and Democracy in Southeast Europe). At the beginning, in 2002, it was just two hours of teaching but after 5 years, in 2007, the Course developed to 70 hours of teaching and was internationally relevant and recognized. It was held at the IUC (Inter University Center) in Dubrovnik in 2007 with 74 students from all states of Southeast Europe plus students from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and USA. Dan and Peter were with me during my good and bad days as my dear, beloved friends, advisers, professionals. Dan was teaching me to increase my capacity to cry and to hug people without fear. I have learned it.

Thank you, Danke, Toda, Hvala, Dan and Peter.  
Janja



**AUTHOR:** Janja Bec-Neumann, Sociologist Ph.D. //**COURSE DIRECTORS:** Richard Goldstone, South Africa, Estella Carlotto, Mothers of disappeared in the Plaza dell Mayo, Argentina, Dan Bar-On, Israel, Rosallina Tuyuc, Coordinadora Nacional de Viudas de Guatemala, Guatemala, Irae Baptista Lundin, University of Maputo, Mozambique, Aernout van Lynden, American University, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, Peter Riedesser, University of Hamburg, Germany, Nanci Adler, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Amsterdam and Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, Holland, Zdravko Grebo, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mario Lopez Martinez, University of Granada, Spain, Leonardo Franko, University of Lanús, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Smail Cekic, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Janja Bec-Neumann, Germany & Vojvodina

## LECTURERS

**WADE GODDARD**, New Zealand, War Photo Director and Exhibition's Curator, Dubrovnik, Croatia: **"WAR PHOTOGRAPHY AND MEMORY: RON HAVIV'S BLOOD AND HONEY"**

**DINKO GRUHONJIC**, University of Novi Sad, Vojvodina/ Serbia: **"VIVISECT: DOCUMENTS ON RON HAVIV'S EXHIBITION 'BLOOD AND HONEY' IN NOVI SAD 2002"**

**JANJA BEC-NEUMANN**, Germany & Vojvodina, Course Author and Course Co-Director: **"VICTIMS, PERPETRATORS, BYSTANDERS AND RESCUERS: COMPARATIVE APPROACH BASED ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, THE HOLOCAUST, CAMBODIA AND RWANDA"**

**STEVEN SAGE**, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C, USA: **"SEPHARDIM AND HOLOCAUST IN THE BALKANS"**

**DALIBOR DAVIDOVIC**, University of Zagreb, Croatia: **"THE MEMORY OF MUSIC: GRAY ZONES OF MUSIC"**

**ICMP/** International Commission on Missing Persons, Sarajevo Office, Bosnia and Herzegovina: **"FIGHTING FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE: THE WORK OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE MISSING"**

**VIOLETA BURIC-MILOSEVIC**, Civil Society Initiatives, ICMP

**SABRA KOLENOVIC**, Association of Citizens "Mothers of Srebrenica and Zepa Enclaves"

**HATIDZA MEHMEDOVIC**, Association of Citizens "Mothers of Srebrenica"

**AHMET GRAHIC**, Association of Citizens "Families of Missing Persons-Zvornik"

**NAIDA MEHMEDBEGOVIC**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Hamburg **"WEISSEN FLECKEN KEINE CHANCE"**

**DINKO GRUHONJIC**, University of Novi Sad, Vojvodina/ Serbia: **"SRDJAN ALEKSIC CASE AND MEMORIES IN TREBINJE AND SERBIA"**



Students, IUC 2008/ PHOTOGRAPHER: Naida Mehmedbegovic

## EXHIBITION

**Wade Goddard**, New Zealand, Exhibition's Curator and War Photo Dubrovnik Director, Place: War Photo Limited, Dubrovnik, [www.warphotoltd.com](http://www.warphotoltd.com)

**RON HAVIV: BLOOD AND HONEY /Balkan, from the Turkish word Bal= honey Kan=blood**

"Amid the numerous photographs of the conflict in Yugoslavia, Newsweek photographer Ron Haviv's work stands out as a unique record of the conflict, from its beginnings in 1991 to its eventual end with the arrest of Slobodan Milosevic in 2001.

From the front-line trenches to the refugees behind them, his images of poignant immediacy capture both the urgency and tragedy of war. The work is powerful testimony to the suffering of the Balkan people. The Hague War Crimes Tribunal, ICTY, has used a number of Haviv's images to examine the past. Ron Haviv was the first of Western journalists to capture Serbian atrocities on film, photographs taken at the risk of his life and his dedication is considered outstanding for his long months and years spent on the ground to make the photographs in this extraordinary exhibit." (From the catalogue of Ron Haviv's Blood and Honey, editor: **Wade Goddard**, forward text: **Alison Morley**)

## FILM PROGRAM

Coordinator **Natasa Govedarica**, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Serbia, ERMA graduate 2004/2005, Place: Art Radionica Lazareti

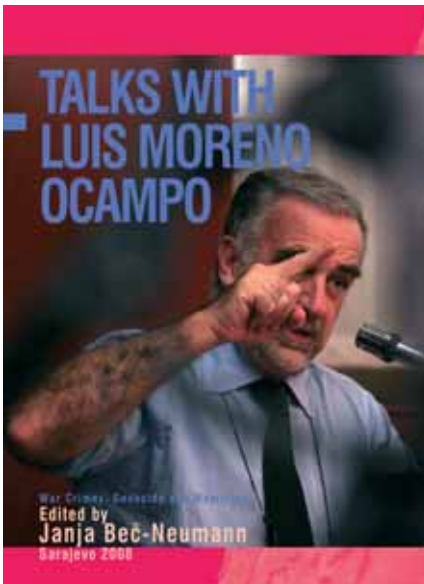
1. ARARAT, 2002, Atom Egoyan

2. NIGHT AND FOG, 1955, Alain Resnais

3. THE KHMER ROUGE KILLING MACHINE, 2003, Rithy Pahn

2. SOMETIMES IN APRIL, 2005, Raoul Peck

# EDITION: LISTEN/TALK/REFLECT/TRUST 2008



Editors: **Dan Bar-On & Janja Bec-Neumann**, Center for Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies, University of Sarajevo

1. Ed. Bec-Neumann, Janja, 2008, "Talks with Luis Moreno Ocampo"

## BOOKS FOR STUDENTS 2008

Two books were donated to all students

1. "Sephardim and the Holocaust" by **Aron Rodrigue**, published and donated by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.

2. "Darkness at Noon: War Crimes, Genocide and Memories" ed. by **Janja Bec-Neumann**, published and donated by CIPS, University of Sarajevo, edition "listen/talk/reflect/trust", editors Dan Bar-On & Janja Bec-Neumann

## DOCUMENTARY

**Vittoria Fiumi and Perla Ciommi, Plinio Productions**, (Italy) shot in Kljuc in August 2008 - documentary, "The journey of Janja". (<http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/cinema/n070108.asp>)

## STUDENTS' PRESENTATION 2008

Students' presentation 2008 was based on their group work (5 students in each group) on 4 challenging topics: **I group:** Please write a few words about bystanders in Srebrenica genocide based on **Dan Bar-On's** pattern developed in his text: "The Bystanders in Relation to the Victim and Perpetrator: Today and during Holocaust". **II group:** Please write your opinion about Dutch battalion guilt in Srebrenica in July, 1995 following **Karl Jaspers's** pattern: Criminal, Political, Moral and Metaphysical guilt. **III group:** **Helen Fein**, in her book "Accounting for Genocide after 1945: Theories and some Findings (1988) wrote: "Genocide is primarily a Crime of State". Please write five phases in the process of persecution and genocide from this work. **IV group:** **Helen Fein** in her book "Genocide: A Sociological Perspective," 1993, argues that basically 5 conditions may enable one to speak about "genocidal policy". Please write about those five plus two conditions.

I would like to elaborate as to why I gave the students such challenging topics after their grades turned out to be worse than expected (excellent-0, good-1, fair-9, insufficient-6, poor-4, not applicable-0) and their English skills were deemed less satisfactory. It is because I realized the amazing potential of those young students (19-25 year olds) that I decided to undertake this risky endeavor. I was delighted to witness some of the best presentations ever delivered by students during my 6 year-long experience of teaching this course at IUC. All lecturers, who have been teaching this course for more than two years, during evaluation of this year's course said the same or similar sentence. We had great students' presentations, full of information, knowledge, understanding and extreme sensitivity. Presentations were based on hard, group work (very well organized by **Enis Omerovic**), dignity, and motivation, intensive progress in one week, based on their deep need to try to understand and to try to work through pain. This year's students were very devoted and capable to understand. Without these two qualities this course would make no sense.

Students, IUC 2008 / PHOTOGRAPHER: Naida Mehmedbegovic



# STUDENTS' EVALUATION IUC 2008



Students, IUC 2008 / PHOTOGRAPHER: Naida Mehmedbegovic

Unlike over the past 5 years, this year's students' evaluations were not anonymous. All the students publicly stated their opinion about one-week-work based on the model "2 plus 2: I liked 2 the most, I did not like 2 the most." Students' evaluations below are in their original form, without any change.

///"In Sarajevo, I personally did not have such teaching experience like here at all, it is new for me and I am surprised and pleased with this experience. I could say only all the best about it. If I have to say what I liked the most, it is Professor's Janja (Bec-Neumann) lecture and basic categories about genocide I have learned from her. This lecture for me was the best. Otherwise, I like all here, everything was good."

///"It is pity that some of lecturers did not come. I know it is difficult to organize, some things are unpredictable, but I feel it would be better if they all managed to come. I also did not like that we did not mention many genocides, some which happen just now in the world and we did not say a word about it. I liked the most lecturers, we have learned so much. I also liked openness and interaction with lecturers and among us students."

///"I did not like that we were alone, without students from other regions. We did not have a chance to listen and to talk with them. I liked the most that every lecturer gave attention to every student so kindly and that lecturers trusted us. In this way, with this attention, kindness and trust, our lecturers encouraged us, students, to keep doing."

///"I do not need to say anything I did not like. I would like to say what I liked so much. In the first place all lecturers here are high standard professionals; they know how to do it and plus they are very experienced in this field. It is not like in Bosnia our superficial way. I like we are in Dubrovnik to study. I like that we have a motive to study. It doesn't exist in Bosnia, this motive. I

like we have worked hard. I like that I met people like Professor Steven Sage, like journalist from Vojvodina Dinko Gruhonjic who fascinated me. But in the first place I like our dear Professor Janja Bec. Altogether I am fascinated with one such organization and I would like to thank to all people who were capable to make this course possible."

///"I would like to thank to all of you for the opportunity to participate in one such course. Thank you for sharing with me your knowledge and experience. Next time when I come again in Dubrovnik or Sarajevo I hope I will learn your language more and that I will know to say more than just "thank you / hvala" and "hello / zdravo". Altogether I want to attend such course again because I believe that if we know how it happened, genocide and war crimes, we will be able to find the way how to prevent it."

///"I would like in the first place to thank to Professor Janja for interdisciplinary approach she applies in this course. I would like to thank her for her human and professional standards and approach. We, students, we are mostly from Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo and we did not have such experience, I am sure. I do not like that our Muhamed Mesic has not come in order to be with us. I miss discussion with him and his great knowledge about genocide and Holocaust."

///"I would like in the first place to thank to Professor Janja Bec-Neumann for this great opportunity to come here and to experience such great moments, I will remember all my life. I have got a chance to learn from one inexhaustible source of knowledge from all of our so professional and competent lecturers. I would like to thank to all people from Institute, to Velma (Saric) and Enis (Omerovic) for understanding. It is pity that I did not have a chance to come here in previous courses and the second bad thing is that we cannot stay here longer. If I could I would like to stay here longer, but I know nice things in our lives don't last long."

///"I liked the most transparency of our reflections about our recent past. I like for me new, very professional approach of our lecturers. I did not like that we did not talk more about some other conflicts, like Kosovo and Palestine. I did not like that lectures were given in our language. It is not good, it is impolite towards our guests who do not speak our language and it is not good for us as well. If we do not practice English, we will never learn it. We will never overcome our ignorance if we are not going to confront it."

///"It was great honor and pleasure for me for this opportunity to be in Dubrovnik, at IUC, this temple of knowledge. With IUC certificate I just have more responsibility. Not only me, but all students from Sarajevo who are here these days. Plus all whom we are going to meet after Dubrovnik and share this knowledge and materials we have got here. I did not know if our opinions could influence anything about this course here, but I think that it is not good to listen to only about crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and only about crimes against Bosniaks. We need to listen to about crimes committed against Croats, Serbs and others. We did not work enough on all places where crimes against humanity and international law, and the worst crime of genocide had happened. I wish to say thank to all people from Institute and to respected Professor Smail Cekic, to you Professor Bec. I wish to thank to all students as well, for our discussions, reflections, friendship, richness of our different opinions. Ron Haviv's exhibition, documentary about Srdjan Aleksic from Trebinje, plus this IUC certificate which mean new responsibility for me to be more with books. I hope, if God will let it be, next year to come here again more capable to learn. From all my heart, thank you once more."

///"I would like to thank Professor Janja for organizing so intensive course. We have learned here so much. I like interdisciplinary approach, I like Film Program it was excellent. I would like to thank to all lecturers. Some mentioned they did not like that some lecturers did not come. My opinion is different, we have got some others not planned but excellent lecturers. I missed genocide against Herero People which was not mentioned here at all."

///"It is difficult for me to say what I liked the most, because I liked all. But if I have to say what I liked the most, yes, it was Professor Steven Sage's lecture because I have learned so much new things. I liked the most "Sometimes in April", film about Rwanda. I did not like that course lasted short and that is now time to say goodbye."

//“I liked the most this concept of seven days intensive work. I do not agree that cancelled lectures were problem because it was replaced in excellent way. Some unpredictable things could happen and you managed to understand that it was not problem at all because nobody missed any lecture, our attendance was perfect. I missed library because in some moments I needed literature, some books I did not take with me.”

//“I want to join colleagues who say thank especially to Professor Janja and to all lecturers because I have learned so much. I liked Film Program the most, when in the first time in my life I have experienced such kind of interaction with films and the way I have learned from such concept. I did not like that I missed interactive learning.”

//“I want to say on the first place that I did not like film ‘Ararat’ about Armenian genocide. My opinion is that there is too much American propaganda in this film, which is not good for such film. I like the most that I have had the chance to say what I think and to know that it will be respected. I liked the most that we have learned so much about genocide and that we have possibility to share our different opinions.”

//“I liked the most Film Program and how you selected lecturers. It is pity that some lecturers did not come. I did not like the most, that only students from Sarajevo were here, I missed students from other universities.”

//“Besides good lectures and all we have learned here, I was impressed with your behavior Professor Bec; you gave us love since the very first moment we arrived here in Dubrovnik, it means, you were hugging us in the first moment we met, and I felt myself like at home, in Sarajevo. The second what I liked the most is our students’ relationship, since we left Sarajevo, our days here in Dubrovnik, till the moment when we have to say goodbye; we have learned to walk together, to eat together, to work together. It is one amazing experience.”

//“I am very impressed with this course, I feel that I have got so much useful information. I hope I would be wise enough to apply this knowledge in future. I am privileged to be here, to listen to all lecturers, in the first place, Mothers from Srebrenica. I did not like that in some moments it was too difficult. I wish I had possibility to meet students of my age from Serbia and Croatia in the first place, and students from other countries as well.”

//“I liked the most, with my all respect to all lecturers, and everything positive and good we have got in this course, I liked the most you Professor Bec and I am telling you now, just thank you.”



Students, IUC 2008 / PHOTOGRAPHER: Naida Mehmedbegovic

## STUDENTS IUC 2008

University of Sarajevo: Bajric Adnan, Faculty of Political Sciences/FPS, Bucan Muamera, FPS, Burzic Nermin, FPS, Dervic Mahira, FPS, Dervisevic Mirnes, FPS, Duranovic Amel, FPS, Duric Adnan, FPS, Godinjak Faris, Faculty of Law, Heco Haris, Faculty of Law, Husic Halima, Faculty of Philosophy, Karisik Arina, FPS, Karovic Merisa, Faculty of Philosophy, MA student, Redzepi Osman, Faculty of Economics, Selma Mahmutovic, FPS, Alija Mustafic, FPS, Seferovic Zeld, FPS, Selimovic Elmedina Faculty of Philosophy and Spahic Merima, FPS. University of Hamburg: Christine Sell, MA student, Institute for Peace and Security Studies.

## TEAM IUC 2008

**Author of the Concept and Strategies of the Course “War Crimes, Genocide and Memories”:** Janja Bec-Neumann, Germany & Vojvodina. **Coordinators:** Azra Smailkadic-Brkic, ERMA graduate 2004/2005, NYC, USA, **Natasa Govedarica**, ERMA graduate 2004/2005, Belgrade, Serbia **Velma Saric**,\* Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. **Assistants:** Enis Omerovic, Zilha Mastalic, Merisa Karovic, University of Sarajevo, Institute for the Research of Crimes Against Humanity and International Law, Sarajevo, **Davor Marko**, ERMA graduate 2004/2005, University of Sarajevo, CIPS, Sarajevo, **Srdjana Cvijetic**, Art Radionica Lazareti, Dubrovnik, Croatia, **Francisco Hose Vare Alvarez\*\***, Vienna, Austria, **Designer: Natasa Teofilovic**, Faculty of Architecture Belgrade, Serbia.

\*Ms. Velma Saric and \*\*Mr. Francisco Hose Vare Alvares do not work on the course “War Crimes, Genocide and Memories” since May 18, 2008 afternoon.

# BUDGET IUC 2008\*

<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>29,289.005 euro</b>
1. Municipality of Sarajevo, Office of the Mayor	5,115.08
2. Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, University of Sarajevo	2, 046.03
3. Ministry of Education and Science, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,557.54
4. Ministry of War Veterans, Canton Sarajevo	1,534.52
5. ICMP, Office Sarajevo	2,485.50
6. HESP, OSI, NYC, Office Budapest	658.75
7. War Photo Ltd., Dubrovnik	1,000
8. Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, Republic of Croatia	170.11
9. University of Hamburg	642
10. Independent Association of Journalists, AP Vojvodina	250
11. The Emilia Romagna Film Commission, Italy	2,500
12. Private donation: Wade Goddard	170.11
13. Private donation: Steven Sage	1,600
14. Private donation: Violeta Buric-Milosevic	350
15. Private donation: Reinhard&Janja Neumann-Bec	1,879.365
16. Private donation: Proto Restaurant, Dubrovnik	250
17. Unpaid work**	6,080

\*This year for the first time in six years the course was financed partly from Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the first five years it did not happen at all.

\*\*Teaching Fee, Course Payment, Travel costs and Per-diem.

## WHO IS AFRAID OF TEACHING ABOUT WAR CRIMES AND GENOCIDE?

"In order to create a collective account about the experience of genocide, we need to analyze, understand, question and learn from a terrible defeat.

Only a collective account of the past - and using the term "collective," I am also referring to dialogue between the generation that directly experienced genocide and later generations - can provide a way of remembering that, without disowning the pain and the loss and the need to analyze defeat, nevertheless allows us to deal with the past. Only when we understand where we have come from we will be able to start dreaming about and planning where we want to go. Academic studies and legal decisions have an important role to play in constructing together this collective account. They should offer us the chance of finding different ways to overcome denial and somehow come to terms with our history and recover our dignity. We may then have a chance - even if it is only a slight one - of constructing a more just future". (**Daniel Feierstein**, "Genocide in Argentina: an open discussion. The case of the 'Etchecolatz trial", paper presented at the International Association of Genocide Scholars / IAGS's Conference in Sarajevo, July 9-13, 2007)

But, it is about Argentina, it is not about us. In our post-genocide region there is no academic course on this topic except for this one, which is the only one on the subject during the past six years. Because of this fact it is extremely important that Institute for the Research of Crimes against Humanity and International Law, University of Sarajevo, managed to start such a course from INSIDE Bosnia and Herzegovina. The course "Genocide and Holocaust Studies" was publicly announced at University of Sarajevo and about 70 students from different faculties attended the first lecture on March 28, 2008.

Young genocide scholars from the Institute (**Velma Saric, Enis Omerovic, Zilha Mastalic, Merisa Karovic and Ilvana Brulic**) were given a great chance by Professor **Smail Cekic**, Institute Director, to work hard and to take responsibility for such challenge.

They are authors of this year program of the Course "Genocide and Holocaust Studies", they organized all teaching activities in time March 28- May 8, 2008, they worked enthusiastically and successfully to raise funds from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Municipalities of Tuzla, Buzim, Sanski Most, Cazin, Ilidza, Bihac, Vogosca, Kljuc) for course in Sarajevo, field trip in Bihac region and Kljuc, and for my course in Dubrovnik, (Municipality of Sarajevo, Office of the Mayor, Ministry of Education and Science, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ministry of War Veterans, Sarajevo Canton and Institute itself), they organized together with students field trip in Bihac region and Kljuc (April 25-28, 2008) and arrived in Dubrovnik on May 11, 2008 to attend my course 'War Crimes, Genocide and Memories'. To be closer to Sun, because they all worked hard during very cold Sarajevo winter in Institute without heating, and they did not give up. Let's hope that if not all, some of them will manage after this experience, to reduce their own potential for violence and to work, in their own way, through pain.

Let's hope that universities in the region will leave this bystanding behavior just with the aim "to reduce structural, deep, dangerous and long-lasting potential for violence in the region"(Janja Bec) and "to try to work through suffering and pain, to escape internalized aggression and backyard psychology of previous generations that has not been worked through." (Dan Bar-On)

Janja Bec-Neumann  
Novi Sad, October 16, 2008