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UCT's Kaplan Centre to host conference with world renowned scholars on Holocaust Scholarship: personal trajectories and professional interpretations

20-22 August 2012, Cape Town Holocaust Centre - Nelson Mandela Auditorium and Israel Abrahams Hall – Hatfield Street, Cape Town

A panel discussion on "Nazism and the Holocaust: Intersections with the South African Experience" will be one of the key events of a three-day conference hosted by the Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town in association with the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation. The international conference will explore aspects of Holocaust historiography.

Topics to be discussed during the panel discussion include: "Engaging with Holocaust Education in Post-apartheid South Africa"; "Echoes of Nazism in South Africa during the 1930 and 1940s"; "Translating Anne Frank in South Africa"; "The Holocaust and Comparative History and Dealing with the Past: Complex Choices".

Sir Richard Evans, Regius Professor of History at Cambridge University, known for his expert knowledge on German history, will deliver the keynote address on "Grappling with Holocaust Denial: Reflections on the Irving/Lipstadt Libel Case".

In a case in which British author David Irving filed a lawsuit against American author Deborah Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin Books, in an English court, Sir Richard was hired by the defence to serve as an expert witness. Irving claimed that Lipstadt had libeled him in her book *Denying the Holocaust*. Sir Richard spent two years examining Irving's work and presented evidence of Irving's misrepresentations. Lipstadt and Penguin Books won the case.

Background information on key speakers

Sir Richard J Evans is Regius Professor of History and President of Wolfson College University of Cambridge. He is a member of the Spoliation Advisory Panel, advising the UK government on claims for the restitution of art looted during the Nazi era. He was born in London of Welsh parents on 29 September 1947 and educated at Oxford University. He has been Professor of European History at the University of East Anglia and Professor of History and Vice-Master at Birkbeck, University of London. His publications include *Telling Lies About Hitler* (Verso, 2002), *The Coming of the Third Reich* (Penguin, 2003), *The Third Reich in Power* (Penguin, 2005) and *The Third Reich at War* (Penguin, 2008).

David Cesarani is Research Professor in History at Royal Holloway, University of London. His publications include *Justice Delayed How Britain became a Refuge for Nazi War Criminals*; *Arthur Koestler: The Homeless Mind*; *Eichmann: His Life and Crimes* (which won the 2006 US National book Award for History) and, most recently *Major Farran's Hat*. He has written and edited several books exploring the relationship between Britain, British Jews and Zionism including *The Jewish Chronicle and Anglo-Jewry* and *The Making of Modern Anglo-Jewry*.

Christopher Browning is Frank Porter Graham Professor of History University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has focused his research on four aspects of the Holocaust: the functioning and participation of the mid-level bureaucracy, the behaviour and motivation of the low-level perpetrators, the decision-making process and evolution of Nazi Jewish policy, and the experience and post-war testimony of Jewish slave labor. His publications include: *The Final Solution and the German Foreign Office Ordinary Men* (1992); *The Origins of the Final Solution* (2004); *Remembering Survival: Inside a Nazi Slave Labor Camp* (2010).

Michael Marrus is Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor Emeritus of Holocaust Studies and Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Toronto. A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a Member of the Order of Canada, he has been a Senior Associate Member of St. Antony's College, Oxford, and a visiting professor at UCLA, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Cape Town. Among his books are *Vichy France and the Jews* (1981), with Robert O. Paxton; *The Holocaust in History* (1987); and, most recently, *Some Measure of Justice: the Holocaust Era Restitution Campaign of the 1990s* (2009).

Milton Shain is Isidore and Theresa Cohen Professor of Jewish Civilisation in the Department of Historical Studies at UCT, where he is also Director of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research. He has written and edited several books on South African Jewish history, South African politics, and the history of antisemitism. Among them are *The Roots of Antisemitism in South Africa* published by the University Press of Virginia and Witwatersrand University in 1994, and *The Jews in South Africa. An Illustrated History, co-authored with Richard Mendelsohn*. His most recent book *Zakor v'Makor: Place and Displacement in Jewish History and Memory*, was co-edited with David Cesarani and Tony Kushner.

The Kaplan Centre at UCT was established in 1980 under the terms of a gift to UCT by the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation and is named in honour of the parents of Mendel and Robert Kaplan. The centre, the only one of its kind in South Africa, seeks to stimulate and promote the whole field of Jewish studies and research at the university with a special focus on the South African Jewish community.

South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation was established in 2007 by the board of trustees of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre in response to the incorporation of the study of the Holocaust into the national high school curriculum. The SAHGF provides the educational and philosophical direction for the three Holocaust centres in South Africa and is dedicated to providing support for the national curriculum through the development of classroom support materials and the facilitation of national in-service teacher training, adult programmes and seminars.

Journalists wanting to cover the conference or set up interviews with speakers must make prior arrangements.

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