

# Trauma and History

A conference presented by the Institute for Historical Studies in the Department of History  
Liberal Arts Building, CLA 1.302B and 1.302E  
The University of Texas at Austin

March 20-21, 2014

"Trauma & History" examines how the theoretical field of trauma studies might enrich our understanding of the past. Going beyond the existing historical literature on trauma and the Holocaust, the conference will explore the following themes: The cumulative toll and intergenerational nature of trauma; trauma as a catalyst for geographic displacement, social reform, and political mobilization; the fetishization and commercialization of trauma; and the methodological challenges of integrating trauma into historical analysis. Stretching from the medieval to the modern and drawing from the fields of human rights, psychoanalysis, memory studies, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, environmental science, and comparative literature, we hope to enhance, as well as to extend, the historical study of trauma and human catastrophes.

Convened by

[Yoav Di-Capua](#), Associate Professor of History and IHS Program Coordinator in 2013-14, and  
[Seth Garfield](#), Associate Professor of History and IHS Director

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