

La Chaire de recherche du Canada en études allemandes et européennes et le CCEAE Université de Montréal ont le plaisir de vous inviter chaleureusement à la conférence suivante:

Le vendredi 9 décembre, 2011 16h00 – 18h00

The conformist always has the last word? Leo Baeck and his Theresienstadt experience, 1943-1956

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Leo Baeck (1873-1956) occupies a central place in a heroic history of German Jews as an impersonation of moral integrity during the Holocaust. Before he was deported to the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1943, Baeck had been a leading Jewish thinker, the chief Berlin rabbi and also the chairperson of the Reich's Association of Jews in Germany. Many stories about Leo Baeck in Theresienstadt depict him as refusing office vis a vis corruption, a moral instance shepherding prisoners in most difficult of times. These stories, however, tell us little about the complex power dynamics in the ghetto or about Baeck's specific experience. Symptomatically, Baeck left scarce testimony about his time in Theresienstadt. A critical analysis of his accounts that places them within the context of the Theresienstadt society and administration, reveals the contradictory image of a capable organizer enjoying and seeking attention and approval, subtly manipulating the public opinion, both during and after the war.

Anna Hájková is a PhD candidate in modern European history at the University of Toronto. She received her MA in history from Humboldt-University in Berlin in 2006. In her dissertation, Anna analyzes the everyday history of the Theresienstadt ghetto. From 2006 to 2009, she co-edited the Prague Terezín Initiative Institute's yearbook, *Theresienstädter Studien und Dokumente*. Between 2007 and 2011, she was also member of the board of trustees of the Ravensbrück Memorial summer school. She has published on various aspects of Theresienstadt, the Holocaust in the Netherlands, and the Czechoslovak association of concentration camp survivors. She is a recipient of numerous awards, among others the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship and the Leo Baeck Fellowship of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes.

Où/Location:

Centre d'études sur la paix et la sécurité internationale (CEPSI)

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Métro: Côte-des-Neiges