

KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme

Ausstellungen
Begegnungen
Studienzentrum



The Police, Public Administration, Judiciary, Armed Forces,
Reichsbahn, Nurses, Physicians and Trade Unions in Nazi Germany



INTRODUCTION

The programmes for professionals offered by the Centre for Historical Studies of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial cover a wide range of themes – from the actions of state institutions in Nazi Germany and their involvement in crimes, to what changed or did not change in these institutions before 1933 and after 1945, all the way up to human rights issues today. The programmes are designed for groups of young people and adults, in particular trainees and employees of the police, the judiciary and the penal system, public administration, armed forces, railway and trade unions. They are also intended for physicians and nursing professionals, information disseminators and teachers as well as (vocational) school classes. We also offer further education courses for information disseminators from educational institutions and memorials who work with members of these occupations. All programmes are based on a module structure. Groups can either book a study day that concentrates primarily on historical aspects, or this study day can be extended into a two-day seminar in which current issues are integrated as well. Core themes can be customised to fit the interests of the group. The seminars and further education courses designed for the police, judiciary and public administration have been developed by the project History of Nazi Germany, Institutions, Human Rights (*NS-Geschichte, Institutionen, Menschenrechte*) with support from the public foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (*Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft*). To all partners who collaborated on this project, we express our deepest gratitude for their excellent teamwork.



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Duration of Seminars and Further Education Courses

Depending on the theme: 1-2 days, 6-7 hours each day

Fees (per group)

SEMINARS:

Groups of adults

One day: € 80 - € 90 / two days: € 160 - € 180

(Vocational) school classes and trainees

One day: € 45 - € 50 / two days: € 90 - € 100

FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES:

One day: € 100 / two days: € 200

Registration and Information

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial,

Centre for Historical Studies

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On request, we can also provide a programme introduction at participants' educational institution.

For more information, please visit the following webpages:

www.ns-geschichte-institutionen-menschenrechte.de

www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de.

CONTENT AND GOALS OF SEMINARS

The relevant professions and institutions, their role under the Nazis and their participation in Nazi injustice all form the starting point for our engagement with the history of Neuengamme concentration camp. In our guided tours and work in small groups, we approach themes with the help of biographies, personal accounts, pictures, films and audio recordings. We also look at what has or has not changed in terms of personnel and structures in the relevant institutions since the war. It is important to note that the employees of state and public institutions, especially, act as part of an institutional framework. When working with these groups, we relate the themes we discuss to their daily work, while also addressing their expectations and attitudes (and those of their institutions) as well as ethical questions relating to their profession.

We also discuss questions about chances to act differently, personal responsibility and how certain forms of violence during the Nazi regime were characteristic for certain occupations. Other core themes include factors of conformist and nonconformist behaviour, the diffusion of responsibility through a division of labour, issues of social affiliation and group identity as well as the impact of power invested in the state and institutions.



Additional themes in seminars for police officers, public administrators, members of the judiciary, and armed forces personnel include the denazification of the civil service as well as the consequences drawn by the international community from the Nazi crimes by ratifying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention in 1948. Using case studies from these occupations, current human rights issues are discussed in relation to international agreements for the protection of human rights. The goal is for participants to develop an awareness for the power invested in institutions. We also discuss the actions taken within and by institutions as a whole as well as the necessity for individuals to orient their behaviour on civil and human rights.

The seminars encourage participants to engage with the history of certain occupations and institutions under the Nazis. In the further education courses, educators are trained to work with groups from the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration. Instructors can use the further education courses to prepare for visits to the memorial, or they can integrate what they have learned in their own teaching.



SEMINAR

The Role of the Police in Nazi Germany

In this seminar, we look at the function and self-image of the police in Nazi Germany. The police were part of the SS and, as such, they represented an important pillar of power within the political system. We will also concentrate on the different types of people who were persecuted, the mechanisms of persecution and the involvement of the police in the deportation and killing of people. Participants become more familiar with the site of the former Neuengamme concentration camp while exploring the role of the police in the Nazi camp system. Using case studies as a starting point, we address the conduct of the police personnel working as guard troops and the conduct of police officers who were prisoners in the concentration camp. We also analyse the function of police crime prevention under the Nazis. Participants work with sources on their own to contribute to discussions about responsibility and chances to act differently.

If participants choose a two-day seminar, on the second day, we also compare the actions of the police under the Nazis with the situation today by looking at basic conditions. Another critical topic is the question to what extent unjust practices were encouraged by a division of labour and institutional structures. We analyse differences and similarities and focus on what stayed the same and what has changed



- • An officer of the Order Police (Ordnungspolizei) and two auxiliary police officers (Hilfspolizei) in front of the Süderelbebrücke, Hamburg, 1933.
- • Hamburg's chief of police (Polizeisenator) Richter swears in the auxiliary police force (Hilfspolizei). Both photographs from Hamburg unterm Hakenkreuz. *Chronik der nationalen Erhebung in der Nordmark 1919–1933*, ed. Wilhelm Recken and Julius W. Krafft, Hamburg, 1933, p. 85. Krafft, Hamburg 1933, S. 85.



- Drawing showing the mistreatment of political prisoners by members of the Hamburg police, including the Kommando zur besonderen Verwendung (Kommando zur besonderen Verwendung). From *Arbeiter-Illustrierte-Zeitung* (1934), No. 32.

in terms of personnel and structures. We discuss the current importance of crime prevention measures while addressing human rights issues today. The main focus is on the judicial punishment of Nazi crimes, especially crimes committed by the police under the Nazis, and on how society has come to terms with this past.

The denazification of the police is an additional topic. We look at the Declaration of Human Rights from 1948 and at other legally binding conventions since then, analysing these with regard to their significance for police conduct today. Special focus is placed on the prohibition of torture and, for instance, how this has become part of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. On the second day, we also focus on past and current measures of police crime prevention, preventive detention, the separation of the police and the secret service as well as the historical and current treatment of social minorities (for example, Roma and Sinti).



SEMINAR

German Public Administration and Nazi Policies of Exclusion and Extermination

This seminar is intended for administrative professionals and for groups who are interested in the development of administrative action – especially in public social welfare institutions under the Nazis – while reflecting on current human rights issues in the context of administrative action today. Starting with the history of the Neuengamme concentration camp, a tour of the grounds and exhibitions on the first day serves as a starting point for exploring how political opponents were removed from the civil service and how administrative officials contributed to the Nazi policies of marginalisation and extermination. We also look at who was affected by these policies. The Hamburg social welfare office's participation in policies affecting marginalised social groups is one of the core themes of the seminar. Using selected biographies, we focus on personal responsibilities extending beyond abstract administrative structures. On the second day, we address the judicial treatment of Nazi crimes after the war. We also look at the career paths of administration officials after 1945 as well as the denazification of the civil service.

This leads us to explore issues of administrative action, using current case studies as examples. It is possible to extend the duration of the seminar to three or four days, which allows



- *Helmuth Hübener, probably in 1941. Hübener was a trainee in the public administration of Hamburg and was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942 for handing out flyers. He was sentenced to death by the Volksgerichtshof (People's Court) in Berlin. Source: VVN Hamburg, Ulrich Sander Collection.*



- Prisoners of Neuengamme concentration camp doing groundwork on the Dove-Elbe canal. Source: Archive of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, 1981-590.

participants to explore the issue of compensation and the significance of human rights as a consequence of the Nazi regime. It also enables a more in-depth look at the following themes: the marginalisation of Sinti and Roma, the treatment of refugees, forms of forced labour, or compensation for the victims of Nazi crimes.

- Building of the former brick factory on the grounds of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.



SEMINAR

The Judiciary and the Penal System under the Nazis and Current Human Rights Issues Relating to the Treatment of Inmates

This seminar is intended for groups who are interested in the judiciary and the penal system under the Nazis as well as in human rights issues in the context of the penal system today. We begin the seminar by discussing which authorities were responsible for persecution under the Nazis. We look at the cooperation based on a division of labour between the judiciary, the penal system and the police, focusing on measures against political opponents, so-called "antisocial elements", "community aliens" (*Gemeinschaftsfremde*) and alleged criminals. We investigate the different sites of imprisonment in Hamburg, including the Fuhlsbüttel prison (which is still a prison today). We look at Fuhlsbüttel's function as a penal institution, prison and concentration camp under the Nazis and at the different reasons for imprisonment in each of these cases. On request, we can also discuss the issue of military justice.

In small groups, participants study the biographies and personal accounts and files of prisoners to explore the practice of transferring prison inmates to concentration camps while discussing the conduct of judiciary officials. We compare procedures in the penal system under the Nazis with the situation in the penal system today and discuss the



• Court hearing at the Volksgerichtshof (People's Court) in Berlin, 1944. Photo: Unknown, Source: BArch, Bild 151-39-21.

chances of judiciary officials to act differently both then and now, while investigating the relationship between justice and the law in the process. An alternative option is to take a closer look at the legal instruments and agencies of judicial persecution under the Nazis and to discuss the career paths of judges. On the second day, the groups explore how the judiciary and society have dealt with these crimes as well as what has and has not changed within the judiciary since the end of the war. We also look at the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as instruments protecting against the arbitrary administration of justice. With the help of excerpts from reports of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, we enlarge upon issues associated with the treatment of prisoners, looking at actual examples from Germany. Current debates about the issue of preventive detention and other issues are also addressed.

Additional possible topics include how the grounds of the former concentration camp were used in the penal system between 1948 and 2006 as well as the social debates concerning dignified ways to remember the victims of Neuengamme concentration camp.

- *From 1945 to 1949, British military tribunals against war crimes were held in the Curiohaus on Rothenbaumchaussee in Hamburg. Photo: A. Klein/S. Pressner, 1946. From H. Nesna, Zoo leeft Duitsland, Amsterdam, 1946, no page numbers.*



SEMINAR

The Armed Forces, the Armaments Industry and Their Implication in the Concentration Camp System and Nazi Policies of Extermination

Like other state organisations, the armed forces were a cornerstone of the Nazi regime and thus also participated in crimes. In this seminar, participants become familiar with the site of the former Neuengamme concentration camp while taking a closer look at the role of the armed forces under the Nazi regime. Participants can choose between focusing on the participation of the Wehrmacht in deportations and mass shootings, the employment of concentration camp prisoners as workers for the Wehrmacht, or the treatment of Soviet POWs which was against international law. The goal of the seminar is to offer insight into responsibilities and chances to act differently. We also shed light on the importance of the Wehrmacht as a partner of the SS in the system of Nazi slave labour while looking at the enslavement of millions of so-called "foreign workers" (*Fremdarbeiter*) and concentration camp prisoners from all over Europe.

On the second day, we enlarge upon the actions of those members of the Wehrmacht who were concentration camp guards and also explore reasons for the imprisonment of Wehrmacht soldiers in concentration camps. We will also look at post-war history, using the internment and prosecution of perpetrators and how society dealt with these crimes



• *Biographies and lifestories of concentration camp prisoners in an exhibition at the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial.*



- *The staff of the camp commandant's office and the SS guard battalion of Neuengamme concentration camp in parade formation on 9 November 1943 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the failed Beer Hall Putsch in Munich. Photo: Unknown, Source: Archive of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, 1981-353.*

as a starting point. We can also look at what has or has not changed in the military since 1945 in terms of personnel and structure. The ethics of military action (for example, in regards to orders and obedience) is another focus.

- *Max Pauly, commandant of Neuengamme concentration camp (middle) and the Wehrmacht commandant of Hamburg, General Carl Wahle (left), in front of the barracks of the commandant's headquarters of Neuengamme concentration camp, probably in the summer of 1942. Source: Archive of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, 1981-700.*



SEMINAR

Railway Workers and the Reichsbahn under the Nazis

Using mechanisms of persecution and reasons for arrest under the Nazis as well as the living and working conditions in the concentration camps as a starting point, this seminar addresses the role of the Reichsbahn in the transport of prisoners to concentration and extermination camps while also looking at the conditions and consequences of these transports from the point of view of what chances those involved had to act differently. We also explore to what extent employees of the Reichsbahn became perpetrators or co-perpetrators under the Nazis and what forms of forced labour concentration camp prisoners had to perform for the Reichsbahn, such as repairing tracks. We focus on railway workers who were resistance fighters and victims of persecution, looking at Dutch engine drivers and German railway trade unionists as examples. Another aspect discussed is the deportation of Jews and Sinti and Roma from Hamburg. The question to what extent and how the Deutsche Bahn – and German society at large – has dealt with the role of the Reichsbahn under the Nazis is discussed in the context of debates about the Train of Commemoration as well as the planned memorial on the site of the former train station Hannoverscher Bahnhof, where the deportation trains left Hamburg. This seminar usually lasts one day, but can be extended to two.



- *Camp commandant Max Pauly (middle) with a railway worker and an unknown civilian at the "station" of Neuengamme concentration camp on the occasion of the arrival of the first train after finishing the railway connection with the Bergedorf-Geesthacht railway, 1944. Photo: Josef Schmitt. Source: Archive of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial, 1981-246. Neuengamme, 1981-246.*

SEMINAR

Medicine and Criminal Medical Experiments under the Nazis

This seminar was designed for those working or training in the field of nursing and/or medicine as well as groups of adults who are interested in medicine and nursing under the Nazis. Using the history of Neuengamme concentration camp as a starting point, we address the question of how socially marginalised groups were ostracised and persecuted during the Nazi regime. Starting with a tour of the grounds of the former concentration camp and the exhibitions, we take a closer look at the so-called euthanasia programme of the Nazis – the radicalised treatment, sterilisation, and killing of people with handicaps. We can also enlarge upon specific issues concerning the field of medicine under the Nazis, especially in the concentration camps: nutrition and hunger, treatment of the sick and the weak, and medical experiments on human beings.

After this, we take a biographical approach by looking at selected life stories of people who were persecuted as well as perpetrators. We can also look at the history of the participants' institution, depending on where they work. The seminar normally lasts two days, but it is also possible to book a study day with a selection of topics instead.



• The infirmary at Alt Garge satellite camp. Drawing by the Danish artist and concentration camp survivor Victor Glysing-Jensen (1907–2001), Source: private archive.

SEMINAR

Trade Unions and Trade Unionists under the Nazis

In this two- to three-day seminar, participants can learn about the role of trade unions and unionists under the Nazis, which also included resistance and persecution. They also learn about economic and social historical aspects of National Socialism. We discuss the political positions of trade unions before and after the Nazis came to power, the adaptation policy of the Confederation of German Trade Unions (ADGB), the prohibition of free trade unions, the resistance and the persecution of trade unionists under the Nazis. The different phases of the persecution and resistance of trade unions are explored by looking at Hamburg and other regions as well as selected biographies of trade unionists (including Adolf Kummernuss, Wally Vollmer, Willi Bredel, Viktor Agartz and Rudi Goguel). From 1933 on, persecuted antifascists were imprisoned in the concentration camps as well as in Fuhlsbüttel prison. Then, starting in 1938, Neuengamme concentration camp became a station on the hellish ordeal of trade unionists through many concentration camps. We discuss this development based on several trade unionists' biographies.

Whenever possible, we address the chances of those involved to act differently. Throughout the seminar, we also explore economic and social historical aspects of the Nazi regime. This includes how mass unemployment was dealt with in the transitional period between the Weimar Republic and the Nazi regime.

Using the changes in social standards between 1933 and 1945 as a starting point – for example, mandatory employment and the development of wages and working time – we discuss the working and living conditions of the employed under the Nazi regime. We also talk about the function and structure of the National Socialist Factory Cell Organisation



- Photo from *Die Schifffahrt* (1937), No. 12. This journal was published by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) 1936-39. It was printed in Antwerp and distributed by sailors. Source: Peter Altmann, Heinz Brüdigam, Barbara Mausbach-Bromberger and Max Oppenheimer (eds.): *Der deutsche antifaschistische Widerstand 1933–1945. In Bildern und Dokumenten*, Frankfurt/M., 1978, p. 78.

(Nationalsozialistische Betriebszellenorganisation, NSBO) and the German Labour Front (*Deutsche Arbeitsfront*, DAF) in companies, while also looking at the German Labour Front's entrepreneurial history. With regard to the concentration camps, we look at the SS as a commercial enterprise with its own companies and its own variety of economic endeavours. The SS were also those responsible for organising the work deployment of concentration camp prisoners. We then take a closer look at the dimensions of Nazi slave labour and the treatment of slave labourers – especially slave labourers from Eastern Europe, who were sent to concentration camps in large numbers as a punishment for their supposed insubordination at the workplace or for having prohibited contact with the German population.

In another part of the seminar, we look at how these people were treated by trade unions and by German society after 1945. We talk about how trade unionists established a unified trade union in 1949 in an attempt to overcome political fragmentation. We also take current aspects into account, including the human rights regulations, the constitution, and labour laws, all of which are the result of these historical experiences. We also talk about the German practice of compensating former slave labourers from the end of the war to today.

FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES

Course Modules Concerning the Judiciary, Armed Forces, Police and Public Administration under the Nazis

TARGET GROUP:

Information disseminators working in education as well as instructors in the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration.

The Centre for Historical Studies of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial offers one- or two-day further education courses for the staff and instructors of memorials and other educational institutions who want to teach seminars for professionals from the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration at their own institutions or who would like to integrate specific content into their own educational work. The themes of these courses can be agreed upon for each group. While the duration of a further education course depends on what themes are chosen, a minimum of six hours is required. We offer the following two variations.

VARIATION 1

Introduction to working with one profession under the Nazis

We first provide an overview of the content and goals of the seminars concerning either the judiciary, armed forces, police or public administration offered by the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. We then discuss selected methods and materials. We can focus on the modules concerning the history of institutions in the judiciary, armed forces, police or public administration. In these modules, the systematic integration of these institutions into the Nazi system of injustice is explored, along with what has or has not changed in these institutions since the end of the war. Close attention is paid to the actions of these institutions and to their development from both a historical and current

perspective. We also discuss selected modules that examine the relationship between the following pairs of themes: the dimensions of Nazi slave labour and the practice of compensation after the war, preventative detention and the protective rights of prisoners, and current human rights issues and the treatment of refugees and/or the situation of Sinti and Roma. We discuss our experiences working with groups from the judiciary, armed forces, police or public administration and present suggestions as to how our materials and insights can be used by participants for their own educational work.

VARIATION 2

Introduction to working with several professions

Unlike in variation 1, in variation 2 we focus on modules concerning the history of several institutions. We address the systematic integration of the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration into the Nazi system of injustice and look at what has or has not changed within these institutions since the war. Close attention is paid to the actions of these institutions as well as their development from both a historical and current perspective. We also discuss modules that examine the relationship between current human rights issues and historical and current perspectives on institutional actions. We enlarge upon the dimensions of Nazi slave labour and the practice of compensation after the war, preventative detention and the protective rights of prisoners, the treatment of refugees and/or the situation of, and racism against (antiziganism), Sinti and Roma, among other themes. We discuss our experiences working with groups from the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration and talk about suggestions regarding how our materials and insights can be used by participants for their own educational work.

PUBLICATIONS



Ulrike Pastoor and Oliver von Wrochem (eds.). *NS-Geschichte, Institutionen, Menschenrechte. Bildungsmaterialien zu Verwaltung, Polizei und Justiz. Neuen-gammer Kolloquien 3*. Berlin, 2013. German. 232 pages + 1 CD-ROM. € 14.90

This publication is an overview of the latest research concerning human rights education and historical education for professionals from different occupations. It provides educational materials concerning

public administration, the police and the judiciary under the Nazis. It illustrates how knowledge about historical events during the Nazi regime can be used to discuss challenges facing society and potential threats to human rights today. Key elements of the book are descriptions of educational modules on antiziganism (racism against Sinti and Roma); the institutional history of the police, judiciary and public administration under the Nazis; and historical and current perspectives on institutional actions and human rights issues. A CD-ROM with selected materials is included.

"This publication is a significant addition to educational work with this specific target group – both with regard to historical learning about the Nazi regime as well as debates about the latitude of actions available and the violation of human rights within these institutions today. This project also shows how a relationship between historical learning and human rights education can be outlined along concrete questions and lines of continuity and applied with a variety of methods."

(Akim Jah, *Einsicht*. Bulletin des Fritz Bauer Instituts [2013], no. 10)

Direct link to order form:

<http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/?id=3425>



Bildungsangebote der KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme. Ein Praxisreader.
Studienheft 04. KZ-Gedenkstätte Neuengamme, Hamburg, 2013.
German. 88 pages. € 5.00

In our fourth study booklet (*Studienheft 4*), we present the educational work of the Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial. Using selected practical examples as a starting point, an overview is given

of the many different educational projects offered by the memorial for groups. These include guided tours, projects, study days and programmes lasting several days for school and vocational school classes. We also offer programmes for professionals as well as further education courses, seminars and workshops for teachers and information disseminators.

Direct link to order form:

<http://www.kz-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de/?id=3448>

WEBPAGE



You can find more information about the content of the programmes presented in this flyer, including for whom they are intended, on the German and English webpage [www.](http://www.ns-geschichte-institutionen-menschenrechte.de/)

www.ns-geschichte-institutionen-menschenrechte.de/. There, you also can find texts that enlarge upon the subjects discussed here as well as information about individual educational modules concerning the judiciary, armed forces, police and public administration.

Opening Hours

Imprint

Opening hours of exhibitions:

Monday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and holidays:

12 noon - 7 p.m. (April to September)

12 noon - 5 p.m. (October to March)

Admission is free.

The grounds are also accessible
outside opening hours.

Imprint

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PUBLISHED BY:

Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial
December 2015

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Funded by the Commissioner of Culture and Media of the
German government.