Filming the Eichmann Trial

A key figure in American independent cinema and the documentary film movement, Leo Hurwitz (1909-1991) was also a founder of the progressive Frontier Films (1936-1942) and professor of film and chairman of the Graduate Institute of Film and Television at New York University (1969-74).

Historians, literary critics, legal scholars, and filmmakers agree on the importance of the trial of Adolf Eichmann, a high-ranking Nazi official charged with the logistics of mass deportation to the death camps. Kidnapped from Argentina by Israeli agents in 1960, Eichmann was indicted on charges of crimes against humanity and crimes against the Jewish people in the Jerusalem District Court. His trial lasted from April 11 to August 14, 1961. One hundred and eleven witnesses testified in the case. Eichmann was found guilty and hanged on June 1, 1962.

The Eichmann trial is important for many reasons. It was the first transnational narrative to construct the genocide of the Jews as a distinct event of World War II, and it marked the foregrounding of victims as witnesses who produce historical accounts.

Conference participants include historians, filmmakers, media historians, film critics, and legal historians from France, Israel, England, and the US who will screen their films and analyze subsequent visual and legal histories.
**FILMING THE EICHHMANN TRIAL**

**AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**FEBRUARY 22-23, 2009**

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**Sunday, February 22**

James Bridges Theater, Melnitz Hall

**10:00 AM**

**Opening:** Eric Sundquist, UCLA

**Session I**

Leo Hurwitz, Director of the Eichmann Trial Film
Screening of Verdict for Tomorrow
Susan Slyomovics, UCLA

**12:00 PM**

**Lunch Break**

**1:30 PM**

**Session II**

Who Was Leo Hurwitz in 1961?
Tom Hurwitz, Cinematographer

**3:30 PM**

**Coffee Break**

**4:00 PM**

**Session III**

Thinking Truth, Memory and Film Editing Following the Eichmann Trial Filmed Archive
Eyal Sivan, University of East London

Thoughtlessness and the Optics of Moral Argument: Screening the Spectacle of Eichmann
Valerie Hartouni, UC-San Diego

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**Monday, February 23**

Royce Hall 314

**10:00 AM**

**Session IV**

Eichmann on the Air: Radio and the Making of a Historical Trial
Tamar Liebes-Plesner, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Severed Voices: The Radiophonic Effect of the Eichmann Trial
Amit Pinchevski, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Man in the Glass Box: Eichmann on American Television
Jeffrey Shandler, Rutgers University

**12:30 PM**

**Lunch Break**

**2:00 PM**

**Session V**

Hurwitz in Jerusalem
Sylvie Lindeperg, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3
Annette Wieviorka, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique

**4:00 PM**

**Concluding Remarks**

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_Eichmann trial photos courtesy of the State of Israel Government Press Office_ 

_Images of Leo Hurwitz courtesy of filmed interview by Susan Slyomovics_