

CONFERENCE • 16 – 17 MAY • IN ENGLISH

# JUDGMENT IN EXTREMIS

INSPIRED BY THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HANNAH ARENDT'S

**ECLA Bard**  
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY IN BERLIN

THE CONFERENCE IS  
A COOPERATION BETWEEN

ECLA OF BARD -  
A LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY IN BERLIN,  
THE ICI BERLIN,  
AND THE HANNAH ARENDT CENTER  
AT BARD COLLEGE IN NEW YORK.

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H A N N A H  
A R E N D T  
C E N T E R

**Bard College**

**EICHMANN  
IN JERUSALEM**

A REPORT ON THE  
BANALITY OF EVIL

Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, based on a series of articles for *The New Yorker*, was published in 1963. An account of the trial and execution of Adolf Eichmann, one of the main organisers of the Holocaust, the essay provoked enormous controversy. Objections were made to Arendt's diagnosis of the "banality of evil" and to her view of the structures of complicity that facilitated the perpetration of the Nazi genocide. This conference considers the legacy of Arendt's analysis. Do her conclusions hold? What are the resonances of her claims today for a philosophical and legal confrontation with extreme instances of human destructiveness and wrongdoing?

**WITH:**

**ROGER BERKOWITZ  
JAY BERNSTEIN  
SEYLA BENHABIB  
BARBARA HAHN  
GERD HANKEL  
WOLFGANG HEUER  
DAVID KISHIK  
STEVEN MASLOW  
CHRISTOPH MENKE  
ANDREAS NACHAMA  
CATHERINE TOAL  
ANNETTE WEINKE  
THOMAS WILD**

**PROGRAM:**

**16 MAY**

**19:30**

**OPENING KEYNOTE PANEL  
WHAT DOES ARENDT'S JUDGMENT OF  
EICHMANN MEAN FOR US TODAY?  
JAY BERNSTEIN, ROGER BERKOWITZ,  
CATHERINE TOAL**

**17 MAY**

**10:00 - 12:00**

**SESSION I  
THE BANALITY OF EVIL  
IS EVIL BANAL?  
BARBARA HAHN, DAVID KISHIK,  
WOLFGANG HEUER**

**12:30 - 14:00**

**BREAK**

**14:00 - 15:30**

**SESSION II  
HUMAN RIGHTS, INHUMAN CRIMES  
HOW SHOULD WE TODAY RESPOND  
TO INHUMAN CRIMES?  
ANDREAS NACHAMA,  
GERD HANKEL, STEVEN MASLOW**

**15:30 - 16:00**

**BREAK**

**16:00 - 17:30**

**SESSION III  
PROCESSING THE PAST:  
ARENDT'S LESSONS FOR HISTORICAL  
RECKONING.  
HOW OUGHT WE TODAY TO JUDGE  
ARENDT'S FACTUAL REPORT OF THE  
EICHMANN TRIAL?  
SEYLA BENHABIB,  
ANNETTE WEINKE, THOMAS WILD**

**18:00**

**CLOSING KEYNOTE LECTURE  
EICHMANN IN JERUSALEM:  
ARENDT'S REPERFORMANCE  
OF THE TRIAL  
CHRISTOPH MENKE**