



# Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

*Spring 2024 Newsletter*

*The first priority of the SCVN project is to uphold our duty of care to the survivors of genocide and mass atrocity with whom we work. Without this commitment to care, the project cannot move forward. When a survivor chooses to share their testimony, they are not simply imparting information but are engaging in a relationship that depends on mutual respect, empathy, and responsibility. It is our greatest responsibility as a project to ensure that we honour the trust given to us by the survivors who choose to participate, and that every scholar, artist, and filmmaker associated with the SCVN upholds this priority.*

We are grateful to our partners in research for their ongoing engagement and we celebrate our work together. Our [website](#) continues to grow and provides an access point for all project-related outputs including the Research Cluster highlights outlined below which feature many of our current activities.

This summer, the Iraq/Syria Research Cluster will host a public event with our project partner, [the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies](#), on May 28. [‘Witnesses of Violence – Stories of Genocide Survivors in Graphic Novels’](#) features presentations and panel discussions by Tobi Dahmen, Akram, Leyla Ferman, Barbara Yelin Kees Ribbens, Uğur Ümit Üngör and Charlotte Schallié.

Other public events this summer include team members’ presentations and panel discussions at the International Comic-Salon Erlangen, May 30-June 2, where SCVN project artist Barbara Yelin will receive a Special Jury Award for her lasting commitment to working against exclusion and hatred. Over June 18-20, we look forward to coming together for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the University of British Columbia on the traditional, ancestral, unceded

territory of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam) First Nation. The theme of the AGM is 'Landed Learning and Indigenous Ways of Knowing'. Our Year-3 AGM will be facilitated by Andrea Webb, Shannon Leddy, and Jennifer Sauter and is intended to gather the SCVN project artists and provide a space to discuss the cycle of connection between artist and survivor through the lens of Indigenous ways of knowing and landed learning. This event will focus on the social and academic practices of process, and on the creation of art in collaboration with survivors and their testimonies. We have prioritized a gathering for the SCVN graphic artists to share their experiences and unique inquiries, and to continue to build a foundation of community and knowledge-sharing. On July 4, our partners at the [Zurich University of the Arts](#) will be hosting a workshop with Barbara Yelin and Charlotte Schallié titled '[Archives of Memory: Comic Drawing as a Critical Tool for Scientific Inquiry and Interdisciplinary Collaboration.](#)'

This summer, we are also pleased to onboard our new research assistants for Year 3. Training the next generation of scholars and knowledge keepers is key to the SCVN project. In Year 3, students will receive specialized training from team members in oral history, archival research, narrative research methods, research ethics, digital preservation, curriculum design, translation, participatory action research, and arts-based inquiry.

We look forward to building relationships and continuing our work together.

With all good wishes and gratitude,  
Charlotte, Andrea, and Jennifer

# Year 2 Developments

The SCVN project has now been underway for two years and there continue to be many exciting opportunities to learn from one another through our commitment to community and collective scholarship.

## Research Cluster Highlights

All five of the Research Clusters are in progress, developing relationships and conducting research conversations with survivors, storyboarding narratives, and developing documentaries. We look forward to sharing more detailed updates for Turtle Island, Iraq & Syria, and Rwanda in Fall 2024.

## *'The Apothecarian's Boy' (Holocaust Research Cluster)*

We are very pleased to share the trailer of 'The Apothecarian's Boy' created by filmmaker Chorong Kim with the support of the Holocaust Research Cluster. This film tells the story of Klaus Zwilsky, a Holocaust child survivor, and his work with graphic novelist Gilad Seliktar.



This image is a still from 'The Apothecarian's Boy' which shows Gilad Seliktar at work, crafting the graphic novel that will share Klaus' story.

The documentaries produced through the SCVN project are an opportunity to emphasize the process of arts-based research and honour the human connections that emerge through the visual methodologies we take up.

## *'Emmie Arbel. The Colour of Memory' (Holocaust Research Cluster)*

Barbara Yelin's work with Emmie Arbel is now available in the French translation ['Emmie Arbel. La couleur du souvenir'](#) (edited by Charlotte Schallié, published by Actes Sud 2024). An English translation will also be available in Fall 2024.

*Je ne voulais pas d'armes. Je ne voulais pas faire ce que les autres me disaient. Je ne voulais pas être soldate.*



*Mais je voulais être comme les autres.*



*J'ai accompli les deux années réglementaires dans l'armée.*

*Puis je suis retournée travailler au kibboutz.*



*Jusqu'à ce que j'entende parler d'une famille de Tel Aviv, qui avait besoin d'aide pour s'occuper d'un bébé. C'était ma chance. J'annonçai que je voulais quitter le kibboutz.*



*Tu es libre de partir, Emmie.*

*Mais es-tu certaine?*

*Ici tu as mangé, appris, reçu une éducation.*

*Et tu veux t'en aller?*

Artwork credit Barbara Yelin

## Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster

Over the last year, the Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster has been working to develop the artist and survivor pairings which will lead to the creation of two graphic narratives. One of the artists from the Yugoslav Wars Research Cluster, Anneli Furmark, has shared her initial sketches stemming from her work with Almasa, a survivor of the violence in Srebrenica.



Artwork credit Anneli Furmark

The second graphic narrative will be created by artist Jared Muralt who is working with Ružica, a survivor of the targeted violence towards the Roma in former Yugoslavia and following its dissolution.

An important supporter of this research cluster is the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo and its executive director Amina Krvavac and research coordinator Ajnura Akbaš. In Fall 2023, Research Cluster Co-Leads Sabine Rutar and Franziska Zaugg, along with artist Anneli Furmark, visited the museum as part of their research trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



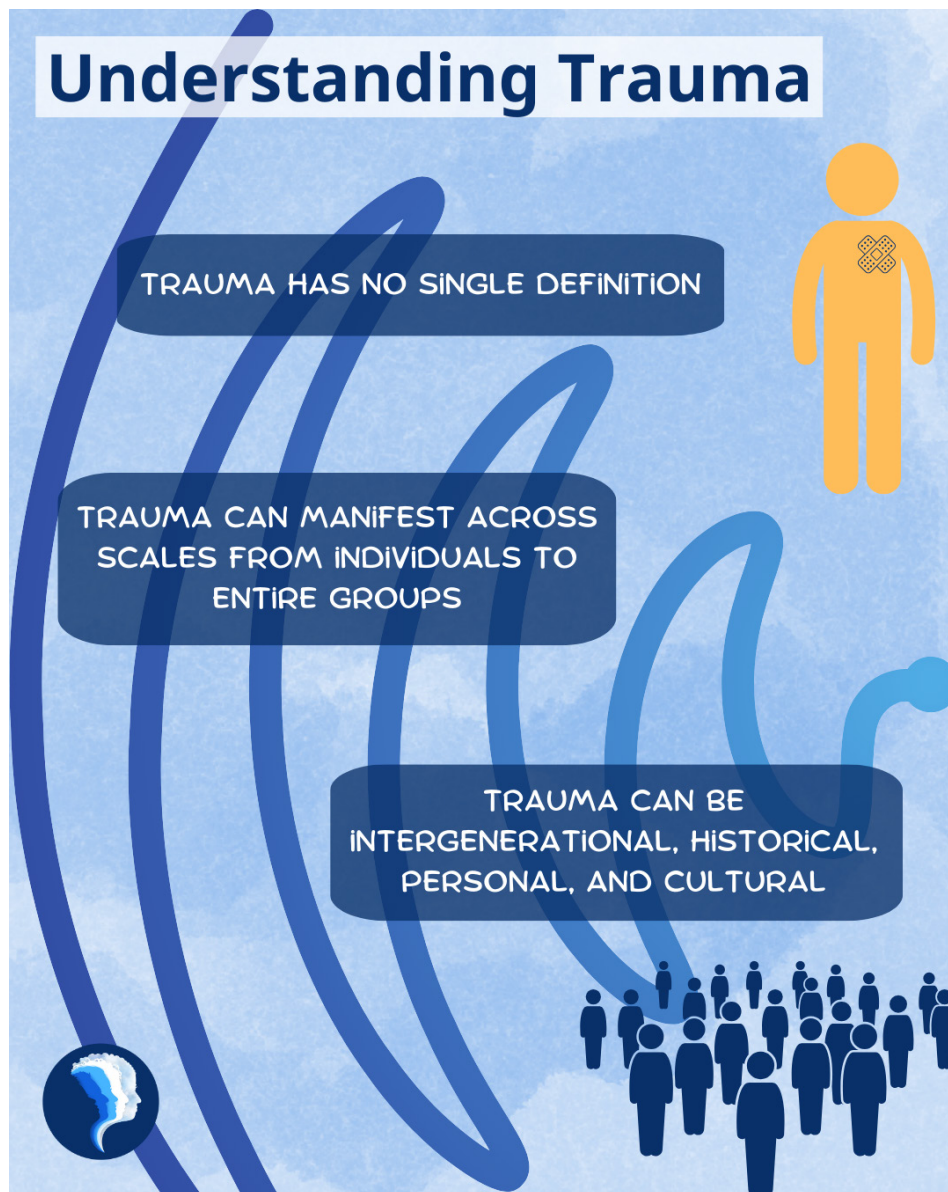
Pictured left to right: Franziska Zaugg, Sabine Rutar, and Anneli Furmark

# Teaching and Training Highlights

## *Educational Resources*

In partnership with UBC Public Humanities, we have been working on an educational toolkit to accompany our 2023 webinar series 'The Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research.'

This toolkit will present key highlights and recommendations for implementing trauma-informed principles in educational environments. We anticipate that the toolkit will be available this summer.



Graphic by Raey Costain

# Events & Programs

## Webinars

### *Art and Testimony*

Beginning in January 2024, our new 'Art and Testimony' webinar series has been a renewed opportunity to gather and to learn from SCVN scholars. The topics covered in the first four installations of this series include:

- [‘Listening, Telling, Showing \(and back\):The Practice of a Holocaust scholar-teacher-playwright-actor’ with Dr. Hank Greenspan](#)
- [‘Why Comics?’ with Dr. Véronique Sina and Dr. Fransiska Louwagie, moderated by Dr. Elizabeth “Biz” Nijdam](#)
- [‘Drawing Memories’ Barbara Yelin in Conversation with Dr. Charlotte Schallié](#)
- [‘Empowering Narratives: Videotaped Interviews vs Graphic Novels’ Dr. Uğur Ümit Üngör in Conversation with Dr. Peter Klein](#)



SURVIVOR-CENTRED  
VISUAL NARRATIVES



University  
of Victoria

UBC Public Humanities

**niod**

institute for war,  
holocaust and  
genocide studies



Art and Testimony Webinar Series

## Empowering Narratives: Videotaped Interviews vs Graphic Novels

Dr. Uğur Ümit Üngör  
NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and  
Genocide Studies

Dr. Peter Klein  
University of British Columbia



Thursday, April 4, 2024  
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM PDT



# *The Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research*

The complete playlist of our 2023 webinar series 'The Ethics of Trauma-Informed Research' is available on the UBC-V Public Humanities Hub Youtube Channel along with the first four webinars from the 2024 'Art and Testimony' series.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of the 'Art and Testimony' series in Fall 2024!

## Exhibitions

### *'But I Live' at Ravensbrück*

From April 13-July 31, 2024, an exhibition of 'But I Live: Three Stories of Child Survivors of the Holocaust' will be hosted at the Ravensbrück Memorial. This exhibition features pages from the 2022 publication of the same name edited by SCVN's Charlotte Schallié and showcasing the work of graphic artists Barbara Yelin, Gilad Seliktar, and Miriam Libicki.



Image credit Eberhard Schorr

# Upcoming Events

## *Witnesses of Violence: Stories of Genocide Survivors in Graphic Novels*

Date: May 28, 2024 - 5:00pm CEST

Location: SPUI25

Event info: <https://www.niod.nl/en/activities/witnesses-violence>



Views around the Ezidi shrine of Shebl Qasim atop Shingal mountain. Image credit Wikimedia Commons.

During this presentation and panel discussion, witnesses, researchers, and artists will explore the ways graphic novels can gather stories of violence and genocide. The panel includes Tobi Dahmen, Charlotte Schallié, Akram, Leyla Ferman, Kees Ribbens and Uğur Ümit Üngör. We are grateful to be hosted by our project partner NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies at SPUI25 in Amsterdam for this event.

# Archives of Memory: Comic Drawing as a Critical Tool for Scientific Inquiry and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Date: July 4, 2024, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm CEST

Location: Zurich University of the Arts

Event info: <https://www.zhdk.ch/veranstaltung/54689>



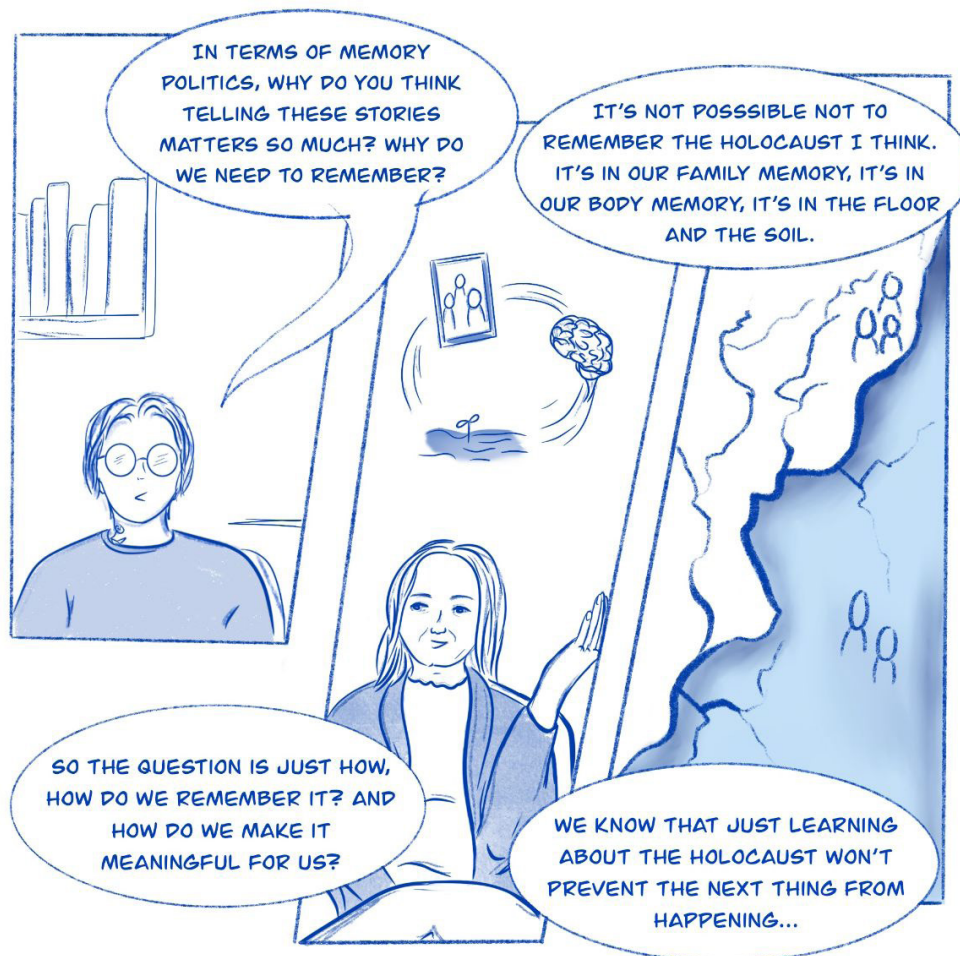
Artwork credit Barbara Yelin

Hosted by our project partner, Zurich University of the Arts, this workshop with Barbara Yelin and Charlotte Schallié will explore visual (hi)storytelling with survivors of genocide, prioritizing relationships and care in arts-based research, and reflecting on the dynamics of collaborative memory work with contemporary witnesses and the process of visual storytelling.

# Student Spotlight

Earlier this year, SCVN Media Director Raey Costain sat down with PhD Candidate Janine Wulz who has been a research assistant to the project since 2020. Janine has provided invaluable support to the Holocaust Research Cluster in translating materials and transcribing survivor testimony.

Stemming from her background in Holocaust education, political science, and anti-fascist activism, Janine shared several key insights into the continuous impact of memory politics and how the social memory of atrocities such as the Holocaust continue to shape our world. When we consider the desired impact of the graphic narratives created and shared through the SCVN project, it is important to think about how memory of the past can inform the future.





(THAT GOES A BIT DEEPER THAN JUST SAYING 'NEVER AGAIN')

Drawing by Raey Costain. Find the complete comic interview [here](#).

# Communications & Connections

In addition to this newsletter, we are launching a new social media content strategy. A major goal of this content is to facilitate community in digital space and we need your support.

## Get Involved:

Follow our social media accounts for project updates and stories:

Instagram: @survivorvisualnarratives

Facebook: Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

X/Twitter: @SCVNarratives

LinkedIn: Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

Submit stories and updates to [rcostain@uvic.ca](mailto:rcostain@uvic.ca) to be featured on our social media and blog

Tag us in your content for a re-share!