

Norman Cohn Family Annual Holocaust Remembrance Lecture

HOLOCAUST LEGACIES

Lecture by Mona Sue Weissmark
Northwestern University and Harvard University

TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2010

7:30 P.M.

BENGTSON AUDITORIUM, RUSSELL HALL

Mona Sue Weissmark, a Harvard-trained psychologist, is the daughter of parents who survived the Auschwitz, Dachau, and Buchenwald concentration camps, and from whom she learned as a child the cruel fates of most of her extended family at the hands of the Nazis. Professor Weissmark will discuss her seminal study of Holocaust legacies. Professor Weissmark argues that although legal systems offer a structured means for redressing injustice, they have rarely addressed the emotional pain which, if left unresolved, is then passed along to the next generation—leading to entrenched ethnic tension and group conflict. Holocaust legacies and the lessons they offer have universal applications for any divided society resolved not to let the ghosts of the past determine the future.



Mona Sue Weissmark received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania and completed postdoctoral training at Harvard University. She headed the Harvard Holocaust Conference Research project and was on the faculty of the Harvard University Medical School. She was associate professor and founding director of the Institute for Social Justice at Roosevelt University in Chicago. Weissmark was named visiting associate professor of psychology at Northwestern University as well as at Harvard University, where she now teaches the course Psychology of Diversity and conducts research on the psychology of injustice.