

EINLADUNG

SIMON WIESENTHAL LECTURE

BARBARA KIRSHENBLATT-GIMBLETT
RISING FROM THE RUBBLE. CREATING THE
MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF POLISH JEWS

Donnerstag, 12. Juni 2014, 18.30 Uhr
Dachfoyer des Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchivs
1010 Wien, Minoritenplatz 1

WIENER WIESENTHAL INSTITUT
FÜR HOLOCAUST-STUDIEN (VWI)



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GEFÖRDERT VON:



The Grand Opening of the *Museum of the History of Polish Jews* will take place on 28 October 2014 in Warsaw. The museum, which faces the Monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes, completes the memorial complex. At the monument, the memory of those who died is honoured by remembering how they died. In the museum, they are honoured by remembering how they lived.

At the heart of the museum is its multimedia narrative exhibition, which presents the thousand year history of Polish Jews. That history is today an untold story, a story broken by the Holocaust, but with a legacy that lives on.

This lecture will go behind the scenes to show how the museum and its core exhibition evolved from an initial idea in 1993 to become one of the most important museums of Jewish history in the world. The museum and its core exhibition aspire to be an agent of transformation by transmitting the rich civilization of Polish Jews to future generations, by creating a trusted zone for engaging with difficult issues, and by being a bridge across time, people, and continents.

The lecture will be introduced and moderated by Danielle Spera, Director of the Jewish Museum Vienna.

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, distinguished University Professor at New York University, is Programme Director of the Core Exhibition at the *Museum of the History of Polish Jews*, which is on the site of the former Warsaw ghetto and pre-war Jewish neighbourhood. Her books include *Image before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864–1939* (with Lucjan Dobroszycki); and *They Called Me Mayer July: Painted Memories of a Jewish Childhood in Poland Before the Holocaust*, which she co-authored with her father Mayer Kirshenblatt.

She was honoured with the award for lifetime achievement by the *Foundation for Jewish Culture*. She currently serves on Advisory Boards for the *YIVO Institute for Jewish Research*, *Jewish Museum Vienna*, and the *New Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center* in Moscow.

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