Holocaust Literature for Children: ‘How Much Should We Tell the Children? (Eva Tal)’

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**Tuesday, April 9th**  
12:30 PM - 1:30PM  
2339 Faculty/Administration Building  
Free and open to the public

For three decades, my scholarly work has focused on Holocaust survivor memoirs, including more recently memoirs of the second generation, specifically the sub-genre “from mother to daughter.” In 2009, I self-published a memoir, entitled *Revision of a Life: My Mother’s Holocaust Story*, about my mother’s Holocaust experiences as well as her life in Germany before the Holocaust and her life afterward in the United States.

These memories and stories had been shared with me when I was a child and repeated often as I grew into adulthood. The question that scholar Eva Tal poses—how much should we tell the children?—is at the heart of the continuing discussion about Holocaust literature for children, my current scholarly focus. Her question suggests some additional questions that this presentation will pose and attempt to answer: What types of Holocaust literature are available for children? What determines age-appropriateness for such literature? How can children’s literature about the Holocaust—whether fiction or non-fiction—remain true to the historical context while also being sensitive to the intellectual, psychological, and emotional development of children?

Professor Schindler has a longtime record of teaching, research, and scholarship in interdisciplinary studies and adult learning as well as in the interdisciplinary field of Holocaust Studies, with a special focus on the Holocaust memoir. In addition to teaching German language and culture courses, Professor Schindler teaches a memoir-based Holocaust course called “Bearing Witness: Understanding the Holocaust One Life at a Time.” Throughout her career, she has presented at numerous professional conferences and published book chapters on the memoirs and other works of several German Holocaust survivor-authors, such as Ingeborg Hecht, Ralph Giordano, Lotte Paepcke, and Hilde Buerger. Dr. Schindler has also presented and published widely in the fields of adult learning and interdisciplinary studies.