

Speaker :

On 6 and 7 December 1945, on a snowy night, unknown armed soldiers entered a house in the small eastern Slovak village of Kolbasov and committed a mass murder. Eleven young Jews became victims of what was probably the largest organized massacre in the early post-World War II years in Slovakia.

The main aim of this lecture is to examine the aftermath of the Holocaust and the eruption of the anti-Jewish violence. Starting with the contextualization of the Kielce (Poland), Kunmadaras (Hungary) and Topolčany (Slovakia) pogroms, we will focus on the lesser-known events that happened in Eastern Slovakia in 1945. We will analyze typologically diverse acts of collective anti-Jewish violence and incidents also from the perpetrator's perspective to contextualize their motives, the impulses which prompted them to react and problematize the role of anti-Semitism in their efforts to legitimize their deeds.