

# TRANS GENE RATIO NALE

TRANSGENERATIONALE

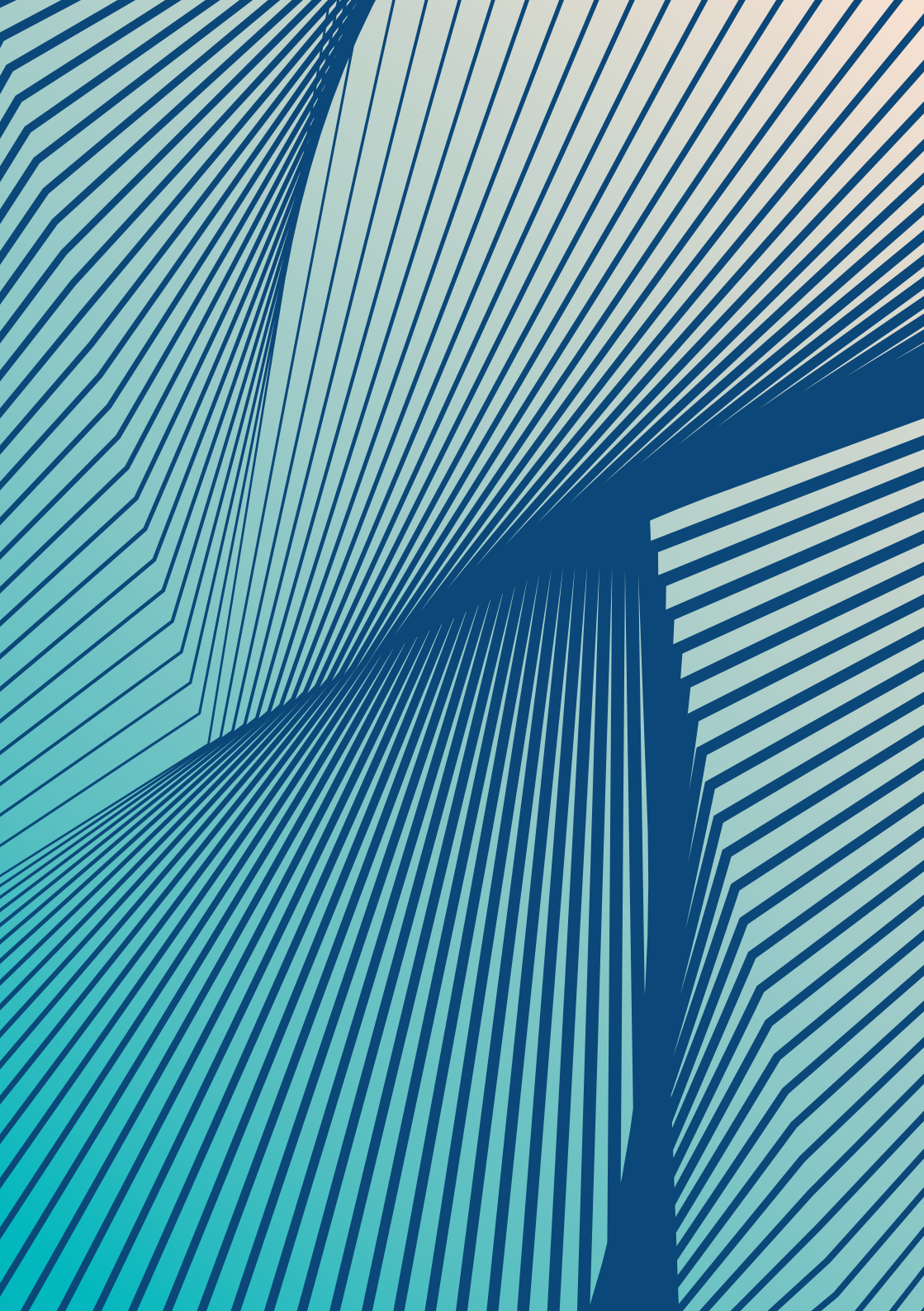
**PROGRAM** 24.11.2024

BERLIN

**Barenboim-Said  
Akademie**



**BARENBOIM-SAID  
AKADEMIE**



SYMPOSIUM

# TRANSGENERATIONALE

## Wounded Generations: Perspectives after October 7th

The October 7th attacks and the subsequent wars in the Middle East have made the prospect of peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians seem more remote than ever. The conflict has also renewed and exacerbated what many communities have long endured: transgenerational trauma. This symposium will explore the possibilities, prerequisites, and limitations of dialogue. Is it still possible to talk about dialogue after October 7th? What new needs have emerged for people directly affected by the Hamas massacre and the ongoing wars and violence? What can be the contribution of psychosocial approaches?

This event is a collaboration of AMCHA Deutschland e.V. and the Barenboim-Said Akademie. Funding is generously provided by the German Federal Foreign Office.

**AMCHA Deutschland e.V.** has been providing psychosocial assistance for survivors of the Shoah and their descendants in Israel for more than 35 years. At the heart of its work is the continuous commitment to achieve recognition of the impact of the Shoah, of which there is still insufficient awareness, and to shed light on the perpetuation of trauma in the present as a result of exclusion, the experience of war-related violence, or antisemitism.

Since 2016, the state-recognized **Barenboim-Said Akademie** has been teaching talented young musicians, primarily from the Middle East and North Africa, in the pedagogical spirit of Edward Said and Daniel Barenboim. In addition to intensive study in music theory and performance, each program also features study in the humanities. Students learn to listen to each other and develop their own ideas within a broad, interdisciplinary, and transcultural educational setting. The Akademie's goal is to educate musically excellent, curious, and reflected individuals.

# Program

**9.30–10.00 START OF REGISTRATION**

**10.00–10.30 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Prof. Dr. Jacob Eder (Professor of History, Barenboim-Said Akademie)

Carsten Wilms (Head of Division “Culture, Society and Media Relations with Africa, Near & Middle East”, German Federal Foreign Office)

Dr. Dror Golan (Clinical Director AMCHA Israel)

Dr. Juliane Solf (Executive Director AMCHA Germany)

**10.30–11.30 KEYNOTE**

## **Living amid Multiple Experiences of Trauma: The Israel-Palestine Conflict after October 7th**

Prof. Dr. José Brunner (Professor Emeritus at the Buchmann Faculty of Law and the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University)

The trauma of October 7th cannot be considered a self-contained phenomenon, neither on an individual nor a collective level. This presentation will address the many ways in which the Hamas and the subsequent war in the Middle East are connected to the multiple traumata that have shaped the history of the Israel-Palestine Conflict.

**11.30–11.45 COFFEE BREAK**

**11:45–1:00 1. PANEL**

## **Decades of War and Conflict in the Middle East: Transgenerational and Psychosocial Consequences**

Dr. Slieman Halabi (Social Psychologist, Wuppertal University)

Dr. David Senesh (AMCHA Israel / BeNafshenu)

**MODERATOR** Lukas Welz (Chairman AMCHA Germany)

This panel will discuss the ways collective trauma, national narratives, and personal experiences impact current perspectives on war and

conflict. How do years of war, conflict, and multiple traumata shape the psychosocial condition of generations? How are resilience and vulnerability patterns transmitted across generations, shaping both individual coping mechanisms and collective strategies for conflict transformation and inclusive peace?

**1:00–2:00 LUNCH**

**2:00–3:15 2. PANEL**  
**Solidarity and Recognition:  
Therapeutic Practice in Israel**

Wasim Birumi (Clinical Psychologist)

Dalia Sivan (AMCHA Israel / Trauma Coalition)

**MODERATOR** Maja Sojref (Executive Director New Israel Fund)

This panel will discuss the insights gained from many years of therapeutic practice in societies shaped by power imbalances and conflict. It will examine the prerequisites for constructive discussion and interaction. Which specific terminology, spaces, and resources are required? What opportunities exist to actively promote empathy and to counter selective empathy? To what extent can these experiences of therapeutic practice provide strategies for promoting peace?

**3:15–3:45 COFFEE BREAK**

**3:45–4:45 3. PANEL**  
**Experiences and Insights:  
An Arab-Jewish Women's Group in Israel**

Rina Buberoglu (Art Therapist / NATAL)

Arij Srougi Makhoul (Art Therapist)

**MODERATOR** Dr. Martin Auerbach (former Clinical Director of AMCHA Israel)

This panel will discuss how solidarity can be both powerful and at the same time precarious on the path towards healing and reconciliation. It will present the experiences and challenges gathered during the many years of work of an Arab-Jewish women's group. Can collective narratives be challenged in such a setting?

**4:45–5:00 COFFEE BREAK**

**5:00–6:30 READING AND DISCUSSION**

***A Letter in the Night.*  
*Reflections on Israel and Gaza***

Chaja Polak (novelist) in conversation with  
Shelly Kupferberg (journalist and author)

The Hamas terrorist attack on October 7th, 2023, and the ensuing war in Gaza continue to send shockwaves around the world. Chaja Polak, one of the most renowned voices in Dutch literature, examines the conflict in the Middle East, its history, and its ramifications with empathy and a deep understanding for the victims. Her essay *A Letter in the Night* addresses the complex and emotionally charged events and calls for us to challenge conventional interpretations. She shows us that grief and despair know no sides, and that violence can play no part in achieving genuine solutions. Her book is more than an essay, it is an appeal for dialogue, reflection, and action. Polak makes a passionate case for a future in which empathy and understanding provide the basis for lasting peace.

# Speaker

**MARTIN AUERBACH** Martin Auerbach is a psychiatrist and psychotherapist. He worked for many years in leading positions in community mental health centres in Jerusalem. His special interest is trauma therapy and different modalities of crisis intervention, short term and long-term psychotherapy. In 1993 he became a psychiatric consultant at AMCHA Jerusalem. From 2007 – 2024 he served as the National Clinical Director of AMCHA, the National Israeli Centre for Psychosocial Support of Survivors of the Holocaust and the Second Generation. Auerbach was born in Vienna, Austria, as a son of Holocaust survivors. He later moved to Israel and lives today in Jerusalem.

**WASIM BIRUMI** Wasim Biroumi is a clinical psychologist located in Israel and working in a private practice, where he works with Israeli and Palestinian patients on a daily basis. For many years he worked as a conflict and dialogue group facilitator with groups in conflict and post conflict areas. Since 2001, he has been a course teacher and trainer at the Open University, the Kibbutzim College, ICCI Israel, Haifa University and The School for Peace – Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam.

**JOSÉ BRUNNER** Brunner's areas of research are diverse. They include the politics of trauma discourse and psychoanalysis as well as psychological explanations of National Socialism, the practice of reparations for Holocaust survivors in Israel and Germany, psychological care for young Holocaust survivors in the immediate aftermath of World War II, contemporary political theories and the history of the right to truth. Currently, Brunner is writing a book on the ongoing war in the Middle East, examining it from a historical and psychological perspective.

**RINA BUBEROGLU** Rina Buberoglu is an art therapist and artist who works in a private clinic. She teaches at Bar Ilan University and the school of psychoanalytic psychotherapy at Tel-Aviv University, and is senior lecturer on the MA in Art Therapy at HaKibbutzim College in Tel-Aviv. Her specialist areas are art therapy and inter-

culturalism. Rina Buberoglu has been working for almost 25 years in the Natal, Israel Trauma and Resiliency Center as a senior staff member in the Community Outreach Unit and on global projects. She has been the coordinator of the unit's projects with the Arab population and has moderated Jewish-Arab women's groups in mixed cities. She has also participated in overseas trauma interventions in Turkey, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Jordan and USA. Rina was born in Izmir, Turkey, and emigrated to Israel with her family when she was 15. She has participated in group and individual exhibitions.

**JACOB EDER** Jacob Eder is Professor of History at the Barenboim-Said Akademie. He studied history and American studies in Munich, Leeds, and as a Fulbright scholar at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Eder earned an MA and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania before working as a research associate at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena. Over his career, he has been awarded numerous scholarships and fellowships, including a Mellon Foundation Fellowship at George Washington University, a Feodor-Lynen Fellowship at New York University, and a visiting professorship at the International Center for the Study of Antisemitism at the Hebrew University. He has received several international honors for his research and teaching, such as the university-wide teaching award from Friedrich-Schiller-University, the Wiener Library's Ernst Fraenkel Prize, and the Marko Feingold Prize from the University of Salzburg. His publications on transatlantic relations, Holocaust memory, and antisemitism include his books "Holocaust Angst" (2016), which has been translated into German and Polish, and "Jenseits der Staatsräson" (2025).

**DROR GOLAN** Dr. Dror Golan is a senior clinical psychologist and the national clinical director of AMCHA Israel. He is also a senior lecturer on the "Temurot" Psychotherapy Programme at Bar-Ilan University, and the chair of the department of Clinical Supervision in Psychotherapy. He has been working at AMCHA since 2006 and also teaches at several academic institutions, recently at Bar-Ilan University. For several years he has led a project that makes psychological principles accessible in educational institutions for children in an ultra-Orthodox society.

**SLIEMAN HALABI** Slieman Halabi is a Palestinian citizen of Israel, social psychologist, and post-doctoral researcher at the University of Wuppertal, specializing in social and national identity, intergroup relations, and collective memory. His research explores the role of collective memory in social resistance, focusing on how the lessons of the Holocaust impact on contemporary social and political issues in Germany and Israel. Since 2011, Slieman has been engaged in organising and facilitating Israeli-Palestinian dialogue groups. Based in Germany for the past decade, he brings his extensive experience in facilitating dialogue to the European context, connecting Palestinians and Israelis in the diaspora.

**SHELLY KUPFERBERG** Shelly Kupferberg was born in 1974 in Tel Aviv and grew up in Berlin (West). A journalist and an author, she presents programs on culture and society for the radio stations Deutschlandfunk Kultur and RBB Kultur. Her book "Isidor. Ein jüdisches Leben" was published in 2022.

**ARIJ SROUGI MAKHLOUF** Arij Srougi Makhlof is an art therapist, working at the Multidisciplinary Centre for the Treatment of Victims of Sexual Assault, where she uses creative expression as a means for healing for individuals dealing with trauma. Arij Srougi Makhlof is a social activist who grew up in the mixed neighbourhood of Acco. She is a member of an Arab-Jewish women's group founded in 2014, in the aftermath of the Tzuk Eitan war, providing a safe and open forum to share stories and support one another. She is also a performer in an Arab-Jewish playback theatre group that uses improvisation of audience-driven stories to engage diverse audiences, elicit empathy and build resilience and connection.

**CHAJA POLAK** Chaja Polak born in 1941, is a novelist and visual artist. The Shoah has had a profound impact on her life. Her mother survived Auschwitz; her father perished in the camps. She attended Rietveld Academy and in 1989 published her debut novel "Zomaar een vrijdagmiddag". A number of Chaja Polak's books have been nominated for the Libris Literature Prize and translated into English, German, Danish, Italian, and Hungarian.

**DAVID SENESH** Dr. David Senesh is a clinical psychologist and senior psychotherapist in private practice in Tel Aviv, and online from Berlin and other locations in North America. He graduated in Canada and interned in the USA before returning to practice psychotherapy and to teach at various academic institutions in Israel including Levinsky Academic College in Tel Aviv, Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan and as adjunct professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary in a graduate programme for Rabbinical students and pastoral advisors in New York. His research interests lie in narrative and discourse analysis, transgenerational transfer of trauma and moral injuries. He is a former board member of an association for the protection of children in Israel (ELI), and currently a member of a forensic group for the documentation and assessment of torture victims according to the Istanbul Protocol at PCATI. He is presently on the Board of Directors of Be-Nafshenu (AMCHA).

**DALIA SIVAN** Dalia Sivan is a clinical social worker and psychotherapist with over 40 years of experience in individual, family and group therapy, and in the field of trauma and bereavement. For 25 years she was the director and supervisor of AMCHA's Northern branches, which employ over 150 psychologists and social workers and are aided by more than 100 volunteers. She is now a member of AMCHA's national management and is responsible for community relations and outreach. It has been her task to manage the government's effort to provide psychological support to the thousands of citizens and servicemen following October 7th. She worked as a trauma expert in Sri-Lanka, Japan, Nepal and the USA following natural disasters, and is also in private practice in Haifa and a clinical supervisor at "Zramim" Psychotherapy School. She earned her B.S.W. from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and her M.S.W. from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

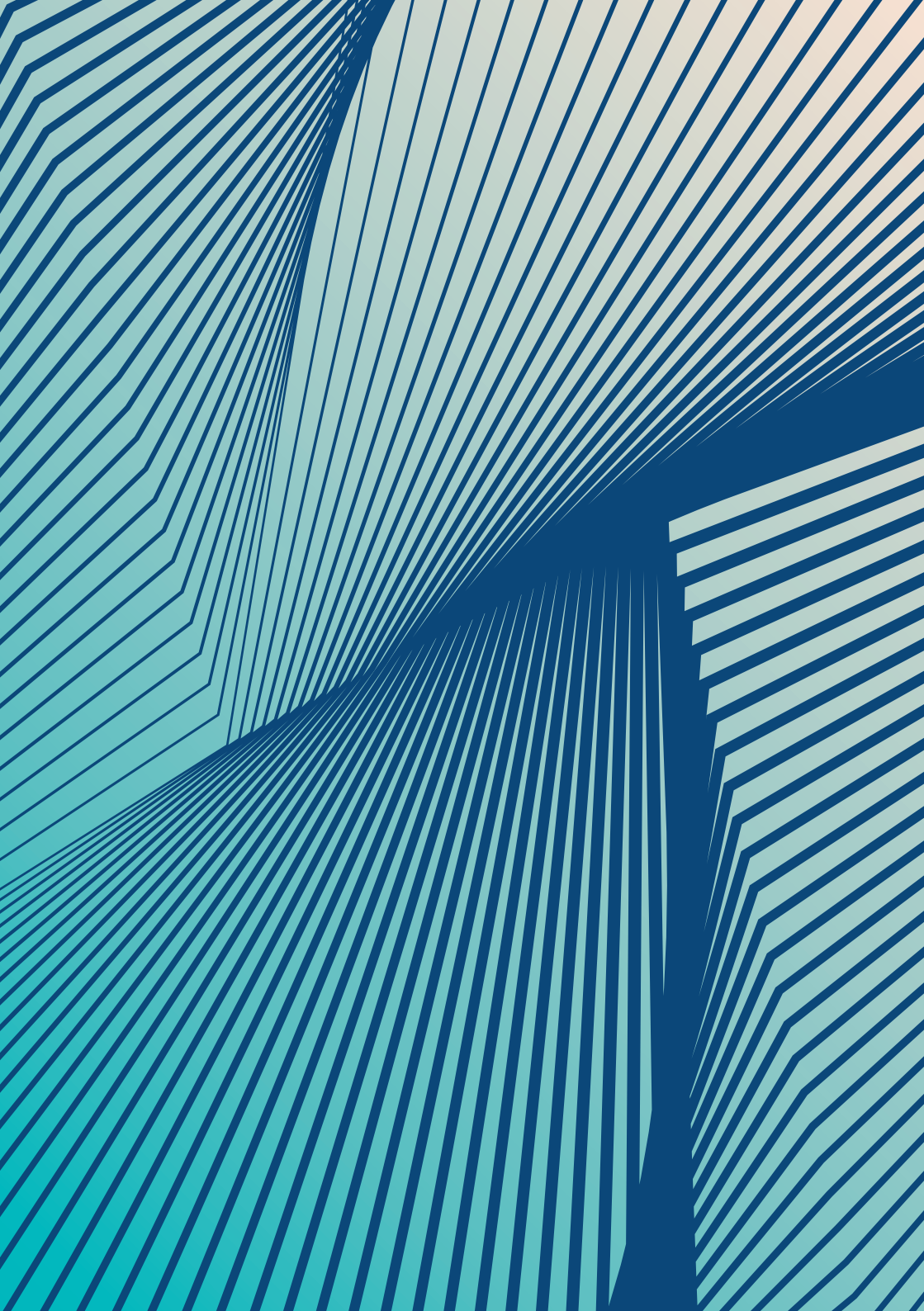
**MAJA SOJREF** Maja Sojref has been the Executive Director of the New Israel Fund (NIF) Deutschland e.V. since 2023. She completed her MPhil in Modern Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Oxford in 2016 and has since worked at the intersection of civil society, politics and business. From 2017 to 2019, Maja Sojref worked as a project manager for Israeli-Palestinian youth exchange at the Willy Brandt Centre in Jerusalem. Back in Berlin, she specia-

lised in strategic communication and led the digital COVID vaccination campaign of the German Federal Ministry of Health in 2022. Since joining NIF, Maja Sojref has, among other things, established the Netzwerk Israel (eng. Israel Civil Society Solidarity Network), which supports the work of AMCHA in Israel. She has also published op-eds and interviews in support of Israel's democratic civil society.

**JULIANE SOLF** Dr. Juliane Solf is a political theorist and, since January 2023, Managing Director of AMCHA Germany, an organization providing psychosocial support for Holocaust survivors and their families. Previously, she served as the Deputy Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), where she promoted the recognition and visibility of Romani art and culture. She studied in London and Florence and earned her Ph.D. from The Open University in London with a dissertation on citizenship and narrative change among Romani women. Her research focuses on access, visibility, and citizenship from marginal spaces. Dr. Solf has collaborated with organizations like Romnokher, the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, University of Hildesheim and the European Roma Rights Centre, working on projects in the UK, Italy, Hungary, Albania, and Israel. Her work aims to address historical traumata and combat discrimination and exclusion through rethinking inclusive narratives.

**LUKAS WELZ** Lukas Welz has been honorary chairman of AMCHA Germany since 2012. In this role, he has organised transnational specialist forums, promoted support for survivors of the Shoah and their descendants and facilitated engagement with the present of the Shoah past. Since 2021, he has been managing director of the Federal Association of Psychosocial Centres for Refugee Survivors of Torture, War and Persecution (BAFF). Previously, he worked in civil society organisations, memorial sites and in the German Bundestag on topics such as antiemitism, compensation for Nazi injustice, empowerment of Sinti and Roma, the culture of remembrance, and security sector reform. He studied Politics and Administration as well as Conflict, Security and Development in Potsdam, Heidelberg and at the UK Defence Academy. In 2021, he was honoured with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for his work.

**CARSTEN WILMS** Carsten Wilms joined the German Federal Foreign Office in 2000. His career has focused on European and Middle East Affairs. After returning from his assignment as Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Abu Dhabi he joined the Directorate-General for Culture and Communication. Mr Wilms currently serves as Head of Division “Culture, Society and Media Relations with Africa, Near & Middle East” of the Federal Foreign Office.





sponsored by:



Federal Foreign Office

in co-operation with:



**BARENBOIM-SAID**  
AKADEMIE