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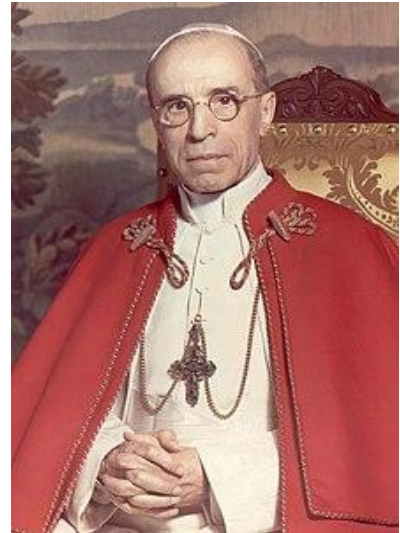
THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HOLOCAUST RESEARCH

- Zoom Webinar Conversation -

## The Holocaust-Era Archives of Pope Pius XII: The State of the Question

**Sunday, October 17, 2021**

For years, questions have eddied about the role of Pope Pius XII and the Catholic Church during the Holocaust. The recent opening of the Vatican archives from this era allows us to begin to know answers. After an introduction to these archives by Vatican archivist Piero Doria, this webinar featured a discussion among leading scholars working with these archives about their work, their initial findings, and the significance of archival scholarship for Jewish-Christian relations.



**Suzanne Brown-Fleming**, Director of International Academic Programs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

**David Kertzer**, Paul Dupee University Professor of Social Science at Brown University

**Robert Ventresca**, Professor of History at King's University College at Western University

*Moderator: Iael Nidam-Orvieta, Director of the International Institute for Holocaust Research at Yad Vashem*

**Suzanne Brown-Fleming** is Director of International Academic Programs at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her work has been featured in the Catholic News Service, Catholic News Agency, and *The Catholic Virginian*. She has appeared on CNN, EWTN Global Catholic Television Network, and in several documentaries, including *Holy Silence* (2020). Dr. Brown-Fleming is a 2021 Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Contemporary History's Center for Holocaust Studies in Munich and Berlin. She earned a doctorate in modern German history from the University of Maryland, and her publications include '*May Your Holiness Act in the Interest of Protecting Those Who Remain Morally Thinking People*': *Vatican Responses to Antisemitism, 1933* (2017) and *Nazi Persecution and Postwar Repercussions: The International Tracing Service Archive and Holocaust Research* (2016). Her current research project, *Il Papa Tedesco* (The German Pope): *Eugenio Pacelli and Germany, 1917–1958*, is a study of Pope Pius XII's relationship to Germany and its bishops, leaders, and people during the Weimar era, the Third Reich, and the Holocaust.

**David I. Kertzer** is the Paul Dupee University Professor of Social Science at Brown University (USA) where he is also Professor of Anthropology and Italian Studies and, from 2006 to 2011 served as Provost. His most recent book is *The Pope Who Would be King* (2018), on the Roman revolution of 1848. His previous book, *The Pope and Mussolini*, which has appeared in eleven languages, was awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Biography. Among his many other books, his *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara* was a finalist for the 1997 National Book Award for Nonfiction and has been published in eighteen foreign editions. He co-founded and served for many years as co-editor of the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*. In 2005 he was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Prof. Kertzer was among the first scholars having access to the newly opened Vatican archives for the papacy of the controversial Pius XII. His article in *The Atlantic* (August 2020) offered the first major findings to come out of the newly open archives, focusing on Vatican-Jewish relations and the Holocaust. He is currently working on a book, *The Pope at War: The Secret History of Pius XII, Mussolini and Hitler*, scheduled for June 2022 publication by Random House in the U.S. and Garzanti in Italy.

**Robert Ventresca** is a Professor of History at King's University College at Western University. He is a Member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and also serves on the Committee on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Prof. Ventresca has published on various topics related to European history and the Holocaust, the history of Fascism and democratic transitions, public history and memory, as well as migration and mobility. He writes and comments frequently on both historical and current events, and his ideas have been featured in such venues as *CNN* and *The Washington Post*. He earned a doctorate in modern European history from the University of Toronto. His research and teaching are mainly in Holocaust Studies with a focus on the role of religion in mass violence and genocide, especially the Catholic Church in the Holocaust-era and beyond. His work contributes to a growing comparative scholarship on the role that religion and religious institutions play in conflict and post-conflict transition, reconstruction and reconciliation. He is currently writing a new book for Cambridge University Press on the Vatican and the Holocaust, to be based in part on newly available documentation from the Vatican archives.