

# Kristallnacht and Remembrance Day: A Tale of Two Cousins

## Film Screening and Talk

Dr. Alan Marcus (University of Aberdeen)



As we approach the anniversary of 'The Night of Broken Glass' and Remembrance Day, we are given an opportunity to reflect on the continued significance of these two events today. During the Kristallnacht pogrom of November 9-10, 1938, over 10,000 Jews were taken to Dachau, the Nazis' first state concentration camp. In this talk, we learn the fate of two cousins -- Theodore Pais, who survived Dachau, and RCAF F/L Lionel Kirsch, who was shot down over Germany.

We investigate how the weight of history reconfigures a sense of place and perceptions of memorialisation as revealed in the experimental film, *In Place of Death* (2008, 30mins). The speaker considers how the film's approach, which avoids archival imagery, commentary or conventional interviews, exposes a reinterpretation of memory and the stature of place. The film focuses on the present as it observes streams of visitors to Dachau, which has become one of Munich's popular tourist attractions, drawing some 600,000 visitors annually, as many pose in front of the 'Arbeit Macht Frei' entrance gate and the crematorium's ovens. This talk contextualizes the film's role as a visual cipher, examining the way people interact with an iconic place and its inherited stigmatized meaning, transfiguring past events with their presence.

**Friday, November 5**

**7:00pm**

**Sobey Building 255**

Wine and cheese reception to follow in the Sobey 4th floor lounge



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