



# Complex Bodies

The Holocaust and Gender

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# Outline

- Holocaust Deaths
- Prof. Marion's Lecture on Does Gender Matter (PDF article on Moodle)
- Questions to think about
- Menstruation and Holocaust (Article on Moodle)
- Resources on Moodle

# HOLOCAUST 1939-1945

- The Holocaust refers to the period from January 30th 1933, when Hitler became Chancellor of Germany, to May 8th 1945, when the war in Europe ended.
- The Jewish people were the victims of Germany's genocide plan.
- This was a plan Hitler called, 'The Final Solution.'

# DEATHS DURING THE HOLOCAUST PERIOD

- 6 million Jewish people died.
- 3 million Russians died.
- 2 million Polish Christians died.
- 1.5 million Romani Gypsies died.
- 250, 000 disabled people died.
- 1,000s of gay people, Jehovah Witness' and enemies of the Nazi Party died.

# PROFESSOR MARION KAPLAN, “DID GENDER MATTER DURING THE HOLOCAUST?”

- 2019 Keynote Lecture presented at the Shoah Foundation Centre for Advanced Genocide Research There is discussion of sexual violence (including rape) in the lecture (appears between 53 minutes - 57 minutes) so for those who do not want to hear about that topic please make sure you skip those minutes. I will give another pre-warning before we get to that bit.

# “DID GENDER MATTER DURING THE HOLOCAUST?”

Some of the key areas that I particularly enjoyed from the lecture were:

- The history of women's scholarship since 1945 and how early topics relating to women's experience of the Holocaust were being discussed.
- The importance of doing a gendered history of holocaust, which included both men's experiences and women's (and I would also argue children's too) and not just 'adding on' women.
- The discussion of gender and age, gender and class, gender and sexuality and how they interrelated to the Holocaust.
- - Kaplan's future ideas of research in the area of gender and the Holocaust relating to the de-masculinisation of Jewish men, same sex couples during the Holocaust, relations between class, race and gender, and depictions of sexual violence during the Holocaust.

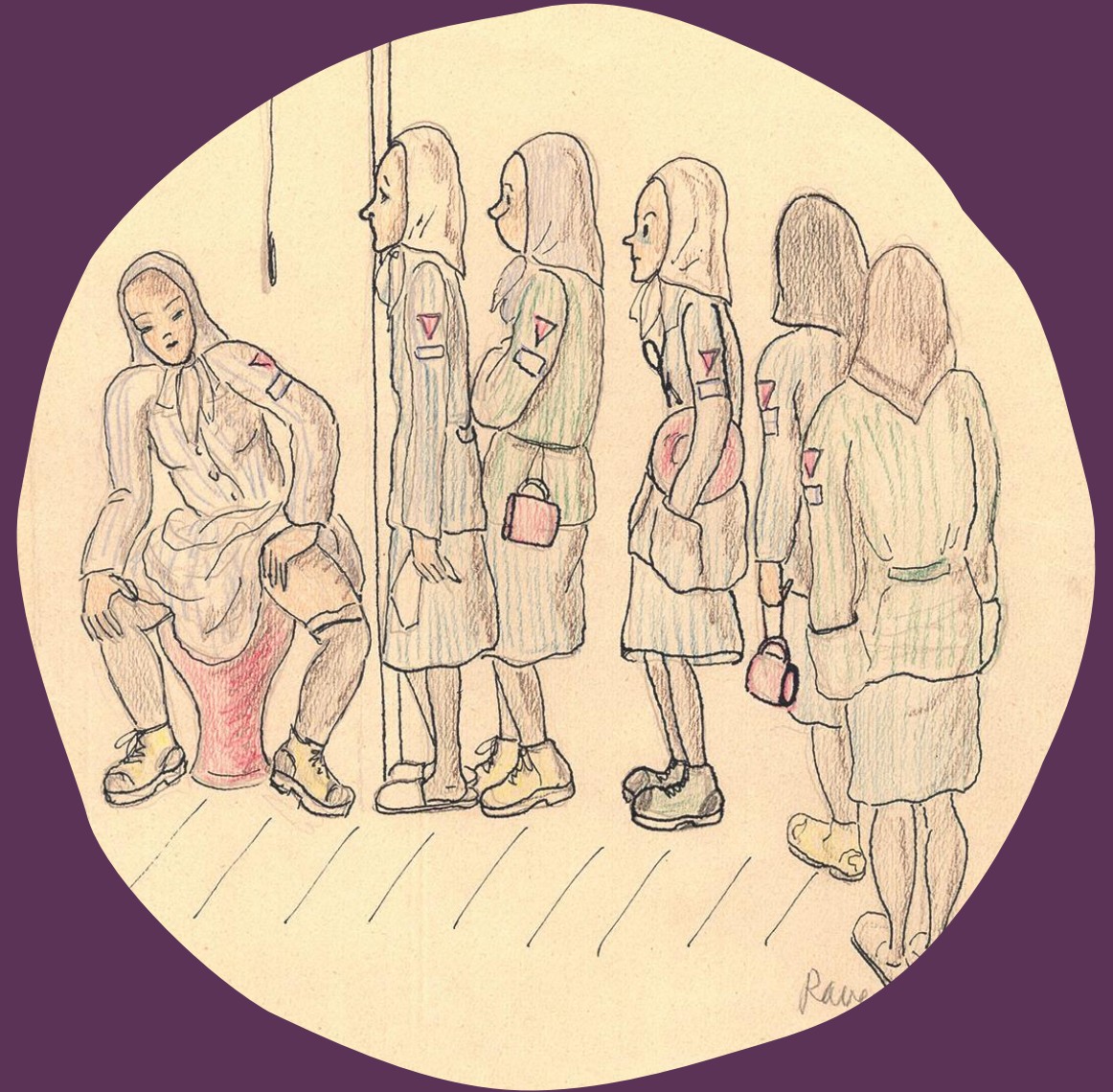
# Questions to think about ...

- What did you think of Kaplan's Lecture?
- How can you see the gendered theories that you have been working on during this Block, fitting in with some of the ideas that Kaplan has brought up in relation to gender and the Holocaust?

# MENSTRUATION AND THE HOLOCAUST

In 2019, Jo-Ann Owusu, a History graduate from the University of Warwick, had part of her BA dissertation Published in History Today. Owusu's research focussed on the little discussed topic of menstruation and the Holocaust.

Warning: The article does discuss sexual violence.



**Untitled drawing by Nina Jirsíková, 1941.  
Remembrance and Memorial Ravensbrück/SBG,  
V780 E1.**

