



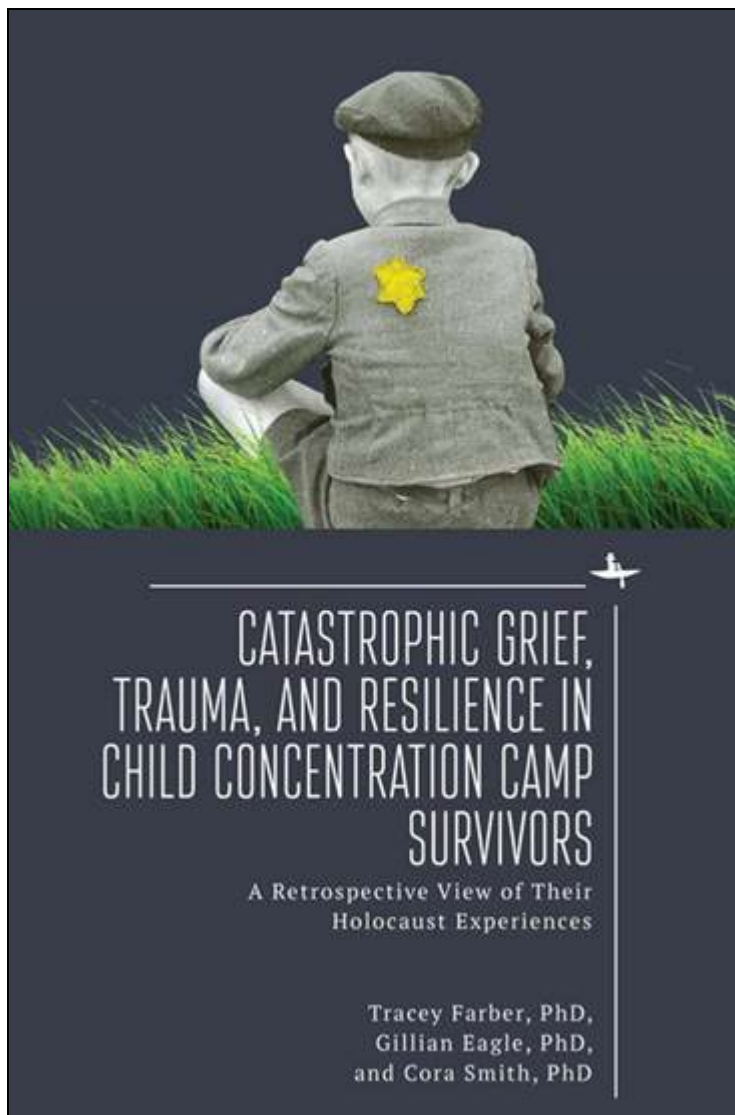
Monday 11 September 2023

TIME: 20:00 - 21:30 Israel time

Online Book Launch, Psychological Services, Student Success Centre, TAU

Please register for the online book launch (11/9/2023) on this link:

<https://forms.gle/R3baj4N6anigQbCv7>



Book: Catastrophic Grief, Trauma and Resilience in child concentration camp survivors. A retrospective view of their holocaust experiences. Authors: Tracey Farber, Gillian Eagle and Cora Smith. **Publisher:** Academic Studies Press (June 20, 2023). Series: Psychoanalysis and Jewish Life ISBN-13: In 978-1644696347.

Purchase link for book: : <https://www.academicstudiespress.com/out-of-series/9781644696347>

Also available on Amazon and other outlets and on Kindle/eBook within the next few days

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PROGRAM

Alberto Meschiany



Senior Clinical Psychologist, Supervisor, Director of Psychological Services Tel Aviv University:
Welcome and Introduction

Dr Tracey Farber,



Clinical Psychologist and author – Psychological Services, Student Success Centre, Tel Aviv University, and private practice: **Countertransference in psychodynamic research with child concentration camp survivors**

Prof Cora Smith



Clinical Psychologist and author - University of the Witwatersrand South Africa: **Understanding how the retrospective view of trauma changes across the life span – presenting examples of child concentration camp survivors**

Prof Gillian Eagle



Clinical Psychologist and author - University of the Witwatersrand: **Exploring the complexities of Complex Traumatic Stress in child concentration camp survivors**

Dr Orna Reuven



Clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, author, lecturer - Tel-Aviv University: **A psychoanalytic perspective on “Catastrophic Grief, Trauma and Resilience in Child Concentration camp survivors”**

Alberto Meschiany will moderate questions and comments:

Total time 1,5 hours

Book Blurb

This book describes the narratives of child holocaust survivors and their experiences of complex trauma, complicated bereavement, ageing, resilience and existential loneliness. The work is unique in that it describes the trauma of child Holocaust survivors who were placed in concentration camps. Most children were killed on entry. Child survivors were rare. These survivors went on to build lives with considerable resilience and coping but their trauma remained within for the next 70-75 years. This is a unique view of the impact of catastrophic trauma and grief over a lifespan.

The book is based on the research of Tracey Farber’s PHD research in which she interviewed 9 child Holocaust survivors who were interned in concentration camps. Gill Eagle and Cora Smith were the research supervisors. The authors have added original chapters discussing the relevant research and literature in the field of massive grief, complex trauma and ethics.

The survivors retained vivid recollections of the horror of internment and expressed ongoing grief for the multiple losses they had experienced. Unresolved grief contributed to a sense

of existential loneliness, particularly prominent in their late life reflections. Despite indications of resilience and life productivity, a 'Trauma Trilogy' of inter-linked catastrophic grief, anger, and survivor guilt contributed to a sense of pain and struggle in negotiating Erikson's final life task of Integrity versus Despair. By publishing the body of a doctoral thesis in the form of a book the aim was to make the material available to a wide audience. The authors include some practical outcomes that may inform clinical practice, further research, and understanding of the impact of other genocides.

About the Authors:

Tracey Farber worked full time as a clinical psychologist, psychotherapist, supervisor, and trainer in private practice for 24 years in Johannesburg. She specialized in treating traumatized adults, adolescents and children and her work also included seeing second generation Holocaust survivors for individual psychotherapy. At present, she works as a clinical psychologist at the Tel Aviv University Psychological Services, Student Success Centre and in private practice in Tel Aviv. She developed a psychoeducational program called "Understanding Trauma and Building Resilience" that was developed from her PhD research. This program has been taught to mental health workers, students, teachers, and parents as well as employees and managers.

Gill Eagle is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand. She lectures primarily on the master's program in Clinical Psychology and is also a core member of the doctoral team overseeing research work. Her research interests lie in the field of psychosocial studies, with a particular focus on traumatic stress and gender and issues. She runs a small private practice, working primarily within a relational psychoanalytic psychotherapy framework.

Cora Smith is Adjunct Professor in the Division of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of the Witwatersrand. She also holds a joint appointment post as the Chief Clinical Psychologist at the Child, Adolescent and Family Unit at Johannesburg Hospital. Her interests are in the development of personality pathology through the life cycle with a particular focus on attachment. She has a keen interest in the ethical dilemmas that emerge in clinical practice.

Endorsements on the back cover of the book

Catastrophic Grief, Trauma, and Resilience in Child Concentration Camp Survivors – a retrospective view of their Holocaust experiences (Farber, Eagle and Smith, 2023)

"A book, raw in the visceral descriptions of the effects of the holocaust provided by ageing child survivors as they painfully and courageously re-visit their experiences in the camps, the death marches and beyond. A book of inspiration in the warmth and compassion of the interviewer who listened and cared and whose personal resonances with the survivors shone through.

A hugely informative book in all authors' scholarly research on complex trauma, complicated bereavement, ageing, resilience and existential loneliness. A remarkable, must-read book in contemporary times not only for its collection of rare testimonies of ageing survivors of the holocaust but for its insights into the very long term but individual effects of massive collective trauma, which continue to dog the twenty first century. It is a testimony to despair and hope, trauma and resilience, and a must read for those who at least wish to try to understand."

— Gillian Straker, Clinical Professor of Psychology, University of Sydney; Visiting Research Professor, University Witwatersrand

"This book captures the voices of some of the last living survivors of the Holocaust. These in-depth interviews provide valuable testimony to how the catastrophic losses and trauma suffered by children and youth in the context of a genocide shaped their life trajectories, and how these early experiences impact their engagement with the final developmental challenges of the late years in life. Farber's gentle and compassionate relationships with the survivors are an inspiration to all who know or work with trauma survivors."

— Irit Felsen, PhD, Clinical Psychologist, Co-Chair of the Trauma Working Group at the NGO on Mental Health in Consultative Relationship to the United Nations

"This important book adds many layers and considerable clarity to our understanding of child concentration camp Holocaust survivors' experiences as they age. South Africa was always on the margins of the history of the Second World War and the Holocaust; only about 350 Holocaust survivors settled in the country after the war, many of whom were children and adolescents who were not interviewed about their experiences until the 1990s. It is seldom that a group of survivors trust and feel so comfortable with a researcher such as these nine survivors have been with Tracey Farber. They have benefitted from her visible care and generosity of spirit. Through her research, she does not only study the topic but also makes important steps to make sure they are cared for through the establishment of Holocaust survivors services in South Africa. This book is a testament to the many years of dedication and real care she has displayed, of which we are all grateful beneficiaries. I encourage all to read this important book, which includes not only the cases of these survivors and analysis of their experiences, but also excellent suggested steps forward that can be implemented widely."

— Tali Nates, Founder and Director, Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre

"A must-read for those interested in a rich combination of unique perspectives on theories of childhood development and trauma, including the impact on aging for those who were children during the Holocaust. The Survivor narratives are gripping and haunting, and command the reader to pause in honour of their testimonies. Be prepared to be inspired by their resilience. This book contributes to a deeper understanding of the experiences of grief and hope among those who survived the atrocities of the Holocaust as children."

— Jenni Frumer, Ph.D., LCSW, MEd; Director, NOW for Holocaust Survivors
Initiative/MorseLife Health System USA

A donation from author proceeds will be made to charities related to the welfare of Holocaust survivors.

In person book launches:

Jerusalem on Tuesday 31 October at 6 pm Pomeranz Book store in collaboration with Telfed and Wits Alumni

Johannesburg on Sunday 26 November at 10:30 am at the Johannesburg Holocaust Museum

Cape Town on 4 December at 3.pm at the Cape Town Holocaust Museum

Please register for the online book launch (11/9/2023) on this link:

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A Zoom link will be sent approximately a week before the online launch

For any queries, please contact Tracey Farber traceyfarber@tauex.tau.ac.il