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Nancy Ammerman

“We’re looking for the stories that bring together the spiritual aspects of a person’s life with work, family, and other aspects of their life.”

going on at work and at home, and whether they participated in any religious activities on that day. Each participant will get a disposable camera so they can photograph spaces that are important to them.

Working with the MARIAL Center makes it possible to study spirituality in families, Ammerman said. “We will look for a single informant in the family. We will ask one person in the family to talk about what’s going on.”

German family memories

Harald Welzer is director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Memory Research at Essen and research professor of social psychology at the University of Witten/Herdecke.

He spoke last year at MARIAL about his research into how families talk about the Nazi period in Germany. The project, “Transmitting Historical Awareness,” involved interviews with forty West and East German families. The whole family was interviewed together and then separate interviews were done with at least one eyewitness to the era, their children, and their grandchildren.

Welzer talked about how history is formed and transmitted through conversations among the generations, how anti-Jewish stereotypes are similarly passed down, and how Germans interpret the roles of their parents or grandparents in the Third Reich.



Peter Kilborn

The “relo” (relocation) class is a growing segment of the upper middle class that moves from suburb to suburb every few years as their six-figure jobs change.

Welzer said there are “huge gaps between public and private memories” of the Nazi era in Germany. His research shows that each generation makes its own sense of the stories passed down in their families, but “nobody is willing to tell the truth” about what happened during the Third Reich. In many cases, he found that families denied that their relatives had committed atrocities, even though historical records indicated otherwise.

Suburban life study

Peter Kilborn came to MARIAL last year while researching an article on social class in America for *The New York Times*. He was one of a team of reporters who researched and wrote “Class Matters,” a ten-part series exploring how class manifests itself in contemporary life.



Harald Welzer

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The series—which explored where people live, where they work, where they are educated, and how healthy they are—was later published as a book.

Shore kept in touch with Kilborn, who recently retired after thirty years at the *Times*. Kilborn is now focusing on a growing segment of the upper middle class that moves from suburb to suburb every few years as their six-figure-income jobs change. He calls them the “relo” (relocation) class. He will examine this affluent, nomadic group of white-collar executives to see how their families adjust to frequent moves and the absence of traditional hometown roots.

Based in suburban Washington, D.C., Kilborn is under contract to write a book about this new “relo” class. Metro Atlanta is one of the sites he will study nationwide. He will visit MARIAL occasionally to present his findings, Shore said.

In more than four decades as a journalist, Kilborn covered such topics as business, economics, social issues, and the workplace. He has reported from Paris, London, Rio de Janeiro, Los Angeles, New York, Miami, and Washington. ■