
Using Erving Goffman’s theory of ‘stigma’ in which the ‘gaze’ of others stains identity, this paper will argue that the cosmopolitan ‘gaze’ stains national identity at Stockholm by instigating a confrontation with the state’s shame as engendered by the national memory of the perpetration of the Holocaust. This paper will propose that the prerequisites for the construction of the Holocaust as cosmopolitan ‘stigma’ in January 2000 included a left-liberal American and West European political consensus, post-Communist democratic developments in Central and Eastern Europe, generation change and the lifting of taboos regarding the confrontation with the Nazi past as well as new fears surrounding the Internet, resurgent right-wing nationalism in Europe, and the perpetration of genocide in the 1990s. This presentation will end with an analysis of how the cosmopolitan ‘stigma’ of the Holocaust is institutionalized through the norms, stereotypes and religious language used in the construction of the Stockholm Declaration, a document which functions as the global manifesto of the Forum.