

The memory of the Holocaust is not noiseless

My thesis focuses on commemorative rituals in the Jewish community in Paris between the Liberation and Six Day War. I define commemorative rituals as commemorative ceremonies and public gatherings.

One of the contributions I sought to make through this research was to revise a certain historiography of the memory of the Holocaust emphasizing the silence that reigned in the immediate aftermath of the war on the national public scene, as well as within the Jewish community. By focusing on Jewish public life through these commemorative rituals, I hope to have shown that the memory of the Holocaust did not fade. Rather, it was the subject of discussions and debates, and therefore of gatherings that attracted a very large audience.

As of September 1st, I am part of a Labex – a Laboratory of Excellence – a multiyear research program backed by substantial State funding. This Labex is called “Writing a new history of Europe”. I am in charge of the “wars and traces of war in Europe” section.

My thesis supervisor was Claire Andrieu, who has been a mentor since my Masters, so there was significant continuity in the guidance: she saw me through the evolution of my subject and of my approach to it. At the Center for History I met research professors who were always willing to work with me. Most importantly, I benefited from a mentoring team that gave me and fellow PhD students the opportunity to organize a seminar entitled “History of the Jews in Europe after 1945” that allowed us to create a discussion forum with researchers invited on a monthly basis while we were all working on our theses. The seminar lasted 5 years, throughout the thesis-writing process, and was held in partnership with the IHTP (Institute for the History of the Present), with the History Center hosting most of the sessions and providing key logistical support, especially with regard to communications. The CHSP (History Center of Sciences Po) truly provided an encouraging work environment for both my personal research and group projects.