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PROJECT OUTLOOK, November 25th 2008

The “Heilandskirche” of Graz during National Socialism
in consideration of its members persecuted as “Jews”

LEADING INSTITUTION

Karl-Franzens-University of Graz
Centre of Jewish Studies
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SCIENTIFIC CO-OPERATION PARTNERS

Karl-Franzens-University of Graz
Institute for History
Evangelische Pfarrgemeinde Graz, Heilandskirche
Karl-Franzens-University of Graz
JuniorUni (UniKID)

SCHOOLS INVOLVED

Akademisches Gymnasium, Graz
Gymnasium Kirchengasse, Graz



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Austrian Federal Ministry of
Science and Research

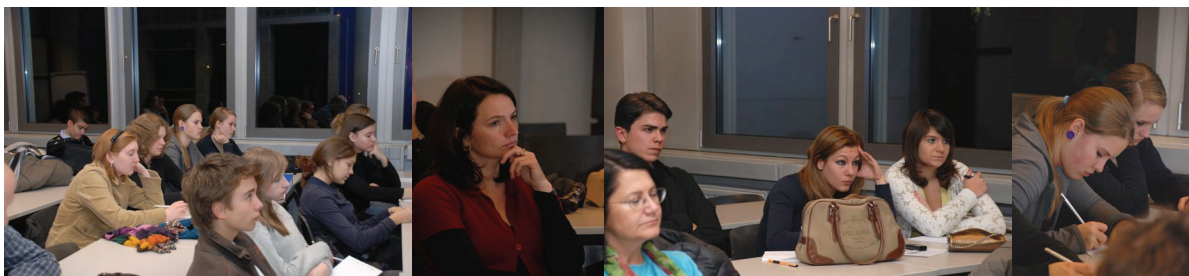
The “Heilandskirche” of Graz during National Socialism in consideration of its members persecuted as “Jews”

Historical fundamental research in cooperation with pupils

The history of the Protestant “Heilandskirche“ of Graz (Church of the Saviour) during the time of National Socialism has not been studied well so far. Even less research has been carried out on the fate of church members and their families persecuted as “Jews”. Project director Gerald Lamprecht points out that “the research support program ‘Sparkling Science’ offers a great chance to reappraise this part of history of the first Protestant community of Graz. We have to seize this opportunity in order to rescue this group of victims that has been marginalized so far from oblivion.”

On the one hand, the project focuses on the structural development of the “Heilandskirche” since the late 19th century as well as the church’s members and governing body in the context of the greater Styrian, Austrian and European history. On the other hand, main emphasis is laid on individual dimensions of the people persecuted. Based on a praxeological approach, which means that people are not only the marionettes of structures but also the formers of them, the people involved and their individual scope of action are spotlighted. The aim of the project is to reconstruct the history of the “Heilandskirche” and its members persecuted as “Jews” during the time of National Socialism. Furthermore questions of conversions of Jews in Styria (especially Graz) will be dealt with which have not been considered so far.

Within the project Mag. Hildegard Schaberl is mentoring teacher at the school participating called “Akademisches Gymnasium Graz”. She noted that “due to the opening of the ‘Heilandskirche’ archives it is now possible to examine the attitude of the Protestant denomination towards their members who were declared ‘Jewish’ by the National Socialists. This is a unique chance for pupils to work shoulder to shoulder with scholars within a joint project.” This fact is also looked upon favorably by Irntraud Eberle-Härtl, leader of JuniorUni Graz.



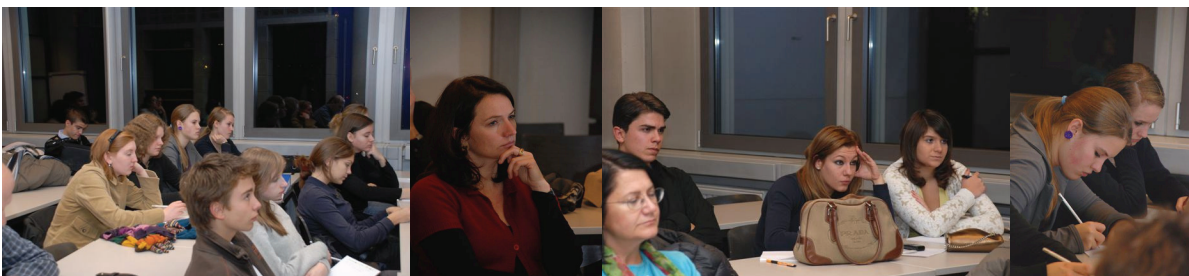
Comments on the project


“JuniorUni Graz is aimed at arousing interest in young people in science and research. Thus I, being project leader, am very pleased about the program ‘Sparkling Science’ which offers our JuniorKollegInnen (Junior Colleagues) the chance to work together with scholars from the CJS in order to investigate a chapter of our past that little attention has been paid to so far. This way the JuniorKollegInnen are able to make the first move to make a career as scientists.”
 Irmtraud Eberle-Härtl, JuniorUni Graz

“Due to the opening of the ‘Heilandskirche’ archives it is now possible to examine the attitude of the Protestant denomination towards their members who were declared ‘Jewish’ by the National Socialists. This is a unique chance for pupils to work shoulder to shoulder with scholars within a joint project.”
 Mag. Hildegard Schaberl, Akademisches Gymnasium Graz

“On behalf of the Akademisches Gymnasium Graz I may thank the project’s initiators at the ‘JuniorUni’ for their excellent cooperation in the scope of the project ‘Heilandskirche Graz during National Socialism’. Their efforts deserve recognition and respect. They endeavored to open up scientific expertise as well as human resources and logistic infrastructure at Karl Franzens University Graz in the field of contemporary history in order to enable our pupils to take part in a new and extraordinary way of research. All the more the fate of the church members persecuted as ‘Jews’ is reappraised not only with all due historical meticulousness but also with the greatest empathy, always considering the perception and capability of our youth.”
 Mag. Brigitta Harnik, Akademisches Gymnasium Graz

“I think the project is incredibly interesting. Besides, we are given the chance to help studying and developing something that had never been examined. I think this is a fantastic idea and a great chance for us pupils. The subject areas are also great and from my point of view it provides something for everyone! I am already looking forward to cooperating!”
 Christina Imp, Akademisches Gymnasium Graz





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