

Master of Arts in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Stockton University Present:

# “HOLOCAUST HORROR”

*A lecture presented by Dr. Kobi Kabalek*

**November 18th | 12:00 – 1:30 PM | [stockton.zoom.us/j/93182325469](https://stockton.zoom.us/j/93182325469)**



1593  
Walter Spitzer, “Nightmares in Buchenwald” (1945).  
Courtesy of the Ghetto Fighters’ House Museum, Art Collection.

There is nothing new in saying that for its victims, as well as for contemporary and later observers, the Holocaust was a horror story. Yet only rarely do scholars note that many Holocaust accounts were actually written as such, employing cultural, and often fictional, images of horror in recounting one’s experiences of persecution. “Holocaust Horror” will examine a variety of written and visual Holocaust accounts, created during or after WWII, which imagined perpetrators as vampires, demons, or other supernatural monsters; portrayed camps, ghettos, and killing sites with fantastic and terrifying images of hell; integrated scenes and figures from horror books and films; and adopted some conventions of the horror genre. Using insights from studies of fictional horror, this presentation will trace the origins, functions, and meanings of portraying the Holocaust as a horror tale come true.

*Dr. Kobi Kabalek, Assistant Professor of Holocaust Studies and Visual Studies, Germanic and Slavic Languages and Literature and Jewish Studies earned a Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia in 2013, with a dissertation on “The Rescue of Jews and the Memory of Nazism in Germany.” Dr. Kabalek was editor of The Journal of Holocaust Research (formerly: Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust) and assistant editor of History & Memory. Dr. Kabalek’s research focuses on historical perceptions, moral sentiments, and memory in film, literature, auto/biography, oral narratives, and art in German, Israeli, and global Holocaust history. His current research explores marginalized and extreme phenomena in Holocaust testimonies, historical writing, and popular culture – with special attention to the role of fantasy, imagination, and horror – and their impact on our understanding and representation of the Holocaust.*