

# W. Jake Newsome, Ph.D.

## Public Historian



### SERVICES & OPPORTUNITIES

- **RESEARCH CONSULTATION**  
Dr. Newsome is available to answer individual inquiries about LGBTQ Holocaust history. He also consults on research projects such as documentaries and podcasts.
- **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**  
Dr. Newsome regularly speaks to audiences ranging from high school and college communities, local groups or organizations, community centers, academic conferences, as a special guest on podcasts, and at special events for venues such as the Library of Congress.

### Scholar ■ Author ■ Speaker ■ Educator

Dr. Jake Newsome is a scholar of German and American LGBTQ history. He earned his Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo (SUNY) and his research focuses on Holocaust history, gender and sexuality, and memory studies. His forthcoming book, *Pink Triangle Legacies: Coming Out in the Shadow of the Holocaust* (Cornell University Press, 2022) traces the transformation of the pink triangle from a concentration camp badge in Nazi Germany into a symbol of gay activism, pride, and community beginning in the 1970s. Dr. Newsome is the recipient of multiple research and teaching awards, scholarships, and fellowships. He is also a public scholar and international speaker, who has been invited by institutions ranging from small community centers to the French and UK governments and the US Library of Congress to speak about the memorialization of the Nazis' gay victims. As a public historian, he is dedicated to guiding learners through a study of history to develop an ethical sense of compassion and wrestle with the ideals and challenges of responsible citizenship.

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## LECTURE OPTIONS

### **Pink Triangle Legacies: Gay Rights in the Shadow of the Holocaust**

Gay and lesbian communities have long been regarded as one of the “forgotten victims” of the Nazi regime. Yet, were they truly forgotten? Relying on archival evidence, Dr. Jake Newsome reveals how societies purposefully silenced gay Holocaust victims for decades, which had devastating consequences for generations of gay Germans. Ignored by the historical profession and the majority of the population, gay communities set out to write their own history, and transformed the pink triangle - the badge once forced upon gay concentration camp prisoners - into a global symbol of social activism and positive identity. The history of the pink triangle’s transformation teaches us about the dangers of ignoring the past, as well as the power of history to heal and empower communities. *(45 minutes. Requires audio and visual. Presentation includes images of archival material, including government documents, newspaper articles, and gay rights fliers, as well as gay Holocaust survivor testimony.)*

### **“They’re Enemies of the State!” The Nazis’ Violent Campaign against the LGBTQ Community**

Drawing on archival material, Dr. Newsome sketches the lived experiences of members of the German LGBTQ community during the Holocaust, and explores how Nazi understandings of sexuality, race, citizenship, and power were all related. In doing so, he untangles the complex motivations that convinced Nazi leaders that combating homosexuality was vital to the success of the Third Reich. The result was the destruction of the vibrant gay communities that had emerged during the Weimar years, and the targeting, torture, and murder of tens of thousands of gay Germans. And while the Holocaust ended with the defeat of Nazi Germany in May 1945, gay survivors soon learned that the era of state-sanctioned persecution was not over. *(45 minutes. Requires visual only. Presentation includes statistical graphs and archival material, including Nazi records and artifacts produced by gay victims themselves.)*

## OTHER SPEAKING TOPICS

In addition to the two lectures described to the left, Dr. Newsome is also available to speak on the following topics:

- Approaching difficult histories in the classroom
- The role of historical consciousness in cultivating inclusive communities
- The challenges of researching and writing LGBTQ history
- Memory and memorialization

## FEES

- **SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**  
Speaking fees are dependent on the details of the event. For in-person events, additional costs include: airfare or mileage, lodging, local transportation, and a Meals & Incidentals allotment.
- **CONSULTATION**  
Dr. Newsome is happy to answer individual inquiries, particularly from students. For those interested in consulting for larger projects, please send a brief description of your project and the nature of your research inquiry via email to request a quote.

*Please note that speaking engagements and consultations are done in Dr. Newsome’s capacity as a scholar and not as a representative of his employer.*

## LEARN MORE ONLINE!

To access resources on LGBTQ Holocaust history, watch videos of past events, and read more about Dr. Newsome’s work, visit his website at [wjakenewsome.com](http://wjakenewsome.com) !