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From the Ghetto to the Forest: Surviving the Holocaust in Belarus

 **Friday, October 25th**  **12:15-1:00PM**  **Posner Grand Room 340,
Posner Hall**

81 years ago, on 21 October 1943, the Minsk ghetto was “liquidated” — German forces rounded up the last remaining Jewish prisoners and either killed them in the surrounding forest or deported them to concentration camps further west. A group of 13 Jews, however, survived in the basement of a home in the city and saw the end of World War II. This group’s survival testifies to the brutal force of the murder campaigns in and around the ghetto.

It also demonstrates the agency Jewish children, youngsters, women, and men developed in the face of marginalization, abuse, and horrific violence and which enabled them to survive, in hiding or as part of so-called partisan units that gathered in the forests and swamps around Minsk and many other Belarusian cities and towns.

In this lecture, Prof. Anika Walke discusses how Soviet Jews experienced the Holocaust and how they made sense of their lives many years later.

Anika Walke’s current research looks at the long aftermath of the Nazi genocide in Belarus. In particular, she is interested in how people remember and live with the effects and repercussions of systematic violence. She has recently taught courses on the Holocaust and the history of the Soviet Union, and will join the History Department in fall 2025 as the inaugural Askwith Family Professor

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