

# Bard Berlin

# Conference

## Conference 2013

### Judgment in Extremis

A Conference Inspired by the Fiftieth Anniversary of Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*  
***The conference was a cooperation between Bard College Berlin, the ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry (where the event was held), and the Hannah Arendt Center at Bard College in New York***

Hannah Arendt's *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, based on a series of articles for *The New Yorker*, was published in 1963. An account of the trial and execution of Adolf Eichmann, one of the main organisers of the Holocaust, the essay provoked enormous controversy. Objections were made to Arendt's diagnosis of the "banality of evil" and to her view of the structures of complicity that facilitated the perpetration of the Nazi genocide. This conference considers the legacy of Arendt's analysis. Do her conclusions hold? What are the resonances of her claims today for a philosophical and legal confrontation with extreme instances of human destructiveness and wrongdoing?

### Guest Speakers

- Roger Berkowitz, Academic Director, Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and the Humanities, Bard College
- Jay Bernstein, University Distinguished Professor at the New School for Social Research, New York
- Seyla Benhabib, Eugene Mayer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Yale University
- Barbara Hahn, Distinguished Professor of German, Vanderbilt University
- Gerd Hankel, Research Associate, Hamburg Institute for Social Research
- Wolfgang Heuer, Associate Professor, Otto-Suhr-Institute of Political Science, Freie Universität
- David Kishik, Fellow 11/12/13, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry
- Christoph Menke, Professor of Practical Philosophy at Goethe University, Frankfurt/Main
- Andreas Nachama, Director of the Topography of Terror Foundation
- Gaby Weber, Journalist
- Annette Weinke, Research Associate, Modern History, Friedrich Schiller University Jena