

Film descriptions and round table panels:

April 3, 2022, 17h, Salle Michel Simon, Grütli. This evening is part of the 2022 Geneva History Festival “Invisibilities”.

***Into the Fire: American Women in the Spanish Civil War*, Julia Newman, 2002, colour 58 min.**

Into the Fire gathers together for the first time in one film first-hand testimonies of 16 of the over 80 American women who participated in the Spanish Civil War, many as medical workers. From African-American nurse Salaria Kea to writers like Martha Gellhorn and Dorothy Parker, *Into the Fire* brings to light the unique engagements and experiences of women journalists, writers, volunteer nurses or simply unqualified volunteers, who enrolled in different American organizations supporting Spain's anti-fascist struggle in defiance of the U.S. government. Their commitment, courage and relentless efforts were crucial not only to the Republican cause, but also for fighting against gender and class inequalities, as well as against racial discrimination in the United States.

Panel members: (provisional)

- **Moderator:** Brenda Lynn Edgar (University of Geneva)
- Pascal Hufschmid, MICR
- Julia Newman (Film producer and director)
- Maria Róson (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

April 7, 2022, 18h, Salle Michel Simon, Grütli

***Journal de Rivesaltes, 1941-1942*, Jacqueline Veuve, 1997, colour, 77 min.**

This documentary film details the experience of Austro-Swiss nurse Friedel Bohny-Reiter while working as a nurse for the Red Cross's Swiss Aid to Children (*Secours Suisse aux Enfants*) at the Rivesaltes internment camp in the Southwest of France. There, Bohny-Reiter had witnessed first-hand the deportations of Jews from Rivesaltes to Auschwitz via Drancy as well as the starvation and suffering of tens of thousands of refugees from the Spanish War. Inspired in part by the publication of Bohny-Reiter's eponymous journal kept during her service at the camp, the film's innovative structure and content reflect Veuve's anthropological approach to cinema.

Panel members: (provisional)

- **Moderator:** Brenda Lynn Edgar, iEH2, UNIGE
- Guy Eckstein (Holocaust survivor, Born at Elna Maternity, France)
- Ronny Brauman (CRASH, Paris)
- Sigiriya Aebischer Perone (HUG)

April 8, 2022, 18h, Salle Michel Simon, Grütli

***La Filière*, Jacqueline Veuve, 1987, colour, 37 min. and *Lettres de Stalingrad* 1972, b/w, 28 min.**

La Filière documents the story of Rösli Näf, a Swiss nurse with the Swiss Aid to Children working at the Chateau de la Hille during the Second World War. After mounting an escape route across France and into Switzerland which saved 150 Jewish children from deportation, Näf was fired by the Red Cross for compromising the organization's "neutrality". The film also brings to light the courageous actions of Victoria Cordier and her sisters who, defying local police and army officials, passed the children from France into Switzerland via their home in the forbidden zone of Jura's Joux valley, near the village of Brassus. Another example of Veuve's anthropological cinema, this film also reflects her tactful, yet critical, approach to the history of Switzerland's involvement in the Second World War.

Lettres de Stalingrad raises the issue of gender stereotypes of the male soldier and how these were shaped in the Third Reich. Realizing they had been abandoned by Hitler at Stalingrad, many soldiers wrote to their families one last letter as they faced what was a certain death. Using those letters censored by the Reich as being unpatriotic as well as archival film and photographic footage from the time, Veuve shows another facet of the male soldier, one that is decidedly un-heroic and embittered by the injustice of dying for a war, and a leader, they didn't believe in.

Panel members: (provisional)

- **Moderator:** Brenda Lynn Edgar, iEH2, UNIGE
- Valérie Gorin, Geneva Centre of Humanitarian Studies
- Samia Hurst, SOS Méditerranée, and iEH2, UNIGE
- Pierre-Emmanuel Jaques, film historian, UNIL