

**Yechiel Weizman - Bloody Wednesday: Memory, Oblivion, and Urban Space in post-Holocaust Poland** [in Hebrew]

Abstract:

How does the past remain present in urban space—in houses, streets, and squares—even after the culture that carried it has been destroyed? What happens when history is not merely an abstract memory but a material reality that continues to shape and unsettle the present?

In *Bloody Wednesday*, Yechiel Weizman seeks to trace the ghostly presence of the Jews of Olkusz, a small town in south-central Poland that boasted a large Jewish community for centuries until its destruction in the Holocaust. Despite the community's total absence, the memory of the Jews has remained palpable and pervasive—yet at the same time silenced and repressed—on every street corner: in empty houses, abandoned cemeteries and synagogues, memorial plaques and monuments, and in public debates over property, heritage, and commemoration.

Through the case study of a single Polish town, the book demonstrates how the urban topography of Eastern Europe has been continually reshaped and redefined in the wake of the Second World War, the question of Jewish property, and the politics of Holocaust memory during the communist period and after the fall of the Iron Curtain. Adopting a microhistorical lens and descending to the finest resolutions of everyday life and urban history, reveals how the ongoing debate over the presence of the dead Jews in the concrete and imagined spaces of one town became a dramatic arena for a painful, intimate, and nostalgic confrontation with the violent fingerprints of the twentieth century, and with pressing questions of responsibility, ethics, and guilt.