

Soviet Documentary Film of the Holocaust: Why it was Marginalized and the Case for Reassessment



Jeremy Hicks

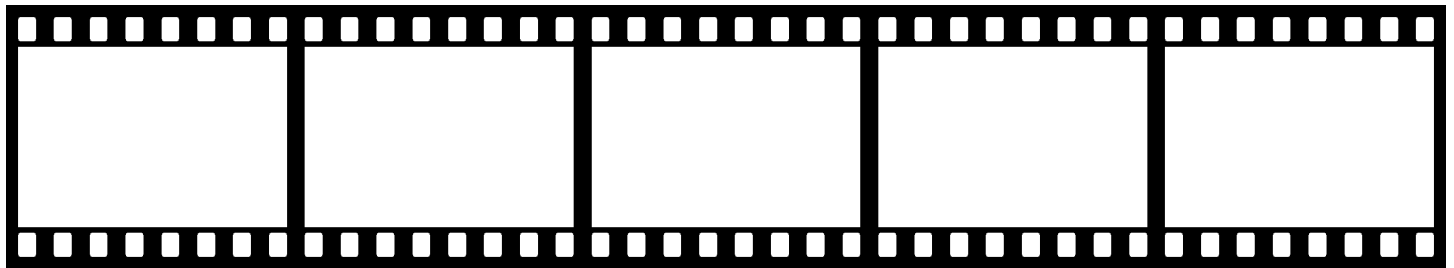
*Reader in Russian Culture and Film/ Chair of the Department of Russian
Queen Mary, University of London*

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The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life
2121 Allston Way, Berkeley

The events of the Holocaust happened nearly 70 years ago, and mediated forms of testimony, especially camera images, now play an increasingly important role in historical memory of the Holocaust. A wide range of films about the Holocaust have been made, and will continue to be made, but they depend on the documentary films, and other camera images, made at the time of the war. While these need to be seen alongside written sources, they can no longer be relegated to the role of solely illustrating textual documents: documentary films constitute a distinct form of historical source material in their own right. This lecture argues that not only are these images in general important, but that the long-neglected Soviet footage constitutes a rich source of visual documentation and testimony as to the Holocaust, especially as it occurred in the USSR.



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