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Tam Institute of Jewish Studies Summer Travel Grant Report

I spent the week of July 16-23, 2016, in London, England, conducting research related to a project on the problem of Holocaust metaphors in 20th century literature. The entirety of the \$1,000 Waxman Fund Student Grant that I received went toward my flight from Atlanta to London, which cost \$1,211.56 through Emory's TBiz Travel Booking System.

I prepared for this research trip by spending a significant portion of the summer enmeshed in metaphor theory, specifically that of analytic philosopher Max Black. My article-length project attempts to situate the use of the Holocaust as objective correlative—a subgenre of metaphor—in this analytic tradition, and is interested in both the mechanics and the ethics of this situation. This project seeks to complicate what is generally considered as a well-intentioned “exposure” of the Holocaust's horrors by 20th century poets by examining the cultural as well as the analytic philosophical climate surrounding the production of these poems. In order to explore this atmosphere, and to attempt to map it onto the poems themselves, I spent some time immersing myself in the London that produced these poems. Over the course of my time in London, I visited and conversed with experts at the Jewish Museum of London, the University of London's Wiener Library, and the British Library Sound Archive. The British Library Sound Archive proved especially useful, as I was able to engage with audio recordings of poets reading their own poems aloud for a public audience. The oral and aural components of poetry are, selon poetic theory, integral to its meaning, and the tone and intonation of a poet's performance, as well as its reception, are integral to the poem's ultimate function. The British Library's Sound Library contained recordings of many poems which my project discusses, including those by W. H. Auden, Sylvia Plath, and Stevie Smith.

While overseas, I was also able to spend some time in Paris's Mémorial de la Shoah and Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme with a colleague who works on the literature surrounding the French Résistance. While this project does not currently encompass the objective correlativization of the Holocaust in French or France-produced literature, my time in France piqued the potential for future work in this area.

I plan to spend the next few months working through my research and writing this article. I hope to have an article in the shape to send to journals by the end of the semester.

This research would not have been possible without the support of the Waxman Fund Student Grant, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to represent the Tam Institute in London.

Best,

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