

Title: Sexual Violence and Gender relations during the German occupation of Poland in World War II and their aftermath: Post-War Punishments and German-Polish children born of War

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Abstract: During World War II German soldiers had "sexual contacts" with the locals at the east front, although it was strictly forbidden due to ideological-racist reasons. Rapes, forced prostitution in and outside the camps as well as "sexual collaboration" in order to survive had been part of the everyday life under German occupation. Also in the occupied Polish territories German Wehrmacht and SS also sexually assaulted Jewish and non-Jewish Poles. Furthermore consensual relations existed between Poles and the thousands of members of the German occupation forces, civilians and non-civilians.

We still know little about German-Polish gender relations during the occupation in World War II. Mostly unknown is also the aftermath, which includes public defamations/public punishments as well as the destiny of German-Polish "children born of War". My current research project focuses on these gender relations and their consequences, based on archive materials and oral history interviews.

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