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The Richard Dean Winchell Annual History Lecture

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Professor of History at the University of Ottawa and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Dr. Jan Grabowski is a renowned scholar of the Holocaust and a prolific author. His research on the Holocaust includes the issues surrounding the extermination of the Polish Jews as well as the history of the Jewish-Polish relations between 1939-1945.

He is well known for his book *Hunt for the Jews: Betrayal and Murder in German-Occupied Poland* (2011). Awarded the Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research, it describes the German search for Jews who escaped from Polish ghettos and were trying to hide among the non-Jewish population. According to Grabowski, most Jews in hiding were given up by local people to the Polish police or directly to German authorities. The book sparked heated public debate in Poland.

The title of Dr. Grabowski's 2024 Richard Dean Winchell Annual History Lecture is *Producing a 'Usable' Past: Holocaust Distortion and New Threats to the Memory of the Holocaust*. Unlike Holocaust deniers, people, institutions, and states engaging in Holocaust distortion do not deny the factuality of the



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Jewish catastrophe. They simply deny that their people, their ethnic group, or their nation, had anything to do with the event. Using the massive resources of the state, they falsify the historical narrative to make it compatible with various national myths. Dr. Grabowski's talk will focus on Poland, a place where a great majority of the victims of the Holo-

caust had been put to death and a place where Holocaust distortion has become a quasi-official policy of the state.

"We are honored to host Dr. Grabowski who will deliver the 2024 Winchell Lecture," says Dr. Mark Celinscak, Louis and Frances Blumkin Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the Department of History. "The battle over historical truth is a serious one, and Dr. Grabowski's work strives to bring greater understanding to a complicated, painful past."

The 2024 Winchell Lecture will be held on **March 26, 2024, at 7 p.m.** in the Barbara Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 201, on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

According to the chair of the Department of History, Dr. Danielle Battisti, "The mission of the Winchell Lecture series is to enhance student, faculty, and community discourse on values and cultural heritage. We are grateful that Dr. Grabowski will share his groundbreaking research on our campus and to our community."

The 2024 Winchell Lecture is co-sponsored by the Sam and Frances Fried Holocaust and Genocide Academy. The lecture is free and open to the public.