

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

Deborah E. Lipstadt

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

In recognition of her life-long dedication, through heroic efforts, to the struggle against Holocaust denial, making use of the key tool of academic research – exposure of the truth – to eradicate the phenomenon; for her numerous academic publications and lectures around the world against anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial; for her uncompromising devotion and commitment to the study of the Holocaust and the preservation of its memory; for her unequivocal belief in the supreme importance of freedom of expression; and in appreciation of her role as a key figure in the life of American and global Jewry.

Conferred on 12 Sivan 5777/June 6, 2017
Haifa, Israel



Mooly Eden

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Ron Robin

President



Prof. Gustavo Mesch

Rector



photo: Osnat Perlstein

PROFESSOR DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT

Deborah Lipstadt was born in New York in 1947 and raised in a Modern Orthodox home. In 1966, she came to study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a year. When the Six-Day War interrupted her studies, she stayed on for another year to study modern Jewish history.

She received her BA in political science and US history from City College of New York and then went on to Brandeis University where she received her MA and PhD. Since 1993, she has served as Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University in Atlanta.

In her research, Prof. Lipstadt first set out to answer a student's question "what did my parents know during the Holocaust?" This resulted in *Beyond Belief – The American Press and the Coming of the Holocaust 1933-1945*. Subsequently, at the suggestion of Professors Yehuda Bauer and Yisrael Gutman, she turned to Holocaust denial and wrote *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory*. She wrote *The Eichmann Trial*, which was published in 2011 on the 50th anniversary of the trial. Most recently, she published *Holocaust: An American Understanding*. She is currently working on a new publication, *The Anti-Semitic Delusion: Letters to a Concerned Student*.

In addition to researching and teaching, Prof. Lipstadt directs the Holocaust Denial on Trial website (www.hdot.org), which exposes Holocaust denial all over the world.

One of Prof. Lipstadt's most prominent public battles was against British historian David Irving, who in 1998 brought a libel suit against her for calling him a Holocaust denier. She took action to expose Irving's lies and racist ideas. The UK Supreme Court eventually ruled that Irving was a Holocaust denier. *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier*, for which she won the 2006 National Jewish Book Award, and the film "Denial", released in 2016, are both based on the Irving lawsuit against Prof. Lipstadt and achieved success and favorable reviews around the world.

Between 1996-1999, Prof. Lipstadt served as a member of the US government's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom, and advised Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on issues related to religious persecution. In 2005, at the request of then US President George W. Bush, she represented the White House at the memorial ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. She was appointed by Presidents Clinton and Obama to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. At the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Prof. Lipstadt chairs the Committee on State Sponsored Holocaust Denial and Antisemitism.