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Finding

The thesis explores the gendered responses to the Holocaust from the vantage points of trauma, memory and identity. The scholarship on women and the Holocaust emanated only in the 1980s and 1990s, when significant changes began to occur in the global milieu. The lacuna of belatedness of female response is examined through select female memoirs and diaries. The primary and additional memoirs of Ruth Klugër, Eva Mozes Kor and Lucille Eichengreen are analyzed through ‘repetition compulsion phenomenon’, ‘fidelity to trauma’, ‘lay trauma theory’ and ‘founding trauma’ as given by various trauma theorists. As the pivotal force driving the survivor memoirs is memory, which in itself is a contested term, the thesis critically assesses the question of filtered memory that places the Holocaust memoirs in a debatable position. Diaries of Anne Frank, Rutka Laskier and Mary Berg are analyzed by taking into account their trajectory of publications along with the year of discovery of the diaries. The thesis also provides an assessment of the skewed speed and frequency of publications of male and female narratives in the last five years. The thesis is thus an attempt to open up new lines of inquiry in the domain of women and the Holocaust.