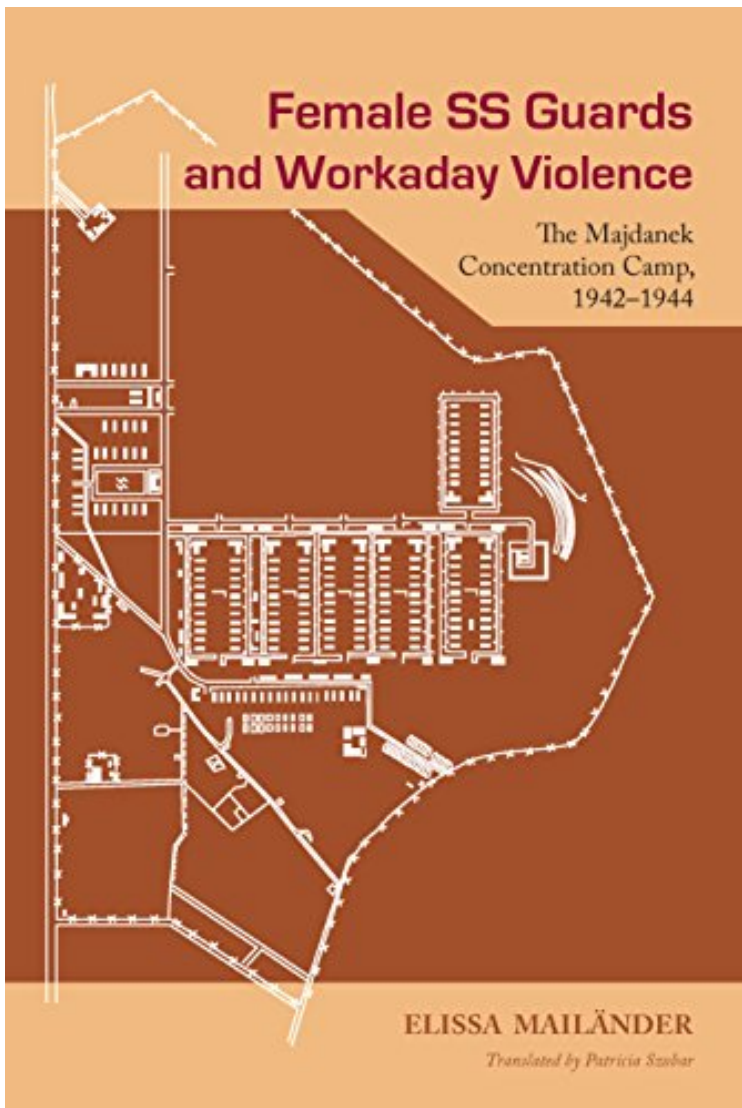


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Female SS Guards and Workaday Violence: The Majdanek Concentration Camp, 1942- 1944



Par Elissa Mailnder
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Description :

Prsentation de l'diteurHow did ordinary women, like their male counterparts, become capable of brutal violence during the Holocaust? Cultural historian Elissa Mailnder examines the daily work of twenty-eight women employed by the SS to oversee prisoners in the concentration and death camp Majdanek/Lublin in Poland. Many female SS overseers in Majdanek perpetrated violence and terrorized prisoners not only when ordered to do so but also on their own initiative. The social order of the concentration camp, combined with

individual propensities, shaped a microcosm in which violence became endemic to workaday life. The authors analysis of Nazi records, court testimony, memoirs, and film interviews illuminates the guards social backgrounds, careers, and motives as well as their day-to-day behavior during free time and on the job, as they supervised prisoners on work detail and in the cell blocks, conducted roll calls, and selected girls and women for death in the gas chambers. Scrutinizing interactions and conflicts among female guards, relations with male colleagues and superiors, and internal hierarchies, *Female SS Guards and Workaday Violence* shows how work routines, pressure to resolve problems, material gratification, and Nazi propaganda stressing guards roles in creating a new order heightened female overseers identification with Nazi policies and radicalized their behavior.