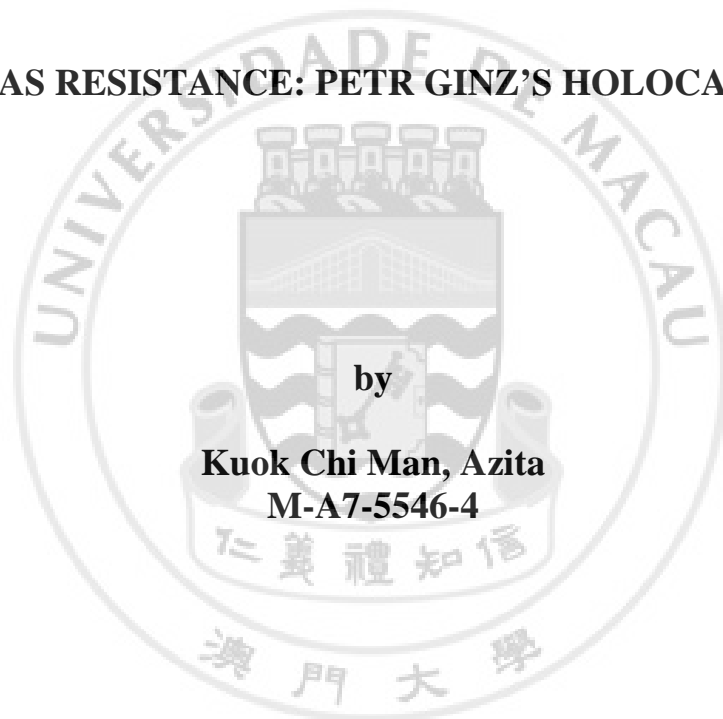




**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MACAU**

WRITING AS RESISTANCE: PETR GINZ'S HOLOCAUST DIARY



by

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ABSTRACT

Like so many Holocaust diaries, it was mere coincidence that *The Diary of Petr Ginz: 1941 to 1942* was brought to light in 2003 owing to a disaster which shocked the world: the disintegration of the *Columbia* Space Shuttle. This thesis examines the way in which Jewish victims of the Holocaust wrote diaries as a way to maintain their individuality in order to achieve a form of psychological resistance to their tragedies and will use Petr Ginz's diary, which was written in Prague during the Nazi occupation, as the basis for this study.

Considering the different motivations of a number of Holocaust diarists to record what was happening to them and their communities, the importance of the written word in Jewish history, culture and religion, the limitations of language in Holocaust diaries, and the historical and social background to Ginz's diary, what is of especial interest is the peculiar absence of emotion from this pre-ghetto diary of a teenage boy. Attempting to reconstruct the personality of this young diarist through investigating his family background, studying the descriptions of Ginz's character by his surviving family member and friends, and comparing the content of the diary with those of his poetry, short stories, articles and drawings, this thesis concludes that diary writing was certainly a form of resistance for this young and talented Jewish boy to the chaotic world wrought by the Nazis.

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