

Micha Tomkiewicz was born on May 25, 1939, in Warsaw, Poland. During World War II, he lived in the Warsaw Ghetto before being deported with his family to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. In April 1945, he was among the 2,500 Jewish prisoners rescued from one of the infamous "death trains" near Magdeburg by American forces.

After relocating to Palestine, Tomkiewicz pursued education at boarding schools for Holocaust survivors. He earned his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1969, followed by postdoctoral work at the University of Guelph and UC Berkeley.

Tomkiewicz is an Emeritus Professor of Physics at Brooklyn College and also teaches at the CUNY Graduate Center. He founded and directed the Environmental Studies Program at Brooklyn College and leads the Electrochemistry Institute. His research spans photo electrochemistry, solar energy conversion, and environmental science.

Beyond academia, Tomkiewicz has been active in Holocaust remembrance and environmental advocacy. His life story has been featured in documentaries and oral history projects, including the National WWII Museum's digital collection. His journey from surviving genocide to shaping scientific and environmental discourse is nothing short of extraordinary.