

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR

JEWISH STUDIES

29TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Sydney Jewish Museum
12-13 February 2017

NARRATIVES AND
COUNTER-NARRATIVES:
JEWS, NATION AND
NATIONHOOD

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



Australian Association for Jewish Studies

29th Annual Conference, 12-13 February 2017

NARRATIVES AND COUNTER-NARRATIVES: JEWS, NATION AND NATIONHOOD CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Conveners: Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod and Dr Avril Alba

SUNDAY

12 FEBRUARY 2017

08:30 – 09:10 REGISTRATION

09:15 ~ 09:45 **Conference Opening**
Welcome and Opening Remarks
Welcome by Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod

AAJS President's Report
Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod

09:45 ~ 10:45 **Keynote Address:**
Keynote 1:
Chair: Michael Abrahams-Sprod

Observing Jews: A Thirty Year Journey in Australia
Rachael Kohn

10:45 – 11:15 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

11:15 ~ 12:45 **SESSION 1: *The Bible and Antiquity***
Chair: Gili Kugler

"Abram the Hebrew" – עברי – who are the עברי? A comparative discussion of the meanings behind and translations of the word עברי in the Tanakh
Antoinette Collins

The Curious Case of Uzzah and the Ark: Multiple Representations in the Collective Memory of Ancient Israel
Rachelle Gilmour

"Eleven days from Horeb": Deuteronomy 1:1-2 and Har Karkom
Deborah Berry

SESSION 2: *Nation in Art and Culture*
Chair: Lynne Swarts

The first Jewish national poems written in Hebrew by a woman:
The poetry of Rachel Morpurgo (Trieste 1790-1871)
Tova Cohen

The German-Jewish Symbiosis Gone Awry: Reflections in the Poetry of Gertrud Kolmar
Sonja Hedgepeth

Nation Building in Jewish Paris: Astruc and Camondo
Helen Webberley

12:45 – 14:00 LUNCH

13:30 – 14:00 AGM

14:00 ~ 16:00 **SESSION 3: *Migration and the Refugee Crisis before and after the War***
Chair: Sonja Hedgepeth

A Northern Light in Prague: The Nansen Legacy to Humanity
Anna Rosenbaum

SESSION 4: *Nation in Film and Memory*
Chair: Ghil'ad Zuckermann

Biblical Themed Films in the 21st Century: How do they reflect Jewish nationhood?
Don Perlgut

14:00 ~ 16:00

SESSION 3: Continued...

The Promised Land: Case Studies of (Illegal and Legal) Immigration to Pre-State Israel

Anna Hirsh

The Messenger: The Correspondence of Rabbi L. A. Falk, 1938–1939

Annie Thompson

Reframing Identity: A Numbers Game

Shannon Biederman

SESSION 4: Continued...

Hollywood's narratives of Israel from the 1940s to today: Apathy, adoration & ambivalence

Tony Shaw and Giora Goodman

Betar's Participation in Armed Resistance to the Nazis in Eastern Europe as Reflected in Yizkor Books

Peter Keeda

16:00 – 16:30 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

16:35 ~ 17:45

Keynote Address:

Keynote 2:

Chair: Avril Alba

State of Suspicion: Israel Prosecutes Holocaust Survivors as Nazi Collaborators

Dan Porat

18:30

CONFERENCE DINNER

Includes an informal address by Avril Alba

Transmitting the Survivors Voice: Redeveloping the Sydney Jewish Museum

A chance to tour the new exhibition



If you can't come to work,
please telephone 4407

Lighting, Heating, Cooking, Refrigeration

CARL MARX

1 PRINCETON MARY AVE., JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM
SUNDAY, MAY 10, 1948

THE PALESTINE POST

PRICE: 12 MILLS
Vol. XXIII, No. 4714

THE PALESTINE
POST

THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT
has printed in The Palestine Post
office, Ranelagh Street,
Jerusalem, Tel. 4133.

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a mediator.

later but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning, Palestine went through what for all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the slightest hint of the fate of the few hundred Hagdalah men and women in the Eilat Shalom line of settlements near Hebron. Their surrender to a fully equipped Egyptian force there temporarily in hand of a victory was a European conclusion. What could not be known, with no communications since Thursday morning, was whether and to what extent the Red Cross and the United Nations would accept the conditions for prisoners and wounded, and proper respect for the dead. Doubts on some of these common questions have not been resolved.

On Friday afternoon, from Tel Aviv, came the report that the Jewish Agency had received the Security Council's decision on the future of Palestine by majority vote of the U.N.

In the afternoon, Jerusalem was subjected to shelling from the north.

Original forces throughout the country continued moving off. Jewish forces (Jewish Army) were ordered to move from Jerusalem to the Government of the United States had decided to give its vote to the Jewish side.

JEWS TAKE OVER SECURITY ZONES

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The capture of most of the city and the surrender of the Arab forces were still being fought in the north town of the city.

Revised efforts on Friday evening and again on Saturday to the U.N. Security Council, to bring about a "cease fire" were brought to naught when the Arab representatives failed to agree within the specified time limit.

On Friday morning, Jewish forces entered the Russian Compound and Zone C to surround the buildings, which had been taken over by the Jewish side.

In other parts of the city fighting started up. Jews overran the Arab positions in the north, and the Jewish side took over the city.

Egyptian Air Force Spitfires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

At Tel Aviv, the Tel Aviv Broadcasting Station, occupied at 2:30 p.m. yesterday afternoon, was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage. The station was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage. The station was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage.

In the north, the settlement of Eilat Shalom was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage. The station was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage.

Two settlements in the north were hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage. The station was hit by a bomb which caused considerable damage.

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U.S. RECOGNIZES JEWISH STATE

WASHINGTON, Saturday.—The United States announced today that it would recognize the Jewish State.

The U.S. is also considering taking the same embargo as it is not known whether in Palestine.

The White House press secretary, Mr. Charles Ross, said today that the United States had decided to give its vote to the Jewish side.

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Proclamation by Head Of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael," the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben-Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now Head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council of Government, as announced by Ben-Gurion, was to establish the State of Israel. The Council of Government was established by the Jewish Agency Executive and the Jewish Agency Executive.

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2 Columns Cross Southern Border

By Walter Coleman
P. P. Correspondent

Etzion Settlers Taken P.O.W.

Fighting in the Etzion district has continued throughout the day.

Special Assembly Adjourns

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M., Saturday.—The United Nations Special Assembly adjourned today.

MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2017

09:00 ~ 10:00 **Keynote Address:**

Chair: Suzanne Rutland OAM

Audacity and Watershed: The Australian Light Horse Charge at Beersheba, 31 October, 1917

Sam Lipski AM

10:15 ~ 11:45 **SESSION 5: *The Bible and Antiquity***

Chair: Rachelle Gilmour

Going Out and Being In: Exodus and Identity in the First Century CE

Alex Macdonald

Moses and not the People: The Hidden Narrative of Deuteronomy

Gili Kugler

"But What about the Ungodly?" – The Fate of Sinners in the Scheme of Israel's Redemption in 4 Ezra and 2 Baruch

Lydia Gore-Jones

SESSION 6: *Jewish Identity*

Chair: Simon Holloway

From personal eulogies to national-religious memorials: The changing narrative of literary tributes to fallen soldiers in Israel, 1948-2015

Stuart A. Cohen

The use of tourism/pilgrimage to Israel as a mechanism for constructing a modern Jewish Identity

Seth Kunin

Between nationalism and assimilation: a transnational Jewish anti-fascist left in the post-war era

Max Kaiser

11:45 – 12:15 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

12:15 ~ 13:15 **SESSION 7: *Ideologies of Jewish Nationalism***

Chair: Stuart Cohen

Cultural Nationalism and German-speaking Jewry: Counter-narratives, Nationhood and National Identity

Lynne Swarts

Romaniotes and Gregos

Panayiotis Diamadis

SESSION 8: *Outside Perceptions of Israel*

Chair: Michael Cohen

Piercing the bu'ah: Israel, Palestine, and Jewish Nationhood in Linda Grant's "The People on the Street" (2006)

Isabelle Hesse

The 1982 Lebanon War: The Emerging Disconnect between the Media, the Government and Australian Jewry

Suzanne D. Rutland

13:15 – 14:15 LUNCH

14:15 ~ 15:45

SESSION 9: *The Jews in the New World*

Chair: Anna Hirsh

Jewish Peoplehood and Free Market Economics Developing Counter-Narratives Through the Digital Humanities

Michael R. Cohen and David B. Cohen

Negotiating “Russian-ness”: Politics, Religion, Nationalism and Identity in the South Brisbane Russian Jewish Community, 1912-22

Jennifer Creese

Traumatized Space in “Enemies, A Love Story”

Zhang Wen

SESSION 10: *Language and Nation*

Chair: Tova Cohen

A Newly Contested Narrative: Modern Hebrew pedagogy and students’ role in curriculum development

Yona Gilead

Interpretation of Experiences of Story, Hebrew Language and Numeric Symbolism, and Modern Forms of Narrative

Vicky Schinkel

Defying Religion and Deifying the State: Language, Religion and Nationhood in Israel in the Twentieth Century

Ghil’ad Zuckermann

15:45–16:15 TEA/COFFEE BREAK

16:15 ~ 17:45

SESSION 11: *The Holocaust*

Chair: Anna Rosenbaum

Feeding the ghettos and camps: parcel schemes for Jewish prisoners during the Second World War

Jan Láníček

Despising Talmud: Nazi Readings and Misreadings of Rabbinic Text

Simon Holloway

Ivan the less Terrible: The Demjanjuk’s Israeli and German trials

Yehudit Dori Deston

SESSION 12: *Jewish Mysticism in the Middle Ages*

Chair: Vicky Schinkel

Exile and Homecoming in Jewish Mysticism
Orna Triguboff

The Feminine Divine in translation: The Nation of Israel as cosmic myth in the later-strata of the Zohar

David Solomon

2017 is the anniversary of several landmark events in Jewish history. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, the partition plan of 1947 and the Six Day War of 1967 comprise only a few modern examples of events whose legacies demand a re-examination of the concepts and practice of nation and peoplehood in the *longue durée* of Jewish history. An examination of the narratives and counter narratives in which these concepts are couched provide a compelling framework to examine their importance for understanding the Jewish past and also to delineate and assess their ongoing resonance in and for the present.

Debates as to what constitutes the 'People Israel' stretch back to antiquity, with biblical notions of who the Israelites were and what their communal obligations entailed fundamental to their identity and self-understanding. Yet, the Talmudic ideal of *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* (all Israel is responsible for each other) has often been sorely tested by the travails of Jewish history. In times of persecution, the framework of peoplehood has been pushed to its limits, and dissent among Jewry has left indelible marks. Collaboration and betrayal, both real and perceived, have pushed the limits of group identity and cohesion. Yet despite these conflicts, peoplehood has prevailed as a lasting and distinctive component of both ancient and modern Jewish identities.

The theme of AAJS Sydney, Narratives and Counter-Narratives: Jews, Nation and Nationhood invites exploration of notions of the nation, peoplehood, intra-communal conflict and *Klal Yisrael* from all perspectives, including but not limited to the topics of nationhood and identity, society, literature, art, philosophy, language, religious, ancient and modern connections to the Land and State of Israel, the concept and practice of *Klal Yisrael* and the experience of peoplehood in extremis, particularly with regard to the period of the Holocaust.

Registration: <http://www.aajs.org.au>

Additional contact details

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