

Newsletter No 59
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2014

Australian Association of Jewish Studies

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Commemorative Panels at Sydney University

A series of panels which have been hung in the University of Sydney's Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies in honour of its major benefactors was inaugurated by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, Governor of NSW.

Professor Suzanne Rutland presents Governor Dame Marie Bashir with a bouquet. A number of programs in the Department owe their existence to two major benefactor couples: the late Felicia and Stefan Einhorn, and the late Anne and Henry Roth. Both couples are Holocaust survivors who rebuilt their lives at the *Edge of the Diaspora*. Until now, there was no tangible acknowledgement of their generosity to the university. To fill this gap, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences decided to support the **mounting of panels**, which pay tribute to their life stories, as well as outlining the history of the department, including the contributions of the late Professor Emeritus Alan Crown. The panels have now been hung in the corridor of the department, in the Mungo MacCallum Building on the main campus of the University of Sydney.



The function was held at the Nicholson Museum, in the old Quadrangle at the university. The evening was chaired by Professor Duncan Ivison, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and the University Vice-Chancellor, Dr Michael Spence. Professor Bashir, who launched the panels, spoke warmly about the university, the Jewish experience and the two couples being honoured. Professor Suzanne Rutland, OAM, thanking the Governor for her agreeing to undertake the launch and for her meaningful words, stressed:



“I have been very privileged to be given the opportunity to build the department on the wonderful foundations that the late Professor Emeritus Alan Crown established in the many years that he was Head of Department. Both my parents were born in Poland, and while they were fortunate enough to come to these lucky shores in January 1939, many of my family were not. All my four grandparents were murdered by Hitler. However, not only were 90% of Polish Jews murdered, most in the brief period from mid-1941 to April 1943, but also those rich centres of Jewish scholarship – of both the Yeshiva world, and the secular world – were also entirely wiped out: a culture that had flourished for centuries disappeared overnight. This is what has motivated me in working to build our Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the edge of the Diaspora, as a new centre of Jewish learning and scholarship, arising from the midst of the ashes of the Holocaust.”

Over one hundred guests attended the function, which really demonstrated the high regard in which the department is held in the university community and the importance that the university management attributes to the scholarship which the department generates, and the importance of maintaining the Hebrew language – both Biblical and Modern – and Jewish Civilisation, Thought and Culture.

Photos by Emlyn Corckett, courtesy of the University of Sydney

This article was originally published in J-Wire.

<http://www.jwire.com.au/news/commemorative-panels-at-sydney-university/43572>

Annual NAPH Conference

The National Association of Professors of Hebrew (NAPH) is a leading international tertiary body that specialises in the area of Hebrew and related subjects. Its annual three-day conference is held at different universities worldwide. This year the conference was hosted by The Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

Yona Gilead



The paper I presented was entitled: “Emerging Usage and Knowledge of L2 Modern Hebrew: Learners’ Perspectives”. I presented findings from my recently completed research project, which investigated classroom-based teaching and learning of Hebrew as an additional language; which was carried out among beginner-level students at the University of Sydney.

Having followed, videoed and interviewed a group of students and their teacher over one semester, I was able to collect first-hand data on classroom interactions that facilitate the learning of Hebrew. In my presentation I reported on the students' perspectives on a range of classroom practices. Some of the topics I discussed were: using the language as a way of teaching and learning it vs. teaching about grammar; different modes of classroom interactions such as frontal teaching, group and pair-work; and the role of English in the Hebrew classroom.

The importance of my research in general and my 2014 NAPH presentation in particular, is that by-and-large most academic endeavour in teaching Hebrew as an additional language has focused on classroom teaching itself; with some practitioners also developing and writing programs and textbooks. Yet, little attention has been devoted, and almost no research carried into the processes that students go through and their perspectives of these processes. By investigating and reporting on the learners' angle, my aim is to provide a more complete picture of what actually takes place in a tertiary Hebrew class; as well as contribute to developing a research-based agenda in this field.

The 2014 NAPH Conference was one of the largest held in recent years, with more than seven sessions held concurrently. The session I spoke in was well attended and my paper very well received. As the Modern Hebrew Program at the University of Sydney broadly follows the Syllabus developed in the Rothberg International School for Overseas students at the Hebrew University, the findings I presented have especially resonated with Rothberg's senior teaching staff.

Yona Gilead is the Malka Einhorn Modern Hebrew Lecturer and Program Coordinator, Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of Sydney

Ari Lobel

The paper I presented at the 2014 NAPH conference in Be'er Sheva was entitled: "And The Script Was A Divine Script": Rabbinic Perspectives On What Script Was Used To Write The Ten Commandments At Sinai'.

The presentation revolved around the dispute in the Talmud as to whether the Hebrew script used to write the Ten Commandments and the first Torah scrolls mentioned in Deuteronomy, was the Ancient Hebrew script ("Ktav Ivri") or whether it was the "square" Hebrew script, referred to as *Ktav Ashurit*, a version of which is currently used for writing Torah scrolls. The paper explored these Talmudic views with a focus on analyzing the reception history of these views among commentators of the Medieval period.

One central question addressed was: if the square script currently used for writing Torah scrolls was not the script used at Sinai, what was the justification for abandoning a script that the Bible claims was used by God Himself on the Tablets? Another major question discussed was: why did many medieval rabbinic commentators have a serious problem accepting a literal reading of the Talmudic view that the Tablets were written in the Old Hebrew script?

I am currently in the process of writing two articles on the above subject matter. One of them will focus on viewing the aforementioned Talmudic opinions within the context of current archaeological evidence and current evidence shows that

in the Land of Israel, the Jews Hebrew script with a version of and secular writing. The second spectrum of views regarding the expressed within Rabbinic Talmud up to the present.



academic scholarship. The during the Second Temple period gradually replaced the Old our current square for both sacred article will focus on the wide above Talmudic dispute literature from the time of the



ARC Linkage project: Avril Alba - *Australian Holocaust Memory, Human Rights and the Contemporary Museum*

Chief Investigators Dr Avril Alba (HJBS) and A/Professor Jennifer Barrett (Museum Studies), together with Partner Investigator Prof A. Dirk Moses have been awarded a prestigious Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant to support an innovative research project in partnership with the Sydney Jewish Museum (SJM).

The project, 'Australian Holocaust Memory, Human Rights and the Contemporary Museum' comprises an exploration of the nexus between the Holocaust and human rights through the prism of the Sydney Jewish Museum. It challenges and extends international debates about the influence of Holocaust memory on Human Rights museums, thereby developing an Australian contribution to an increasingly significant global discourse.

The project will be undertaken over three years and will include the hosting of international conferences and workshops with experts in the fields of Holocaust studies, Human Rights and museology, as well as supporting the development of research in this particular area within the Australian context. The project will build on both the researchers and the SJM's already considerable international collaborations in these fields, thereby placing Australian Holocaust memory within globally significant debates.

The research generated by the project will result in a series of scholarly publications and will also build the conceptual and content foundations for a planned new 'Holocaust and Human Rights' section of the SJM display. Developed in tandem with SJM curators and educators, the section will be the first of its kind in Australia, and will comprise a significant new direction for the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Avril Alba is the Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies and Jewish Civilisation

Continuing Research in Revivalistics: Ghil'ad Zuckermann

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann has published *Jewish Language Contact*, a Special Issue of the International Journal of the Sociology of Language (2014).

He is continuing to establish Revivalistics (including Revival Linguistics and Revivalomics), a new trans-disciplinary field of enquiry. Revivalistics studies comparatively and systematically the universal constraints and global mechanisms on the one hand (Zuckermann 2009) and culturally relative idiosyncrasies on the other hand (Zuckermann & Walsh 2011). This is apparent in linguistic revitalization attempts across various sociological backgrounds, all over the globe.

Revivalistics is far more than Revival Linguistics. It studies language revival from various angles such as law (Zuckermann, Shakuto-Neoh & Quer 2014), mental health (Zuckermann & Walsh 2014), sociology, anthropology, politics, education, colonization, missionary studies, music and architecture.

Some of the references for Professor Zuckermann's Revivalistics publications are:

(1) JEWISH LINGUISTICS: Zuckermann, Ghil'ad 2009. "Hybridity versus Revivability: Multiple Causation, Forms and Patterns". *Journal of Language Contact* Varia 2: 40-67.

http://www.zuckermann.org/pdf/Hybridity_versus_Revivability.pdf

(2) COMPARATIVE JEWISH AND AUSTRALIAN LINGUISTICS: Zuckermann, Ghil'ad & Walsh, Michael 2011. "Stop, Revive, Survive!: Lessons from the Hebrew Revival Applicable to the Reclamation, Maintenance and Empowerment of Aboriginal Languages and Cultures". *Australian Journal of Linguistics* 31: 111-127.

http://www.zuckermann.org/pdf/Revival_Linguistics.pdf Also



published as Chapter 28 of Making Sense of Language Readings in Culture and Communication (2012), Second Edition, edited by Susan D. Blum:

<http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/he/subject/Anthropology/CulturalandSocialAnthropology/LinguisticAnthropology/?view=usa&sf=toc&ci=9780199840922>

(3) NEW MEDIA: Zuckermann, Ghil'ad & Monaghan, Paul 2012. "Revival linguistics and the new media: Talknology in the service of the Barngarla language reclamation", pp. 119-126 of Foundation for Endangered Languages XVI: Language Endangerment in the 21st Century: Globalisation, Technology & New Media. Auckland, New Zealand.

http://adelaide.academia.edu/Zuckermann/Papers/1971557/Revival_Linguistics_and_the_New_Media_Talknology_in_the_service_of_the_Barngarla_Language_Reclamation

(4) LAW: Zuckermann, Ghil'ad, Shiori Shakuto-Neoh and Giovanni Matteo Quer 2014. 'Native Tongue Title: Proposed Compensation for the Loss of Aboriginal Languages', Australian Aboriginal Studies (AAS) 2014/1: 55-71.

(5) MENTAL HEALTH: Zuckermann, Ghil'ad & Walsh, Michael 2014. "'Our Ancestors Are Happy!': Revivalistics in the Service of Indigenous Wellbeing', Foundation for Endangered Languages XVIII: Indigenous Languages: Value to the Community. Naha, Ryukyuan island, Okinawa, Japan.

Ghil'ad Zuckermann is Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide, and Visiting Scientist at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

Symposia

The Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney is staging two International Symposia in conjunction with the Goethe Institute Sydney and the Sydney Jewish Museum. There will be lectures by renowned scholars both from Australia and overseas and panel discussions with questions from the floor. These symposia will mark the retirement of Professor Emeritus Konrad Kwiet as the Pratt Research Professor in the Department of Hebrew, Biblical & Jewish Studies, after three years in this position. They have attracted a number of key international scholars, who are coming to Sydney as a tribute to Konrad's important, international research in relation to the Holocaust over his lifetime.

Jewish History, Antisemitism and the Holocaust (full programme below)

Dates: 17 and 18 September 2014 10.00am-5:00pm

Venue: Sydney Jewish Museum

Address: 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Bookings: email rsvp@sjm.com.au or call 9360 7999 before 10 September 2014

Cost: \$ 20 one day / \$ 30 both days

The Goethe-Institute Australia War Symposium 2014

Date: 19 September 2014 10:00am-3:30pm

Venue: Goethe Institute Sydney, 90 Ocean Street, Woollahra NSW 2025

Bookings: email info@sydney.goethe.org by Mon 15 September 2014

Cost: Free, open to the public

International Symposium: *Jewish History, Antisemitism and the Holocaust*

Staged by the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney in conjunction with the Goethe Institute and Sydney Jewish Museum

17 – 18 September 2014

Sydney Jewish Museum 148 Darlinghurst Road – Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Details

RSVP to rsvp@sjm.com.au till 10 September 2014

Attendance Cost: \$ 20 one day / \$ 30 both days

Program

Wednesday 17 September 2014

10.00am Welcome:

Norman Seligman, CEO, Sydney Jewish Museum
 Prof Gus Lehrer, President, Sydney Jewish Museum
 Dr Arpad Sölter, Director, Goethe Institute Sydney
 Hans-Dieter Steinbach, Consul General of Germany

Sam Lipski, CEO, Pratt Foundation, Melbourne (TBA)

10.30am Lecture I

Prof Colin Tatz (Canberra / Sydney) Present and Absent: Antisemitism without Jews

11.00am Lecture II

PH Dr Frank Bajohr (Director, Center for Holocaust Studies, Institute for Contemporary History, Munich)
Social Antisemitism in Comparative Perspective. The Example of Antisemitism in Summer and Seaside Resorts in Germany and the United States, 1870s to 1950s

11.30am Lecture III

Dr Susanne Urban (Head, Research and Education, International Tracing Service, Bad-Arolsen)
Is Holocaust Education an Appropriate Tool against Antisemitism?

12.00pm Discussion

Chair: Dr Ari Lander (Sydney Jewish Museum)

1.00pm Lunch Break

2.00pm Lecture IV

Paul A Shapiro (Director, Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC)
Bessarabia Re-Occupied: Creation and Liquidation of the Chisinau (Kishinev) Ghetto, 1941-1942

2.30pm Discussion

Chair: Dr Jan Lanicek (History, University of New South Wales)

2.45pm Coffee Break

3.00pm Lecture V

Prof Bernd Hüppauf (Berlin / New York University)

Cruelty and Self Deception. Gazing Murder Through the View Finder

3.30pm Lecture VI

Dr. Jürgen Matthäus (Director, Applied Research, Jack, Joseph and Morton and Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC)

Ordinary Men, or Ordinary Images: Photographs of Police Battalion 101 and What They (Don't) Show.

4:00pm Discussion

Chair: Prof Juergen Foerster (University Freiburg)

Thursday 18 September 2014

10.00am Lecture VII

Prof Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)

Edge of the Diaspora: Jewish Refugees and Holocaust Survivors

10.30pm Discussion

Chair: Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod (University of Sydney)

10.45am Panel: Voices of Living Witnesses

Dr Joachim Schneeweiss – Gerty Jellinek – Barney Barnett (TBA)

Chair: Dr Avril Alba (University of Sydney)

12pm Lunch Break

1:00pm Lecture IIX

Dr Katrin Stoll (Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Warsaw)

Coming to Terms with the Past? The Federal Republic of Germany and the Legacy of Nazi Crimes

1.30pm Lecture IX

Dr. Beate Meyer (Director, Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg)

Stolpersteine – Stumbling Blocks. A Different Kind of Remembrance Culture in Germany.

2:00pm Discussion

Chair: Marie Bonardelli

2.30pm Coffee Break

2.45pm Panel: War Crimes, Genocide, and the Law
(TBA)

Michael David (Judge, Supreme Court, South Australia)

Mark Aarons (Journalist & Author)

Chair: Peter Wertheim (Director, Executive Council of Australian Jewry)

4:15pm Panel: Voices of Survivors

Eddie Jaku – Olga Horack- TBA (George?)

Chair: Yotam Weiner (Sydney Jewish Museum)

With acknowledgement of the Goethe Institute, The Pratt Foundation, The Vidor Family, Lucy Chipkin, Rosie Block, Betty Wilkenfeld, Barbara and Sam Linz, Dr Ivan and Ursula Cher, and David Simons for their generous support.

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies - articles

The Australian Journal of Jewish Studies is a peer-reviewed Journal of academic writing in the field of Jewish Studies, published annually by the AAJS.

A subscription to the Journal is included in membership fees. Volume 28 is due for publication this year. Details of contents from previous editions are available from the Association's website.

Submissions of articles for consideration, on any aspect of Jewish Studies, are always welcome. Publication is subject to recommendation from the reviews as to the quality of the article. The Journal also publishes book reviews on relevant subjects.

Please follow the Journal's Style Guide from the inside back cover of previous Journals when submitting your work for consideration, and forward manuscripts to The Editor, Dr Myer Samra, at samra01@tpg.com.au.



The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) is offering a limited number of fellowships for

Ph.D. and Post Doctoral Candidates
Conducting Research on the Holocaust.

The application deadline is January 5, 2015 for the academic year of 2015-2016.
Maximum Award Amount: \$20,000 Per Year

The Saul Kagan Claims Conference Fellowship for Advanced Shoah Studies aims to strengthen Shoah studies and Holocaust memory throughout the world. Our mission is to support the advanced study of the fate of Jews who were systematically targeted for destruction or persecution by the Nazis and their allies between 1933 and 1945, as well as immediate post-war events.

Studies covered by the Fellowships can include the immediate historical context in which the Holocaust took place and encompass political, economic, legal, religious and socio-cultural aspects, as well as ethical and moral implications. The Fellowship also supports awardees in learning languages necessary to studying original Holocaust-related documents, such as languages of the former Soviet Union and certain European countries. Ph.D. candidates can be pursuing a degree in a variety of fields, including History, Sociology, Philosophy, Judaic Studies, Political Science, Government, Women's Studies and other fields. Candidates focusing on the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust will also be considered.

Fellowships are awarded to outstanding candidates around the world who have a strong personal commitment to Shoah memory, who have demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, and who possess the potential to provide outstanding professional leadership that will shape the future of Holocaust awareness and scholarship.

As part of the program, Kagan Fellows are invited to attend an all-expenses-paid, annual 5-day summer workshop alternately hosted at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Fellows are invited to present their research to and network with leading scholars and peers in Holocaust history.

For application information, please visit fellowships.claimscon.org or email Chavie.brumer@claimscon.org

Please circulate this notice.

**Call for Papers for AAJS 2015 Conference:
Submission date: 1 September 2014**



Call for Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies
The 27th AAJS Conference, 15-16 February 2015
The University of New South Wales and the Shalom Institute, Kensington, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Neighbours: Relations between Jews and non-Jews throughout History

In 2001, Polish-American historian Jan T. Gross published a controversial monograph entitled *Neighbours* in which he described the destruction of the Jewish community in the Polish city of Jedwabne at the hands of the local Polish population. The term *neighbour* became synonymous with the suffering of the Jews at the hands of the non-Jewish locals. Relations between Jews and non-Jews throughout history are often depicted as full of prejudice, mistrust, violence, pogroms and murder. Authors often debate the impossibility of a beneficial multicultural and multiethnic coexistence between the Jewish and non-Jewish locals. They also conjecture that it was this impossibility of coexistence that ultimately led to the collapse of the European Jewish world in the twentieth century, but also to the subsequent complicated establishment of the Jews in other parts of the world. However, looking at the history of the Jewish people all over the world, we also need to consider the benefits of the coexistence between the Jews and other people. The moments of crisis were often followed by centuries of peaceful coexistence, where interactions between communities led to political, cultural and spiritual developments and improvements. The Jews and their neighbours maintained close relations, influenced each other and created bonds that beneficially shaped the lives of both communities throughout the centuries.

Since antiquity the Jews have lived side by side with other peoples. With the geographic dispersion of the Jews after the destruction of the Second Temple and their gradual settlement in Europe, Asia, Africa and later in the 'New World', the interactions between the Jews and other communities invariably increased. The purpose of the conference is to convene scholars who are involved in academic research of Jewish/non-Jewish (however defined) relations throughout the centuries. We intend to offer a multifaceted perspective on the lives of the Jews and their rich interactions with their neighbours all over the world.

We welcome papers that address the issue of Jewish coexistence with other peoples from diverse perspectives, including:

- Interactions between the Jews and non-Jews throughout centuries
- Ancient Israel and its neighbours
- Cultural and spiritual interactions between the Jews and other communities
- Influence of other communities on Jewish languages
- Impact of Jews and Judaism on other communities
- Impact of other communities on Jews and Judaism
- Judaism and other religious communities
- Jewish communities and their neighbours in the modern era
- Modern Israel and its neighbours
- Violence in Jewish history
- Representation of Jews and their neighbours in film and literature
- Proposals for special sessions (roundtables, film screenings or discussions of new book releases) will also be considered.

Papers on other topics will be considered but preference will be given to those bearing directly on the conference theme.

Please submit your paper proposal by 1 September 2014 to Dr **Jan Láníček** via email J.Lanicek@unsw.edu.au. **The Subject of the message should be 'AAJS UNSW 2015 Proposal'** (All applicants will be informed about the decision by **31 October 2014**).

Submissions must include the following:

- Applicant's full name and institutional affiliation
- Postal and email address
- Abstract of the paper to be presented (no more than 250 words)
- Short biographical note (no more than 50 words).

AAJS encourages students engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the conference committee. Authors should clearly indicate their student status on their submission.

Presenters are also invited to submit written articles for consideration for publication in the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies.

Communication about the conference should be sent electronically to Dr Jan Láníček, email: J.Lanicek@unsw.edu.au

Conference Committee

- Dr Jan Lanicek, Conference Convener
- Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, AAJS President
- Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM
- Michael Misrachi
- Dr Avril Alba
- Dr Myer Samra
- Dr Miriam Munz
- Neta Steigrad
- Anna Rosenbaum
- Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann

As this Conference addresses a small community of scholars, it is imperative that we all support the Association. Thus, it is a requirement that all presenters at this conference must have paid the conference registration fee, which includes the AAJS membership for 2014, by 10 January 2015. Visit www.aajs.org.au for details.

International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS 9)

For the first time in its history, the International Institute for Asian Studies will be holding its International Convention, its 9th, in Adelaide, Australia, between 5 and 9 July 2015, with proposals for panels and individual abstracts due by 10 September 2014. Please see the ICAS website for information: <http://www.icas9.com>.

Two panels have been proposed: one on Jews from India, and another on Jews in China. If anyone is interested in participating in either panel, please contact Dr Myer Samra at samra01@tpg.com.au, phone 0401 681 557.



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH STUDIES

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2014

MEMBERSHIP FEES for the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (ABN 16535824946) are current from 1 January 2014–31 December 2014 (includes the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually and the AAJS Newsletter)

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

Fees for 2014

Benefactor: \$250.00

Regular: \$60.00 (Aus)

Pensioner/Full-time Student: \$25.00 (Aus)

Institutional: \$70.00 (Aus)

Overseas: \$80.00 (Aus)

All correspondence to:

AAJS

C/- Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod

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School of Languages and Cultures, A18

The University of Sydney NSW 2006

michael.abrahams-sprod@sydney.edu.au

Payment Options:

1. Pay directly into our account: BSB: 082-372; Account No: 507 802 547; SWIFT Code: NATAAU33025
2. Via the AAJS webpage <http://www.aajs.org.au> or
3. By cheque. Post to Membership Secretary, AAJS, C/- Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod (as above)

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