

Newsletter no
68
December 2017

Australian Association for Jewish Studies

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Editor's Welcome

As 2017 draws to a close, for students the academic year is coming to an end and the delights of summer stretch out as far as the eye can see. Congratulations to all our student members for making it through another semester – here's hoping that your hard work has paid off in your results, and congratulations to those for whom Graduation Day has finally come! For those of us less fortunate, the research clock never stops ticking, and the season of annual reviews, writing and conferences rolls around again. At least we have the sweet smell of latkes in the air to console us!

On the subject of conferences, registration is now open for the 2018 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference, to be held at St Catherine's on Park in Perth, Western Australia. More information, including a registration form for the conference, is included in this newsletter.

The AAJS 2018 Conference is delighted to be able to host some outstanding keynote speakers to address and inspire delegates: Professor Alexandra Ludewig of the University of Western Australia, Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold of St Barnabas College, and Professor Jaky Troy of Sydney University. In this issue, our keynote speakers are profiled, and are delighted to share their thoughts on the conference with our members. After profiling convenor Professor Seth Kunin in our last newsletter, we are also delighted to be able to offer an interview with co-convenor Associate Professor Aviva Freilich from the University of Western Australia, on how the planning for the conference is going as the date draws closer, and what conference attendees can look forward to at the conference and during their visit to Perth

As many of our members will be, by and large, unfamiliar with the Perth Jewish community, we have invited a contribution from Associate Professor Aviva Freilich and Rabbi David Freilich OAM to provide an interesting

overview of the community. The piece "Jewish Perth: A Profile" outlines the history and development of the Perth Jewish community and its most famous institutions, and details the sorts of facilities Jewish visitors can expect on their trip over for the conference next year.

As always, we also include reports back from important Jewish scholarly events and details of new books in the discipline. You will also find information about other upcoming events and opportunities of interest to Jewish scholars.

On behalf of the AAJS Committee, I would like to wish all our readers a belated Chag Chanukah Sameach! Hoping you enjoy this edition of the AAJS Newsletter – looking forward to seeing you in Perth!

*Jennifer Creese, Editor
School of Social Science, University of Queensland*

Your AAJS Committee consists of:

President: Prof Ghil'ad Zuckermann
(ghilad.zuckermann@adelaide.edu.au)

Vice-President (NSW): Dr Jan Lanicek
(j.lanicek@unsw.edu.au)

Vice-President (VIC): Dr Anna Hirsh
(anna.hirsh@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary: Nathan Compton
(ncom4846@uni.sydney.edu.au)

Treasurer: Marilynne Mill
(mirimill75@gmail.com)

Journal Editor: Dr Vicky Schinkel
(vickyschinkel@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Creese
(Jennifer.creese@uqconnect.edu.au)

Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, Emeritus Professor Suzanne Rutland OAM, Dr Myer Samra, Dr Miriam Munz, Dr Anna Rosenbaum, and Professor Seth Kunin also serve on the committee.

Conference 2018 Information Update



By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews

The 30th Annual AAJS Conference 11-12 February 2018
St Catherine's on Park, 2 Park Road
Crawley

ALL WELCOME

Conference Registrations are now open
(see the Registration Form in this newsletter)
Earlybird Rates, Student/Pensioner Rates and One or Two Day Rates available

By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews

Psalm 137 is perhaps the paradigmatic text for the interplay of memory and emotion in the construction of both Jewish history and the Jewish self. The psalmist lays the groundwork for the depiction and understanding of exile, and provides the paradigm for over 2000 years of fears, anxieties, hopes and aspirations, which for some culminates in the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. This paradigm corresponds with the messianic hopes, which emphasize the optimistic future rather than the tragic present or past.

While memory and emotion have shaped the discourse about the Holocaust, and equally become significant reference points for reading Jewish history as a whole, they, particularly emotion, have been relatively de-emphasized in both rabbinic discussions of

Halacha and academic analyses of Jewish rituals and practices. Even Jewish Mystical speculation is largely presented in a rationalist mode. Hasidism is perhaps the primary exception to this pattern; this is specifically found in the Baal Shem Tov's rejection of the basis of the rabbinic system of his time, with a concomitant focus on emotion rather than reason as the fundamental basis of religious experience. Arguably, HaBad has provided a mechanism for moving Hasidic discourse back towards emphasis on reason.

Geography, particularly Zion, has been a consistent focus for memory and emotion expressed in longing. This trope is first expressed in the quotation from Psalms, it is also the heart and power of the poetry of Yehuda HaLevi. The importance of place is the heart of modern Zionism, and is one of the most significant motivators in modern Jewish life and thought.

This Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS) conference, to take place in Perth, Western Australia on 11-12 February 2018, seeks to redress the absence of these tropes in the understanding of Jewish practice and law, as well as exemplifying its importance in aspects of Jewish thought and historical experience; it also seeks to provide a forum for wider discussions of memory and emotions as they touch on all aspects of Judaism.

AAJS 2018 Perth, entitled "By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews", will provide a trans-disciplinary forum for addressing perspicaciously both memory and emotion -- both providing a basis for challenging and understanding their implications. It also seeks from the opposite direction to reassess our understanding of Judaism by resorting to general theories of memory and emotion. We hope that AAJS 2018 Perth would act as an epistemological bridge, as an antidote for parallel discourses surrounding Memory, Emotion and Jews.

Papers will look at the theme from any angle: for example psychological, linguistic, philosophical, anthropological, theological, musical, political, biological, historical, cross-cultural. Papers on other topics will feature too.

Conference Conveners: Professor Seth Kunin (Curtin) and Associate Professor Aviva Freilich (UWA)

AAJS President: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (Adelaide)

Conference Committee: Dr Jan Láníček, Dr Anna Hirsch, Dr Vicky Schinkel, Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland OAM, Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod

Follow the conference online, join the conversation, keep up to date with new announcements and share you're your networks, colleagues and friends:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1200057036736986>



Above: St Catherine's On Park Conference Centre, the location of the 2018 AAJS Conference, Perth. Source: St Catherine's On Park

By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews

The 30th Annual AAJS Conference 11-12 February 2018

St Catherine's on Park, 2 Park Road Crawley

REGISTRATION FORM

First Name:	Title (please tick):	
Surname:	<input type="checkbox"/> Professor <input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. Prof. <input type="checkbox"/> Dr <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi <input type="checkbox"/> Rev	
Address:	State:	Postcode:
Phone:	Mobile	
Email:		

Conference Fee: Includes registration, entrance to all sessions, program, booklet of abstracts, morning and afternoon tea, two lunches, conference dinner and AAJS membership. Please place the tick in the appropriate box.

All conference meals will be vegetarian. If you need to have strictly Kosher food please tick this box

(We can only guarantee Kosher food if advised by 12 January 2018)

Registration type (Whole day registration includes lunch)		
(Please tick)	EARLY BIRD Registration Until 12 January 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Days	\$260
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two days – Student / Pensioner	\$130
<input type="checkbox"/>	One day	\$175
<input type="checkbox"/>	One day – Student / Pensioner	\$87
FULL Registration From 13 January 2018		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Days	\$280
<input type="checkbox"/>	Two days – Student / Pensioner	\$140
<input type="checkbox"/>	One day	\$195
<input type="checkbox"/>	One day – Student / Pensioner	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual session(s)	\$20 each
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conference Dinner (Sunday night)	\$20

CONFERENCE PAYMENT

Payment may only be made by personal cheque, Visa or MasterCard.

1. Cheque:

If paying by cheque, please make your cheque payable to
Australian Association for Jewish Studies
and post with your completed registration form to:

The AAJS Membership Secretary

Nathan Compton

15 Wyattville Drive

West Hoxton NSW 2171

Australia

2. Credit Card:

If paying by credit card, please send your completed registration form to Nathan
Compton via email to: ncom4846@uni.sydney.edu.au
OR alternatively, you can organize payment via telephone: +61 406 177 301

MasterCard [] Visa []

Credit card number: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiry Date: _____ / _____

Cardholder's Name: _____ Total Amount: AUD\$ _____

Signature: _____

(Note that a surcharge will be added to payments by credit card:

2.25% - Standard Visa, Master Card; 3.25% - Premium Visa, MasterCard)

Please note: entry to the conference will be restricted to members and/or participants who have fully paid for entry (no exceptions).

For more information contact

Aviva Freilich

Honorary Fellow

UWA Law School

+61 8 64882840

or

Professor Seth Kunin

Curtin University

+61 8 92663064

Seth.Kunin@curtin.edu.au

AAJS 2018: Meet the Co-Convenor

Last issue we interviewed AAJS 2018 Conference Convener Professor Seth Kunin, to ask him some questions about how the arrangements are going and what's in store for us. In this issue, we turn to his co-convenor, **Associate Professor Aviva Freilich** of the University of Western Australia, to ask her some questions about how the arrangements are going and what's in store for us.



Above: Associate Professor Aviva Freilich, AAJS 2018 co-convenor. Source: A. Freilich

For those who don't know you, what has been your academic journey? How did you come to be at the University of Western Australia, and what's your research specialty?

I am originally from Sydney. I have an Honours law degree from Sydney University as well as a Master of Laws (for which I was awarded the university medal). I was interested in going into academia rather than practice, as it fitted in with my life as Rebbitsen of the Maroubra synagogue at that time. My first job was at Sydney University in commercial and industrial law. When my husband was appointed as Rabbi of the Perth Hebrew Congregation, a few years later, I successfully applied for a position at the University of

Western Australia Law School. In my career, I've been mainly interested in consumer law and introduced to the law school an elective law unit on consumer law. My research has concentrated on interpretation and law reform in relation to consumer legislation

What inspired you to become conference co-convenor for the upcoming 2018 AAJS Conference?

I was asked by some of the conference organising committee if I would join, since I have lived in Perth for many years and could bring a good level of local knowledge to the planning process. I've been delighted to have been able to bring some practical help to some of the mechanics of the conference.

What are the key things, in your opinion, that make for a good conference?

Diversity is the major factor for a successful conference – diversity of speakers, diversity of sessions, diversity of attendees. A good conference has something for everyone and gives people a taste of a wide range of topics outside their own academic world.

What are the biggest challenges facing you and your organising team?

Luckily for me, we have an amazing team both in the local and the national AAJS Conference organisers. There are many seasoned members of the community smoothing out the bumps along the way!

What are you really excited about bringing to conference participants as part of the 2018 AAJS Conference? What should we really look forward to?

I think the major draw for conference attendees will be the high calibre of presenters we will have – particularly our keynote speakers. There is a wealth of fascinating specialty knowledge and experience to be enjoyed, shared and learned from each day of the conference.

AAJS2018: Meet the Keynote Speakers

Prof. Alexandra Ludewig



Who: Professor of European Studies, University of Western Australia

Specialist Field: German literature, cinema and media, Germans in Australia.

What is the objective of your keynote address for the conference?

My objective for the keynote will be to stimulate discussion and thinking.

What are you most looking forward to seeing or doing at the conference while you are there?

As a local I know Perth well, but I am most looking forward to an exchange of ideas with delegates from other places.

Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold AO



Who: Reader, St Barnabas College Adelaide, Assistant Priest St Peter's Cathedral, Former Premier of South Australia

Specialist Field: Faith in the public square; practical & applied theology.

What is the objective of your keynote address for the conference? I'm keen to get people thinking more about the relationship between Jewish and Christian populations in historic Europe, and in particular about how dominant cultures absorb Jewish elements by osmosis that carry through to the modern world.

We're sorry we won't be seeing you in the flesh - are you looking forward to the challenges of electronic keynote speaking and audience interaction?

I will be pre-recording the video in a variety of religious institutions in Adelaide, and answering questions after the screening via Skype. It's worked well before for me!

Prof. Jaky Troy



Who: Director, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research, University of Sydney

Specialist Field: Australian indigenous history and language policy.

What is the objective of your keynote address for the conference? I want to get participants thinking and engaging on the similarities between Indigenous and Jewish culture and language, as both are tribal people and a long-oppressed people with rich stories to tell.

What are you most looking forward to seeing or doing at the conference while you are there?

At the conference – networking, forming partnerships and discovering new research ideas. I'm also keen to touch base with my indigenous networks in the local Perth area.

Jewish Perth: A Profile

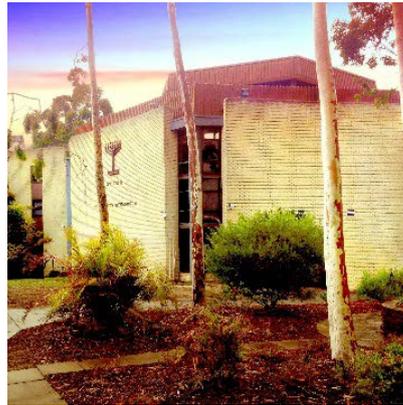
Reverend David Freilich OAM



Above: Rev. David Freilich OAM. Source: D. Freilich

Perth is the capital and largest city in Western Australia. It is Australia's fourth largest city, with a population of approximately 1.5 million. Perth was founded in 1829 as the political centre of the free settler Swan River Colony. The metropolitan area is located between the Indian Ocean and the Darling Range.

The central business district is situated on the beautiful Swan River which winds itself through Perth's suburbs. The climate in Perth is typically Mediterranean - with wet, rather mild winters and warm, dry summers and the standard of living is very high. The original Jewish settlers to Perth comprised of a few convicts coming from England, some coming from Tzefat in Israel as a result of the gold rush and others coming originally from the UK. In the 1940s and early 1950s a number of holocaust survivors came to Perth from Europe. From the mid 1970's up to the year 2000 a wave of South African Jewish immigrants arrived in Perth. There were also some from England, Scotland, Israel as well as Jewish families from the Eastern States. This influx instigated the Perth Jewish community having to increase its facilities to accommodate this vast increase in numbers.



Above: The Perth Shul, Menora. Source: PHC

Today's Jewish Perth is a vibrant community that is diverse and inclusive. The community numbers between 7,000 and 8,000 and there are a number of different religious congregations catering to the diverse interests, beliefs and traditions of this active community. The oldest congregation, established over 125 years ago, is the Perth Hebrew Congregation, at present led by Rabbi David Freilich, who is about to step down and hand over to a successor. The Perth Hebrew Congregation, also referred to simply as the Perth Synagogue, has more membership than all the other synagogues combined in Perth and thus caters for the vast majority of the Jewish population. An eruv has been erected making travel to and from the shule easier for the large number of orthodox families.

The Perth Shule houses the communal Mikvah on site as well as a sizeable bookshop. It also established of the Ruth Landau Harp PHC Childcare Centre, the only Jewish day care available in Perth. The day care facility operates year round. Additionally, Perth Synagogue houses the Kosher Food Providore - a mini-kosher supermarket on the premises.



Above: The Dianella Shul, Yokine, Perth. Source: D. Freilich

The Perth Hebrew Congregation has tefillah services (prayer services) for Shacharit, Mincha and Ma'ariv daily as well as Shabbat and festival worship services. They are not only an important part of the history of the Perth Jewish community. They are a vibrant and active community and very much a part of Perth's growing Jewish future.

The Dianella Shule also called The Beit Midrash of WA forms a smaller but significant part of the Perth Community. It is primely located opposite the Jewish Centre, the Maccabi Sports Fields and Carmel School. It is also within the eruv.

Besides the three regular minyanim daily, the shule is a hive of activity as it is the home of the Torah Mitzion Perth Yeshiva. There are a number of bachurim and bachurot from Israel in attendance at the yeshivah who conduct learning programs for anybody who wishes to utilise them from the community.

Approximately seven kilometres north of the Perth Hebrew Congregation is the Northern Suburbs Chabad Congregation in Noranda. This synagogue was formed in the 1990s, mainly by Jewish families who came from South Africa.



Above: The Northern Suburbs Chabad Congregation. Source: D. Freilich

The Northern Suburbs Chabad Congregation has three services daily, Shabbat and Yomtov services and various educational programs and shiurim. They also offer a wide range of social and educational activities creating a feeling of comfort and familiarity for the regions South African migrants.

While the roots of the community were geared towards the Orthodox, Temple David in the Mount Lawley area caters to the needs of the Progressive/Reform community of Perth.



Above and Below: Campus of the Carmel School, Perth's Jewish School. Source: D. Freilich



To further support and enhance the services and education provided by these Synagogues, the Perth community is also home to Carmel School, the only Jewish day school in Western Australia. The school was first established in 1959 with an initial enrolment of only 11 students. Carmel, with the growth of the Jewish community, has flourished into a top rate educational institution now providing Jewish and secular education to a student body of over 500 children. Education is offered from Kindergarten through Year 12.

The school takes great pride in living by its motto, Emunah at (Faith and Knowledge). They are a modern Orthodox programme designed to educate children in religious subjects and Jewish tradition, Zionism and secular subjects as well. Their beautiful campus and facilities are located between Woodrow Avenue and Cresswell Road in Dianella, in close proximity to the Jewish Centre, The Maurice Zeffert Centre for the Aged and the Maccabi Sporting facilities.

The original Maurice Zeffert Nursing Home was opened in 1961. A 'meals on wheels' kosher meal service, run by the Maurice Zeffert Nursing Home, also provides meals to elderly persons requiring a bit of extra assistance. Maurice Zeffert Home also provides a Shabbat service for its residents and relies on non-residents to help form a minyan.

Kashrut standards for the entire community are maintained through the registration of kosher products on a certified kashrut list rather than with a Beth Din stamp. The local kashrut authority is the Kashrut Authority of Western Australia that investigates and supervises local products. Our certified products are listed on the kosher list maintained by Kosher Australia. They offer other services including: information provision, home kashering, and caterer certification. For any information regarding kashrut the chief supervisor of Kashrut in Western Australia, Mr Lenny Zeilinger

telephone 0401548859. There is one kosher butcher and kosher bakery in Perth, housed in the Kosher Food Providore on the grounds of Perth Shule. One may also buy kosher products at Coles Supermarkets at Flinders Square, Dianella or Mirrabooka shopping centres.

Catering outlets under the supervision of the Kashrut Authority of Western Australia cater for private functions at a variety of venues. As well as, where able, delivering kosher food to individual visitors at hotels. One of these catering outlets runs a full time kosher catering kitchen from the premises of the Jewish Centre in the heart of the Jewish suburbs. The kosher caterers that are full time in dealing with kosher catering needs are Aviv Catering, based at the Jewish Centre, telephone 08-92766030, Yoffi's Catering, telephone 0417182484 and Café 61 on the Maccabi grounds, telephone 0499104101. There are also two places under the supervision and/or approval of KAWA where one can have a Kosher meal. They are Café 61 on the Maccabi grounds in Yokine and Vege Mama (vegetarian) 567 Beaufort Street, Mt Lawley.

The Rabbis in Perth have a joint Council known as C.O.R.E. (The Council of Orthodox Rabbis & Educators). C.O.R.E. provides the entire community with programmes of shiurim and it is the forum at which Rabbinic policy of the community is determined.

The Jewish Centre is also a clear focal point of Jewish communal life in Perth as it is home to many organisations providing activities and services for Jewish people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Western Australia Maccabi provides a number of sporting programmes for all ages and also coordinated a number of social programmes as well. Under the Maccabi banner sporting clubs such as soccer, cricket, tennis, netball and basketball operate.

Other groups and organisations including WIZO, National Council of Jewish Women, Holocaust Institute of WA, and United Israel Appeal run programming on a regular basis and operate out of the Jewish Centre.

Also based in the Jewish Centre is the Community Shaliach from Israel that further enriches the totality of the Jewish experience in Perth by organising a wide variety of cultural, educational and social activities. The Shaliach works closely with Perth's youth groups, including Habonim Dror and Bnei Akiva.

Jewish life in Perth is extensive, warm and embracing and anybody visiting will be made to feel very much at home. In fact, would be prevailed upon to come and settle in Perth.

Are you an experienced Perth traveller or local? Do you have traveller tips or suggestions for conference attendees coming to Perth for the first time? Share them on our Conference Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1200057036736986/>

Holocaust Education at Australian Universities in the 21st Century: Workshop and public debate

Organized by Dr Jan Láníček (UNSW), Dr Ruth Balint (UNSW) and Dr Avril Alba (Sydney) Sydney Jewish Museum, 2 November 2017

The number of university courses on the Holocaust has dramatically increased in line with growing student interest. This growth has outpaced interest in most other histories, most notably the history of genocide in Australia. This increase in interest brings its own challenges that we addressed at the scholarly workshop on Holocaust education in Australia convened by the School of Humanities and Languages (UNSW Sydney) on 2 November 2017. The event was attended by University lecturers from Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Adelaide: Dr Avril Alba, Dr

Ruth Balint, A/Professor Matthew Fitzpatrick, Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, Sue Hampel OAM, Dr Debbie Lackerstein, Dr Jan Láníček, and Professor Peter Monteath.

The aim of this one-day workshop was twofold: First, we brought together a group of university lecturers from different universities in Australia to discuss approaches, challenges and strategies to teaching the Holocaust and genocide to university students in 2017 and moving forwards. Second, we intended to open up the discussion in a public forum, which was held in the evening at the Sydney Jewish Museum in conjunction with their public programming focus on education. Professor Colin Tatz (ANU) joined the public debate at SJM that was chaired by Professor Emeritus Konrad Kwiet.

The half-day workshop at UNSW allowed participants to discuss their approaches to the teaching of the Holocaust in the classroom or online. Questions that speakers addressed included how courses should be structured, issues of course content and accessibility for a growing diversity of students, ethical issues of representation, where genocide “fits” in the spectrum of Holocaust-related subjects, where the Holocaust fits in relation to courses on comparative genocides or in courses about Jewish and minority histories of Europe.

The public roundtable, hosted by the Sydney Jewish Museum, allowed us to debate key issues that emerge from the workshop. It was attended by the general public, as well as members of the education sector and the Jewish community. The participants of both events hope to continue in their collaboration in the future.

By Jan Láníček (based on the abstracts prepared by Avril Alba, Ruth Balint and Jan Láníček)

Upcoming Conferences and Publications

British Association for Jewish Studies Annual Conference, Durham 9-11 July 2018

“Theories and Histories: Jewish Studies Across Disciplines”

Call for Papers:

The annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies 2018 will seek to put key Jewish Studies questions in dialogue with broader intellectual concerns of different academic disciplines. What do varying understandings of what it means to be Jewish tell us about contemporary constructions of what it means to be a human being and a fellow citizen? In what ways does research into Jewish diasporas contribute to debates about transnationalism? How does the diversity of Jewish communities’ sociality, religion and culture reflect the social diversity of their localities? The conference will explore how Jewish Studies can both engage with existing intellectual agendas of the humanities and social sciences and provide a model for inquiry that goes beyond disciplinary boundaries. We welcome papers that explore Jewish traditions in different parts of the world and in different historical periods. Topics examined in the conference can include, but won’t be limited to the following:

- Diversity in Jewish histories and cultures
- Israel and Diaspora
- Jewish Studies at the intersection with critical race studies and gender theory
- Judaism, religion and secularism
- Jewishness, arts and literature
- Jewish Studies, colonialism, and postcolonialism

As usual with BAJS conferences, papers on topics unrelated to the conference theme are also welcome, including proposals by

graduate students wishing to present on their doctoral research.

Confirmed keynote speakers and preliminary titles:

- Professor Bryan Cheyette (Reading) *The Ghetto as Travelling Concept*
- Professor Martin Goodman (Oxford) *The History of Judaism and the History of Religions*
- Professor Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth) *Theorizing Jewish Studies: Race, Gender and Empire*
- Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger (Paideia) *Truth, Story, and History: Jewish Studies Across Disciplines*

Paper proposals should include an abstract of no more than 300 words and a speaker biography of 100 words max.

Panel proposals should include a rationale for the panel of no more than 500 words, abstracts of 300 words max for each paper proposed as part of the panel and speaker biographies of no more than 100 words. *Speakers are allocated 30min for their presentation and questions. Usually papers are c.20min in length, allowing for 10min of questions and discussion.*

We have a limited number of bursaries available for postgraduate students and early career researchers. If you would like to be considered, please state this in your proposal and send your CV.

Please send paper and panel proposals and all conference-related correspondence to BAJS2018@durham.ac.uk.

Deadline for submission of paper and panel proposals: **31 January 2018**

Conference booking will open early in March and delegates will be asked to register by 15 April 2018.

Call for Papers, Edited Collection
Jewish Anthropology in the 21st Century

What does it mean to be Jewish in the twenty-first century? The proposed volume will discuss how this question may be answered in light of some of the most topical current debates in social/cultural anthropology, and, at the same time, will demonstrate how this question can offer a novel analytical perspective on these debates.

As anthropologist Jonathan Webber observed, 'Right from its origins in Biblical antiquity, Jewish identity has oscillated between two contradictory premises: an underlying belief in the unity and continuity of the Jewish people, despite an awareness of the existence of considerable ethnographic diversity; and a feeling that the Jewish community of one's own village or town constituted the only true Jewish identity, despite the knowledge that other Jewish communities existed, even in very faraway lands' (Webber 1994: 74). The problem of the relationship between different dimensions of Jewishness, some of which are seen to be embedded in Jewish genealogy and others of which are construed along the lines of cultural and religious affiliation, is one of the central issues in anthropology of Judaism and in Jewish Studies in general, where essentialist conceptualizations of Judaism and Jewish culture have in the past decades been challenged by commentators coming from the perspective of critical theory, who generally see the theoretical foundations of essentialist thinking as problematic.

Papers for the edited collection will put key Jewish Studies questions in dialogue with major theoretical concerns and agendas of a number of areas of social anthropological inquiry. We welcome papers on Jewish communities in different parts of the world. Studies exploring conversion to Judaism, as well as the emergence of 'alternative' Jewish communities and their approach to Jewish identity would be of interest for the proposed volume.

- What do varying understandings of what it means to be Jewish tell us about contemporary constructions of what it

means to be a human being and/or a fellow citizen?

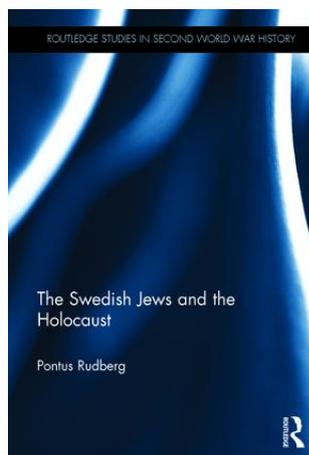
- What is the relationship between political citizenship and personal understandings of belonging?
- How do Jewish identities intersect with notions of inclusion and exclusion?
- What can research into contemporary Jewish cultures contribute to debates about transnationalism?
- What new relations can be explored between Jewishness and Cosmopolitanism?
- How notions of Jewishness highlight the multiple and conflicting dimensions of the relationship between race and religion?
- How new ways of building dialogue between communities in the Diaspora and Israel redefine Jewish identity?

We welcome contributors to address these questions by exploring the complexity of Jewish sociality, religion and culture, where multiple identities interact, mirror and contrast each other. We are aiming for papers that will take one set of ethnographic examples stemming from contemporary Jewish cultures and discuss what new analytical light it can cast on an inquiry of anthropological concern.

The volume editors are **Dr. Rohee Dasgupta**, Associate Professor in the Jindal School of International Affairs and Convener, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies, O.P. Jindal Global University and **Dr. Yulia Egorova**, Reader in the Department of Anthropology and Centre Director in the Centre for the Study of Jewish Culture, Society and Politics, Durham University. We welcome scholars from the fields of Anthropology, Sociology, Politics and International Relations, Socio-legal Studies, Jewish Studies, Israel Studies, Political Geography, Urban Heritage Studies to especially contribute to this volume. Papers are expected to be of max. 8000 words and follow Harvard reference style. They need to be submitted by **March 31, 2018**. Please email your paper with a 250 word abstract and a 300-word author biography to: rdgupta@jgu.edu.in

Recent Books of Interest

(Click any ISBN to purchase)



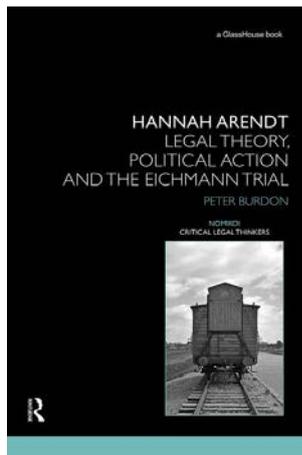
The Swedish Jews and the Holocaust / by Pontus Rudberg. Routledge, 2017. [978-1-1380-4588-0](https://doi.org/10.1080/978-1-1380-4588-0)

"We will be judged in our own time and in the future by measuring the aid that we, inhabitants of a free and fortunate country, gave to our brethren in this time of greatest disaster." This declaration, made shortly after the pogroms of November 1938 by the Jewish communities in Sweden, was truer than anyone could have forecast at the time. Pontus Rudberg focuses on this sensitive issue – Jewish responses to the Nazi persecutions and mass murder of Jews. What actions did Swedish Jews take to aid the Jews in Europe during the years 1933–45 and what determined their policies and actions? Specific attention is given to the aid efforts of the Jewish Community of Stockholm, including the range of activities in which the community engaged and the challenges and opportunities presented by official refugee policy in Sweden.



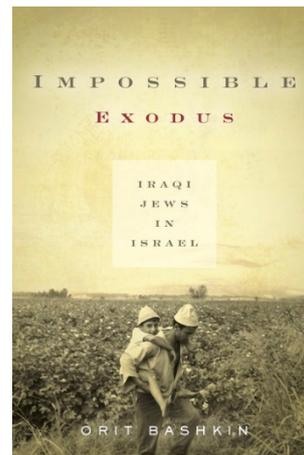
Jewish Families in Europe, 1939-Present: History, Representation, and Memory / edited by Joanna Beata Michlic. Brandeis University Press, 2017. [978-1-5126-0010-0](https://doi.org/10.1080/978-1-5126-0010-0)

Examining World War II, the Holocaust, and their aftermath through the lens of Central and Eastern European Jewish families This book offers an extensive introduction and 13 diverse essays on how World War II, the Holocaust, and their aftermath affected Jewish families and Jewish communities, with an especially close look at the roles played by women, youth, and children. Focusing on Eastern and Central Europe, themes explored include: how Jewish parents handled the Nazi threat; rescue and resistance within the Jewish family unit; the transformation of gender roles under duress; youth's wartime and early postwar experiences; postwar reconstruction of the Jewish family; rehabilitation of Jewish children and youth; and the role of Zionism in shaping the present and future of young survivors. Relying on newly available archival material and novel research in the areas of families, youth, rescue, resistance, gender, and memory, this volume will be an indispensable guide to current work on the familial and social history of the Holocaust.



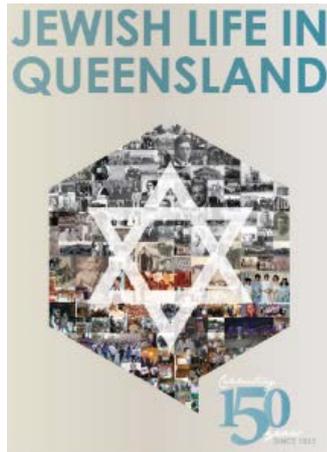
Hannah Arendt: Legal Theory and the Eichmann Trial / by Peter Burdon. Routledge, 2017. [978-1-1381-9360-4](https://doi.org/10.1080/978-1-1381-9360-4).

Hannah Arendt is one of the great outsiders of twentieth-century political philosophy. After reporting on the trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, Arendt embarked on a series of reflections about how to make judgments and exercise responsibility without recourse to existing law, especially when existing law is judged as immoral. This book uses Hannah Arendt's text "*Eichmann in Jerusalem*" to examine major themes in legal theory, including the nature of law, legal authority, the duty of citizens, the nexus between morality and law and political action. An insightful analysis of the importance of Hannah's Arendt's work for jurisprudence.



Impossible exodus : Iraqi Jews in Israel/ by Orit Bashkin. Stanford University Press, 2017. [9780804795852](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780804795852).

Between 1949 and 1951, 123,000 Iraqi Jews immigrated to the newly established Israeli state. Lacking the resources to absorb them all, the Israeli government resettled them in maabarot, or transit camps, relegating them to poverty. In the tents and shacks of the camps, their living conditions were squalid and unsanitary. Basic necessities like water were in short supply, when they were available at all. Rather than returning to a homeland as native sons, Iraqi Jews were newcomers in a foreign place. *Impossible Exodus* tells the story of these Iraqi Jews' first decades in Israel. Faced with ill treatment and discrimination from state officials, Iraqi Jews resisted: they joined Israeli political parties, demonstrated in the streets, and fought for the education of their children, leading a civil rights struggle whose legacy continues to influence contemporary debates in Israel. Orit Bashkin sheds light on their everyday lives and their determination in a new country, uncovering their long, painful transformation from Iraqi to Israeli. In doing so, she shares the resilience and humanity of a community whose story has yet to be told.



Jewish Life in Queensland: celebrating 150 years since 1865 / by Jennifer Creese. Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, 2017. [9780646961651](https://www.qjbd.com.au)

From a small collection of settler families in 1865, the Queensland Jewish community has grown over the past 150 years to more than 8,000 people, stretching from Far North Queensland down to the New South Wales border and out to the remotest Outback communities. Yet the history of Queensland's Jewish community has until now been largely silent in the discourse on Australian Jewish history. Now a new work, "Jewish Life in Queensland", has been commissioned and published by the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies following the community's 150th anniversary in 2015, and written by Jennifer Creese of PHA (QLD). The coffee-table book takes readers on a journey through the rich history of the Queensland Jewish community across the state. With over 300 pages of text and photographs, the book illustrates the community's story from humble beginnings in 1865 to the modern day, and showcases the roles Jewish families and individuals have played throughout the years in making Queensland great. Blending archival research with family and life histories, this rich and complex work makes a major contribution to Australian multicultural history.



Israel/Palestine Scholarly Tributes to the Legacy of Baruch Kimmerling / Edited by: Keren Or Schlesinger, Gadi Algazi and Yaron Ezrahi. The Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2017. [978-965-493-968-3](https://www.hup.co.il).

Baruch Kimmerling (1939-2007) was a one-of-a-kind scholar, a public sociologist and a "producer of ideas". The questions he dealt with are relevant now more than ever. In a volume dedicated to his life work, Israeli and Palestinian writers from various fields of study present studies on the past and present of both sides of the Green Line. The writers were inspired by Kimmerling's scientific approach, and they conduct a dialogue with the terms he coined.

[Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No 69, April 2018](#)

Do you have a story, report or review you'd like to see in the next edition of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies Newsletter? Send your submissions, or even just your ideas, to jennifer.creese@uqconnect.edu.au