

Newsletter no
69
March 2018

Australian Association for Jewish Studies

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Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies newsletter for 2018! The previous 12 months were full of significant achievements for our Association and its members, and 2018 is already proving to again be a fruitful year for Jewish scholarship across this country!

We begin this newsletter with the 2017-18 annual report of our President, Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (University of Adelaide), which was presented at the 2018 Annual General Meeting of the Association. Following the AGM, there have been a few changes to our Association's executive committee, so we will introduce you to the members of the executive, both new and continuing.

February 2018 saw a great migration of Jewish scholars westward, as the Association was welcomed by Curtin University, the University of Western Australia and the Perth Jewish community. The 2018 30th annual Conference, held at St Catherine's College from February 11th-12th, attracted scholars from all over the country and from many overseas locations, as well as a sizable number of delegates from amongst the members of the local community. In this newsletter, we include conference report backs from some of our Pratt Foundation scholars – our postgraduate student members – on their experiences of the conference. We also have a special report back from one of our international delegates attending his first AAJS Conference.

With your appetite firmly whetted by the glowing reports of the 2018 conference, we include the Call for Papers for our 2019 conference in this issue – to be held at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, Melbourne in February

2019, the 31st annual AAJS conference will be an inspiring exposition of the trends, directions and potentials of the Jewish Studies sector in Australia. All our readers are encouraged to consider submitting their proposals to showcase their work!

Members are also encouraged to submit written articles from their research to the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies, under the editorship of Dr Vicky Schinkel. The Call for Submission for the 2018 volume is included in this newsletter.

Additionally, this month, we proudly showcase the publication work of several of our members who have recently launched new books. We profile a new MOOC (massive open online course) designed to promote wider accessibility to Jewish studies worldwide to non-academics interested in further learning.

As part of our mission to connect Australian Jewish scholars with global opportunities to showcase and disseminate their research, we provide information about other upcoming events and opportunities of interest to Jewish scholars. We also highlight details of some of the most recently-published books in the discipline, which may be of interest to our researchers.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter!

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

2017-18 Australian Association for Jewish Studies President's Report

I was elected president of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS) a year ago, in February 2017, taking over from Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, who had played a key role in building up the Association over the almost seven years of his presidency. We have also had new members join our executive team, with Dr Anna Hirsch as Vice- President (Vic), Dr Vicky Schinkel taking over the editorship from Dr Myer Samra. Of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, with the assistance of Dr Dvir Abramovich, and Jennifer Creese taking over from Dr Anna Rosenbaum as newsletter editor – resulting in our executive team representing a geographical spread across the Australian mainland.

One of the aims of our Association has been to hold conferences in the smaller Jewish centres outside of Sydney and Melbourne. After having held successful conferences in Adelaide, Canberra and Brisbane, 2017 was another productive year in which AAJS established close links with Western Australia in preparation for our annual conference in Perth. We have also worked to expand our reach globally, advertising our conference in various international groups, and resulting in dozens of emails expressing their interest. We have improved our website (thanks to Suzanne Faigan) and - importantly – made ourselves visible on Facebook, with thousands following our posts through various Jewish Studies groups, in addition to our own Facebook group of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS)

Our AAJS 2018 conference is taking place in Perth for the first time. I would like to thank the Pratt Foundation and Sam Lipski for their support in assisting research students from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to participate in our annual conference, as well as offering to assist us in due course in hosting the legendary Yiddish actor and intellectual, Shmuel Atzmon.

I would also like to thank Professor Seth Kunin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor International, Curtin

University, as well as Honorary Fellow of the University of Western Australia Law School, Aviva Freilich, for co-convening AAJS 2018 Perth. I would also like to pay tribute to Jenny Young, of Curtin University administration, for her efficiency and contribution to the conference organization.

I would like to express my appreciation to our dedicated, tireless committee members: Jan Láníček, Anna Hirsch; Jennifer Creese; Vicky Schinkel, Nathan Compton; Marilynne Mill and Michael Abrahams-Sprod. I am also grateful to Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland and Neta Labi for their contributions as part of the Conference committee.

I am writing this report from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mt Scopus, where I have just delivered a political science workshop to Professor Dan Avnon's Ph.D. students. I came to know Professor Avnon through the AAJS. It all began when I read that he had been boycotted in Australia by the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney, which has a BDS policy. They refused to sponsor Professor Avnon for his sabbatical on the basis of his affiliation with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I immediately contacted him and invited him to present at the AAJS Conference in 2014 in Adelaide. Dan dedicated the bottle of red wine that I gave him in Adelaide to his very boycotter, indicating that without the latter, we would have never become friends. As we say in Israeli, *מֵעַץ יָצָא מִתּוֹךְ קַיִץ* *me'etz yatsá matók* 'out of the strong/hard came out something sweet'. Afterwards, he wrote an article for our Journal, entitled 'BDS and the Dynamics of Self-Righteous Moralism', in which he discussed his experiences in applying to the University of Sydney for support as a Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Scholar and the self-righteousness of the boycotters, who even refused to meet informally for a cup of coffee once he had arrived in Sydney, to discuss the situation in Israel.

Under my leadership, AAJS will continue to be a platform for all scholars, regardless of nationality (Iranians welcome), academic affiliation (Birzeit University academics

welcome) and political party (even boycotters are welcome although AAJS is strongly opposed to the BDS, because we do not believe in boycotting any scholars). Our conferences and journal will continue to sponsor and support solid academic research across all areas of Jewish Studies, from the biblical period to the present day through an open-minded and grounded academic approach, nurturing transdisciplinarity.

The Western academic world is already being damaged by bean-counting, number-crunching neo-liberal economics. Let us not allow its destruction through self-righteousness and censorship. We should continue to write academic articles with Shanghai professors and participate in conferences in Moscow, Alaska or a law school near Al-Aqsa.

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, D.Phil. (Oxon.)
Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages
Department of Linguistics, School of Humanities, Faculty of Arts
The University of Adelaide

Meet your 2018 AAJS Committee

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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.



Above: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann in Perth, WA. Source: G. Zuckermann.

Photographs of the 2018 AAJS Conference, 11-12 February, Perth, Western Australia



Delegates hear from Prof. Suzanne Rutland OAM



A/Prof. Aviva Freilich introduces Prof. Alexandra Ludewig



Panelists field questions in the Jewish Community forum



Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold delivers his distance keynote



Delegates hear from Dr Shahar Burla



Delegates enjoy a convivial College conference dinner!

AAJS 2018 Conference: Views from the Pratt Foundation Scholars

The AAJS was again fortunate in 2018 to receive support from the Pratt Foundation to assist postgraduate student scholars in Jewish Studies to attend and present at our annual conference. By supporting our up-and-coming researchers, helping them develop their academic skills, showcase their research and build their networks, the AAJS is committed to developing the future of Jewish Studies in Australia.

Two of our Pratt Foundation Scholars for 2018 have offered reports back after the conference of their experiences and their favourite highlights; we hope you enjoy these overviews of the 2018 AAJS Conference through the eyes of Anne Sarzin and Jonathan Kaplan.

Conference highlights original scholarship and research

By Anne Sarzin (University of Technology Sydney)

Scholarship, meticulous research, originality and creativity characterized the 30th annual conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, which focused overall on biblical texts, Jewish history and biography, as well as contemporary themes. Sadly, one had to make choices between competing papers presented at the same time, so this brief and far from comprehensive review must, of necessity, exclude many worthy participants.

Alexandra Ludewig's absorbing presentation grounded the conference in an Australian context, exploring an historic initiative launched by an optimistic Dr Isaac Steinberg, who had dedicated himself to finding a home in the Kimberley region for Jews desperate to escape Nazi tyranny in Germany and Austria in the pre-war years. Professor Ludewig's vivid portrayal brought the complexity of the project to life, as

well as the socio-political context within which the major stakeholders operated.

Anne Atkinson's compelling family narrative revealed the investigative skills that define a good researcher—ability, experience, tenacity and enthusiasm. She sketched intriguing portraits of five women ancestors, part of her meticulously forged multi-generational saga. Dr Anna Hirsh painted a moving portrait of a Holocaust survivor who translated his memories into architectural models of the Czestochowa synagogue and the Treblinka extermination camp. And Shoshanna Jordan's evocative, poetic and touching photographs also conveyed most poignantly the pain of past memories associated with the Holocaust.

One was left with myriad impressions, including the impressive wisdom and scholarly depth of Dr Lynn Arnold, who delivered a wide-ranging keynote address; the omniscience of polymath Ghil'ad Zuckerman; the emergence of gifted and promising young scholars; and the lifelong dedication to academia and research of stalwarts such as Ruth Henderson and Suzanne Rutland. With so many stimulating and intellectually satisfying papers, one looks forward with great anticipation to the 31st annual AAJS conference to be held in Melbourne next year.

AAJS 30th Annual Conference

By Jonathan C. Kaplan (University of Technology Sydney)

My paper "Southern *Heimat*: Viennese Jews in Sydney and Cultural Identity During the Immediate Pre- and Post-War Era" was presented at the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS) 30th Annual Conference, *By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews*, Perth, WA, 11–12 February 2018. The paper was part of a panel titled "Migration, Memory and Emotions" and included presentations by other academics addressing similar themes; including Anne Sarzin's paper

examining the effects of migration on the career and ideology of the Russian-born Australian Jewish medical practitioner and communal leader Fanny Reading (1884–1974), and Anne Atkinson’s paper detailing the connection between migration, identity and assimilation in the context of a Russian Jewish family and their experiences in pre-WWII China and post-WWII Australia.

The conference was attended by a number of scholars from both Australian and international academic institutions. It provided an overview of the wide-ranging research on Jewish studies being conducted in Australia, including aspects of Australian and international history, Biblical studies, linguistics, emotion in the context of Jewish history, and contemporary Australian Jewry. In attending this conference, I benefitted from contact with both method and approach of other researchers as well as topic area. In addition, the feedback received from colleagues on my own research was invaluable and has allowed me to consider further avenues of research.

AAJS 2018 Conference: Views from an International Guest

Each year, we are joined at our annual Association Conference by visiting scholars from all over the world. By inviting the contributions and attendance of international Jewish Studies scholars, the AAJS is committed to developing research partnerships and professional networks between Australian Jewish Studies scholars and their global colleagues, and showcasing Australian research for participants to take back to their colleagues in their own countries.

This year, we were particularly fortunate to welcome several scholars from China who

shared their research on both historical and contemporary Jewish populations in their country. One of our visitors, Professor Tiejiang Zhang from the Jewish Studies Centre at the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences in China, reflects here on his experiences of presenting at the AAJS 2018 conference and his hope for future academic collaboration.



Above: Prof. Zhang with AAJS Secretary Jennifer Creese. Source: T. Zhang.

Below: Prof Zhang with AAJS President Prof Ghil'ad Zuckermann. Source: G. Zuckermann



Reflections on the AAJS 2018 Conference

First of all, I would like to thank you for your invitation of me to attend the conference, which was jointly hosted by Curtin University and AAJS, Australia. “By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews” was a good theme,

which was ideally suited for cooperation and cultural exchange between the Jewish research center of the Academy of Social Sciences, Heilongjiang, and the Australian Association for Jewish Studies.

Australia is a very beautiful and civilized country, which is rich in natural resources and has a vast territory. In the history of the Jewish Diaspora in Harbin and Northeast China, a large number of Harbin Jews migrated to Australia from the 1940s to 1950s. Some of the Jews were born in Harbin and Northeast China, and some were Jewish refugees who had been exiled to Harbin as a result of the anti-Semitic policies carried out by tsarist Russia and the former Soviet Union. They lived and worked in Harbin for decades, and had deep friendship with the people of Harbin. They made positive contributions to Harbin's economic construction and urban development. For this reason, I myself proposed the establishment of the "Harbin Jewish Historical and Cultural Museum" in the new Jewish synagogue in Harbin, in an effort to express the friendly feelings of the people of Harbin, including myself, to the Jewish people.

I was very fortunate to be included as part of a special panel for the studies of Jews in China at the annual AAJS conference. I had an opportunity to tell you the story of the Harbin Jews so that more Australians would be aware of

the history of the Jews in Harbin. When I went home after the conference, I wrote a briefing on the 30th Annual Conference of the AAJS, and published it on the website of the Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences. This briefing was well received and praised by the Jewish scholars in Harbin and China.

Having had such a positive experience at the AAJS Conference, I am excited about the potential to further promote the cultural exchange between China and Australia in the field of Jewish Studies. I am looking forward to sharing the 2019 AAJS Conference Call for Papers with my colleagues at the Heilongjiang Academy, to encourage more of them to attend and possibly present. I'm also keenly investigating more Australian journals and academic forums, like the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, both to contribute my research and follow the research of others. I'm also very keen to support the exchange of research in Jewish studies across the language barrier, and would love to be able to arrange translation of Australian Jewish Studies articles into Chinese and vice versa, to extend each other's academic impact.

Tiejiang Zhang
Director, Research Fellow (Professor) Jewish Studies Center, Heilongjiang Academy of Social Sciences, China.



MONASH
University

Call for Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS)

The 31st AAJS Conference, 11-12 February (Monday-Tuesday) 2019

Jewish Studies in Australia: New Directions

Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University Caulfield Campus, Melbourne

Co-convenors:

Assoc. Professor Julie Kalman julie.kalman@monash.edu

Dr Daniella Doron daniella.doron@monash.edu

Jewish, Hebrew and Biblical Studies scholarship in Australian universities arguably constitutes a growing field. While the number of people whose research comes under the rubric of these fields remains relatively small, the scope and heft of this research is considerable. This conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies seeks to initiate a discussion regarding the state of Jewish, Hebrew and Biblical Studies in Australia. What current research is being undertaken? What disciplines are covered? What methodological perspectives and challenges drive research in Australia? Do we share common themes and approaches? AAJS 2019 Melbourne will bring Jewish, Hebrew and Biblical Studies scholars from across the country together in conversation, to present our latest research, to explore common themes, and to maintain community and collegiality in this scholarship in Australian universities.

We invite proposals for papers relating to current research. Papers may explore a specific aspect of a current project, or give a global overview of research in progress, and should be no longer than 30 minutes. Deadline for proposals is June 30, 2018. Submissions should include an abstract of no more than 250 words, and a short biographical note, no longer than 50 words. We encourage postgraduate students to apply. Presenters are also invited to submit written articles for consideration for publication in the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies. Presenters at the conference must be current AAJS members for 2018 (membership can be paid as part of the conference registration fee).

For queries, and to submit proposals: Associate Professor Julie Kalman, at julie.kalman@monash.edu

Call for Papers, Vol XXXI, Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

The editor invites submissions for inclusion in the upcoming 2018 volume of the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies. The Journal is an international, peer-reviewed Journal published annually, and includes articles on all aspects of Jewish scholarship, experience and ideas. Papers arising from conference presentations at the Australian Association for Jewish Studies 30th Annual Conference are particularly encouraged, as are submissions from research higher degree students and early career researchers. Book reviews of recent works in any area of relevance to the discipline of Jewish Studies are also welcome.

The closing date for submissions is the 30th June 2018. Submissions must include an abstract, a short author biography and a postal address. Please forward all articles, reviews and correspondence to the editor, Dr Vicky Schinkel, at vickyschinkel@gmail.com. More information about the journal, including guidelines for authors, is available at <http://www.aajs.org.au/AJJS.html>

Two AAJS Member Book Launches

This quarter has been a prolific one for AAJS researchers, with two members celebrating significant book launches for recent publications.

Dr Yona Gilead's new book, *Dynamics of Teaching and Learning Modern Hebrew as an Additional Language* (Brill, 2017) was launched at Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney, on March 22nd. Professor Peter Morgan, Director of the University's European Studies program, officially launched the book and congratulated Yona on behalf of the University. Guest speakers at the launch included Yona's supervisor, Associate Professor Jenny Hammond from UTS and associate supervisor, Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland from the University of Sydney.



Above: Dr Gilead and colleagues from the University of Sydney at the launch of her book. Source: Y. Gilead.

The publisher's reviewer, who recommended recommending the publication of the book, wrote: "This is an important piece of scholarship because there is so little written on the teaching

and learning of Modern Hebrew as an additional language.” The innovative nature of the book and its importance in understanding effective Modern Hebrew pedagogy was stressed by the speakers at the launch.

Anna Rosenbaum’s new book, *The safe house down under : Jewish refugees from Czechoslovakia in Australia, 1938-1944* (Peter Lang, 2017) was launched at the Sydney Jewish Museum on March 18th. Mark Alfred Dreyfus MP QC, lawyer and politician, officially launched the book.

Congratulations to both Yona and Anna!

New MOOC Brings Antisemitism Studies to the Masses

Antisemitism Studies is one of the research strengths of AAJS academics and researchers, with a great deal of excellent research being conducted across the country at universities, institutions and museums. However, it has always been difficult to access in-depth learning about Antisemitism and related issues outside the formal education sector – that is, until now. A new MOOC (massive open online course) from Yad Vashem World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, are offering a free 6-week program entitled “Antisemitism: from its origins to the present”.

The course, which is collaboratively taught by over 50 leading scholars of the Holocaust, genocide, politics, history and philosophy, takes students through exploring what antisemitism is, how it has changed through history, why it is

found all over the world and on all sides of the political spectrum, and how it manifests today. The course examines different periods and societies from the Ancient world to the modern online world, exploring the development of antisemitism as well as its changing nature over time, place and culture. The course consists of 6 modules, each of which takes about 3 hours to complete, but materials and discussions can be accessed any time while the course is open. Whilst the course educators are leading academic scholars, this course is designed for anyone with an interest in history, in social dynamics and human nature, and in the phenomenon of antisemitism.

Hosted on the FutureLearn platform at <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/antisemitism/>, the course is currently available, and materials will be accessible until June 2018. To date, over 5000 students worldwide have signed up and have been learning and participating in the course.

Upcoming Conferences & Calls for Papers

AJS 50th Annual Conference, December 16-18, 2018, Boston, MA.

The Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies is the largest annual international gathering of Jewish Studies scholars in the world. With more than 1100 attendees, over 190 sessions, a major book exhibit of leading publishers, cultural programming, and gala banquet, the AJS annual conference, provides a unique opportunity to share ideas and explore the world of Jewish Studies scholarship.

The conference's Call for Papers is now open, and submissions can be made until **Thursday May 3rd at 5:00pm EST**. Authors must be financial members of the Association for Jewish Studies to be able to submit a proposal for the conference.

There are many different styles and types of presentation possible, and session arrangements can be quite complex, so the best thing to do is visit

<https://www.associationforjewishstudies.org/annual-conference/submit-proposal> for more information about how to fit your proposal into the conference framework and maximize your chances of acceptance.

Applicants will be informed of their acceptance, or otherwise, in mid-August. For more information, please contact the AJS Office, ajs@associationforjewishstudies.org.

Call for Papers: Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations Journal

The editorial board of Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations, a peer-reviewed journal, invites submissions for its current and future volumes. SCJR publishes scholarship on the history, theology, and contemporary realities of Jewish-Christian relations and reviews new materials in the field, providing a vehicle for exchange of information, cooperation, and mutual enrichment in the field of Christian-Jewish studies and relations. Interested authors are encouraged to contact the editors in advance. Papers should be submitted through the journal's website, <http://www.bc.edu/scjr>. All papers will be subject to peer-review before acceptance for publication.

Special CFP for Vol. 13 (2018)

Between the recent English publication of Vittorio Messori's "Kidnapped by the Vatican?: The Unpublished Memoirs of Edgardo Mortara" and the forthcoming Steven Spielberg film based on David Kertzer's "The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara", this nineteenth-century story of the secret baptism of a Jewish baby and his subsequent removal from his parental home, to be raised as special ward of Pope Pius IX, will again be a topic of dialogue between Jews and Christians.

Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations invites the submission of articles from a variety of perspectives and disciplines on aspects of this

case. What is the meaning of baptism? How has or might have that meaning shifted in light of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and subsequent developments? How do Jews and Christians think about those who leave and join their communities? What is the impact of hearing Mortara's own voice on our understandings? *Submissions for this special issue are due 1 October 2018*

Call for Papers: International Scholars' Conference 2019 - Contending with Antisemitism in a Changing Political Climate Indiana University, Bloomington, March 23-27, 2019

Quiescent for a time following the persecution and mass murder of the Jews during the Nazi period, antisemitism has reawakened energetically in our own day and shows no signs of abating. It is imperative that we understand its most serious contemporary manifestations and devise ways to contend with the threats they pose today and are likely to present in the immediate future. This conference will pursue both of these goals, focusing, in particular, on increased hostility toward Jews in a rapidly changing political climate.

Questions to be covered might include:

- What are the reigning ideologies that advance present-day anti-Jewish hatreds at their most wide-spread and intense? What is the nature of their appeal, and what motivates them?

And how, if at all, can one effectively respond to what they say and do?

- Is antisemitism best understood as just another form of “racism,” “prejudice,” “xenophobia,” or “intolerance,” all of which have been on the rise in recent years, or should it be seen as a separate phenomenon, with its own history, character, motives, language, consequences, etc.? How does contemporary hostility to Jews resemble other forms of social hostility? How does it differ from them?
- In certain circles, antisemitism is expressed through overt aggressive statements and acts. In others, it is more implied, indirect, unacknowledged, and denied. It is easier to understand the former, but how can we best deal with the latter, which is not only real but, in the academy, journalism, and some religious institutions, both invasive and pervasive?
- How important are antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and Holocaust denial and minimization in the agendas of the new populist parties on both the political right and political left? How should we understand and assess the attitudes of these parties to Jews, Zionism, and Israel?
- What explains the extreme Islamist hostility to Jews and the Jewish state? What is being done within Muslim countries and communities to oppose this hatred? Who are the most notable Muslim thinkers and writers who have written or spoken out against

Islamist antisemitism? How influential are they?

- In addition to understanding antisemitism, it is imperative to resist it. What are the most effective strategies to carry out such resistance today? What are the leading countervailing forces—the people, ideas, and institutions that express sympathy and support for Jews and stand actively against antisemitism in its various contemporary forms, including anti-Zionism?

This conference will provide opportunity to explore and debate these and related questions in their historical, ideological, political, psychological, religious, and cultural dimensions. Papers are invited from younger scholars as well as more senior scholars. For oral presentation at the conference, papers will be restricted to 25- 30 minutes. For possible inclusion in a projected volume of edited conference proceedings, papers should be 20-25 pages, double-spaced.

Please send detailed proposals to Alvin H. Rosenfeld (rosenfel@Indiana.edu), together with your curriculum vitae, by June 1, 2018. Proposals should be no longer than 2 typed pages, double-spaced. Decisions about acceptance will be sent to applicants by September 1, 2018.

British Association for Jewish Studies Conference 2018 – Durham (UK) 9-11 July

Whilst the call for papers has closed and the program is being finalized, there is still time to register to attend the 2018 British Association for Jewish Studies Conference, to be held at Durham University from 9-11 July.

You can register for the conference by 15 May 2018 through the following link

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=94>. Registrations are available for single days or the full program, with reduced rates for Students/Retirees.

Confirmed keynote speakers and preliminary titles include:

Professor Bryan Cheyette (Reading) *The Ghetto as Travelling Concept*

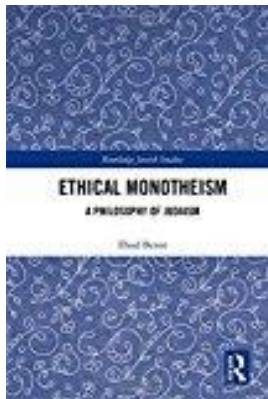
Professor Martin Goodman (Oxford) *The History of Judaism and the History of Religions*

Professor Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth) *Theorizing Jewish Studies: Race, Gender and Empire*

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger (Paideia) *Truth, Story, and History: Jewish Studies Across Disciplines*

Recent Books of Interest

(Click any ISBN to purchase)

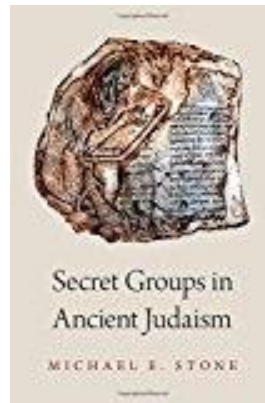


Ethical monotheism : a philosophy of Judaism / by Ehud Benor.

. Routledge, 2018. [978-1-1385-7868-5](https://doi.org/10.1080/978-1-1385-7868-5)

The term Ethical Monotheism is an important marker in Judaism's tumultuous transition into the modern era. The term emerged in the context of culture-wars concerning the question of whether or not Jews could or should become emancipated citizens of modern European states. It appeared in arguments whether or not Judaism could be considered a Religion of Reason, and in debates about whether or not Judaism could or should reform itself into a Religion of Reason. This book is both a decisive departure from such discussions and an attempt to add a further, post-modern, statement to their ongoing development.

Through sophisticated analysis of select "snapshots," or "fragments of a hologram," guided by a robust theory of religion, the author discloses Judaic ethical monotheism as an ongoing wrestling with the meaning of justice. By closely examining five main "snapshots" of this long process—the Bible, rabbinic Judaism, Maimonides, The Zohar, and the modern philosophers, Buber and Levinas—the author offers his own constructive philosophy of Judaism and his own distinctive philosophy of religion.

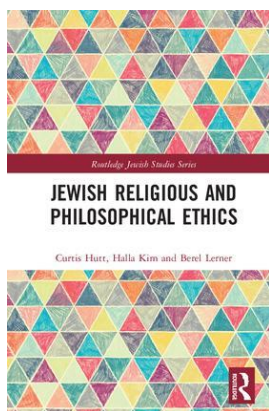


Secret Groups in Ancient Judaism / by Michael E. Stone. Oxford University Press, 2017. [978-0-1908-4238-3](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780190842383)

Were there groups in Ancient Judaism that cultivated esoteric knowledge and transmitted it secretly? With the discovery and burgeoning study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and particularly of the documents legislating the social structure of the Qumran group, the foremost paradigm for analysis of the group's social structure has become the "sect." This is still dominant, having replacing the monastic paradigm used by some of the earliest scholars of the Scrolls.

But after studying what has been written on secret societies more generally, Michael Stone has concluded that many known ancient Jewish groups—the Qumran covenanters, Josephus's and Philo's Essenes, and Philo's Therapeutae should be viewed as societies at the heart of whose existence were esoteric knowledge and practice.

By examining historical and literary sources, Stone uncovers evidence for the existence of other secret groups in ancient Jewish society. This discovery has significant implications, especially considering the enormous growth of study of the apocalyptic in the Judaism of the Second Temple period and in nascent Christianity over the last seventy years.



Jewish religious and philosophical ethics / edited by Curtis Hutt, Halla Kim and Berel Dov Lerner.. Routledge, 2017. [978-1-1382-3046-0](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781138230460).

This collection of critical essays brings together the work of established and up-and-coming scholars from Israel, the United States, and around the world on the topic of Jewish religious and philosophical ethics. The chapters are broken into three main sections – Rabbinics, Philosophy, and Contemporary Challenges. The authors address, using a variety of research strategies, the work of both major and lesser-known figures in historical Jewish religious and philosophical traditions. The book discusses a wide variety of topics related to Jewish ethics, including "ethics and the Mishnah," "Afro Jewish ethics," "Jewish historiographical ethics," as well as the conceptual/philosophical foundations of the law and virtues in the work of Martin Buber, Hermann Cohen, and Baruch Spinoza. The volume closes with four contributions on present-day frontiers in Jewish ethics.

As the first book to focus on the nature, scope and ramifications of the Jewish ethics at work in religious and philosophical contexts, this book will be of great interest to anyone studying Jewish Studies, Philosophy and Religion.



Repentance for the Holocaust Lessons from Jewish Thought for Confronting the German Past / by C. K. Martin Chung. Cornell University Press, 2017. [978-1-5017-1253-1](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781138230460).

In *Repentance for the Holocaust*, C. K. Martin Chung develops the biblical idea of "turning" (*tshuvah*) into a conceptual framework to analyze a particular area of contemporary German history, commonly referred to as *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* or "coming to terms with the past." Chung examines a selection of German responses to the Nazi past, their interaction with the victims' responses, such as those from Jewish individuals, and their correspondence with biblical repentance. In demonstrating the victims' influence on German responses, Chung asserts that the phenomenon of *Vergangenheitsbewältigung* can best be understood in a relational, rather than a national, paradigm.

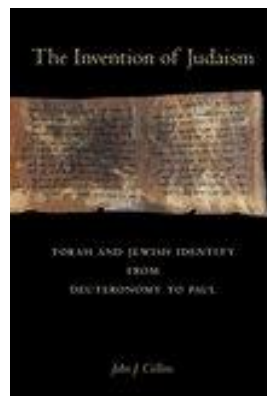
By establishing the conformity between those responses to past atrocities and the idea of "turning," Chung argues that the religious texts from the Old Testament encapsulating this idea (especially the Psalms of Repentance) are viable intellectual resources for dialogues among victims, perpetrators, bystanders, and their descendants in the discussion of guilt and responsibility, justice and reparation, remembrance and reconciliation.



Modern Jewish Scholarship in Hungary: The “Science of Judaism” between East and West / edited by Tamás Turán & Carsten Wilke. De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2017. [987-3-1103-3073-1](#)

The Habsburg Empire was one of the first regions where the academic study of Judaism took institutional shape in the nineteenth century. In Hungary, scholars such as Leopold and Immanuel Löw, David Kaufmann, Ignaz Goldziher, Wilhelm Bacher, and Samuel Krauss had a lasting impact on the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* (“Science of Judaism”). Their contributions to Biblical, rabbinic and Semitic studies, Jewish history, ethnography and other fields were always part of a trans-national Jewish scholarly network and the academic universe. Yet Hungarian Jewish scholarship assumed a regional tinge, as it emerged at an intersection between unquelled Ashkenazi yeshiva traditions, Jewish modernization movements, and Magyar politics that boosted academic Orientalism in the context of patriotic historiography.

For the first time, this volume presents an overview of a century of Hungarian Jewish scholarly achievements, examining their historical context and assessing their ongoing relevance. Contributions are made by a range of global scholars.



The Invention of Judaism: Torah and Jewish Identity from Deuteronomy to Paul / by John J. Collins. University of California Press, 2017. [978-0-5202-9412-7](#)

Most people understand Judaism to be the Torah and the Torah to be Judaism. However, in *The Invention of Judaism*, John J. Collins persuasively argues this was not always the case. The Torah became the touchstone for most of Judaism’s adherents only in the hands of the rabbis of late antiquity. For 600 years prior, from the Babylonian Exile to the Roman destruction of the Second Temple, there was enormous variation in the way the Torah was understood. Collins provides a comprehensive account of the role of the Torah in ancient Judaism, exploring key moments in its history, beginning with the formation of Deuteronomy and continuing through the Maccabean revolt and the rise of Jewish sectarianism and early Christianity.

[Call for, AAJS Newsletter No 70, August 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