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Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the latest newsletter of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. The first half of the year has flown by, and as Rosh Hashanah 5779 has already passed us by, the AAJS Committee would like to wish all our readers a belated L'Shana Tova, and hope you might all be inscribed for a sweet new year!

Our AAJS2019 conference is only four months away, and the team of conveners at Monash University have been hard at work arranging a great program of speakers and sessions for the event. In this month's newsletter, we speak to co-conveners Julie Kalman and Daniella Doron to find out more about the conference they are planning, and a few hints of what delegates can look forward to which will whet your appetite!

On the topic of conferences, it's been high season on conferences in the Northern Hemisphere – members of the AAJS have showcased Australian Jewish studies research at the annual British Association for Jewish Studies conference in Durham, United Kingdom, and the big 4-yearly European Association for Jewish Studies Congress in Krakow, Poland. Members of the AAJS Committee have been working hard at these events to improve networking and collaboration between the British, European and Australian Jewish studies associations, bringing new opportunities and benefits to AAJS members. Reports back from these two big international conferences are included in this newsletter, which will hopefully inspire a new crop of Australian presenters for 2019! AAJS members have also been involved in the Australian delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance over the past few years: Suzanne Rutland provides a report of the involvement of the Australian team in this organization, which has been quite in the public eye recently with political;

events in the United Kingdom. The important work of other AAJS members is also showcased, from curating new displays of Australian Jewish history like student member Jana Vytrhlik, to presenting to community interest groups like student member Jonathan Kaplan, and even parliamentarians as our president Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann has done this month. The AAJS Newsletter is a wonderful forum for sharing your Jewish Studies work with colleagues across the nation and around the world – why not profile your latest project in our December edition?

To help our members take advantage of the many opportunities available in global Jewish Studies, we include a range of Calls for Papers and details of a few relevant Vacancies in the field of Jewish studies overseas. We also profile new developments in Jewish Studies education online, and invite you to have your say on potential new e-learning programs in our field. Finally, we highlight some of the new publications in our field which may be of interest.

Enjoy all the benefits your AAJS affiliation has to offer!

*Jennifer Creese, University of Queensland
AAJS Newsletter Editor*

Countdown to AAJS Conference 2019: Jewish Studies in Australia: New Directions

In just over five months, the next Australian Association for Jewish Studies annual conference will be upon us! Having travelled across the country in 2018, the 2019 conference is set to return to the eastern states, and will be hosted by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash Caulfield campus.

AAJS 2019 is being convened by a duo of prominent Monash academics in Jewish Studies. **Julie Kalman** is Associate Professor of history in the School of Philosophical, Historical, and International Studies at Monash. She is an ARC Future Fellow, and is currently working on a book project, on an Arab-Jewish trading house based in Algiers during the Revolution and Napoleonic wars. **Daniella Doron** is a senior lecturer in Jewish History at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation at Monash University. Her current research examines the migration of unaccompanied Jewish migrant youth from Europe to the United States from the late nineteenth century into the post-World War II period.

When offered the opportunity to coordinate AAJS 2019, Julie and Daniella keenly accepted. “We are keen to get people working on Jewish studies in Australia together, for conversations about our work, and about our discipline”, said Julie. The theme, “Jewish Studies in Australia: New Directions”, echoes this desire to reflect on the Jewish Studies field nationally, and to introduce scholars to each other’s work across the increasingly diverse range of disciplines this encompasses.

Julie and Daniella reflected on the many conferences they had attended within their careers, and decided to trial a slightly different style for AAJS 2019 than the usual. Modelled on the symposium or colloquium style of conference, the conference will have

no key-note presenters, and no parallel sessions, so that presenters can enjoy the total focus of attendees. Instead, presenters will sit together in one room, round-table style, and speak to a gathered group of peers and fellow presenters rather than up in front of a large audience. The format also allows for papers to be longer than usual, as well as more question time, to enable scholars to give a richer and more thorough account of their research methods, findings and reflections. “Conferences based on this format get great conversations going across the whole conference, and that is our aim. We are looking forward to building great collegiality”, said Julie.

The conference will be held at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash Caulfield campus, from 11-12 February, 2019.



Above: Co-Conveners of AAJS2019, Assoc. Prof. Julie Kalman and Dr Danielle Doron. (Source: Monash University)

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies: Changes on the Horizon

The Australian Association for Jewish Studies is very fortunate to have its own peer-reviewed academic journal with which to support its members. The Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, since its early days as Menorah, has long served as one of the foremost publishing forums for scholarship on all things Jewish. For over thirty years, the journal has published research articles and reviews from scholars across the country and around the world, on all aspects of Jewish language, religion, culture, history and arts, all subject to rigorous blind peer review. One of the highlights of each annual conference for delegates has been receipt of the new volume of the AJJS, and many doctoral and early-career researchers have launched their scholarly publishing careers within its pages.

For the past two years, the editorship of the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies has been in the capable hands of Dr Vicky Schinkel, Journal Editor. Vicky has been outstanding in nurturing emerging authors, negotiating with the corporate world of publishing and book sales, and coordinating expert copyediting of the journal as a whole. Vicky has been supported in her role by Dr Dvir Abramovich, as Peer Review Coordinator, Jennifer Creese as Associate Editor and Book Review Editor, and Frank Nieuwenhuis as Editorial Assistant. Sadly for the Association, Vicky will be stepping down from her role as Editor at the end of 2018 to take on new challenges; President Ghil'ad Zuckermann and the whole AAJS executive committee extend sincere thanks to Vicky for her work and her important contribution to the Australian Association for Jewish Studies.

Stepping capably into the shoes of the Journal Editor role for 2019 onwards will be Dr Jan Lániček. Jan is Senior Lecturer in Jewish and Modern European History in the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales, where his own research focuses on Jewish life and politics in Czechoslovakia in the first half of the 20th Century.

Jan comes on board at the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies at an exciting time, with a move from traditional print-based journals to an online publishing model in the works. Such a model will smooth the submission, review and processing activities of the journal for authors, reviewer and editors alike, and will also allow wider access to new articles, as well as to back issues of the journal, to AAJS members and journal subscribers, and will greatly extend the reach and impact of Jewish Studies scholars globally. Welcome to the role, Jan – great things are on the horizon!



Above: Dr Jan Lániček, incoming AJJS Editor. (Source: J. Lániček)

A Visit to the British Jewish Studies Scene

Escaping cold Brisbane (yes, it does get cold!) for a sultry British summer, I made my way over to the United Kingdom for two summer conference events. Although the journey is long, the two events I attended in the UK were both excellent forums for learning, networking and sharing scholarship, and a chance to meet other Jewish scholars from Israel, across Europe, and North and South America.

I began my stay in London, where I attended an excellent one-day conference at the Leo Baeck College. Entitled “Jews and Strangers”, this conference brought together a broad range of Jewish scholars from across the world to discuss research in a variety of disciplines themed around the ways in which Jews have historically been strangers themselves amongst other populations, in which some groups of Jews have been strangers amongst other Jews, and in which Jews have interacted with other “strangers” in society. The day was busy, with highlights from the disciplines of Jewish literature (Ephraim Sicher, Ben Gurion University), photography (Jonathan Gill, Amsterdam University College), film studies (Federico Dal Bol, University of Barcelona), anthropology (Shirli Gilbert, University of Southampton) and history (Claire Le Foll, University of Southampton), to mention just a few. The keynote lecture, given by Maurice Samuels of Yale University, outlined the scandalous tale of the Duchess de Berry, leader of the 1832 Legitimist rebellion to put her son Henri, Count of Chambord on the French throne, who was betrayed by her Jewish advisor, Simon Deutz. This episode saw the Duchess imprisoned and exiled, and Deutz was widely condemned amongst the aristocracy, with a corresponding rise in antisemitic sentiment more generally. The atmosphere of the whole conference was highly supportive and collegial – as the only

Australian delegate present there was a great deal of interested exchange on Jewish life in Australia and other nations over the lovely lunch provided!

I then made my way north to picturesque Durham University for the three-day conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies, hosted by the President of the Association, Dr Yulia Egorova (BAJS change their president every year, with the president taking most of the responsibility for arranging the annual conference!)

This conference, with the general theme of “Theories and Histories: Jewish Studies Across Disciplines”, featured over 80 different presentations from a vast assortment of disciplines – everything from traditional studies in literature, history and biblical studies to theology, anthropology and sociology, art history, philosophy, theatre studies and political science. Although one keynote presenter, Fania Oz-Salzberger (Paideia Institute, Sweden) was unable to attend, three other excellent keynotes greatly engaged the delegates. Martin Goodman (Oxford) highlighted the diversity and religious tolerance of Judaism in antiquity; Bryan Cheyette (University of Reading) discussed the deeper meanings and understandings of the term “ghetto” throughout history and its conceptualization throughout the Jewish and non-Jewish world; Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College) challenged Jewish Studies scholars to use their scholarships and textual understandings to challenge the realities of race, gender and empire in the contemporary world.

With four concurrent panels in each conference session, it was impossible to be able to see and hear everything I would have wanted to – some of the highlights that stood out for me personally were Dani Kranz (Bergischen Universität Wuppertal) who presented via Skype on the intersections of

Christians, Muslims and Jews in contemporary Germany; Emma Poulton (Durham University) on the experiences of Jewish fans of Tottenham Hotspur Football Club in London; Adi Bharat (University of Manchester) on Jewish-Muslim relations across LGBTQ Jewish and Muslim organisations in France; Mustafa Kaan Sağ (Istanbul Technical University) on Church of Scotland missionary efforts to convert Jews living in the Ottoman capital of Istanbul at the end of the 19th century; and Romina Yalonetsky (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Perú) who has been conducting a sociological survey of the small Jewish community of Lima, Peru.

As well as the conference, I was able to meet with the BAJA Secretary, Helen Spurling (University of Southampton) and the BAJA Postgraduate/ECR Representative, Marton Ribary (University of Manchester), to discuss avenues of cooperation between the BAJA and AAJS – we had some most fruitful discussions, so watch this space for new initiatives and programs available to AAJS members in the coming months! I was also pleased to be invited to address the Postgraduate and Early Career Researchers panel session on the first day, alongside Dr Yulia Egorova and Dr Katharina Keim (University of Manchester), where I outlined options for postdoctoral employment in the Australian university system (hopefully recruiting a new crop of AAJS members in coming years!)

Short but exhausting, my British Jewish Studies Trip was enjoyable, inspirational and fruitful – there is great potential for Australian Jewish Studies researchers to present, collaborate and exchange ideas with their British counterparts and institutions, and the future is a bright one! The BAJA2019 conference will be held at Oxford University, convened by incoming president Hindy Najman (see Calls for Papers later in this newsletter) and speaking from my experience Australian presenters are guaranteed a very

warm and grateful welcome for travelling the distance!

Jennifer Creese, University of Queensland



Above: Jennifer and fellow Anthropology panelist Dr Yulia Egorova (Durham University) offer remarks to questions from the audience. (Source: BAJA)

Commendation for Archivist Anna Hirsh

Dr Anna Hirsh, Senior Archivist at the Jewish Holocaust Centre, was awarded a Highly Commended award at the recent Museums Australia Victoria Awards. As archivist, Anna not only collects, catalogues and cares for the material entrusted to the Centre by survivors and their families, but is also well known for sharing her knowledge generously and widely with Centre patrons and colleagues and the wider Jewish Studies scholarly field.

Congratulations to Anna, who also serves as Victorian Vice-President of the AAJS, for this great and richly-deserved achievement!



Above: Anna at the awards ceremony. (Source: JHC)

**Searching for Roots of Jewish Traditions –
XIth Congress of European Association for
Jewish Studies (EAJS), Krakow, 2018.**

Dr Anna Hirsh, AAJS Vice-President (Victoria)

In my role as Senior Archivist at the Jewish Holocaust Centre (JHC) in Melbourne I work with collections filled with artefacts predominantly from Europe. It's vital for me to visit these points of origin when I can, as well as hear about and discuss projects and research my European and international peers have been involved with. The European Association of Jewish Studies eleventh annual congress was held at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow in July, and its extensive program and high attendance demonstrated just how nuanced and flourishing 'Jewish Studies' is, and how actively engaged and passionate academics, historians and museum professionals are in the various genres and specializations of Jewish culture, religion and history. Over a thousand attendees from a vast array of academic and professional specializations of Jewish studies, who traveled from various locations, contributed to make the conference an exciting, inspiring and vibrant event.

Eminent Holocaust historian Professor Antony Polonsky presented the opening keynote on "Polish Statehood and the Jews: Reflections on the Centenary of Polish Independence", which established a profound tone for the many challenging issues that would be discussed in the following days, concerning the relationship between Jews and Poland/Europe: historically, now, and looking ahead. Critical issues including absence/presence, custodianship, the writing of histories and cultural preservation and narratives permeated the rest of the conference, and have left me with endless questions about this heritage I am both a part of, and distant from.

I presented within the Jewish Museology section, which was expertly organized by Dr Hanna Węgrzynek, from Polin Museum (and now at JHI). My paper focused on digitizing and mapping artefacts to demonstrate physical journeys (usually of displacement), which delved into the possibilities of technologies and the archive, applicable across many museums and applications. If anyone would like to support this idea, please don't hesitate to get in contact! All papers I attended were terrific, and I particularly enjoyed Dr Lenka Uličná surprising archaeological discoveries in "Presenting Materiality of Bohemian and Moravian Genizot"; passionate Judaica collector, Dr Ira Rezak's report on "Numismatic Evidence of Jewish Community Life in Poland" which revealed Jewish kindness and care in the form of charity tokens, and Dr Jonathan Webber on "Making Sense of the Polish Jewish Experience: the Challenges for a Jewish Museum". Program and EAJS links: <http://www.eajs2018.uj.edu.pl/en>

An important unifier of the challenges faced by Jewish museum professionals was the problematic question of ethnographic representation in post-Holocaust Jewish sites, for example, the transformative effect of museums sited in former synagogues – as discussed in Kinga Migalska's paper "Museums in Synagogues Established in Communist Poland" - and the need and desire for authenticity in representation and audience experience. Working with physical remnants that have persisted from all over Europe and reconvened at their remote destination of Melbourne, as I write this I reflect at how physically distant we are to the architectural/archeological origin. This conference was a wonderful opportunity to present Australian narratives to international counterparts, as well as promote the AAJS.

On this first visit to Krakow, the medieval and baroque city was captivating. I walked around the former/ renewed Jewish quarter of Kazimierz for hours in the evenings, and attended Erev Shabbat service at the 350-year-old Isaac Synagogue, now under the direction of Chabad. I also had the good fortune to meet up with my colleague Sue Hampel, co-president of the JHC, who was hosting a Monash study trip and who generously shares her vast knowledge of the Holocaust with her students. I accompanied the group to Auschwitz I and II; the memory of walking through these landscapes and buildings that were once filled with cruelty and inhumanity will always permeate and shape my work.



Above: The High Synagogue at Krakow, built in 1563. (Source: A. Hirsh)



Above: Delegates at one of the many conference sessions (Source: Università di Bologna)

Below: Attendees at one of the EAJS Keynote addresses (Source: Instytut Judaistyki Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego)



Have you been to a local or international conference, seminar, symposium or colloquium where you shared your work in Jewish Studies or related fields? Share your experience, memories, highlights and photographs with your colleagues – why not write up a brief essay about your experiences for a future edition of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies newsletter?

140 Years of the Great Synagogue, Sydney

The year 2018 marks the 140th anniversary of the consecration of The Great Synagogue in Sydney. The Synagogue was designed by an accomplished architect Thomas Rowe in 1875 and the consecration took place on 4 March 1878. To celebrate this important milestone in the history of Australian Jewry, a new exhibition opened recently at the AM Rosenblum Jewish Museum. Entitled *First 140 Years, The Great Synagogue in Sydney 1878-2018*, the exhibition features newly discovered archival records, photographs and memorabilia.

The Great Synagogue on Elizabeth Street was not the first synagogue in Sydney. The earliest informal Jewish prayer meetings date to 1820 and the first congregation was established in converted premises on George Street in 1832, moving later to Bridge Street. This was followed in 1844 by the first purpose-built synagogue in York Street. None of these earlier worship places survived and thus, The Great Synagogue on Elizabeth Street is the oldest standing synagogue in Sydney. The highly decorated Victorian building has been admired by all who pass through its portals. The architecture has been studied and depicted countless times and many exhibitions have featured the Synagogue's *treasures*. This exhibition aims at new goals: to reveal recently discovered material and present different perspective and interpretation.

The exhibition is centred on eight themes, based on new archival records and new research. Examples of the explored topics include *Thomas Rowe's architecture heralds new era*, *The Great Synagogue - a landmark of the city*, *Gas Noise and Pigeons: the daily matters*, *Refashioning the interior of The Great Synagogue 1906-1911* and other. The new material includes documents and images sourced from the Synagogue's own archives

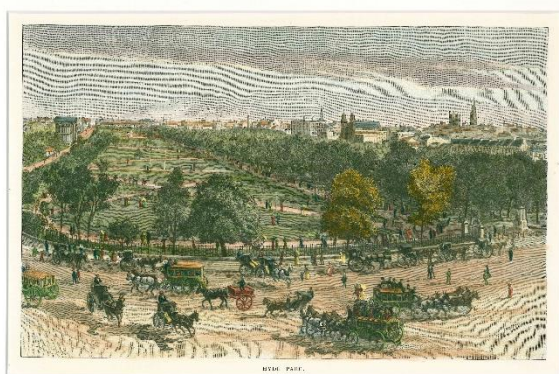
as well as from other collections and records. The City of Sydney was a generous home for some of the earliest correspondence recorded, as well as some early photographs of the building. Other photos were found in the National Library of Australia and State Library of NSW. Two important objects, both dated to the 1870s, are on loan from the Sydney Jewish Museum.

On display are two original drawings by the architect Thomas Rowe. Donated to the Museum by Rowe's direct descendants and rarely seen in public, these two sketches come with an indisputable provenance. Recently discovered letters document an active contact and correspondence between the new Synagogue and the City of Sydney Council. There were everyday matters to be resolved right from the opening of the new building. These ranged from a sufficient level of lighting provided by the gas lamps on Castlereagh or Elizabeth Streets, to several complaints about the noise generated by the newly introduced transport, the tram, which had a stop at the Great's front gates on Elizabeth Street. One of the most admired visual highlights of the exhibition is the Julian Ashton's hand coloured print entitled *Hyde Park* of 1886 which is on loan from a private collection and has never been exhibited in the Museum before. In fact, this is for the first time that the theme of *The Great Synagogue in the visual arts* has been included here. Ashton (1851-1942) grew up in England and arrived in Sydney in the year of the opening of The Great Synagogue. A few years later, charmed by the city centre, Ashton drew a delightful engraving of the Hyde Park, looking from St James Church to Oxford Street in the distance. The (Australian) Museum is on the left and The Great Synagogue dominates on the right, yet to be dwarfed by its future neighbours.

With the new Synagogue structure which occupied the entire block between Castlereagh and Elizabeth streets, Sydney instantly came on a par with other major European capitals with much large Jewish population. Magnificent two-tower structures in Moorish revival style were already standing in Budapest, Berlin and New York. Yet, perhaps predictably, Rowe was asked to draw his inspiration from another synagogue, the London Central synagogue, built in 1870.

The exhibition *First 140 Years* celebrates The Great Synagogue's iconic status within the Sydney Jewish community as well as its prominence within the city's historic architecture. It is fitting that in 2005, the Synagogue was recognized as a priceless part of Australia's heritage and listed on the Heritage register under the NSW Heritage Act. *First 140 Years* is on display until May 2019 at the A.M. Rosenblum Jewish Museum, The Great Synagogue Sydney. To view the exhibition, book at www.greatsynagogue.org.au or phone (02) 9267 2477

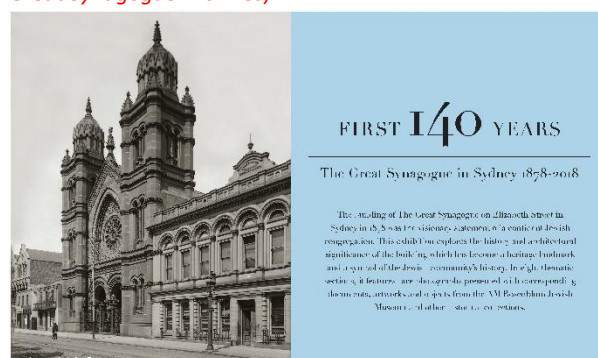
Jana Vytrhlik, University of Sydney



Above: From the exhibition: Hyde Park, c. 1880 by Julian R. Ashton (1851-1942), hand-coloured engraving. Private collection. (Source: The Great Synagogue Archives)



Above: The Great Synagogue Interior, 2014. (Source: The Great Synagogue Archives)



Above: The Exhibition's title panel. (Source: J.Vytrhlik)

AJHS - B'nai B'rith Talk from Jonathan Kaplan

AJHS student member Jonathan Kaplan, PhD Candidate at the University of Technology Sydney, gave a public lecture on July 22nd to members and guests of the Australian Jewish Historical Society and B'nai B'rith New South Wales, at the B'nai B'rith Centre in Kensington. Arising from his thesis research on Jewish male identity and sartorial self-fashioning in Vienna during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Jonathan spoke about his side project compiling oral histories of post-war Viennese Jewish refugees in Sydney, and the role these individuals and families played in the rebuilding of the local Jewish community there.

The presentation was well-received, and Jonathan's excellent scholarship and dedicated local oral and family history research was praised by attendees. Congratulations Jonathan!

Australian Efforts at the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has recently been in the news due to the controversy over the British Labor Party Executive and Jeremy Corbyn's refusal to accept IHRA's full definition of antisemitism. This definition was approved by 31 member nations at the IHRA plenary meeting in Bucharest in May 2016, on a non-binding basis. Britain is one of a number of the member nations which have made it legally binding for their country, making Corbyn's rejection of some of the examples more problematic. This whole episode highlights the importance of IHRA's work in countering antisemitism and racism and trying to prevent future genocides through using the Holocaust as a paradigm.

Formed in 1999, IHRA was the brainchild of eminent Holocaust scholar, Emeritus Professor Yehuda Bauer and he continues to be the dominant personality despite his 92 years of age. Each year all IHRA delegates convene in a different member country which hosts two plenary meetings. The organisation's composition is unique as it includes diplomats, academics, educators, museum people and those involved in communication. With Italy the hosting nation this year under IHRA Chair, Ambassador Sandro De Bernardin, the last plenary was held in May with 200 experts and government officials attending the meeting in Rome. The meeting was preceded by a conference on the Sunday dealing with 'The Racist Laws: Before and After the Shoah: Models, Practices and Heritage'. Some very interesting lectures were given shedding light on the Fascist racist laws and their implementation by Mussolini in Italy.

Australia is a latecomer to the organization – we became an observer nation in July 2015

and in November last year we were upgraded to the status of liaison nation in Bern – a very exciting development for our delegation. Liaison status involves cooperating with two IHRA members in developing projects related to IHRA's core activities. The next step is full membership. Our goal is to apply for full membership at the June 2019 plenary which will be held in Luxembourg. The United Kingdom team is our mentor group and we met with them in Rome to discuss our liaison projects. We also met with the Bulgarian delegation to seek their advice, as they were accepted as a liaison member in May 2017 and are applying for full membership at the next plenary meeting in Ferrara this November.

To achieve this status our team, comprised of Dr Steven Cooke, Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, Sue Hampel, OAM, Dr Andre Oboler and Pauline Rockman, OAM, from Melbourne and Dr Avril Alba and Professor Suzanne Rutland, OAM from Sydney, is developing two liaison projects, working with the Australian government, which is providing the funding and giving its full support. The first relates the development of a pilot project for schools to mark a Holocaust Remembrance Education Week. The official international Holocaust Remembrance Day is on 27 January, marking the liberation of Auschwitz, but this date does not work for Australia as it clashes with Australia Day and schools are still on their summer break, so we decided to focus on an education week which will be run late April or early May each year.

This year a pilot project will be run in September/October and involves 12 schools from the cohort of teachers that graduated from the Gandel program, who have volunteered to run an event – it can be a school assembly or a special lesson focused

on Holocaust remembrance. Since the UK is our liaison partner, Dr Donna Frieze (Deakin) and Sue Hampel (Monash) visited in late January to learn from the British team about their activities relating to 27 January – which extend both before and after the official day. Building on this experience, they have developed a website specially focused for the Australian pilot project. Donna has played the lead role in this initiative, assisted by Dr Steven Cooke of Deakin, who interviewed two survivors specifically for this project about the importance of Holocaust memory, and Dr Andre Oboler who has assisted in relation to the website and other issues in which he has expertise. The plan is for the website to be fully operational by the end of August.

The second liaison project aims to develop a pilot for public reporting of Online Holocaust Denial and Distortion and is being run by Dr Andre Oboler. So far Italy has agreed to be a liaison partner, although Andre hopes to involve more member countries. At the Bern Plenary, IHRA adopted a new strategy which prioritises “countering distortion and safeguarding the historical record”. This follows discussions at the Geneva Plenary on the risk poses by online Holocaust denial and distortion. The aim of the second project is to contribute to this strategy. It is centred around the international and multilingual deployment and use of innovative technology developed in Australia by the Online Hate Prevention Institute, a registered Australian Harm Prevention Charity. The technology allows a reporting widget, known as a gateway, to be embedded in the websites of different organisations. Each gateway can be configured to its local environment, for example, ensuring it is displayed in the local language(s). Members of the public would report online Holocaust denial and distortion to the gateway. The reported content would be available to the organisation hosting the

gateway, while data collated across all gateways would be available to IHRA itself.

Our delegation is working to a strict deadline, since a first draft of the application for full membership needs to be sent to Canberra by early September. Once they have further fine-tuned the draft, working with our Head of Delegation, Lynette Wood, Australian Ambassador to Germany, it will be sent on to our mentors, the UK delegation, for their comments and feedback.

Suzanne Rutland, University of Sydney



Above: Australian Delegates to the IHRA: Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, Pauline Rockman, OAM, Lauren Bain, Acting Head of delegation and deputy head of mission, Berlin, Sue Hampel, OAM, Dr Avril Alba and Professor Suzanne Rutland, OAM, Dr Andre Oboler and Dr Steven Cooke. (Source: S. Rutland)



Above: Australian Delegates with Sir Eric Pickles, head of the British delegation. (Source: S. Rutland)

Prof. Zuckermann Addresses Queensland Politicians

AAJS President Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann was the invited guest of the Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Israel committee at a special lecture and function on September 5th, where he gave a lecture to parliamentarians and invited guests from the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies, on how his scholarly background in Hebrew language revival led to his work in reinvigorating and re-awakening Australian indigenous languages. Steve Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth and President of the Parliamentary Friends of Israel, was delighted not only to welcome Ghil'ad to speak at the fifth annual address to the committee, but also the first where non-politicians had been invited to attend.

Ghil'ad spoke about the similarities between the language history of Hebrew and Aboriginal languages – Hebrew had been the language of the Jewish people from 13 000 BC, until repression through genocide in 135 AD, then revived in the 19th century. Likewise, over 330 aboriginal languages flourished in pre-contact Australia, for over 60 000 years, until deliberate linguicide by settlers, missionaries and colonial authorities in the 18th and 19th centuries saw this drop to only 13 in the present day.

He presented on his work with the Barngala people of the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia, whose community elders had been removed from their people as part of the “Stolen Generation” and prevented from learning and speaking the language of their parents. Using as a starting point the lexographic notes and dictionary made by Lutheran missionaries in the 19th century, Ghil'ad showed how he worked outwards from that starting point not only to re-teach the Barngala language, but also taught the

group how to teach it to others and to their children.

Ghil'ad also described how he had established a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in reclaiming, preserving and reviving endangered languages. This online course has attracted more than 11,000 students since its inception, from all over the world, and is making an impact in places like Syria and Africa. He outlined the ethical, aesthetic and utilitarian reasons for language preservation – not only the moral imperative of academics to better the world around them, and the importance of retaining the beauty of language, but also the tangible benefits of resilience, mental health and wellbeing that go with one's connection to language and identity. He concluded by advising listeners not to allow languages to become “Sleeping Beauties”, to embrace the hybridity of language that each new generation brings, and to help others in linguistic need.



Above: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann with Steve Minnikin MP, Parliamentary Friends of Israel. (Source: G. Zuckermann)

New Online Jewish Studies Educational Venture

A new global Jewish educational technology venture is currently in its planning stages, due to be launched in 2019. The venture, which is the brainchild of a cross-disciplinary team of co-founders from the United States and Europe, aspires to be a global online Jewish studies learning community, offering quality Jewish education to world-wide learners, and giving higher educational institutes the possibility of attracting new cohorts of learners in distance learning delivery models. Trialling in the United States in its first year, the venture will be rolled out to other global higher education institutions in 2020, including Australia.

Course providers for the online platform will be universities and other teaching bodies. There will be different participation tracks within courses- some free, others for certification. Courses will consist of non-credit and for-credit offerings. The course delivery platform is structured around instructional design strategies that have students' *agency* in focus, that promote *self-regulated learning* and where learners receive mentorship (*scaffolded learning*) through live mentors. This learning community will be uniquely positioned to engaging the millennial generation in sustained peer networks, where they can encounter the richness of the Jewish tradition, for them to further identify with and become engaged in Jewish communities and culture, especially through 21st Century learning.

The initiative will present learners with more than a linear lifecycle relationship of 'student starts course - student finishes course.' Students will be able to remain in the learning ecosystem long after a course is finished. They can then browse other course

offerings, many will be free, others will have certification. And they can engage in lively site-wide discussions on the platform - still learning, still engaging in conversations of interest to them. These conversations will very much center around Jewish learning – engaging learners in conversations around shared history, values, culture and texts that frame Jewish identity, past and present. In this manner, the online platform aims to become an ecosystem for learning and community building, a space for collective belonging, pluralistic views, mutual interests, shared values.

In the initial development stages of the venture, the design team are seeking feedback from academics and educators within Jewish studies at higher education institutes globally. The team are keen to receive feedback from educators in Jewish Studies in order to further fine-tune the system, particularly with regard to insights from Jewish Studies educators.

If you would like to find out more about this exciting new online Jewish Education venture and provide feedback, why not take the design survey? Access online at <https://goo.gl/forms/OAIAa87tZYNoJvvo1> .

Vacancies in Jewish Studies

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) in Modern Jewish History

The Department of Jewish Studies, McGill University, invites applications for a tenure-track position in modern Jewish history. Candidates with expertise in the Eastern European Jewish experience are of particular interest. A strong application will provide evidence of outstanding research potential and the ability to teach effectively at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Command of Hebrew and of the relevant languages for her/his subfield of study is essential; knowledge of French an asset. Candidates should have already completed the PhD or be very near completion. Appointment is expected to be at the rank of Assistant Professor. The position start date is August 1, 2019. For a complete description of the job advertisement, see: <http://www.mcgill.ca/jewishstudies/jobs>.

Applications and all supporting materials are accepted online only. Interested candidates should submit a letter of application, a complete CV, a sample of written work, descriptions of four courses that they are qualified to teach (three at the undergraduate level), and arrange for three letters of recommendation to be sent from the referees' institutional email accounts, to: <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/11539>. The deadline for applications is **October 20, 2018**. Preliminary interviews will be conducted at the AJS meeting in Boston (December 16-18, 2018).

For more information about the Department and University, visit our web site at <http://www.mcgill.ca/jewishstudies>. Any inquiries should be addressed by email to the Chair of the Department: yael.haleviwise@mcgill.ca

Assistant Professor in American Jewish Studies (Tenure Track)

The Program in American Studies at Princeton University invites applications from scholars who specialize in American Jewish Studies. The successful candidate may work on any scholarly area that engages with the lives, thought, and culture of Jewish people living in North America, past or present. The time period and field of specialization are open, but the search will prioritize scholars who can enhance the strengths of the Program, soon to become a Center for the Study of America, as it develops an interdisciplinary, collaborative, and integrated mission of teaching and scholarship.

Minimum qualifications include a record of academic excellence, and demonstrated success or the potential for success in interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching. A Ph.D. in a relevant field in the humanities or in the social sciences must be expected, but preference will be given to candidates with a completed degree. Review of files will begin **November 1, 2018**.

Applicants should provide a letter of application, curriculum vitae, research statement outlining the dissertation or book as well as future plans, and one chapter- or article-length writing sample. Applicants should also provide contact information for at least three recommenders as part of the online application process. For candidates who do not yet have a Ph.D., the recommendation of the principal advisor must include precise information on the present status of the dissertation and the likelihood of completion by summer 2019. This position is subject to the University's background check policy. Please apply online at: <https://www.princeton.edu/acad-positions/position/8081>

Upcoming Conferences & Calls for Papers

Call for Papers, BAJIS Conference 2019

University of Oxford, 21-24 July 2019: “What is Commentary?”

The annual conference of the British Association for Jewish Studies 2019 will focus on the question, “What is commentary”? This question is central to philology, literature, cultural studies and history, among other disciplines, and is intended to be multidisciplinary in its scope and presentation. The conference theme for BAJIS 2019 focuses on ‘commentary’ from a variety of perspectives: the form and purpose of scholarly commentary; the definition, critique and generation of commentary; commentary and literary criticism; ancient and medieval scholastic traditions and modern productions of film, art and literature; feminist/gender driven commentary – such as the projects seeking to produce a feminist midrash and current feminist commentaries on the Babylonian and Palestinian Talmud; history and politics; commentary and commentators in the academy (the place of philology); commentary and translation; reception of commentary; history; materiality (textual and visual); the relationship between commentary and metacommentary; and whether the concept of commentary is helpful or disruptive with respect to Jewish Antiquity. This topic is intended to reinforce the plurilingual and multidisciplinary nature of Jewish Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

This is an open call for papers. Please note that this includes topics not related exclusively to the theme. Post graduates are encouraged to submit proposals.

All conference correspondence, abstracts and enquiries should be addressed to the BAJIS President Elect for 2019, Professor Hindy

Najman, University of Oxford at the following email address: bajsoxford2019@gmail.com

Deadline for paper or session proposals (with three paper proposals and a chair) is **15 January 2019**. Decisions will be announced by 10 April.

CFP: Yiddish and Ladino Cultures: Between the Local and the Transnational STUDIA JUDAICA - Special issue

The submission deadline for all contributions (research articles and book reviews) has been extended to **15 December 2018**. Submissions will be subjected to peer-review and final papers will be due 1 May 2019. All final publication decisions will be made by the editors and editorial board of Studia Judaica.

We are pleased to announce that the 2018 issue of Studia Judaica (SJ) will be dedicated to Yiddish and Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) cultures in the European Jewish Diaspora, as well as in other parts of the world. We welcome submissions of research articles and book reviews that address all aspects of those cultures, with particular emphasis on the transfer of cultural ideas between the Eastern and Western European Jewish Diaspora, as well as the exchanges and cultural influences between the Jewish Diaspora in Europe and in other parts of the world.

We welcome research articles that are related (but not exclusively limited) to the following themes:

1. Yiddish and/or Ladino books and newspapers and their circulation; Jewish printing houses and/or their Yiddish/Ladino book production; reading habits as reflected by the lists of prenumeranten (book or newspaper subscribers); private life and customs as reflected by the marginalia (annotated books); Yiddish and/or Ladino newspapers or book collections as promoters

- of modernity among their readership; history of editions and translations;
2. Yiddish and/or Ladino literature as a means to promote the transfer of cultural ideas within the European Jewish Diaspora, as well as the connections and mutual cultural exchanges between the European Jews and those in other parts of the world; critical studies of Yiddish literary texts published in books, pamphlets, memoirs, or as newspaper feuilletons; the circulation of religious/secular texts and their influence in creating new literary centres;
 3. Yiddish and/or Ladino in the context of the 19th-20th century Jewish nationalism (Diaspora nationalism, Zionism) and socialism (Bund); continuities, ruptures and transfers between Yiddish and/or Ladino religious texts and the secular literature connected to modern trends in Jewish culture;
 4. Yiddish and/or Ladino in the context of religious or secular education and culture;
 5. Yiddish and/or Ladino theatre with a focus on less frequently discussed theatre plays, playwrights, troupes, and their contribution to Yiddish and/or Ladino cultures, respectively;
 6. Less-known figures from all the above-mentioned categories to whom few or no critical examinations have been dedicated, but who have contributed significantly through their Yiddish and/or Ladino writings to the dissemination of new ideas that altered and shaped the Jewish cultural milieu where they resided;
 7. Mutual influences and exchanges between European, world and Yiddish and/or Ladino literature and culture: parallels, interactions, polemics, models.

We also welcome book reviews (not more than three years from their publication) addressing all aspects of Jewish Studies including history, anthropology, religion, Jewish thought, philosophy, literature and the arts.

Papers should be submitted electronically to studia.judaica@gmail.com, both as DOC/DOCX and PDF documents. Papers in both formats should be submitted to the aforementioned address as e-mail attachments. E-mail submissions should include the following subject line: "Studia Judaica: Call for Papers".

Research articles must be written in English and should comprise 6000 to 7000 words. Please include at the beginning of the submitted research article an abstract of 150 words, 5-7 keywords and an author's biography of 150 words. Book reviews should be between 2000 and 2500 words. Please include at the beginning of the submitted book review an author's biography of 150 words.

The journal ensures that all published research articles and book reviews are double-blind peer reviewed. Please submit your proposals to: studia.judaica@gmail.com by **15 December 2018**. Submissions will be subjected to peer-review and final papers will be due 1 May 2019. All final publication decisions will be made by the editors and editorial board of Studia Judaica. Please consult the Submission Policies and Author Guidelines sections for details regarding the preparation of manuscripts.

[http://stiud.institute.ubbcluj.ro/pdf/doc/Studia_Judaica - Author guidelines \(PDF\).pdf](http://stiud.institute.ubbcluj.ro/pdf/doc/Studia_Judaica_-_Author_guidelines_(PDF).pdf)

[http://stiud.institute.ubbcluj.ro/pdf/doc/Studia_Judaica - Submission Policies.pdf](http://stiud.institute.ubbcluj.ro/pdf/doc/Studia_Judaica_-_Submission_Policies.pdf)

Recent Books of Interest
(Click any ISBN to purchase)

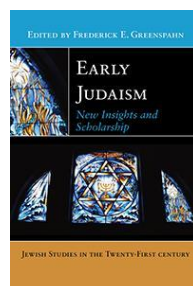


A History of Judaism / by Martin Goodman.
Princeton University Press, 2018.

[9780691181271](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9780691181271)

Judaism is one of the oldest religions in the world, and it has preserved its distinctive identity despite the extraordinarily diverse forms and beliefs it has embodied over the course of more than three millennia. *A History of Judaism* provides the first truly comprehensive look in one volume at how this great religion came to be, how it has evolved from one age to the next, and how its various strains, sects, and traditions have related to each other.

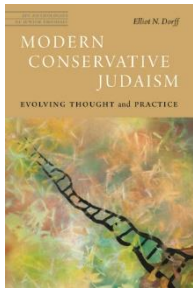
In this magisterial and elegantly written book, Martin Goodman takes readers from Judaism's origins in the polytheistic world of the second and first millennia BCE to the temple cult at the time of Jesus. He tells the stories of the rabbis, mystics, and messiahs of the medieval and early modern periods and guides us through the many varieties of Judaism today. Goodman's compelling narrative spans the globe, from the Middle East, Europe, and America to North Africa, China, and India. He explains the institutions and ideas on which all forms of Judaism are based, and masterfully weaves together the different threads of doctrinal and philosophical debate that run throughout its history.



Early Judaism: New Insights and Scholarship /

Edited by Frederick E. Greenspan. NYU Press, 2018. [9781479809905](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781479809905)

Over the past generation, several major findings and methodological innovations have led scholars to re-evaluate the foundation of Judaism. The Dead Sea Scrolls were the most famous, but other materials have further altered our understanding of Judaism's development after the Biblical era. This volume explores some of the latest clues into how early Judaism took shape, from the invention of rabbis to the parting of Judaism and Christianity, to whether ancient Jews considered themselves a nation. Rather than having simply evolved, "normative" Judaism is now understood to be the result of one approach having achieved prominence over many others, competing for acceptance in the wake of the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in the year 70 CE. This new understanding has implications for how we think about Judaism today, as the collapse of rabbinic authority is leading to the return of the kind of diversity that prevailed during late antiquity. This volume puts familiar aspects of Judaism in a new light, exposing readers to the most current understanding of the origins of normative Judaism. This book is a must for anyone interested in the study of Judaism and its formation. It is the most current review of the scholarship surrounding this rich history and what is next for the field at large.

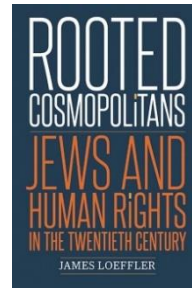


Modern Conservative Judaism Evolving Thought and Practice / by Elliot N. Dorff. Nebraska University Press, 2018.

[9780827613102](https://www.nebraska.edu/press/9780827613102)

A major Conservative movement leader of our time, Elliot N. Dorff provides a personal, behind-the-scenes guide to the evolution of Conservative Jewish thought and practice over the last half century. His candid observations concerning the movement's ongoing tension between constancy and change shed light on the sometimes unified, sometimes diverse, and occasionally contentious reasoning behind the modern movement's most important laws, policies, and documents. Meanwhile, he has assembled, excerpted, and contextualized the most important historical and internal documents in modern Conservative movement history for the first time in one place, enabling readers to consider and compare them all in context.

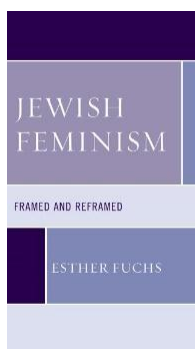
In "Part 1: God" Dorff explores various ways that Conservative Jews think about God and prayer. In "Part 2: Torah" he considers different approaches to Jewish study, law, and practice; changing women's roles; bioethical rulings on issues ranging from contraception to cloning; business ethics; ritual observances from online minyanim to sports on Shabbat; moral issues from capital punishment to protecting the poor; and nonmarital sex to same-sex marriage. In "Part 3: Israel" he examines Zionism, the People Israel, and rabbinic rulings in Israel.



Rooted Cosmopolitans Jews and Human Rights in the Twentieth Century / by James Loeffler. Yale University Press, 2018.

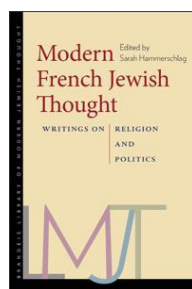
[9780300217247](https://www.yale.edu/press/9780300217247)

The year 2018 marks the seventieth anniversary of two momentous events in twentieth-century history: the birth of the State of Israel and the creation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Both remain tied together in the ongoing debates about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, global antisemitism, and American foreign policy. Yet the surprising connections between Zionism and the origins of international human rights are completely unknown today. In this riveting account, James Loeffler explores this controversial history through the stories of five remarkable Jewish founders of international human rights, following them from the prewar shtetls of eastern Europe to the postwar United Nations, a journey that includes the Nuremberg and Eichmann trials, the founding of Amnesty International, and the UN resolution of 1975 labeling Zionism as racism. The result is a book that challenges long-held assumptions about the history of human rights and offers a startlingly new perspective on the roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



Jewish Feminism: Framed and Reframed / by Esther Fuchs. Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. [9781498566490](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781498566490)

In the last three decades, hundreds of books and essays have been published on women, gender, and Jewish Studies. This burgeoning scholarship has not been adequately theorized, contextualized, or historicized. This book argues that Jewish feminist studies is currently constrained by multiple frames of reference that require re-examination, a self-critical awareness, and a serious reflective inquiry into the models, paradigms, and assumptions that inform, shape, and define this area of academic interest. This book is the first critical analysis of Jewish feminist scholarship, tracing it from its tentative beginnings in the late 1970s to contemporary academic articulations of its disciplinary projects. It focuses on the assumptions, evasions, omissions, inconsistencies, and gaps in this scholarship, and notably the absence of debate, contestation, and interrogation of authoritative articulations of its presumed goals, investments, and priorities. The book teases out implicit thinking about mapping, direction, and orientation from introductions to leading anthologies and engages critically with the few explicitly theoretical works on Jewish feminist studies, contesting ideas that have become hegemonic in some areas, and interrogating the limitations these theories impose on future trajectories in Jewish feminist studies.



Modern French Jewish Thought: Writings on Religion and Politics / edited by Sarah Hammerschlag. University Press of New England, 2018. [9781512601862](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781512601862)

“Modern Jewish thought” is often defined as a German affair, with interventions from Eastern European, American, and Israeli philosophers. The story of France’s development of its own schools of thought has not been substantially treated outside the French milieu. This anthology of modern French Jewish writing offers the first look at how this significant and diverse body of work developed within the historical and intellectual contexts of France and Europe. Translated into English, these documents speak to two critical axes—the first between Jewish universalism and particularism, and the second between the identification and disidentification of French Jews with France as a nation. Offering key works from Simone Weil, Vladimir Jankélévitch, Emmanuel Levinas, Albert Memmi, Hélène Cixous, Jacques Derrida, and many others, this volume is organized in roughly chronological order, to highlight the connections linking religion, politics, and history, as they coalesce around a Judaism that is unique to France.

Call for Submissions, AJS Newsletter No 71

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