

Newsletter no
79
December 2020

Australian Association for Jewish Studies

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Editor's Welcome

Welcome to the final edition of our AAJS Newsletter for 2020. What a year it has been! Despite the restrictions and difficulties we have all faced due to the global pandemic, our members have been busy with research, writing, curation, teaching and other Jewish-studies related activities. As we look back over this year's editions, we can acknowledge the accolades and achievements of our members: numerous online lectures/seminars were given, awards received, as well as books and articles published (such as those by Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Dr Avril Alba, Dr Lynne Swarts, and Dr David Slucki).

The convenors of our upcoming 2021 annual conference, Professor Kim Rubenstein (University of Canberra) and Sarah Charak (University of Sydney) have been hard at work organising an exciting program on the theme 'Jews as Active Citizens'. The AAJS committee looks forward to welcoming our members to Canberra in February 2021—travel restrictions permitting—or online. Participants will receive notification of acceptance of papers and information on how to register in due course.

In this edition we share an essay by AAJS member Dr Anne Black on the life of Australian Jewish writer George Isaacs (1825–1876), a biography of whom Dr Black has recently published with Wakefield Press, and on whom she will be presenting a paper at our upcoming 2021 conference.

As always, we include details of AAJS member achievements, new academic opportunities in Jewish studies and related fields, including a Melbourne-based opportunity for prospective PhD students at Deakin University. There are also details of Calls for Papers for conferences and seminars due to take place online and possibly in-person (travel restrictions permitting), including for the annual conferences of both the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, and the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies, shared on behalf of our colleagues across the pond. We also highlight some new publications in Jewish studies that may be of interest to our members.

Remember, if any of our members, are holding an event, received an award, released a publication, or have any other news of interest that you would like to share, please get in touch to submit it to our next issue (March/April 2021).

On behalf of the AAJS committee, we hope you enjoy this final edition of the newsletter for 2020. Here's to a happy and, above all, healthy 2021. Finally, we wish our members a *Hanukkah sameah/a freylekhn un likhtikn khanike alemen!*

*Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan, University of
Technology Sydney
AAJS Newsletter Editor*

Meet your AAJS Committee

Committee members are listed below with contact details: we encourage you to get in touch with any of them for answers to all your Association questions.

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Update on our 2021 annual conference in Canberra (28–29 February)

Professor Kim Rubenstein (University of Canberra) and Sarah Charak (University of Sydney) are currently working on finalising the program for the 2021 AAJS conference ***Jews As Active Citizens – Past and Present*** to be held in Canberra at the National Jewish Memorial Centre on **Sunday 28th February and Monday 29th February**.

Around 40 papers/panels have been submitted and the organisers are now developing the program (with the aim of including all submissions) and the program should be distributed in January 2021.

The plan is to hold the conference as a hybrid conference – with in person attendance/registration encouraged if all continues well with managing COVID, but with the option for people to register as online participants (including from overseas).

The contributions have been rich, ranging from biographical analysis of active citizens in Australia and beyond, to Talmudic analysis of ‘R. Eleazar b. R. Shimon: Model Citizen or Murderer?’ to analysis of the Jewish nation through dress, and respectability in Austria-Hungary to active Israeli citizenship through music and migration – with many more stimulating topics in between!

People who have submitted papers will be contacted by email **before 24 December 2020** and inquiries can be made **after 4 January 2020**.
to Kim.Rubenstein@canberra.edu.au

Building bridges between Australian and Canadian Jewish Studies

Our esteemed president, Professor Ghil’ad Zuckermann, has been forging ties to Canada-based Jewish Studies scholars. Professor Zuckermann recently met (online) with Toronto-based colleague Associate Professor David Koffman, J. Richard Shiff Chair for the

Study of Canadian Jewry (York University, Toronto), and editor-in-chief of the peer-review journal *Canadian Jewish Studies*.

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) is pleased to share a call for papers to their upcoming conference (May 2021) with our members (see page 10).

AAJS members are also invited to join the ACJS listserv (<https://groups.io/g/acjs-aejc>), where members can post calls for papers, conference announcements, requests for collaboration and more.

In addition, Associate Professor Justin Jaron Lewis (University of Manitoba) invites our members to participate in the annual conference of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies (CSJS), which will take place online Sunday 2 May through Friday 7 May 2021 (see page 11).

We look forward to fruitful collaboration between AAJS and ACJS and CSJS members!

Dr Lániček awarded prestigious State Library of NSW fellowship

Below: Dr Lániček. Source: J. Lániček.



AAJS Vice President (NSW) Dr Jan Lániček has been awarded the prestigious Australian Religious History Fellowship by the State Library of NSW for 2021. Dr Lániček’s project explores the connections between

the Australian population and the Holocaust and its aftermath, between 1933 and 1954. The focus of this research is how refugees brought different faith practices to Australia, and how Christian faiths responded to their plight.

The Australian religious History Fellowship is awarded to experienced researchers who study any aspect of Australian religious history of any faith. During their tenure, fellows are expected to use the State Library of NSW's resources to a significant degree.

Mazal tov Jan!

New publications by Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland

This year has been a busy one for AAJS committee member Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland. Last month Professor Rutland and Israel-based colleague Professor Zehavit Gross (Bar-Ilan University) published an article, 'The Impact of Context on Attitudes Toward Heritage Languages: A Case Study of Jewish Schools in the Asia-Pacific Region', in the prestigious *Journal of Jewish Education*.

In addition, Professor Rutland's biography, *Lone Voice: The Wars of Isi Leibler*, will be published by Gefen Publishing House, for Israel and the US on 1 March 2021, and Hybrid Publishers for Australia in April. The biography explores Leibler's multi-faceted career, from his business life, where he built Jetset Travel to be the largest travel company in Australia, the Pacific and South-East Asia, to his pivotal role in driving the issue of Soviet Jewry onto the international agenda, and his role in assisting Israel to establish diplomatic relations with China and India. The book also reveals for the first time the full story of Leibler's battle against corruption in the World Jewish Congress in the first decade of the twenty-first century and his efforts to expose the corruption in the Claims Conference's leadership. A pugnacious but principled leader, Leibler was never afraid to speak his mind. His strong personality led him to become close to two Australian prime ministers, Malcolm Fraser and Robert (Bob) Hawke, key Israeli leaders and many leading personalities in the Jewish world. As a roving, international figure these connections helped

him to further the Jewish agenda, free Soviet Jews, support Israel, and fight antisemitism.

The book is the product of twenty years of research, drawing on materials from Leibler's extensive private archive in Jerusalem, the National Archive of Australia in Canberra and Jewish archives in Sydney and Melbourne. It was previewed in the *Jewish Chronicle*, London, by Jenni Frazer in an article entitled 'Isi Leibler: a macher who is not scared of a scrap'.

Our members can access Professor Rutland's publications via the following links.

Zehavit Gross & Suzanne E. Rutland (2020) The Impact of Context on Attitudes Toward Heritage Languages: A Case Study of Jewish Schools in the Asia-Pacific Region, *Journal of Jewish Education*, 86:3, 241–270:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15244113.2020.1764883>

'Isi Leibler: a macher who is not scared of a scrap' by Jenni Frazer for *The Jewish Chronicle* (4 December 2020):

<https://www.thejc.com/news/world/isi-leibler-a-macher-who-is-not-scared-of-a-scrap-1.509361>

Article by new member Dr Michael Davis

Dr Michael Davis is an independent historian, scholar and researcher, and has just published an article in the *Australian Journal of Biography and History* (no. 4, 2020). The article 'The outsider anthropologist? Leonhard Adam in Berlin and Melbourne' explores the life and work of German-born anthropologist Leonhard Adam, whose father was Jewish. My paper examines Adam's work in writing and editing in Berlin during the 1930s under the Nazis, and the effects of the antisemitic laws on his career there. I then trace Adam's journey, from being sent to Melbourne, classified as an 'enemy alien', on the prison ship HMT Dunera, to his work at Melbourne

University in Indigenous heritage, art and anthropology. I discuss the notion of Adam as both an outsider and insider, and issues of Jewish identity, and his positioning in the intellectual milieu of Indigenous art and ethnography in Melbourne and Australia during the time he was active in the 1940s and 1950s.

This paper speaks to a number of themes around identity, heritage, and belonging that I am seeking to develop into a larger project. This project also includes investigating Jewish-Indigenous connections in activism against racism, discrimination and bigotry, both historically and current. I am interested in looking at these issues in comparative perspectives, and in inter-disciplinary contexts of discourses and representational practices.

Members can access Dr Davis's article via the journal website:
<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/journals/australian-journal-biography-and-history/ajbh-4>

New book on Jewish-Christian dialogue by member Marianne Dacy

WINDS OF CHANGE

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE SISTERS OF
OUR LADY OF SION TO JEWISH/CHRISTIAN RELATIONS IN
AUSTRALIA: 1960s - 2020+



Joshua Koffman, Synagogue and Church in Our Time, encaustic, April 2011

Marianne Dacy (nd)

AAJS member Marianne Dacy is pleased to announce the publication of her new book, *Winds of Change: The Contribution of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion to Jewish/Christian Relations in Australia: 1960s–2020+*. Dacy's book covers a significant change in Jewish/Christian relations over the past sixty years, from the time of the Second Vatican Council (1962–1965) to the present day. The Sisters of Our Lady of Sion, an international Catholic Order, was at the forefront of this movement. The book gives some details of the change in their focus from praying for the conversion of the Jews to seeking friendly relations with them and learning about Judaism, the roots of Christianity.

The Vatican document *Nostra Aetate* [In Our Time] ushered in a new age where the reversal of nearly 2,000 years of persecution and prejudice began to take place gradually. The catalyst for the beginning of the changes in the work of the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion lay in the attitude of the Church, and the build up over the centuries of bad relations with the Jews, where they were driven out of countries, killed, persecuted with pogroms, forced to convert to Christianity, and severely compromised in the practice of their religion.

Medieval cathedrals feature the Church and Synagogue as two women. The one

representing the synagogue is bowed and sad, while the woman representing the church stands triumphant, such as is pictured in the famous Strasbourg Cathedral. The cover of this short, but meaningful book features Joshua Kaufman's maquette of the two women again, but both are equals and holding their respective scriptures: the woman representing the synagogue a Torah scroll and the church, the Christian Bible. The maquette is at St Joseph's University in Minnesota and was unveiled by Pope Francis in 2015.

The book can be purchased for AU\$20, postage \$3.50 (Australia) and \$13.50 (USA, Europe). No charge for the pdf of the book. To order *Winds of Change* please contact Marianne Dacy via

Email:

dacymarianne@yahoo.com.au

Post:

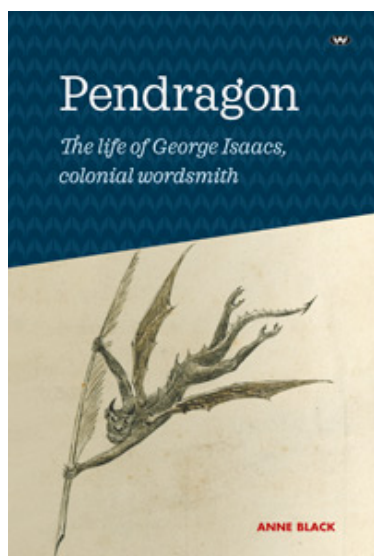
Marianne Dacy (NDS)

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Have you recently published something, participated in an interview/panel discussion or have other exciting Jewish Studies-related news to share? Why not write up a brief essay about your experiences or get in touch to share your news for a future edition of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies newsletter.

AAJS Member Essay: 'George Isaacs: An Overlooked Jewish Writer' by Anne Black



Above: Cover of Anne Black's new biography of George Isaacs. Source: A. Black.

Who was the first Jewish novelist in South Australia?

Who inspired the anthem *The Song of Australia*?

Who wrote Australia's first science fiction?

The answer to each question is George Isaacs, an overlooked Jewish immigrant who frequently wrote under the apt pseudonym of 'A. Pendragon'. Today, few have heard of his name, yet in colonial Australia his achievements were significant. Isaacs was indeed, a 'pendragon'. Poetry, plays, prose and reviews flowed from his pen. Yet his writing legacy is only one part of his rather surprising story. In fact, his adventures were so diverse that, during my research into his life, I often worried that I was accidentally following the trails of several gentlemen named George Isaacs!

My interest in Isaacs arose while dabbling in our family history. I was intrigued by the words 'literary correspondent' on my

husband's great-great-great grandfather's death certificate. What did this George Isaacs write, I wondered? It did not take me long to discover that, although Isaacs had left a trail of papers and artefacts in archives around the world, his historical and literary significance had not been assessed. Like the vast majority of his nineteenth-century contemporaries, Isaacs had been largely forgotten. My curiosity – some would say obsession – about my subject and his writing eventually led to an enjoyable PhD at the University of Adelaide.

Here is a brief overview of Isaacs' life. It spanned two hemispheres and two Australian colonies and it was never dull!

George Samuel Isaacs was born in Georgian London in 1825, the first child of Ann and Samuel Isaacs. Father Samuel's business in fashionable Regent Street sold 'curiosities' or antiques to customers caught up in the Victorian craze for collections. The lifestyles of these wealthy and literate collectors piqued the interest of young Isaacs, who subsequently developed three passions - writing, antique collecting and travel. In 1843, he inherited a substantial family bequest that enabled him to pursue these hobbies with enthusiasm. He became George Isaacs, Esquire.

That year, Isaacs published several issues of an anonymous but well-received literary journal of poetry and prose – a precocious achievement for an eighteen-year-old. His efforts were encouraged by prominent authors including Edward Bulwer-Lytton (1803–1873) and William Harrison Ainsworth (1805–1882). Isaacs also became an active member of the recently-founded British Archaeological Association, and he exhibited his growing

hoard of medieval antiques at its monthly meetings. He hobnobbed with the rich and famous at soirees and exhibitions. Whenever possible, he escaped to the Continent, where he basked in the weather of southern France and indulged in the pleasures of antique markets.

This hedonistic lifestyle ended abruptly in 1850 with the pregnancy of Isaacs' non-Jewish partner Marion (c. 1835–1901). Over the following months Isaacs sold his medieval rings to a lord, auctioned his prized collection of antiques (some of which are now in the British Museum) and farewelled his family and friends. In November 1850, Isaacs, Marion and their newborn daughter boarded the ex-convict vessel *Mountstuart Elphinstone* in London. They were bound for a new life of opportunity in distant South Australia.

Isaacs' fortunes in the colonies, however, were mixed. For reasons unknown, he arrived with little money and required employment to support his family. But there was little demand for writers, or for lovers of antiques in the fifteen-year-old settlement of Adelaide. Over the next twenty-five years, in South Australia and in Victoria, Isaacs worked at many occupations. At various times he became a shopkeeper, a theatrical agent, a clerk, a reading room owner, a travelling lecturer, a letter writer, an entrepreneur and even an accountant – an unlikely occupation for a man who was imprisoned several times for insolvency!

Whatever his circumstances, Isaacs continued his writing career. In 1858, following an unsuccessful stint on the Victorian goldfields, he composed *The Queen of the South: A Colonial Romance, Being Pictures of Life in Victoria in the Early Days of the Diggings*. Its author was 'A. Pendragon'. This was the first novel published in South Australia, though not recognized as such at the time. In Melbourne, Isaacs wrote the play the

Burlesque of Frankenstein, which was very loosely based on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, with antipodean accents. The *Burlesque* became Australia's first science fiction. Isaacs was also the author of several anthologies of prose and poetry and he edited a book on Aboriginal customs. His plays and sketches were carried around the world by visiting English entertainers. Newspapers were Isaacs' lifelong passion and his poetry, prose and topical 'Letters to the Editor' appeared regularly in the colonial press. In Adelaide, he founded and edited several weekly newspapers, including *The Critic* (1862–1863). This eclectic literary output brought him little lasting recognition or financial reward. Life was tough for colonial writers.

Despite his chronic money worries, Isaacs was gregarious, outspoken and active in community and political affairs. In the progressive town of Gawler to the north of Adelaide, he led community projects including the establishment of a museum that predated the South Australian Museum. He instigated a song competition that resulted in the anthem *The Song of Australia* - once a contender for Australia's national anthem. He was a co-founder of South Australia's famous 'Humbug Society', a vehement opponent of corruption, and a campaigner for copyright and prison reform.

In contrast, Isaacs' private life was rather irregular and sad. In 1865 he separated from Marion and his large family in Melbourne and he returned to Adelaide. Within a few years he married, but his young wife and their baby died shortly afterwards. His final years were difficult.

Isaacs' own story ended in an Adelaide hotel in January 1876. He died penniless, and, as he had no family members in the colony, the Adelaide Hebrew Congregation graciously buried him in

West Terrace Cemetery. Newspaper obituaries branded him 'a thorough Bohemian'.

Isaacs does not deserve such ignominy. This intriguing Jewish writer deserves to be remembered for his notable contributions to Australian colonial literature and society. A gravestone now commemorates his previously unmarked grave, and his 'riches to rags' tale is revived in my new biography *Pendragon: The life of George Isaacs, colonial wordsmith*, published by Wakefield Press.

It's the least I can do to preserve his memory

*Anne Black received the Dean's Commendation from the University of Adelaide in 2016 for her PhD on the life and works of the Jewish colonial immigrant, George Isaacs. Her biography of Isaacs, *Pendragon: The life of George Isaacs, colonial wordsmith*, which includes a comprehensive bibliography of his written works, has recently been published by Wakefield Press and can be purchased via <https://www.wakefieldpress.com.au/product.php?productid=1590>*

Would you like to have a short essay published in the AAJS Newsletter? Detail your research, muse on an interesting finding or share an anecdote? We're looking for contributions of 1000-1500 words for our Member Essay section every issue: contact the Newsletter Editor if you would like to make a submission!



Association for Canadian Jewish Studies

Association d'études juives canadiennes

Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference Online, May 23-25, 2021 *Call for Papers*

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is pleased to announce its 2021 annual national conference taking place **online** May 23-25, 2021, in association with the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at the University of Ottawa, the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies, and the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University.

The theme of this year's conference is "A View of the Field: Reflecting on Canadian Jewish Studies." Given the unusual nature of this past year—and of the conference itself—we felt that it would be an opportune moment to reflect on the present and future of the field of Canadian Jewish Studies. We want to know what projects are getting our scholars most excited without limiting them to a particular theme. Let us know what you're currently working on, take this opportunity to get a head start on an exciting future avenue in your research, or even revisit some past work you feel merits new consideration. We welcome and encourage submissions in English and French on any topic relating to Canada's Jews. This year, there are no limitations related to travel or funding, so brew up some coffee, stock up on your favourite conference treats, and enjoy some stellar scholarship with friends and colleagues!

Individuals are invited to submit proposals for paper presentations 20 minutes in length. All submissions must include (1) an abstract of 250-400 words formulated to clearly and concisely state the main argument of the scholarly paper and indicate how it will contribute to existing scholarship in the field of Canadian Jewish Studies, including a short bibliography of relevant sources; (2) a biography of 50-75 words.

Please submit your proposal by email, as a .doc or .rtf attachment, to the ACJS Conference Chair, Jesse Toufexis (jtouf007@uottawa.ca). Because proposals undergo blind review, please do not include any personal, identifiable information in your proposal attachment. Instead, please indicate your name, affiliation, address, telephone number, and email address in the body of the email. **If your paper was accepted for the cancelled 2020 conference and you would like to present it this year, please simply forward your materials from last year to Jesse; your acceptance will carry over.**

Paper proposals are due on **January 21, 2021**. After an anonymous peer-review process, presenters will be contacted by February 19th.

All presenters must be paid members of the ACJS for the year of the conference (2021) at the time that proposals are submitted. Membership information for the ACJS can be found on our website: <http://acjs-aejc.ca/membership>. Please attach the receipt from your 2021 membership to your proposal.

The best student paper presented at the conference will be given the Marcia Koven Award, which is accompanied by a cash prize. The award is granted based on the scholarly quality of the paper and its contribution to the field of Canadian Jewish Studies.

**Canadian Society for Jewish Studies Annual Conference
Conférence annuelle de la Société canadienne des études juives**

On line, Sunday May 2 through Friday May 7, 2021

Call for Papers
(Le texte français suit l'anglais)

The 16th Annual Conference of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies (CSJS) will take place on line from Sunday May 2 through Friday May 7, 2021. The expected format will be of several one-hour panels per day, with two 20-minute papers in each panel plus questions and discussion.

The conference prioritizes original scholarly research. Paper proposals are invited in all areas of the study of Jews and Judaism in any part of the world and any time period. Approaches may be grounded in history, sociology, textual study, critical theory, or any other scholarly approach. Papers should not have been published or presented elsewhere. Presentations may be in English or French.

A proposal should be about 250 words long, and clearly and concisely state the main argument of the paper and how it will contribute to scholarship. Proposals for pre-arranged panels with two presenters should add a brief statement about the theme of the panel and its significance.

Proposals are due by Monday, January 11, 2021.

Since this is a broad-based Jewish Studies conference open to researchers and the general public, and our first conference on line, we are open to proposals for less conventionally academic presentations, including musical or theatrical work (we are not able to offer honoraria to performers, however). A proposal for any presentation other than an academic paper should clearly describe the presentation and why it would be of interest to the conference.

All proposals should be sent by email, as .doc, .odt, or .pdf attachments, to the program chair, JustinJaron.Lewis@umanitoba.ca. Do not include the name of the presenter or other identifying information in the attachment, only in the email. All proposals will be anonymously peer reviewed.

We intend to respond to proposals by Monday, February 15, 2021. Conference presenters must be members of the Canadian Society for Jewish Studies; an annual membership is CAN \$30, CAN \$15 for students and seniors.

Please email proposals and any questions to Justin Jaron Lewis, JustinJaron.Lewis@umanitoba.ca.

Vacancies in Jewish Studies & related fields

Griffin Chair in Economic History, The University of Melbourne

The Department of Economics is a vibrant, diverse and successful department and is part of Australia's No. 1 University. The Department invites applications for the position of Griffin Chair in Economic History. This is a leadership role revitalising and leading its research and teaching in economic history. The Griffin Chair in Economic History will support the department's objectives in research, teaching and engagement by pursuing research in the discipline, publishing in leading international journals, playing a leading role in teaching innovation and course and curriculum development, and contributing to external debate on the relevance of economic history to better understand and respond to current economic conditions and developments.

You will possess:

- A Ph.D. in economic history or a related disciplinary area
- A distinguished international reputation and outstanding research record in economic history
- The ability to provide high quality leadership in research, teaching, administration and engagement in economic history and economics in general
- Demonstrated capacity to provide high quality mentoring and supervision of staff and graduate students
- Demonstrated capacity to secure funds from external competitive grants
- A record of high quality, successful teaching innovation and leadership in course and curriculum development
- An ability to work effectively and lead within a large department
- Experience with fostering online and alternative modes of teaching
- A demonstrated record of effective engagement with the wider community

- Leadership in and/or membership of relevant professional bodies, advisory/editorial boards and other relevant organisations.

Deadline: **21 January 2021 11:55 PM AUS EST**

For more information on the position, department and how to apply please visit <http://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/job/903261/griffin-chair-in-economic-history>

Tenure-Track Position: The Holocaust and Its Aftermath with Teaching and Research Experience in Topics Pertaining to the 20th Century Jewish World, The Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Bar Ilan University

The Faculty of Jewish Studies and the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University invites applications for a tenure track position in the field of the Holocaust and its Aftermath with an additional field of specialization pertaining to the 20th century Jewish world.

The position requires teaching in Hebrew at the highest pedagogical level, including both required undergraduate courses and advanced electives for undergraduates in the aforementioned fields, graduate seminars in the candidate's specific field of expertise, and advising masters and doctoral students in the field of the Holocaust and other topics in 20th century Jewish History. In addition, the candidate is expected to conduct independent and original research, to publish articles and books in reputable academic peer-reviewed platforms, to participate in local and international conferences, and to compete for research grants.

Basic Requirements:

1. Proven successful college/university teaching experience
2. Publications in required field in peer-reviewed journals and renowned academic publishers

3. Proven academic knowledge of European History (1870–1948)
4. Proven experience in archival research
5. Fluency in Hebrew and a scholarly working knowledge of at least one additional relevant European language in the field of the Holocaust, especially Yiddish and German (proficiency in additional European languages will be an advantage for the candidate)
6. For Israeli candidates, Post-doctoral study and research outside of Israel; for those who completed their doctoral studies between 2019–2020 and who could not travel abroad, post-doctoral study and research at an Israeli university in which they did not complete their doctoral studies

The successful candidate will begin teaching in October 2021. Candidates in relevant fields are invited to apply. The rank of the elected candidate will be determined on the basis of their experience and publications.

Please submit the following:

1. Cover letter (including names of three references)
2. Curriculum vitae
3. Doctoral diploma or certificate + confirmation of post-doctoral study if required according to line 6 above
4. List of publications
5. Two publications
6. Brief summary of research plans for the next few years
7. Teaching evaluations from the previous three years (if available)

Three letters of recommendation from senior scholars should be sent by them directly to the commission at the e-mail address below.

Documents can be in English or in Hebrew. Please submit all of the requested materials in one PDF document to the following e-mail address: jewishhistory.dept@biu.ac.il

Deadline: **27 December 2020**. Files missing any of these documents will not be evaluated. Moreover, only suitable submissions will receive a response.

For further inquiries, please contact the department chair, Professor Emmanuel Friedheim at emmanuel.friedheim@biu.ac.il

The Lilli and Michael Sommerfreund Visiting Professorship in Jewish Studies 2021/22 (1 April 2021–31 March 2022), Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg, Germany

The Hochschule für Jüdische Studien/College for Jewish Studies Heidelberg (HfJS) seeks to appoint a visiting professorship to the Lilli and Michael Sommerfreund Chair in Jewish Studies for the academic term 1 April 2021–20 March 2022.

Founded in 2018, the Lilli and Michael Sommerfreund Guest Professorship in Jewish Studies commemorates two survivors of the Shoah that devoted their lives not only to rebuilding the Jewish community of Frankfurt am Main, but also to fostering the city's greater cultural and social growth. To honour its namesakes, the chair is dedicated to the teaching of Jewish History and Culture of the HfJS.

Conditions of appointment are a doctorate in Jewish Studies or a comparative study and in accordance with Article 47, Paragraph 2 of the Higher Education Law of the Federal State of Baden-Württemberg a habilitation or comparable qualification, as well as pedagogical aptitude.

The successful candidate will be able to teach in English and supervise students at the undergraduate and graduate levels, especially students pursuing the international Master of Arts degree in 'Jewish Civilizations'. The course load is 9 hours per week, one of which is to be taught as a specialized lecture (Vorlesung).

The HfJS welcomes applications from scholars of adjacent fields within Jewish studies that

are not currently represented in the HfJS course listings.

The appointee will be expected to take residency in Heidelberg throughout the duration of each semester.

The HfJS aims to increase the number of women on its faculty, hence specifically encourages qualified women to apply. Disabled people will be given preference if they are equally qualified.

Please send all inquiries and applications materials (letter of application, CV and list of publications) to rector@hjsj.edu

Deadline: 4 January 2021

Assistant or Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, Holocaust, College of Charleston, School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs, South Carolina

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston invites applications for the position of tenure-track Assistant Professor or tenured Associate Professor of Jewish Studies in the area of the Holocaust, broadly conceived, to begin August 16, 2021. The Program seeks an active scholar who will teach surveys of Holocaust history, Jewish history, and upper-level courses in the area of their specialization. Interest in and ability to teach and guide student research in areas relevant to Holocaust Studies, such as German, Yiddish, Hebrew, or Russian Studies, is a plus. The successful candidate will be appointed as the Director of the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies and will therefore also possess strong administrative skills and a keen interest in public programming. Operating alongside two other academic centers and supported by an endowment, the Center is an integral part of the Jewish Studies Program. The director will have substantial resources to advance the Center's mission, and to support their own research and development.

The Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program is part of the School of Languages, Cultures, and World Affairs. Candidates whose research employs international, trans-regional, or interdisciplinary perspectives are especially encouraged to apply. An earned PhD in a relevant discipline, such as, but not limited to, history, religious studies, sociology, or anthropology is required. Teaching experience after the PhD strongly preferred. Exceptional ABD candidates with degree completion expected by August 16, 2021 will be considered but will be ineligible for renewal beyond the first year without the PhD. Preliminary interviews will be held via Zoom/Skype. Selected candidates may be invited for campus interviews.

Applicants must apply online at jobs.cofc.edu and submit a cover letter, CV, a writing sample (an article or dissertation/book chapter), and the names and contact information for three references who would submit letters of recommendation online.

Review of applications will begin January 4, 2021 and continue until the position is filled.

For further inquiries about the position, please contact Dr. Yaron Ayalon, Director of the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, at ayalony@cofc.edu.

Deadline: 15 January 2021

For more information visit <https://jobs.cofc.edu/postings/10094>

Upcoming Conferences/Workshops & Calls for Papers

Call for Abstracts: Cornvinus University of Budapest, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Institute of Advanced Study (New Jersey), *Islamic and Jewish Studies around the Turn of the Twentieth Century: Ignaz Goldziher and his Correspondents, 12–13 November 2021 (online)*

When Ignaz Goldziher passed away on November 13, 1921, he left behind a corpus of scientific correspondence of over 13,000 letters from about 1,650 persons, in ten

languages. His Nachlass, including the letters as well as his hand-written notes and works, was bequeathed to the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. The corpus, which is freely accessible in its entirety in digital form (https://konyvtar.mta.hu/index_en.php?name=v_3_2_1_goldziher and <https://amirmideast.blogspot.com/2018/06/ignaz-goldziher-correspondence-archive.html?m=1>) constitutes the single most important source informing about the history of Arabic, Jewish, and Islamic studies and cognate fields during Goldziher's time. Selected portions of the Goldziher correspondence are available in critical editions, while other portions have been consulted for studies on the history of the field, but the bulk of the material has as yet remained untapped.

The conference aims to focus on the correspondence between Ignaz Goldziher and colleagues from different countries preserved in the Oriental Collection of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, addressing aspects of the history of the discipline as seen through the letters. Papers examining specific aspects of Goldziher's contributions to Islamic and Jewish studies from a wider history of science point of view are also welcome.

This international conference takes place within the framework of the Alexander von Humboldt Research Prize.

Convenors:

- Kinga Dévényi, Corvinus University of Budapest, and the Oriental Collection of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- Sebastian Günther, Georg August Universität Göttingen
- Sabine Schmidtke, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

Deadline: The convenors invite the submission of abstract for consideration to be sent to Uta Nitschke (nitschke@ias.edu) by **31 January 2021**.

Research Workshop: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *The Holocaust and Asia: Refugees, Memory, and Material Culture*, 28 March–6 April 2022, Washington, DC

The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invited applications for a research workshop entitled *The Holocaust and Asia: Refugees, Memory, and Material Culture*. The Mandel Center will co-convene this workshop with Kimberly Cheng, Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, New York University, and Ran Zwigenberg, Asian Studies, History and Jewish Studies, Pennsylvania State University. The workshop will take place at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center.

The workshop is scheduled for March 28–April 6, 2022. In the event that it is impossible to convene during those dates due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the workshop will be held in a hybrid format consisting of a series of short online sessions in advance of an in-person program convened at the Museum to be scheduled in the Summer of 2022.

In recent decades, the Holocaust has occupied an increasingly prominent place in Asian cultures of memory. Chinese intellectuals have called the Cultural Revolution their 'Holocaust', and both China and Japan have found and commemorated their own 'Schindlers' (Ho Feng-Shan and Sugihara Chiune). Partition refugees in India/Pakistan have compared themselves to Jewish refugees, and memory activists across Asia have invoked Holocaust analogies in the region's never-ending history wars. Yet the Holocaust's impact on Asia was not just cultural. Many Asians witnessed the Holocaust firsthand, and tens of thousands of Jewish refugees fled through Asia. In Asia, these Jewish refugees appeared as poor white Europeans, challenging Asians' conceptions both of the figure of the Jew and of the white man; both for Jews and Asians, their encounters with one another as racial others

brought stark questions of identity, race, racism, gender, class, and colonial entanglements to the fore. Whether in the realm of exchange between refugees and local populations, or in mutual learning about the place of artifacts in commemoration, the circulation of material culture only served to deepen these divides.

Surveying the Holocaust-related myths and historical realities in Asia writ large (from China and Japan through Central Asia to Iran), this workshop explores Jewish and Asian involvement in the Holocaust and its memory. Our workshop examines the limits of the term 'Holocaust' and its applicability across histories and cultures to account for the multifaceted ways the tragedy has reverberated beyond Europe. In doing so, we intend to delimit the existence of an Asian sub-field or an 'Asian turn' within Holocaust studies.

To identify the main lines of inquiry of this burgeoning field, the workshop will consist of presentations and roundtable discussions led by participants along three thematic tracks: 1) the experiences of refugees, 2) Asian cultures of memory, and 3) material culture. Daily sessions will be led by participants, as well as discussions with Museum staff and research in the Museum's collections. The workshop will be conducted in English.

Deadline: 1 February 2021

To apply and for more information visit <https://www.ushmm.org/research/opportunities-for-academics/conferences-and-workshops/research-workshop-program/holocaust-and-asia>

Call for Papers: "Off the Derech": On the Margins of contemporary Orthodoxy,' *Journal of Jewish Identities*

Scholarship on post-war Orthodox communities has largely focused on those who remain in these communities, with a particular emphasis on explaining how these

communities manage to maintain themselves and their symbolic representations. In the past two decades, scholars and artists have begun to focus attention on those who struggle within or exit these communities (a process commonly referred to within Orthodox communities as going 'off the derech,' or off the path). Such scholars have started to investigate why people leave or choose to stay, the religious positions they adopt, their post-exit relations with family and community; and the art, literature, and cultural expressions produced by and about them.

This call for papers invites submissions for a guest edited volume of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*, an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed forum that encourages new theoretical and practical approaches and viewpoints. We welcome scholars from sociology, anthropology, political science, gender studies, law, Jewish studies, literature, music, film, history, and related fields; we welcome submissions that are in and of themselves inter- and intra-disciplinary.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to) the following:

- The economic, social, political, and religious innovations occurring within Orthodox communities
- The motivation for leaving and the narratives developed to make sense of such departures
- The relationship among exiters and their families, friends, and former communities
- The relationship of exiters to organised religion and religious rituals and symbols
- The literature, music, and film produced by and about this population
- Formal and informal approaches to language, translation, and representation in Orthodox exiter narratives
- The role and influence of technology as a point of access and a barrier to Orthodox exiters

- Gender, feminism, and masculinity studies in relation to the Orthodox exiter community
- Historical implications and resonances of Orthodox exiter experiences
- People who are leading double lives or in some way openly or secretly challenging religious communal practices, culture, or politics
- Personal or journalistic narrative accompanied by a disciplinary focus

Deadline: full papers are due by **31 May 2021**

Contributors will be notified of acceptance and revisions by the end of October 2021. All submissions should be accompanied by a brief biography (no more than 300 words) that includes your institutional affiliation, field, research interests, and major past publications.

Please submit essays and bios as a single .pdf document to Glenn Dynner (gdynner@sarahlawtence.edu); Jessica Lang (Jessica.Lang@baruch.cuny.edu); Zalman Newfield (SNewfield@bmcc.cuny.edu); and Joshua Shanes (shanesj@cofc.edu) by 31 May 2021.

Grants & Other Opportunities

HDR Scholarship – The Brookes Cultural Heritage Scholarship: *Reconceptualising Training, Travel, and Trauma: Jewish Emigres and Their Impact on Australian Society*, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Deakin University, Melbourne

Jewish emigres who fled Nazi persecution and antisemitism before, during, and after the Holocaust had a significant impact on Australian life in a range of fields including art and design, architecture, industry, politics, and education. These emigres embody a history that is intrinsically geographical, and their material and imaginative travels did not end once they arrived in Australia.

Through an approach that foregrounds transnational and diasporic histories

(Curthoys and Lake 2005; Hawcroft 2017; Peterson 2017; Erll 2011, 2014) this project will explore new ways of telling stories of travel, training, and trauma in exhibitions connected to the Holocaust and other genocides.

How did emigres' education, professional practice and experiences travel with them, and influence their work? What are the micro and macro impacts on Australian society? How can these personal narratives be presented within wider histories? How can the charting of material and imaginative journeys of people and artefacts be used to inform new approaches to curatorial practice? How might these in turn illustrate a more nuanced reading of the impact of migration to Australia?

We welcome expressions of interest for a PhD project which address this broad theme.

This scholarship and research project is supported by the Sir Wilfred and CH Brookes Charitable Foundation.

Deakin University acknowledges with gratitude the support of the Sir Wilfred & C H (Roger) Brookes Charitable Foundation, particularly the late Roger Brookes. This project is inspired by the life and work of Professor Fred Jevons AO. Jevons escaped Austria in 1939 on a Kindertransport, settling in the UK and becoming an innovative educator and researcher before migrating to Australia in 1976, and becoming Deakin University's innovative first Vice Chancellor.

To be eligible you must:

- Be either a domestic or international candidate currently residing in Australia (domestic includes candidates with Australian Citizenship, Australian Permanent Residency or New Zealand Citizenship)
- Meet Deakin's PhD entry requirements
- Be enrolling full time and hold an honours degree (first class) or an

equivalent standard master's degree with a substantial research component

Deadline: **applications will remain open until a candidate has been appointed**

For further information and access to the online application system visit <https://www.deakin.edu.au/courses/fees-scholarships/scholarships/find-a-scholarship/hdr-scholarship-the-brookes-cultural-heritage-scholarship?fbclid=IwAR1reHrNSWX7ftReT1NqDPvGPu8wu628doGal83P8M5AFBY7gJ3kx tNexnE>

Two Postdoctoral Associate Positions in Judaic Studies: 1) Early Modern/Modern Jewish History, and 2) Medieval Jewish History, 2021–2023, Yale University

The program in Judaic Studies at Yale University is offering two-year postdoctoral fellowships that will begin on July 1, 2021. Candidates for the fellowships must have a PhD in hand by July 1, 2021 and must have received the degree no earlier than 2018. The program seeks a specialist in 1) Early Modern or Modern Jewish History, and 2) Medieval Jewish History who will work closely with appropriate members of Yale's faculty.

The Judaic Studies postdoctoral associate will be expected to be in residence, to conduct research in Yale's library and archival collections, participate actively in the intellectual life of the university and teach two courses, one per year. The first year, the course will be in Yale's Directed Studies program (directedstudies.yale.edu), and introduction to some of the seminar texts in Western Cultures for select first year students. The second year, the postdoctoral associate will teach a course of their choosing in Judaic Studies, with the option of substituting the organization of a conference, seminar, or colloquium for the second year's course. The annual stipend will be \$59,000 plus health benefits. Candidates send a cover letter, CV, project proposal, three letters of

recommendation, and a list of proposed courses to:

Judaic Studies Program
PO Box 208282
New Haven, CT 06520-8282

Or

renee.reed@yale.edu

Deadline: **31 January 2021**

Please see the full Call for Applications: <https://judaicstudies.yale.edu/programs/post-doctoral-associate-judaic-studies>

Postdoctoral position in Holocaust and Genocide Studies with a focus on Holocaust History and Memory in the Balkans, Hugo Valentin Centre, Uppsala University, Sweden

The placing of the position is with the Hugo Valentin Centre (HVC) is an interdisciplinary unit at the Department of History, Uppsala University, with a focus on research and education in two fields: ethnic relations and Holocaust and genocide studies. Research is conducted in a markedly interdisciplinary research environment that brings together researchers with a background in history and philosophy, language and social sciences.

This announcement concerns a position in Holocaust and genocide studies with a focus on the Balkan geographic region.

A postdoctoral fellow's duties consist mainly of research, but some administration and the task of applying for external research funding in the field concerned. The position requires continuous attendance at the Centre, active participation in seminars, on-going presentation of the fellow's research and, where necessary, some teaching and supervision of students or other tasks corresponding to up to 20% of the position.

To qualify for employment as a postdoc you must have a PhD degree or a foreign degree

equivalent to a PhD degree in the humanities or social sciences. The PhD degree must have been obtained no more than three years prior to the application deadline. The three-year period can be extended due to circumstances such as sick leave, parental leave, duties in labour unions, etc. Excellent skills in both oral and written English are required for the position.

For further information about the position please contact the head of department Henrik Ågren on phone +46 (0)18 471 1529, or email prefekt@hist.uu.se.

Deadline: 2 February 2021

For further information and access to the online application system visit <https://mp.uu.se/en/web/info/vart-uu/lediga-jobb/-/jobb/358931>

Leo Baeck Doctoral Fellowship Programme, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Bonn

The International Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme awards fellowships to doctoral students who carry out research into the history and culture of Central European Jewry. We welcome projects on any period or field (including literature, philosophy, history, musicology), and any region (such as Europe, Israel and the Americas), as long as they relate to German-speaking Jewry. In addition to financial support for one year, the program provides opportunities to exchange ideas with peers from around the world. It is open to doctoral candidates of any nationality, studying at any university. All fellows remain at their home institution, but come together for two workshops in the course of the fellowship, which are jointly organized by the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes and the Leo Baeck Institute London.

Requirements:

- University degree(s) with outstanding marks
- Date of latest degree not before February 2017

- Formal qualification for doctoral studies/acceptance on a doctoral program at a recognised university
- Research project focusing on the history and culture of Central European Jewry

Up to twelve fellows will be selected for the program in the academic year 2021/22. The fellowships run from October 2021 to September 2022. Regular workshops and an intranet platform provide support for scholarship holders and enable them to present their research and discuss methodologies and findings with other fellows. Working languages are German and English. After the first year, students enrolled at a university in Germany may apply for an extension of their scholarship within the framework of the Studienstiftung's doctoral program, subject to available funds.

Fellows receive a stipend of €1,350 a month. In addition to monthly research allowance of €100 is available. Fellows can also apply for supplements for health insurance (max. €100/month) and childcare, as well as travel allowances to support research trips and participation at conferences abroad. Contributions to tuition fees outside Germany may also be granted (max. €10,000). All funding is provided in accordance with the general regulations issued by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF).

Candidates are invited to submit the following documents in English or German:

- Application form (available via link below)
- Cover letter outlining the motivation for participation in the program (1 page)
- Curriculum vitae with details on education, general interests and language skills
- Photocopy of university degree(s), including marks/grading
- Research proposal (5 pages)
- Research schedule for the academic year 2021/22, including planned research trips

- Letter of recommendation by the supervisor of the PhD project; second letter of recommendation

Deadline: **1 February 2021**

For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.studienstiftung.de/en/leo-baeck/?view%5Bdetail%5D=1&cHash=9d615f41337e82ba53c53b2ec6fbf4d4>

Postdoctoral Associate at the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, 2021–2022, Boston University

The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies invites applications for a one-year Postdoctoral Associate in Jewish Studies, with a possible renewal for a second year. This fellowship is open to scholars in all fields of Jewish Studies; preference will be given to scholars who strengthen and/or complement the intellectual interests of Center-affiliated faculty. To that end we particularly encourage applications in the fields of Archaeology of the Southern Levant, Kabbalah and Hasidism, and Medieval to Modern Jewish Philosophy.

The fellowship provides a stipend of \$52,000 per year. The fellow will be expected to be in residence, conduct research, participate actively in the intellectual life of the university, and give a BU Jewish Studies Research Forum presentation on the subject of their research. The fellow may not undertake any other sustained teaching or employment during his/her tenure at Boston University.

Applicants must have earned the PhD within the past 3 years. Advanced doctoral students applying must include a statement from their dissertation supervisor indicating that they will have the PhD in hand by 1 July 2021. Applicants should submit the following materials electronically, in form of a single pdf, by email to ewcjs@bu.edu with 'Postdoctoral Associate application' in the subject line:

- A letter of intent stating how the applicant would use the year to further his/her research and scholarly publication (not to exceed 5 pages)
- A current CV
- A writing sample, not to exceed 20 pages
- Three letters of recommendation, emailed directly to ewcjs@bu.edu in .pdf form
- An official transcript from the applicant's doctoral-granting institution

Deadline: **15 January 2021**

Contact: Theresa Cooney, PhD, Program Administrator, The Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, ewcjs@bu.edu

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 2021–2022 Fellowships, New York

YIVO's annual fellowships in Eastern European and American Jewish History are open for application. Each year, YIVO awards a series of Max Weinreich Center Research Fellowships for scholarly research in YIVO's library and archival collections. These fellowships are intended primarily, but not exclusively, for graduate students and emerging scholars. Each fellowship requires a public lecture by the holder, to be held during or immediately after the fellow's research period. Fellows are usually expected to spend a period of four to twelve weeks in residence. This can be divided into several research trips, in consultation with YIVO staff.

List of fellowships:

- Fellowship in East European Studies
- Fellowship in Baltic Jewish Studies
- Fellowship in Polish Jewish Studies
- Fellowship in East European Literature
- Fellowship in East European Arts, Music and Theater
- Fellowship in American Jewish Studies

Fellowships in Eastern European Jewish Studies, which may be combined with the above fellowships or awarded separately:

- The Dina Abramowicz Emerging Scholar Fellowship
- The Workmen's Circle/Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting Professorship in Eastern European Jewish Studies

The fellowship application will require the following information in .pdf format:

- Cover letter
- CV
- 2-page project proposal, stating specifically which YIVO holdings are

most relevant to the applicant's project

- Two letters of recommendation

Announcements regarding awards for the academic year beginning September 2021 will be made in April 2021.

Deadline: **1 February 2021.**

For more information on each of the fellowships and to apply, visit <https://yivo.org/List-of-Fellowships>

Recent Books of Interest

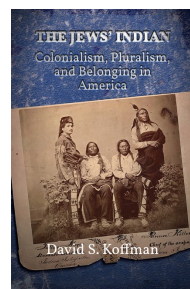
(Click any ISBN to purchase)



The Conflict over the Conflict: The Israel/Palestine Campus Debate/ by Kenneth S. Stern. Toronto University Press, 2020.
[9781487507367](https://www.torontouniversitypress.com/9781487507367)

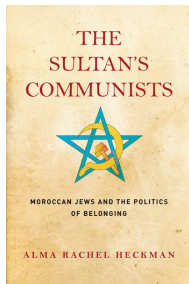
The Conflict over the Conflict chronicles one of the most divisive and toxic issues on today's college and university campuses: Israel/Palestine. Some pro-Palestinian students call supporters of Israel's right to exist racist, and disrupt their events. Some pro-Israel students label pro-Palestinian students terrorists, and the Jews among them traitors. Lawsuits are filed. Legislation is proposed. Faculty members are blacklisted and receive death threats. Academic freedom is compromised and the entire academic enterprise is threatened. How did we get here and what can be done?

In this passionate book, Kenneth S. Stern examines attempts from each side to censor the other at a time when some say students, rather than being challenged to wrestle with difficult issues and ideas, are being quarantined from them. He uniquely frames the examination: our ability to think rationally is inhibited when our identity is fiercely connected to an issue of perceived social justice or injustice, and our proclivity to see in-groups and out-groups – us versus them – is obvious. According to Stern, the campus is the best place to mine this conflict and our intense views about it to help future generations do what they are supposed to do: think. *The Conflict over the Conflict* shows how this is possible.



The Jews' Indian: Colonialism, Pluralism, and Belonging in America/ by David S. Koffman. Rutgers University Press, 2019.
[9781978800861](https://www.rutgersupress.edu/9781978800861)

The Jews' Indian investigates the history of American Jewish relationships with Native Americans, both in the realm of cultural imagination and in face-to-face encounters. These two groups' exchanges were numerous and diverse, proving at times harmonious when Jews' and Natives people's economic and social interests aligned, but discordant and fraught at other times. American Jews could be as exploitative of Native cultural, social, and political issues as other American settlers, and historian David Koffman argues that these interactions both unsettle and historicize the often triumphant consensus history of American Jewish life. Focusing on the ways Jewish class mobility and civic belonging were wrapped up in the dynamics of power and myth making that so severely impacted Native Americans, this book is provocative and timely, the first history to critically analyse Jewish participation in, and Jews' grappling with the legacies of Native American history and the colonial project upon which America rests.



The Sultan's Communists: Moroccan Jews and the Politics of Belonging/ by Alma Rachel Heckman. Stanford University Press, 2020. [9781503613805](#)

The Sultan's Communists uncovers the history of Jewish radical involvement in Morocco's national liberation project and examines how Moroccan Jews envisioned themselves participating as citizens in a newly-independent Morocco. Closely following the lives of five prominent Moroccan Jewish Communists (Léon René Sultan, Edmond Amran El Maleh, Abraham Serfaty, Simon Lévy, and Sion Assidon), Alma Rachel Heckman describes how Moroccan Communist Jews fit within the story of mass Jewish exodus from Morocco in the 1950s and '60s, and how they survived oppressive post-independence authoritarian rule under the Moroccan monarchy to ultimately become heroic emblems of state-sponsored Muslim-Jewish tolerance

The figures at the center of Heckman's narrative stood at the intersection of colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Zionism. The stories unfolded in a country that, upon independence from France and Spain in 1956, allied itself with the United States (and, more quietly, Israel) during the Cold War, while attempting to claim a place for itself within the fraught politics of the post-independence Arab world. *The Sultan's Communists* contributes to the growing literature on Jews in the modern Middle East and provides a new history of twentieth-century Jewish Morocco.



Rabbinic Tales of Destruction: Gender, Sex, and Disability in the Ruins of Jerusalem/ by Julie Watts Belser. Oxford University Press, 2020. [9780197536414](#)

In *Rabbinic Tales of Destruction*, Julia Watts Belser examines early Jewish accounts of the Roman conquest of Judea. Faced with stories of sexual violence, enslavement, forced prostitution, disability, and bodily risk, Belser argues, our readings of rabbinic narrative must wrestle with the brutal body costs of Roman imperial domination. She brings disability studies, feminist theory, and new materialist ecological thought to accounts of rabbinic catastrophe, revealing how rabbinic discourses of gender, sexuality, and the body are shaped in the shadow of empire.

Focusing on the Babylonian Talmud's longest sustained account of the destruction of the Temple, Belser reveals Bavli Gittin's distinctive sex and gender politics. While Palestinian tales frequently castigate the 'wayward woman' for sexual transgressions that imperil the nation, Bavli Gittin's stories do not portray women's sexuality as a cause of catastrophe. The Bavli's resistance to Rome makes a critical difference. While other rabbinic texts commonly inveigh against women's beauty as the cause of sexual sin, Bavli Gittin's tales express a strikingly egalitarian discourse that laments the vulnerability of the beautiful Jewish body before the conqueror.



Eternity Now: Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liady and Temporality/ by Wojciech Tworek. SUNY Press, 2019. [9781438475554](#)

The Habad movement, formed in eighteenth-century Belarus, has developed into one of the most influential streams of Hasidic Judaism. Drawing on both mystical sermons and legal writings of its founder, Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liady (1745–1812), *Eternity Now* provides the first account of the historiosophical dimensions of early Habad doctrine. Challenging the commonly held view that Shneur Zalman was primarily concerned with supratemporal transcendence, Wojciech Tworek reveals the importance of time and history in his teachings. Tworek argues that the worldly dimensions of Shneur Zalman’s thought were largely responsible for the rapid growth of Habad at the turn of the nineteenth century and fostered its transformation from an elitist circle into a mass movement. Tworek’s readings of Hebrew and Yiddish sources demonstrate the implications of these ideas not only for male scholars but also for non-scholars, Jewish women, and even non-Jews. Philosophical and kabbalistic thought joined together to form a model of religious experience attractive to a broad audience, laying an ideological foundation for the missionary messianism that was to become a hallmark of Habad in the twentieth century.

HOLOCAUST MEMORY
in ULTRAORTHODOX
SOCIETY in ISRAEL



Holocaust Memory in Ultraorthodox Society in Israel/ by Michael Shaul, translated by Lenn J. Schramm & Gail Wald. Indiana University Press, 2020. [9780253050816](#)

How did the Ultraorthodox (Haredi) community chart a new path for its future after it lost the core of its future leaders, teachers, and rabbis in the Holocaust? How did the revival of this group come into being in the new Zionist state of Israel?

In *Holocaust Memory in Ultraorthodox Society in Israel*, Michal Shaul highlights the special role that Holocaust survivors played as they rebuilt and consolidated Ultraorthodox society. Although many Haredi were initially theologically opposed to the creation of Israel, they have become a significant force in the contemporary life and politics of the country. Looking at personal and public experiences of Ultraorthodox survivors in the first years of emigration from liberated Europe and breaking down how their memories entered the public domain, Shaul documents how they were incorporated into the collective memories of the Ultraorthodox in Israel.

Holocaust Memory in Ultraorthodox Society in Israel offers a rare mix of empathy and scholarly rigor to understandings of the role that the community's collective memories and survivor mentality have played in creating Israel's national identity.

Photo Submission: Australian or Jewish-Australian Theme

This issue's photograph submission comes to us from Dr Anne Sarzin. Depicted are Dr Sarzin's father, aunt and uncle in an undated photograph from Deazeley Studios in Toowoomba, Queensland. Dr Sarzin's grandfather, Rev. Abraham Levy, a graduate of Jews College London, was appointed Minister of the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation in 1910. In 1913, Rev. Levy and his wife Fanny left Brisbane for South Africa, returning in 1923 when he again ministered to the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation.



As a way to add a little more colour to our rather bare newsletter, we invite AAJS members to submit images with an Australian or Jewish-Australian theme. These can be photographs you have taken, perhaps an old family photograph, or even an artwork created by you or a family member/friend (with permission, of course!).

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No 80

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 jonathan.kaplan@uts.edu.au