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Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of our AAJS newsletter!

First of all, the AAJS executive board would like to wish our members a belated *shana tova u'metuka*. We hope you have been able to enjoy the *chagim* with your loved ones despite the lockdown restrictions many of us in New South Wales and Victoria have been living through. May 5782 be a year of joy, security, productivity and, most of all, health for us all!

Thank you to all members who submitted proposals for our 2022 annual conference, which will take place at Deakin University, Melbourne, and online from 13–15 February. The conference will be convened by Associate Professor Steven Cooke (Deakin University), Dr Donna-Lee Frieze (Deakin University) and our own AAJS vice president VIC Dr Anna Hirsh (Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne). Our convenors are working tirelessly to put together an exciting program. Updates on the conference including acceptance of proposals will be shared in due course. In the meantime, AAJS members can revisit the recorded sessions from our 2021

conference via the [AAJS website](#). Access to the conference is restricted to registrants and AAJS Members, who will have received a password to access the recordings via email in August. If you did not renew your membership, you can gain access for a fee of \$25. Please contact AAJS Treasurer Marilynne Mill (mirimill75@gmail.com) to arrange access.

In this issue we share exciting news from AAJS members, including new publications as well public lectures and events (online). In light of the recent *chagim*, Dr Jana Vytrhlik, curator of the Rosenblum Jewish Museum at the Great Synagogue (Sydney) shares a story of Rosh Hashanah postcards in Australia during the early twentieth century.

Our member essay comes to us from AAJS vice president NSW, Dr Lynne Swarts, on the topic of Zionist artist Efraim Moses Lilien, the subject of her 2020 book, *Gender, Orientalism and the Jewish Nation: Women in the Work of Efraim Moses Lilien at the German Fin de Siècle*, recently re-published in paperback.

As usual, we share information on upcoming conferences, calls for papers, jobs and other opportunities in Jewish Studies and related fields, both here in Australia and abroad. We also include information about new books in Jewish Studies in topics including history, literature and Jewish thought. All books can be purchased from the publishers by clicking on the ISBN.

Finally, we kindly remind our readers to please get in touch with any news or announcements of interest, information on new publications, events and photos, or member essays for our Summer issue (December 2021).

On behalf of the AAJS board, we hope you enjoy this quarter's newsletter. Stay well and stay safe!

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan
University of Technology Sydney
Newsletter Editor

Meet your AAJS board

AAJS board 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.

President: Professor Ghalad Zuckermann
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New Article by Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland

Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland recently published a new article, 'The Impact of COVID-19: A Comparative Study of the Melbourne and Sydney Jewish Communities,' in *Contemporary Jewry* (2021).

ABSTRACT:

Compared to other parts of the Jewish world, Australia has handled the COVID-19 situation well, going into full lockdown early, with fewer deaths on a population basis. At the same time, there were significant differences in terms of the impact of the second wave of the pandemic in Melbourne and Sydney. This qualitative study examines how these two major Jewish centers, where 84% of the Jews in Australia reside, responded to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It will discuss the policies that were put in place to assist those in need, with a range of different activities, including Jewish schools, going on-line, leading to many more opportunities to access news and participate in learning sessions. This study will highlight the similarities and differences between the two centers in terms of their organizational structures, which developed out of different historical migration patterns, and how these impacted on the current responses to the pandemic. The Sydney Jewish community has a centralized system of fundraising, planning and management in contrast to Melbourne, where the challenging situation created the need for better coordination. This was spearheaded by Jewish Care Victoria, which subsequently argued for a more permanent system of coordinated fundraising, planning and management for Melbourne Jewry. This article, which examines these developments, is based on oral interviews, written communications, community and media commentary, as well as historical material. As the Melbourne-based editor of The Australian Jewish News, Zeddy Lawrence, commented, "the community did not decline but thrived," indicating

its "resourcefulness," but it remains to be seen if this has any long-term impact on the community structure of Melbourne Jewry.

AAJS members can access the article via <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12397-021-09391-1>

New Article by Associate Professor Ruth Balint and Dr Jan Láníček

AAJS members Associate Professor Ruth Balint (UNSW) and Dr Jan Láníček (UNSW), immediate past Vice President NSW, recently published an article in ABC Religion & Ethics that explores the misuse of Holocaust imagery and analogies in Australia during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The article, 'COVID-19, vaccines, and the ethics of the appropriation of Jewish persecution' can be viewed via

<https://www.abc.net.au/religion/covid-yellow-star-and-history-of-jewish-persecution/13539606?fbclid=IwAR1xtHCvevsowiMIRGixnkGvveFBOFTLS-E7WDCyj8NJjhPkIH47RIUSHY>

Prof. Zuckermann in New Book by Safran

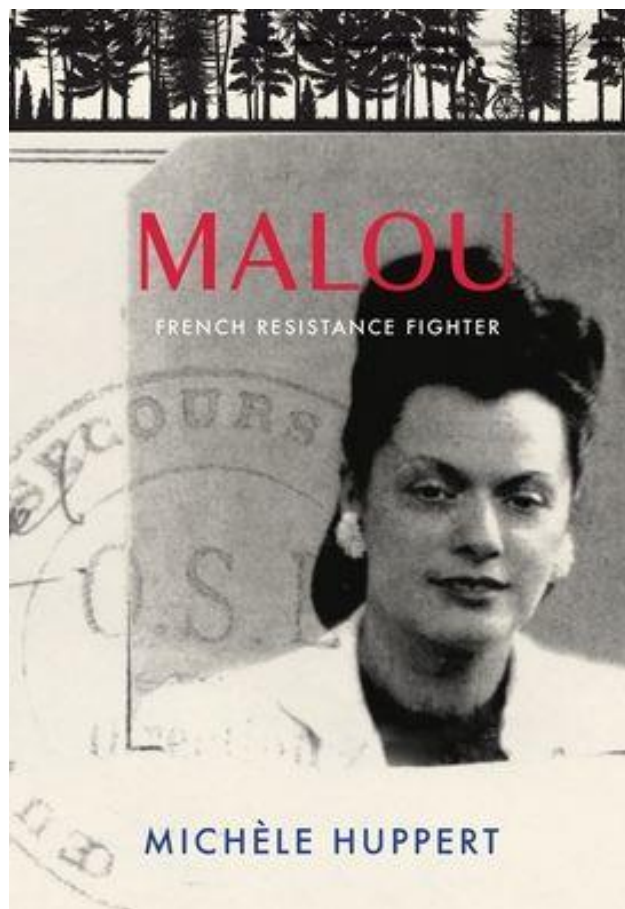
Australian comedian John Safran's recently published book, *Puff Piece*, exploring Big Tobacco and the vaping Industry, includes a humorous anecdote featuring AAJS President Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann. Our members can read an extract from Safran's new book in which Professor Zuckermann explains how the tobacco industry uses language to manipulate consumers, via:

<https://plus61j.net.au/editors-picks/a-cigarette-or-heatstick-how-phillip-morris-deceives-us-with-euphemisms/>

Malou: French Resistance Fighter – Book Launch

Michèle Huppert will be launching her book, *Malou, French Resistance Fighter*, on 27 October. This biography of her mother Ruth Kneppel Stein finally documents the heroic activities of a Viennese-born Jewish woman who joined the French Resistance. As her nom-de-guerre Malou, she undertook numerous precarious missions, occasionally with her young daughter Michele. After migrating to Melbourne, Ruth's wartime heroism was essentially unknown. I will be interviewing Michele to uncover the details of her mother's actions and motivations, as well as Michele's own recollections, plus guest speaker Dr Dvir Abramovich. Hosted by the Jewish Holocaust Centre, the event is free, but booking is essential. *Malou* is now available through various booksellers. Join us on Wednesday 27th October 2021, 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm AEDT

<https://jhc.org.au/event/book-launch-malou-french-resistance-fighter-by-michele-huppert/>



Dr Anna Hirsh

Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne

AAJS Vice President VIC

AAJS Executive to Deliver Lecturers at SJM

AAJS board members Dr Jan Láníček (UNSW) and Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan (UTS) will be speaking about their recent research at the Sydney Jewish Museum in November as part of the museum's lunchtime lecture series:

- **Wednesday 3 November:** 'Clothing and Narratives of Survival during the Shoah,' by Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan.
- **Wednesday 24 November:** 'The Holocaust as an Australian Story: Family networks between Australia and Europe during the Holocaust,' by Dr Jan Láníček.

For information on the lectures and to register visit the [SJM events page](#).

JHC Event: The Ivan Polyukhovich Trial

An online panel discussion focussing on the only Holocaust war crimes trial ever held in Australia on Thursday 21 October.

In 1990, Ivan Polyukhovich, then living in Adelaide, was accused of helping massacre nearly nine hundred men, women and children in Nazi-occupied Ukraine. ABC Radio Australia presenter David Bevan will moderate a discussion with retired Supreme Court Judges The Hon. Gregory James AM QC (prosecution) and The Hon. Michael David QC (defence) and Emeritus Professor Dr Konrad Kwiet.

Book via link below:

<https://jhc.org.au/.../on-trial-ivan-polyukhovich-the.../>

Belated Shana Tova 5782



Postcard L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu, 1880, Sydney. Collection The Great Synagogue, Sydney.

The turn of the nineteenth and twentieth century saw an explosion of the printed image, and of course, its commercial use followed. A postcard was the Facebook of the day, there was a morning post and there was an afternoon post, and couriers were crisscrossing Sydney with evening invitations. Among the printers who quickly took advantage of the popularity of colourful cards were Turner & Henderson, establishing their Sydney stationery printing business on 254-256 George Street.

Turner & Henderson's Australian flora cards featured never ending choice of bunches of our native flowers. Vivid and beautifully printed in a new chromolithographic technique, they were also educational. Each flower was identified by its Latin name, local vernacular and place of its main growth. On reflection, it was a smart move: you would probably look for those species fitting the address to please the recipient. Besides, the

bulk of the cards were printed without text, and overprinted according to the season, relevant greeting, and language.

It probably did not take long for the T & H executives to walk over to the nearby (then) new Great Synagogue on Elizabeth Street and make a deal. Since the flowers are universally pleasing motif and the Synagogue would likely provide the Hebrew text template, it was possible to overprint a regular Happy New Year card or a suitable blessing with *L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu*—as seen on the 1880 example from the Rosenblum Jewish Museum at The Great Synagogue in Sydney.

From the same museum collection comes the second Jewish New Year's postcard. Dating to the early twentieth century, it reflects the technology and ladies' fashion of the day, but not much of the first class comfort. Still, the international travel was on its rise from the 1930s and with it an invention of airmail started connecting Australia closer with the world. This card was printed in Germany for the US market and its growing Jewish population. Interestingly, printed on both sides only in Yiddish, it was probably sold in a strong Jewish neighbourhood where the tobacconist or stationery shop owner knew their Hebrew or Yiddish.

Visit [Curator's Corner #20](#) for more of the Judaica collection.

Dr Jana Vytrhlik
Curator, Rosenblum Jewish Museum
The Great Synagogue, Sydney



Postcard L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu, c. 1920, Germany-USA. Collection The Great Synagogue, Sydney.

AAJS member essay: 'A Woman on the Verge: Why Ephraim Moses Lilien's image of the fin-de-siècle Jewish woman retains a contemporary freshness more than a hundred years later' by Dr Lynne Swarts

Ephraim Moses Lilien—often called ‘the first Zionist artist’—was one of the most significant Jewish artists of the modern era. With little formal academic training, Lilien matured into a master printer, a prize-winning photographer, and a renowned illustrator, publishing three major illustrated books during his brief lifetime.

Born in 1874 in Drohobycz, then a part of the Austro-Hungarian empire, he befriended many of the celebrated Jewish intellectuals of the German-speaking world, including Stefan Zweig, Theodor Herzl, Martin Buber, and Chaim Weizmann.

Lilien became the darling of the German Jewish art world, playing an important role in the cultural Zionist art movement. He worked, albeit briefly, at the first Israeli national art school, Bezalel, in Jerusalem when it opened in 1906.

His iconic photograph of Theodor Herzl looking out over the river Rhine is better known for its emotional rhetoric than for the name of the artist who snapped the image.

Israeli and Jewish history buffs recognise the photograph of Herzl, the founder of political Zionism, who stands looking east toward a hopeful future for the state of the Jews. Yet most are unaware that Lilien accumulated a large following for his modernist black-and-white illustrations during the first decade *before* World War I.

Lilien and Zionism

Considering Lilien's place in Zionist visual culture, it is surprising and disappointing that his female representations have largely been ignored. Scholars focused on ways to historicise Lilien's prophetic constructions of the powerful and muscular ‘new male Jew’ who formed a major part

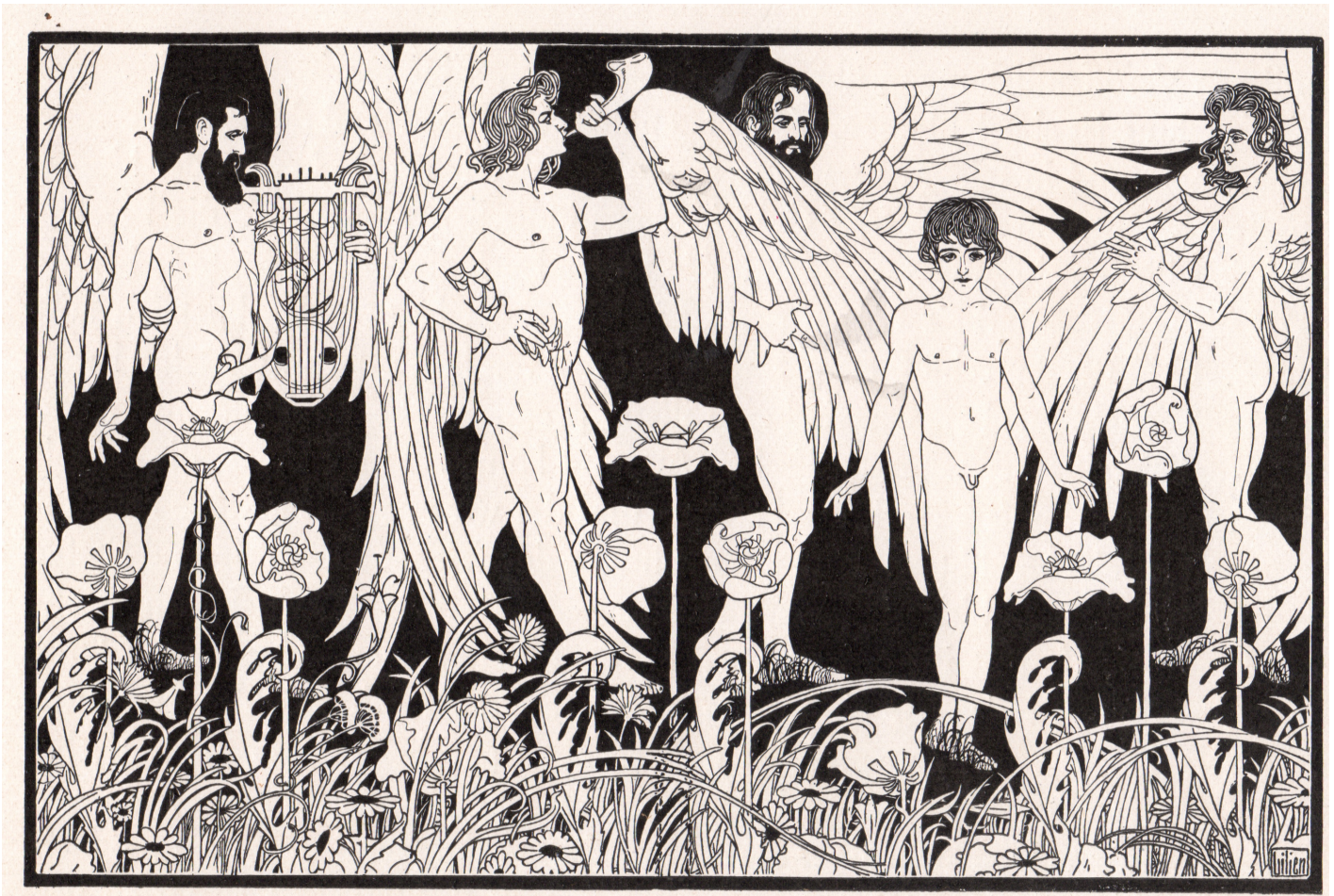


E.M. Lilien, Photograph of Herzl, balcony of the Three Kings Hotel, Basel, Switzerland, c. 1896.

of early Zionist debates on nationalism, politics, emancipation, and the Jewish body.

To this day, Lilien's prophetic construction of the ‘muscular Jew’ continues to reverberate in the Israeli psyche, and appears on stamps, book covers, and Haggadot throughout the Jewish world.

In 2014, more than 114 years after he first came to the attention of those early central European Zionists, the Israeli art collective Broken Fingaz created a homage to his art on the side of a three-story building in the former historic Jewish quarter in Kazimierz, Kraków, where Lilien attended art school.



Lilien and Women

Some observers of Lilien's early female illustrations such as *My Fair Young lady*, *May I Dare*, created in 1896, believed they were evidence of the artist's unlimited penchant for scenes of naked young women with flowing hair about to be sexually ravished.

The risqué humour makes light of his complicity with the masculine values of the period, as if teasing his male audience in an erotic, private game. *My Fair Young Lady* was created for the fledgling *Jugendstil* magazine *Jugend*. Lilien created many similar *femmes fatales* for other journals and individually commissioned, hand-drawn bookplates.

More than a decade later, in 1909, Lilien produced a vastly different image of a Jewish woman. *In My Garden is my Betrothed* formed part of a trilogy of drawings for what was, paradoxically, the most sensual book of the Hebrew Bible, the *Song of Songs*.

Above: E.M. Lilien, *Lilien, The Creation of Man*, 1903.
Below: L. Swartz, Photograph of mural in Kazimierz by Broken Fingaz Collective, Poland, 2014.





E.M. Lilien, *In My Garden is My Betrothed*, 1909.

Aware of the male gaze, the woman in *My Garden* challenges late-19th-century sexual stereotypes that demanded subservience to her male partner.

Lilien's representation personified the social and political possibilities of equality with men, a woman in charge of her own libido, and a woman on the verge of political, social, and sexual emancipation—sexually alluring, freethinking, and independent. The illustration was part of a three-volume set of images for *The Books of the Bible* (1909–1912).

As a young man, Lilien went to art school for a year or so before moving to Munich. He arrived at an opportune moment. He worked for *Jugend* magazine as an illustrator and photographer in 1896, the year the magazine began. Named for the young rebels showcased in the magazine, *Jugendstil* became a household name.

During these years Lilien created several non-Jewish *femme fatales*. With naked bodies perfectly positioned for the stares of lecherous men, Lilien's illustrations hardly differed from other male avant-garde artists working at the time.

Lilien moved to Berlin in 1899, just as the city supplanted Munich as the centre of the German art world. He collaborated with Börries von Münchhausen, a fascinating *fin-de-siècle* character who would later become a Nazi supporter and take his own life at the end of the war.

Together, the men shared an interest in German Romantic poetry, and collaborated on a book titled *Juda* (c. 1900); Lilien created the illustrations and Münchhausen composed a series of Hebrew ballads. The book became an overnight sensation. In one well-known illustration, *The Silent Song*, Lilien fashioned a modern and Jewish artistic style, for a different audience.

Juda, handsome and looking a little like Herzl, kisses his female, and possibly, Jewish lover.



E.M. Lilien, *The Silent Song*, c. 1900.

Lilien's use of Herzl's face as a prototype for the construction of positive Jewish male imagery signalled the rising popularity of the political Zionist doctrine that conceived of a new race of Jewish people to counter the growing antisemitic projections about the Jewish body.

Herzl fascinated Lilien. And it was Lilien, often supplementing his income by taking photographs, who snapped that iconic image of his hero attending an early Zionist congress.

In contrast to Juda, his lover is half-naked. Lilien's female partner for the 'new male Hebrew' has much in common with the provocative *femme fatale* of his earlier illustrations.

Acculturated German Jews such as Buber and his colleagues in the cultural Zionist movement praised Juda for its depiction of ancient Jewish male heroes. Yet Lilien's depiction of a Jewish woman as wanton and submissive was passed over in silence.

Following his commercial success with *Juda*, Lilien embarked on his *Bibelplan*—an illustrated German Bible with Jewish and Christian editions. For the first time in modern Jewish and European art history, the Hebrew Bible was fully illustrated by one of its very own.

Lilien used the opportunity to create heroic men and heroic women. His courageous Jewish heroines, such as Esther, Ruth and Miriam, became positive representations of a new Jewish woman, an equal partner to his new male Jew.

The most striking of all the images he created for his *Bibelplan* was *My Garden*. The dark-eyed beauty looks as if she is about to reach a sexual climax. Her dark hair streams in front of her like the dense and heavy overhanging pomegranate branch above her head.

Clearly Jewish, she wears a striped ancient tribal costume. With minimal use of line, Lilien portrays a young Jewish girl on the brink of ecstasy. The drawing was revolutionary. Lilien portrayed the Jewish woman as an active participant in sensual and sexual pleasure.

At that moment in time, no other images of Jewish women expressing sexual pleasure existed. Neither *femme fatale* nor biblical heroine, Lilien depicts a modern Jewish woman who defies easy categorisation.

He searched for an 'authentic' Jewish identity that would help overcome how non-Jewish Germans perceived him and his fellow Jews; not quite white and not quite German. His portrayals of Orientalised Jewish women form part of *that* search for identity, roots, and meaning.

Reprinted from *Plus 61J*, August 24, 2021. Available at <https://plus61j.net.au/jewish-world/the-fin-de-siecle-zionist-artist-who-put-women-in-charge-of-their-own-libido/>

Gender, Orientalism and the Jewish Nation: Women in the work of Ephraim Moses Lilien at the German Fin de Siècle (Bloomsbury \$49.25). Available at <http://booktopia.kh4ffx.net/e4ReWz>

Vacancies in Jewish studies and related fields

Senior Lecturer in History, Faculty of Arts – School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne

About the Faculty of Arts - School of Historical and Philosophical Studies

The School of Historical and Philosophical Studies was formed in 2011 comprising the programs of History, History and Philosophy of Science, Philosophy, Classics and Archaeology, and the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation and The Program in Jewish Culture and Society.

The School further explores multi-disciplinary perspectives on ancient Graeco-Roman, Aegean and Near Eastern civilisations including ancient languages. Our Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation investigates new areas and innovative practices in instrumentation and analysis, policy and programs in the area of the preservation of cultural materials

About the Role

The Faculty welcomes applications from History Specialists to fill the role of Senior Lecturer in History and to complement its strengths and support its teaching and research objectives. The successful applicant will be expected to teach, research, supervise and administer at a level commensurate with a Level C Senior Lecturer.

The successful applicant will be responsible for teaching to a high standard at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and developing new subjects as appropriate. Supervision of research higher degree (MA and PhD) students is also a requirement.

About You

The applicant must have demonstrated research and teaching expertise covering Early Modern European History and Culture, the History of Sexuality, and the French Revolution. The applicant must have a record of high level research performance through the steady production of

refereed publications. The successful applicant will also be able to demonstrate significant grant-winning potential in these fields.

Application Deadline: **21 Oct 2021 11:55 PM AUS Eastern Daylight Time**

For further information on position and how to apply visit

<https://jobs.unimelb.edu.au/caw/en/job/906473/senior-lecturer-in-history>

Lecturer in Philosophy, School of Philosophy, Monash University

The School of Philosophy wants to equip its students to discuss difficult, profound and important questions about the world, other people and ourselves. We are currently recruiting for a Lecturer to join our team, to continue our work towards excellence across this area.

The successful applicant will contribute to teaching, research, and graduate supervision in the Philosophy Department. The successful candidate will teach and research in Ethics and/or Political Philosophy more broadly, and experience in these areas will be favourably considered.

The successful candidate will have a strong record of accomplishment and potential for high-quality research in Ethics and/or Political Philosophy, and will be contributing to the research activities in the department. The candidate will contribute to administrative service, commensurate with expertise and experience, within the Department and/or School.

This role is a full-time position; however, flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

If you believe you fit this profile, we look forward to receiving your application.

For inquiries please contact Professor Christina Twomey, Head of School, School of Philosophical, Historical & International Studies, Christina.Twomey@monash.edu

Deadline: **Tuesday 19 October 2021, 11:55pm AEDT**

For additional information and to apply, visit <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/cw/en/job/618650/lecturer-philosophy>

Assistant Professor in Religions of Western Antiquity, Florida State University

Florida State University, Department of Religion invites applications for a full-time, 9-month tenure track Assistant Professor in Religions of Western Antiquity to begin on August 8th, 2022. Specialization is open. Preference is for expertise in areas that will broaden the historical and thematic strengths of the program. Applicants must show evidence of an independent program of scholarly research yielding significant peer-reviewed publications, and must show promise of a strong teaching contribution in the context of a comprehensive religious studies program (B.A. through Ph.D.). The successful candidate will be expected to have the Ph.D. in hand by August 8th, 2022.

We especially welcome applications from women, members of underrepresented groups, and scholars committed to antiracist pedagogies and forms of analysis that address race, gender, and social location.

For more information about our department and programs, please visit <http://religion.fsu.edu>.

For full consideration, applicants should submit a cover letter, curriculum vitae and supporting materials (transcripts, course outlines, and samples of written work) as one pdf at: <http://jobs.fsu.edu> job ad 49912 by **October 18, 2021**.

This position requires that you have three confidential professional letters of recommendation submitted on your behalf.

Directions for this process are detailed in the FSU job ad 49912. Questions may be sent to REL-Search@fsu.edu.

The Florida State University is An Equal Opportunity/Access/Affirmative Action/Pro Disabled & Veteran Employer.

Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies, Colgate University (New York)

The Jewish Studies program of Colgate University invites applications for a tenure-stream position in Jewish History at the rank of Assistant Professor, beginning fall semester 2022.

Completion of the Ph.D. is expected prior to the date of hire or shortly thereafter. The current Jewish Studies program has strengths in philosophy, Biblical studies, and contemporary Jewish literature; we are seeking a historian with new areas of expertise. Ability to contribute to Colgate's many and varied interdisciplinary programs is desirable.

The successful candidate should be able to offer a survey of Jewish History (a two-semester sequence), and will be expected to teach in Colgate's Liberal Arts Core Curriculum, in addition to courses in the candidate's area of expertise.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, CV, three letters of recommendation, and a writing sample. Colgate strives to be a community supportive of diverse perspectives and identities. Candidates should describe in their cover letter their approach to teaching and/or scholarship in a diverse and inclusive educational environment. All application materials must be submitted through <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/19710>.

Review of applications will begin on **November 1, 2021** and will continue until the position is filled. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed by Zoom in November.

Colgate is a liberal arts university of 3200 students situated in central New York state. Colgate faculty are committed to excellence in both teaching and scholarship. Further information about the Jewish Studies Program can be found at <https://www.colgate.edu/academics/departments-programs/jewish-studies-program>.

Research Associate, Fixed-term, Department of History, Michigan State University

The College of Social Science (CSS) seeks Research Associates that will participate in a CSS Dean's Research Associate Development Institute, with the goal of possibly transitioning into tenure-system positions at Michigan State University. Michigan State University actively promotes a dynamic research and learning environment in which qualified individuals of differing perspectives and cultural backgrounds pursue academic goals with mutual respect and shared inquiry.

The College of Social Science (SSC) Dean's Research Associate Program at Michigan State University was established in 2018, as a major College initiative aimed at promoting an inclusive scholarly environment in which outstanding scholars in the social sciences support the advancement of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the academy. The Dean's Research Associates will have a minimal teaching load, will be mentored and supported, and will participate in a SSC Dean's Research Associate Development Institute, with the goal of possibly transitioning them into tenure-system positions at Michigan State University.

Appointments will be made to applicants who show promise for tenure-track positions in Michigan State University's College of Social

Science in accordance with MSU academic hiring process. Each appointment is for a minimum of 9 months, renewable for an additional year, contingent upon a demonstration of meeting the performance expectation in research and teaching, with an emphasis on demonstrated research productivity. The selected candidate will receive a salary that is comparable to that of a starting Assistant Professor in the Research Associate's discipline, plus benefits, and a budget for research and travel. Transitioning into a tenure-track faculty position at Michigan State University will require a series of structured, merit-based evaluations, which will include substantial peer input. MSU's academic hiring process will be followed in appointing the candidates that advance into the tenure-track.

Applicants who will have a Ph.D. in hand from an accredited university by September 2022, and no earlier than May 2019, with degrees and research interests in areas covered by the College's Departments and Schools.

To apply, submit application materials online through careers.msu.edu and electronically attach the following:

- 3 page statement addressing how your research, teaching, and service, contribute to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- curriculum vitae
- academic research paper
- 3 page research proposal outlining research interests and plans for the fellowship year(s)
- ½ page statement describing your teaching philosophy, and the course(s) you could teach during the fellowship period
- three letters of reference which should address your potential for employment as a faculty member at MSU.

Review of applications begins on **October 15, 2021**.

Contact: <https://careers.msu.edu/en-us/job/507924/research-associatefixed-term>

Upcoming conferences & calls for papers

CfP – Musings: SJM Occasional Papers is the Sydney Jewish Museum’s peer-reviewed research publication

Musings: SJM Occasional Papers is a cross-disciplinary scholarly and educational publication that promotes research into all topics relevant to the Sydney Jewish Museum’s exhibitions, collection and programming including: the Holocaust, Human Rights, Jewish culture as well as Holocaust memorialisation, Civics and Citizenship education and Museum Studies. It publishes articles on these subjects both to increase knowledge of these topics and to improve and share expertise in educating about these difficult pasts.

Editors

Dr Avril Alba, The University of Sydney
Dr Breann Fallon, The Sydney Jewish Museum

Musings welcomes empirical and more theoretical pieces on Holocaust history, genocide history, Holocaust education, Holocaust representation, Australian Jewish History and related topics. While the publication aims to profile Australian-focussed research, it remains open to a broad array of contributions on relevant themes. Cross-disciplinary in its approach, *Musings* is open to all relevant scholarly methods and disciplines. For our first edition, we are issuing an open call for papers on any of these topics. Themed and special editions will be scheduled for further editions.

All submitted articles undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and anonymized refereeing by at least two external scholars.

Articles for the first issue of *Musings* should be submitted by **1 November 2021**.

For enquiries please contact the editors at research@sjm.com.au

For author guidelines and to submit papers, please visit

<https://sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/musings-sjm-occasional-papers/>

CfP – ‘Minorities, gender, and contested urban spaces, 1750-1950,’ Online Symposia, 8 April 2022

The last decades have seen a growing number of studies proving that the modern metropolis did not function as a ‘melting pot’, encouraging assimilation and homogeneity among its disparate inhabitants. Instead, the city provided a spatial grid that revitalised ethnic and religious diversity. Pushed and pulled towards urban amalgamations around the globe, migrants established a variety of spaces linked to worship, education, community, and culture in their new homelands. Naturally, developments in technology, infrastructure and welfare changed cities between 1750 and 1950, but the spatial inscription of diverse migrant cultures simultaneously transformed the urban fabric and evoked new urban meanings. Consequently, urban spaces became sites for contestations about migration groups’ belonging, visibility and role in the ‘delight’ (Walter Benjamin) and ‘danger’ (Lewis Mumford) that defined the modern city.

How were the processes of constructing and contesting belonging in modern urban settings experienced and shaped by minorities (particularly those predicated on gendered power dynamics for example women, transgender, non-binary, and queer people) within migration groups? As we know, gendered experiences are diverse: while department store spaces were created to encourage white European bourgeois women to explore the streetscape, and *flaneuses* and female philanthropists defined their surroundings through literary and physical spaces, poorer and non-white women, and those who did not conform to gendered expectations,

experienced that same urban space in very different ways. In an urban landscape which was often planned by, and constructed to fit, male inhabitants, inhabitants who did not conform to those gendered, physical, class, and national expectations shaped their own worlds. These people were often subject to double, or even triple, layers of marginalisation: as migrants, as gendered minorities, and by their class.

Using transnational and cross-disciplinary frameworks, this symposium—and subsequent special issue—asks how researchers can understand and conceptualise gendered, migrant and minority urban experiences. Understanding space as both located in the physical urban grid and as a collection of practices, experiences and meanings, this symposium aims to connect studies on urban space, gender and minorities from across the ‘modern’ era and across the world. We believe that such a cross-fertilisation can inform understandings of gendered marginalisation, as well as advocacy and agency among doubly marginalised groups, in times of global urban transformations. We ask which urban spaces were within the reach of gendered minorities, and what limitations did they come across as they settled in new urban environments. What forces did gendered minorities encounter within both their ethnic or religious minority groups and larger society? How did these people wield their agency, contest their place in, and shape, the modern city? And how can we as historians find their voices, and extrapolate the roles of gender, ethnicity and religion in experiencing and shaping the modern city?

We welcome papers from postgraduates, early career scholars, and established researchers that explore intersections of gender, minorities and urban space across different geographical, temporal, and cultural contexts from topics related, but not limited, to:

- Jewish relations to other urban minorities
- Jewish ethnic and gender minorities
- Influences on the built or material environment
- Fundraising and committee organising

- Activism
- Cooperation between different migrant/minority groups
- Shifting uses of religious/secular spaces
- Relationship between private and public spaces
- Economic practices
- Performative culture

To apply for the symposium, please send an abstract of 250 words, together with a short biography, to Sophie Cooper (s.cooper@qub.ac.uk) and Maja Hultman (maja.hultman@gu.se) by **December 1, 2021**. Accepted participants will be notified by the end of December.

Selected papers will be published in a special journal issue. If any questions should arise, please contact the organisers.

Organisers: Dr Sophie Cooper, Queen’s University Belfast; Dr Maja Hultman, University of Gothenburg

CfP – 70 Years of Holocaust Compensation and Restitution International Conference, Tel Aviv University, 14–16 November 2022

The Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center at Tel Aviv University, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, and Yad Vashem are organizing an international conference to mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Luxembourg Agreement, in cooperation with a number of additional institutions.

The conference will take place next year at Tel Aviv University on November 14–16, 2022.

We are pleased to invite scholars who wish to present their research to submit proposals to the steering committee by **October 31, 2021**. Kindly view the official [Call for Papers](#) for further details.

In addition, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will provide five fellowships of \$5,000 each to outstanding doctoral and post-doctoral scholars whose research deals with topics relating to the agreement. Scholars who wish to submit proposals to the steering committee are invited to read the full requirements and conditions in the [Call for Applications for Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships](#) and submit their proposals by **October 31, 2021**.

Please contact us with any further questions and requests at adip@tauex.tau.ac.il

Our partners at the Leo Baeck Institute, the Jacob Robinson Institute for the History of Individual and Collective Rights, and the Minerva Center for Human Rights will also hold a one-day symposium on Global Aspects of the Luxembourg Agreement. The event will take place on November 17, 2022 at the Hebrew University. They also plan to establish a research group that will hold monthly online seminars on the topic.

CfP – Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, University of Oklahoma, 27–28 March 2022 (hybrid)

Call for paper and panel proposals on all areas of Jewish Studies regardless of discipline, geographical focus, or time period. The WJSA usually includes panels about Jews in the American West, pedagogical aspects in Jewish Studies, and contemporary Jewish issues. It welcomes panels devoted to the major anniversaries of events in Jewish history or important Jewish individuals in 2022. For example:

- 1972: Ordination of First American Female Rabbi; Munich Olympic Games Massacre
- 1947: United Nations Partition Vote Creating Israel
- 1942: Wannsee Conference
- 1922: Death of Eliezer Ben Yehuda
- 1897: Founding Congress of the World Zionist Organization

- 1822: Publication of *Zeitschrift für die Wissenschaft des Judentums*
- 1772: Birth of Nachman of Breslov
- 1572: Death of Isaac Luria

Paper proposals should be no longer than one double-spaced typed page and should be submitted with a short CV that contains contact information. The submission of panels on a common topic is encouraged. Organizers of panels should submit a cover sheet with the title of the panel and the titles of each of the papers and contact information for each presenter, followed by the individual paper proposals and brief CVs. Scholars of Jewish Studies including graduate students are invited to submit proposals for papers/presentations/workshops. A limited number of partial travel stipends are available for graduate students and overseas scholars who will be presenting papers. Individuals wishing to chair a session should submit their CV.

Although it is planning for a predominantly in-person conference, the WJSA will feature virtual panels. If you want to present virtually, you are encouraged to form a panel with other likeminded presenters. Individual virtual proposals will only be accepted if a thematically coherent virtual panel can be formed or if the COVID situation necessitates the holding of the conference virtually.

Proposals should be emailed to Lawrence Baron at lbaron@sdsu.edu

The deadline for submission of proposals is **November 15, 2021**.

CfP – The Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies 2022 Conference, ‘Reception and Emotion,’ University of Western Australia, 27 June – 1 July 2022

The committee welcomes all approaches to topics related to ‘reception and emotion’ broadly conceived (and conceived either together or separately: i.e., on reception and emotion, or on

either reception or emotion), including but not limited to: trans-cultural, trans-temporal, trans-disciplinary, translation, global studies, creative misreadings, theatrical and literary revivals, forgeries, homages, cultural counter-strikes, regimes of periodisation, etc. We welcome proposals considering the usefulness or otherwise of reception history as a methodology: is 'transformation' more helpful than 'reception', for example, for appreciating the active role of the audience of a text, play, or idea?

Work on emotions can be similarly broad, covering, e.g., what's evidenced from the 'receivers' and from the 'received' (thinking of work, for example, on how Indigenous people have received missionaries and their doctrines; how medievalists have reacted and acted in relation to the worrying associations of their discipline; even how humanities scholars feel about their reception in contemporary political circles; Jan Plamper's suggestion that historians should keep 'field diaries' about their personal response to work in the archives; are there 'objective' studies?). What's been the value and downside of the 'emotional turn' in humanities studies? How do we as scholars of the past deal with presentist notions of 'relevance', and need we consider past scholarship as 'outdated? How can we marry approaches from humanities and life sciences in 'emotions history'?

The conference committee invites proposals for 20-minute papers, 90-minute themed panels (of no more than 4 speakers) or workshops. Paper topics may include, but are not limited to:

- The reception of ideas about emotion in medieval/early modern texts
- Reception and transformation of ideologies across time and space
- The emotions of an audience in the reception of a play or sermon
- The emotional impact of a text on a reader
- Rituals and practices of receiving guests and dignitaries (and their emotional effects?)
- The reception of the past: medievalism and early-modernism

- The reception of bodies / emotions and bodies / embodiment
- Reception / emotion and sexuality
- Reception / emotion and race
- Reception / emotion and gender
- Reception / emotion and music / art

Proposals for 20-minute conference papers should consist of:

1. A title;
2. An abstract (max. 200 words);
3. A short biography (max. 50 words).

The conference committee welcomes themed panel or workshop session proposals for the conference. Proposals should consist of:

1. Panel/Workshop Title;
2. Proposed Chair (if available);
3. Details of each presenter and paper as described above.

NB: Workshops will be allotted 90 minutes, 30 of which should be reserved for general discussion. We suggest a maximum of 6 speakers.

Submissions should be emailed (as a Word document attachment) to anzamems2021@gmail.com.

Deadline for submissions: **Friday 12 November 2021.**

For more information visit <https://www.anzamems2021.com/call-for-papers>

Grants and other opportunities

Postdoc – Research Fellow in Law: Human Rights, University of New South Wales, Sydney

UNSW Law & Justice includes more than 100 academics, many of whom are leaders in their areas of research interest. Our research is

organised around a range of centres and disciplinary clusters. The Faculty's research ranges from traditional doctrinal study to interdisciplinary, empirical and theoretical work. A common theme is the engagement with law outside the University, through policy and law reform and collaboration with practitioners of all kinds. UNSW Law & Justice is supported by 60 professional and technical staff who provide management and support in teaching, research, finance and student administration. The Fellow will be working within the [Australian Human Rights Institute](#). The Institute is focused on delivering interdisciplinary applied research that empowers communities and educates the next generation of human rights leaders.

Skills and Experience:

- A postgraduate qualification in law.
- Exposure to business and human rights and modern slavery research with demonstrated ability in completing literature searches and collating information for reports.
- Evidence of research output including publications, conference contributions and/or technical reports in the field.
- Ability to maintain a sound governance framework for research activities and ensure appropriate ethics approval, reporting and documentation of research outcomes.
- Demonstrated ability to undertake independent research and to devise and execute a research plan that aligns with the duration of the Fellowship.
- Strong organisational and project management skills including the capacity to coordinate the day-to-day aspects of a research project and the ability to meet deadlines.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills with the ability to write for both legal and non-legal audiences.
- Demonstrated capacity to collaborate with academics, legal practitioners and others and build and maintain effective relationships.
- Demonstrated ability to work independently as well as work effectively as a member of a team.

- An understanding of and commitment to UNSW's aims, objectives and values in action, together with relevant policies and guidelines.
- Knowledge of health and safety responsibilities and commitment to attending relevant health and safety training

Additional details about the specific responsibilities for these positions can be found in the position description.

To Apply: Please click the apply now button and submit your CV, Cover Letter and Responses to the Skills and Experience. Please note applications will not be accepted if sent to the contact listed below.

Contact (For job related queries only):

Professor Justine Nolan –
justine.nolan@unsw.edu.au

Deadline: **Monday 11 October 2021, AUS Eastern Daylight Time**

For further position information, visit <https://external-careers.jobs.unsw.edu.au/en/job/503099/research-fellow-in-law-human-rights>

Two-year Postdoctoral Position in Urban and Environmental History or Palestine/Israel Spatial History, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology

The Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning under the direction of Dr. Shira Wilkof (Landscape Architecture track) is offering a post-doctoral fellowship for a period of up to two years for scholars in the historical fields of design and the built environment; environmental history; Palestine/Israel Studies; and related disciplines, beginning Fall 2022. Scholars who have received their Ph.D. no later than August 31, 2022 are eligible to apply.

Research topics include, but are not limited to:

- Intersections between modern environmentalism and the history of the built environment (urban, town planning, landscape, and architecture)
- Transnational history of the built environment and its disciplines, with an emphasis on global North-South exchange
- History of the built environment or environmental history of modern Palestine/Israel, with an emphasis on marginalized groups or places, or on unexplored historical episodes

Submission Criteria:

- Proven academic excellence
- Training in history or the built environment disciplines
- Research experience in a diverse range of archives; experience in locating materials in non-conventional settings is an advantage
- Experience in interdisciplinary research and skills in Arabic, Hebrew or a non-English language is an advantage

To apply please submit the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae.
- Letter of interest describing previous experience (including archival work) and interest in the position (maximum 2 pages).
- Writing sample of at least 10 pages: dissertation chapter, article, or conference paper.
- Names and contact details of at least two referees.

Salary and benefits are competitive and consistent with the policy of the Technion and applicant's experience. The successful candidate will support collaborative research with Dr. Wilkof (50%) and conduct her/his own research project (50%). Applicants will be notified in mid-November and short-listed candidates will be asked to provide a research proposal by mid-December. Deadline: **31 October 2021**

For further inquiries, please contact Dr. Shira Wilkof at shirawi@technion.ac.il

2022 Fellowships at the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, Munich

The Center for Holocaust Studies at the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History will be offering grants for research stays at the Center in Munich during 2022.

The fellowships are designed to support and foster international Holocaust research. The program is aimed at established as well as younger researchers. As we are interested in a high degree of international cooperation, applications from Germany, Europe as well as from all over the world are welcome. A topic within the field of Holocaust Studies is required in order to be eligible for one of the fellowships.

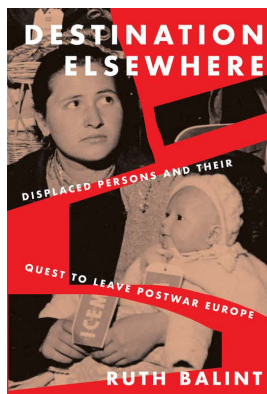
Applicants should explain their interest in a stay at the Center and make clear, which holdings of the Archives of the Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History and potentially other German archives are relevant to them. The fellows are expected to partake actively in the events and research discussions of the Center as well as present their own topic there. Applications—in German or English—have to reach the Zentrum für Holocaust-Studien am Institut für Zeitgeschichte by **25 October 2021** and contain the following materials:

- a filled out application form (in English or German)
- a motivational letter
- a project proposal (max. 5 pages)
- a curriculum vitae with publication list
- two letters of recommendation

Queries and applications (preferably by email) should be sent to Gilles Bennett – fellows@ifz-muenchen.de

For more information, visit https://www.ifz-muenchen.de/en/center-for-holocaust-studies/fellowships/current-calls-for-fellowships-at-the-center-for-holocaust-studies/?fbclid=IwAR1rjhcuBqwWzt_JZT3uRnpGBZkSaTw_p8aTgKNhRPZnW6lh3CgmSSBiXX4o

Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)

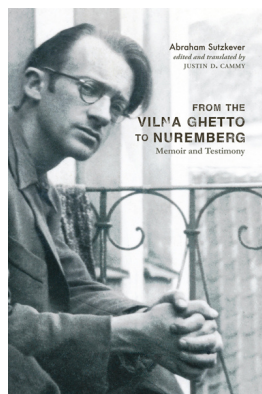


Destination Elsewhere: Displaced Persons and Their Quest to Leave Postwar Europe/ by Ruth Balint. Cornell University Press, 2021.

[9781501760211](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2021-001)

In this unique ‘history from below,’ *Destination Elsewhere* chronicles encounters between displaced persons in Europe and the Allied agencies who were tasked with caring for them after the Second World War. The struggle to define who was a displaced person and who was not was a subject of intense debate and deliberation among humanitarians, international law experts, immigration planners, and governments. What has not adequately been recognized is that displaced persons also actively participated in this emerging refugee conversation. Displaced persons endured war, displacement, and resettlement, but these experiences were not defined by passivity and speechlessness. Instead, they spoke back, creating a dialogue that in turn helped shape the modern idea of the refugee.

As Ruth Balint shows, what made a good or convincing story at the time tells us much about the circulation of ideas about the war, the Holocaust, and the Jews. Those stories depict the emerging moral and legal distinction between economic migrants and political refugees. They tell us about the experiences of women and children in the face of new psychological and political interventions into the family. Stories from displaced persons also tell us something about the enduring myth of the new world for people who longed to leave the old.

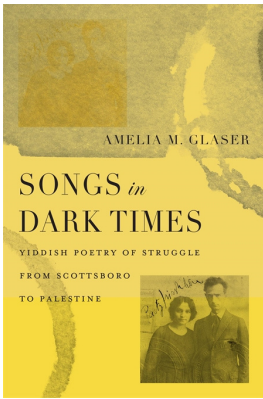


From the Vilna Ghetto to Nuremberg: Memoir and Testimony/ by Abraham Sutzkever, trans. Justin D. Cammy. McGill University Press, 2021.

[9780228008996](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2021-001)

Based on his own experiences, his conversations with survivors, and his consultation with materials hidden in the ghetto and recovered after the liberation of his hometown, Abraham Sutzkever’s memoir rests at the intersection of postwar Holocaust literature and history. He grappled with the responsibility to produce a document that would indict the perpetrators and provide an account of both the horrors and the resilience of Jewish life under Nazi rule. Justin Cammy bases his translation on the two extant versions of the full text of the memoir and includes Sutzkever’s diary notes and full testimony at the Nuremberg Trials in 1946. Fascinating reminiscences of leading Soviet Yiddish cultural figures Sutzkever encountered during his time in Moscow—Ehrenburg, Yiddish modernist poet Peretz Markish, and director of the State Yiddish Theatre Shloyme Mikhoels—reveal the constraints of the political environment in which the memoir was composed.

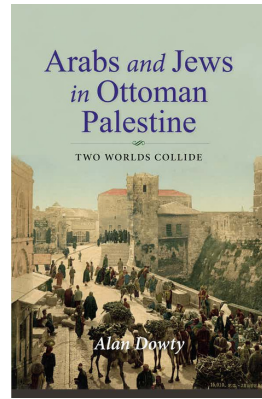
Both shocking and moving in its intensity, *From the Vilna Ghetto to Nuremberg* returns readers to a moment when the scale of the Holocaust was first coming into focus, through the eyes of one survivor who attempted to make sense of daily life, resistance, and death in the ghetto.



Songs in Dark Times: Yiddish Poetry of Struggle from Scottsboro to Palestine/ by Amelia M. Glaser. Harvard University Press, 2021.

[9780674248458](#)

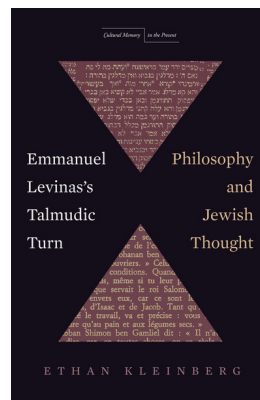
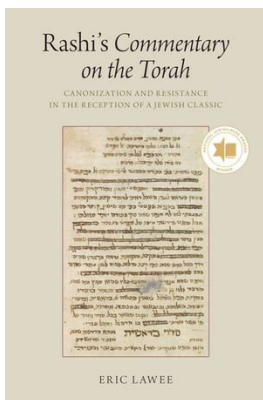
The long 1930s, Amelia M. Glaser proposes, gave rise to a genre of internationalist modernism in which tropes of national collective memory were rewritten as the shared experiences of many national groups. The utopian Jews of *Songs in Dark Times* effectively globalized the pogroms in a bold and sometimes fraught literary move that asserted continuity with anti-Arab violence and black lynching. As communists and fellow travelers, the writers also sought to integrate particular experiences of suffering into a borderless narrative of class struggle. Glaser resurrects their poems from the pages of forgotten Yiddish communist periodicals, particularly the New York-based *Morgn Frayhayt* (*Morning Freedom*) and the Soviet literary journal *Royte Velt* (*Red World*). Alongside compelling analysis, Glaser includes her own translations of ten poems previously unavailable in English, including Malka Lee's 'God's Black Lamb,' Moyshe Nadir's 'Closer,' and Esther Shumiatsher's 'At the Border of China.' These poets dreamed of a moment when 'we' could mean 'we workers' rather than 'we Jews.' *Songs in Dark Times* takes on the beauty and difficulty of that dream, in the minds of Yiddish writers who sought to heal the world by translating pain.



Arabs and Jews in Ottoman Palestine: Two Worlds Collide/ by Alan Dowty. Indiana University Press, 2021.

[9780253057259](#)

When did the Arab-Israeli conflict begin? Some discussions focus on the 1967 war, some go back to the creation of the state of Israel in 1948, and others look to the beginning of the British Mandate in 1922. Alan Dowty, however, traces the earliest roots of the conflict to the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, arguing that this historical approach highlights constant clashes between religious and ethnic groups in Palestine. He demonstrates that existing Arab residents viewed new Jewish settlers as European and shares evidence of overwhelming hostility to foreigners from European lands. He shows that Jewish settlers had tremendous incentive to minimize all obstacles to settlement, including the inconvenient hostility of the existing population. Dowty's thorough research reveals how events that occurred over 125 years ago shaped the implacable conflict that dominates the Middle East today.



Rashi's Commentary on the Torah: Canonization and Resistance in the Reception of a Jewish Classic/ by Eric Lawee. Oxford University Press, 2021.
[9780197584354](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780197584354)

This book explores the reception history of the most important Jewish Bible commentary ever composed, the *Commentary on the Torah* of Rashi (Shlomo Yitzhaki; 1040-1105). Though the *Commentary* has benefited from enormous scholarly attention, analysis of diverse reactions to it has been surprisingly scant. Viewing its path to preeminence through a diverse array of religious, intellectual, literary, and sociocultural lenses, Eric Lawee focuses on processes of the *Commentary's* canonization and on a hitherto unexamined—and wholly unexpected—feature of its reception: critical, and at times astonishingly harsh, resistance to it. Lawee shows how and why, despite such resistance, Rashi's interpretation of the Torah became an exegetical classic, a staple in the curriculum, a source of shared religious vocabulary for Jews across time and place, and a foundational text that shaped the Jewish nation's collective identity.

Emmanuel Levinas's Talmudic Turn: Philosophy and Jewish Thought/ by Ethan Kleinberg. Stanford University Press, 2021.
[9781503629448](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781503629448)

In this rich intellectual history of the French-Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas's Talmudic lectures in Paris, Ethan Kleinberg addresses Levinas's Jewish life and its relation to his philosophical writings while making an argument for the role and importance of Levinas's Talmudic lessons.

Pairing each chapter with a related Talmudic lecture, Kleinberg uses the distinction Levinas presents between 'God on Our Side' and 'God on God's Side' to provide two discrete and at times conflicting approaches to Levinas's Talmudic readings. One is historically situated and argued from 'our side' while the other uses Levinas's Talmudic readings themselves to approach the issues as timeless and derived from 'God on God's own side.' Bringing the two approaches together, Kleinberg asks whether the ethical message and moral urgency of Levinas's Talmudic lectures can be extended beyond the texts and beliefs of a chosen people, religion, or even the seemingly primary unit of the self.

Touching on Western philosophy, French Enlightenment universalism, and the Lithuanian Talmudic tradition, Kleinberg provides readers with a boundary-pushing investigation into the origins, influences, and causes of Levinas's turn to and use of Talmud.

Photo submissions: Australian or Australian-Jewish theme



This issue's Jewish/Australian-themed photo comes from my own family archive and depicts construction of Sydney's second *Ohel* (funeral parlour), located at Macquarie Park Cemetery in Sydney's northern suburbs. The construction of a new *Ohel* in the city's north (finished 1987, opened 1988) serviced Sydney's growing community, especially those living on the North Shore. Until that time mourners were required to attend funeral services at Sydney's Chevra Kadisha in Woollahra.

Depicted (left below) are Fred Heilpern, Harry (Chaim) Goldman and Sam Fisher—the architect, and president and vice president of the Sydney Chevra Kadisha, respectively—with Heilpern's model of the *Ohel*. In 1989, the year following Goldman's death, the building was renamed 'Ohel Chaim' in his honour, after having served as president of the Sydney Chevra Kadisha for fifteen years, and as a member of its council of management for thirty. Goldman was my great-grandfather and his involvement in communal affairs is a matter still lauded by his daughter and son for the benefit of his descendants.

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan
University of Technology Sydney
Newsletter Editor

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No. 83

Do you have a story, report, review or image 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.