

CONTENTS

Editor's welcome	1
2022–2023 President's Report	3
AAJS board directory	4
AAJS 2023 convenors' report	5
AAJS 2024 conference: call for papers	8
AJJS vol. XXXVI call for submissions	9
Member News	10
Member essay by Angelica Jacob	11
Vacancies in Jewish studies	13
Upcoming conferences and calls for papers	14
Grants and other opportunities	16
Recent books of interest	19
Photo submission: Australian/Australian-Jewish theme	22
AAJS Newsletter 89: calls for submissions	22

Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2023 issue of the AAJS biannual newsletter. At our 2023 AGM in Adelaide this past February, it was decided to scale things back and focus on producing a biannual newsletter. Nonetheless, we are committed to keeping our members informed of the latest happenings in Australian Jewish studies.

We begin this issue with AAJS Ex-Officio, Immediate Past Preside-

nt, Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann's 2022-2023 president's report. Professor Zuckermann has dedicated his time and efforts over the past six years to serving as president of our Association and on behalf of the AAJS executive committee, we thank him for his service. On a similar note, we wish *mazal tov* to our newly elected co-presidents, Dr Anna Hirsh (VIC) and Associate Professor Jan Láníček (NSW). Our new co-presidents are longtime AAJS members and have likewise served as committed and essential members of our executive committee, Dr Hirsh as Vice President (VIC) and Associate Professor Láníček as both a former Vice President (NSW) and co-editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*. We look forward to seeing where our association goes under their leadership.

In addition to the election of AAJS co-presidents, other office bearers were likewise elected at our 2023 AGM. Please see an updated list of AAJS board members on page 4 of this issue.

In the aftermath of a successful 2023 annual conference in Adelaide, we bring you a convenors' report by Kathy Baykitch, Jasmine Beinart and Professor Zuckermann. We wish you all *yasher koakh* and thank you for a fantastic three days! This is followed by a call for papers ahead of our 2024 annual conference, which will be hosted at the Sydney Jewish Museum and convened by AAJS Vice President (NSW) Dr Lynne Swarts and yours truly.

As always, this issue of the AAJS newsletter shares news on behalf of AAJS members, a member essay by newly elected executive board member Angelica Jacob on the topic of her MPhil research into Australia's diverse Jewish community, calls for papers to conferences and journals, exciting positions in Jewish Studies (both in Australia and overseas), and new books of interest.

Please remember to get in touch with any news, information on new publications, emerging research, academic opportunities, events, essays or photos relevant to Jewish Studies in Australia that you would like included in our Spring/Summer 2023 (December) issue.

On behalf of the AAJS board, I would like to thank our contributors to this quarterly issue, as well as our members for your continued support of our association!

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan
Sydney Jewish Museum/UTS
Newsletter Editor

2022–2023 AAJS President's annual report

Esteemed Jewish Studies colleagues,

It is with a heavy heart that I deliver, from Adelaide (Australia *australis*), my sixth and final report as President of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS). Already in Leviticus 25, Jews in the Land of Israel *had* to take a year-long break from working the fields *after six years*. (Unfortunately, the academic Sabbatical, which began at Harvard University in 1880, is currently under threat, at least at my own university.)

I wish to express my gratitude to, and appreciation of, the Association's Executive Board for their support: Dr Anna Hirsh (Vice-President Victoria), Dr Lynne Swarts (Vice-President New South Wales), Miri Mill (Treasurer), Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Secretary and Newsletter Editor), Nathan Compton (Membership Secretary), Dr Suzanne Faigan (Website/Online Coordinator and Journal Reviews Editor), Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland OAM (committee member), Associate Professor Avril Alba (committee member), Emeritus Professor Bill Rubinstein (committee member) and Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod (immediate past president).

A special thanks go to Associate Professor Jan Láníček and Dr Jennifer Creese, who will this year complete their term as co-editors of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* (AAJS) since 2018 and 2019 respectively. Both Jan and Jennifer have done a superb job at taking our journal to new heights and adapting to the world of digitization and open-access publishing. I wish them *hatslókhe ubrókhe* 'success and blessing' (>>>*Hals und Beinbruch*) for their continued scholastic endeavours.

I would like to welcome Dr Joshua Nash, who is to take on the role of co-editor of the AJJS, alongside Dr Suzanne Faigan, our current reviews editor.

Our 2022 annual conference under the theme 'Jewish History in a Global Context: Telling Transnational Stories' was held at Deakin University in Melbourne. Still living through the global *magefá* (plague) pandemic dempanic, AAJS 2022 continued in the hybrid in-person/Zoom(bie) model, to which we have all grown accustomed to over the past three years.

Our conference was a resounding success drawing an impressive and diverse contingent of local, inter-state and international colleagues both online and in-person, including Professor Debórah Dwork, who delivered the keynote lecture entitled 'Flight and Exile: Challenges of Jewish Refugee Life, 1933–1953'. On behalf of the AAJS executive board, I thank our co-convenors Associate Professor Steven Cooke, Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, and our own AAJS VP (Vic) Dr Anna Hirsh for their tireless efforts in organizing what was an engaging and stimulating two-day programme.

This year's conference, '**The Arts, Jews and Wellbeing**', brings us to Adelaide, or as I refer to it אדלודא (Adloyada) (as it is known for its wine)—a most fitting home for the last conference of my AAJS presidency. May I take this opportunity to thank my fellow co-convenors, Kathy Baykitch (Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre), Jasmine Beinart (The University of Adelaide), Dr Tully Barnett (Flinders University) and Professor Peter Monteath (Flinders University). I am grateful to the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre, and to Flinders University for the venue and technical support, as well as to all the conference volunteers. It has been a pleasure working with you to develop what I hope proves to be a memorable conference.

I wish the newly-elected members of the Executive Board a lot of success in continuing our cherished tradition.

Yours respectfully,

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
University of Adelaide
AAJS Ex-Officio, Immediate Past President

Meet your AAJS board

Our expanded executive was elected at the recent 2023 Annual General Meeting held at the AAJS annual conference in Adelaide. Committee members are listed below with contact details: we encourage you to get in touch with any of them for answers to all your AAJS questions.

President, VIC: Dr Anna Hirsh (Melbourne Holocaust Museum)
 Email: anna.hirsh@gmail.com
 LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/in/anna-hirsh-223a8616a>

President, NSW: Associate Professor Jan Láníček (University of New South Wales)
 Email: j.lanicek@unsw.edu.au

Vice President, NSW: Dr Lynne Swarts (Sydney University)
 Email: lynne.swarts@sydney.edu.au
 LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/dr-lynne-swarts](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-lynne-swarts)
 Website: <https://lynneswarts.com/>

Vice President, SA: Ms Kathy Baykitch (Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Steiner Education Centre)
 Email: kbaykitch@ahmsec.org.au

Treasurer: Ms Marilynne 'Miri' Mill
 Email: mirimill75@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Mr Nathan Compton
 Email: nathan.compton1@det.nsw.edu.au

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney)
 Email: jonathan.kaplan-1@uts.edu.au

Website/Online Coordinator: Dr Suzanne Faigan
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Editors, Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, Dr Jennifer Creese (editor-in-chief), Dr Suzanne Faigan & Dr Joshua Nash (co-editors)
 Email: jennifer.creese@uqconnect.edu.au
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AAJS Executive Board Members:

Ex-Officio, Immediate Past President: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann (University of Adelaide),

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)

Professor Emeritus William Rubinstein (Aberystwyth University)

Associate Professor Avril Alba (University of Sydney)

Dr Myer Samra

Jasmine Beinart (University of Adelaide)

Angelica Jacob (University of New South Wales)

International Liaisons:

Israel: Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland
 Email: suzanne.rutland@sydney.edu.au

New Zealand: Dr Suzanne Faigan
 Email: website@aajs.org.au

USA: Dr Jason Schulman
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Canada: Associate Professor David Koffman
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AAJS 2023 convenors' report



The arts have been an important part of society for centuries and have been used to express culture, communicate ideas and pass down knowledge. 'The Arts, Jews and Wellbeing' Conference explored how participating in, and interacting with, the arts are essential for resilience and a sense of community well-being.

The 2023 AAJS Conference 12–14 February was held in Adelaide in partnership with the Adelaide Holocaust Museum and Andrew Steiner Education Centre and Flinders University. The conference was convened by AAJS Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann and Jasmine Beinart (University of Adelaide), Kathy Baykitch (AHM), and Dr Tully Barnett and Professor Peter Monteath (Flinders University).

The conference drew academics, artists, and Jewish education experts from across Australia, and Israel, America, England and Malaysia. They explored how

the arts have shaped Jewish culture in the past and present, and how participation in, and interaction with, the arts are essential for resilience, and a sense of community.

The arts have the power to change the way people see the world and how they think about social, environmental, and political issues. The opening keynote was delivered by Rebecca Guber, the founding director of The Neighbourhood in Brooklyn. Rebecca has built an international community of artists exploring Jewish ideas through commissions for new work, international retreats, and professional development.

Guber showcased a range of works and projects by contemporary artists exploring Jewish and Israeli ideas, themes, history and identity. Guber described artists as 'visual reformers, innovative thinkers, social activists, provocateurs, cultural historians, powerful motivators, shapeshifters, community curators, skilled labourers, necessary, worthy.'

Guber's address set the tone for the conference reflecting the ways in which cultural production and artistic project strengthen the Jewish community spotlighting Jewish culture worldwide by outward sharing—bringing Jewish ideas to societal issues.

The program included a number of relevant panel discussions including 'The Modern Face of Jew Hatred: Antisemitism in Australia in the 21st Century' moderated by Nicola Zuckerman featuring Dvir Abramovich and Jasmine Beinart who explored the various manifestations of Jew hatred



in Australia today, and what can be done to combat antisemitism across the entire political spectrum.

Reimagining Jewish Stories through live performance featured a range of artists sharing different perspectives and artistic practices that facilitate a deeper understanding of our own culture and outward sharing.

A number of papers were presented including a myriad of topics and practices—Australia and Jewish refugee artists, poetry, visual arts, film, music, poetry, fashion as well as the connections between the arts and wellbeing, and reviving traditions through art and culture for future genera-



tions. The hybrid delivery of the conference programming enabled speakers from Israel, England and Malaysia to present at the conference.

Kevin Sumption PSM, CEO Sydney Jewish Museum delivered the keynote address on Day Two outlining the significance of museum master planning in preparing museums like the Sydney Jewish Museum for a leap into the future by reimagining what galleries and stories will need to be in order to capture the attention of future visitors. Kevin outlined the complex and demanding process of re-imagining a Holocaust museum for the use of both the Jewish community and general public.

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann hosted two Barngarla Aboriginal women from Galinyala—Port Lincoln, Eyre Peninsula, South Australia. Member of the Stolen Generations Lavinia Richards and young woman Shania Richards talked about how reconnecting with the Barngarla language and with art has improved their mental health, spirituality and resilience. The panel was extremely moving, and most relevant to Jewish studies as the Barngarla language reclamation has been facilitated by Professor Zuckermann for 13 years, applying lessons from the Hebrew revival.

Delegates had the opportunity to attend a community exhibition, *Yetzirah* Artistic Creation, at Adelaide's Beit Shalom Synagogue, showcasing artworks made by members of South Australia's Jewish community.



The program featured performances including Dr Anna Hueneke's collections of her poetry, *Songs of Fire* and *Sacred Fire*, in Biblical Hebrew and English. In *Songs of Fire* the fire represents a woman's creative power and lamenting voice. In *Sacred Fire* the fire of lament becomes the fire of love between woman. Anna's soulful poetry was performed in Biblical Hebrew to traditional Jewish liturgical melodies, interwoven with compositions of her own.

The closing event was *Baggage Claims*, performed by Russell Goldflam and his Alice Springs band Rusty & The Infidels, a spoken and musical performance piece comprising klezmer tales of unlucky men, swollen hearts, the burdens of anxiety and doing one's bit.

Kathy Baykitch, Jasmine Beinart and Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, co-convenors



CALL FOR PAPERS/SAVE THE DATE
Creation – Re-Creation
Australian Association for Jewish Studies
Sydney Jewish Museum
11–12 February 2024 (Sunday–Monday)

Convenors:

Dr Lynne Swarts (University of Sydney)

Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney)

Creation – Re-Creation

is the theme for the 2024 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference. The conference will be held at the Sydney Jewish Museum on 11-12 February 2024, and the conference committee invites submissions of abstracts that address all elements of the themes of Creation and Re-Creation – broadly defined – with reference to Judaism, Jewish History and Culture, and Jews.

Papers may explore, extend or challenge Jewish ideas of the Origin. Creation as an ongoing category of meaning, both divine and secular, has been fundamental to Jewish belief, thought and politics. Creation may hence be investigated through the various forms of human expression that seek to mirror Divine perfection, but also through protagonists of new ideas: material construction, or innovative contributions through scientific, political, artistic, philosophical, legal, and other fields.

Re-Creation indicates a resumption of Creation after a period of stasis or change or may denote reinvention. This includes themes of Jewish Diaspora and phases of migration; or changes both individualised and of the Jewish people, such as during eras post-destruction, including the return of antisemitic tropes and the Holocaust.

We encourage application by academic scholars and professional practitioners from all areas of Jewish Studies and related fields including (but not limited to):

- Tanakh and Biblical Studies
- Antisemitism, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Memory Studies
- Jewish Cultural Studies, including the Visual Arts and Literature
- Jewish Life and Jewish identity
- Jewish Education
- Gender Studies
- Literary and Film Studies
- Israel and Diaspora Studies
- Museums, Architecture, and Arts Professionals

Please send an abstract of no longer than 200 words and a short bio to Lynne Swarts (lynne.swarts@sydney.edu.au) or Jonathan Kaplan (jonathan.kaplan-1@uts.edu.au) by **1 October 2023**.

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies Volume XXXVI, 2023, call for submissions

The *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* is an international, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed Open Access journal published annually by the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. The Journal is devoted to the study of Jewish culture in all aspects and all periods.

The Journal's editorial team is currently welcoming submission of manuscripts for consideration for the 2023 volume (XXXVI) of the Journal. This is an open-themed call: the editors welcome submission of papers based on original research up to 8,500 words, as well as book reviews up to 3,000 words, of relevance to the scope of the Journal.

Submission is open to any authors worldwide. The publication language of the Journal is English. All responsibility for thorough academic English-language proofreading and editing lies with the author and will not be undertaken by the Journal; papers with an insufficient level of English-language proficiency will unfortunately not be able to be accepted for peer review.

All research articles in the Journal undergo rigorous double-blind peer review. All papers since 2019 have been made fully available Open Access on the Journal's website. For the 2023 volume, there is no article processing charge (APC) for publication in the Journal.

Submissions may be sent at any time, though to be considered for the 2023 volume your submission should be made by **17.00 GMT Thursday 29 June 2023**. A style guide for submissions is available online [here](#).

Dr Joshua Nash – jahewangi@hotmail.com

Dr Suzanne Faigan – suzanne.faigan@gmail.com

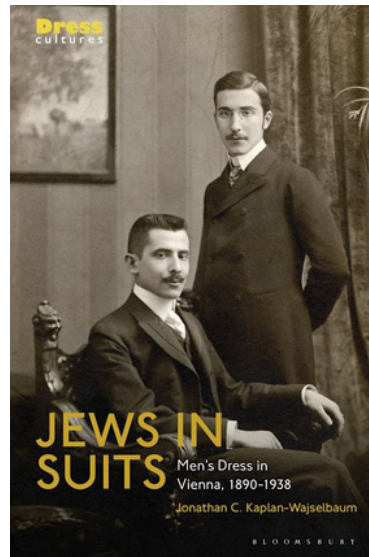
Professor Emerita Rutland's recent presentations

Stalwart AAJS member Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland (University of Sydney) recently participated in a workshop relating to a planned publication by Routledge on 'The History of the International Protection of Minorities, 1919-2001' (24–25 April), presenting on 'International Jewish Activism' with a focus on the World Jewish Congress. The workshop was a hybrid meeting, with the main participants being in Budapest, and others presenting on Zoom.

Additionally, Professor Rutland delivered the keynote, 'Religious Discrimination in the Playground' at Australian National University's conference, Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Policy, and Practice which took place from 13 to 15 April. The conference included scholars presenting on the immediate and enduring impacts that the value, consideration, accessibility and format of religious education may have on religious practices, public spheres of activity, and the relationship between religion and society.



New Book by Dr Jonathan Kaplan



AAJS executive committee member Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney) is pleased to announce the publication of a new book titled *Jews in Suits: Men's Dress in Vienna, 1890–1938*. First published in

June in the UK, USA and Canada, *Jews in Suits* can be pre-ordered online and will be available in Australia from 27 July 2023. Kaplan will be launching the book with an event at the Sydney Jewish Museum on 3 August 2023, hosted by Distinguished Professor Peter McNeil FAHA. Keep an eye on the SJM events calendar for details:

<https://sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/product-category/events/>

For more details on *Jews in Suits* see the 'Recent Books' section of this newsletter

New textbook on the Holocaust

Edited by Michael Polgar and John Suki, a group of international and multidisciplinary authors share a free online textbook for Holocaust educators and students, *The Holocaust: Remembrance, Respect, and Resilience* (Penn State University, 2023). With contributions from AAJS members Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland and Associate Professor Avril Alba, chapters consider the Holocaust and genocide from many perspectives, including the Arts and Humanities. *The Holocaust: Remembrance, Respect, and Resilience* can be accessed via

<https://psu.pb.unizin.org/holocaust3rs/>

AAJS member essay: 'Rethinking Australian Jewish diversity: Working towards an inclusive representation of diverse Australian Jewries' by Angelica Jacob, MPhil Candidate (UNSW)

A secular *Tendenz* has given twenty-first-century Jewish Studies scholars an impetus to gain a broader understanding and holistic view of Jewish cultural and political diversity.

The definition of cultural diversity by Diversity Council Australia (DCA) recognises its 'multiple aspects... objective and subjective aspects of people's cultural background and includes cultural identity'. According to DCA's definition:

Cultural Diversity means having a mix of people from different cultural backgrounds – it can include differences in cultural/ethnic identity (how we identify ourselves and how others identify us), language, country of birth, religion, heritage/ancestry, national origin, and/or race.
-(DCA, 2020)

The late twentieth century saw a 'cultural turn' in the Social Sciences and contemporary Cultural Studies (CS). Stuart Hall, who is widely recognised as the pioneer of CS, is concerned with the relationship between meaning and power. For Hall, meaning is not the endgame—it is the interpretations and representations of meaning that count. 'Culture is about "shared meanings", "shared values" of a group or society', and representation is 'closely tied up with both identity and knowledge'. Cultural battles matter because 'social subjects can be "won" to a new conception of themselves and society' (Hall, 1997).

Scholarly trends in 21st-century Jewish Studies

Early twenty-first-century academics endorse the new scholarly interest in relating 'human geography' and cultural history. Some scholars seek to tell the ongoing story of Jewish emancipation—how Jews have gained, lost, retained, and recovered rights in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, the United States, and Israel (Brenner, 2010). The idea that 'national character is fixed for all time in a simpler, distant past is groundless, and "ethnic labelling" a fallacy' (Geary, 2002). Other authors believe Identity Studies are integral to studying the history and cultures of Jewries worldwide and must be viewed through a global lens. Later academics call for an end of ethnic categorisation in the Social Sciences in favour of more complex categories. In his seminal essay, 'Ghetto and Emancipation', notable Columbia University Professor Salo W. Baron advocates a 'break with the lachrymose theory'; he suggests less-polarising ways of representing Jewish identity (Baron, 1983).

The thread of the 'absent Jews' (Brenner, 2010) starts to be discussed in the first decade of the twenty-first century. Michael Brenner's 'Prophets of the Past' is a textbook of sorts. Two twenty-first-century Jewish historians emphasise the diversity within Judaism from different viewpoints. Both Martin Goodman and Sir Simon Schama are 'in favour of pluralism and against essentialism'. They 'emphasise the diversity within Judaism . . . the notion that Judaism is about diversity and pluralism reflects a multicultural, freethinking liberalism.'

In Australia, the advent of multiculturalism and globalisation had 'profound implications for all aspects of Jewish politics' (Medding, 2004). Viewing Australian Jewish diversity through the lens of multiculturalism is a contemporary way to assess its extent and bases. A compelling parallel can be drawn between multicultural

Australia and its diverse Jewries. According to Dr Geoffrey B. Levey, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of New South Wales, Australia's celebrated model of multiculturalism developed as a response to post-World War II immigration. This model sees diversity as the province of individual Australians and seeks to 'check, if not overturn, the privileged status of the dominant Anglo-Australian culture' (Levey, 2004). Globalising also 'has a neat way of not challenging the separation among racially diverse...Jews' (Brettschneider, 2010).

Diversity of Australian Jewry

Australian Jewry constitutes less than 0.5% of the overall Australian population. According to the 2021 Census, the best estimate of the Jewish population is approximately 118,000 (Markus, 2022). Six waves of Jewish immigrants arrived in Australia from the eighteenth century to the early twenty-first century. Australia is now home to many immigrant Jews from English-speaking and non-English-speaking backgrounds. According to a rough estimate, the diverse, non-European Jewries account for approximately 50 per cent of the Australian Jewish population. Australian Jewry shares a similar relationship of migration history and 'connection to homeland...or long-distance nationalism which implies a dual or hyphenated identity' (Safran, 2005).

A logical progression to a study of Jewish diversity is a study of Jewish difference. Cultural studies are a suitable framework for studying Jewish differences. However, carving a space for 'Jewish Cultural Studies' is nascent. Some scholars attempt to outline a blueprint for various ways Jews can address the politics of difference. They critique Eurocentrism, urging Jewish scholars to rethink archaic categorisations and exchange notes with non-Jewish Cultural Studies scholars (Alcalay, 1997).

What's at stake?

Australia's former Race Discrimination Commissioner succinctly states, 'Everyone's got a stake with cultural diversity' (Soutphommasane, 2022). The stakes are high:

If we keep telling European Jewish history as the Jewish story, we are both missing the majority of Jewish history, and the story we tell is wrong...if we can start telling more of the Jewish story beyond the European...one, then I am certain it will transform what we know, think, are, and can be as Jewish (Brettschneider, 2010).

Conclusion

The multiplicity of identities and lack of consensus are cited as impediments to devising an inclusive representation framework. A collaborative consultation process and meaningful dialogue between diverse Australian Jewries will have a positive and enduring cultural, political, and social impact.

Angelica Jacob is a Higher Degree Researcher (MPhil) researching 'The Representation of Diverse Jewish Constituencies within the Australian Jewish Community' at the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney. This research is supported by an Australian Government Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarship. She also has a Master's Degree (MGenStud) in Media and Communication from UNSW. Angelica is a nonfiction writer, most recently of [Finding Home: Memoir of a Jewish Girl](#) (2019) a former journalist at The Australian newspaper, and co-founder and President – Sydney of the Indian Jewish Association of Australia and New Zealand (IJAANZ).

Vacancies in Jewish studies and related fields

Lecturer/Senior Lecturer – in Jewish Studies, Monash University

Premodern Jewish Studies

We're hiring either a Level B or Level C academic with expertise in premodern Jewish studies to join the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC). The ideal candidate will be responsible for teaching pre-modern Jewish studies survey units and specialised units in their area of expertise, contributing to ACJC's public programs, and bringing their knowledge of Jewish studies to the national conversation. With an open disciplinary specialty, this scholar will be expected to make significant contributions to teaching efforts and play a major role in scholarship, research, and professional activities while reporting to the director of ACJC.

The successful candidate will be expected to fulfil various duties, including course material development, teaching through tutorials, and workshops, research, and project supervision for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. They also play a significant role in administrative functions, attend departmental meetings, and contribute to planning or committee work. Other responsibilities may include consultation with students, marking and assessment, and involvement in professional activities. The appointee will have a doctoral qualification in the relevant discipline area, such as History, Hebrew Bible, Archaeology, Philosophy, or other related disciplines. In addition, we are seeking candidates who complement our existing strengths.

For more information and to apply visit: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/cw/en/job/651502/lecturersenior-lecturer-premodern-jewish-studies>

Holocaust & Genocide Studies

A Lecturer or Senior Lecturer is expected to excel in teaching and research, and we are seeking a scholar of the Holocaust who has studied or tau-

ght comparative genocide to join our team. The successful candidate will research and teach in the field of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, including specialised units in their discipline. They will also contribute to the public program of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) and bring their expertise to the national conversation on Holocaust, genocide, and antisemitism. The position reports to the director of the ACJC.

For more information and to apply visit: <https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/cw/en/job/651500/lecturersenior-lecturer-holocaust-genocide-studies>

Closing Date

Tuesday 27 June 2023, 11:55pm AEST

Enquiries

Associate Professor David Slucki, Director, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, david.slucki@monash.edu

Non-tenure Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies, University of Rochester, New York

The Department of Religion and Classics at the University of Rochester invites applications for a full-time appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor in Jewish Studies. This is a two-year position anticipated to begin in August 2023. The teaching load is 3-3.

The successful applicant will be a Jewish Studies scholar, specializing in any aspect of Jewish history, philosophy, or literature (except for Judaism in America and the Hebrew Bible) who can contribute to both our "Religion/Politics/Society" and "Texts & Traditions" curricular tracks. Ideally this candidate's areas of interest would include Judai-

sm in Central or Western Europe and/or Holocaust Studies. The successful candidate will be expected to teach an introductory course in Jewish Studies provisionally to be offered starting in Fall 2023, and two other classes drawing on their specialization. The ability to also teach modern Hebrew language is welcome but is not a requirement.

In addition to completing the on-line application, applicants should upload the following documents: 1) a letter of application explaining how the candidate meets the position requirements; 2) current CV; 3) sample syllabi; 4) course evaluations. Applicants should also have three letters of recommendation submitted to their online application. A statement of commitment to advancing equity and fostering an inclusive and diverse community in academia is optional.

Materials can be submitted through our online application system at <https://www.rochester.edu/faculty-recruiting/login>.

If assistance is needed with the application process, please contact Caleb Rood at caleb.rood@rochester.edu.

Candidates whose complete applications are received by **June 15th** will be considered for video-conference interviews, but applications will be continuously reviewed until the position is filled.

For more information about the Department of Religion and Classics and the Center for Jewish Studies, please visit the Website at <https://www.sas.rochester.edu/rel/>.

Upcoming conferences & calls for papers

CfP – Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes Vol. 36

Canadian Jewish Studies (ISSN: 1198-3493) is a peer-reviewed, open-access, bilingual, multi-disciplinary, twice-annual journal devoted to original scholarship that illuminates the any and all aspect of Canadian Jewish life. Digital Journal Volumes are available here:

<https://cjs.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/cjs/index>.

Print-on-Demand paper copies are available here:

https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B0BCJWSH6B?binding=paperback&ref=dbs_dp_rwt_sb_pc_tpbk.

The editors welcome submissions of fully drafted articles, or abstracts for articles, at the intersection of Jewish and Canadian, from any disciplinary perspective. We are particularly interested in essays that focus on comparisons and interactions between Canadian Jews and Jews from other countries, and in essays that focus on comparisons or interactions between Canadian Jews and other religious or ethnic groups in Canada. *Canadian Jewish Studies / Études juives canadiennes* also welcomes contributions to our “Translation” sub-section, ideas for “Roundtables,” and volunteers for authoring Book Reviews and/or serving as part of our Peer Review process. The editors welcome authors to include multimedia content that can be published in the online version of the journal.

Please submit your 5,000-7,000-word article along with a short bio to cjeditor@yorku.ca, or koffman@yorku.ca by **July 1, 2023**. You may also email us with an abstract or an idea in development at any time.

CfP – NYC-Based Conference on Modern Travel Literature in Jewish Studies

For centuries, Jews established an image of the “world outside” based on writings by travelers and pilgrims. But starting in the Modern Period, as the nations of Western and Central Europe engaged with Africa, Asia, and the Americas through imperial power and the emergence of “scientific” approaches to foreigners, European Jews became major participants in the genre of travel writing. Though the Jews of Europe lacked the political power of European rulers, travel literature was among the arenas through which European Jews could exert cultural strength across cultures. By the nineteenth century, adventurers— Jew and Gentile — disseminated their observations through the burgeoning Jewish press; scholars of the ancient world relied on archaeologists’ transcriptions to underpin the growing field of *Wissenschaft des Judentums*; and modern politicians turned their gaze to the Levant, their image of the holy land resting on contemporary and medieval accounts of travelers.

In December 2023, the Center for Jewish Studies at the City University of New York Graduate Center will convene a conference on the subject of travel literature in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Our goal is to bring together scholars from across disciplines to discuss recent turns towards travel literature, and to think about new departures.

Some questions we hope to answer include:

- In what ways did travelogs reinscribe power differentials between Europeans and their colonial targets and in what ways did Jewish travelogs in particular complicate the colonizer/colonized dichotomy?
- -How did travelers use gender to understand the foreign?
- How did the translation of travelogs from European languages to Yiddish and Hebrew change the narration of space?
- Can we speak of a coherent “European Jewish gaze” during this period?

The conference will run on December 4th and 5th

at the CUNY Graduate Center (365 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016).

Proposals including a brief CV and abstract (no more than 250 words) are **due July 1st**, with notification by August 31st.

Please email abstracts to Phil Keisman (pkeismanlc@gmail.com) and Samuel Kessler (kessler@gustavus.edu).

CfP – Beyond Canonization: The Contested Legacy of Isaac Bashevis Singer

As we are celebrating Isaac Bashevis Singer’s 120 anniversary (1903-1991), the time has come to reconsider the legacy of one of the greatest Yiddish writers of the post war era. As the recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature in 1978, his work has received great critical acclaim and has been widely translated into English and from the English versions into more than thirty languages. Bashevis has become a cultural icon signifying diverse notions such as the exotic ghosts-ridden shtetl as well as the American Jewish experience and universal skepticism.

This special issue of *Studies in American Jewish Literature* aims, firstly, to analyze Bashevis’ academic and public reception, and discern major controversies, tendencies and shifts in the ongoing debate about this canonical and yet contested world writer. Secondly, we aspire to bring Bashevis into contemporary discourse, including 21st century gender and queer theories, the politics of canonicity, world literature, translation studies, and digital humanities. We also wish to promote interdisciplinary approaches that offer a broader consideration of Bashevis’ reverberations in world culture, including his manifold theatrical, cinematic and pop-culture adaptations.

We welcome articles that rely on a wide range of primary sources in the Yiddish press and the Singer archive, employ current critical methodologies in a diverse range of fields, and examine Bashevis’ bilingual corpus in its totality (Warsaw 1925-1936, New York 1935-1991 and pos-

thumous work). We also welcome contributions concerning his works published in the Yiddish press, which have still not been translated or critically accessed.

More specifically, we encourage articles that address questions such as:

1. What were the conditions that contributed to Bashevis' canonical status, and what are the implications of this position for Yiddish and American Jewish Literary studies? What shifts in his academic or public reception can be discerned? Are there significant differences between his reception among scholars of Yiddish and/or American literature, and/or those who view him within a broader Jewish context and within a world literature framework?
2. How do Bashevis' untranslated works in the Yiddish press open new critical approaches?
3. How can current perspectives help us better understand Bashevis' ubiquitous depictions of same-sex romance, gender fluidity and reversal of gender roles? By what means have readers and scholars dealt with charges of male-chauvinism – in Bashevis' work, private life, or their conjunction in the translation of his work into English? And how do these two tendencies in Bashevis' oeuvre and reception intersect?
4. How does Bashevis' conservative politics and aesthetics inform readings and evaluations of his works?
5. In what ways has Bashevis' self-exoticization promoted his career as a world writer and an icon of Yiddish culture? What new light can his unique status as a bilingual world author shed on the world literature vs. untranslatable controversy?

Please submit a short abstract of 200-400 words to Special Issue guest editors Jan Schwarz, Lund University and Zehavit Stern, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem:

zehavit.stern@gmail.com and
Jan.Schwarz@sol.lu.se by **August 15, 2023**.

Grants and other opportunities

Postdoctoral position (research associate) in Modern European History (19th/20th c.), Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz, Germany

The [Leibniz Institute of European History](https://www.ieg-mainz.de/) (IEG) in Mainz is a research institute within the Leibniz Association. It conducts and facilitates research on the historical foundations of Europe in the modern period and is engaged in current developments in the digital humanities.

The IEG invites applications for a full-time postdoctoral position (research associate) (m, f, d) in Modern European History (19th/20th c.) at the earliest possible date for the duration of five years (under the German WissZeitVG). The salary accords to German pay grade TV-L EG 13. The position can be shared in principle.

Your responsibilities

At the IEG, you pursue an individual research project in the field of 19th/20th century European history. We particularly welcome comparative and cross-border perspectives as well as projects on Europe's global entanglements. With your research activities and publications, you contribute to the shaping of the IEG's research profile. In addition, you act as a mentor for international (doctoral) research fellows, organise academic events and work towards consolidating the IEG's international network. A further academic qualification, including teaching at university, is compatible with the research position at the IEG.

Your profile

- successfully completed an outstanding PhD in history
- high quality academic publications on 19th/20th century history
- internationally oriented academic track-record
- excellent command of both English and German

We would also like to see participation in outreach and knowledge transfer activities for non-specialist audiences and appreciate interest in the application of digital tools and methods to historical research.

We offer

- opportunities to develop your career in a renowned research institute
- the possibility to shape and expand your academic profile
- collaboration in an international team
- further training

Applications

Please send your application (including CV, transcripts, list of publications and a project outline of no more than 2 pages) via email to the Leibniz Institute of European History (bewerbung@ieg-mainz.de) by **25 June 2023**, stating reference number WMA-EG-2023; all documents should be submitted in a single file (PDF).

The IEG promotes professional equality between women and men and is committed to reconciling work and family life. Women are particularly encouraged to apply.

Candidates with severe disabilities and appropriate qualifications will be given preferential consideration.

We appreciate and value diversity.

For any questions, please contact the research coordinator of the IEG, Dr Joachim Berger (berger@ieg-mainz.de).

The Isaacsohn and André Families' Visiting Fellowship, The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies is delighted to sponsor a new prestigious Visiting Fellowship programme, for scholars in Jewish, Holocaust, and Israel Studies. The Isaacsohn and André families' Visiting Fellowship was launched

in 2023 and in memory of the Isaacsohn and André families who perished in the Holocaust. This Visiting Fellowship programme will see leading academics from universities around the world joining Sussex experts in Jewish, Holocaust studies and Israel Studies as Visiting Fellows, for a period of up to three months. This will deepen Sussex's research in this field and enrich the programmes offered to students and the University community. Fellows will join the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies and will have the opportunity to form affiliations with other research centres across the University to promote even greater collaboration on the broad topic of Jewish studies. We encourage applications that will initiate new collaborations, or extend existing collaborations with the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish studies. In particular we are keen to increase and diversify our sources of funding through internationally collaborative grant applications.

The Isaacsohn and André Families' Visiting Fellowship offers a stipend to participating faculty of £7000 for the duration of the fellowship, or part of it depending on the length of their stay. Funding under this scheme will cover the Isaacsohn and André fellow's travel, accommodation, visa costs and subsistence. Successful applicants will be expected to submit a brief report detailing outcomes after the conclusion of the fellowship.

Deadline for 2023 fellowship is **June 15, 2023**. Applications will also be considered after this deadline for 2024.

For further information on the programmes please contact Professor Gideon Reuveni (g.reuveni@sussex.ac.uk) or Professor David Tal (d.tal@sussex.ac.uk)

To apply, please fill this form:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/research/centres/media-arts-humanities-institute/documents/isaacson-and-andre-families-visiting-fellowship-application-form.docx>.

Frankel Institute Fellowship 2024–2025, 'Jewish/Queer/Trans', Jean & Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan

In this theme year, we aim to explore in the broadest possible ways how queer/trans studies intersect with studies of Jews, Jewishness, Judaism, and indeed Jewish Studies itself, from the full range of humanistic, artistic, activist, and social science perspectives. We thus intend to assemble a group of scholars, writers, and artists that will allow us to explore this set of fundamental issues across the temporal gamut of ancient to the present and in Middle Eastern, African, Asian, European, and American societal contexts.

We invite applicants to consider the ways in which Jewish Studies might thicken queer and trans studies. At the same time, we wish to inquire into how queer and trans studies might aid the interrogation of foundational categories deployed in Jewish Studies. In doing so, we seek to challenge social hierarchies, notions of sacred/profane, religious conceptions, political movements and structures, knowledge paradigms, and communal boundaries: all key elements in the history of studies of Jews and Judaism. That is, how can insights from queer and trans studies enrich and complicate our understanding of the dispersed, diverse, and shifting histories of Jewish sexual cultures and gender systems, as well as social, cultural, and racialized formations of Jewishness more broadly. We are particularly interested in approaches that create dialogue among the sub-fields of Jewish Studies, queer and trans studies that go beyond merely applying theoretical models to Jewish Studies.

The “Jewish/Queer/Trans” fellowship year will promote a tighter integration of queer/trans perspectives and methodologies into Jewish Studies, and contribute to the ongoing softening of boundaries between analyses focused on racial, sexual, or gendered difference.

- What forms of analysis might queer and trans theory enable in the study of Jewish texts, cultures, and history?

- How might non-Ashkenazi or non-contemporary forms of Jewish ritual, theology, textuality, domesticity, kinship, or musical arts decenter Eurocentric defaults in queer and trans studies?
- How might queering and trans-ing our understandings of key concepts like “archive,” temporality, historiography, and data allow for expanded inquiries within Social Science-based and Humanities-attuned subfields within Jewish studies?
- What happens to Jewish Studies methods and archives when Queer of Color critiques are deployed to its sources and subjects?

Eligibility

Fellowship applications are accepted from both tenured and untenured faculty as well as from recent Ph.D.'s without a tenure-track position and professors emeriti. Where appropriate, applications are accepted from independent artists, documentary film-makers, and writers. You may apply either for a full academic year (usually September 1-April 30) or for a single term (Fall terms runs September-December and Winter Term runs January-April). Fellows can serve no more than two terms within a period of four years.

Document Checklist

To complete your application, you will need to upload the following documents in PDF format.

- Abstract of your proposed fellowship project (100 words)
- Description of your proposed fellowship project (1,000 words)
- Current CV with a list of your publications
- 1 sample of completed work and/or work in progress (not more than 40 pages each)
- 2 references

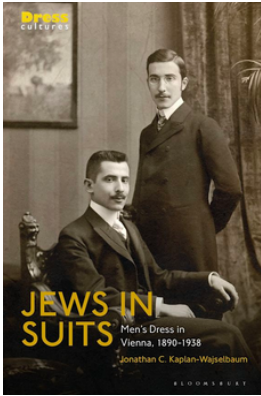
All documents and other materials must be in English.

Applications are due by **November 6, 2023**

For more information and to apply visit:

<https://lsa.umich.edu/judaic/institute/applications.html>

Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)



Jews in Suits: Men's Dress in Vienna, 1890–1938/ by Jonathan C. Kaplan-Wajselbaum. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023.

[9781350244207](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781350244207)

Surviving photographs of Jewish Viennese men during the *fin-de-siècle* and interwar periods – both the renowned cultural luminaries and their many anonymous coreligionists – all share a striking sartorial detail: the tailored suit. Yet, until now, the adoption of the tailored suit and its function in the formation of modern Jewish identities remains under-researched.

Jews in Suits uses a rich range of written and visual sources, including literary fiction and satire, 'ego-documents', photography, trade catalogues, invoices, and department store culture, to propose a new narrative of men, fashion, and their Jewish identities. It reveals that dressing in a modern manner was not simply a matter of assimilation, but rather a way of developing new models of Jewish subjectivity beyond the externally prescribed notion of 'the Jew'. Drawing upon fashionable dress, folk costume, religious dress, avant-garde, oppositional dress, typologies which are often considered separate from one another, it proposes a new way of reading men and clothing cultures within an iconic cultural milieu, offering insights into the relationship of clothing and grooming to the understanding of the self.

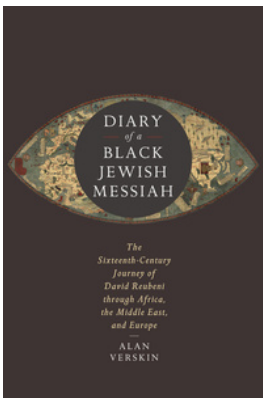


Memory Spaces: Visualizing Identity in Jewish Women's Graphic Narratives/ by Victoria Aarons. Wayne State University Press, 2023.

[9780814349151](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780814349151)

An exploration of the work of Jewish women graphic novelists and the intricate Jewish identity is complicated by gender, memory, generation, and place—that is, the emotional, geographical, and psychological spaces that women inhabit. Victoria Aarons argues that Jewish women graphic novelists are preoccupied with embodied memory: the way the body materializes memory. This monograph investigates how memory manifests in the drawn shape of the body as an expression of the weight of personal and collective histories. Aarons explores Jewish identity, diaspora, mourning, memory, and witness in the works of Sarah Lightman, Liana Finck, Anya Ulinich, Leela Corman, and more.

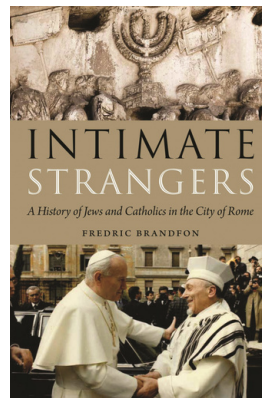
Memory Spaces begins by framing this research within contemporary discourse and reflects upon the choice to explore Jewish women graphic novelists specifically. In the chapters that follow, Aarons relates the nuanced issues of memory, transmission of trauma, Jewish cultural identity, and the gendered self to a series of meaningful and noteworthy graphic novels. Aarons's insight, close readings, and integration of contemporary scholarship are conveyed clearly and concisely, creating a work that both captivates readers and contributes to scholarly discourse in Jewish studies, women's literature, memory studies, and identity.



Diary of a Black Jewish Messiah: The Sixteenth-Century Journey of David Reubeni through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe/ by Alan Verskin. Stanford University Press, 2023.
[9781503634428](https://www.stanford.edu/publications/9781503634428)

In 1524, a man named David Reubeni appeared in Venice, claiming to be the ambassador of a powerful Jewish kingdom deep in the heart of Arabia. In this era of fierce rivalry between great powers, voyages of fantastic discovery, and brutal conquest of new lands, people throughout the Mediterranean saw the signs of an impending apocalypse and envisioned a coming war that would end with a decisive Christian or Islamic victory. With his army of hardy desert warriors from lost Israelite tribes, Reubeni pledged to deliver the Jews to the Holy Land by force and restore their pride and autonomy. He would spend a decade shuttling between European rulers in Italy, Portugal, Spain, and France, seeking weaponry in exchange for the support of his hitherto unknown but mighty Jewish kingdom.

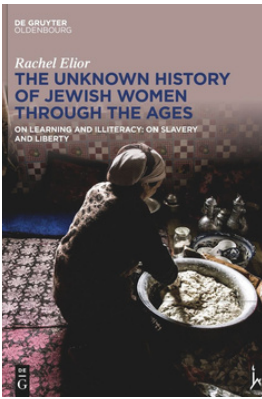
Reubeni was hailed as a messiah by many wealthy Jews and Iberia's oppressed conversos, but his grand ambitions were halted in Regensburg when the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, turned him over to the Inquisition and, in 1538, he was likely burned at the stake. *Diary of a Black Jewish Messiah* is the first English translation of Reubeni's Hebrew-language diary, detailing his travels and personal travails. Written in a Hebrew drawn from everyday speech, entirely unlike other literary works of the period, Reubeni's diary reveals both the dramatic desperation of Renaissance Jewish communities and the struggles of the diplomat, trickster, and dreamer who wanted to save them.



Intimate Strangers: A History of Jews and Catholics in the City of Rome/ by Fredric Brandfon. University of Nebraska Press, 2023.
[9780827615571](https://www.unbrpress.edu/9780827615571)

The Jewish community of Rome is the oldest Jewish community in Europe. It is also the Jewish community with the longest continuous history, having avoided interruptions, expulsions, and annihilations since 139 BCE. For most of that time, Jewish Romans have lived in close contact with the largest continuously functioning international organization: the Roman Catholic Church. Given the church's origins in Judaism, Jews and Catholics have spent two thousand years negotiating a necessary and paradoxical relationship. With engaging stories that illuminate the history of Jews and Jewish-Catholic relations in Rome, *Intimate Strangers* investigates the unusual relationship between Jews and Catholics as it has developed from the first century CE to the present in the Eternal City.

Fredric Brandfon innovatively frames these relations through an anthropological lens: how the idea and language of family have shaped the self-understanding of both Roman Jews and Catholics. The familial relations are lopsided, the powerful family member often persecuting the weaker one; the church ghettoized the Jews of Rome longer than any other community in Europe. Yet respect and support are also part of the family dynamic—for instance, church members and institutions protected Rome's Jews during the Nazi occupation—and so the relationship continues.



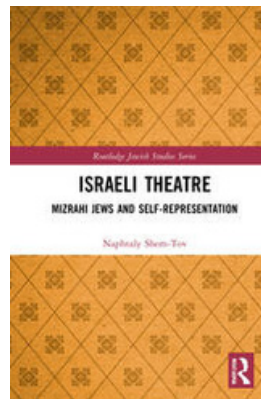
The Unknown History of Jewish Women Through the Ages—On Learning and Illiteracy: On Slavery and Liberty/ by Rachel Elijor. De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2023.

[9783111042770](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111042770)

The Unknown History of Jewish Women—On Learning and Illiteracy: On Slavery and Liberty is a comprehensive study on the history of Jewish women, which discusses their absence from the Jewish Hebrew library of the "People of the Book" and interprets their social condition in relation to their imposed ignorance and exclusion from public literacy.

The book begins with a chapter on communal education for Jewish boys, which was compulsory and free of charge for the first ten years in all traditional Jewish communities. The discussion continues with the striking absence of any communal Jewish education for girls until the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and the implications of this fact for twentieth-century immigration to Israel (1949-1959)

The following chapters discuss the social, cultural and legal contexts of this reality of female illiteracy in the Jewish community—a community that placed a supreme value on male education. The discussion focuses on the patriarchal order and the postulations, rules, norms, sanctions and mythologies that, in antiquity and the Middle Ages, laid the religious foundations of this discriminatory reality.



Israeli Theatre: Mizrahi Jews and Self-Representation/ by Naphtaly Shem-Tov. Routledge, 2023.

[9781032007212](https://doi.org/10.1080/9781032007212)

This book conceptualizes Mizrahi (Middle Eastern Jewish) theatre, unfolding its performances in the field of Israeli theatre with a critical gaze. It covers the conceptualization and typology, not along a chronological axis, but rather through seven theatrical forms. The author suggests a definition of Mizrahi theatre that has fluid boundaries and it can encompass various possibilities for self-representation onstage.

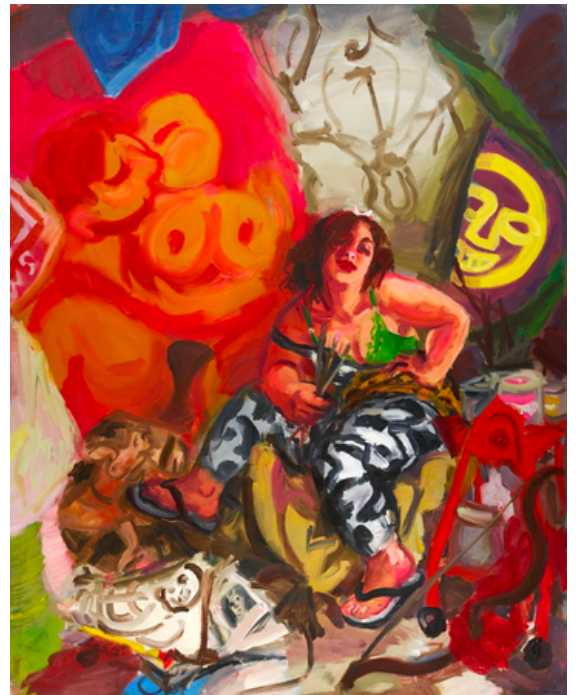
Although Mizrahi theatre began to develop in the 1970s, the years since the turn of the millennium have seen an intense flowering of theatrical works by second- and third-generation artists dealing with issues of identity and narrative in a diverse array of forms. Mizrahi theatre is a cultural locus of self-representation, generally created by Mizrahi artists who deal with content, social experiences, cultural, religious, and traditional foundations, and artistic languages derived from the history and social reality of Mizrahi Jews in both Israel and their Middle Eastern countries of origin.

Critically surveying Mizrahi theatre in Israel, the book is a key resource for students and academics interested in theatre and performance studies, and Jewish and Israeli studies.

Photo submissions: Australian or Australian- Jewish theme

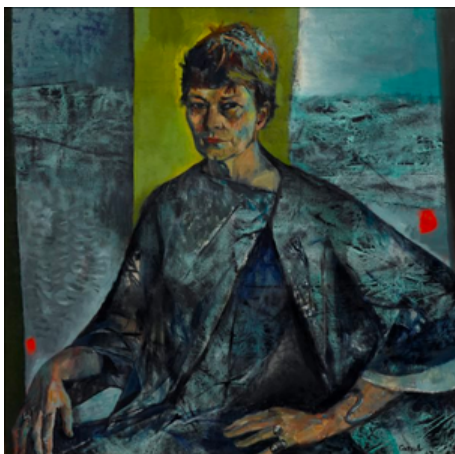


In light of the recent Archibald Prize, this issue's Australian/Australian-Jewish-themed photo page pays homage to the prestigious award's Jewish winners. Many members of Australia's Jewish community recently found the opportunity to *shep nakhes* over artist Julia Gutman's winning Archibald Prize portrait, *Head in the sky, feet on the ground* (2023). While a number of portraits depicting Jewish subjects have been submitted to (some of them winning), the Archibald, Gutman is the fourth Jewish artist to be awarded Australia's most prestigious award for portraiture, following in the footsteps of Judy Cassab (1960, 1967), Wendy Sharpe (1996) and Yvette Coppersmith (2018).



Clockwise from top left: Judy Cassab, *Stanislaus Rapotec* (1960); Wendy Sharpe, *Self Portrait – as Diana of Erskineville* (1996); Julia Gutman, *Head in the sky, feet on the ground* (2023); Judy Cassab, *Margo Lewers* (1967); Yvette Coppersmith, *Self-portrait, after George Lambert* (2018);

Images: [Art Gallery of New South Wales](https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/)



Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No 89

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-1@uts.edu.au.