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Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2023 issue of the AAJS biannual newsletter.

As this year draws to a close, we reflect on the horrific events of 7 October and the terrible war that has unfolded over the past three months that has shaken many in the Jewish Studies community. The AAJS Board understands and acknowledges the deep and personal connection many of our members share with Israel and its people. Consequently, this issue opens with a statement of support

from the Board. Following are announcements from AAJS members and a word from the convenors of the AAJS 2024 conference. Dr Anna Hirsh, AAJS co-President (VIC) reports on the recent launch of the refurbished Melbourne Holocaust Museum. Dr Joshua Nash, co-editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* reflects on the potential for Jewish studies to serve as an 'ameliorating balm' in the current climate. Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland reflects on her involvement in the recent Brighton Secondary College antisemitism case. This issue's

member essay comes to us from new member Sarah Grandke along with Johanna Schmied, exploring the postcards sent from the Litzmannstadt (Łódź) ghetto during the Shoah. Our readers will also find information about exciting positions in Jewish studies and related fields in Australia and abroad, calls for papers to upcoming conferences, and research fellowship opportunities. We also share recommendations on several fascinating recent books in diverse areas of Jewish studies.

I would like to remind our readers that the AAJS newsletter is now distributed biannually rather than quarterly. Therefore, I invite our readers to submit content, including information on your own emerging research and publications, events, essays or photos relevant to Jewish Studies in Australia and around the world that you would like included in our Autumn/Winter 2024 issue by Friday 24 May 2024.

Finally, on behalf of the AAJS Board, I would like to thank our contributors to this issue, as well as our members for your continued support of our association. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2024!

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan
Sydney Jewish Museum/UTS
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, NSW : Associate Professor Jan Láníček (University of New South Wales)
 Email: j.lanicek@unsw.edu.au

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

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

Vice President, VIC: Associate Professor Steven Cooke (Deakin University and Melbourne Holocaust Museum)
 Email: steven.cooke@deakin.edu.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 Coordinator: Dr Suzanne Faigan
 Email: website@aajs.org.au

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
 Email: suzanne.faigan@gmail.com
 Email: jahewangi@hotmail.com

AAJS Executive Board Members:

Ex-Officio, Immediate Past President: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
 Email: gzuckermann@gmail.com

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)

Professor Emeritus William Rubinstein (Aberystwyth University)

Associate Professor Avril Alba (University of Sydney)

Associate Professor Steven Cooke

Dr Myer Samra

Ms Kathy Baykitch (Sydney Jewish Museum)

Ms Jasmine Beinart (University of Adelaide)

Ms 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
 Email: jss2110@gmail.com

Canada: Associate Professor David Koffman
 Email: koffman@yorku.ca

Statement from AAJS executive board

On behalf of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, we are writing to express our shock and deep concern at the horrific events that have unfolded in Israel. For members in our association, this war is very personal. Many of us have lived in Israel, and many have friends, family and colleagues who live there. Conflict in the region has an impact on Jewish Studies faculty and students around the world. Antisemitism has been evidenced at pro-Palestinian rallies both in Australia and abroad.

At this very difficult time, we stand in solidarity with the people of Israel. We pray for everyone's safety and security and express our sympathies and support to all our members, and all those impacted by these events across the world.

New publications by Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

This year has been a busy one for founding member of the AAJS, Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland, who is pleased to inform our readers of her most recent publications—some of which are accessible by links below:

Chapters in Books:

- Rutland, Suzanne D. and William Allington. 'Countering Antisemitism at the University of Sydney, Australia,' in *Confronting Antisemitism on Campus*, edited by Virginia Stead, 195–211. Lausanne: Peter Lang, 2023.
- Rutland, Suzanne D. 'Antisemitism in Australia,' in *The Routledge History of Antisemitism*, edited by Mark Weitzman, Robert J. Williams, Robert J. and Jim Wald, 77–85. London: Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, 2023.

Article:

- Gross, Zehavit, and Suzanne D. Rutland. 'Exploring the Value of Special Religious Education in Multifaith Australia among Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews and Baha'i', *Religion & Education* 50, no. 1 (2023): 95–116, DOI: 10.1080/15507394.

Online Publications:

- Rutland, Suzanne D. '[Israel faces an existential threat from its own government.](#)' *+61J*, July 28, 2023.
- Rutland, Suzanne D. '[The long, dark history of antisemitism in Australia.](#)' *The Conversation*, November 24, 2023.

Dr Anna Hueneke receives prestigious Cantor Michael Deutsch Award

The AAJS wishes longtime member Dr Anna Hueneke *Mazal Tov* on receiving the prestigious Cantor Michael Deutsch Award.

Dr Hueneke is a poet, composer and visual artist who is currently completing a Doctor of Musical Arts at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. She was awarded for her work writing Classical Hebrew poetry in a woman's voice, and singing her poetry with Jewish liturgical melodies and her own compositions. AAJS members will be familiar with Dr Hueneke's work included in previous issues of the AAJS newsletter, and performed at AAJS conferences.

The Cantor Michael Deutsch Award is a rare achievement, with the award only being made three times since being established in 2011.

Congratulations to Associate Professor Steven Cooke



The AAJS congratulates Associate Professor Steven Cooke, for his successful appointment as the new CEO/Director of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum; he will be commencing in this role in early 2024. Steven has been connected with the MHM for many years. He has decades of high-level experience in museums and academia, with his most recent roles as Associate Professor of Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies at Deakin University, and Associate Head of School (International and Partnerships) within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences; he is also a member of the Australian delegation at the IHRA. Steven is currently nominee AAJS Vice President (Victoria) and, with Dr Donna-Lee Frieze and Dr Anna Hirsh, co-convened the successful and enjoyable AAJS conference at Deakin Downtown in Melbourne in 2022. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Steven, and wish him all the best for his appointment to this important role.

Congratulations to Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann



It has been a busy year for ex-officio, immediate past president of the AAJS, Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann.

Professor Zuckermann received the prestigious Rubinlicht Prize for Yiddish (2023).

The Australian newspaper has listed him among the 30 of '[Australia's Living Legends of Research](#)' among other prominent Australians including Germaine Greer, Peter Singer, J.M. Coetzee and Marcia Langton.

Finally, he was recently appointed Professor of Linguistics at Flinders University and Adjunct Professor of the Institute for Positive Psychology and Education at the Australian Catholic University.

Mazal tov, Ghil'ad!

Do you have any announcements that you would like included in the Autumn/Winter 2024 AAJS Newsletter? If so, please contact the Newsletter Editor.

A word from AAJS 2024 conference convenors

Creation – Re-Creation is the theme for the 2024 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference that will take place at the Sydney Jewish Museum on 11-12 February. Panels include discussion on Biblical Judaism and Midrash, Jewish history, antisemitism, and Jewish art, architecture and culture. The conference already looks set to be exciting and well-attended and our largest conference in recent years. With three parallel sessions on both days, two prestigious keynote speakers: Professors Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College) and Michael Cohen (Tulane University), and a cocktail event with a panel of highly acclaimed contemporary artists highlighting their work in transgenerational Jewish memory and trauma.

Susannah Heschel is The Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College. Her scholarship includes a focus on Jewish feminism, Jewish and Protestant thought during the 19th and 20th centuries, and the history of antisemitism. Her 1995 book *On Being a Jewish Feminist* became an iconic masterpiece on Jewish feminist thought. Her recent work includes *Jewish Islam: Islam and Jewish-German self-determination* (2018), *The Muslim Reception of European Orientalism* (2018) and *Holocaust Scholarship: Personal Trajectories and Professional Interpretations*. (2015).

Michael Cohen is The Sizeler Professor of Jewish Studies at Tulane University, and the author of *Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era* (2017), *The Birth of Conservative Judaism: Solomon Schechter's Disciples and the Creation of an American Religious Movement* (2012).

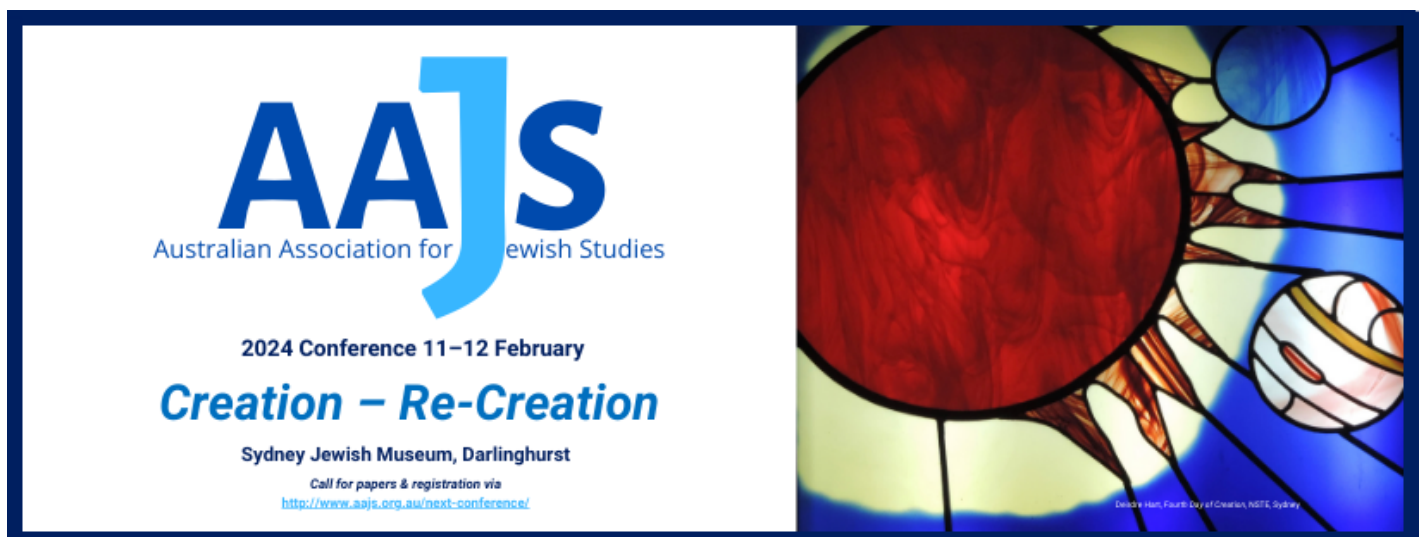
The cocktail event on the first evening follows a panel discussion on transgenerational Jewish memory and art, with Dr Ella Dreyfus discussing her documentary film *Dreyfus Drei* and Dr Sylva Griffin, a contemporary artist and educator at Sydney College of the Arts, University of Sydney.

The conference will be held at and co-hosted by the Sydney Jewish Museum on 11-12 February 2024. A detailed conference program will be distributed to participants in January.

To attend please register and pay via the link below:

<https://events.humanitix.com/2024-australian-association-for-jewish-studies-annual-conference>

Dr Lynne Swarts and Dr Jonathan Kaplan
Co-Convenors , AAJS 2024 Conference



Melbourne Holocaust Museum: officially launched



After many years of planning, building and sheer hard work, the Melbourne Holocaust Museum was officially relaunched on 22 November 2023. The new building is an awarded structure by acclaimed Kirsten Thomson Architects, purposefully designed to maximise education and staff spaces, and bring light into the building to counterbalance the dark subject matter. There is a memorial room designed by Stephen Jolson Architects, and there are three exhibition spaces: the Permanent Exhibition, titled *Everybody Had a Name*; a Children's Museum, aimed at 10-14 year olds, titled *Hidden*; and a temporary gallery which will program both historical and contemporary themed exhibitions. Kudos to Jayne Jolem (CEO & lead curator), Sandy Saxon (senior curator), Fiona Kelmann (assistant curator) and Arek Dybel (multimedia director) for the Permanent Exhibition, as well as to all my colleagues who invested so much work and dedication. More information: www.mhm.org.au



From top: exterior of the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, image by John Gollings; Memorial Room by Stephen Jolson; Dr Anna Hirsh with survivor guide Irma Hanner in the permanent exhibition. Images courtesy of A. Hirsh.

SYNAGOGUES, ART, CREATION, DESTRUCTION

My contribution to the Permanent Exhibition in the *World That Was* section of pre-war Jewish life, was a re-imagining of Peric Willenberg's Częstochowa Synagogue designs, which he created in the early 1920s; the synagogue was destroyed during the Holocaust. After digitally manipulating the handful of existing photographs of the ceiling, including of Willenberg and his team, I printed fragments onto watercolour paper then painted onto these collaged pieces. The reconstruction was guided by historical examples of European synagogues and contemporary pigments, as well as my own explorations of European synagogues, many of which have been transformed into museums. The ceiling is part of the MHM's Częstochowa room, which features an antique synagogue curtain from the New Synagogue, and a model of the Old Częstochowa synagogue made by Treblinka survivor Chaim Sztajer. I will be speaking about this ceiling project at the AAJS conference in February 2024, which will be held at our counterpart institution, the [Sydney Jewish Museum](#).

**Dr Anna Hirsh, AAJS co-President,
MHM Manager of Collections & Research**



Ceiling in situ. Image courtesy of A. Hirsh.

Incumbency: A short piece by AJJS co-editor, Dr Joshua Nash

I am adjectivally incumbent and nominally an incumbent. As I reflect here-now, I am in the throes of editorship; one is on my own for my own, [Some Islands](#), a journal of linguistics and art. The other is with my co-editor, Suzanne Faigan, for this Association's journal. Editing is a significant task. One can be a gatekeeper and prevent people and work from entering. One can let whatever in and let it ramble. There are many shades of grey in between.

This year is a noteworthy one to begin as office-holder for the pages of *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*. The events in the Jewish world in the Middle East and elsewhere need hardly be mentioned. Other media make sure we don't forget the horrors of war and associated troubles. I want to muse on something else, namely the title of the editorial for this year's journal issue: 'Jewish Studies as ameliorating balm.'

Sometimes we wonder how we end up in the places and states in which we find ourselves. Sometimes we gasp at and run away from ourselves when we look square in the face at what we have done to others and ourselves. Sometimes words don't matter. In times like those upon us, I hope that the words in our journal *do* offer something to all of our readers and members; words past and words to come. The academic enterprise should be an offering of engagement and an invitation to dialogue. It is with such specific summons to reading *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* that the intellect and the intellectual can participate in the possibility of Jewish Studies as ameliorating balm.

What else can people do in the face of such a situation in which Jews and others find themselves? Mostly we look to the past to derive strength to have a clearer vision for the future in a time when there doesn't seem to be one. Such a base provides the stuff for more than mere survival: a continued prospect of better things to come.

Because of its broad scope which spans several disciplines, the Journal hopes its scholarship can help academics, authors, and people of all caste and creed arrive at sound ways of thinking about the world and, indeed, managing conflict. After all, all skirmishes take root in disagreements, many of which come about through the lack of shared understandings. Surely, it is here that words can be a humble yet hopeful and revolutionary salve. They can be a means to get us out of a pickle, and to move us from where our thinking and feeling are now to where we would hope them to be to gain more appropriate ways of acting.

If the words, ideas, articles, and book reviews in previous, this, and future issues of *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* in any way mend or lessen less-than-ideal ways of thinking about the state of world Jewry, Jewish scholarship in Australia and elsewhere, cultural and religious conflict anywhere, and internal and external struggles more generally, then this must be a job well done. It is this hope and hopeful effect that make my incumbency worthwhile.

Dr Joshua Nash
co-Editor
Australian Journal of Jewish Studies

Reflections on the Brighton Secondary College antisemitism case

Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland

As was reported in the *Australian Jewish News*, the Honourable Judge Debra Mortimer, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia, announced just before Rosh Hashana her landmark judgment in favour of the five former Jewish students at Brighton Secondary College (BSC) who claimed to have been subjected to antisemitic bullying and harassment while at the school. She found that principals of BSC, Richard Minack and Julie Podbury, had been negligent, and that Mr Minack was in breach of the Commonwealth Racial Discrimination Act in failing to protect the students' human rights. As she worded Mr Minack's less favourable approach to antisemitic bullying and harassment of Jewish students at BSC in her summary:

This conduct involved a distinction in the way the applicants were treated by Mr Minack and, through his failures in leadership, the teachers and staff at BSC, which in turn impaired the applicants' human rights to security of person and protection, to education, and to preservation of their Jewish identity...

This is a landmark case which will have ramifications not only in Australia but in other parts of the English-speaking world, where there have been reports of antisemitism in high schools, but no parallel legal action. Only one other school case of this nature has taken place – that was in Canada, and it was twenty years ago.

I first became aware of this case in October 2020, when a young barrister, Adam Butt, wrote to me saying he was involved 'in a private inquiry and the making of recommendations to try to prevent and manage the problem of anti-semitic / anti-Israeli bullying', and that my name had been recommended. Little did I realise that this was the beginning of what was to be a four-year saga, resulting in Justice Mortimer's landmark judgement released this last September. As I outlined in my article on J-Wire, '[A plaudit for barrister Adam Butt](#)', there were several factors which led to this successful result.

For the boys, with their parents, to take on the might of the Victorian government indeed required courage, determination, and dedication to this fight for justice. It was made possible because four families – including brothers Joel and Matt Kaplan – were willing to stand up for their rights. During the long, gruelling process, the families acted as a support group.

Students and parents generally walk away in such cases – it is much easier to change schools and put the whole issue behind them. As well, such cases require significant resources, resources which the four families involved in the case certainly did not have. But, in this case, the lack of resources was overcome by the dedication of the legal team.



The legal team for the Brighton Secondary College antisemitism case consisting of Richard Hutchings, Adam Butt and Alex Marcou. Image courtesy of S.D. Rutland

In addition to the key role that the boys and their parents played – and they are, indeed, heroes – the sacrifices made by the legal team are equally important. Indeed, without the determination and dedication of the young barrister, Adam Butt, this case would not have happened. Adam would not let the matter go. He invested ongoing time, energy and his own resources, working on an essentially pro bono basis, to achieve this outcome.

Adam Butt grew up in Melbourne and graduated from Mount Scopus College. After completing his law/commerce degree at Monash and being admitted as a lawyer in 2008, he went overseas to pursue further studies. He completed a Master of Philosophy at Cambridge University and a Master of Laws at New York University. A brilliant student, he spent a decade furthering his knowledge and broadening his horizons before returning to Australia to undertake the Bar exams. He was admitted to both the NSW Bar and to the New York Bar in 2017.

It did not take long for Mr Butt to demonstrate his abilities and skill in his work with his cases. For the last four years he has been nominated as Barrister of the Year, and in 2021 he received the Barrister of the Year award at the Australian Law Awards. After his third time being shortlisted last year, the Lawyers' Weekly's headline said it all: ['Why commitment and contribution are the cornerstone of barristerial success'](#).

Indeed, it was his commitment and central contribution that led to the success of this case, which ran over three years. It started with a ministerial inquiry – where the agenda had been set by the government – to the Australian Human Rights Commission, to the Federal Court. As Adam Butt noted, it was 'an incredibly gruelling experience. A lot of blood and sweat went into it'. Throughout, he would not give up – as he says, 'The lesson of this case is that when something bad happens, you have to fight, you have to be resilient, and you have to go and get it, because no-one is going to give it to you'. And fight he did!

However, he could not have done this on his own. The legal team behind him led by Richard Hutchings of Cornwalls in Melbourne also played a central role. Mr Butt became friends with Mr Hutchings during their law studies. When the boys were having problems finding the right legal team, Cornwalls entered the scene. As Adam Butt commented: 'Richard is an exceptional solicitor, he has a way with people'. There is no doubt that 'one cannot win a case without solicitors backing you' and the legal team delivered.

As Adam Butt noted after Judge Mortimer announced her verdict, '...the Department has never lost a racial discrimination case, certainly not as far as I am aware of'. He also noted that the other victims of antisemitic bullying and violence in government schools, such as the incidents at Cheltenham High, have not received justice.

Summing up the key role of the legal team, Peter Wertheim, the co-CEO of the ECAJ and a former lawyer for 32 years, commented:

As a former lawyer, I believe I have some insight into the level of dedication and determination that was required of Adam to fight this case on behalf of his clients against much better resourced opponents. He used every ounce of his knowledge and skill for his clients. Adam's advice to them to seek a reciprocal costs-capping order to limit their exposure to an adverse costs order if the case was dismissed, was knowingly given against his own personal financial interests. Also, especially while he was sole counsel, I know the personal price Adam paid in sweat and nerves, in addition to the enormous financial sacrifice he made. In my opinion Adam acted in the highest traditions of the legal profession.

Yet, Adam Butt's role did not end there. As I described in my *Australian Jewish News* article, '[Adam Butt: an outstanding barrister](#)', 10 November 2023, he became a friend and confidante of the student plaintiffs, who were suffering from the negative impact of their Brighton experiences. As Matthew Kaplan, one of the applicant former students, explained:

On a more personal level having Adam's support throughout the whole process to try get justice for what occurred to me and many others in our time in school couldn't have served us better. Adam's been the best possible advocate anyone could have ever asked for representing us better than I could have ever dreamed of. I never thought it was possible to have the principal apologise to me after asking for it for nearly three years so watching him apologise under Adam's amazing cross examination helped get closure for all of us involved.

All five of us that Adam represented will agree when I say he has changed our lives for the better helping us move on and continue our lives for a better future. There was a large crowd there to support and watch Adam's skill in the court room including senior counsel. The talk of the crowd was nobody had ever seen anyone nearly as excellent as Adam is. The judgment is only icing on the cake as the work Adam has done has improved the situation for all kids attending school today with new systems, policies and even a phone hotline in place because of Adam's hard work and dedication for the human rights of children.

The parents of the boys expressed similar sentiments and could not thank Mr Butt enough. Janet Abadee, mother of the Jewish former student applicants, Joel and Matthew Kaplan, wrote:

... [Adam Butt] gave all five boys a voice which they never had been given. For the boys to heal and move on this voice was needed. Adam's ability to access each witness and change direction with a witness was amazing. He managed to get the truth out of the principal and teachers even though they didn't want to give it to him.

As a person there is no one with a bigger heart; he put his heart and soul into this case. He left no stone unturned. We all became family.

As a Jewish person, Adam gave more to the Jewish community than anyone has in decades. His unbelievable commitment to our case spending tens of thousands of hours earning no money to fight antisemitism. Antisemitism happens but no one goes to court. To take on the State of Victoria, which has unlimited funds and resources, but Adam did.

Adam has enabled five boys to grow to beautiful adults because he heard their stories and believed them. He has enabled these boys to move on.

Natalie Snelling, mother of Zack Snelling, another former BSC student applicant, who has just finished Year 12 at King David School, went through a gruelling time during the trial, yet she was there with Janet Abadee, sitting through the long days in court. She expressed similar sentiments, stressing the fact that 'Adam was incredible to watch and observe in the courtroom. Each and every day he had an uncanny ability to remember every detail no matter how small and seemingly insignificant and an unbelievable ability to recall case law and pieces of evidence'. She stressed that Adam's support and the way he handled the case was 'reassuring and much appreciated'.

For me, it has been an honour and a valued experience to be involved with this case. Having to deal with such an emotive issue, while reading through hundreds of pages of student witness testimony (both

Jewish and non-Jews), while not being able to share this with anyone due to the confidentiality requirements, was very challenging. However, in the end, the final judgement has made it all worthwhile.

I am currently undertaking revisions for a chapter on 'Religious discrimination in the Playground' that I wrote before October 7 for a new book to be published by Brill. It focuses on the issue of teacher bullying of religiously identifiable students. I have decided not to include the student strikes in both NSW and Victoria in support of the Palestinians in Gaza or the actions of the Teachers' Federations in NSW and Victoria, with teachers in some schools deciding to wear keffiyehs for a week and drawing on other ways of supporting the Palestinians. This has resulted in a polarisation and has impacted negatively on Jewish students and teachers.

These developments need to be the subject of an additional study, but they demonstrate how the issue of countering antisemitism in schools has become even more complex and challenging since October 7. In her judgement, Justice Mortimer decided not to take into consideration the anti-Israel comments of two teachers included in the case, and she did not find against them. She commented 'Since I have largely rejected the elements of the applicants' case that turn on alleged statements [by the teachers] about the State of Israel, it is not necessary for me to enter into any discussion on this issue' (para 31, full judgement). However, given that the swastika and terms such as 'Heil Hitler' and 'Jews to the gas' have been used in the current wave of anti-Israel antisemitism, it may not be so easy to separate traditional right-wing antisemitism from the current left-wing negative polemics against Israel.

AAJS member essay: “My last laundry load is in good hands with you”: (Last) signs of life from the Litzmannstadt ghetto’ by Sarah Grandke and Johanna Schmied

This is an English translation of an extract from the article currently being published by Sarah Grandke and Johanna Schmied, ‘(Letzte) Lebenszeichen - Vom Recherchieren und Ausstellen „Hamburger Postkarten“ aus dem Ghetto Litzmannstadt,’ in Isolation-Konzentration-Isolation. Regionale Studien zur Verfolgung der jüdischen Bevölkerung, published by Erinnerungsort Alter Schlachthof, Düsseldorf.

On 25 October 1941, the merchant Maximilian Nagel from Hamburg was deported to the Litzmannstadt ghetto. The above quote comes from one of seven postcards Nagel wrote during his forced stay in Litzmannstadt.[1] All the cards written on the same day (10 December 1941) were addressed to acquaintances and friends of the 58-year-old, including one to the Chin family.

Postcards were temporarily the only legal way of contacting people outside the ghetto. Consequently, the post was Nagel’s only link to his previous life in Hamburg. Maximilian Nagel’s comment that his last laundry was in good hands with the Chin family implies that he feared he would not be able to return to his home town. The Chin family was not only well acquainted with Maximilian Nagel, they also ran a laundry. Nagel was obviously there frequently before his deportation and had regular contact with the family.

The postcards of the Hamburg merchant Nagel are part of a collection of around 22,100 postcards from the Litzmannstadt ghetto, which are now held in the State Archives in Łódź, Poland. Since 2012, this source corpus has been available in digitised, freely accessible form on the website of the State Archives in Łódź.[2] The majority of these cards are addressed to the places of origin of those who had been deported to the ghetto from Germany, Vienna, Prague and Luxembourg since October 1941. The postcards are mainly dated between November 1941 and February 1942.[3] Since 2019, the collection of unsent postcards in the Łódź State Archives has been examined for the first time from a Hamburg perspective by Sarah Grandke and Johanna Schmied as part of research for the ‘denk.mal Hannoverscher Bahnhof’ documentation centre and made accessible to the public in Hamburg and online in 2022.

The complex postal system in the Litzmannstadt ghetto

After the German occupation of the Polish industrial metropolis of Łódź on 8 September 1939, the German Reichspost was responsible for the city’s civilian postal traffic. This initially affected the non-Jewish Polish and Jewish population equally. With the order to form a ghetto on 8 February 1940, the Jewish population was excluded from using the postal services of the German Reichspost. De facto, this meant that around 40 per cent of the entire city population was affected by the restrictions.[4] In February 1940, at the same time as the ghetto was formed, a ‘Jewish post office’ was established by Jewish administration, where mail addressed to the ghetto was collected and forwarded. The post office had the task of providing postal services to the approximately 160,000 Jews from the now renamed city of Litzmannstadt and the surrounding Warthegau region.[5]

From November 1941, the ‘new arrivals’, i.e. those deported from the ‘West’, were allowed to ask acquaintances outside the ghetto for money. The historian Avraham Barkai pointed out that it was precisely these money transfers requested by post that made up a considerable proportion of the means of payment flowing into the ghetto from outside. This was therefore also an important source of income for the German ghetto administration.[6]

No free writing: Censorship and mail restrictions

The 20,000 people who were deported from Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Bohemia and Moravia to the Litzmannstadt ghetto from October 1941 onwards were initially completely excluded from using the postal service.[7] This postal ban was only lifted on 4 December 1941, but in conjunction with strict conditions. Just a few days after the ban was loosened, the post offices in the Litzmannstadt ghetto recorded sales of 20,000 postcards. This high demand illustrates how great the need was for the deportees to send a sign of life to relatives and friends outside the ghetto. For those who arrived in the ghetto from October 1941 onwards, only postcards were allowed to be sent. Personal messages were allowed, but any description of the harsh conditions of their place of detention was forbidden. The postcards had to be written in German and, according to the German ghetto administration, had to be written clearly and legibly. Any supposedly illegible writing, soiling and cards that were too densely written on were not permitted to be sent.[8] The censorship office of the Jewish administration had to check every outgoing postcard. Messages that did not meet the strict requirements were not even allowed to be forwarded to the German Reichspost.[9] When a postcard was handed in at the post office or via a letterbox, it was hoped that it would reach the person addressed. This must also have been the case for Maximilian Nagel.

(Re)discovered signs of life

In analysing the 396 'Hamburg-Litzmannstadt postcards', it is striking how varied their messages were. Some of the cards only contain a brief request for money, while others use every last millimetre of space. In many cases, several people or families signed, although this was forbidden. A message from 21-year-old Hanna Meyer shows how great the need was to inform relatives about the exact conditions in the ghetto: *'You should finally have a sign of life from me. I'm healthy, but that is all. (...) The stress was too much for our dear Gertrud, she was hospitalised after we had been here for two days and (...) died. Her nerves didn't want to go on.'*[10] Presumably, the specific descriptions of the shock after arriving in the ghetto were the reason for withholding the postcard. Torn from their previous lives, the deportees found themselves in a place that was completely unknown to them and in a hostile environment. In dirty collective accommodation and without adequate sanitary facilities, the people had to live in very cramped conditions while organising their (non-)daily lives. Language barriers and mutual prejudices made living together in the forced Polish-German-Jewish ghetto community very difficult.[11]

Alongside fears and despair, homesickness is an important theme in the postcards. *'My thoughts are always in Hamburg, the longing is indescribable'*[12], Meyer continued. There are many accounts of concern and fear for relatives and acquaintances in Germany. The postcard of Susanne Zirker shows how specific the knowledge of further deportations was. Postcards also helped her to keep in touch with relatives and friends in Hamburg. However, she addressed a card to her friend Eva Burchard not to Hamburg but directly to the Minsk ghetto.[13] Eva Burchard and her family were deported there in November 1941, around two and a half weeks after Zirker's own deportation to Litzmannstadt. Zirker even describes how she heard about her friend's new location: *'I found out from Mrs Feldstein [a roommate in the Litzmannstadt ghetto] that you had gone to Minsk.'* Zirker assumed that her friend Eva's destination must be similar to her own. However, it was not possible for the friends to get in touch. In the 'Minsk Special Ghetto', all postal correspondence was forbidden, as was sending cards from Litzmannstadt to other occupied territories.[14]

Writing a postcard was clearly a matter of survival for the deportees - at least at times. Not just because it was the only way to ask for money to be sent. Rather, the postcards provided emotional support in a completely hostile environment.

A sneak insight into the 2022 exhibition can be found via: <https://hannoverscher-bahnhof.gedenkstaetten-hamburg.de/en/#c4018>

At the end of February, Sarah Grandke and Johanna Schmied are delighted to have been invited by the Australian Society of Polish Jews and their Descendants to an online discussion about their research. More information coming soon: <https://www.polishjews.org.au/>

Endnotes

1. Postcard Maximilian Nagel to Jing Chin, 10.12.1941, APŁ, Sign. 39/278/0/30/2318.
2. APŁ, Sign. 39/278/0/30/2316 to 39/278/0/30/2323, Karty pocztowe przeznaczone dla krewnych i znajomych w Generalnej Guberni, Rzeszy i w innych krajach, które nie zostały wysłane z getta przez pocztę [Postcards intended for relatives and friends in the Generalgouvernement, the Reich and other countries that were not sent by post from the ghetto] (translation by the authors), online: <https://www.szukajwarchiwach.gov.pl/de/wyszukiwarka>
3. Schulze/Petriuk, *Unsere Arbeit – Unsere Hoffnung*, 1995, p. 65.
4. Loose, *Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden durch das nationalsozialistische Deutschland* (VEJ), Bd. 10: Polen. *Die eingegliederten Gebiete, August 1941-1945*, 2013, p. 19.
5. Löw, *Juden im Getto Litzmannstadt*, p. 146; Loose, VEJ, Bd. 10, p. 19.
6. Barkai, *Hoffnung und Untergang. Studien zur deutsch-jüdischen Geschichte des 19. und 20. Jahrhunderts*, 1998, p. 248.
7. Schulze/Petriuk, *Unsere Arbeit – unsere Hoffnung*, p. 38.
8. Steinert, „Ich bin noch immer ohne Nachricht von Dir ...“ Beschlagnahmte Post im Getto Litzmannstadt 1940-1944, 2015, p. 167, in: Brechtelmacher/Perz/Wonisch, *Post 41*, 2015, pp. 161-184.
9. Barkai, *Hoffnung und Untergang*, p. 247.
10. Postcard Hanna Meyers to Paul Kuseler, 8.12.1941, APŁ, Sign. 39/278/0/30/2318.
11. Loose, VEJ, Bd. 10, p. 24.
12. Postcard Hanna Meyers to Paul Kuseler, 8.12.1941, APŁ, Sign. 39/278/0/30/2318.
13. Postcard Susanne Zirker to Eva Burchhard, 9.12.1941, APŁ, Sign. 39/278/0/30/2318.
14. Rentrop, *Tatorte der „Endlösung“. Das Ghetto Minsk und die Vernichtungsstätte von Maly Trostinez*, 2011, p. 179.

Sarah Grandke is a PhD candidate and currently Visiting Research Fellow at the Sydney Jewish Museum and was from 2018 to 2023 curator at the Dokumentationszentrum „denk.mal Hannoverscher Bahnhof“ in Hamburg. Grandke will be presenting a paper on her doctoral research titled, '(Re)Creation of Memory: Jewish and Christian Displaced Persons as memory activists after World War II' at the AAJS 2024 Annual Conference in Sydney.

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

Vacancies in Jewish studies and related fields

Casual Academic Talent Pool – ADA - Humanities & Languages, University of New South Wales

The School of Humanities and Languages in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture is seeking expressions of interest from qualified individuals for teaching opportunities in 2024. We encourage experienced tutors, lecturers, recent graduates and HDR candidates to register their interest in working with the School.

Our School teaches across the below disciplines:

- Philosophy
- History and Area Studies
- Gender Studies
- European Culture and Languages (German, French, Spanish, Greek)
- Chinese Culture and Language
- Japanese and Korean Culture and Language
- Linguistics
- Translation and Interpreting
- Environmental Humanities
- Environmental Management

The Academic talent pool registration will allow you to select your area of interest, which courses you would be interested in teaching as well as providing information on your qualifications and experience to assess your suitability for any roles. When opportunities arise, you will be contacted for an interview to discuss your experience, skills and qualifications.

We expect to offer both on-campus and online activities in 2024, which could include tutorials, lectures, seminars as well as marking or assistance with Hybrid teaching.

For additional information and to apply, visit <https://external-careers.jobs.unsw.edu.au/cw/en/job/507304/casual-academic-talent-pool-ada-humanities-languages>

Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship, Department of Arts, Humanities and Technology, University of Texas, Dallas.

Position Description

The History and Philosophy Program at The University of Texas at Dallas invites applications for the Jacqueline and Michael Wald Professorship. This is a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in the history of human rights, genocide, and/or the Holocaust. The area of chronological and geographical specialization is open.

The successful candidate will have a strong commitment to research and publishing, undergraduate and graduate teaching, and professional academic service. The standard teaching load is two courses per semester. Salary is competitive and the position includes an endowed research budget.

The appointment commences for the fall 2024 semester.

Qualifications

Minimum Education and Experience: An earned doctoral degree in history at the time of appointment. Candidates are expected to demonstrate the ability to work effectively in a highly collaborative, engaging, and dynamic environment comprised of individuals with a range of backgrounds, skills, and perspectives. We are seeking candidates able to produce research and scholarly or creative achievements that enhance the program and the discipline, and able to deliver high quality teaching using evidence-based practices to effectively engage students from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

Application Instructions

Applicants should upload the following via the [online application](#):

- Full curriculum vitae and cover letter summarizing their interests and qualifications for the position.

- Statement of teaching philosophy describing their conceptualizations of teaching and learning, and teaching and assessment methods, and how their teaching practices will engage students from a range of backgrounds and experiences.
- Research statement describing past, present, and future research, including how they mentor (or will mentor) student researchers and foster (or will foster) collaborative research environments.
- A writing/publication sample; and
- Full contact information for at least three academic or professional references.

Priority will be given to completed applications received by **29 January 2024**. Reviews will continue until the position is filled or the search is closed on 1 August 2024.

For additional information and to apply, visit <https://jobs.utdallas.edu/postings/25255>

Golda Och Visiting Assistant Professor in the Field of Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York

The Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) seeks a scholar and teacher for a one year visiting faculty appointment in the area of Rabbinic Literatures and Cultures.

While the area of specialization within rabbinics is open, preference for a scholar with expertise in the fields of Midrash, Halakhah, and/or early medieval rabbinic literatures will be made. The successful candidate will have a passion for teaching the varied student body at JTS, which includes undergraduate, graduate, education, rabbinical, and cantorial students, and an active research agenda. The successful candidate will be supportive of the academic, religious, and communal [mission](#) of JTS.

JTS welcomes applications from all qualified candidates without regard to race, color, disability, age, sex, national origin, marital status,

veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or any other factors as prohibited by law.

Scholars from underrepresented populations are especially encouraged to apply as JTS strives to increase the diversity of its faculty to achieve its ethical and religious goals.

Teaching responsibilities are two courses in the fall and two in the spring. Salary \$60,000 plus benefits.

This appointment begins July 1, 2024. Candidates must have their PhD in hand by May 2024.

Applicants should submit a cover letter, a curriculum vitae, a description of their present research agenda, and a teaching portfolio or brief statement of teaching philosophy as it relates to their suitability to teach at JTS by **January 22nd, 2024**. Please submit documents to Michelle Mehring, Academic Affairs Program Manager and Executive Assistant to the Provost, at facultycenter@jtsa.edu. Applicants should list three referees who can send letters on their behalf when requested. All email communications should include the subject line "RLC Search [Applicant's Name]."

Applications received by **January 22, 2024** will be given full consideration.

Contact:

Please submit documents to Michelle Mehring, Academic Affairs Program Manager and Executive Assistant to the Provost, at facultycenter@jtsa.edu.

Website:

<https://www.jtsa.edu/>

Upcoming conferences & calls for papers

CfP – Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference: “Let Us Compare Mythologies” at McGill University, Montreal, June 16-18, 2024

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is pleased to announce that its 2024 annual national conference will take place at McGill University, from Sunday to Tuesday, June 16-18, 2024 as part of the 2024 Congress for Social Sciences and Humanities.

Given the fact that the conference is in Montreal, birthplace of Leonard Cohen and the starting point for so many other storied personalities and events, we have chosen “Let us Compare Mythologies” as our conference theme. But, as always, we welcome and encourage submissions in English and French on any topic relating to Canada’s Jews.

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

All presenters must be paid members of the ACJS for the year of the conference (2024) at the time that proposals are submitted. Membership information for the ACJS can be found on the ACJS website at <http://acjs-aejc.ca/membership>. Please attach the receipt from your 2024 membership to your proposal.

Please submit your proposal by email, as a .doc or .rtf attachment, to the ACJS Conference Chairs by sending a message to ACJS-2024@cjarchives.ca. Because proposals undergo blind review, please do not include any personal, identifiable information in your proposal attachment. Instead, please

indicate your name, affiliation, address, telephone number, and email address in the body of the email.

Paper proposals are due on **January 15, 2024**. After an anonymous peer-review process, presenters will be contacted by February 26th.

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

For more information, contact ACJS-2024@cjarchives.ca.

This conference is part of the 2024 Congress of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences Ce colloque se tient sous les auspices du Congrès 2024 de la Fédération des sciences humaines

CfP – 16th Contact Day Jewish Studies on the Low Countries. Institute of Jewish Studies – University of Antwerp. May 23, 2024

The Institute of Jewish Studies organizes for the sixteenth time an interdisciplinary conference at the University of Antwerp concerning Jewish Studies on the Low Countries. The purpose of the conference is to facilitate contacts between researchers working within this area of study. We especially encourage young researchers to participate in the workshop. We also hope for contributions from more established researchers, in order to create a positive exchange between different research generations. We particularly invite papers and/or sessions that are explicitly comparative in character, and welcome themes and disciplines within Jewish Studies concerning the Low Countries. Proposals need not be limited to a specific historical period and presentations may include work in progress. Both individual

and panel proposals are possible. The conference language is English. Please note that the conference organizers cannot provide financial support to cover travel and accommodation of presenters or participants. Please submit an abstract of maximally 400 words and a short CV by **15 January 2024**.

For further information please contact:

- Karin Hofmeester: kho@iisg.nl
- Veerle Vanden Daelen: veerle.vandendaelen@kazernedossin.eu

CfP – 40th Annual Conference of the AIS | 12th Annual Conference of the EAIS, July 1-3, 2024

Israel and Israel Studies: The European and International Perspective
Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

This event will bring together distinguished scholars, researchers, and experts from around the world to explore the rich and diverse landscape of Israel Studies. The late Czech-French writer Milan Kundera famously expressed his perception of the complex European-Israeli attachment in 1985 while accepting the Jerusalem Prize: “Even after Europe so tragically failed them, the Jews nonetheless kept faith with that European cosmopolitanism; and Israel, their little homeland finally regained, seems to me the true heart of Europe – a heart strangely located outside the body.”

How have European and international discourses and understanding of Israel developed over the last decades? Is the European perspective on Israel considered unique, loaded by often unprocessed events of the 20th century, or can we no longer distinguish relevant geographical patterns in today’s globalized world? How do Israel and its society differ or mirror Kundera’s nostalgic optics, and what are the current principal challenges? In the contemporary landsc-

ape, where does Israel stand in relation to both Europe and the Middle East?

The conference aims to bring together international scholars, post-docs, and Ph.D. students from any discipline relevant to Israel Studies – including, but not limited to, Anthropology, Arts (music, visual, performance, film, etc.), Culture Studies, Conflict Resolution, Disability Studies, Economics and Business, Education, Gender Studies, Geography and Environment, History, International Relations, Jewish Studies, Language and Literature, Law, Media and Communication, Middle East Studies, Migration Studies, Minority Studies, Palestine Studies, Philosophy and Thought, Politics, Religious Studies, Security Studies, and Sociology.

The conference will be held in person and according to any restrictions or regulations in effect at that time.

The deadline for submitting proposals is **January 16, 2024**.

Submission Guidelines:

- Individual, Roundtable, and full Panel sessions are submitted online via <https://aisisraelstudies.org/conference/40th-annual-conference-of-the-association-for-israel-studies/>
- Individual abstracts may include co-authors, and should not exceed 250 words.
- Roundtable proposals should include a chair and 3-5 experts, plus an abstract of up to 750 words.
- Panel session proposals should include a chair and 3-5 presenters of original research, plus an abstract of up to 750 words.
- In constructing roundtables and panels, keep in mind the importance of diversity.
- All presenters will be required to register for the conference and be current members of either the AIS or the EAIS in order to present and be listed in the conference program.
- Registration takes place in March on the EAIS website. (Details will be sent to all accepted presenters).

- Note that this year's registration price will be different due to the requirements of a joint conference.
- Graduate students who have completed their coursework are encouraged to submit their proposal and should provide the email of their advisor for approval.

For additional information visit

<https://aisisraelstudies.org/conference/40th-annual-conference-of-the-association-for-israel-studies/>

CfP – Jewish Historical Studies: A Journal of English-Speaking Jewry, volume 56 (2025)

We invite submissions for Volume 56 of *Jewish Historical Studies: A Journal of English-Speaking Jewry* (JHS).

In concert with its founding mission, JHS publishes original research focused on the Jewish past in pre-modern and modern England. From 2023, however, the journal has embraced a broader vision, devoting attention to other Jewish communities with which Anglo-Jewry shares intimate historical ties: South Africa, Canada, Australia, and the English-speaking Caribbean. Our upcoming special issue on South African Jewry (Volume 55, 2024) reflects this change in focus.

The journal invites articles that address Jewish history in these contexts, while also encouraging comparative historical work across communities that otherwise have been typically studied as discrete units. We seek contributions that challenge, deepen and broaden our understanding of the characteristics of English-speaking Jewry, particularly the challenges and opportunities that liberal host societies presented to the development of Jewish life. We also seek articles that trace the transnational connections between these communities and identify the ways in which a common language facilitated the emergence of a distinctive anglophone Jewish sphere.

While predominantly historical in its focus, JHS encourages contributions that augment historical perspectives with the insights and methodologies of complementary disciplines.

Please email your full manuscript (8,000 words), author CV, as well as a 300 word abstract to JHS Managing Editor Jemima Jarman at jemimajarman@outlook.com

Submission guidelines can be found [here](#).

Deadline for submissions **31 March 2024**.

Grants and other opportunities

3 Calls for Applications for Visiting Fellowships, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford

The OCHJS is delighted to announce calls for applications for 3 different forms of Visiting Fellowships as part of its Oxford Seminars in Advanced Jewish Studies programme: 2 OSRJL Visiting Fellowships in Rare Jewish Languages, 3 Salo and Jeannette Baron Visiting Fellowships in Jewish History and 1 Yishai Shahar Visiting Fellowship in Jewish Art History.

Each of these Visiting Fellowships will last for the duration of one Oxford term—either Michaelmas Term 2024, Hilary Term 2025 or Trinity Term 2025—and will come with an honorarium of £3,000.

The deadline to apply for each of the Visiting Fellowships is 8 January 2024 at 12 noon UK Time.

To apply, please consult the individual fellowship documents accessed via <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/3-calls-for-applications-for-visiting-fellowships-2/>

Postdoctoral Associate in Ancient Judaism/History 2024-2026, Yale University

The Program in Jewish Studies at Yale University is offering a two-year Postdoctoral fellowship that will begin on July 1, 2024. Candidates for the fellowship must have a Ph.D. in hand by July 1, 2024 and must have received the degree no earlier than 2021. The Program seeks a specialist in Ancient Judaism who will work closely with appropriate members of Yale's faculty.

The Jewish Studies Postdoctoral Associate will be expected to be in residence, to conduct research in Yale's library and archival collections, to partici-

ate actively in the intellectual life of the university, teach two courses, one per year with the expectation to teach two courses in Jewish Studies; with the option of substituting the organization of a conference, seminar, or colloquium for the second year's course. The annual stipend will be \$66,000 plus health benefits. Candidates send a cover letter, CV, project proposal, three letters of recommendation, and a list of proposed courses to:

Jewish Studies Program
P.O. Box 208282
New Haven, CT 06520-8282

renee.reed@yale.edu

The deadline for receipt of application materials is **January 15, 2024**.

Hazel D. Cole Fellowship, The Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, The University of Washington, Seattle

The Stroum Center for Jewish Studies offers the Hazel D. Cole Fellowship, a two-year in-residence fellowship that supports a deserving doctoral or postdoctoral fellow in Jewish studies at the University of Washington in Seattle.

One year of the fellowship may be used as a dissertation completion fellowship (the candidate must demonstrate the intention to complete by the end of the first academic year) or for post-doctoral work (Ph.D. or foreign equivalent within the past three years) in any field of Jewish studies.

The Cole Fellow will contribute to the Stroum Center's intellectual community, and teach one quarter-long twice-weekly undergraduate lecture course per year. The Cole Fellow is also expected to offer one public lecture each year. The fellowship includes a stipend of \$62,500 plus benefits for each academic year, as well as access to the UW libraries.

The Cole Fellow must agree to remain in residence at the University of Washington in Seattle during the academic year for the tenure of their fellowship. An additional affiliation with a disciplinary department at the university will be strongly encouraged, depending on the scholar's research interests.

The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong academic record, focused research agenda, and enthusiasm about the resources available at the University of Washington. In addition, preference will be granted to applicants who propose lecture courses likely to attract a broad and diverse group of students. While discipline and field of study are open, the search committee has identified several thematic priorities:

- Jewish-Muslim relations
- Gender & sexuality
- Jews and race
- Jewish languages and cultures of the Middle East, Central Asia, or Africa
- Digital Jewish studies
- Jewish philosophy

How to apply for the fellowship

Applications for the fellowship are typically accepted every three years. The next application window opens **Dec. 1, 2023 and closes Jan. 31, 2024.**

Apply for the fellowship [here](#).

Finalists will be notified in late winter and decisions will be made by mid-March.

The University of Washington is building a culturally diverse faculty and staff and strongly encourages applications from women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and covered veterans. The University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status, or genetic information.

2024 University College London Research Institute for Collections Fellowships in British History and Jewish Studies

The University College London Research Institute for Collections is inviting applications for the following Fellowship programmes:

[RIC Visiting Fellowship in Special Collections](#)

This Fellowship offers scholars an opportunity to visit UCL to conduct research on a topic centred on the UCL holdings of archives, rare books, and records.

[RIC Liberating the Collections Fellowships](#)

These Fellowships are intended to unearth underrepresented voices in the UCL collections of museum objects, artworks, archives, rare books and manuscripts and find new ways of engaging with collection stories and presenting them to wider society.

The successful candidates will spend up to six weeks between April and December 2024 at UCL researching the collections. The Special Collections Visiting Fellow and Liberating the Collections Fellows will receive a grant of £4,500 and a work space on the UCL Bloomsbury campus.

The Liberating the Collections Fellowships are open to all and do not require an academic background or traditional academic output. The deadline for all applications is 5 February 2024.

Contact Information

Rebekah Seymour, Support Officer for the Research Institute for Collections (RIC)
UCL Library, Culture, Collections and Open Science (LCCOS)

Phone: +44 (0)20 3108 8905

Contact Email: rebekah.seymour@ucl.ac.uk

URL: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research-institute-collections/activities/research-support>

2023–2024 Paul Celan Fellowship for Translators, Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen/Institute for Human Sciences, Vienna

Paul Celan (1920–1970) was a Romanian poet and translator. He was born into a Jewish family as Paul Antschel, before changing his name to Paul Celan. While his parents were deported and eventually died in Nazi labor camps, Celan himself was interned for eighteen months before escaping to the Red Army. He is regarded as one of the most important German-language poets of the post-World War II era.

Objective

The aim of the Paul Celan Fellowship Program is to overcome deficits and asymmetries in the exchange of ideas and the reception of scholarly literature that result from the division of Europe in the twentieth century. Therefore, the program supports translations of canonical texts and contemporary key works in the humanities, social sciences, and cultural studies from Eastern to Western, Western to Eastern, or between two Eastern European languages. Special emphasis is put on translations of relevant works written by East European authors and/or by female scholars. A thematic relation to one of the research fields of the IWM is likewise welcomed.

Please note that fiction and poetry will not be accepted.

Conditions

Paul Celan Visiting Fellows are invited to spend three months between September 2024 and June 2025 at the IWM to pursue their translation projects. Fellows receive a monthly stipend in the amount of EUR 3,000 to cover all expenses related to their stay in Vienna. In addition, the IWM provides the fellows with an office including access to internet, in-house research and administrative facilities, as well as other services free of charge. Generally, fellowships start on the first day of the month and end on the last day of the month.

Application

Applications have to be submitted via the online application form including:

- a brief letter of motivation that addresses how the project would benefit from time at the IWM, the connection to the IWM's mission and research, and concrete research/writing goals during the fellowship
- a project description (max. 550 characters)
- a project proposal (max. 7,500 characters incl. spaces) containing a description of the project's a) objectives, b) the state of the art, c) methods, and d) a work plan
- a curriculum vitae with a bibliography of translations and other relevant publications
- a contract or a letter of intent from a publisher
- proof that the translator/publisher holds the rights to the translation and its publication (or has an option on them)

All application materials should be in English.

Apply via

<https://www.iwm.at/program/paul-celan-fellowship-for-translators>

Important! Attached documents must be combined into a single PDF, as the online submission form only allows for one attachment. File names of attachments must use Latin characters.

Deadline for application: **4 February 2024, 23:59 CET**

Selection

The finalists will be selected by a jury of experts. Applicants will be notified of the jury's decision in the spring semester of 2024. The jury is not required to publicly justify its decisions, nor to provide applicants individual feedback on their applications.

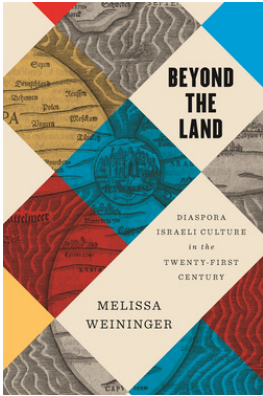
CONTACT

Franz Graf

Fellowship Program Coordinator

fellowships@iwm.at

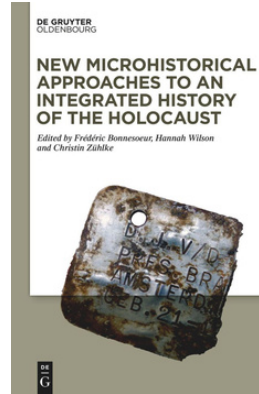
Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)



Beyond the Land: Diaspora Israeli Culture in the Twenty-First Century/ by Melissa Weininger. Wayne State University Press, 2023.

[9780814350607](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780814350607)

This thought-provoking exploration of literature and art examines contemporary Israeli works created in and about diaspora that exemplify new ways of envisioning a Jewish national identity. Diaspora has become a popular mechanism to imagine non-sovereign models of Jewish peoplehood, but these models often valorize powerlessness in sometimes troubling ways. In this book, Melissa Weininger theorizes a new category of "diaspora Israeli culture" that is formed around and through notions of homeland and complicate the binary between diaspora and Israel. The works addressed here inhabit and imagine diaspora from the vantage point of the putative homeland, engaging both diasporic and Zionist models simultaneously through language, geography, and imagination. These examples contend with the existence of the state of Israel and its complex implications for diaspora Jewish identities and nationalisms, as well as the implications for Zionism of those diasporic conceptions of Jewish national identity. This dynamic understanding of both an Israeli and a Jewish diaspora works to envision a non-hegemonic Jewish nationalism that can negotiate both political imagination and reality.



New Microhistorical Approaches to an Integrated History of the Holocaust / edited by Frédéric Bonnesoeur, Hannah Wilson & Christin Zühlke. De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2023

[9783110738469](https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110738469)

In 1997, Saul Friedländer emphasized the need for an integrated history of the Holocaust. His suggestion to connect 'the policies of the perpetrators, the attitudes of surrounding society, and the world of the victims' provides the inspiration for this volume. Following in these footsteps, this innovative study approaches Holocaust history through a combination of macro analysis with micro studies. Featuring a range of contemporary research from emerging scholars in the field, this peer-reviewed volume provides detailed engagement with a variety of historical sources, such as documents, artifacts, photos, or text passages. The contributors investigate particular aspects of sound, materiality, space and social perceptions to provide a deeper understanding of the Holocaust, which have often been overlooked or generalised in previous historical research. Yet, as we approach an era of no first hand witnesses, this multidisciplinary, micro-historical approach remains a fundamental aspect of Holocaust research, and can provide a theoretical framework for future studies.

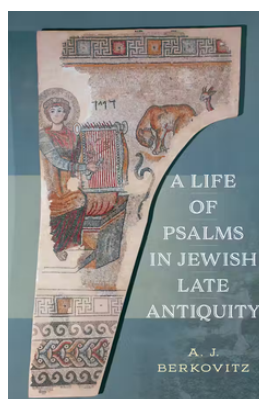
Included is a chapter, 'Display vs. Decay: Historical and Material Narratives of a Parokhet from Czestochowa,' by AAJS co-president Dr Anna Hirsh



Yearning to Breathe Free: Jews in Gilded Age America. Essays by Twenty Contributing Scholars/ edited by Adam D. Mendelsohn & Jonathan D. Sarna. Princeton University Press, 2023. [9780878110650](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2023-001)

The thematic essays in *Yearning to Breathe Free* each use a primary source—a book, newspaper, tract, or artwork—as an entry point into Gilded Age America and as a means to introduce key themes, figures, and developments within the era. Covering topics ranging from art, music, and literature to politics, medicine, and religion, these illuminating essays highlight patterns and trends that demonstrate how the Gilded Age shaped Jewish life in the twentieth century. Collectively, they provide a panoramic look at this critical period in American Jewish history.

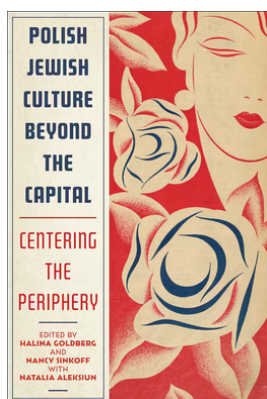
The contributors are Samantha Baskind (Cleveland State University), Judah M. Cohen (Indiana University), David G. Dalin (Brandeis University), Noah Efron (Bar-Ilan University), Zev Eleff (Gratz College), Lori Harrison-Kahan (Boston College), Melissa R. Klapper (Rowan University), Michael P. Kramer (Bar-Ilan University), Alan M. Kraut (American University), Eli Lederhendler (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Adam D. Mendelsohn (University of Cape Town), Pamela S. Nadell (American University), Heather S. Nathans (Tufts University), Shari Rabin (Oberlin College), Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University), M. M. Silver (Max Stern Yezreel Valley College), Daniel Soyer (Fordham University), Benjamin Steiner (Trinity College), Beth S. Wenger (University of Pennsylvania), and Shira Wolosky (Hebrew University of Jerusalem).



A Life of Psalms in Jewish Late Antiquity/ by A.J. Berkovitz. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023 [9781512824186](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2023-001)

The Bible shaped nearly every aspect of Jewish life in the ancient world, from activities as obvious as attending synagogue to those which have lost their scriptural resonance in modernity, such as drinking water and uttering one's last words. And within a scriptural universe, no work exerted more force than the Psalter, the most cherished text among all the books of the Hebrew Bible.

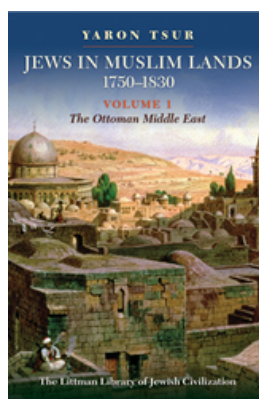
A Life of Psalms in Jewish Late Antiquity clarifies the world of late ancient Judaism through the versatile and powerful lens of the Psalter. It asks a simple set of questions: Where did late ancient Jews encounter the Psalms? How did they engage with the work? And what meanings did they produce? A. J. Berkovitz answers these queries by reconstructing and contextualizing a diverse set of religious practices performed with and on the Psalter, such as handling a physical copy, reading from it, interpreting it exegetically, singing it as liturgy, invoking it as magic and reciting it as an act of piety. His book draws from and contributes to the fields of ancient Judaism, biblical reception, book history and the history of reading.



Polish Jewish Culture Beyond the Capital Centering the Periphery/ edited by Halina Goldberg & Nancy Sinkoff. Rutgers University Press, 2023.
[9781978836037](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2023-001)

Polish Jewish Culture beyond the Capital: Centering the Periphery is a path-breaking exploration of the diversity and vitality of urban Jewish identity and culture in Polish lands from the second half of the nineteenth century to the outbreak of the Second World War (1899–1939). In this multidisciplinary essay collection, a cohort of international scholars provides an integrated history of the arts and humanities in Poland by illuminating the complex roles Jews in urban centers other than Warsaw played in the creation of Polish and Polish Jewish culture.

Each essay presents readers with the extraordinary production and consumption of culture by Polish Jews in literature, film, cabaret, theater, the visual arts, architecture, and music. They show how this process was defined by a reciprocal cultural exchange that flourished between cities at the periphery—from Lwów and Wilno to Kraków and Łódź—and international centers like Warsaw, thereby illuminating the place of Polish Jews within urban European cultures.



Jews in Muslim Lands, 1750–1830. Volume 1: The Ottoman Middle East/ by Yaron Tsur, translated by Ursula Wokoeck. The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2023
[9781904113416](https://doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2023-001)

This fascinating tour of the Jewish communities of the Ottoman Middle East, on the eve of the changes that would come to unsettle the Ottoman territories, reveals a surprisingly varied world. Visiting Istanbul, Damascus, Acre, Jerusalem, Aleppo, Basra, and Cairo, we see different landscapes, meet diverse Jewish societies, and encounter the range of their economic activities. We also see how Christians and Jews struggled with each other to establish their position in the Muslim world and secure their livelihood. In the process, the author reconsiders fundamental questions: What is a "diaspora"? To what extent did the surrounding culture impact the Jewish communities of the area? And, most interestingly, how did these communities respond to the onset of modernity? Though relating to Jewish society in its entirety, the main focus is on its most powerful members: the notables, who were close to the ruling elite or involved in international trade. Tsur discusses their strengths and weaknesses, considers the relationship between their position and that of the rest of the Jewish community, and analyses their eventual downfall. His study offers new insights into the social mechanisms that enabled them to establish close ties with the ruling elite and to function within it.

Photo submissions: Australian or Australian-Jewish theme



Two Great's Reverends – Two Anniversaries: From the archives of the Rosenblum Jewish Museum at The Great Synagogue Sydney

Dr Jana Vytrhlik, Curator

The portraits presented in this issue come from the photo archive of The Great Synagogue in Sydney. As we near the end of 2023, there is still time to acknowledge two important anniversaries which went without much fanfare. Firstly, born 200 years ago, was the Reverend Aaron Alexander Levi (1823–1883), who was the reader and later minister at the York Street Synagogue between 1859 and 1878. He was 25 years old when he arrived from London to Sydney in 1848. Becoming a Jewish faith ambassador to the emerging community, Levi travelled to remote regions in New South Wales. He later served as a minister of The Great Synagogue from 1878 and was also a highly regarded headmaster of the first Sydney Hebrew Academy, established in 1844.



The second anniversary commemorates 110 years since the Reverend Alexander Barnard Davis's (1828–1913) death. Davis, who arrived in Sydney in 1862, was appointed minister of the York Street Synagogue at challenging times. The Jewish community was fragmented and in need of stronger religious leadership. Davis introduced changes which brought more congregational stability and ultimately led to the establishment of The Great Synagogue in 1878, where he served until his death.

From top: Rev Aaron Alexander Levi (1823–1883), ca 1870. Collection of The Great Synagogue Sydney, S2006.15.1; Rev Alexander Barnard Davis (1828–1913), ca 1900. Collection of The Great Synagogue Sydney, M1997.113.1.

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No. 90

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.