

Newsletter No
47
December
2010

Australian Association of Jewish Studies

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Congratulations Suzanne!
AAJS Conference. Draft Programme
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Congratulations Suzanne!

We are always ready to welcome good news, especially towards the end of a busy (exhausting) year. This arrived last week. It gives us great pleasure to announce that Suzanne Rutland OAM became a full professor of the University of Sydney. A prolific writer of many books and essays, a historian of the Australian Jewish Community and a most dedicated teacher to her students, the professorship could not have been awarded to a more deserving academic.



Congratulations Suzanne! This is wonderful news and we wish you every success in your many endeavours in the future.

Anna Rosenbaum

2011 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference – Draft Program

**Sunday 13th
February**

8:30am-9:15am

Registration

9:15am-9:30am

Welcome

9:30am-
10:30am

Keynote

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger

*Hebraic Roots of Modern
Political Thought: The
Philosophers' Politicized Bible*

10:30am-11am

Morning Tea

11am-12:30pm

Panel 1

**The Arts: Jewish and Zionist
Identities**

Chair:

Dr Dvir Abramovich
*Zionism and Modern Israeli
Literature: Friends or Foes?*

Dr Helena Rimon
*In the Desert of the Other:
Identity and Space in Modern
Hebrew Fiction*

Lynne Swarts
*The Personal or the Political?
Politics and Religious Identity in
the Female Images of Ephraim
Moses Lilien*

12:30pm-
1:30pm

Lunch and Book Launch

1:30pm-2:30pm

Panel 3

Yidden in Oystralia

Chair:

Dr Andrew Firestone
*Australia's "homegrown" Yiddish
poet, Yossel Birstein*

Panel 2

**Jewish Life in the Roman
Period**

Chair:

Dr Joan Stivala
Israel in the Roman Empire

Yael Epstein
*Religion and Medicine
Reconsidered: Ancient
Medicine in the Jewish
Society in Roman Palestine*

Dr Ilana Beer
*Jewish Women as Teachers
in Formal Education during
the Mishnah and Talmud Era*

Panel 4

**The Bible in Dispute:
Politics and Interpretations**

Chair:

Dr Marilyn Clark
*Competing and Conflicting
World Views and Visions in
Jonah*

Lucy Davey
*The Religious Politics of the
Book of Ezekiel, with
Particular Attention to Ezekiel
8*

2:30pm-3:30pm

Panel 5
**Dwelling in the Shadows:
 When Trauma Speaks**

Chair:

Rev Jeanette Mathews
*Framing Lament: Providing a
 Context for the Expression of
 Pain and Hope*

Dr Anna Hueneke
From Politics to Poetry

Panel 6

**The Restoration: Ezra and
 Nehemiah**

Chair:

Simon Holloway
*A State Within an Empire:
 Persian Period Restoration
 and the Origins of Judaism*

Anthony Rees
Model Citizens? A Tragic Tale

3:30pm-4pm

Afternoon Tea

4pm-5pm

Panel 7
**Turn of the Century:
 Emancipation in Crisis**

Chair:

Dr Wendy Michaels
*Die Lösung der Judenfrage – Die
 Lösung der Frauenfrage: Herzl's
 Representation of Women in
 Altneuland*

Helen Webberley
*Captain Dreyfus, The
 Impressionists and the Politics of
 Anti-Semitism*

Panel 8

**Politics and Religion: The
 Australian Story**

Chair:

Rabbi Dr Raymond Apple
*Religion and Politics : Mary
 Connolly Revisited*

Professor Andrew Markus
*Politics and Religion in
 Contemporary Australia and
 New Zealand*

5pm-5:30pm

AAJS AGM

Evening

Dinner at Parliament House

Presentation by MP – TBA

Satirical Piece by David Knoll
 AM
Orwell Invented Human Rights

Monday 14th

February

8:30am-9am

Registration

9am-10:30am

Panel Discussion**Introduction: Professor Fania****Oz-Salzberger****Dr Shakira Hussein****Dr David Mittelberg****Chair: Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod***Political Uses of the Bible and Koran in Current Middle Eastern Discourse: Transcending Right and Left*

10:30am-

10:45am

10:45am-

12:15pm

Morning Tea

Panel 9**The Clash of Fundamentalism and Modernity****Chair: David Knoll AM**

Emeritus Professor Clive Kessler

*The Politics of Religious Reaffirmation**["Fundamentalism"]: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.*Professor William Rubinstein
Orthodox Judaism and a Right-Wing Political Stance: The Nexus

12:15pm-1pm

1pm-2:30pm

Miriam Feldheim

The Case of Miri Gold

Lunch

Panel 10**Two Peoples: Two Histories?****Chair:**

Andrew Pleffer

Archaeology in Israel: The Meeting Place of Religion and Politics

2:30pm-4:30pm

Jonathan Pearlman

More from Jerusalem: An Examination of Media Interest in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Bren Carlill
A Call for Strategic Clarity

Panel 11
From the Pale to Glasnost

Chair:

Dr Isaiah Gruber
Interpretation of Hebrew in the
“New Israel”: New Research on
the Pre-History of Russian Jewry

Dr. Ehud Manor
Louis Miller, the Wahrheit, and the
Kehillah of New-York, 1908-1909

4:30-5pm

Dr Michael Beizer
The Character of the Jewish
Movement in the Soviet Union

5pm-6:30pm

Professor Suzanne Rutland
Mobilizing for Soviet Jewry: The
Australian Story

Afternoon Tea

Panel 12
Religion and Politics: Global
Implications

Chair:

Dr Myer Samra
The Political Entanglement of
Being “Benei Menashe”

Professor Colin Tatz
Jews and Race Relations: Social
Action in the United States,
South Africa and Australia

Dr David Mittelberg
Beyond Religion and Politics:
Peoplehood – A New Paradigm
for Global Jewish Belonging

Please note this is a draft only. Please check the website at :

<http://www.aajs.org.au>

**Australian Association of Jewish Studies
23rd Annual Conference
Religion and Politics
13-14 February 2011
ACT Jewish Community Centre
31 National Circuit, Forrest, Canberra**

The Annual Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies (AAJS) provides a meeting place for tertiary academics, Jewish educators, researchers, students and others devoted to the study of Jewish life, thought and culture.

The AAJS website: www.aajs.org.au

- Registration will take place between 8:15am and 9:15am on Sunday 13 February.
- A wide range of papers will be presented between 9:00am and 5:00pm on both days of the Conference.
- The Annual General Meeting of the AAJS will be held during the Conference.
- Receipts will be available at the Conference unless otherwise requested.

Conference fees (includes registration, entry to all sessions, programme, booklet of abstracts, morning and afternoon tea, lunch, AAJS 2011 membership and journal):

Two day rate: \$215

Single day rate: \$140

Two day rate (student/pensioner): \$105

Single day rate (student/pensioner): \$70

Individual session: \$25

Late Conference fees (after 1 February):

Two day rate: \$230

Single day rate: \$150

Two day rate (student/pensioner): \$110

Single day rate (student/pensioner): \$75

For online registration and secure credit card payments, please use the AAJS website (above).

Please make all cheques payable to: **Australian Association of Jewish Studies**
and post to:

Australian Association of Jewish Studies
PO Box 233
Holme Building
University of Sydney NSW
Australia

You may also send this registration form to the above address. Please include:

Title (please circle): Prof/Assoc Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms/Rabbi/Rev

Name:

Postal address:

Email address:

Phone:

All other correspondence may be sent to the above postal address or
alternatively to manny.waks@gmail.com.

Accommodation:

Convenient accommodation is available at two hotels across the road from the Conference venue. Rydges Capital Hill are offering a mixture of Queen bedded rooms and two double bedded rooms at \$189/night for one guest and \$209 for two guests including breakfast (www.rydges.com/capitalhill). Bentley Suites prices are \$235/night for a one bedroom apartment, \$275 for two and \$355 for three (www.bentleysuites.com.au). To secure your booking, please ensure to book ASAP.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Conference Committee:

Mr Manny Waks – Conference Convenor
Dr Anna Hueneke – Academic Convenor
Associate Professor Philip Mendes
Associate Professor Suzanne Rutland
Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod
Dr Marianne Dacy
Dr Myer Samra
Ms Anna Rosenbaum

IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ALAN CROWN, AM

When Alan Crown, emeritus Professor in Semitic Studies at Sydney University and a world renowned figure in Samaritan studies died on 2nd November, 2010, the world lost a distinguished scholar and talented teacher. His interests included substantial achievements in every area of Jewish studies ranging from Biblical Hebrew grammar to modern Hebrew literature. While Samaritan Studies were his speciality and the major field of his writing, he published books and articles ranging from the Dead Sea Scrolls and Biblical texts to Jewish and Christian theology, Australian Zionism, Yiddish language and culture, Jewish education, and Australian Jewry, and published translations from Hebrew. He was also involved in interfaith activities, was a founding member of the New South Wales Council of Christians and Jews and on the editorial committee of *Menorah* from 1987-1990, the journal of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies.

Alan Crown was born on 28th January 1932 in Leeds, England and gained a traditional Jewish education. Both parents were teachers, and Jewish education became a key focus in his life. At Leeds University his B.A. was in Hebrew, Geography and History, and he obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education in 1955. From 1955-1957 he was a sergeant instructor in the Royal Army Educational Corps, and was a schoolmaster at Bramley County Secondary School, Leeds from 1957-1959. Encouraged by Professor John Bowman, one of his teachers in Leeds, he gained his M.A (with distinction) at Leeds in 1958 and began doctoral studies. Subsequently, Alan obtained a teaching post at Mount Scopus College, Melbourne, and emigrated to Australia with his wife Sadie and two daughters, remaining in Melbourne from 1959-1962. In 1962 he became a lecturer in Semitic Studies at Sydney University, working with Associate Professor Colin McLaurin. He was senior lecturer from 1968-1984, and subsequently became Head of Department until his retirement in 1996. The university awarded him a Personal Chair in Semitic Studies and he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1995.



The training of Hebrew teachers remained a focus, and he was chairman of the Hebrew Syllabus Committee of the N.S.W. Board of Studies from 1977-

1990. He remained on the board of examiners for Higher Certificate Hebrew and was involved with the Joint Committee for Jewish Higher Education.

In his long association with the Oxford Centre for Post Graduate Hebrew Studies., where he gained international recognition, he was the Centre's Acting President from 1987-1988 and in 1988 was appointed administrator of the International Qumran (Dead Sea Scrolls) Project for the Oxford Centre. and in 1992 a Senior Associate Fellow.

After Rachel Mandelbaum left – at his suggestion - an endowment to build a Jewish college at the University of Sydney, he acted as a trustee of her estate and led the negotiations with the local councils and the University of Sydney, finally obtaining a site in Abercrombie Street, Chippendale within the Sydney University campus. Mandelbaum House, named for Mrs. Lipton's parents, was opened in 1996. He was College Chairman and Joint Master and also founded Mandelbaum Publishing. He had an office at the College and was warmly interested in every resident and their welfare.

In 1983 he founded the Archive of Australian Judaica to arrest the loss and deterioration of archival material on the history of Judaism in this country. After four years of an AARGS Grant, the Mandelbaum Trust undertook to finance the salary of the archivist. The collection, held within the University of Sydney Library, now houses the archives of over eighty individuals and several key Jewish organisations including the N.S.W. Jewish Board of Deputies and the Australian Zionist Federation. .

In 1997, he was instrumental in introducing Yiddish to the University curriculum and Dr Jennifer Dowling was appointed as lecturer. He remained involved with the Yiddish Jewish Folk Centre.

A Festschrift in his honour was launched in 2005 with articles contributed mainly by his former students who had written theses under his direction. A popular thesis director, he once became Supervisor of the year.

He has written, edited, translated or contributed to twenty-five books, and at least 115 articles: truly an extraordinary life of extraordinary achievements. Professor Crown had many friends who will mourn his loss deeply. He is survived by his wife Sadie for whom he had a deep devotion. He acted as a mentor for many who would seek his advice. While he maintained a personal commitment to his students, sometimes ringing up in the middle of the night when he had a particularly good idea, his standards of scholarship were high and he could be severe when work was not up to standard. He inspired his students, of whom I was one, to give of their best, seeing them on a regular basis to discuss their progress. People found him approachable, his office being a hive of industry. He was my boss for twenty seven years, ever challenging me to “go that extra mile.” The life he has lived has made the world a better place.

Marianne Dacy

Membership Fees

Fees are current from 1 January 2011–31 December 2011, include the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually (early in the next year), AAJS Newsletter (online) book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual February conference). Conference registration includes the membership fee.

Benefactor : \$250

Regular: \$60 (Aus)

Pensioner/ Full-time Student: \$25 (Aus)

Institutional: \$70 (Aus)

Overseas: \$80 (Aus) **All correspondence to: PO Box 233, Holme Building, University of Sydney NSW 2006**

Please consider becoming a benefactor member.

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Post your cheque to the above address/ or access and print and fill in the webform at : <http://www.aajs.org.au> and send us your credit card details for payment to our NAB account.

Newsletter edited by Anna Rosenbaum and Marianne Dacy