



BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

CONTENTS

Editor's welcome	1
AAJS board directory	3
News from AAJS members	4
Vale Professor William Rubinstein (1946–2024)	7
A word from AAJS 2025 conference convenors	9
Vacancies in Jewish Studies & related fields	11
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 92: calls for submission	22

Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Spring/Summer 2024 issue of the AAJS biannual newsletter!

It is no secret that 2024 has been a difficult year for Jewish Studies, and for Jewish faculty, staff and students at universities across Australia. As the year draws to a close, we hope that our members are able to take some time to recalibrate, relax and find comfort among those loved ones.

In this issue, we honour the late Professor William (Bill) Rubinstein, who passed away in June this year. Professor Rubinstein was a founding member of the AAJS. As the obituary in the pages that follow states, Professor Rubinstein, 'leaves behind a significant gap in the Australian Jewish intellectual life'. A founding member of the AAJS, Professor Rubinstein was a key participant in our association for many years, most recently as a member of the AAJS executive board. His presence and contributions will be sorely missed.

We share news and announcements from our members, and information on our exciting upcoming 2025 conference, convened by Dr Anna Hirsh (AAJS co-president, VIC), Dr Simon Holloway (AAJS vice-president, VIC), Dr Breann Fallon and Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, which will take place at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum on 16–17 February 2025. As always, we share

information about exciting opportunities in Jewish studies and related fields in Australia and abroad, calls for papers to upcoming conferences, as well as fellowship and other grant opportunities. We highlight several fascinating books in diverse areas of Jewish studies published this year.

As always, we invite our readers to get in touch and send us your ideas for future issues of the newsletters, including announcements of your publications and events related to the field.

On behalf of the AAJS board, we wish our readers a *chag chanukkah sameach* and all the best for 2025!

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.

All general inquiries/correspondence to: the Co-Presidents: president@aajs.org.au

All membership inquiries/correspondence to: the Membership Secretary: memberships@aajs.org.au

Journal enquiries to: the Co-Editors: ajewishstudies@aajs.org.au

Website enquiries to: the Website Administrator: website@aajs.org.au

President, NSW : Associate Professor Jan Láníček (University of New South Wales)

President, VIC: Dr Anna Hirsh (Melbourne Holocaust Museum)

Vice President, NSW: Dr Lynne Swarts (Sydney University)

Vice President, VIC: Dr Simon Holloway (Melbourne Holocaust Museum)

Treasurer: Ms Kathy Baykitch

Membership Secretary: Mr Nathan Compton

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney)

Website Coordinator: Dr Suzanne Faigan

Editors, *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, Dr Jennifer Creese (editor-in-chief), Dr Suzanne Faigan (editor)

AAJS Executive Board Members:

Ex-Officio, Immediate Past President: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)

Professor Avril Alba (University of Sydney)

Associate Professor Steven Cooke

Dr Myer Samra

Ms Jasmine Beinart (University of Adelaide)

Ms Angelica Jacob (University of New South Wales)

International Liaisons:

Israel: Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

New Zealand: Dr Suzanne Faigan

USA: Dr Jason Schulman

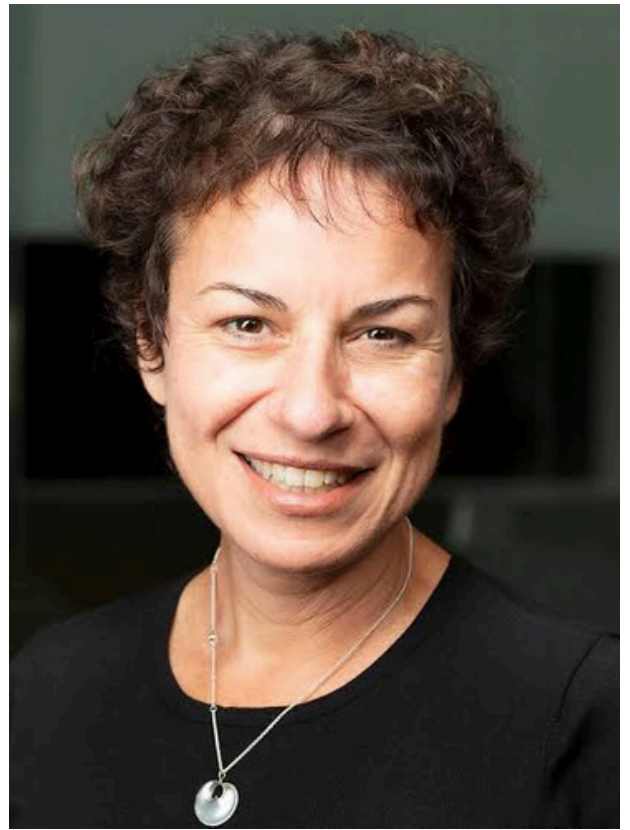
Canada: Associate Professor David Koffman

Professor Avril Alba appointed head of school

AAJS board member Professor Avril Alba has been appointed as the new Head of the School of Languages and Cultures and as Professor in Holocaust Studies and Jewish Civilisation at the University of Sydney.

Professor Alba joined the School of Languages and Cultures in 2012 and has served as Chair of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, Deputy Head of School Education and in leading roles in several ARC-funded projects. Professor Alba teaches and researches in the areas of Holocaust and modern Jewish history with a focus on Jewish and Holocaust museums.

The AAJS wishes Professor Alba *mazal tov* and *b'hatzlakhah* for her new role, which commences in January 2025.



IHRA Plenaries, Glasgow and London

In 2024 the United Kingdom was the hosting nation for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance plenaries, with the first one held in Glasgow in late June, and the second held in London in early December. Both Professor Avril Alba and Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland attended the Glasgow and London plenaries as members of the Australian expert delegation, which was headed by Australian ambassador in Geneva, Emily Roper, who has been appointed as Head of Delegation, a position always filled by an Australian ambassador. Given the global upsurge in antisemitism, particularly on campuses, much of the discussion was again focused understanding and countering this trend.

Key issues discussed included the role of AI in Holocaust remembrance and education and its use and misuse; countering antisemitism; current challenges in Holocaust education and remembrance as well as issues relating to the Roma; and discussions about the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The Australian Head of Delegation, Ambassador Emily Roper, together with René Arian from our London embassy, joined the expert delegation. As always, the Australian delegation played a very active role, with Professor Rutland being the notetaker for the Education Working Group and the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.

One particularly moving evening event was our visit to Kent House where the Czech memorial scrolls are on display. They are scrolls from the destroyed Jewish congregations of Bohemia and Moravia, among others, that were sent to Prague in 1942 and survived – even though the congregations and most of their members did not. After the Communist takeover, they were abandoned in a cellar. In 1964, a British Jewish philanthropist purchased them and brought them to London where, when possible, they were restored. At least 50 of the scrolls have been sent to different communities over the world, including one currently on display in the Sydney Jewish Museum. Others are on display at Kent House, including one dating back to the thirteenth century which is badly damaged but on display.



Director of the International Friends of Bar Ilan University, who gave a very moving speech about the late Isi Leibler . Apart from Vera, another key speaker was former refusenik, Yuli Edelstein, MK, spoke from the heart, reminiscing about his experience when, only 18 months after his liberation and Aliyah, he was invited by Isi Leibler to return to Moscow as his translator. Suzanne stressed that Isi Leibler was a renaissance man, ‘a visionary whose writings were prescient and well before his time’.

The launch was well attended, with many family members, including Naomi Leibler, Isi’s wife, and their four children, Tamara, Romi, Gary and Jonathan, all of whom live in Israel. The event was videoed and Greer Fay Cashman wrote about it in her column, “Grapevine, ‘In Memory of a learned man’”, The Jerusalem Post, 17 July 2024. Isi Leibler has left his extensive Judaica library to Bar Ilan. The video of the launch can be accessed through this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ot4tpFbhtfQ>



Top: Australian Delegation at Kent House, December 2024.
Bottom: Professors Emerita Suzanne Rutland and Professor Avril Alba.
Images courtesy of S. Rutland

Launch of Rutland’s Biography of Isi Joseph Leibler

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

On Thursday 11 July, Bar Ilan University hosted the launch of the Hebrew translation of my biography of Isi Leibler, Lone Voice: The Wars of Isi Leibler. The book was translated by renowned Hebrew translator, Avirama Golan, who put her heart and soul into the translation, ensuring that it would be suitable for an Israeli audience. Most of the launch was in Hebrew, apart from one speech by Vera Muravitz, who was the Executive



European Association of Israel Studies report

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

At the start of July, I attended the conference in Prague of a combined event of the European Association of Israel Studies and the US based Association of Israel Studies. It was the largest

conference they have held—usually the conferences are not combined—wish over 600 participants. As a result, in every session there were 14 panels—a challenge to decide which to attend. I tended to choose panels where I knew one of the presenters either in person or by reputation. Emeritus Professor Colin Shindler, who was a Mandelbaum scholar, presented on several panels, including one on the Routledge Handbook on Zionism which he edited.

One of the most moving events was held on Monday evening when Professor Ilan Troen spoke with Mohammad Darawshe who runs Givat Haviva, an organization working towards a shared society. Ilan's daughter and son-in-law were murdered at their kibbutz on 7 October; Mohammad's cousin, a first aid responder, was at the Nova festival and his cousin remained helping people until he himself was murdered. Seeing a Jew and an Arab sharing their pain after 7 October and being able to speak above ways to move ahead for peace was extremely impactful.

The panel that I presented on dealt with the impact of 7 October on the English speaking Diaspora, with speakers from Australia, the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr Adina Bankier-Karp spoke about the survey she conducted with Professor David Mittelberg from 10–17 November 2023, where they found a significant increase in the sense of trauma as well as the increased number of people considering Aliya, while my presentation focused on qualitative research dealing with the doxxing of the Creatives and Academics WhatsApp group and the situation on campus, as well as the formation of the Australian Academic Alliance Against Antisemitism which formed after the 7 October pogrom. The other two presenters were Professor Len Saxe of Brandeis University in Boston and Dr Daniel Staetsky, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR).

Apart from Adina, I was the only Australian scholar who participated in this important conference from which I gained a lot.



EAIS Panel July 24 L-R: Professor Len Saxe, Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Ruland, Dr Daniel Staetsky, Dr Ariela Keyser, Dr Adina Bankier-Karrp.

Vale Professor Bill Rubinstein 1946-2024

This obituary was originally published in [J-Wire on 5 July 2024](#). Republished with permission of author, Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland.

The prominent Jewish historian, researcher and intellectual Professor William (Bill) Rubinstein passed away suddenly on Monday 1 July 2024.

He was born in Brooklyn on 12 August 1946, to a Warsaw-born father and an American mother whose maiden name was Rubenstein (spelled that way). His father's parents came from Lodz, and his father's grandfather was related to the great pianist Arthur. Rubinstein. Rubinstein had a younger brother who became a professor of anthropology. He was educated at Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, and did his postgraduate work at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He then worked as the London-based researcher on a Lancaster University history project.

Rubinstein leaves behind a significant gap in Australian Jewish intellectual life. From the time he settled in Melbourne with his wife Hilary, he sought to improve Jewish academic research. An American social and economic historian, he immigrated to Australia together with his librarian-historian wife Dr Hilary Rubinstein, whom he met at college in the United State where she was an exchange student. They arrived in Australia in 1976.

After Rubinstein worked for two years at the Australian National University, the family moved to Melbourne where took up a lectureship position at Deakin University in 1978, where he became a full professor.

He became involved in Jewish life in Melbourne, where he became close to such legendary figures as Frank Knopfmacher and Isi Leibler. His communal involvement ranged from Australia-Israel Publications, where he met Sam Lipski and Michael Danby to the Australian Jewish Historical Society. He was a lifelong political conservative, but cherished his friendship with the prominent left-wing intellectual Philip Mendes.

After working on two research projects, with Hilary's involvement, he suggested that Australian Jewry needed a think tank to allow for more strategic forward planning. Isi Leibler encouraged him to develop a proposal for an Australian Jewish think tank. Rubinstein made his initial pitch in October 1980.

After he and Hilary returned from a visit to Britain, he presented a follow-up report recommending that the proposed Australian Jewish think tank be modelled after the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs, then directed by Dr Stephen Roth. Meanwhile, Isi Leibler pulled together funding to start Rubinstein on his research and writing. From then, until he took up as a position as professor of history at Aberystwyth University in 1995 there was a close collaboration between Leibler and Rubinstein. Leibler created the Australian Institute for Jewish Affairs (AIJA), and Rubinstein conducted several important studies on Australian Jewry which were published by the AIJA. He also wrote the British Commonwealth entries (except Britain) for the updated Encyclopaedia Judaica.

He became deeply involved with the Australian Jewish Historical Society in the late 1980s, and was the foundation editor (1989-95) of its Journal until he moved to Wales. He was also one of the key founders of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS), served on its committee, and was deeply involved with the affairs of the AAJS while in Australia.

He was president of the Jewish Historical Society of England (JHSE) between 2003 and 2004. It was of particular pleasure for him that he, a boy from Brooklyn, served as president of the JHSE, whose previous presidents had includes patrician notables of Anglo-Jewry, and the great historian Cecil Roth. Bill was a polymath, whose interests included baseball and chess, to which he contributed articles to relevant journals and websites.

He has left a monumental body of published works, including the first history of Australian Jewry published in 1985 as part of a series on ethnic groups in Australia, as well as the second volume, with Hilary writing the first, of the monumental *Jews in Australia: a thematic history* published in 1991.

He retired from his position in Wales in 2012 as Professor Emeritus, and returned to Melbourne in 2013.

In addition to his academic publishing, Rubinstein was a regular contributor to the Jewish press and the general press, and was a powerful, if at times controversial, voice for the Jewish community.

Rubinstein was a personality who was larger than life, and will be greatly missed. He leaves behind his wife of 56 years, Hilary, their son, and two grandchildren.

SANCTUARY – AAJS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

16-17 February 2025, Melbourne Holocaust Museum

The theme for the 2025 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference is Sanctuary. Sanctuaries evoke numerous connotations ranging from the sacred to the geographic, and have frequent connections to, and motifs of Jewish Religion, History and Culture. Jewish sanctuaries often transmute and relocate, from the *mishkan* to the *aron kodesh*, from the Garden of Eden to the suburbs of Melbourne. The conference committee debated whether to add a question mark after the word ‘sanctuary’ where the meaning of a protected space is often challenged by disruptors, particularly time.

We are honoured and thrilled to announce our keynote speakers, Professor Kathy Temin (Monash University), and Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet (Sydney Jewish Museum).

Our keynote for Day 1, is Professor Kathy Temin. Professor Temin is the Head of Monash Art Design & Architecture, and is one of Australia’s eminent contemporary artists. She has exhibited her work since 1990, and is represented by Anna Schwartz Gallery in Melbourne, and Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery in Sydney. Professor Temin’s oeuvre often evokes a theme of questioned sanctuaries. Her signature medium of synthetic fur provides contrasting environments of soft material against geometric form. Within these monochromatic spaces, stories of the artist’s family history of persecution and displacement unfold. Her sculptures become memorial sites for loss and remembrance for both the personal and the collective. The sensory nature of her tactile practice provides a comforting place for respite and reflection within this narrative.

Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet, resident historian at the Sydney Jewish Museum, will present his keynote on day two of the conference. He will challenge the notion of Australia as a safe refuge for Jewish refugees and survivors who sought refuge in Australia.

As Australia opened its doors ever so slightly to European Jews before and after WWII, it also granted entry to former war criminals. Drawing from decades of research, Professor Kwiet will articulate his expertise on the Holocaust and War Criminals in this compelling lecture.

The program reflects the diverse responses to the theme, and, in addition to presenter sessions, two panels will showcase research on crucial discussions. *Sanctuaries of Learning or Unsettled Sanctuaries? A Roundtable on the Complexities of Holocaust Education in Australian Museums*, with Professor Avril Alba, Dr Donna Lee Frieze, Dr Helena Robinson and Professor Andrew Singleton.

The second roundtable is titled *Australia and the Holocaust: An Intimate History*, with Professor Avril Alba, Professor Ruth Balint, Associate Professor Jan Láníček, and Associate Professor Jayne Persian.

We are pleased to be hosting the 37th annual conference at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, in Victoria, Australia. The museum itself, from its original inception as the Jewish Holocaust Centre in 1984, has been a sanctuary for survivors over the decades, a space in which their experiences can be told. Rebranded the Melbourne Holocaust Museum after a major redevelopment, the museum endures an edifice against antisemitism through education, collections, and remembrance. Our first temporary exhibition, *Underground*, featuring original items from the Oneg Shabbat Ringelblum Archives held in Warsaw’s Jewish Historical Institute, are on display until March 2025.

The AAJS conference committee – Melbourne Holocaust Museum’s Dr Anna Hirsh (AAJS co-President Victoria), Dr Simon Holloway (AAJS VP Victoria) and Dr Breann Fallon, with Dr Donna-Lee Frieze, Deakin University – is looking forward to welcoming you to the

conference. We will be releasing the conference program soon, so look out for this on our Facebook page and website.

To attend, please register and pay at the following link: <https://events.humanitix.com/2025-australian-association-for-jewish-studies-annual-conference>



37th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SANCTUARY

TO BE HELD AT THE
MELBOURNE HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM
16 - 17 February 2025

more information:
<http://www.aajs.org.au/next-conference/>

Image: Sonya Weinfeld 'At Dawn' (1975)
Melbourne Holocaust Museum collection

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 2025, 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>

Senior Lecturer (C) - Museum Studies, University of Adelaide

Full time, fixed term 12-month position.

We are seeking a highly motivated Senior Lecturer, with an established international reputation in the field of Museum Studies and/or Archaeology, to oversee and teach into the Graduate Program in Curatorial and Museum Studies and to undertake high level research within their area of specialisation.

The successful applicant will have demonstrated experience convening academic programs, teaching in higher education, and curriculum development. A track record of successful HDR supervision and completions, attracting competitive grant funding, and an excellent international research profile is essential. To be successful candidates must have experience working collaboratively with, or for, a cultural institution which may include museums, art galleries, and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural centres.

To be successful you will need:

- PhD in Museum Studies or Archaeology.
- Demonstrated experience teaching in higher education, including the capacity to design and deliver innovative coursework that engages and inspires students.
- Experience collaborating with (or working for) a cultural institution (e.g. museum, art gallery, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts or cultural centre).
- Excellent research publication record, with an international research profile and a clear plan for future publication outputs commensurate with and relative to opportunity.
- Excellent track record of attracting competitive grant funding and demonstrated plans for future grant applications.
- Demonstrated track record of successful HDR completions and the ability to supervise postgraduate by coursework degree research projects and theses.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, with the ability to work collaboratively with peers.
- Experience managing academic teaching programs.

For further information visit:

<https://careers.adelaide.edu.au/cw/en/job/515513/senior-lecturer-c-museum-studies>

Applications close **11:55pm, 15 January 2025.**

Professor of American Jewish History and Director of the Feinstein Center, Temple University, Philadelphia

The Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University invite applications for a tenured full-time endowed faculty position in American Jewish History at the rank of Associate Professor or Full Professor. The successful candidate will be named the Murray Friedman Chair of American Jewish History.

The appointee will also serve as director of the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History. The Center organizes academic conferences and workshops and public-facing events in addition to overseeing a summer research initiative to support new scholars in the field. More information about the Center can be found at: <https://liberalarts.temple.edu/feinstein-center>. The appointment will begin on August 1, 2025. The appointee is expected to have a doctorate in American Jewish History (or a related field) and a significant publication record in any area, approach to, or time period of American Jewish History. The appointee will teach courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in US History, American Jewish History, and related transnational areas.

Review of applications will begin January 25th and will remain open until the position is filled. Please send your application to history@temple.edu. Applicants should submit the following materials as a **single** pdf or word document:

- Cover letter. This should include a description of past and current research and teaching interests. It should also address the applicant's vision and qualifications for the directorship of the Feinstein Center.

- Curriculum vitae
- A sample syllabus for a broad or topical course in American Jewish History
- Contact information for three references

Temple University is committed to recruiting and retaining an academically and culturally diverse community of exceptional faculty. Women, minorities, and members of other underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Temple University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer.

Inquiries about the position may be directed to the chair of the search committee, Bryant Simon Bryant.simon@temple.edu.

Research Associate 'Ignaz Goldziher Program for Jewish-Muslim Studies', Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig

The Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow is seeking to fill the following position at the earliest possible date, by 01.04.2025 at the latest: Research Associate 'Ignaz Goldziher Program for Jewish-Muslim Studies' 100% full time equivalent (40 hours per week).

The 'Ignaz Goldziher Program for Jewish-Muslim Studies,' which is funded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and is based at the DI, offers scholars from Islamic contexts an opportunity to spend twelve months at the institute to work on or complete a research project on the mutual experiences of Jews and Muslims in modernity and related questions of reform, confessionalization, secularization, and pluralism, or to develop a new project in this field and, with the help of the institute, to develop it to a level suitable for funding applications. The DI offers a vibrant, inspiring, and interdisciplinary scholarly environment, the space to develop independent ideas, and manifold opportunities to discuss and develop one's project with experts in the field.

The position, contingent on relevant qualifications, will be remunerated according to pay grade 13 TV-L. It will be limited to a period of 1 year. Full-time preferred; part-time possible. The position will be based in Leipzig.

We invite scholars to apply who hold PhDs or are in the final stages of a doctoral program in a field especially relevant to the DI, including modern and contemporary history, Eastern European history, Islamic studies, Oriental studies, Judaism and/or Jewish studies, and cultural studies.

Proficiency in English is preferred, as is a very good knowledge of foreign languages pertinent to the area of research. Knowledge of written and spoken German would be advantageous. IT skills (Office) are a prerequisite.

Please send your application, including a letter of motivation, a CV, an outline of your project (max. 2 pages), a sample of an essay relevant to the area of research (about 20 pages), degrees, as well as copies of any relevant certificates and evaluations, by **21.01.2025** electronically to: bewerbung@dubnow.de.

Leibniz-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur – Simon Dubnow
Director
Prof. Dr. Yfaat Weiss
Goldschmidtstraße 28
04103 Leipzig

Applications should consist of a single PDF file. Applications via email are not encrypted and may therefore entail data protection concerns. The applicant takes full responsibility for this.

For more information visit:
<https://www.dubnow.de/en/tender/wissenschaftlicher-mitarbeiter-w-m-d-ignaz-goldziher-programm-fuer-juedisch-muslimische-studien>

Full Professorship for Rabbinic Literature and Halacha, Universität Potsdam

The successful candidate will represent the field of Rabbinics and have specific expertise in the domain of Halacha, employing both traditional and innovative methodologies. The candidate will demonstrate ability to connect the Talmud and Rabbinics with broader Jewish intellectual history and contribute to the interdisciplinary scholarship.

The professor's responsibilities include teaching in the various degree programs in Jewish Theology, among them an English-language MA. Many of the School's students are simultaneously studying for the rabbinate at either the Abraham Geiger College or the Zacharias Frankel College. Responsibilities also include active participation in the University's self-governing administrative bodies. The professor will cooperate with the Jewish Studies and Religious Studies department, Life Orientation-Ethics-Religion (L-E-R) Institute, the Selma Stern Center, and the Center for Interreligious Theology and Religious Studies (CITRS).

Experience acquiring third-party project funding and organizing academic conferences are a plus. Applicants must be members of a Jewish congregation. Non-native speakers are expected to acquire sufficient skills to function in the German academic environment over a transition period of two years.

If you have any questions, please contact Prof. Dr. Jonathan Schorsch (jschorsch@uni-potsdam.de).

Please submit your application, with the relevant documentation (with a presentation of your research interests, a curriculum vitae, copies of academic certificates and documents, a teaching concept and a draft of a research project, a list of publications, a list of courses taught and a list of externally funded projects), via email (in a single PDF file) to ausschreibungen@uni-potsdam.de by **January 09, 2025**.

Upcoming conferences & calls for papers

CfP – III International Congress of Sephardic Studies: Jews in the Mediterranean and their Diasporas: Economic, Social and Cultural Intersections. Lisbon, 21-23 October 2025

The III International Congress of Sephardic Studies (III CIES), organized on the initiative of CEJA (Center for Jewish Studies of the Amazon) in collaboration with the Center for History of the University of Lisbon (CH-U Lisboa), which will act as the host institution, will take place in person on October 21, 22 and 23 in 2025, at the School of Arts and Humanities of the University of Lisbon.

The call for proposals is open from September 12, 2024, **until January 30, 2025**. These should be sent to the following email address: cies.ceja@gmail.com

The Congress, considering the history of previous events and the premises set out above, accepts proposals for communication in the fields of Humanities and Human Sciences, i.e., History, History of Art, History of Science, Geography, Literature, Linguistics, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Gender and Queer Studies, Musicology and Ethnomusicology, Memory and Museology, Monographs, Cinema, and Fine Arts. Other topics not mentioned here, if presented by scholars on time, will be examined by the Committee of Coordinators.

For more information on the application process, please visit <https://chul.letras.ulisboa.pt/eventos-detalle.php?p=1727>.

CfP – Tracing Jewish Histories: The Long Lives of Medieval Hebrew Manuscripts, Judaica, and Architecture. Courtauld Institute of Art, London, 19-20 May 2025

The Courtauld Institute of Art and Case Western Reserve University are delighted to jointly host the two-day symposium *Tracing Jewish Histories*

on 19-20 May 2025. The call for papers is now open, and submissions are due on 27 February 2025.

Works of art and architecture made by or for Jewish communities in the medieval period are often examined through the lenses of persecution and expulsion, or are contrasted against Christian or Muslim ‘styles.’ This symposium seeks to expand and nuance these narratives in order to highlight how works of art and architecture can uniquely trace the history of particular Jewish communities by mapping their movements and traditions across generations and geographies. Medieval Jewish objects and spaces can also serve as loci to examine ideas related to collective memory and cultural identity. To that end, the symposium seeks to open new dialogues regarding the ‘afterlives’ of medieval Jewish art writ large, initiating discussions regarding the ways in which works of art and architecture continued to bear witness to the richness of Jewish life and culture long after they were created.

The symposium will take place at The Courtauld Institute of Art’s Vernon Square campus on 19-20 May 2025, and will bring together scholars and museum professionals. The first day will be dedicated to the presentation of new research while the second day will feature a keynote round-table with curators from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Museum. The second day will also include a special visit to the Victoria & Albert Museum for speakers and chairs only. We invite submissions for 20-minute papers that investigate the trans-historic impact of art and/or architecture made by and for medieval Jewish communities. Submissions should respond to one of the following themes: manuscripts and printed books; metalwork and textiles; the architecture of secular and ritual spaces; and collecting practices.

Examples of paper topics that respond to these themes include, but are not limited to:

- the movement of Hebrew or Yiddish manuscripts and ritual objects across geographies;

- the impact of Jewish migration on production practices;
- the repurposing of Jewish books and ritual objects as well as ritual and secular spaces by non-Jewish communities both within and beyond the medieval period;
- the collecting of Hebrew manuscripts and Judaica by both Jews and non-Jews;
- the changes made to Hebrew manuscripts, ritual objects, and ritual/secular spaces by Jewish and non-Jewish communities at any point in an object or space's "life";
- the archival and museological histories associated with the collecting and displaying of Jewish objects as well as the creation of Jewish-centered arts institutions;
- and the ways Jewish objects are displayed and studied today in museum, library, and archival settings.

Please send the proposed paper's title and an abstract of no more than 200 words along with a CV to Laura Feigen

(laura.feigen@courtauld.ac.uk) and Reed O'Mara (rao44@case.edu) by **27 February 2025**. Travel bursaries will be available for a few early-career scholars and those without institutional support. Funds are limited, please email the organisers to discuss further.

This symposium is made possible by the support of Case Western Reserve University and the Mellon Foundation.

CfP – Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference: 'Convergences – A Gathering of Perspectives in Canadian Jewish Studies'. Ottawa, 25–27 May 2025

The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is pleased to announce that its 2025 annual national conference will take place at the University of Ottawa and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre in Ottawa, Ontario, from Sunday to Tuesday, May 25-27, 2025.

Given the fact that the conference is in Ottawa, a meeting place of diplomats, political leaders and idea bearers, we have chosen 'Convergences' 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 (2025). Membership information for the ACJS can be found on the ACJS website at The Association for Canadian Jewish Studies is pleased to announce that its 2025 annual national conference will take place at the University of Ottawa and the Soloway Jewish Community Centre in Ottawa, Ontario, from Sunday to Tuesday, May 25-27, 2025.

Given the fact that the conference is in Ottawa, a meeting place of diplomats, political leaders and idea bearers, we have chosen 'Convergences' 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 (2025). Membership information for the ACJS can be found on the ACJS website at <http://acjs-aejc.ca/membership>. To streamline the acceptance process we encourage you to attach the receipt from your 2025 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-2025@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 20, 2025.** After an anonymous peer-review process, presenters will be contacted by February 24.. To streamline the acceptance process we encourage you to attach the receipt from your 2025 membership to your proposal.

Grants and other opportunities

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Fellowships & Awards

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

YIVO is now accepting fellowship applications for 2025-2026. The application deadline is **January 17, 2025**.

For more information, please contact:

[Dr. Eddy Portnoy](#)

Senior Academic Advisor & Director of Exhibitions

Fellowship in East European Jewish Studies

The Professor Bernard Choseed Memorial Fellowship and the Natalie and Mendel Racolin Memorial Fellowship support original doctoral or

post-doctoral research in the field of East European Jewish studies. These fellowships carry a combined stipend of \$20,000 and are for a period of three months of research at the YIVO Library and Archives, as well as two public lectures by the holder.

Fellowship in Baltic Jewish Studies

The Abram and Fannie Gottlieb Immerman and Abraham Nathan and Bertha Daskal Weinstein Memorial Fellowship in Eastern European Jewish Studies, the Abraham and Rachela Melezin Memorial Fellowship and the Maria Salit-Gitelson Tell Memorial Fellowship support original doctoral or post-doctoral research in the field of Lithuanian Jewish history for a period of two to three months of research at the YIVO Library and Archives. These fellowships carry a combined stipend of \$6,000 and require a public lecture by the holder.

Fellowship in Polish Jewish Studies

The Aleksander and Alicja Hertz Memorial Fellowship and the Samuel and Flora Weiss Research Fellowship and the Maria Salit-Gitelson Tell Memorial Fellowship support doctoral or post-doctoral research on Polish-Jewish history in the modern period, particularly Jewish-Polish relations, including the Holocaust period, and Jewish contributions to Polish literature and culture. These fellowships carry a stipend of \$6,000 and are for a period of three months of research at the YIVO Library and Archives, as well as a public lecture by the holder.

Fellowship in East European Jewish Literature

The Vladimir and Pearl Heifetz Memorial Fellowship and the Vivian Lefsky Hort Memorial Fellowship are designed to assist an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate researcher in Eastern European Jewish literature. There is no geographical restriction and researchers can apply the fellowship to the literature of Eastern European Jewish diasporas on any continent. This combined fellowship carries a stipend of \$4,000 to defray expenses connected with research in the YIVO's archival collections and library. The required period of research is two to three months, and a public

lecture by the holder is also required.

Fellowship in East European Arts, Music, and Theater

The Ruth and Joseph Kremen Memorial Fellowship is dedicated to assist an undergraduate, graduate or post-graduate researcher in the fields of Eastern European Jewish arts, music and theater. There is no geographical restriction and researchers can apply the fellowship to work on Eastern European Jewish diasporas on any continent. This fellowship carries a stipend of \$5,000 to defray expenses connected with research in the YIVO's arts, music and theater archival collections and library. The required period of research is two to three months, and a public lecture by the holder is also required.

Fellowship in American Jewish Studies

The Rose and Isidore Drench Memorial Fellowship and the Dora and Mayer Tendler Endowed Fellowship in Jewish Studies are dedicated to doctoral or post-doctoral research in American Jewish history, with special consideration given to scholars working on some aspect of the Jewish labor movement. These fellowships are for a period of three months of research at the YIVO Library and Archives and carry a combined stipend of \$5,000. The holder is also required to deliver a public lecture.

Fellowships in Eastern European Jewish Studies

These may be combined with the above fellowships or awarded separately:

The Dina Abramowicz Emerging Scholar Fellowship is intended for post-doctoral research on a topic in Eastern European Jewish Studies. The work should lead to a significant scholarly publication and may encompass the revision of a doctoral dissertation. The fellowship carries a stipend of \$4,000 for the holder to conduct research at the YIVO Library and Archives for a period of two to three months and to deliver a public lecture.

The Workmen's Circle/Dr. Emanuel Patt Visiting

Professorship in Eastern European Jewish Studies, established by the Van Cortlandt Workmen's Circle Community House, is designed to support three months of post-doctoral research at the YIVO Library and Archives and a public lecture by the visiting faculty member. This award carries a stipend of \$8,000.

JDC Archives Accepting Applications for 2025 Fellowships, New York or Jerusalem

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Archives is pleased to announce that it is accepting [applications](#) for its 2025 fellowship program. In 2025, three to six fellowships will be awarded to senior scholars, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and independent researchers to conduct research in the JDC Archives. Our [finding aids](#) can be consulted to identify relevant subject areas of research. The fellowship awards are \$2,500 and the deadline for submission is **February 7, 2025**.

Stipends may be used towards travel, transportation, and living expenses while conducting research in the JDC Archives (in New York or Jerusalem.) If on-site research is not possible, arrangements will be made to train fellows in how to access and use our database of digitized material and other materials in the JDC Archives.

Fellowship holders agree to submit a brief report on their research activities upon conclusion of their fellowships. Additionally, at JDC's election, fellowship holders may be requested to give a virtual presentation.

Past fellows have worked on diverse topics ranging from the social history of Jewish agrarian settlements in the Southern Ukraine (1924-1947) to JDC's work in French Algeria during and after both World War II and the Algerian War. The areas of research and lectures of previously awarded recipients can be viewed [here](#).

Interdisciplinary summer course on ‘Holocaust Testimonies and Their Afterlives’ at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, 26 June – 4 July 2025

This 8-day, intensive summer course will investigate the genealogy of the era of the witness, focusing on the emergence of Holocaust testimony as the model for eyewitness documentation of 20th and 21st century atrocities, and its impact on efforts to record and represent subsequent human rights abuses and acts of mass violence.

The course will feature a series of workshops, seminars, public lectures, and film screenings. The goal of the course is to bring together leading scholars of testimony and oral history, who engage in highly interdisciplinary approaches to documenting, studying, and interpreting the Holocaust and other genocides and mass atrocities through the lens of first-person accounts.

Participants will explore the vast genre of Holocaust testimony through readings, lectures, and hands-on work with a variety of primary sources. The course interrogates testimonies from historical, legal and moral perspectives, raising theoretical and methodological questions about the ‘afterlife’ of these sources, which are highly relevant for a wide variety of scholarly fields, including History, Jewish Studies, Nationalism Studies, Genocide Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Cultural and Literary Studies, Memory Studies and Legal Studies.

The course will provide historical and epistemological contexts, introduce new methodological approaches of studying testimonies in the digital age, and more importantly, offer participants an opportunity to explore the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies and other discrete collections of testimony in consultation with the leading experts in the field.

ELIGIBILITY

Target Group

The program encourages applications from students in multiple disciplines at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels, as well as early career oral history and digital humanities scholars and practitioners interested in learning more about the genealogy and impact of Holocaust testimony as a genre. We also invite applications from advanced undergraduate students who have adequate prior study or engagement experience on the subject and make a compelling case in their application/statement of interest.

Pre-requisites

There are no prerequisites, but the participants should be doing research on a topic related to the themes of the course.

Language requirements

The language of instruction is English; thus all applicants have to demonstrate a strong command of spoken and written English to be able to participate actively in discussions at seminars and workshops. Some of the shortlisted applicants may be contacted for a telephone interview.

DISCIPLINE AREAS

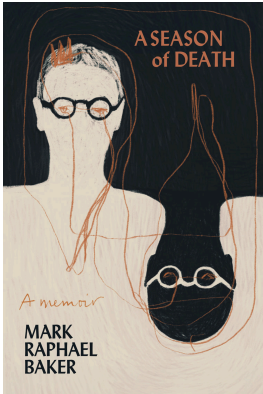
The course will focus on the following discipline areas:

- History
- Sociology
- Jewish Studies
- Memory Studies
- Nationalism Studies

Application deadline: 14 February 2025

For additional information on how to apply, visit: <https://summeruniversity.ceu.edu/courses/2025/holocaust-testimonies-and-their-afterlives>

Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)



A Season of Death: A Memoir/ by Mark Raphael Baker. Melbourne University Press, 2024.

[9780522880892](#)

Mark Raphael Baker was no stranger to death. Over seven years he had become a mourner three times over: for his first wife, for his brother and for his father. When diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he began to reflect on their deaths, his probable death and on Death as, in the words of Ecclesiastes, a 'season' that produced a large and bitter harvest for the Baker family. Powerful and conflicting emotions assailed him, but their destructive power was always defeated by his love of his family and of life, which never deserted him even when his spirit was most weary. Over the short course of his illness, he came to realise that to love both truly, he must die as the most authentic version of himself he can achieve. It enabled him to die with humbling grace and dignity.

In *A Season of Death*, readers of *The Fiftieth Gate* and *Thirty Days* will rediscover the many forms of Mark's humour, his candour and his depth of thought and feeling, albeit in a different key, as it must be when those virtues reveal themselves in expressions of vulnerability that fend off self-pity.

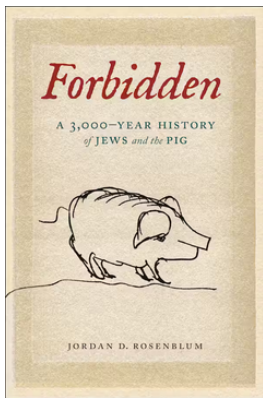
There is profound sorrow in this memoir but there is matching joy and much love, interwoven by a fine writer and thinker into a story that will deepen one's understanding of life.



The Lives of Jewish Things: Collecting and Curating Material Culture/ edited by Gabriella Anna Berlinger & Ruth von Bernuth. Wayne State University Press, 2024

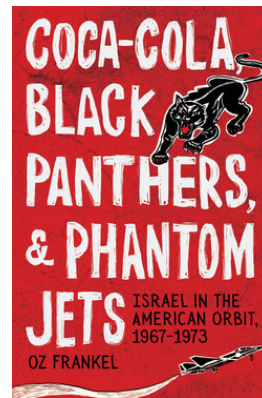
[9780814350454](#)

In museums, synagogues, antique stores, and personal collections, Jewish objects are gathered, studied, and passed down as material representations of a culture and faith. What defines these items as "Jewish," and how does an item acquire or lose this characteristic throughout its life? Drawing from material culture studies, folklore studies, and curatorial perspectives, this collection aims to answer these questions and reveal the life histories of Jewish things. Essays consider assemblages ranging from Holocaust ephemera to religious relics and pieces of art. Each time these materials cross geographic, cultural, or social borders, their Jewishness is redefined through new dialogues about maker and user, buyer and seller, insider and outsider. Each contributor's insight builds bridges between curators, private collectors, scholars, and archivists whose diverse perspectives inform a growing conversation in folklore, religion, and Jewish studies that places material culture at the heart of Jewish cultural and historical narratives. Tracing the paths of Jewish things across time, place, and culture, this collection reveals complex stories of individual and collective struggles to survive.



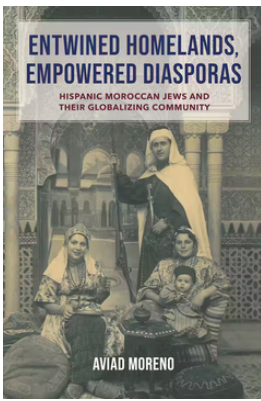
Forbidden: A 3,000-Year History of Jews and the Pig/ by Jordan D. Rosenblum. NYU Press, 2024.
[9781479831494](https://www.nyupress.org/9781479831494)

Jews do not eat pig. This (not always true) observation has been made by both Jews and non-Jews for more than three thousand years and is rooted in biblical law. Though the Torah prohibits eating pig meat, it is not singled out more than other food prohibitions. Horses, rabbits, squirrels, and even vultures, while also not kosher, do not inspire the same level of revulsion for Jews as the pig. The pig has become an iconic symbol for people to signal their Jewishness, non-Jewishness, or rebellion from Judaism. There is nothing in the Bible that suggests Jews are meant to embrace this level of pig-phobia. Starting with the Hebrew Bible, Jordan D. Rosenblum historicizes the emergence of the pig as a key symbol of Jewish identity, from the Roman persecution of ancient rabbis, to the Spanish Inquisition, when so-called Marranos (‘Pigs’) converted to Catholicism, to Shakespeare’s writings, to modern memoirs of those leaving Orthodox Judaism. The pig appears in debates about Jewish emancipation in eighteenth-century England and in vaccine conspiracies; in World War II rallying cries, when many American Jewish soldiers were ‘eating ham for Uncle Sam;’ in conversations about pig sandwiches reportedly consumed by Karl Marx; and in recent deliberations about the kosher status of Impossible Pork. All told, there is a rich and varied story about the associations of Jews and pigs over time, both emerging from within Judaism and imposed on Jews by others. Expansive yet accessible, *Forbidden* offers a captivating look into Jewish history and identity through the lens of the pig.



Coca-Cola, Black Panthers, and Phantom Jets: Israel in the American Orbit, 1967-1973/ by Oz Frankel. Stanford University Press, 2024.
[9781503636262](https://www.stanfordupress.edu/9781503636262)

Taking an expansive view of Israeli–American encounters, historian Oz Frankel reveals their often unexpected consequences, including the ripple effects that the rise of Black Power had on both extremes of Israeli politics, the adoption of American technology that fed the budding Israeli military-industrial complex, the consumerist ideologies that ensnared even IDF soldiers and Palestinians in the newly occupied territories, and the cultural performances that lured Israelis to embrace previously shunned diasporic culture. What made the racial strife in the US and the tensions between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews in Israel commensurable? How did an American military jet emerge as a national fixation? Why was the US considered a paragon of both spectacular consumption and restrained, rational consumerism? In ten topical chapters, this book demonstrates that the American presence in Israel back then, as it is today, was multifaceted and contradictory.

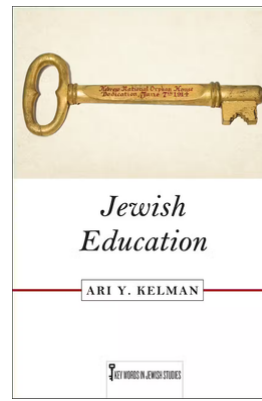


Entwined Homelands, Empowered Diasporas: Hispanic Moroccan Jews and Their Globalizing Community/ by Aviad Moreno. Indiana University Press, 2024. [9780253069665](https://doi.org/10.1017/9780253069665)

Entwined Homelands, Empowered Diasporas explores how the 30,000 Jews in northern Morocco developed a sense of kinship with modern Spain, medieval Sepharad, and the broader Hispanophone world that was unlike anything experienced elsewhere. The Hispanic Moroccan Jewish diaspora, as this group is often called by its scholars and its community leaders, also became one of the most mobile and globally dispersed North African groups in the twentieth century, with major hubs in Venezuela, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Spain, Israel, Canada, France, and the US, among others.

Drawing on an array of communal sources from across this diaspora, Aviad Moreno explores how narratives of ancestry in Spain, Israel, Morocco, and several Latin American countries interconnected the diaspora, empowering its hubs across the globe throughout the twentieth century and beyond.

By investigating these mechanisms of diaspora formation in a small community that once shared the same space in Morocco, *Entwined Homelands, Empowered Diasporas* challenges national accounts of the broader Jewish diasporas and adds complexity to the annals of multilayered ethnic communities on the move.



Jewish Education/ by Ari Y. Kelman. Rutgers University Press, 2024. [9781978835634](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781978835634)

Most writing about Jewish education has been preoccupied with two questions: What ought to be taught? And what is the best way to teach it? Ari Y Kelman upends these conventional approaches by asking a different question: How do people learn to engage in Jewish life? This book, by centering learning, provides an innovative way of approaching the questions that are central to Jewish education specifically and to religious education more generally.

At the heart of *Jewish Education* is an innovative alphabetical primer of Jewish educational values, qualities, frameworks, catalysts, and technologies which explore the historical ways in which Jewish communities have produced and transmitted knowledge. The book examines the tension between Jewish education and Jewish Studies to argue that shifting the locus of inquiry from ‘what people ought to know’ to ‘how do people learn’ can provide an understanding of Jewish education that both draws on historical precedent and points to the future of Jewish knowledge.

Photo submissions: Australian-Jewish theme



Image and information courtesy of the Sydney Jewish Museum.
Sydney Jewish Museum Collection M1991/005, donated by Beresford Charles Church.

The end of the calendar year brings a much needed rest for many of us, but it also brings the Jewish festival of Chanukkah. This issue's image comes to us from the collection of the Sydney Jewish Museum. Depicted is a Chanukkah/Chanukkah Menorah that was used in the Theresienstadt Ghetto by Rosalie and Ernst Salm during the three years of their incarceration. The Salms were from Schleich near Leiwien in the Trier area. It is not known whether the chanukkah was produced in Theresienstadt, though it likely was. Ernst Salm could not have made it, as he was blinded in the trenches while serving in the German Army in World War I. Both Rosalie and Ernst Salm survived the Shoah. Ernst died in 1949 and Rosalie died in 1964. They are both buried in the Jewish cemetery at Trier.

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No. 92

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 aajs.newsletter@gmail.com.