

Conferences and workshops

Kristallnacht and its International Aftermath

For political historians, the anti-Jewish riots of Kristallnacht (November 1938) raise questions about the international response to violence that remain topical to this day. The looting of shops, burning of synagogues and killing of dozens of innocent civilians in Germany was on the front pages of daily newspapers all over the world. Why was the international response to the outrage, now seen as precursor to genocide, so half-hearted and ineffectual? And why was so little done to help the victims and refugees? These questions still haunt the international community, as it proves equally helpless to contain genocidal violence in Srebrenica, Rwanda and Darfur.

The issues raised by Kristallnacht will be reassessed by leading historians attending a conference at the British Academy in London on Monday 8 December 2008. The event is coordinated by Edward Timms and Christian Wiese. Invited speakers, including Peter Pulzer (Oxford), Raphael Gross (Fritz Bauer Institute, Frankfurt), Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College), Moshe Zimmermann (Jerusalem) and Gulie Ne'eman-Arad (Beer Sheva), will

address a series of key questions. Were the anti-Jewish riots spontaneous or carefully orchestrated? How can we explain the ambivalence of the Christian Churches? How did the pogroms affect Zionist policies in Palestine? Why were British responses towards the refugees so contradictory? And given that Kristallnacht provoked international outrage, why did American policy towards Nazi Germany remain so indeterminate?

Please note the registration and seating policy for these events at the British Academy:

Workshop: registration is required for this workshop. Please contact Penny Collins, British Academy:
E externalrelations@britac.ac.uk
T +44 (0)20 7969 5238

Evening panel discussion: only workshop registrants wishing to attend this discussion are required to register in advance. For **non-workshop attendees**, registration is not required and seating will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis. Attendance is free for both events.

Jewish Migrants from the former Soviet Union

The migration of hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union to the West is a phenomenon that – perhaps more than any other event since the 1990s – transformed the Jewish communities in Europe (especially in Germany), the USA and Israel. It thus deserves a comprehensive historical and sociological study. In cooperation with the Central Board of Jewish Welfare in Germany (Frankfurt), the Centre for German-Jewish Studies will host an international conference on 'Jewish Migrants from the Former Soviet Union in Different National Contexts: The Case of Germany, Israel and the United States'. This will take place at Sussex University from 1-3 December 2008.

The conference will bring together sociologists, historians and Jewish Studies specialists who are researching these migrant groups, their background in the former Soviet Union, their social and cultural adaptations, their encounters with anti-Semitism, and their interactions with Jews and non-Jews in different societies. A keynote paper by Zvi Gitelman (University of Michigan) will analyse the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union between the 1940s and 1990s. This will be followed by papers focusing on the different immigrant communities, comparing their impact on Jewish life in Israel with their influence in the Diaspora. This interdisciplinary, comparative and transnational approach promises to provide new insight on the specific phenomenon of Russian-Jewish migration. It will also elucidate the more general topics of migration, integration and cultural identity, for which this specific example is paradigmatic. The conference will be open to the public. Those wishing to register should contact Diana Franklin at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies for further information (conference fee, accommodation etc.) by Monday, 3 November 2008 (contact details on back page).



Synagogue in the Fasahenstrasse, Berlin, November 1938

Restoring the Victims' Voices

The challenges and the future of Holocaust historiography were at the centre of an international conference devoted to eminent historian Saul Friedländer's landmark book *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, which took place at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies from 13-15 June 2008. In his keynote lecture on 'An Integrated History of the Holocaust: Some Historiographical Issues', Friedländer outlined the main methodological and moral aspects of his interpretation and discussed the difficulties of providing a 'thorough historical study of the extermination of the Jews of Europe, without eliminating or domesticizing the initial sense of disbelief' caused by the sheer enormity of this genocide. The historians present at the conference unanimously praised two main elements in Friedländer's approach: the attempt to restore the voices of Jewish survivors and witnesses instead of emphasizing a narrative dominated by the perpetrators, and the awareness of the ultimate limits of the representation of the Holocaust.

The short papers by other speakers at the conference engaged in a critical discussion of several other aspects of Friedländer's work, including his concept of a 'redemptive antisemitism' emerging in Germany at the end of the nineteenth century, which perceived the Jews as a demonic threat to German society, and his interpretation of the Holocaust as a singular and unprecedented historical event. The tasks identified for future research on the basis of Friedländer's work were, among others, a cultural history of the Holocaust, a more critical analysis of Jewish and non-Jewish testimonies, and a clearer interpretation of the role gender roles played in the Holocaust. The contributions will be published in a conference volume.

Archival resources

The German-Speaking Refugees of the 1930s and their Legacy to Britain

This afternoon research workshop combined with an evening public discussion, held at the British Academy in London on 24 June 2008, showcased our project on 'British Archival Resources Relating to German-Speaking Refugees' (BARGE), funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The workshop, introduced by Prof. Edward Timms, began with two papers by Centre staff: 'Refugee Archives: Theory and Practice' by Dr Andrea Hammel; and 'The BARGE Database', online presentation by Ms Samira Teuteberg. The legacy of the refugees was explored in three further papers: 'Reconstituting a Traumatized Community' by Dr Marion Berghahn (New York); 'The Impact of Refugee Scientists' by Prof. Gustav Born (London); and 'Doctors and Nurses: Contrasting Responses to the Refugee Crisis' by Prof. Paul Weindling (Oxford Brookes).

This was followed by a public discussion on 'Immigration, Diversity and Integration: Past Experience and Present Trends'. Drawing on historical research, we explored one of the central issues confronting British policy-makers today: Is large-scale immigration a threat to social stability? Social attitudes and consequences, public policies and gender issues were examined by four expert speakers: Prof. Tony Kushner (Southampton), Prof. Stephen Castles (Oxford), Dr Marc Verlot (Commission for Equality and Human Rights) and Ayse Bircan (Refugee Women's Association).

We are most grateful to the British Academy for enabling us to stage these successful events, which attracted large audiences and provoked lively discussion.

Participants received a new leaflet published by the Centre entitled *British Archival Resources Relating to German-Speaking Refugees*. There is still a great deal of work to be done, and our aim is to obtain information about further collections, not yet included on the BARGE database. Our part-time resource officer, Samira Teuteberg, can be contacted at the Centre's address or by emailing s.teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk and the database can be accessed through our website: www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/barge.

Correspondence of Markus Brann

The personal papers of the Breslau historian Markus Brann, to be found in the manuscript collection of the Jewish National Library at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, will form the basis for an edition of the correspondence between European-Jewish scholars at the beginning of the 20th century. Edited by Christian Wiese, the planned volume will give a fascinating insight into the intellectual world of Jewish scholarship in Europe before the Holocaust. The project will be the first step in the Centre's more comprehensive endeavour to locate, publish and digitalise archival material related to the tradition of Wissenschaft des Judentums in Europe.

The Ludwig Marx Collection



'The Refugee Schoolteacher's Room',
ink drawing by Ruth Lippiatt

While the BARGE database covers resources scattered throughout the British Isles, the University of Sussex provides a home for specific archives in the Special Collections of the Library. They now include the papers of Ludwig Marx (1891-1964), a schoolteacher from Sankt Georgen in Baden who was a prolific writer of diaries, essays, aphorisms and poems.

Although greatly respected in the local community, Dr Marx was dismissed from his post in 1933 and imprisoned in Dachau after Kristallnacht. In March 1939 he left Germany with his wife and son and settled in Britain. After a brief internment, he worked as a teacher at a school in Puddleston near Leominster in Herefordshire. He continued to write, and the papers at Sussex include remarkable volumes produced in collaboration with the Bristol-based illustrator and calligrapher Ruth Lippiatt.

One of her drawings depicts his tiny room (see illustration): the suitcase stood on end to form a bedside table, the candle (there was no electricity), the wash-stand, the raincoat and umbrella, the bookcase (a gift from Ruth), the guitar (Marx was a gifted musician) and his 'magic shrine' – a battery powered wireless. 'I'm thrilled and humbly grateful for this miracle,' he noted in his diary on 20 February 1944, after hearing Bach's 'Sheep may safely graze'. His love of German culture did not lead him to forget his Judaic heritage. 'Friday,' he continued, 'is for every Jewish mind the beginning of the Sabbath. If Judaism had given nothing else to the world than this idea of one day's rest, it would deserve immortality. Those Friday evenings at home, when my mother had kindled the Sabbath lights, are the most peaceful reminiscences of my life'.

In addition to diaries, the Ludwig Marx papers include numerous bilingual collections of poems and epigrams, reflecting on his heritage as a German Jew and his experience as a refugee. After the war Dr Marx worked in London and Cambridge, before returning to Sankt Georgen in 1952. He felt obliged to return in order to claim the German pension to which his service as a schoolteacher entitled him.

After the death of Ludwig Marx, these papers became the treasured possession of his son Robert Miller, an optometrist living in Leatherhead who frequently attended seminars at Sussex. In November 2001 he contributed an illustrated lecture about the work of Ludwig Marx and Ruth Lippiatt. Shortly before his own death in June 2008, Robert Miller gifted this collection to the University, ensuring it as preserved for further research.

Publications based on archival research

Engineering

Archival materials in Special Collections form the basis for two articles on the refugee engineer Dr Mac Goldsmith, published by Gerhard Wolf in the *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book*, volumes 51 and 52. The first, 'Mac Goldsmith: A Jewish Career in the German Automobile Industry', documents his pioneering technical achievements during the Weimar Republic.

The second article, 'Mac Goldsmith and the Modernization of British Industry' tells a different story. By re-establishing his firm Metalastik in Leicester, Goldsmith was able to support the British war effort, supplying flexible mountings for both tanks and aeroplane engines. His success continued during the post-war period, when Metalastik helped to modernize the motor industry and the London underground.

This research originated during the year Gerhard Wolf spent as an MA student at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. In October 2008, after completing his doctoral dissertation in Berlin on Nazi Policies of Germanization, he returns to Sussex as Lektor in History, part-funded by the German Academic Exchange Service.

Artistic Testimony

Arnold Daghani's Memories of Mikhailowka: The Illustrated Diary of a Slave Labour Camp Survivor is the title of a forthcoming book edited by Deborah Schultz and Edward Timms, which is also based on the archives at Sussex. During 1942-43, Daghani recorded the sufferings of slave labourers in the Ukraine by means of striking watercolours and a secret diary. It was indeed his artistic gifts that enabled him and his wife to escape. His poignant narrative of persecution and resistance ends by recording that the remaining prisoners were murdered and buried in a mass grave. Hence the title he chose for his diary, *The Grave is in the Cherry Orchard*, which is here published in English book form for the first time.

The structure of collusion that sustained the German war effort can be seen in microcosm at Mikhailowka. Daghani demonstrates that the labour camps were – in their own way – just as significant as Auschwitz, because they made the links with civil society so transparent. The theme of his diary is the collusion between decent Germans, capable of feeling shame, and sadistic Nazis, wielding machine-guns. His memories of Mikhailowka retrieve a past in which we can discern the all too human impulses of conquest and



Arnold Daghani, *On the way to work on the road*, 1974, ink on paper (Arnold Daghani Collection, University of Sussex © Arnold Daghani Trust)

domination, resistance and solidarity. A new order was being constructed in Central Europe, where German settlers would be dominant while other ethnic groups were eliminated or reduced to the status of serfs.

This edition of the diary, published by Vallentine Mitchell, reproduces Daghani's artistic works recording the ordeals of slave labour (see illustration). It concludes with a Roll Call of those who died at Mikhailowka, recited every year at Yom Kippur by the artist and his wife as an act of commemoration.

Dialogue

Eva Ehrenberg (1891-1973): A Dialogue about Languages, Multiculturalism and Exile as Reflected in her Writings is a new Centre Research Paper by Lewis Elton in conversation with Edward Timms. It is based on the Ehrenberg/Elton Collection at the University of Sussex, which has been catalogued by Samira Teuteberg and forms a treasure trove for new research. The subjects explored include the experiences of the Ehrenberg family in Prague between 1929 and 1939, the disruptions of exile in Britain, and Eva Ehrenberg's response to these events in both poetry and prose. 'Where do we belong on earth? / Is it death, is it rebirth?' she asks in a poignant poem. An answer is provided by another poem, quoted at the end of the dialogue: 'When moving on / We should not think that we shall find / The things again that we have left behind / For they have gone.'

Memoirs

The *Memoirs* of Hans Jonas, edited by Christian Wiese and translated by Krishna Winston, have been published by the University Press of New England. The philosopher Hans Jonas (1903-1993) is mainly known for his influential book *The Imperative of Responsibility*, which focuses on the gap between mankind's enormous technological capacities and its diminished moral sensibilities. Apart from his works on ecology and bioethics, Jonas has published on religious history (especially on Gnosticism) and religious philosophy.

The *Memoirs* reveal a completely different dimension of Jonas's life and work – his fate as a German Jew and émigré scholar. After studying philosophy with Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger at Marburg and Freiburg, Jonas left Germany for London in 1933. Two years later he emigrated to Palestine, enlisting in the British Army's Jewish Brigade to fight against Hitlerism. Following the Israeli War of Independence (in which he also fought), he emigrated to the United States and took a position at the New School for Social Research in New York.

Since Jonas's life spanned the entire twentieth century, his memoirs provide nuanced pictures of German Jewry during the Weimar Republic, of German Zionism, of the Jewish emigrants in Palestine during the 1930s and 1940s, and of German Jewish intellectuals in New York. In addition, they outline the development of his work, from his philosophical interpretation of Gnosticism to his metaphysical speculations about 'God after Auschwitz'.

Christian Wiese's recent publications also include *The Life and Thought of Hans Jonas: Jewish Dimensions* (University Press of New England, 2007) and *The Legacy of Hans Jonas: Judaism and the Phenomenon of Life*, co-edited with Hava Tirosh-Samuelson (Brill Publishers, 2008).

Further publications and conference papers

Andrea Hammel

“‘Why is your Czech so bad?’: Czech Child Refugees, Language and Identity”, paper for the Exile in and from Czechoslovakia during the 1930s and 1940s conference, Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, 18 September 2008.

Leena Petersen

‘The European Network of Jewish Studies 1850 - 1939: Institutions, Debates, Relations to other Disciplines’, lecture at the Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center for German-Jewish Literature and Cultural History at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, 10 June 2008.

Leena also chaired several panels at the conference ‘Zionism and Lebensphilosophie’ at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem 18-19 May 2008.

Deborah Schultz

(co-authored with Edward Timms), *Pictorial Narrative in the Nazi Period: Felix Nussbaum, Charlotte Salomon and Arnold Daghani*, special issue of *Word & Image* journal, Vol. 24, No. 3 (June-September 2008).

Edward Timms

‘Waarheid en journalisme: Over Karl Kraus’, tr. Frank Bestebreutje, in *Europees humanisme in fragmenten: Grammatica van een ongesproken taal*, a special issue of *Nexus*, ed. Rob Riemen, vol. 50 (June 2008), pp. 204-18.

‘Sigmund Freuds Privatbibliothek’ in *Bibliotheken jüdischer Intellektueller im 20. Jahrhundert* (Potsdam: Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum, 2008).

‘Coffeehouses and Tea Parties: Creative Dynamics in Sigmund Freud’s Vienna and Virginia Woolf’s Bloomsbury’, paper at the Vienna Coffeehouse conference, Royal College of Art, London, 17 October 2008.

Professor Timms’s commitment to the field of Austrian and especially Austrian Jewish Studies has been recognized by the publication of a Festschrift: *Austrian Satire and Other Essays: Studies in Honour of Edward Timms* (Austrian Studies, Vol. 15), ed. Judith Beniston, Ritchie Robertson and Robert Vilain; and by the award of the Ehrenkreuz für Wissenschaft und Kunst (Erste Klasse) by the Republic of Austria.

Christian Wiese

Hans Jonas, *Memorie*, a cura di Christian Wiese (Genova: Il Nuovo Melangolo, 2008).

‘Zionism, the Holocaust, and Judaism in a Secular World: New Perspectives on Hans Jonas’s Friendship with Hannah Arendt and Gershom Scholem,’ in *The Legacy of Hans Jonas: Judaism and the Phenomenon of Life*, edited by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson and Christian Wiese (Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2008), pp. 159-202.

‘God’s ‘Adventure with the World’ and ‘Sanctity of Life’: Theological Speculation and Ethical Reflections in Jonas’ Philosophy after Auschwitz,’ in *The Legacy of Hans Jonas: Judaism and the Phenomenon of Life*, edited by Hava Tirosh-Samuelson and Christian Wiese (Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2008), pp. 419-460.

‘Revolt against Escapism’: Hans Jonas’s Philosophy of Life as a Response to Martin

Heidegger’s Existentialism,’ in *Heidegger’s Jewish Followers: Essays on Hannah Arendt, Leo Strauss, Hans Jonas, and Emmanuel Levinas*, edited by Samuel Fleischacker (Pittsburgh: Duquesne University Press, 2008), pp. 266-312.

‘Das Frankfurter Jüdische Lehrhaus’, lecture at the University of Frankfurt am Main, 23 April 2008.

‘Wissenschaft des Judentums und Reformjudentum’, lecture at the University of Bonn, 24 April 2008.

‘Exile in a Jewish Homeland: The Ambivalent Zionist Identities of Robert Weltsch and Hans Kohn’, contribution to a Workshop of the Leo Baeck Fellowship Programme, Prague, 6 May 2008.

‘100 Jahre jüdische Denker: Hans Jonas (1903–1993)’, lecture at the Literaturhaus, Berlin, 28 May 2008.

‘Challenging Cultural Hegemony: Jewish Studies, Liberal Protestantism, and Anti-Semitism in Wilhelmine and Weimar Germany’, lecture at the German Historical Institute, London, 10 June 2008.

‘Theological Speculation and Philosophical Ethics in a Post-Holocaust World’, lecture at Trinity College, Dublin, 23 June 2008.

‘Erwählung, Exil und Universalismus. Interpretationen und Re-Interpretationen der “Mission Israels” im jüdischen Denken des Mittelalters und der Moderne’, lecture at the University of Düsseldorf, 7 July 2008.

Forthcoming lectures and events

3 November 2008

Prof. Edward Timms (Sussex), Joseph Goebbels and the Spectrum of Nazi Propaganda: Plutocracy and the War against the Jews’ 16.30 B127
Open to all who are interested-booking not required

17 November 2008

Dr Nitzan Lebovic (Sussex/Tel Aviv): ‘War and Education: Political Education in Israel and Germany after World War II’ 16.30 (tea at 16.00 in B127, lecture room to be arranged).
Open to all who are interested-booking not required

13 November 2008

Prof. Susannah Heschel (Dartmouth College), ‘The Aryan Jesus: Christians, Nazis and the Bible’ 19.00 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH
Places must be reserved in advance by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London
T +44 (0)20 7580 3493
E info@leobaeck.co.uk

26 November 2008

Book Launch: Hans Jonas, *Memoirs*, edited by Christian Wiese, translated by Krishna Winston (Hanover, N.H: University Press of New England, 2008). The book will be introduced by Prof. Steven Aschheim (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) 19.00 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH
Places must be reserved in advance by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London
T +44 (0)20 7580 3493
E info@leobaeck.co.uk

10 December 2008

Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Institute for the History of German Jewry, Hamburg), ‘War as Adventure. The Condor Legion in Spain, 1936-39’ 19.00 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH
Places must be reserved in advance by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London
T +44 (0)20 7580 3493
E info@leobaeck.co.uk

12 February 2009

Prof. Jacques Picard (University of Basle), ‘Israeli and European Jewish Identities in Transition’ 19.00 Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1W 5BH
Places must be reserved in advance by contacting the Leo Baeck Institute London
T +44 (0)20 7580 3493
E info@leobaeck.co.uk

Cooperation with the Franz Rosenzweig Centre, Jerusalem

Cooperation with the Franz Rosenzweig Centre will commence in Jerusalem with a joint ‘Young Scholar’s Conference on Hans Kohn’, (11,12 March 2009). Christian Wiese’s keynote lecture will be entitled: ‘“But this is Buber-Zionism”: Hans Kohn’s and Robert Weltsch’s Conflicting Interpretations of Jewish Nationalism’.

Sussex-Berlin Dialogues on Jewish History and Contemporary Issues

The Jewish Museum in Berlin and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at Sussex are jointly organizing a series of lectures and dialogues on topics related to Jewish religion, history, tradition and culture, starting in spring 2009. This inaugurates a programme of cooperation between the two institutions that aims to attract an audience in Germany and England. The form planned for these events, which will take place in Berlin and London, is a moderated dialogue between two intellectuals on changing political, social and cultural issues. The topic for 2009 will be: ‘The Question of Redemption: Messianism and the End of History’.

Discounts on publications associated with the Centre

Publications by researchers at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies may be purchased at a discount by Friends of the Centre. For further information, please contact **Diana Franklin**.

For further information about the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, please contact:

Diana Franklin

Administrative Liaison Officer,
Centre for German-Jewish Studies
University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN

University T +44 (0)1273 678771
London T/F +44 (0)20 8381 4721

E d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk

Website <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs>