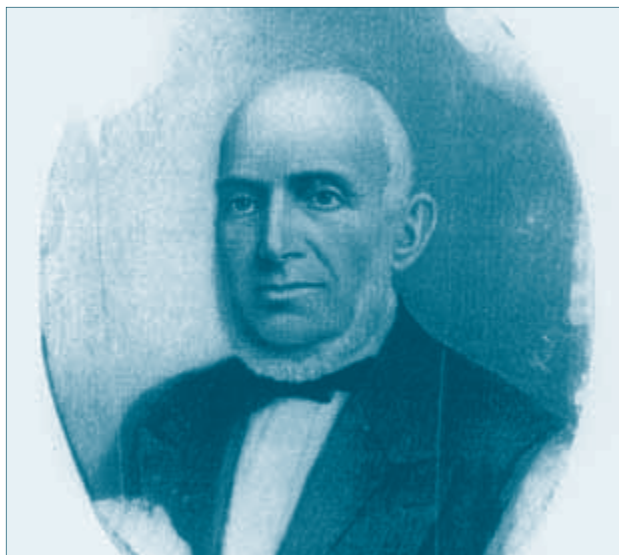


New Developments and Opportunities

A permanent post as Reader in Jewish History and Director of the CGJS has been advertised after Professor Christian Wiese accepted the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Philosophy at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main (see page 2) with effect from 1 October 2010. Fortunately, this change in the Centre's leadership will not cause any discontinuity in its work. Rather, it entails a wealth of exciting new opportunities. Before accepting this prestigious new post, Christian ensured that the Centre's future was secure. Moreover, he will continue to serve as interim director until his successor is in place and will be responsible for the Centre's research and outreach activities during the academic year 2010/11. Furthermore, he has been offered a contract as visiting research professor at Sussex for at least two years. This will enable him to continue to supervise his current research projects and DPhil students. Most importantly, his task in this new position will be to develop the Centre's international activities and cooperation with universities in Europe, Israel and the USA.

The cooperation with the University of Frankfurt promises

to strengthen the Centre's international visibility. An early example of such collaboration was the international symposium on the Jewish reformer Abraham Geiger that was co-organised by the Centre, the Abraham-Geiger-Kolleg at the University of Potsdam and the University of Frankfurt in May 2010. Future plans include an international young scholars' workshop on 'German-Speaking Zionism' in Beer Sheva in May 2011 (co-organised with the Ben Gurion University of the Negev) and an international conference on 'Jewish Enlightenment, Religion and Secularism' in July 2011, co-organised by the University of Frankfurt, the Centre and Bar Ilan University. Christian Wiese comments on his future relationship with the Centre: 'It has been a great joy and honour to serve as director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies over the past four years and I am delighted that the University of Sussex has fully committed to its further existence. I am hoping to contribute to the Centre's development in a different role and I am very much looking forward to future joint projects and activities'.



Samuel Hirsch (courtesy of American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati)

CGJS represented at the German 'Historikertag' in Berlin

Over the past few years the CGJS has made an important contribution to current research on the phenomenon of Jewish nationalism, particularly to the history of German-speaking Zionism prior to the establishment of the State of Israel. The Centre's project on 'The Zionists among the "Prague Circle" of German-Jewish Intellectuals and their Role in the Debates about Jewish Nationalism' is devoted to biographical studies of three protagonists representative of a current within German-speaking Zionism involved in contemporary discussions about a bi-national state and peaceful coexistence with the Arab population in Palestine – Hans Kohn (Romy Langeheine), Robert Weltsch (Christian Wiese) and Shmuel H. Bergman (Nitzan Lebovic). In 2009, the CGJS was instrumental in organising a conference on 'The Legacy of Hans Kohn' at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem,

whose contributions will partly be published in this year's Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook. Future plans include a series of workshops and conferences devoted to the historical and intellectual roots of Jewish nationalism in the twentieth century.

Results of the project will be presented in a panel on 'Nationalism, Internationalism and Transnationalism in German-Speaking Zionism' on the occasion of the German 'Historikertag' in Berlin on 29 September 2010. Co-organised by Christian Wiese and Stefan Vogt (Beer Sheva), the panel will provide the opportunity to discuss central aspects of the history of German-speaking Zionism: the Zionist perception of German imperialism and colonialism (Stefan Vogt), the ideological development of the different Zionist currents in Germany during World War I (Ulrich Sieg, Marburg), the relationship between nationalism, messianism and cosmopolitanism in the thought of Hans Kohn (Michael Enderlein, Hamburg), the impact of the 'Prague Circle' on the historiography of modern nationalism (Lutz Fiedler, Leipzig) and the response of German Zionism to Nazism (Christian Wiese). Francis Nicosia, Raul Hilberg Distinguished Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont and author of the acclaimed book *Zionism and Anti-Semitism in Nazi Germany* (2008), will comment on the papers.

International Symposium on Samuel Hirsch in Luxembourg

In cooperation with the University of Luxembourg and the University of Leiden, the CGJS is involved in organising an international symposium on the philosopher Samuel Hirsch (1815-1889). It will take place from 17-19 October 2010 in Luxembourg where Hirsch served as chief rabbi from 1843 to 1866. Christian Wiese will give the keynote lecture on 'The Metamorphoses of Samuel Hirsch's Reform Philosophy within the Context of the Ideological Controversies of the Nineteenth Century'.

Hirsch's biographical path led him from Bonn, Berlin and Leipzig, where he studied philosophy and theology, to Dessau (1838), to Luxembourg (1843) and eventually to Philadelphia (1866). As rabbi of the local congregation Keneseth Israel he played a crucial role in formulating the principles of the radical Reform movement in America.

The symposium will be devoted to

the link between Jewish political emancipation and religious philosophy in the nineteenth century and will explore the way Hirsch attempted to define Jewish identity and Jewish social and cultural participation in the emerging western European democracies. Hirsch's plea for Jewish equality and participation in European culture went along with his insistence on a distinctive Jewish religious and cultural identity whose right to exist he defended against claims that Jews were an 'oriental people', incapable of integrating into German culture. As a Hegelian philosopher who was profoundly troubled by Hegelianism's negative perception of Judaism, Hirsch embodies the experience of a specific generation of German-Jewish intellectuals who were caught between the appeal of contemporary non-Jewish philosophy, the passionate striving for cultural integration and the determination to create a modernized, universalistic version of Judaism.

Martin Buber Chair at the University of Frankfurt



Christian Wiese moderating a panel discussion at the University of Sussex

The appointment of Professor Christian Wiese to the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought at the University of Frankfurt am Main is a signal honour for an individual scholar which will also bring benefits to the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. For Christian will continue as interim director of the Centre even after he and his wife Angela return to Germany. In Frankfurt, a multicultural city with a large Jewish as well as a substantial Muslim community, he will contribute to a scholarly environment in which a dialogical approach to religious and cultural diversity is particularly important. He will be involved in developing a major project on 'Plurality and Dialogue as a Paradigm of Contemporary Religion' and has been appointed to the directorial board of the Institute of Religious Philosophy. He will teach interdisciplinary courses for students of Jewish Studies, Philosophy, History, and Religious Studies, including Islamic Studies and Protestant Theology.

This will strengthen Frankfurt's reputation as a centre of excellence in these fields. The Martin Buber Chair is part of a range of institutions devoted to Jewish history and culture, including chairs in Rabbinic studies and Jewish history as well as the Fritz Bauer Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Jewish Museum. One of Christian's plans in Frankfurt is to establish a research centre for Jewish intellectual history. With his team he will start a series of projects, including a scholarly edition of Hans Jonas's works and research programmes devoted to the history of Jewish Studies in Europe in the nineteenth century. He has also been awarded a generous grant by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Stiftung that will support a programme of international cooperation with universities in Israel, the US and other parts of Europe. The strategic cooperation with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies (see page 1) will be a crucial part of this ambitious programme.

Christian's legacy to the Centre during his four years at Sussex (as summarised by Edward Timms) includes an impressive range of programmes, conferences, externally funded research projects and publications. In a period when the humanities departments of British universities have come under increasing pressure from central government to justify their existence, he has shown exemplary qualities of patient archival research, original scholarship and enterprising academic leadership. The Kochmann Summer School at Sussex and his supervision of seven doctoral students as well as post-doctoral fellows highlights his ability to transmit these values to a younger generation of researchers from different nations. Long may these connections continue!

Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School 2010

The second Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School took place at Sussex from 13-16 July 2010. It was organized by the CGJS in cooperation with the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo-Baeck-Instituts. The summer school was attended by twenty-four doctoral candidates from Canada, England, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and the United States under the direction of Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Institute for the History of German Jewry, Hamburg), Prof. Christhard Hoffmann (University of Bergen) and Prof. Christian Wiese. Prof. Schüler-Springorum opened the proceedings with a lecture on 'German-Jewish Gender History: Wherefrom, Whereto – and Why?' The session was attended by Dr Kurt Hellman, whose generous donation will enable the Centre to organize these workshops for several years.

The young scholars presented their dissertation projects on a variety of subjects of modern European-Jewish history and culture, including Jewish religious and cultural history in early modern and modern Central and Eastern Europe; Jewish politics and ideology in modern Germany, France, Britain and Poland, Russian-Jewish literature after World War I; German-Jewish and Polish-Jewish social history (including questions of gender) before World War II; Christian-Jewish

relations in England; the Jewish experience in Vichy France and in the Polish ghettos; the history of the Jewish communities in post-Holocaust Germany and Poland. The students very much appreciated the opportunity to be given thorough feedback in an interdisciplinary setting.

We are delighted that, with this series of summer schools, the CGJS is establishing itself as a forum for young doctoral students from diverse cultural backgrounds and as the centre of a growing international network of a future generation of scholars in the field of European-Jewish history.

Farewell to Andrea

Dr Andrea Hammel is leaving Sussex to take up a Lectureship in German at the University of Wales in Aberystwyth. Her contributions to the work of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies will be familiar to many readers of this newsletter. Indeed, her photograph appeared on the front page of one of the earliest numbers, wearing a hard hat as protection during building work to create an extension to the university library. Since then she has been a continuously creative presence, helping as Research Assistant to organize our ground-breaking conference on the German-Jewish Dilemma before co-editing the published conference proceedings.

Andrea's doctoral research focused on the achievements of Women Refugee Writers who fled to Britain in the 1930s, and she has been instrumental in promoting the work of Selma Kahn, whose literary estate has been deposited at Sussex by Selma's son, Michael Kean. This research led Andrea to develop a special interest in memoirs written by members of the Kindertransport generation, recording a series of

interviews with the support of a grant from the British Academy. She went on to play a leading role as Research Fellow for the BARGE project, collecting and analysing data about British Archival Materials Relating to German-Speaking Refugees of the period 1930-50.

During a farewell lunch at the Centre Andrea was congratulated on her new appointment by the Director, Christian Wiese. Edward Timms, who worked closely with her for over a dozen years, then asked if she would like to recall her best and her worst moments. 'There were no really bad moments,' she said, 'but some episodes were rather bizarre!' Working in a field where we have been pushing out the frontiers of knowledge, there have inevitably been strange experiences, like agreeing to attend a reunion of Young Austria at Bognor Regis, only to discover that the average age of the 'young' Austrians was over seventy! We look forward to continuing cooperation with her on new research projects, now that those frontiers extend to the Irish Sea.

Exhibition on ‘Surviving History – Portraits from Vilnius’ in South Africa

As part of her doctoral dissertation on ‘Everything Speaks: People, Places and Objects as Sites of Memory, History and Biography’, Shivaun Woolfson organised an exhibition exploring the traces and living imprints of Lithuania’s once thriving Jewish presence. During 2008 Shivaun, whose project is co-supervised by Christian Wiese, travelled to Vilnius and met ten elderly survivors whom she asked to share their memories and to show her the biographical objects with which they had chosen to surround themselves. She worked with these materials with an international team of artists to create a multi-media exhibition, comprising photography, video diaries, text, visual biography, memory boxes and an installation commemorating Lithuania’s mass murder sites. The exhibition opened in September 2009 in the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum, Vilnius and has since travelled to Dublin, London, various locations in the UK and, most significantly, on a three-city tour of South Africa (Cape Town – Johannesburg – Durban).

‘Surviving History: Portraits from Vilnius’ opened at the Cape Town Holocaust Centre on 12 April, and, following a screening of the award-winning film of her research journey, Shivaun Woolfson presented the exhibition to an audience of two

hundred people and delivered a series of talks, seminars and workshops to volunteers and guides at the centre, a youth activist group called the ‘Peace Ambassadors’ – some of whom hail from the townships, and teachers of Holocaust education, literature, drama and arts from around the country. Participants of Shivaun’s workshop: ‘The Inner Life of History’ readily drew parallels to the South African context and to the importance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a starting point in healing the wounds of their history.

A particularly moving part of the exhibition is devoted to ninety-three year old Josef Levinson. After the war, distraught at what he found in his native shtetl, Veisiejai, he made a solemn vow that the ‘horrors that happened there should not remain unknown’. Since Lithuania gained its independence, Josef has spent twenty years travelling throughout Lithuania, searching for, locating and then erecting Jewish memorials on each of its two hundred and thirty-nine massacre sites. He has captured this journey in his text entitled ‘The Book of Sorrows’ which he hopes will serve as a ‘modest monument to the annihilated Jews of Lithuania’.



Young students visiting Shivaun Woolfson’s exhibition in Johannesburg

As a result of the exhibition, Josef came to London from Vilnius with his son to join a group of ambassadors, dignitaries, fellow survivors and community members gathered in his honour. Shivaun comments: ‘That my research has led, however inadvertently, to ensuring that his words and his work will be more widely heard and more readily acknowledged, reaffirms for me the very basis upon which this research has been undertaken – “When one speaks to one’s fellow there is a simple light and a returning light” (Rabbi Nahman of Bratslav).’

Publications, Conference Papers and News

Andrea Hammel

‘Public Representations of Private Memories: the Kindertransport and the Media’ in *The Kindertransport 1938/39: New Developments in Research. Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies*, Vol.13, ed. Andrea Hammel and Bea Lewkowicz, Rodopi, Amsterdam (forthcoming)

‘Child Refugees Forever? The History of the Kindertransport 1938/39’, in *Diskurs Kindheits- und Jugendforschung*, 2010, No.2, Budrich Verlag, Leverkusen, 2010

‘Translating the Self: Memoirs and Authenticity’, paper given at the 7th Biennial International Auto/Biography Association Conference, University of Sussex, July 2010

‘Holocaust Memoirs and Translation: Ruth David’s *Child of Our Time*’, paper given at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Germanists in Great Britain, 28-30 March 2010, University of Reading

Andrea Hammel organised the second workshop of the AHRC Network ‘Holocaust Writing and Translation’ on 1 July 2010 at the University of Sussex. Delegates from the UK, US, Germany and Norway discussed themes such as productivity of translation, translation and theories of trauma, the role of translators in different contexts, the perception of translation in discussion of Holocaust testimonies and other texts, translation and reception, editorial practice and theories of Holocaust representation. The third workshop of the series will be held at the University of East Anglia on 17 December 2010. The final workshop is scheduled on 24 February 2011 in London and will be held in conjunction with a public event at the Wiener Library.

Romy Langeheine

‘An Intellectual Biography of Hans Kohn’, paper given at the University of Sussex, Graduate Forum for Intellectual History, 11 May 2010

‘The Decisive Years of my Life: The Impact of the First World War on Hans Kohn’s Life and Thought’, paper given at the CGJS, Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School, 14 July 2010

Nitzan Lebovic

Co-organisation of the two-day workshop ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23-24 June 2010

Nitzan, who was a research fellow at the Centre, has accepted the Apter Chair of Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values at Lehigh University, Pennsylvania

Leena Petersen

Poetik des Zwischenraumes: Zur sprachlichen Kulturkritik und physiognomischen Historizität am Beispiel von Walter Benjamin und ausgewählten Schriften seiner Zeit (Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2010)

‘On Dogmatism and Tolerance’, paper given within the context of the Lecture Series ‘Toleration of Variety in Judaism’ at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, 26 April 2010

‘On Immediacy and Critique’, paper given at the workshop on ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23 June 2010

‘Reconsidering Utopia’, paper given at the 6th Annual Joint Conference of the Society for European Philosophy and the Forum for European Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, John Felice Rome Center – Rome, Italy, 9 July 2010

‘On Aniconism and Negative Aesthetics in German-Jewish Thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries’, paper given at the British Association of Jewish Studies Conference 2010, University of Southampton, 5 September 2010

Co-organisation of the two-day workshop ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23-24 June 2010

Co-organisation of a two-day international Work-in-Progress-Research Workshop in Berlin, 25-26 August 2010

Edward Timms

‘Evacuees and “Kinder”: A Comparative Approach’, in *The Kindertransport 1938/39: New Developments in Research* (forthcoming)

‘Family Photographs of the 1930s as Markers of Autobiographical narrative’, paper given at the 7th Biennial International Auto/Biography Association Conference, University of Sussex, July 2010

Edward Timms’s memoirs, *Taking up the Torch: English Institutions, German Dialectics and Multicultural Commitments* (Sussex Academic Press), to be published in Spring 2011 to mark the 50th anniversary of the University of Sussex, will include an account of the origins of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

Christian Wiese

Years of Persecution, Years of Extermination: Saul Friedländer and the Future of Holocaust Studies, ed. Christian Wiese and Paul Betts (London: Continuum Press, 2010)

‘An “Indelible Stigma”: The Churches between Silence, Ideological Involvement, and Political Complicity’, in *Years of Persecution, Years of Extermination: Saul Friedländer and the Future of Holocaust Studies*, ed. Christian Wiese and Paul Betts (London: Continuum Press, 2010), pp. 157-192

Publications, Conference Papers and News (continued)

Hartmut Walser Smith, *Fluchtpunkt 1941. Kontinuitäten der deutschen Geschichte*, transl. Christian Wiese (Stuttgart: Reclam 2010)

'Heros, Ikone, Gegenbild: Abraham Geiger aus der Perspektive der Reformbewegung in Amerika', paper given at the International Symposium on 'Abraham Geiger (1810-1874): Reformer, Historiker, Apologet des Judentums' at the University of Frankfurt, 16/17 May 2010 and at the University of Potsdam, 31 May 2010

'Hoffnung auf Achtung und dialogische Antwort: Traditionen der jüdischen Wahrnehmung des Christentums im interreligiösen Dialog der Gegenwart', paper given at the Evangelische Stadtakademie Bochum, 19 May 2010

'Revolt against Escapism: Jewish Dimensions of Hans Jonas's Response to Martin Heidegger's Existentialism', keynote address given at a workshop of the 'Hans Jonas Working Group' at Princeton University, 13-14 June 2010

'Leo Baeck: Gelehrter und Repräsentant des deutschen Judentums in der Weimarer Republik und in Nazi-Deutschland', paper given at the International Conference on 'Leo Baeck (1873-1956). Der berühmteste Jude aus Leszno', Leszno (Poland) 27-28 September 2010

'Das dämonische Antlitz des Nationalismus. Robert Weltschs Deutung des Zionismus angesichts des Nationalsozialismus', paper given at the 'Deutsche Historikertag' in Berlin, 29 September 2010

'"Mit der Moderne innig befreundet": Die Wandlungen der Reformphilosophie Samuel Hirschs im Zusammenhang ideologischer Kontroversen seiner Zeit', keynote address given at the international conference on 'Samuel Hirsch. Religionsphilosoph, Emanzipationsverfechter und radikaler Reform. Jüdische Identität im 19. Jahrhundert am Beispiel von Werk und Wirkung des ersten Oberrabbiners Luxemburgs', Luxembourg 17-18 October

Two new volumes have appeared in the series 'Supplements to the Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy', edited by Christian Wiese, Elliot Wolfson and Hartwig Wiedebach:

Israel Koren, *The Mystery of the Earth: Mysticism and Hasidism in the Thought of Martin Buber* (Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2010)

Spirituality in the Writings of Etty Hillesum, ed. by Klaas A. D. Smelik, Ria van den Brandt and Meins G. S. Coetsier (Leiden: Brill Publishers, 2010)

Christian Wiese has been elected onto the board of the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies.

Gerhard Wolf

Gerhard Wolf has successfully completed his PhD on 'Ideology and Power – National Socialist Germanisation Policy in the Annexed Parts of Western Poland, 1939-1945' and passed his viva at the Humboldt University in Berlin.

Forthcoming Workshops, Lectures and Events

Workshops

Wednesday 8 December 2010 Workshop on 'Holocaust Studies in the 21st Century'

The workshop, co-organised by Prof. Christian Wiese, University of Sussex, and Prof. Andreas Gestrich, German Historical Institute, London, will be devoted to topics addressed in the recent publication *Years of Persecution, Years of Extermination: Saul Friedländer and the Future of Holocaust Studies*, ed. by Christian Wiese and Paul Betts (Continuum 2010). The speakers, Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Hamburg), Prof. David Cesarani and Prof. Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway), Prof. Donald Bloxham (Edinburgh) and Prof. Richard King (Nottingham) will discuss questions such as the relationship between Holocaust Studies and Genocide Studies, the role of testimony, the question of gender and Holocaust Studies, the relationship between perpetrator history and victim history as well as the relationship between Holocaust Studies and cultural studies.

4.00 pm (to be confirmed), German Historical Institute, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2NJ

29-31 March 2011

Panel on 'Jewish Enlightenment' (organised by Prof. Christian Wiese) for the Conference of the British Society for the History of Philosophy, hosted by the Centre for Intellectual History and the Philosophy Department at the University of Sussex. Speakers will include Prof Shmuel Feiner (Bar Ilan University), Dr Andrea Schatz (Kings College) and Prof Christian Wiese (Frankfurt).

Time and venue to be announced.

Lectures

Thursday 21 October 2010

Prof Jane Caplan (St. Anthony's College, Oxford), 'Behind the Ausweis: Proving and Policing Identity in Nazi Germany' (in cooperation with the History Department Work in Progress Seminar and the Centre for Modern European Cultural History).

4.00 pm, University of Sussex, Arts A155

All welcome, booking not required.

Monday 22 November 2010

Prof Diana Pinto (Paris), Jewish Communities and Jewish Spaces in the Age of Asemitism (Joint lecture series with Kings College on 'Jewish Communities in Contemporary Europe and Beyond', co-organised by Prof. Christian Wiese and Dr Andrea Schatz.

5.30 pm, Kings College, London, Strand Campus, venue to be announced later – booking not required.

Tuesday 23 November 2010

Dr Anthony Grenville (London), 'Jewish Refugees from Hitler in Britain, 1933-1970'

4.30 pm, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, Meeting Room Arts B127 (Tea at 4.00 pm)

All welcome, booking not required.

Thursday 27 January 2011

Prof. Christian Wiese (University of Frankfurt), 'The Demonic Face of Nationalism: Zionism in Germany during the Nazi Period and the Dilemmas of Jewish Nationalism' (in cooperation with the History Department Work in Progress Seminar and the Centre for Modern European Cultural History).

4.00 pm, University of Sussex, Arts A155

All welcome, booking not required.

Wednesday 2 February 2011 Second Hannah Arendt Lecture in Modern Jewish Thought

Judith Butler (University of California, Berkeley), 'Arendt, Cohabitation, and the Dispersion of Sovereignty'

5.00 pm, University of Sussex Arts A (Asa Briggs Lecture Theatre – to be confirmed)

All welcome, booking not required.

Monday 21 February

Dr Gerben Zaagsma (Berlin), 'Migration and Politics in Jewish History: A Comparison of Jewish Migrant Responses to Antisemitism in Paris and London in the Late 1930s'

4.30 pm, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, Meeting Room Arts B127 (Tea at 4.00 pm)

All welcome, booking not required.

Monday 14 March 2011

Prof Marcy Brink-Danan (Brown University), 'Quiet Diplomacy: Jews on the Turkish Street and the European Stage' (Joint lecture series with Kings College on 'Jewish Communities in Contemporary Europe and Beyond', co-organised by Prof. Christian Wiese and Dr Andrea Schatz.

5.30 pm, Kings College, London, Strand Campus, Council Room (please ask for directions at the reception desk in the main entrance) – booking not required.

Monday 28 March 2011

Prof. Micha Brumlik (University of Frankfurt), 'Contemporary German-Jewish Identities in a Multicultural Context' (Joint lecture series with Kings College on 'Jewish Communities in Contemporary Europe and Beyond'.

6.00 pm, Kings College, London, Strand Campus, Council Room – booking not required.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Wednesday 26 January 2011

Prof. Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway, London), 'Holocaust Remembrance in the 21st Century: Listening to Untold Stories'

A further speaker will be Tomi Reichental (Dublin). For nearly 60 years Slovak-born Tomi Reichental remained silent about his experiences as a boy in the Bergen-Belsen death camp, 'not because I didn't want to, but because I couldn't.' Tomi was a child in October 1944 when he and 12 other members of his family were taken to a detention camp run by Nazi Alois Brunner. Tomi, his mother, brother and grandmother were sent by cattle car to Bergen-Belsen and other relatives were sent to Buchenwald. Miraculously, Tomi, his mother and brother survived Belsen and his father survived as a partisan. However 35 members of the Reichental family perished in the Holocaust. After the war, Tomi moved from Slovakia to Israel and then to Germany (for engineering training) and eventually to Ireland. A few years ago Tomi, one of only three Holocaust survivors left in Ireland, realized that 'as one of the last witnesses, I must speak out'. From that time he started speaking to students throughout Ireland about his war-time experiences.

Film: 'Till the Tenth Generation' (a film by Gerry Gregg and Oliver Donohoe, Dublin 2009). The documentary accompanies Tomi Reichental as he returns for the first time to Slovakia where he witnessed, as a nine-year-old, the annihilation of thousands through starvation, disease and mass murder. The viewing of the film will be followed by a discussion with Tomi Reichental, Gerry Gregg and Oliver Donohoe.

2.00 pm, University of Sussex, Chowen Lecture Theatre, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

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 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

E d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk

London

T/F +44 (0)20 8381 4721

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