

Appointment to professorship in Israeli history



We are delighted to welcome **Professor David Tal** to the newly created Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies at the University of Sussex. Professor Tal, whose publications include books on *Israel Identities: Between east and*

west (2013); *The American Nuclear Disarmament Dilemma, 1945-1963* (2008); *War in Palestine, 1948: Strategy and diplomacy* (2004); and *The 1956 War: Collusion and rivalry in the Middle East* (2001), previously held the Kahanoff Chair in Israel Studies and was Professor of History at the University of Calgary in Canada.

With this appointment, based in the School of History, Art History and Philosophy, the University has a unique opportunity to consolidate and further develop Jewish Studies. Professor Tal's remit will embrace teaching and research in all aspects of Modern Israel Studies, with particular reference to the politics, history and society of contemporary Israel and the Middle East. He will also promote and develop links between Israeli and British academics.

This is not the first such position at Sussex. In 1968 the distinguished scholar Julius Carlebach was appointed at Sussex as Lecturer in Sociology and Israeli Studies in the School of African and Asian Studies. He held this post, later as Reader, for twenty years and was also the university's Jewish chaplain. Carlebach's courses in Israeli Studies were taught within the framework of Sociology and attracted students from many different disciplines.

The appointment of Professor David Tal will make it possible to renew this fine tradition within a different frame of reference. Welcoming the creation of the professorship the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Farthing, said: 'In this period of huge social and political change in the wider region, the development of our research in this area is timely'. Support for the new professorship, which was facilitated by Hella Pick, member of the German-Jewish Centre's Support Group, comes from leading philanthropic individuals and trusts. They include the R and S Cohen Foundation, the Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Atkin Foundation, the Pears Foundation, the Gerald Ronson Foundation and Lord Weidenfeld, who took the initiative in the establishment of the Chair.

The Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School



The fourth Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD Students in European Jewish History and Culture took place at the University of Sussex in August 2013. Twenty-three young scholars from eight European countries as well as Israel and the USA were given the opportunity to present and discuss their research in an interdisciplinary setting. The topics ranged from the Jewish Population in the Kingdom of Poland to the life experience of Russian-Jewish immigrants in Berlin and New York, from Jewish-Maghrebi Authors in France to the Hebrew and Irish Revivals and the historical origins of Jewish museums. The Summer School was organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in cooperation with the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts in Deutschland and the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought and Philosophy, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.

The Max and Hilde Kochmann summer school was made possible by the generosity of Dr Kurt Hellmann. After a long illness Dr Hellmann passed away earlier in 2013, *yehi zichro baruch*. Here are some extracts from an account by Professor Edward Timms of the origins of the summer school, which were read out at the conference in the presence of Kurt Hellmann's niece Jane Songi.

'Seventy years ago two young Jewish refugees from Germany were working together in a London engineering firm. Both of them have sadly now passed away, but we owe them both a debt of gratitude: Max Kochmann (whose name forms part of the title of this Summer School); and Kurt Hellmann (who provided funding to initiate the Summer School).

'Back then in January 1944, when Max married another refugee, Hilde Kohn, their friend Kurt Hellmann was a witness at their wedding. During the Second World War all three made a significant contribution to the struggle against fascism – even though the British government regarded refugees with suspicion, classifying them as 'enemy aliens'. Max was involved with the manufacture of aircraft components, while Hilde worked as a nurse. Kurt Hellmann recalled that all three of them were together one evening as the German 'Vergeltungswaffen' – nicknamed the doodlebugs – were bringing death and destruction to London.

'After the war they settled permanently in the UK and went on to have successful and distinguished careers. Max and Hilde raised their family in England, including their daughter Irene and their son Ernest Kochmann. Their children continue to take an active interest in our work. Kurt Hellmann became a distinguished pharmacologist, settling in Kent together with his wife Jane. Nothing would have pleased them more than to know that the Summer School is continuing with such a rich programme of graduate research.'

The Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School is now an established institution on the map of Jewish studies in Europe. It has helped to generate a network of historians, philosophers and literary scholars, for whom Sussex has become a stimulating source of Jewish learning.

Refugees and their legacy



The Centre for German Jewish Studies, the Association of Jewish Refugees and the London Jewish Cultural Centre came together in September for a two day seminar entitled: 'German and Austrian Jewish Refugees: Their Impact and Personal Legacy'. Held at the LJCC's Ivy House, the well-attended seminar comprised lectures, multi-generational panel discussions and personal presentations.

Professor Peter Pulzer (Oxford) spoke under the title: 'A Year of Anniversaries' specifically about those of Hitler's appointment as Chancellor and Kristallnacht. Professor Pulzer stressed that for the Nazis, terror was not a means, but an end in itself. Professor Edward Timms (Sussex) gave an illustrated talk on the often neglected contribution of women – among them Anna Freud, Marie Jahoda, Hilde Spiel and Marie Louise von Motesiczky – to pre-war Viennese culture as well as to refugee culture in Britain.

A second-generation panel comprising Diana Franklin, Frank Harding, Allan Morgenthau and Melissa Rosenbaum reflected on the impact on their upbringing, education and family lives of having one or both parents as refugees. A third generation panel including Alisa Franklin, the daughter of Diana Franklin, discussed, amongst other topics, what some perceive to be an increased level of anxiety sometimes passed down, even to grandchildren of former refugees.

In the final session, Nicky Gavron, the former Deputy Mayor of London, said that her mother, prevented from taking part in the 1936 Berlin Olympics due to her being Jewish, had fled to the UK. Praising London's diversity, she contrasted the aggressively nationalistic events of the Nazi period with the gloriously celebratory mood of last year's London Olympics.

Ralph Emanuel's Birthday

'Strictly no presents!' it said on the invitation to a party last July to celebrate Ralph Emanuel's 90th birthday. Those who wished to do so were encouraged to make a donation to one of the charities he supports (he has been an inspirational member of our Centre's Support Group for twenty years). But Ralph is such a cultivated person that it seemed right to wrap up at least one book for him as a birthday treat.

The book chosen reflected Ralph's generously multicultural sympathies: *The Lost Worlds of Rhodes: Greeks, Italians, Jews and Turks between Tradition and Modernity*. In this vividly illustrated volume Nathan Shachar recalls how four peoples, each with its own culture, language and faith, shared a small Mediterranean island, living peacefully side-by-side, especially under Ottoman rule, until the upheavals of modernity. Even the thirty-year Italian administration after 1912 proved relatively benign. By focusing on personal stories the author recreates a unique cultural microcosm, which was only destroyed after the German army landed in 1943 and began to deport the Jews. Even then, a minority were saved by the courageous actions of a Turkish consul named Selahattin Ülkümen.

The birthday party, held in the Hampstead garden which Ralph's wife Muriel used to tend so beautifully, was also decidedly multicultural, attracting guests from as far afield as Argentina. Ralph's cousin Harry, once a refugee from nazism, marked the occasion with an eloquent tribute. The guests were able to admire another even more precious book: a beautifully bound collection of over a hundred personal tributes by friends and relatives to a much loved and respected nonagenarian.

Rescue and commemoration



The Lord Mayor of Frankfurt speaking at the ceremony in Frankfurt-am-Main. In the background is the modern building on the site of the former British Consulate.

Commemoration of the Holocaust is an essential part of the Centre's mission, and we are pleased to print extracts from a report by John Goldsmith of a project he initiated in Frankfurt-am-Main, following archival research by his sister Ann Stanton assisted by Dr Gerhard Wolf:

'Day by day during a period of several months, these men provided comfort, advice and help to the unfortunate people filling the waiting room. This is surely a shining example of true humanity.'

This phrase by Rabbi Dr Georg Salzberger appears on a plaque unveiled on the site of the former British Consulate General in Frankfurt and refers to Robert T. Smallbones and his Vice-Consul Arthur Dowden. The bi-lingual bronze plaque, the cost of which was borne by the City of Frankfurt was unveiled in a moving ceremony on 8th May 2013 attended by approximately a hundred guests. The keynote speakers were the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Dr Peter Feldmann, the British Ambassador in Berlin, Simon McDonald, and Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg. The plaque honours the two diplomats, who were active in Frankfurt from 1932 until the outbreak of war in 1939. Not only did the Consulate become a safe haven for many Jews, but thanks to the unceasing efforts of

Smallbones and Dowden many Jews were able to escape to safety in England and Palestine.

Mention was made of the 'Smallbones Visa Scheme' by which many thousands of Jews reached safety. All three speakers drew attention to the great humanity and compassion displayed by these diplomats, who acted far beyond the call of duty. The grandfathers of Rabbi Wittenberg (Dr Georg Salzberger) and David Rothenberg respectively were both released from concentration camps, thanks to the efforts of Smallbones, and arrived in England just prior to the outbreak of war. The author's parents Ruth and Max Goldschmidt were also assisted in their flight from Nazi Germany thanks to the efforts of Smallbones (and of Frank Foley in Berlin).

Conference Report: 'Forward from the Past: The Kindertransport from a Contemporary Perspective'

**The German Historical Institute,
London, June 2013**

On a beautiful summer day the venue was packed with enthusiastic participants. Organised by Andrea Hammel (formerly of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies) and Bea Lewkowicz in conjunction with the Leo Baeck Institute, the conference was a blend of academia, culture and experience.

The day started with three papers which looked at the way the Kindertransport has been discussed in research. While they took different approaches, all panellists agreed that more research needs to be done to fully explore the organisation of the Kindertransport.

Many people in the audience were former Kinder, and the next panel addressed how the Kindertransport has been remembered, written and spoken about, particularly within families. Continuing with the theme of family, we watched a section of Melissa Hacker's 1996 film, *My knees were jumping: Remembering the Kindertransport*. The discussion benefitted greatly from the presence of the film's director and two of the people featured. Many in the audience contributed their own family stories.

The day finished with a reception, the opening of a photography exhibition, *Double Exposure: Jewish Refugees from Austria in Britain*, and a recital of songs from Hans Gal's *What a Life! – Singing a Song in a Foreign Land*, written while the composer was interned on the Isle of Man in 1940. The conference proved stimulating and innovative, and it is hoped the German Historical Institute will facilitate such events again in the future.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2014 at the University of Sussex

**This event will take place on Thursday 30th January 2014
from 13:30-18:00 in the Jubilee Lecture Theatre.**

Speakers

Anita Lasker-Wallfisch (born Anita Lasker 17 July 1925 in Breslau, Germany (now Poland)) is a German-born cellist of world renown and is a surviving member of the Women's Orchestra in Auschwitz. Anita and her sister were sent to Auschwitz in December 1943. Her membership in the 40-piece orchestra saved her as cello players were difficult to replace. The orchestra played marches as the slave labourers left the camp for each day's work and when they returned. They also gave concerts for the SS.

Maya Jacobs-Wallfisch, daughter of Anita Lasker-Wallfisch will speak about the legacy of the suffering and how it affects subsequent generations. As a psychotherapist, she works with people that have been affected by the Holocaust, both the first and the second generations.

Sir Andrew Burns, a former UK Ambassador to Israel, who leads the government's work on post-Holocaust initiatives will speak about the links with the past, including the issue of resistance, and address the question of how society can deal with contemporary global challenges of human rights violations, war and genocide.

Sir Andrew Burns was appointed Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust issues in June 2010. He works closely with the wide range of Holocaust academics, survivors and educational and social organisations in the UK.

A film will be shown after the above session.
For further information, please contact Diana Franklin.

Rudolf Kasztner and the Hungarian Holocaust

Thanks to a generous donation the Centre is currently hoping to offer a graduate student bursary for doctoral research to investigate the activities of Rudolf (Rezso) Kasztner in Hungary during the crucial years of the Nazi occupation and the mass deportation of Jewish citizens. This project aims to focus on the Kolumbusz-Street Camp and explore whether Kasztner's activities substantially delayed deportations from Hungary.

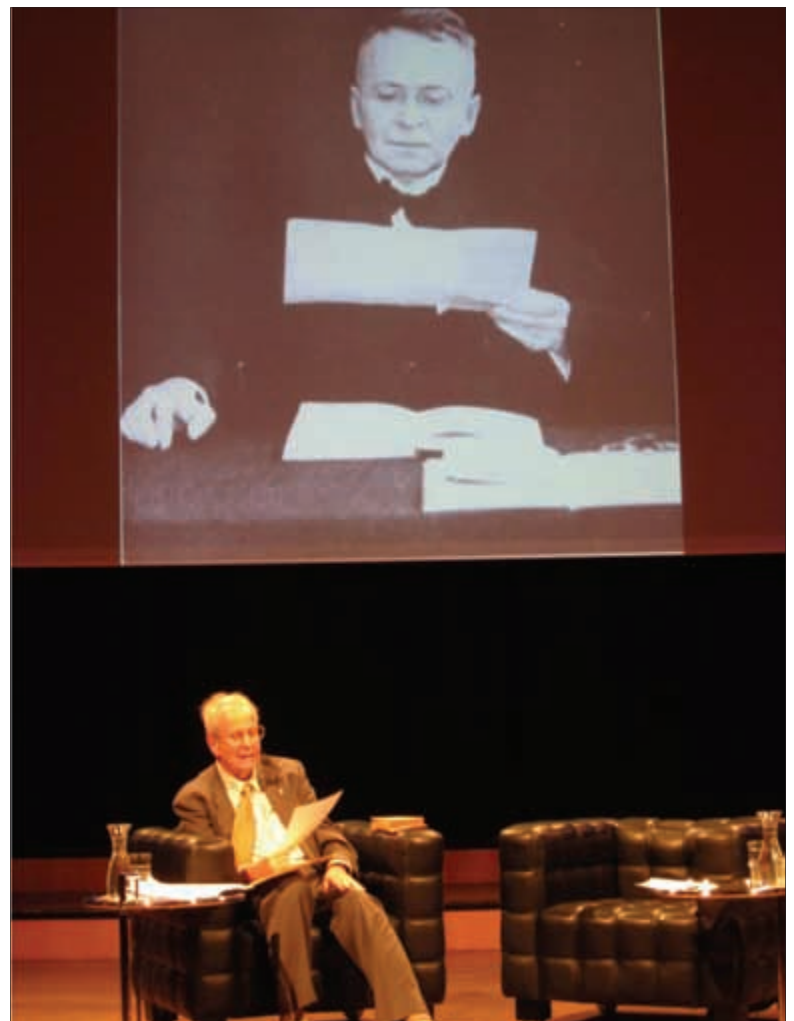
As an Austro-Hungarian born Zionist, journalist and lawyer, Kasztner is best known for facilitating the 'Blood for goods' proposal designed to help Jews escape from Nazi-occupied Hungary in 1944. This forms the subject of the prize-winning publication by our Sussex colleague Ladislaus Löb, *Dealing with Satan: Rezso Kasztner's Daring Rescue Mission*. Löb's book has shown that Kasztner, with his instinct for survival, was certainly no saint; yet his cat-and-mouse games of bluff and prevarication with Adolf Eichmann enabled 1,670 Hungarian Jewish men, women and children to escape on the famous 'Kasztner train'. As a child Professor Löb, accompanied by his father, was one of the lucky ones.

For Kasztner himself the story had no such happy ending. He was assassinated in 1957 after a sensational Israeli court case accusing him of

having collaborated with the Nazis.

A more balanced picture of Kasztner's controversial career will only be possible when his earlier activities in Hungary have been studied more systematically, making use of archival resources in several different languages. To attract a well-qualified researcher, the proposed project will require further funding. The funds currently available will cover tuition fees for three years, but further financial support is urgently needed.

We are seeking ways to offer the candidate a full scholarship and would welcome any contribution (large or small). If you would like to become involved with this project in any way, please contact the Centre Manager, Diana Franklin (contact details on our final page).



Edward Timms delivering his lecture on 'Die Antikriegssatire von Karl Kraus' at the Vienna Radiokulturhaus in May 2013 with a larger than life projection of his subject on the screen behind him. The lecture, which featured German songs from the First World War, has since been broadcast on Austrian Radio.

The Jewish Experience of the First World War

A conference organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies University of Sussex, 11–13 June, 2014

Just decades after the experience of intense persecution and struggle for recognition that marked the 1870s and 1880s, Jewish leaders and ordinary Jews across the globe found themselves at an unprecedented social and political crossroads. The frenzied military, social, and cultural mobilisation of European societies from 1914, along with the outbreak of revolution in Russia and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East, had a profound impact on Jewish communities worldwide. The First World War thus constitutes a seminal but relatively under-researched moment in the evolution of modern Jewish history.

This conference seeks to explore the variety of social and political phenomena that make the First World War a turning point in the Jewish experience of the 20th century. Delegates will consider the degree to which individual Jews and Jewish communities in Europe, the US and elsewhere engaged with total war between 1914 and 1918 in a broad interdisciplinary and transnational context. By bringing together junior and more established scholars from a range of different disciplines, the conference aims to provide the setting for an in-depth discussion on the multifaceted meanings of the First World War for our understanding of the Jewish experience of the modern era.

Papers are invited to engage with one or several of the following themes:

- Economic and financial aspects of the War
- Transnational Solidarity and National Loyalty: A Jewish Dilemma
- Jews against Jews: The soldier's experience
- Liberation or Occupation: Jews in the occupied territories in Eastern Europe
- Ethnic cleansings and wartime violence
- Jewish POW and concentration camps
- The role of Jewish clergy in the War
- The Rabbinical interpretation of Total War
- Representations of the War in Jewish sources
- The War and the Struggle for a Jewish Homeland
- The October Revolution and the Jewish Experience
- The First World War and Jewish Memory and Memorialisation



The conference will be hosted by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, in association with the History Department, Royal Holloway, University of London. It will be convened by Gideon Reuveni (Sussex), Edward Madigan (Royal Holloway) and Claudia Siebrecht (Sussex).

Appointments

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies congratulates Dr Gerhard Wolf on his appointment as Lecturer in Modern History at the University of Sussex. Gerhard, whose links with Sussex date back a dozen years to his research on the Mac Goldsmith Collection, will continue to serve as Deputy Director of the Centre.

We also look forward to welcoming Dr Björn Siegel, who will be the new DAAD lecturer at Sussex – a position mainly funded by the German Academic Exchange Service. He is an expert on Jewish relief organisations and the author of *Österreichisches Judentum zwischen Ost und West. Die Israelitische Allianz zu Wien 1873–1938*. Dr Siegel, who is currently researching Jewish immigration to Palestine prior to World War Two, will join the Centre in January 2014.

Ismar Schorsch and the core values of Judaism

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the Belsize Square Synagogue, with support from the Wiener Library and Leo Baeck Institute, will be hosting a visit by Ismar Schorsch from 20-26 March 2014. Professor Schorsch, an internationally recognised scholar particularly in the field of German Jewry, is the son of the well-known Hanover Rabbi, Emil Schorsch. Having endured with his family the 'Kristallnacht' pogroms perpetrated by the Nazis in November 1938, Ismar emigrated to the United States the following year. He graduated from Ursinus College in 1957, was ordained as rabbi by the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1962, holds Master's degrees from JTS and Columbia University, and was awarded a PhD in Jewish History by Columbia in 1969.

Professor Schorsch is the author of major works on Judaism and Jewish history, including *Sacred Cluster: The Core Values of Conservative Judaism*; *From Text to Context: The Turn to History in Modern Judaism*, and *Jewish Reactions to German Antisemitism*.

His innovative Project Judaica, a Jewish studies programme in Moscow, has become a cornerstone of the revival of Russian Jewry. His public statements and published writings have attracted wide attention in the Jewish and secular press, including front page coverage in the New York Times. His long-time support for the peace process in the Middle East was capped by an invitation from President Clinton to serve with the official presidential delegation witnessing the peace treaty signing between Jordan and Israel in October 1994.

Professor Schorsch has spoken to audiences all over the world on the issue of modern Jewish scholarship as a central factor in the reconstruction of Jewish identity and self-presentation. Full details of the talks and events planned for March 2014 will be announced shortly.

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 and joining the Friends, please contact:

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