



Centre for  
German-Jewish Studies

# Report 2014 – 2016

**Edited by** Diana Franklin

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# Director's Report

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**Gideon Reuveni**



The Centre for German-Jewish Studies is one of the few research institutions devoted to the interdisciplinary study of the history and culture of Jews in German-speaking lands since the Enlightenment. Given the location of the Centre, a key objective is to research the history of emigration of German-speaking Jews to other cultural contexts and the appreciation of the German-Jewish legacy worldwide. The Centre seeks to enrich the historical understanding of experiences such as displacement and forced migration and thus contribute to the ongoing discussion of challenges that continue to confront modern societies

today. The Centre is proud of its charge to generate and disseminate distinguished scholarship through individual and collective efforts.

The past academic year was an exciting time, during which the Centre organized in-depth symposia and other high-profile events as well as continuing to expand our research and academic programmes. The Evi Wohlgenuth and Peter Straus Memorial Lectures are now established annual events in our calendar allowing us to invite prominent scholars to speak on past and current issues. Since the last report was published we have organised successful academic conferences on topics such as '1945 – Envisaging a New World Order'; 'Lebensraum and Volksgemeinschaft'; 'The Armenian Tragedy'; and most recently 'The Holocaust and the Struggle for Civil Rights'. Following these events, we frequently publish their results in the form of a book or a special journal edition. The fifth Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School in European-Jewish History and Culture took place in the summer of 2015. At this summer school, twenty-one young scholars from twelve different countries were given the opportunity to present and discuss their research in an interdisciplinary setting. The topics ranged from Jewish and Muslim relations in the sixteenth and seventeenth century to the image of the Shtetl in recent Jewish American Fiction, and included presentations on Jewish philosophy, art and literature as well as the history of Zionism and antisemitism. We are

currently looking for ways to secure the future of this important biennial event. The Holocaust Memorial Day is one of the most important undertakings we organize every year and is now a landmark event for the University.

The Centre continues to contribute to the excellent record of research and the high standard of teaching in the History department at the University of Sussex. Besides offering broad courses related to German and European history and culture, we offer more specific courses devoted to the European-Jewish experience, including the history of Jews in Germany, the Holocaust, and Genocide in a comparative framework.

In 2013 we commenced a research project on Holocaust education, generously funded by the Random House Foundation. The aim of this study was to provide a close analysis of the teaching of the Holocaust in the classroom and of student responses in order to make recommendations as to how to approach and improve Holocaust teaching in the future. I would like to congratulate Dr Caroline Sharples and Dr Kara Critchell for producing a detailed report in which they present the outcomes of this important study. The most important finding of the study is that teachers need more support and guidance for teaching this subject area. Using resources available at the Centre will help them develop their own knowledge and understandings of the Holocaust, and how the subject should be approached in the classroom. As a result, we now seek to raise further funding to create a position for Holocaust education at the Centre.

After almost two years as a visiting DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) lecturer in German History, Dr Björn Siegel left us to take up a research position at The Institute for the History of the German Jews in Hamburg. We wish him well and we plan to continue to work closely with Björn in the future.

We are now delighted to welcome our new DAAD lecturer, Dr Kim Wünschmann. Kim is the author of the award-winning book *Before Auschwitz: Jewish Prisoners in the Prewar Concentration Camps* which was published by Harvard University Press in 2015. Before joining the Centre Kim held a prestigious fellowship at the Martin Buber Society at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her appointment is a great boost for our Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Edward Timms on the publication of the English translation of Karl Kraus's *The Last Days of Mankind* (Yale University Press, 2015) as well as *Anna Haag and her Secret Diary of the Second World War: A Democratic German Feminist's Response to the Catastrophe of National Socialism* (Peter Lang academic publishing, 2016).

On 2 June 2015, Clemens N Nathan, a founding member of the London Support Group of the Centre, passed away. Pride in his German-Jewish heritage prompted Clemens to devote a great amount of valuable time to the development of the Centre and to fundraising on the Centre's behalf. His death deprives us of a keen supporter whose sound advice is sadly missed. Thanks to the support of Clemens' children, Clemens' friends, the Anglo-Jewish Association and the

Association of Jewish Refugees, we have been able to set up the Clemens N Nathan PhD Scholarship Programme in honour of his legacy.

With a generous gift from Bader Philanthropies we have been able to create two further research opportunities for outstanding doctoral candidates wishing to pursue a research project in the field of history and culture of German-speaking Jewry.

At the beginning of 2016, the Centre was very fortunate to secure a generous grant from the Rothschild Foundation towards our archive. The Sussex German-Jewish Archive project is designed to enable us to support academic research and the development of public education and outreach opportunities. The grant has enabled us to appoint an archivist who will undertake a wholesale cataloguing project creating finding aids for those collections yet to be inventoried, and address inconsistencies in catalogues that have already been created. As the cataloguing project progresses, items for digitization will be identified in consultation with academic advisors who will establish guidelines and criteria for selection. The aim is to develop a digital resource comprising selected digital images from the collections that will be used for research, and to create curated 'anthologies' relating to specific themes for use in teaching and outreach. We are delighted to welcome Samira Teuteberg back to work on our archival holdings. Samira left the Centre to work as a Records Manager at the Museum of London, the National Portrait Gallery and the House of Lords, and we are very pleased that she decided to return

to Sussex to take up this post. We also welcome Rachel Maloney who will work alongside Samira to digitize our holdings.

The developments and implementation of the Centre's activities would be impossible without the support of many key individuals. I am particularly indebted to Diana Franklin, Centre Manager and the Centre's source of strength. The continual encouragement and advice of the Centre's London Support Group that has supported our institution since its establishment continues to be invaluable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Support Group who devote their time and energy to support our work. It is my great pleasure to thank the Friends of the Centre who have loyally supported us over the years. I am most indebted to those individuals who contribute to our work with private donations. During a period of financial difficulty and dwindling public funding for research institutions this support has become more important than ever. Since most of our private donors prefer to remain anonymous, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of them collectively. Without their generous support, our work would be impossible to sustain.

**Gideon Reuveni, July 2016**

## Conferences and Workshops

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### **International Symposium: The Holocaust and the Struggle for Civil Rights**

**University of Sussex, 14-15 April 2016**

America's condemnation of Nazi racism and the country's fight for liberty in the Second World War served as powerful rhetorical weapons in the political struggle of civil rights activists. Already in the 1930s, they denounced the state-sponsored discrimination of African-Americans 'at home' and demanded equal rights and an end to segregation arguing that 'separate' can never be 'equal'. The hitherto largely unexplored connections between the Holocaust and the struggle for civil rights were the topic of an international symposium held on 14 and 15 April 2016 at the University

of Sussex. The event was organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in cooperation with the Sussex Centre for American Studies and the Department of Art History. Thirteen scholars from Britain, the US, Germany and Israel approached the multifaceted links between the history, memory and representation of the Nazi genocide and the development of the civil right movements from different angles. Michael Mayer (Tutzing), for example, investigated how the memory of the Holocaust triggered the formation of the gay rights movement in post-Second World War USA. Eric Muller (Chapel Hill) analysed the contested role of language in the struggle of Asian American civil rights activists and in particular their use of the term 'concentration camp' to describe the incarceration of Japanese Americans during the Second World War. Anne-Marie



*(Left to right)*  
David Tal,  
Anne-Marie Angelo  
and Nina Fischer



Angelo (Sussex) studied the protest rhetoric of the Israeli black panthers, which referred to Nazi vocabulary to condemn the discrimination of Mizrahi and Sephardi Jews. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was the context of Nina Fischer's (Edinburgh) analysis of the connections between Holocaust memory and Nakba memory. Roni Mikel Arieli (Jerusalem) examined the American reception of the Broadway adaptations of Anne Frank's diary and Alan Paton's 'Cry, the Beloved Country' in the light of the early civil rights struggle. Overall, the symposium provided a valuable opportunity not only to engage with how the Holocaust prompted ideas of civil rights and social justice, but also with the ways in which civil rights movements helped to make the Holocaust into a model for global collective memory of civil resistance.

## **Hope and a New Beginning: The Jewish DP camp in Rosenheim 1946-1949**

**Rosenheim, Germany 12-15 April 2016**

Together with Caroline High School in the city of Rosenheim, the Centre co-sponsored an interdisciplinary project week on Jewish history. The period after 1945, and in particular the displaced children's camp that was located near Rosenheim were the main topics of discussion. Class 9a prepared an exhibition entitled: 'Hope and a New Beginning: The Jewish DP camp in Rosenheim 1946-1949'. Dealing with everyday life of Jewish children in the Rosenheim camp, this was the first time the city was confronted with this period of history. Erected in 1936 as a compound



Björn Siegel and Gideon Reuveni meeting A level students in Caroline High School, Rosenheim

for the Wehrmacht, the camp became the major receptacle for Jewish children that survived the war without their parents. As Rosenheim is the first 'big' German city when crossing the border from Austria, it has recently become a key location for the German Federal Police to process refugees coming to Germany from the south. As part of the project, students visited the camp, reflecting on how history shaped its present day use. Representing the Centre, Gideon Reuveni and Björn Siegel met students and discussed aspects of modern Jewish history with them. The interest in the event was most visible at the evening event at the nearby auditorium, organized by Caroline High School, when more than 120 people came along to discuss the history of the Rosenheim camp.

### **Workshop on *Volksgemeinschaft* and *Lebensraum***

#### **European University Institute in Florence, 9 October 2015**

Dr Gerhard Wolf, Deputy Director of the Centre, together with Prof A. Dirk Moses of the European University Institute in Florence, held a workshop in Florence on National Socialist ideas of *Volksgemeinschaft* and *Lebensraum* on 9 October 2015. Historians have recently engaged in a heated debate about the reach and analytical value of the notion of *Volksgemeinschaft*. The fact that the ideal of an ethnically and politically homogenous community was largely popular with Germans between



6 Gerhard Wolf (centre) with a group of delegates

Participants of the 2015 Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School



1933 and 1945 remains as uncontested as the fact that the energies released by it contributed to the unfolding of the destructive potential of the Nazi regime. Much of the current debate has investigated these issues in terms of processes of inclusion and exclusion within the German Reich, however, without exploring its radicalising impulse for German occupation and Germanisation policies. This workshop was the first systematic attempt to extend the focus beyond the German borders. Contributions from historians from Germany, the Netherlands and the UK included analyses of key Nazi actors such as the Nazi party, the SA and the SS in various parts of occupied Eastern Europe ranging from the Baltics to South-Eastern Europe.

The workshop was a follow-up event to a panel that Dr Wolf had co-organised with Dr Daniel Siemens for the biennial conference of the German Historical Association in Göttingen in September 2014. The proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *Journal for Genocide Research*.

### **Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD Students in Modern European- Jewish History and Culture**

**University of Sussex, July 2015**

The fifth Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD Students in European-Jewish History and Culture took

place on the University of Sussex campus in July 2015. Twenty-one young scholars from twelve different countries were given the opportunity to present and discuss their research in an interdisciplinary setting. The topics ranged from Jewish and Muslim relations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the image of the Shtetl in recent Jewish American Fiction, presentations on Jewish philosophy, art and literature and the history of Zionism and antisemitism. The Summer School was organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in co-operation with the Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck and the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought and Philosophy, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. David Feldman (Birkbeck), Gideon Reuveni (Sussex), Björn Sigel (Sussex/Hamburg) and Christian Wiese (Frankfurt) chaired the sessions and contributed to a creative atmosphere that enabled the students to discuss their projects and questions concerning methodology and current trends in Jewish studies.

This year's Summer School program included a visit to the Middle Street Synagogue in Brighton, as well as to The Keep – a world-class centre for archives that provides access to all the collections of the East Sussex Record Office, the Royal Pavilion and Museums Local History Collections and the internationally significant University of Sussex Special Collections. The purpose of these visits was to introduce students to the history of Jews in Brighton and acquaint them with new resources that they might want to use in their future studies.

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.

### **Seminar: Being German but not Jewish**

#### **University of Sussex, 24 March 2015**

On 24 March, at a seminar hosted by the Sussex University Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, the experience of 'Being German but not Jewish' was discussed by four German-born speakers now living in the UK. The picture that emerged was of a gradual normalization, with the anti-German attitudes of the Second World War (experienced by Sybil Oldfield while growing up as the child of a German mother and British father) giving way to the acceptance and indeed respect that Germans enjoy today in the eyes of a younger generation, not least for being so 'efficient and punctual'. The art historian Alexandra Loske, who migrated to Britain in 1997, represented a middle position. While feeling completely at home in England, knowing that her father strongly approved of her move, she was aware that members of an older generation could never forgive or forget the bombing by the RAF of non-military targets like Dresden. A year researching the testimonies of Nazi perpetrators proved so stressful that she switched to a more rewarding subject (she has been awarded a doctorate at Sussex for her art-historical study of the Brighton Royal Pavilion).

Art History was also the field of the youngest speaker, Alexandra Fliege, who



confirmed that there are fewer problems for members of her generation. But her sense of identity, too, is linked with the work she is doing on the restitution of artworks looted in the Nazi period. During the lively discussion that followed, one member of the audience asked whether Germans have any more to apologise for than British or Americans or South Africans whose nations have persecuted other peoples. Sybil Oldfield's response was that the unique wickedness of Nazi crimes has left an indelible mark on her teaching and research. Presiding over the seminar was Andrea Hammel, warmly remembered as a former Research Fellow at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, who is now Reader in German at the University of Aberystwyth. Andrea's research has foregrounded the experiences of Jewish refugees, the ones fortunate enough to get away.

## Workshop: 1945: Envisioning A New World Order

**University of Sussex, 16 March 2015**

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/newsandevents/archive?page=3&id=28872>

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of Second World War, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies organised a workshop entitled '1945: Envisioning A New World Order'. The workshop explored the plans, ideas and visions entertained by governments, intellectuals and 'the people' about a time after the war. Interdisciplinary in its approach, philosophers, art historians and historians spent one day discussing a variety of topics ranging from philosophy after Auschwitz, the BBC's preparation for



(Left to right) Alban Webb, Claire Langhamer, Clive Webb and Christopher Warne

Cold War broadcasting, to the plans for Jewish resettlement after the Shoah. As diverse as these topics were, they were often fuelled by – to borrow a phrase used by Prof Paul Betts from Oxford University in his keynote speech – ‘magical thinking’, i.e. a contemporary belief that transformative changes were necessary to prevent yet another catastrophe fuelling a wide variety of sometimes fantastical visions of the future. Few things seemed too bizarre or far-fetched not to have been contemplated in sketching out this new future, from a large number of apparitions to wide-ranging plans to secure political peace and economic prosperity by moving and removing millions of people: Germans out of Eastern Europe, Jews out of Europe, to name just the most obvious examples.

The fascinating discussions, across disciplines, showed us yet again that under the roof of the School of History, Art History and Philosophy many of us work on similar topics that can be brought together most productively.

## **International Workshop: Exploring Holocaust Education**

**University of Sussex, 7 November 2014**

As part of the Centre’s completed research project into the state of Holocaust education in England, Dr Caroline Sharples organised an international workshop in November that brought together academics working in different areas of education research to discuss methodology and research theory. Guest speakers included Dr Paula Cowan from the University of the West of Scotland, who spoke about her extensive

experience in monitoring the effects of Holocaust education among Scottish primary school pupils, and Dr Annekatrin Bock from the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in Braunschweig, Germany who detailed her work on the reception of digital education media and the use of participant observation as a research method. Professor Fred Dervin, a specialist in intercultural education from the University of Helsinki, Finland concluded the session by questioning the extent to which we can measure the impact of education for diversities. This workshop constituted a valuable opportunity to reflect critically on research methods and compare and contrast approaches to Holocaust teaching across different European countries. We were delighted that the event was attended by PGCE trainees from the University of Sussex, a local secondary school History teacher and representatives from the Holocaust Educational Trust – and we wish to thank everyone for contributing to such a fruitful discussion.

## **International Conference: The Jewish Experience of the First World War**

**London, 11-13 June 2014**

On a sunny June morning in 1914 two bullets fired on a Sarajevo street set in motion a series of events that led to the outbreak of the First World War. A hundred years later, on a luminous afternoon in mid-June 2014, a group of twenty-six researchers from across Europe, the United States and the wider world gathered in London to discuss the Jewish experience of the war that shaped

the world we live in today.

The conference was organized by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in conjunction with the London Jewish Museum and the Wiener Library, both of which hosted First World War Exhibitions, as well as the Austrian Cultural Forum and the Institut für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden in Hamburg. In bringing together leading scholars of Jewish and First World War studies, the conference provided a setting for an in-depth discussion of the multifaceted meanings of the First World War for our understanding of the Jewish experience of the modern era. The presentations, which were of a consistently high calibre, considered in a broad interdisciplinary and transnational context the degree to which individual Jews, Jewish families and communities in Europe, the US and elsewhere engaged with total war between 1914 and 1918. Perhaps the most compelling finding to emerge from the contrasting approaches was the way Jewish individuals, families and communities struggled to reconcile divided loyalties. Indeed, many of the lectures highlighted the conflicted nature of the Jewish experience of a war in which many felt torn between duty to their home country and solidarity towards fellow Jews across the battle line.

Derek Penslar (Oxford) delivered the conference keynote address entitled 'The Great War and Modern Jewry', to a capacity audience at the Jewish Community Centre, London (JW3). Approximately half a million Jews served in the armed forces of both the Allied and Central Powers during the First World War. Many fought because they were

conscripted and had no choice, but others served willingly, eager to demonstrate their loyalty, courage and worthiness of acceptance. Over the course of a highly stimulating lecture, Penslar highlighted the conflicted nature of the Jewish experience of a war in which many felt torn between duty to their home country and solidarity towards fellow Jews across the battle line.

Another highlight was a delightful presentation by Edward Timms, supported by his co-translator Fred Bridgham, of their new translation of Karl Kraus's *The Last Days of Mankind*, on the second evening of the conference at the Wiener Library. Timms' talk was accompanied by powerful performances of scenes from the new translation by the actor Christopher Staines.

By mapping the field of the Jewish experience of the First World War internationally, the conference broke new ground. The proceedings will be published as a book with Palgrave Macmillan in 2016.

## Public Lectures

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### **Book Talk: Before the Holocaust: New Histories of the Concentration Camps**

**Wiener Library, 25 April 2016**

The history of the Nazi concentration camps has long been dominated by the legacies of the Holocaust, the wartime genocide of the Jews of Europe. New research carried out in the framework of an AHRC research project at Birkbeck, University of London has re-evaluated this history and studied in particular the

camps of the 1930s. On the occasion of the publications of these new histories, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide co-hosted a book talk event on 25 April 2016. Nikolaus Wachsmann, director of the AHRC research project and author of *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps*, discussed the significance of this new research with his colleagues Christopher Dillon (King's College London) and Kim Wünschmann (Sussex). Dillon's book *Dachau and the SS: A Schooling in*





*Violence* combines extensive research into the pre-war history of Dachau with insights from interdisciplinary scholarship on perpetrator violence. The book analyses the socialization of thousands of often very young males into the values of concentration camp service. It appraises the contributions of ideology, careerism, institutional dynamics and ideals of masculinity to this process and explores the legacies of the Dachau School for the wartime criminality of the Third Reich. Wünschmann's study *Before Auschwitz: Jewish Prisoners in the Prewar Concentration Camps* explores the instrumental role of the camps in the development of the regime's anti-Jewish policies. Investigating more than a dozen camps, from Dachau, Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen to less familiar sites, the study uncovers a process of terror meant to identify and isolate Jews from German society. The book analyses the function of terror in this process of turning 'Germans' into 'Jews' and forcing them into emigration. It also investigates Jewish responses and resistance to this most brutal form of exclusion.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

### University of Sussex, 10 February 2016

'Concentration Camps Then and Now' was the theme of the lecture delivered by Prof Dan Stone (University of London) to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. The examples he cited ranged from the Boer War to Guantanamo Bay, while the victims included Armenians under the Ottoman Empire, Kenyans resisting British rule and Algerians fighting French colonization. By thus contextualizing the horrors of Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen, Prof Stone

argued that the twentieth century can be seen as the 'century of the camps'. The common factor, he concluded, is that such camps are created to isolate and eliminate unwanted people when the modern nation state feels itself under threat. For some members of the audience, which included sixth formers from local schools, this approach seemed to blur the difference between 'ordinary' concentration camps, labour camps, and Nazi death camps.

In the talk that followed, 'Survival, Memory and Trauma', Joanna Millan recalled the horrors of Theresienstadt, which she survived as a child. The powerful impression made by this talk, together with the film that followed, is reflected in a report written by a student from the University of Brighton, the gist of which is reproduced below:

'Joanna told us about the Nuremberg Laws and how hard it was for Jews to live in Berlin even before she was sent with her mother to Theresienstadt. It housed seven times what the complex was built to hold, so the living conditions were extremely poor. They were served watery soup twice a day + 200grms unpeeled potatoes + 750grms bread every three days. When the Red Cross visited the camp, the Nazis printed money, built cafes, a swimming pool and a playground and even went as far to bring new healthier Jews in to cover up the dying ones. Joanna's mother died of TB leaving her to fend for herself (her father had already been murdered). She was then put with orphan children, who somehow survived without any parents. Joanna Millan was three when she was rescued and taken to England. There she was

adopted by a couple who changed her name (originally it was Bella Rosenthal). They didn't want to believe that she had had a life before.'

'Straight after this talk, the film 'Night Will Fall' was shown, containing footage that has only recently been released by the British Government as the contents are so shocking. The footage used was extracts from the material produced by the British troops after they liberated the camps. It was extremely tough to watch as the viewer saw everything. It may sound morbid, but I have always had the desire to see what the concentration camps were like, and this was definitely achieved in this film! The troops forced the Nazis to bury the bodies of their victims, even though this was done in the most heart-wrenching way. They also brought in German civilians to see what they had been supporting.'

'There were several interviews with the troops that shot the footage. These were extremely raw and moving, every single person said that they wished that they could forget what they saw, but never will. Many cried and were unable to finish what they were talking about. Half way through this hour-and-a-half event, everything about people's unwillingness to talk about the Holocaust made sense. After watching the film, I didn't want to talk about it with anyone, even though the film is of course nowhere near as terrible as the actual event.'

Bee Hobbs, the student who has kindly allowed us to reproduce this report, found the whole event so compelling that she is now planning to write a dissertation about the Holocaust, drawing on family history.



(Left to right) Fred Bridgham, Ritchie Robertson and Edward Timms

## The Last Days of Mankind

### The Residence of the Austrian Ambassador, London, 26 January 2016

The dramatic potential of *The Last Days of Mankind*, the documentary drama of the First World War published by Karl Kraus in 1922, was demonstrated by two young actors at the London preview, staged at the Austrian Ambassador's Residence on 26 January 2016 to launch the complete translation published by Yale University Press. 'At last, at last!' declares a diplomat in August 1914 at the Vienna Foreign Ministry in an exultant speech about the ultimatum to Serbia, recited by Christopher Staines. But the hope that 'the World War can be confined to Serbia' proves illusory, and later we hear the same voice lamenting: 'Another fine mess we've got ourselves into!'

It is the paradoxical topicality of Kraus's period piece that makes the play so exciting. 'Some of these scenes could have been written yesterday!' exclaimed a member of the audience. The villains

of Kraus's play are the journalists who collude with the military authorities in sustaining the terrible conflict. Here the key figure is Alice Schalek, the solitary woman war correspondent authorised by the Habsburg government. A scene recited by Liza Weber in the role of Schalek shows this intrepid figure braving the hazards of the battlefield to produce first-hand reports idealizing the common soldier.

The original Alice Schalek was star reporter for the ultra-patriotic *Neue Freie Presse*, and these reports derive from articles she actually published during the war. Like Kraus, she came from an assimilated Jewish family, but their responses to the war were diametrically opposed. Schalek followed the lead of her editor Moriz Benedikt, compensating for the outsider status of German-speaking Jews by carrying patriotic war reporting to ludicrous extremes. 'Call it patriotism, hatred of the enemy, sport, adventure or the thrill of power', she declares (in a speech declaimed by Liza Weber), 'I call it liberated humanity'.

In Kraus's apocalyptic epilogue, *The Final Night*, the dehumanizing impact of war is exemplified by women wearing gas masks, as chemical warfare marks the culminating stage of what he sees as 'Judeo-Christian world-destruction'. Once again we encounter Schalek, roaming the battlefields in quest of the common soldier. Like the myriad of other militarists targeted by Kraus's satire, she has completely failed to learn the lessons of the war.

At the end of this London preview, the translators Fred Bridgman and Edward

Timms shared their ideas with the audience in a discussion introduced by Ambassador Martin Eichinger and chaired by Ritchie Robertson. The power of Kraus's panorama of the First World War, they concluded, derives from its portrayal of a European landscape irredeemably mired in militaristic and xenophobic attitudes. Hence the play's apocalyptic finale – with a Voice from Above announcing the impending bombardment of Planet Earth.

## Second Peter Straus Memorial Lecture

**Sternberg Centre London,  
8 December 2015**

### 'Germany and Israel'

The second Peter Straus Memorial Lecture took place before a packed house at the Sternberg Centre, in north-west London on 8 December 2015. The audience included members of Peter's family, many of his good friends and members of the congregation of the New North London Synagogue. Delivered by Prof Moshe Zimmermann of The Hebrew University Jerusalem, this year's lecture was dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the official diplomatic relations between Germany and Israel.

Zimmermann, an eminent authority on the topic, began his talk with a somewhat unexpected question: Why, he asked, did it take over 15 years for Germany and Israel to establish official diplomatic relations? His answer was no less surprising. Established after the Second World War, the two states came to



Moshe Zimmermann delivering the Peter Straus Memorial Lecture

represent almost antithetical past entities – the German Reich on the one hand and the Jewish people on the other hand; the heirs of the perpetrators vis-à-vis the heirs of the victims. Interestingly enough, Zimmermann noted, Israel seemed keen to establish full diplomatic relations long before 1965 and it was mainly Germany – despite the reparation agreement between the two countries that was signed in the early 1950s – that was reluctant to make this relationship official. The main reason for this was the so-called Hallstein doctrine that prescribed that the Federal Republic of Germany would not establish or maintain diplomatic relations with any state that recognized the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) as an independent state. Although Israel had no links with East Germany, another conflict now seemed to determine the nature of the relationship

between the Jewish and the West German states. So long as Arab countries did not officially recognize East Germany, it was more important for West Germany to maintain good relations with Arab states who had their own policy of banning any country that recognized Israel's right to exist. This changed in 1965 after the Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser invited Walter Ulbricht, President of East Germany, for a week-long visit to Cairo.

The relations between Germany and Israel are often depicted as 'special'. In a speech to the Israeli Parliament, for example, Angela Merkel declared that Israel's security is part of the German *raison d'état*. She used the concept of 'historical responsibility', which has always played a large role in Israeli politics towards Germany. But according to Zimmermann, what characterizes the relations between Germany and Israel is a manifold asymmetry. Perhaps the most surprising of which is the different 'lessons' each society took home from its history: on the one hand a society that learned to hate soldiers and wars, and on the other hand a society that worships its soldiers and sees military might as a necessary prerequisite for its existence as an independent state. Reflecting on recent developments in which the Israeli community in Germany is rapidly growing, Zimmermann concluded that today Israelis have come to like the Germans more and more whereas the Germans show less and less understanding and sympathy for Israel. The possible consequence of this development for the two countries was one of the topics that were considered in the lively discussion that followed Zimmermann's thought-provoking lecture.

## Second Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture

**Austrian Cultural Forum London,  
15 October 2015**

A full house was in attendance for the second Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture held on the 15 October 2015 at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London. The lecture was delivered by Paul Betts, Professor of modern European history at the University of Oxford. Unfortunately, Evi's son, John, was unable to attend, so Diana Franklin read out John's introductory words. This introduction explains that the memorial lecture has been established as a series of annual events, which are intended to serve as an acknowledgement, commemoration and celebration of a generation of Austrians who were forced to leave Austria in the 1930s and find a new home elsewhere. The Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture should 'serve to make us remember and learn from that slice of history that created the phenomenon of an Austrian community and its descendants settling in the UK and thereby convey the lesson that the arrival of refugees can be a positive experience for both the immigrants themselves and their host community and that in time a meaningful relationship can even be formed with the country that had to be left'.

In this year's enthralling lecture, Paul demonstrated how unique 1945 was, marking both an end to and beginning of broader 20th century trends. The talk itself focused on the efforts of contemporaries to view 1945 as a chance to get to grips with the war's legacy of man-made mass death and



Paul Betts

destruction on an unprecedented scale. By this means, Paul elucidated the long-lasting legacy of the Second World War, reminding us that many of the problems the world faces in 1945 are still challenging us today. This argument provoked an animated discussion of the immediate post-war situation and there was also a discussion of the current refugee crisis.

Thanking Paul for his stimulating talk, Hella Pick, one of Evi's closest friends, and a prominent member of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies' London-based Support Group, concluded the evening by saying that Paul's lecture had set extremely high expectations for future Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lectures.

## Kurt Hellman Memorial Lecture

**University of Sussex, 20 July 2015**

One of the highlights of this year's Summer School programme was the Kurt Hellman memorial lecture. Over fifty people attended the event, including members of the Kochmann and Hellman families and members of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies' London-based support group. Before the lecture commenced, Professor Edward Timms shared his memories of Max and Hilde Kochmann and Dr Kurt Hellman. Max was the first Chairman of the Centre's Support Group. What he and Hilde provided was not merely practical support, but something more inspirational. They embodied in their own personalities the cultural and religious heritage which provided the focus of the Centre's teaching and research and they succeeded in involving a network of further enthusiasts, including their close friend Kurt Hellman, who generously provided the initial funding for the Summer School.

The memorial lecture that followed was given by Nadia Valman (Queen Mary, University of London), who spoke on 'Popular Literature and Jewish Readers in Nineteenth-Century Europe'.

Ms Valman took us on a little-known journey through mid-19th century literature, in English, French and German, by Jewish writers influenced by the development of the English novel in the 1840s. Much of her talk centred on an English writer called Grace Aguilar (1816-1847) who wrote domestic and historical novels. Aguilar came from a



Grace Aguilar (1816-1847)

middle class Sephardi family and wrote in order to support her family after her father's death. Aguilar's novels, such as *The Mother's Recompense*, *The Perez Family* and *The Vale of Cedars*, found a wide readership outside the Jewish community as they appealed to middle-class, evangelical English readers.

Aguilar wished Jews, who were moving into the middle and upper classes themselves in the 19th century, to devote themselves to the arts as well as commerce and to emulate the English Protestant virtues of thrift, humility, obedience and cleanliness. The heroines of her stories were generally virtuous Jewish women who, often with the assistance of philanthropic benefactors, overcome poverty and adversity. The Jewish men in her stories are sometimes criticised for abandoning their religion or for concentrating solely on material ambition. Her Iberian historical romances, set in the time of the expulsion of the Jews and the consequent need to

become conversos, outwardly Catholic but practising Judaism in secret, were also popular with English readers for their distinctly anti-Catholic narrative.

Her novels sold well to Jewish and non-Jewish readers because they resonated with popular taste. In European Jewish writing, by contrast, there was greater emphasis on nationalism, with the Jews as a people with a history, along with the Czechs, Hungarians, Poles and others who were all seeking to throw off the Russian or Austro-Hungarian yoke.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

### University of Sussex, 28 January 2015

The event began with a riveting account by the author Thomas Harding of the capture by his great-uncle, Hanns Hermann Alexander, of one of the most notorious Nazi war criminals, Rudolf Höss. Drawing a wealth of historical details and documentary photos from his bestselling book, *Hanns and Rudolf: The German Jew and the Hunt for the Commandant of Auschwitz*, Harding guided a large audience on a journey into the past just as compelling as any political thriller.

At the time of Hanns Alexander's death in 2006, Harding had no inkling of his exploits as interpreter and war crimes investigator for the British army. After arriving in Britain in 1936 as refugees from Berlin, the Alexander family had quickly adapted to professional life in London. Hanns's father re-established his career as a doctor, while Hanns himself later went into banking. If he made an impression at family gatherings, this was due not to his war record but to his impish sense of humour.

A very different picture emerged when Harding began to research the files on Captain H H Alexander. As a British officer fluent in German, Hanns was put in charge of prisoners of war in July 1944 after the Normandy landings, and he then played a leading role in the interrogation of concentration camp guards at Belsen. This put him on the track of Rudolf Höss, who had assumed a false identity and gone into hiding at a remote farm near the Danish border. Concealment was easy because in younger days Höss really had been a farmer. In Pomerania he and his wife Hedwig had begun to raise their family of five children as members of a back-to-the-land movement loosely associated with the Nazi party. It was a love of horses that had prompted him to join the SS, but his life took a fateful turn when Heinrich Himmler persuaded him to give up working at the stable and become a concentration camp guard.

On the basis of further research (including interviews with a surviving daughter of the Höss family) Harding was able to present a vivid portrait of Rudolf's development from model farmer into zealous Nazi. The stories of Hanns and Rudolf converged early in 1946 when Capt. Alexander succeeded in pressurizing Hedwig Höss into revealing where her husband was hiding. The scene describing Rudolf's arrest (followed by his trial, acknowledgement of guilt, and execution) formed the climax of a presentation that left Harding's audience enthralled. During the discussion that followed one fundamental question remained unresolved: How was it possible for an ordinary German, remembered by his daughter as 'the nicest father in the world', to evolve into a mass murderer?



After the tea break, Zahava Kohn (nee Kanarek), together with her daughter Hephzibah Rudofsky (Kohn) gave a spellbound audience a most moving account of Zahava's life under Nazi persecution. Zahava was born in British Mandate Palestine in 1935, her parents having moved to Palestine from Holland in 1935 due to the persecution of the Jews in Europe, returning to Amsterdam in 1937.

In May 1943, the SS came for the Kanarek family and sent them to Westerbork Concentration Camp. In 1944 they were sent to Bergen-Belsen from where they were liberated in 1945. Having discovered her late mother's hidden archive of documents and memories from the war, Zahava embarked on a project to write her book, *Fragments of a Lost Childhood* (published in 2009). Documents and items such as the yellow star that Zahava was assigned as a child were shown the audience which comprised classes from local schools with their teachers, university students and faculty, and members of the Brighton and Hove communities.

The Holocaust Memorial Day lectures can be viewed via the Centre for German-Jewish Studies website:

[www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/newsandevents/news](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/newsandevents/news)

## First Peter Straus Memorial Lecture

**Sternberg Centre London,  
15 December 2014**

Before a packed house at the Sternberg Centre, in north-west London, Professor John Röhl delivered the inaugural Peter Straus Memorial Lecture. The audience included members of Peter's family, many of his good friends and members of the congregation of the New North London Synagogue.

For many years Peter Straus was a keen supporter of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and this event provided an opportunity for the Centre to express its appreciation of Peter's unique contribution to our work. In her opening comments, Marion Godfrey, vice-chair of the Centre's London-based Support Group, described Peter's special interest and commitment to the study of the German-Jewish experience. Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg introduced John Röhl who spoke about 'Kaiser Wilhelm II (1859-1941): A German trauma'. Ruling Imperial Germany from his accession in 1888 to his enforced abdication in 1918 at the end of the First World War, Kaiser Wilhelm II is one of the most fascinating figures in European history. In his talk John Röhl offered a concise and accessible overview of Wilhelm's troubled youth, his involvement in social and political scandals, his growing thirst for glory as well as the rabid antisemitism he developed in exile and his efforts to persuade Hitler to restore him to the throne. The lecture was followed by a lively discussion which provided a conclusion to a memorable event.



## First Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture

**Austrian Embassy, 6 November 2014**

### **The Challenges of Integration – the Case of Austria 1914-2014**

Hella Pick, one of Evi's closest friends, welcomed us to this memorable event. Evi's son, John Wohlgemuth, then expressed how delighted he was that the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and the Austrian Cultural Forum were holding the first of what he very much hopes will become an annual Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture serving as an acknowledgement, commemoration and perversely a celebration of the generation of Austrians who had to leave Austria in the 1930s and make their homes in the UK. He commented how

his mother remained immensely proud of her Austrian roots and continued to love Vienna until her dying day.

In his talk Ambassador Dr Emil Brix reminded us that there were fifty-two million people in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Austria had to find a new identity after the First World War following the break-up of that Empire and large-scale migration. Many moved west into Austria with its better economic possibilities, while five million emigrated to the United States. Although the majority of Austrians are Catholic, its immigrant population has grown by 1.75 million. The smaller percentage of Jews since the calamity of the 1930s and 1940s has been easily absorbed. After 1945, one and a half million displaced persons arrived and had to be temporarily accommodated.

Hella Pick



Today there are also a large number of Muslims in Austria, and this number is still growing – mainly from Turkey and Herzegovina. There are also substantial immigrant populations from Germany itself, since Austria is very much geared to the German economy. There have been further waves of immigration from Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, together with 300,000 Turkish workers and families, many of whom are now in their second and third generations.

Vienna is constantly growing, and today's city can look back on a cosmopolitan heritage that has been a source of creativity and innovation. Some of the most celebrated figures of Viennese cultural history came from Germany like Beethoven, or from Moravia like Freud and Mahler. Jews who migrated to Vienna to escape persecution in Russia and Poland made exceptional contributions to intellectual life, before the Nazi take-over in 1938 forced so many of them into exile. Among them was the young Bruno Kreisky, who after his return was to make a notable contribution to public life as Chancellor of Austria (though his approach to Israel was not particularly helpful).

Here in London we particularly remember figures like Ernst Gombrich, the art historian who made such a memorable contribution to British cultural life. Other less well-known exiles from Austria, including the Kindertransport children, found refuge here from the Holocaust and have proved a wonderful asset to this country. It is in this spirit that we especially remember Evi Wohlgemuth, who greatly enriched our lives.

As recalled in a previous Newsletter of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, it was in autumn 1938 that Evi, leaving her Viennese home, arrived to join the family of Ellis and Muriel Franklin in London. She was nine years old, didn't speak English and was to be separated from the only person here whom she knew here – her mother, who had to undertake domestic work; and she had to leave her beloved father behind to the horrors of Dachau. Somehow Evi coped with problems of assimilation, including the stress of being told by a teacher that she should not swear allegiance to King George V, because he was not her King, but to 'the country in which I am now living'. After some months Evi's life improved. Her father was released and her family was able to begin a new life in Chicago, gaining scholarships which provided the introduction to her own teaching career – first in the United States and then back in Britain.

# Guest Lectures at the Department of History

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In the framework of the 'Work in Progress' Colloquium at the Department of History the Centre for German-Jewish Studies organised a number of guest lectures on various aspects of the history and culture of German-speaking Jews as well as Israel and the Yishuv. By bringing renowned scholars to the University of Sussex the Centre raises the profile of these topics among colleagues and students. Invited talks included the following:

**Professor Eyal Naveh**  
**(Tel Aviv University)**

*'Successful Failure': A Dual Narrative Approach in Writing Israeli-Palestinian History Textbooks*  
(07.04.2016)

**Dr Cathy Gelbin**  
**(University of Manchester)**

*Writing an Archaeology of Tyranny: German-Speaking Jews and the Stalinist Purges* (03.03.2016)

**Dr Hizky Shoham**  
**(Bar Ilan University)**

*British Mandate Palestine as Consumer Society* (04.02.2016)

**Dr Yair Wallach**  
**(SOAS, University of London)**

*On the (Im)Possibility of Muslim Jews: Patterns of Acculturation in Theory and Practice in Israel and Palestine*  
(26.11.2015)

**Professor Nils Römer**  
**(University of Texas)**

*Mapping Modernity: Jews and Other German Travellers to America*  
(18.09.2015)

**Dr Anthony Kauders**  
**(Keele University)**

*Dr Mabuse's Legacy: A history of hypnosis in Twentieth-Century Germany*  
(19.03.2015)

# PhD Scholarships and Grants

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## German-Jewish Archives at Sussex: Rothschild Grant

The Centre has been fortunate in securing a generous grant from the Rothschild Foundation towards our archive. The Sussex German-Jewish Archive project is designed to enable us to support academic research and the development of public education and outreach opportunities.

The German-Jewish collections contain diaries, letters, photographs, oral testimony, survival narratives and other biographical sources recording the history of over thirty-five Jewish families stretching from the Enlightenment, to the late twentieth century. Britain was one of the most important countries to grant asylum to refugees from Nazi Germany and Nazi-occupied countries. The papers capture the development of a group of family histories that exemplify both the attempted synthesis of Jewish and German cultures in German-speaking countries, and the acculturation of German-Jewish refugees in Britain. Taken together the German-Jewish archival collections reflect the history of a defining human experience in Europe and around the world. The archive also holds material relating to the Kindertransport (1938-1939) and the works of the artist Arnold Daghani (1909-1985), a prominent Holocaust survivor who lived in Brighton and Hove.

archivist who will undertake a wholesale cataloguing project creating finding aids for those collections yet to be inventoried, and address inconsistencies in catalogues that have already been created. As the cataloguing project progresses, items for digitization will be identified in consultation with academic advisors who will establish guidelines and criteria for selection. The aim is to develop a digital resource comprising selected digital images from the collections that will be used for research, and curated 'anthologies' relating to specific themes for use in teaching and outreach.

## The Alfred Bader PhD Scholarships Programme

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies is delighted to announce the 'Alfred Bader PhD Scholarship' for an outstanding doctoral candidate wishing to pursue a research project in the field of history and culture of German-speaking Jewry. Alfred Bader has been a most generous donor to the Centre. The most recent project he supported was Rose Holmes's doctoral project on the 'Quakers as Jewish saviours' which she completed in 2014.

Thanks to a generous gift from Bader Philanthropy and matching funding from the University of Sussex, the Bader PhD Scholarship Programme will offer two full scholarships to highly motivated current and prospective graduates with an outstanding academic record and a strong

interest in the relevant topics. While diverse fields of investigation are currently open, we encourage projects that look at German-Jews and the sciences, and German-Jewish refugee experiences.

This studentship covers three years of UK/EU tuition fees, as well as a Doctoral Stipend matching UK Research Council National Minimum (£14,057 p.a. for 2015/16, updated each year). Overseas (non EU) students will need to fund the difference between the Home/EU fees and the Overseas fees which are £14,800 for 2016-7.

The successful candidates will be expected to participate in the manifold research activities of the Centre, which include lectures, international conferences and other events on the campus and elsewhere.

## **Clemens N Nathan PhD Scholarship Programme**

A new PhD scholarship at the University of Sussex commemorates the life and works of ‘a great humanitarian’ who was widely known in the Jewish community. Pride in his German-Jewish heritage prompted Clemens N Nathan to become involved in the work of the University’s Centre for German-Jewish Studies. A committed supporter of the Centre and one of the founding members of its London-based support group, he died in June 2015.

Dr Gideon Reuveni, Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, says: ‘A great humanitarian, Clemens strongly believed that there are important lessons to be learned from the German-Jewish past.’

‘For him the study of the German-Jewish experience – its achievements, its tragedy and its new resilience in post-war Germany – was part of the effort to promote understanding, tolerance and respect in an increasingly fractured world.’

‘Working closely with colleagues at Sussex, he guided us through challenging periods and helped us obtain backing for innovative projects. He was keen to see the Centre grow and progress mainly by investing in cutting-edge research, and by providing the highest standard of teaching alongside a stimulating outreach programme.’

Given Mr Nathan’s diverse interests, staff in the Centre hope that the Clemens N Nathan PhD Scholarship will encourage doctoral research in the following areas:

1. The complex spectrum of German-Jewish experiences
2. History and memory, with special emphasis on the second and third generation
3. Jewish identity and the question of integration
4. Human rights and the refugee question
5. Israel studies
6. Holocaust education

Lord (Rowan) Williams, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury and now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, says that Mr Nathan illustrated ‘so much that was best, so much that was most inspiring about the British Jewish community’ and

describes him as ‘a cosmopolitan person, a civilised and companionable person, a visionary person and a passionate person altogether’. He adds: ‘It’s a combination which has a particularly transforming effect when all those qualities are found together.’

The PhD scholarship has been partially funded by the family and friends of the late Clemens N Nathan, the **Association of Jewish Refugees** and the **Anglo-Jewish Association** in co-operation with the University of Sussex.

# Completed Projects

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## Holocaust Education in Schools

### Background

This research was undertaken by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies based at the University of Sussex, thanks to a generous grant from Random House. Given the establishment of the Holocaust Commission in 2014 and the subsequent creation of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation in 2015, this research project is both significant and timely.

### Aim of research

The aim of this research was to provide a close reading of teaching approaches, and student responses, to the teaching of the Holocaust in the classroom. The research was to gain a deeper understanding of what actually happens in the classroom when the Holocaust is being taught to enable researchers to assess what approaches are being taken and how students respond to both the subject and to the materials through which they encounter the Holocaust, in order to make recommendations as to how both approach, and improve, Holocaust teaching in the future.

### Project Structure

This research was carried out through localised case studies of Holocaust teaching at secondary schools across the counties of Sussex and Hampshire over the course of two years. Invitations to participate in the project were issued

to schools across Sussex and Hampshire and researchers subsequently visited five schools to observe Holocaust lessons and to reflect on student engagement with the subject.

### Key Trends

The observations and findings contained within this report should not be read as either a criticism of teachers or the way in which students respond to Holocaust education. This report is an attempt to engage with how students and teachers respond to the subject and how this is situated within popular conceptualisations of the Holocaust and considered against what is considered good practice in the field.

There are a number of structural constraints on teachers, and subsequently on their students, which have a significant and, at times, detrimental influence on how the Holocaust is conceptualised and addressed in the classroom.

Students frequently demonstrate a confused chronology of the Holocaust. This is in part a direct result of a lack of contextualisation of key events and policies which were central to the development of the persecution of the Jews and eventually, the Holocaust.

The Year 9 students observed overwhelmingly chose to conceptualise the Holocaust as an inclusive event in which there was genocidal intent to kill

people from a variety of victim groups. Although Jews were often identified by students as the primary victim group there was little awareness of why they were persecuted or how this persecution differed to the persecution encountered by other groups who suffered due to Nazism.

The students tended to attribute responsibility for the Holocaust to Hitler and/or the Nazi leadership. Questions of agency were rarely explored, and any discussion of the German population's compliance in the Holocaust was often reduced to a simplistic narrative of fear and oppression whilst the complicity of local people and regimes within the occupied lands was rarely, if ever, discussed. Ultimately this interpretation tended to result in the perpetuation of the misconception that the Holocaust took place in Germany and was carried out by German Nazis.

Students are given few opportunities to acquire an understanding of Jewish life and culture prior to, during, or after the Holocaust. This lack of exploration reinforces the impression of Jewish life simply being one of discrimination and victimisation and leaves little room for students to consider the richness of Jewish culture or to consider how this culture has been impacted by the Holocaust. Equally this emphasis on victimisation suggests a degree of inevitability about the Holocaust and distorts the historical reality of the event by diminishing the role of historical actors, historical events and contextual factors in contributing to the climate in which the Holocaust was able to be carried out.

Both historical and contemporary antisemitism are underdeveloped concepts in the classroom. As such, students are often left with the assumption that antisemitism was simply a product of Nazism and that such sentiments have had no place in British life in either the past or the present.

The experience of refugees from Nazism and the challenges they faced starting new lives in the nations in which they took refuge is rarely considered. This disregards the complexities inherent in refugee experiences and overlooks the resistance many British people felt towards accepting refugees before the outbreak of war in 1939.

Teachers put a considerable amount of time and effort into ensuring that the Holocaust is taught sensitively, yet despite being a mandatory part of the curriculum they receive little, or no guidance in how to approach the teaching of the Holocaust in the classroom. What they are able to teach is also dependent upon the amount of time they can spend on the subject; the behaviour of the class; and the additional learning objectives included in the scheme of work for that module.

Students are keen to learn more about the Holocaust. They respond well when they are given the time and space to reflect on issues raised in class through small group discussion as opposed to teacher-led discussion. Where teachers were prepared to engage and respond to the questions and comments raised, the students appeared more willing to contribute to class discussions.

Although some of the schools have invited a Holocaust survivor to speak to their year



9 classes, students rarely engage with primary material such as testimonies, memoirs or documentary evidence.

### **Recommendations**

Continued research should be conducted into Holocaust teaching, both in the local area and beyond, to enable researchers to continue to respond to the needs of teachers and students.

It is clear that teachers require more support and guidance when teaching this subject area in order to develop their own knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust. This could be achieved through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) sessions conducted by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies which would draw on cutting edge educational research; the expertise of University of Sussex staff and the archival holdings of the Centre.

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies should work with teachers using the archival holdings held within the archive in The Keep to facilitate an innovative way for students to engage with the Holocaust by providing opportunities for schoolchildren to work directly with primary material through a series of innovative 'hands-on' educational workshops designed to support the position of the Holocaust on the National Curriculum and wider learning remits.

Through the digitisation of material held in the Centre for German-Jewish Studies archive and in working with students and teachers to create interactive online resources to facilitate student engagement with the Holocaust. To provide a comprehensive

selection of innovative, user friendly and interdisciplinary online resources (including extensive guidance notes for teachers) to support cross-curricular learning in schools and other formal and non-formal educational environments at a local and national level.

# Research Papers

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**Research Paper No. 10 ISSN 1468-4721**

**Ladislaus Löb**

Istvan Irsai's picture postcards and life in the concentration camp

**Research Paper No. 11 ISSN 1468-4721**

**Björn Siegel**

'Visiting the Orient': German speaking Jewry, Zionism and early forms of tourism to the Middle East (1897-1914)

# People at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies



**Kara  
Critchell**

## **Publications**

In 2015 Kara, in conjunction with Dr Emiliano Perra (Winchester), Dr Susanne Knittel (Utrecht) and Dr Uğur Ümit Üngör (Utrecht & NIOD) announced the launch of the Perpetrator Network and the Journal of Perpetrator Research. The Network is designed to facilitate academic research within the field of perpetrator studies across a wide range of fields and disciplines. The first issue of the Journal of Perpetrator Research, an online peer reviewed open access journal of which Kara is a founding member and editor, will be officially launched at the end of 2016.

## **Conference papers**

'Holocaust Consciousness in Britain': joint paper delivered with Dr Andy Pearce (UCL), University of Winchester Modern History Research Seminar, 12 February 2015.

'Encountering Perpetrators of Mass Killings, Political Violence and Genocide':

International and interdisciplinary conference co-organised by Dr Critchell and Dr Emiliano Perra from the University of Winchester. Attendees – from 22 countries spanning 6 continents – were addressed by 74 speakers including genocide studies expert Professor Donald Bloxham from the University of Edinburgh. His keynote address asked whether there is a societal need to justify the study of perpetrators. University of Winchester, 1-3 September 2015.

'Holocaust Testimonies in Education and Memory: Beyond the Survivor (A Case Study for Britain)': joint paper delivered with Emily Stiles (UoW), Western Galilee College Akko Israel, 8-10 March 2016.

## **Current Research**

Dr Critchell joined the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in January 2015 as a Research Assistant, investigating the state of Holocaust education in the UK. The project was completed in December 2015 and culminated in a detailed report being submitted to the Centre containing recommendations for the future of Holocaust education in England and Wales. Kara has recently begun research on perpetrators of sexual violence conducted during genocide and political violence sanctioned by the state.



**Rachel  
Maloney**

Rachel's new role at The Keep is as a part time Archive Technician. She will assist in digitising part of the German-Jewish Collection for digital preservation and access purposes. She will be working alongside Samira Teuteberg, the archivist on the project, to assist with selecting, digitising, curating and presenting the collection for purposes of research, access and preservation.

Before coming to The Keep Rachel worked as a Technical Demonstrator at the University of Brighton in the Photographic Unit and also as a Library Officer in Brighton and Hove libraries. She may continue with, one or both of these activities alongside her role at The Keep. In September 2015 Rachel graduated from the University of Brighton with an MA in photography.



**Gideon  
Reuveni**

### **Publications**

'Deutsch-jüdische Geschichte als Wirtschaftsgeschichte', in Christina von Braun, (ed.), *Was war deutsches Judentum? 1870–1933* (Oldenbourg: De Gruyter, 2015), 223-236.

'Emancipation through Consumption: Moses Mendelssohn and the Idea of Marketplace Citizenship', *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 59 (2014), 7-23.

### **Scholarly Papers and Lectures**

'Gedenken und Erinnerung an Displaced-Persons-Lager Rosenheim', Karolinen-Gymnasium Rosenheim, Germany. April 2016 (I)

'Market Economy and Emancipation: From Ellis Rivkin to Moses Mendelssohn', Paupers and Bankers: Modern Representation of Jews and Money, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, June 2015 (C)

'Advertising Jewish: From Poster Stamps to the Star of David,' Jewish Museum Berlin, May 2015" (I)

'Does Consumer Culture Matter? The "Jewish Question" and the changing Regimes of Consumption', German

Historical Institute in Washington,  
May 2015 (K)

'Finishing off What Hitler Started: Plans  
and Ideas on how to Solve the Jewish  
Question after 1945', Sussex University,  
March 2015 (C)

'The Normalization of Jewish Economic  
History', Simon Dubnow Institute in  
Leipzig, February 2015 (I)

'Adventurous Spaces and Precarious Life:  
The Marketplace and the German Jewish  
Experience', Hebrew University,  
May 2014 (C)

## Grants

### **2016 Sussex Research Development Fund (£6,520)**

#### **The Economics of Sexual Exploitation: Jewish sex trafficking syndicates in the German-Speaking World, 1880-1940** (Rachael Attwood and Gideon Reuveni)

The period 1880 to 1940 witnessed increasing mass-migration from Continental Europe, particularly to the Americas and the imperial holdings of individual European powers. Hundreds of people emigrated for looking for better prospects, many of whom were Jews escaping waves of social and economic discrimination. This period also witnessed the development of thriving commercial sex businesses in many of the destinations favoured by immigrants, and in key sites of empire. These businesses largely relied on the labour of female migrants, whose mobility, and subsequent sex work was typically arranged by third-parties, often with the initial consent of the female migrants. Networks made

up of men and women of many different nationalities and religious backgrounds oversaw and profited from sex trafficking. The most organized, sophisticated, and in many cases, profitable trafficking syndicates were, however, run by Jews from Central and Eastern Europe. These syndicates procured women (many of whom were also Jewish) from the rural villages of Eastern Europe with the intention of transporting them to cities with thriving commercial sex industries including Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Johannesburg, and Calcutta. Austria and Germany acted as key conduits on westwards journeys through which women were systematically transported to the world's prime trafficking destinations.

The two main aims of this project are:

- 1) The completion of a pilot study that will trace the organizational structure of sex trafficking as well as the experiences and the representations of trafficking.
- 2) The completion of a comprehensive research application based on the pilot study with partners in the UK, Austria, and Germany, on the history of Jews' orchestration of sex trafficking in the German-speaking world.



**Björn Siegel**

### **Publications**

'Visiting the Orient: German-speaking Jewry, Zionism and early Forms of Tourism to the Middle East (1897-1914)', *Centre for German-Jewish Studies: Research Papers* 11 (2016), 1-22.

'Verworrene Wege: Die Gründungsgeschichte des Instituts für die Geschichte der deutschen Juden', in: *50 Jahre – 50 Quellen*, ed. by IGdJ, (Hamburg: 2016), 26-53.

'Adolf Jellinek', *Encyclopaedia of the Bible and its Reception* 13 (2016), 1-2.

Review: Christian Dietrichs *Verweigerte Anerkennung. Selbstbestimmungsdebatten im 'Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens' vor dem ersten Weltkrieg*, in: Medaon.  
[www.medaon.de/de/artikel/christian-dietrich-verweigerte-erkennung-selbstbestimmungsdebatten-im-centralverein-deutscher-staatsbuerger-juedisches-glaubens-vor-dem-ersten-weltkrieg/](http://www.medaon.de/de/artikel/christian-dietrich-verweigerte-erkennung-selbstbestimmungsdebatten-im-centralverein-deutscher-staatsbuerger-juedisches-glaubens-vor-dem-ersten-weltkrieg/)

'Arnold Bernstein', Online Projekt des German Historical Instituts, Washington D.C. - Immigrant Entrepreneurship: [www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entry.php?rec=242](http://www.immigrantentrepreneurship.org/entry.php?rec=242) [23.06.2015]

'The Vienna Jewish Alliance (Israelitische Allianz zu Wien) and its attempt to modernize Central Europe', in: *Jews and the Nation State in South-Eastern Europe*, ed. by Tulia Catalan/Marco Dogo (Triest, 2016 accepted), 1-22.

'Envisioning a maritime Jewish Place', *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* 30 (2016, accepted), 1-23.

'Wissenschaft des Judentums in Habsburg Vienna', in: *Wissenschaft des Judentums: An international perspective*, ed. by Christian Wiese/Mirjam Thulin (Frankfurt a. M., 2016, accepted), 1-24.

'Jewish Philanthropy and the formation of modernity. Baron de Hirsch and his vision of Jewish spaces in European societies', in: *Space and Spacelessness in Modern German-Jewish History*, ed. by Simone Lässig/Miriam Rürup (New York, 2016, accepted), 1-21.

'Josef Ritter von Wertheimer', *Neue Deutsche Biographie* (NDB) (2016), 1-3.

'Between Light and Darkness: Jewish Education in Times of War', in: *Jewish Experience of the First World War*, ed. by Gideon Reuveni (London, 2016/2017, in peer-review), 1-17.

'The role of history in fashioning Jewish modernity', *Austrian Studies* 2016, 1-16.

### **Conference Papers**

27 August 2014 (Goldsmiths University London/Erasmus Summer School Intensive Program 2014: Cinzia Pierantonelli – University Roma Tre/Italy)

Paper: Crossing borders, changing identities? European migration

movements and their relevance for Europe today

24 September 2014 (University of Göttingen/50th Annual Meeting of the Historical Society Germany: Miriam Rürup/Simone Lässig)

Topic: Vom Verlust als Erfolg erzählen. Erfahrungen und Wahrnehmungen jüdischer Migrationsbewegungen im 20. Jahrhundert

Paper: „..., denn mein einziges Kapital waren mein Name und mein Ruf...“: Arnold Bernstein und die Konstruktion der eigenen Erfolgsgeschichte vor und nach dem Nationalsozialismus

26 November 2014 (John Moore University Liverpool: David Clampin – Centre for Port and Maritime History)

Paper: Jewish History in a maritime place: European Shipping companies and the Jewish migration to Palestine 1920-1939

23 February 2015 (Brasenose College, University Oxford/Oriental Institute: David Rechter)

Paper: Jewish Maritime History

7 November 2015 (Institute for the History of the German Jews – Nacht des Wissens)

Paper: Das Schiff als Ort in der jüdischen Geschichte

1-2 December 2015 (Berlin/Meeting of the German-Israeli Foundation (GIF))

Paper: Between Europe and Palestine/Israel – Jewish Migration reconsidered

1-2 January 2016 (University of Vienna: Alexandra Ganser)

Topic of the conference: Maritime Mobilities – Critical Perspectives from the Humanities

Paper: The Jewish conquest of the Sea

5 April 2016 (MVHS – Munich: Hermann Schlüter)

Paper: Fremder oder Glaubensbruder – Jüdische Migrationsbewegungen und die religiöse Pflicht zu helfen

6-8 April 2016 (Rosenheim: Birgit Bernhardt/Winfried Adam)

Paper: Migration gestern und heute: Themenwoche und Schulausstellung über das Children DP Transit

Camp Rosenheim: Festvortrag: “Gehen oder Bleiben: Jüdische Stimmen nach 1945”

10-12 April 2016 (Institute for European History, Mainz: Mirjam Thulin)

Topic of the Conference: Jewish Diplomacy and Welfare – Intersections and Transformations in the Early Modern and Modern Period

Paper: Josef Ritter von Wertheimer and his understanding of international solidarity

29 May 2016 (University of Hamburg/Metropolis: Hans-Michael Bock)

Roundtable: Migration and Film in the “Third Reich”

6 June 2016 (University of Hamburg, Johanna Meyer-Lenz/Nele Fahrenbrück)

Paper: Hamburger, Jude, Amerikaner – Der Hamburger Reeder Arnold Bernstein zwischen den Welten

### Current Research

Björn Siegel is currently writing on his project 'The Ship as a place in Jewish History'. Some aspects of the project have been published and made available for the public, e.g. in the US-American Online-Edition Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies and in the article 'Envisioning a maritime Jewish place' (Studies in Contemporary Jewry); biographical perspective on the ship as a place in Jewish history, especially in the migration processes in the Interwar period and shed new light on processes, ideas and concepts, which dominated the migration processes to Palestine before the foundation of the State of Israel. Thus, the project evaluates migration processes beyond the traditional focuses on the push and pull factors and aims to contextualize migration in a much broader picture. Migration is therefore not just understood as a process of movements from A to B, but as a more complex process based on economic interests, ideological visions and personal experiences.

Björn Siegel's second project examines the two interesting biographies of Fritz Pinkuss und Heinrich (Henrique) Lemle who were both raised and educated in Germany and confronted with the rise to power of National Socialism. Both could immigrate to Brazil in 1939, respectively 1941 and became leading figures in Brazilian-Jewish life afterwards. The research project aims to study the continuation of German-Jewish traditions on the other side of the Atlantic and investigate the recreation of a Jewish identity in the Brazilian context by Pinkuss and Lemle. Questions concerning the legacy of *Wissenschaft des Judentums* in

Brazil, the adaptation and acculturation of German Jews in the South American setting and their interest in world Jewry will be raised and studied.





**David Tal**

### **Publications**

'Who Needed the October 1973 War?' *Middle Eastern Studies* Vol. 52, No. 5 (2016), 737-753.

'What is New in the First Arab-Israeli War? A Historiographical Discussion', *Alei Zait Ve'Herev* (Hebrew) No. 15 (2015), 65-89.

'A Tested Alliance: The American Airlift to Israel in the 1973 Yom Kippur War', *Israel Studies* Vol. 19, No. 3 (Fall 2014), 29-54.

### **Conference Papers**

'Who Missed Peace? The Israeli-Egyptian Peace Encounters, 1971-1973', 32nd Annual Conference of the Association for Israel Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, 20-22 June, 2016.

'The IDF and the Making of a Nation', Theaters of War: War and Postwar Experiences in European Societies (1895- 1953), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 18-20 November, 2015.

'David Ben Gurion Westernism', the annual meeting of the European Association of Israel Studies (EAIS), 6-8 September, 2015, Cagliari, Sardinia.

'Arms without Influence: British Arms Supply Diplomacy and the End of British

Imperialism in the Middle East, 1945-1955', Among Empires: The British Empire in Global Imperial Context, 27-29 May 2015, Lingnan University, Hong Kong.

'The Origins and Development of Israel – US Special Relations', Departmental Seminar, March 24, 2015, Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan Israel (Invited by organizers).

'The Failure to Reach Israeli-Egyptian Peace, 1971-1973: Who is Responsible?', Seminar in Modern Israel Studies, University of Oxford, January 27, 2015, Oxford, UK (Invited by organizers).

'Who Benefited from the Failure of the Israeli-Egyptian Encounters Prior to the 1973 October War?', Conflict and Dialogue in the Middle East, December 8-9, 2014, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland.

'The Many Faces of the Arab-Jew', Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, 22-25 November 2014, Washington DC, USA.

'Tested Alliance: The US and Israel in the 1973 October War', in EAIS Conference, September 14-16, 2014, SOAS, University of London, UK.

### **Current Research**

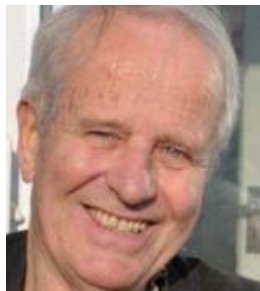
Prof Tal is working now on a study on Israel-US Special Relations from the beginning of the Zionist movement to the 1980s.



**Samira  
Teuteberg**

Samira Teuteberg (Archivist) has recently started an 18-month project, funded by the Rothschild Foundation to catalogue and digitise the German-Jewish Archives held at The Keep. Thanks to the work of the Centre, the University of Sussex has been able to establish a collection of mainly family archives deriving from a German-Jewish background currently comprising more than 200 archive boxes. Some of these collections, such as the Arnold Daghani Collection and the Elton/Ehrenberg Papers have been catalogued and used by researchers for a while, others are not yet catalogued and therefore not accessible for research or teaching.

The aim of this project is to raise the profile of all of the German-Jewish collections at Sussex by cataloguing all of the collections and digitising around 5000 items. The digitised items will then be published online and become available to a wider audience. To encourage the further use of the collections, curated packages of digital resources will also be created and made available for teaching and self-directed learning.



**Edward  
Timms**

### **Books**

*The Last Days of Mankind* by Karl Kraus (first complete translation, jointly with Fred Bridgham), New Haven and London: Yale University Press, October 2015

*Anna Haag and her Secret Diary of the Second World War: A Democratic German Feminist's Response to the Catastrophe of National Socialism*, Oxford: Peter Lang, February 2016

*Karl Kraus, die Krise der Nachkriegszeit und der Aufstieg des Hakenkreuzes* (translated by Brigitte Stocker), Bibliothek der Provinz, forthcoming July 2016

### **Articles**

'From the Hapsburg Empire to the Holocaust: Die Fackel (1899-1936) and Der Brenner (1910-54)' in *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines*, ed. Peter Brooker and Christian Weikopp, Oxford University Press, 2014

'The House Behind and the Space Within: Existential Dialogues in the Diaries of Anne Frank and Etty Hillesum' (with Elsa Strietman), in *Voices from Exile: Essays in Memory of Hamish Ritchie*, ed. Ian Wallace, Leiden: Brill, 2015

### Other publications

'Second class soldiers': review of 'Loyal Sons: Jews in the German Army in the Great War' by Peter J. Appelbaum in *AJR Journal* (April 2015)

'Zum Geleit: Die Aufzeichnungen einer "tiefverzweigten" Frau', introduction to vol. 1 of Erica Tietze-Conrat, *Tagebücher 1923-1926 und 1937-1938*, 3 vols., ed. Alexandra Caruso, Vienna: Böhlau, 2015

'Saime Göksu ve Edward Timms ile Nazim Hikmet Üzerine': illustrated interview, translated into Turkish and published in *Kitap-lik* (Jan 2016)

'The Centre for German-Jewish Studies', contribution to *Brighton Jewry: An Anthology ... 1766-2016*, ed. Godfrey Gould and Michael Crook, Jewish Historical Society, 2016

### Conferences

29 October 2015

'The Armenian Tragedy: A Commemorative Symposium' (joint organizer), University of Brighton Centre for Research on Memory, Narrative and Histories

16 December 2015

(by recorded video link): 'A Journey through the Poetic Landscape of Nazim Hikmet': illustrated lecture (with Saime Göksu) at conference to mark the opening of the Nazim Hikmet research centre at Bosphorus University, Istanbul

26 January 2016

Austrian Ambassador's Residence, London: contribution to Panel Discussion at the launch of the first complete English edition of *The Last Days of Mankind* by Karl Kraus

### Current Research

Continuing research for a long-standing project on 'Freud's Vienna and the Aesthetic of the Dream'



**Gerhard Wolf**

**Selected Conference Papers and Invited Talks 2014-15**

October 2015

*Resistance and refuge – the story of Mac Goldsmith, a Jewish automotive engineer*

Public lecture at The, Brighton

July 2015

*Latest Research on Nazi Germany and the Holocaust*

Lecture for the Widening Participation teacher's conference at Sussex University

October 2014

*Germanisierungs- und Besatzungspolitik in Polen*

Public lecture at the Heinrich-Böll-Foundation, Saarbrücken/Germany

November 2015

*Exodus from Europe - US population policies and the globalisation of the Cold War*

Invited paper at the Parks Research Seminar Series, University of Southampton

June 2015

*The M-Project, US post-war demographic planning and the plan to partition Palestine in 1947*

Conference: Association of Israel Studies Conference, Montreal/Canada

March 2015

Conference hosted:

*1945 – Envisaging a new world order*

Paper: *US population policies and the pacification of Europe after 1945*, University of Sussex

April 2015

*From Paris to Potsdam: Migration management and the pacification of Europe (1919-1955)*

Conference: Migration management and international organisations in the 20th Century, University of Athens

February 2015

*Die Grenzen der rassistischen Dystopie: Germanisierungspolitik im Warthegau, 1939–1945*

Conference: Litzmannstadt im Warthegau, 1939-1945. New research perspectives, Institute of National Remembrance, Lodz/Poland

September 2014

Panel convenor: *Lebensraum und Volksgemeinschaft*

Paper: *Volksgemeinschaft ohne Grenzen: Die besetzten polnischen Gebiete als Experimentierfeld nationalsozialistischer Germanisierungspolitik*

Conference: Bi-annual Conference of the German Historical Association, University of Göttingen/Germany

September 2014

Panel co-convenor: *Beyond the racial state. Rethinking Nazi Germany*

Paper: *What does it take to be or to become German in occupied Poland?*

Conference: Annual German History Society Conference, National University of Ireland at Maynooth

### Conference and Workshop Organisation

December 2015

*Flight and refuge*. History and the current refugee crisis, University of Sussex

October 2015

*Lebensraum and Volksgemeinschaft*, European University Institute, Florence (with A. Dirk Moses)

March 2015

*1945 – Envisaging a new world order*, University of Sussex

July 2014

*The Second World War in Japan and Germany*, University of Tokyo

July 2014

*The German Holocaust memorial and the politics of memory in Germany*, University of Tokyo

### Grants

2015 **Sussex Humanities Research**

**Grant Support**, project: The M-Project and U.S. population policies during the Second World War

Award value: 24 hours teaching remission

2015 **Sussex Humanities Research**

**Grant Support**, project: History without borders (1/3 share with Claudia Siebrecht and Sharon Webb)

Award value: 24 hours teaching remission

2015 **Higher Education Innovation**

**Funding**, project: Holocaust Memorial Day

Award value: £ 2,000

### Publications

Raum and Volk: spacial imaginations and German identity in Eastern Europe' in Paolo Giaccaria and Claudio Minca (eds.): *Hitler's geographies. The spatialities of the Third Reich* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, published in April 2016), pp 93-109.

'Exporting Volksgemeinschaft abroad. The Deutsche Volksliste in annexed Upper Silesia' in Martina Steber and Bernd Gotto (eds.): *Visions of community in Nazi Germany. Social engineering and private lives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 129-145.

'Volksgenossen allein durch Bekenntnis' in *Damals* 47/10 (2015), pp. 58-63 (the biggest popular history magazine in Germany).

### Current Research

Planning for a post-Second World War demographic order in Europe.



**Kim  
Wünschmann**

### Conference Papers

'Sport in the Nazi Concentration Camps', international conference 'Violence, Discipline and Leisure: Sport in Penal and Internment Camps', Cologne Centre for Central and Eastern Europe CCCE; Abteilung Osteuropäische Geschichte Universität Bonn; Society for the History of Migration, 23-25 September 2015, Bonn.

'German-Jewish Masculinities in the Concentration Camps', 39th Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, 1-4 October 2015, Washington DC.

'Whose Heimat was/is it? Documenting Jewish History in Post-war Germany, 1965-1975', international conference 'Rupture and Rapprochement: Jewish – Non-Jewish Relations in Post-Shoah Germany', Zentrum Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg, 2-4 November 2015, Berlin.

'"Judenexerzieren": The Role of "Sport" for Constructions of Race, Body and Gender in the Early Concentration Camps 1933-34', invited talk at the Seminar on Modern German History, Institute of Historical Research, 3 February 2016, London.

'Before the Holocaust: New Histories of the Concentration Camps', book talk with Christopher Dillon, Nikolaus Wachsmann and Kim Wünschmann, Wiener Library for the Study of Holocaust & Genocide, 25 April 2016, London.

'Jewish Prisoners in the Prewar Concentration Camps', invited talk at The International Institute for Holocaust Research – Yad Vashem, 12 July 2016, Jerusalem.

### Publications

*Before Auschwitz: Jewish Prisoners in the Prewar Concentration Camps* (Harvard University Press, 2015).

'Forgotten Victims? The Early Nazi Camp of Osthofen and its Jewish Prisoners: A Case Study in Local Memorial Culture', in *Forgetting: An interdisciplinary conversation* ed. Giovanni Galizia and David Shulman (The Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2015), 220-228.

'Exploring the Universe of Camps and Ghettos: Quantifications and Interpretations of the Nazi Topography of Terror', *Studies in Contemporary Jewry* 28 (2015), 251-263.

'Review of Maja Suderland, *Inside Concentration Camps: Social Life at the Extremes*, transl. by Jessica Spengler (Polity Press, 2013)', *History: The Journal of the Historical Association* vol. 100, issue 343 (December 2015), 772-774.

'Jüdische politische Häftlinge im frühen KZ Dachau: Widerstand, Verfolgung und antisemitisches Feindbild', in *Die Linke im Visier: Zur Errichtung der Konzentrationslager 1933*. 14.

Dachauer Symposien zur Zeitgeschichte, ed. Nikolaus Wachsmann and Sybille Steinbacher (Wallstein Verlag, 2014), 141-167.

### Current Research

Kim Wünschmann joined the Centre for German-Jewish Studies as the new DAAD Lecturer in Modern European History in September 2015. Her current research project explores the history of the contested concept of so-called 'enemy aliens' in a transnational approach. A category applied to civilians who found themselves in countries that confronted their country of origin as an opponent in a military conflict, the classification resulted in restrictive measures that ranged from registration and surveillance to deportation and internment. Examining the treatment of foreign civilians in both Britain and Nazi Germany during World War Two, Kim's study is conceptualized as a political history of national minorities in times of war that compares and contrast notions of citizenship, 'race' and national belonging underlying these restrictive measures.

Kim is currently also working on two co-edited volumes. A cross-disciplinary anthology entitled *Revenge, Retribution, Reconciliation* brings together scholars of history, sociology, philosophy, law, evolutionary biology, literature and religious studies to explore how individuals, groups, and societies in a variety of cultural contexts, political settings, and historical time periods respond to the perpetration of injustice. Their studies investigate how an equilibrium can be maintained between the emotional thirst for an immediate and

unmediated response to injustices and societies' need to adjudicate measures and sanctions that seem proportional to the breach of justice.

A second edited book, compiled together with Dr Jörg Osterloh (Fritz Bauer Institute, Goethe University Frankfurt am Main), focusses on prisoners in the concentration camps of 1933 to 1936 and investigates their diverse experiences in Nazi captivity.

### Awards

Prix Fondation Auschwitz – Jacques Rozenberg 2014-2015.



## Administration

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**Diana  
Franklin**

Diana continues in her role as Centre Manager of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. She has continued to serve as Chair of the Support Group in London and to coordinate meetings of the Support Group and to liaise with members in order to build up their support of the Centre.

As the Centre grows and develops, she has become increasingly involved with other University departments frequently in an advisory role. She has recently written funding applications in conjunction with the Alumni and Development Office.

She has organised the Centre's conferences, lectures and events both on campus and externally.

She plans and co-ordinates the annual Holocaust-Memorial Day events at Sussex University. The HMD events have grown in stature and Sussex is now regularly asked to advise other universities with their HMD commemorations. She liaises with Brighton and Sussex council and with the police to co-ordinate the annual Sussex Holocaust Memorial programme.

She edits Centre publications including the Annual Report and the bi-annual Centre Newsletter. She continues to run the funding campaign; to liaise with existing donors and to form relationships with potential donors. She continues to administer the 'Friends' of the Centre with invaluable support from the Centre Administrator, Sian Edwards

The informal contributions to Jewish cultural activities in London such as the annual Association of Jewish Refugees celebration tea (at which Diana accompanies professional singers on the piano) form a further dimension of Diana's work.



**Sian Edwards**

Sian has continued to work as Administrator of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and her work and knowledge of the workings of the Centre have been invaluable.

Sian's manuscript 'Youth Movements, Citizenship and the English Countryside: Creating Good Citizens 1930-1960' is forthcoming with Palgrave Macmillan in 2017.

Sian is to be congratulated as she has recently secured a post as Lecturer of Modern British History at the University of Winchester. We wish her well in her new position. She will be much missed by us all at the Centre.

## Obituaries

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**Richard Attenborough (1923-2014)**

During the early days of the University of Sussex, the director Richard Attenborough was on location in Brighton filming the musical *Oh What a Lovely War!* Needing extras for key scenes, some of which were filmed on the historic West Pier, he applied to the then Vice-Chancellor,

Asa Briggs, for permission to use Sussex students. Thus began a connection that was to last for forty years. In the mid-1980s Attenborough helped to endow the Nelson Mandela Scholarship to provide a university education for black South Africans. This reflected the commitment

to decolonization that inspired his award-winning films *Cry Freedom* and *Gandhi*. As an admirer of both Mahatma and Mandela, he shaped these films to celebrate friendship across the racial divide.

When Gordon Conway became Vice-Chancellor in 1993, he asked Attenborough whether there was any other programme at Sussex that he would like to support. The consequences were unexpected. In January 1995 the *Times Higher Education Supplement* announced that Steven Spielberg had pledged \$100,000 of the profits from *Schindler's List* to the newly founded Centre for German-Jewish Studies. At Attenborough's suggestion, Spielberg was making the donation through his Righteous Persons Foundation. This enabled the Centre to appoint its first Research Fellow, David Groiser (now Professor of German at Oxford), an authority on Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig.

Why had Attenborough become so interested in Jewish matters? In January 2000, when inaugurating the archive of the German-Jewish Centre, then located in the University Library, Richard recalled that in September 1939, at the age of sixteen, he was called into his father's study with his brothers. Their mother Mary, working on the refugee committee, had arranged for two girls, Irene and Helga Bejach, to join their uncle in New York. But the declaration of war meant that these two young Jews would have to remain with the Attenborough family, providing the boys agreed. So Irene and Helga became their sisters. 'They brought into our ordered household an awareness of a wider and more dangerous world,'

Richard explained. 'When the war was over, we learnt that both their parents had perished.'

The more closely members of the Centre worked with Attenborough, the stronger the synergies. Thinking more carefully about his films, we realized that they chronicled the experiences of a whole generation from the traumas of the Second World War through the defeat of apartheid to the emergence of multicultural societies. Above all, his films chronicled changing attitudes towards military conflict. It was an extraordinary achievement to reshape the anti-war musical *Oh What a Lovely War!* for the cinema. But while criticizing the First World War for its futility, Attenborough took a different line towards the struggle against Hitler's Germany. As a young man he had served as an air gunner cameraman on missions over Nazi Germany, so he knew this was a war we had to fight. Hence his treatment of fortitude in adversity in war films like *A Bridge Too Far*.

Richard Attenborough himself showed fortitude in defying the advancing years to remain both Chancellor of the University of Sussex and Life President of the German-Jewish Centre for so many years. He will be remembered by generations of students and staff with great affection, while his support for our Centre remains an enduring source of inspiration.



## **George Weidenfeld (1919-2016) and Claus Moser (1922-2015)**

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies owes much of its success to encouragement received from refugees who settled in the UK after escaping from Nazi-occupied Europe. Among early visitors to Sussex was Sir Claus Moser, later Lord Moser, a statistician who had promoted the founding of a new wave of universities in the 1960s. He was evidently impressed by the Centre's aims, for he agreed to join Lord Weidenfeld in the Open Conversation which we staged at the Spiro Institute in London in September 1997.

Introducing these distinguished speakers, Edward Timms emphasised that one of the Centre's principal aims was to ensure that the experiences of German-Jewish refugees were systematically researched and their contributions to public life fully

acknowledged. Both Moser, recalling early memories of Berlin, and Weidenfeld, describing Vienna before the Anschluss, emphasised the enduring value of their formative years. Family traditions that prioritized cultural pursuits provided a continuing inspiration for their careers in Britain. It might be difficult to avoid a residual sense of being a refugee, but being an 'outsider' encouraged forms of innovation that would not occur to settled members of British society. Discussing changing attitudes towards Israel, both speakers agreed that support for Israeli institutions was all the more important during periods of political difficulty.

Both Moser and Weidenfeld continued to take an active interest in our work. On 7 June 2001 the Centre for German-Jewish Studies co-organized with the Association

of Jewish Refugees a symposium entitled 'Sixty Years of AJR Information: The Journal as a Resource for Research', staged in London at 29 Russell Square. The principal speaker was Claus Moser, who provided a dazzling review of refugee achievements and paid tribute to what AJR Information had meant to his family over the years. In a second paper Anthony Grenville, later to become consultant editor of the renamed *AJR Journal*, argued for the creation of a comprehensive index, now realized through the archiving of the journal online:

**[www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals](http://www.ajr.org.uk/pdfjournals)**

Lord Moser's interest in our work led him in March 2004 to co-host (with Lord Attenborough) a dinner at the House of Lords for supporters of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. In a letter to the founding director, Edward Timms, he paid tribute to the creation of the Centre as a 'brilliant idea' that had produced a flow of new scholarship, enriching our knowledge of German-Jewish history.

The encouragement provided by Lord Weidenfeld took different forms. He graciously agreed to become Life President of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, and researchers from the Centre were invited to publication parties at his home overlooking the Thames, where they were introduced to distinguished authors such as Amos Oz and Marcel Reich-Ranicki. Weidenfeld kept himself informed about our work through the mediation of the Anglo-Austrian journalist and author Hella Pick, who became a member of the Centre's Support Group.

Lord Weidenfeld's deep-rooted commitment to Israel set him on a quest

to establish Chairs on Israel Studies in leading British Universities. At the prompting of the Support Group, he was persuaded to seek financial backing for an endowed Chair of Modern Israel Studies at Sussex University, and went on to secure the enthusiastic support of the Vice-Chancellor, Michael Farthing. With the appointment of Prof David Tal, the new Chair has become an integral part of the university's mission to develop a comprehensive programme of teaching and research about developments in the Middle East.

Shortly before his death, recalling the welcome Jewish refugees received in Britain in the 1930s, Lord Weidenfeld set up the Safe Havens Fund to assist Christian refugees from Syria. Further details about his lifelong commitment to international reconciliation and other charitable causes can be found in the obituary by Hella Pick, published in the Guardian on 20 January 2016:

**[www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jan/20/lord-weidenfeld](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jan/20/lord-weidenfeld)**



Claus Moser



## **Clemens N Nathan (1933-2015)**



Clemens N Nathan, who died in June 2015 at the age of 81, was actively involved with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies for over 20 years and a founding member and honorary Life-President of its Support Group. Towards the end of his life, when his disability made him less mobile, the Support Group met in his London flat.

Clemens initiated a series of rewarding academic projects and was a great facilitator. In 2001, for example, he arranged for two young scholars from the Centre, to present discussion papers at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban. His approach in raising funds for the Centre, which he did tirelessly, was

characterised by academic rigour, social concern and a commitment to historical truth.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex, Michael Farthing, described Clemens as “one of [the Centre’s] most dedicated and long standing supporters’ and was ‘touched by his warmth, generosity and genuine commitment to the Centre’.

Clemens came to England with his parents, grandparents and sister in the 1930s from Germany to escape persecution. The response to the experiences of his early childhood and that of his family directly or indirectly inspired him to help not only those who were victims of persecution, but more broadly to champion universal human rights and interfaith relations. In addition, the haven that he and his family found in Britain would make him a proud and loyal British citizen.

The family adapted happily to English society, whilst maintaining their German-Jewish culture through a close-knit circle of friends and relations. Living in Buckinghamshire during the War years, Clemens’ parents became founder members of the Amersham Jewish Congregation and leaders of the regional St John’s Ambulance Unit. In the 1950s they settled in Swiss Cottage, London.

Educated at Berkhamsted Boys School and then at the Scottish Woollen Technical College, Galashiels, Clemens joined his father’s London-based textile business and took over as Managing Director at the age of 24 following his father’s death.

Whilst developing the company into a leading and successful textile consultancy, he developed interests far beyond this sphere and continued to work energetically for a large number of causes for the rest of his life. He was actively involved in the Anglo-Jewish Association for over 60 years yet continued to show the importance of his roots and his family's journey by a close relationship with the Association of Jewish Refugees as well as his involvement in reparations work, becoming Board member of the Claims Conference and Chairman of its Nominating Committee.

He was the first Chairman of the Centre for the Study of Jewish-Christian relations based in Cambridge (now the Woolf Institute) and a founding inspiration for the René Cassin charity which promotes and protects universal human rights drawing on Jewish values and experience. His breadth of vision is reflected in the remarkable book he published in 2009, *The Changing Face of Religion and Human Rights: A Personal Reflection*.

Clemens impressed those whom he met with his concern for humanity, wanting to make the world a better place. He will live on as an inspirational figure for all who knew him, committed and courageous, warm-hearted, proud of his Jewish heritage, and unwavering in his support for justice and human rights.

Clemens was married for nearly 50 years to Rachel who predeceased him by two years. He is survived by his three children and five grandchildren, who remain devoted to his memory.

## Geoffrey Perry (1922-2014)

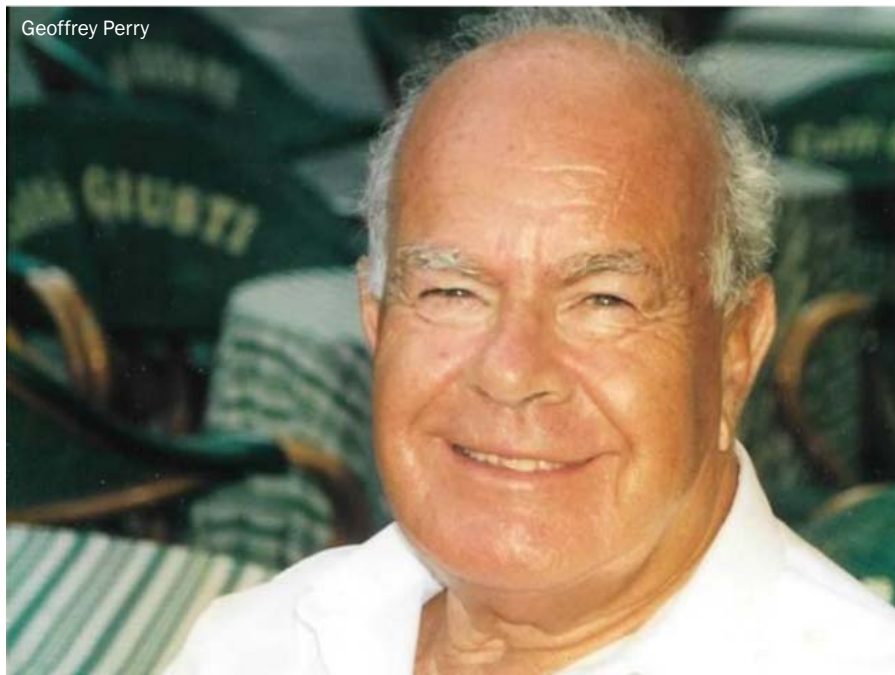
Geoffrey, who was introduced to the Centre's London based Support Group by the late Lewis Goodman, never missed a meeting until illness prevented him from attending in recent months. He was particularly keen that we should commemorate the contribution of Jews to the British armed forces, an interest that reflected his own remarkable career.

Born in Berlin on 11 April 1922 as Horst Pinschewer, Geoffrey was sent by his parents to be educated at Buxton College Derbyshire after Nazi restrictions on Jews became unbearable. His precocious gifts had already won him a position as staff photographer on the Daily Mirror when war broke out. After a period of internment as an 'enemy alien', he enlisted in the Military Pioneer Corps. His war service included landing in Normandy in July 1944 a month after D-Day, seeing the decisive battle of the Falaise Pocket that August, and later witnessing the opening up of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

His most celebrated exploit occurred on 28 May 1945, when with a fellow officer he stumbled across the notorious Nazi broadcaster William Joyce (Lord Haw Haw) in woods outside Flensburg on the Danish border. Perry and his comrade were searching for firewood when they spotted a man whose papers gave his name as Wilhelm Hansen. When the man offered help, his familiar braying voice immediately betrayed him. Fearing that he might be carrying a gun, Geoffrey proceeded to shoot and arrest Britain's most notorious wartime traitor.



Geoffrey Perry



As a member of the British army of occupation in Hamburg, Major Perry made a notable contribution to Germany's democratic post-war reconstruction, especially in the spheres of broadcasting and journalism. He was later to use that experience to start, in 1948, his own company, Perry Press Productions, which launched house magazines and was so successful that they were able to merge with Thomson Publications in 1963. While at Thomsons, Geoffrey set up 'Family Circle', the magazine sold at supermarket check-outs. Later he set up a joint venture with Dutch and German publishers, introducing a version of 'Family Circle' to Germany, then established and ran another company of his own, latterly with one of his two sons, retiring in 1992.

In 1952 he had married Helen Weissberger, the daughter of a comrade of his from the Pioneer Corps. It was with her encouragement that Geoffrey composed his memoir, *When Life Becomes History*, published in 2002, in which further details of his remarkable career can be found.

# University of Sussex Centre for German-Jewish Studies

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The Centre for German-Jewish Studies was established at Sussex University in 1994 under the leadership of Professor Edward Timms. A central purpose of the Centre is to study the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry from the early modern to the post-Shoah periods. The Centre provides undergraduate and postgraduate courses in social, cultural and political history, designed to train a new generation of teachers and researchers in a dimension of our European heritage that made a remarkable contribution to the modern world. This task is essential if we are to understand the creative potential of multi-cultural societies as well as the catastrophic consequences of racial prejudice.

Lectures, seminars, research projects and publications involving eminent international academics are amongst the Centre's activities. Close links with academic institutions in the UK, Germany, the USA and Israel have been forged. In addition to research seminars at the University, the Centre organises regular high profile events in London, to which Friends are cordially invited. The Centre houses a unique and growing archive of research material at the University of Sussex.

The Centre is most grateful for the financial support and encouragement it has received from many generous benefactors.

## **The Friends of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies**

We invite you to join the group of supporters whose contributions help to underpin the work of the Centre. The annual subscription is £30.00 (£20.00 for students and the unwaged).

As a Friend of the Centre you will be entitled to:

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- The Newsletter of the Centre
- Regular reports about activities and events in which the Centre is participating

If you would like to join the Friends, please contact the Centre for German-Jewish Studies (contact details on the following page).

## Support Group

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Diana Franklin has continued to chair the Support Group meetings which take place bimonthly in London. Marion Godfrey continues to serve as Vice-Chair. The Support Group provides valuable support for both project development and fund-raising.

### Members

Rabbi Stuart Altshuler  
Yvonne Crampin  
Ralph Emanuel, Hon. Life President  
Diana Franklin, Chair  
Marion Godfrey, Vice-Chair  
Lilian Levy  
Hella Pick  
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## Acknowledgements

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The Centre is fortunate in having loyal supporters who fund individual projects and contribute to infrastructure costs. We are aware that many of our donors prefer to remain anonymous and are extremely grateful to all those who support our work. Without this support, the Centre could not sustain its wide-ranging programme of teaching and research.

For further information, please contact:

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The logo of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the Star of David encircled by a rose, symbolizes the ideal of co-operation between the two communities.

It derives from a decorative motif in the old synagogue at Dresden, constructed to the designs of Gottfried Semper in 1840, destroyed by the Nazis in 1938.

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