

## Ralph Emanuel (1923-2020)

Ralph Emanuel, long-standing member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and major supporter of the Centre, died in October 2020 at the age of 97.

Baroness Julia Neuberger DBE delivered the eulogy at Ralph's funeral and she has kindly given her permission for us to reprint it here:

### Ralph Emanuel ז"ל

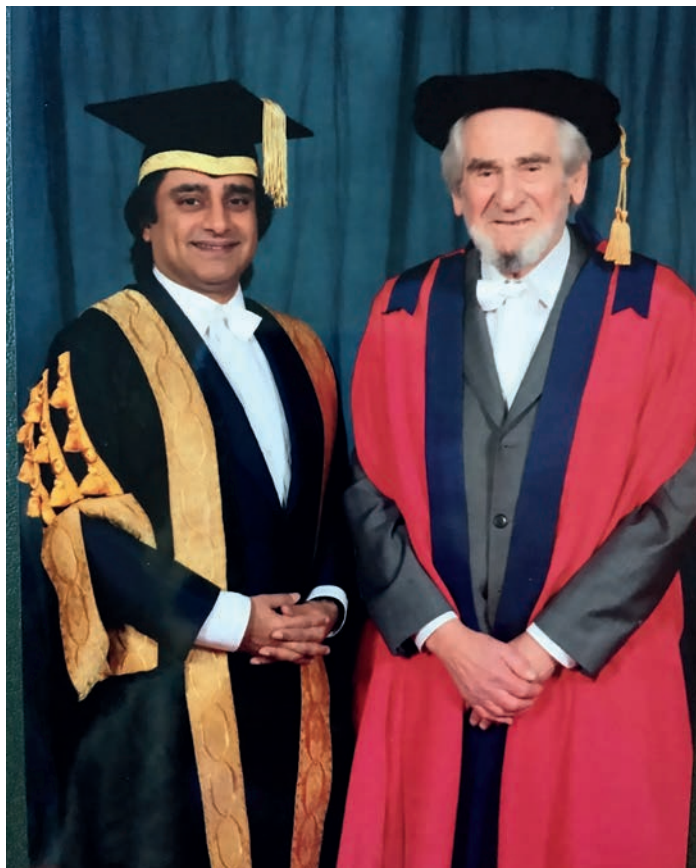
I am touched and honoured to be asked to give the hesped at Ralph's funeral. I have known him all my life, and our families go back at least three generations, so the connection is strong. But, most importantly, Ralph – who had control freak tendencies on some occasions – asked me to do this long ago, and he has reminded me of that fact almost every time I have seen him in recent years. So Ralph has got his wish, and as we stand here mourning him, and asking for comfort and happy memories for his daughters, Judith, Sara and Carolyn, and for his nephew Maurice, and indeed for all of us, I want to speak about him briefly as we're all standing and can't sit, and say something about why he was so special.

Born in Hove, he went to a regular secondary school, took junior matric and left to go into the family business. He'd wanted to go to university, but his brother was destined for that. So, the family business it was, one he did not enjoy hugely, though he was later delighted to have been selected by Alfred Bader and to have played a major role in his business as director of pharmaceuticals. And that part of his business career he really loved.

He was a playful father, and Judith remembers going into the sea at Brighton with him and jumping in the waves. And he was certainly a great family man – they had wonderful holidays and he was great fun. He also would take issue with his children. Back in 1968, Judith was appalled by the tanks rolling into Prague, and felt something should be done. We all felt that. But Ralph, very Ralph-like, asked her, 'Judith, do you want to start a third world war?' Or in Albi, birthplace of Toulouse Lautrec, as they talked of Toulouse Lautrec's sad life, Ralph pointed out that he had given huge pleasure by his art, and maybe that should be taken into the account of his life.

He was always thinking, always questioning. And getting his doctorate – so well deserved – from Sussex was a huge acknowledgement of his intellectual grip and achievements on behalf of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, even though we were never allowed to call him Doctor, or to address his envelopes to Dr Ralph Emanuel! He was dismissive on the one hand, but so pleased, and he adored the great Edward Timms, ז"ל, and was so saddened by his death. He had a real love for the institution of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, and was so proud of the fact that they, he, had been able to build it up. And his closeness to Diana cemented that.

Ralph couldn't quite recognise or accept how important his role had been in bringing Germans and Jews together – dismissive



Sanjeev Bhaskar, Chancellor of the University of Sussex, with Ralph Emanuel

of praise and recognition once again. But when his non-Jewish friend Heike, who came from Neuss, where Ralph's family came from, told him that he had helped to create a world 'fit for our grandchildren', he was truly moved, and he began to accept that he had done something important, significant, and that he had held true to his German-Jewish heritage, which mattered to him so enormously.

Brave, bright, passionate Jew, peacemaker, one of the founders of the Centre for German-Jewish studies, brilliant father... all those go on his long list of greatness. But, above all, he was kind. When my father, ten years older than him, and whom he'd known all his life, was dying and in the Royal Free, Ralph visited every single day, sometimes twice a day. And my father, very unwell, was quite seriously grumpy. Ralph never minded. He just kept on visiting, and that brought my father, and my family, great comfort. He was a real *mensch*, and his *Menschlichkeit* will live on after him, as will all his family feeling. His spirit lives on in us. His work will never be forgotten. But we have lost an extraordinary man, the last of that cohort, the last man in that group of people who connect back to the refugees and the war. His loss will be felt keenly by us all, but his spirit will remain.

. תהא נשמתו צורה בצרור החיים .

May his soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life, ונאמר, Amen.

# DAAD Professor for Jewish East European History



Katrin Steffen

The Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies/Centre for German-Jewish Studies is delighted to welcome Professor Katrin Steffen who joined Sussex University in September 2020 as our new Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) historian.

Katrin is a historian specialising in modern European History, with a particular focus on the History of East Central and Eastern Europe and Jewish History and Culture. She completed her PhD in 2002 at the Free University of Berlin under the title of 'Jewish Polishness', investigating the milieu of Polish-speaking Jews in Poland in the interwar period and finished her *habilitation* in 2019 at the Martin-Luther-University in Halle-Wittenberg. She has taught at the Free University in Berlin and the Universities of Hamburg, Halle-Wittenberg, Frankfurt (Oder) and Warsaw and was a Visiting Professor at the L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS) in Paris in 2017.

Before coming to Sussex, Katrin was a member of the Faculty at the Nordost-Institut at the University of Hamburg. She was a Research Fellow at the German Historical Institute in Warsaw (2002-2007) and holder of the Max-Weber-Grant at the University of Halle-Wittenberg (2007-2008). She has published widely on Polish-Jewish relations; on the history of Jews in Europe before, during and after the Holocaust; on Holocaust memory in Europe; on forced migrations and on the transnational history of science, expert cultures and the circulation of knowledge.

She is currently writing a double biography on the transnational lives of Jan Czocharlski and Ludwik Hirszfeld who were Polish scientists working during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. This will be published by Wallstein Publishing House in 2021. With Francois Guesnet, she is also in the process of writing a volume of the journal *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* [37], 'Jews in Polish and German Lands: Encounters, Interactions, Inspirations.'

The DAAD scholarship is a private, federally-funded and state-funded self-governing national agency of the institutions of higher education in Germany. The DAAD does not offer programmes of study or courses, but awards competitive, merit-based grants for use towards study and/or research in Germany at accredited German institutions of higher education. It also awards

grants to German students, doctoral students and scholars for studies and research abroad. The Centre for German-Jewish Studies wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the DAAD for their invaluable ongoing support for our academic work.

## **Katrin writes:**

The position of the DAAD Professor of Eastern European Jewish History provides me with the unique opportunity to combine the history of German Jewry, which has been researched at the centre successfully for many years, with research on Jews from Eastern Europe. I think this is important as Jewish history in Europe (and also beyond) was coined by so many interactions, encounters and inspirations, leading me to believe that we should research it not only from the separate perspectives of national communities of German Jewry, Polish Jewry, British Jewry or Romanian Jewry, but should rather aspire to a transnational perspective. National paradigms that have been predominant in our research perspectives since the 19<sup>th</sup> century have without doubt contributed to the fact that many cross-border, interdisciplinary and comparative aspects of Jewish History have not been adequately reflected in scholarship. This has changed over recent years, with younger scholars entering the field and I will be very happy to contribute to this process.

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## The Digital History Memory Project

Since April 2020, Dr Victoria Grace Walden, who recently joined the Institute, and is a senior lecturer in the School of Media, Arts and Humanities has been developing a research blog and webinar series on Digital Holocaust Memory. The website [www.digitalholocaustmemory.com](http://www.digitalholocaustmemory.com) was partly created in order to track her own research developments in this area. However, with the cancellation of physical commemorative events for the 75th anniversary of the liberation of many Nazi concentration camps and the end of World War II and the temporary closure of many Holocaust and Jewish museums, Victoria found a more important impetus to launch the project. This work has led to the submission of a bid to the UKRI/AHRC Covid-19 Quick Response funding track to explore ways in which Victoria and colleagues could create an archive of the online commemorations produced this year.

The website includes a number of blog posts reflecting on what 'online-only' means for the form of commemoration events: *VE Day Websites/Physical Sites 75 Years Since the End of WWII, Implications of Physical Distancing for Commemoration* and *75 Years Later Digitally Commemorating the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen*. Additionally, there are guest posts from academics in the UK and Germany and further reflections on digital media and its uses for Holocaust memory. There are also a number of webinar recordings featuring speakers from USC Shoah Foundation, Cape Town Holocaust

and Genocide Centre, Jewish Holocaust Centre, Melbourne, National Holocaust Centre UK, Bergen-Belsen, Neuengamme and Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Sites, EHRI, Arolsen Archives, the Wiener Library, [Terraforming.org](http://Terraforming.org) and from academics from Israel, Poland and the UK.

You can follow the project via the website, or on Twitter [@Holocaust\\_digi](https://twitter.com/Holocaust_digi) and Facebook [@DHMemoryProject](https://www.facebook.com/DHMemoryProject).

# Reparation Claims and the German-Jewish Experience after the Holocaust

We would like to congratulate Gideon Reuveni who was recently awarded British Academy/Leverhulme Senior Research Fellowships. His project 'The Spoken, the Hidden and the Historical: Individual Reparation Claims and the German-Jewish Experience after the Holocaust,' deals with German payments to survivors of the Holocaust – the largest financial reparation undertaking in history.

Scholars have studied the political, legal and economic aspects of German reparations after the Holocaust, typically depicting it as a successful reconciliation model. Recently, researchers have started to appreciate the full bearing of personal indemnification after the Holocaust on the compensating society, as well as its tremendous impact on the lives of survivors and their families. To get any degree of financial compensation, claimants had to comply with a complicated, lengthy and expensive procedure implemented by German bureaucracy, with no guarantee of success. The claims contain testimonies as well as supporting evidence of all kinds, providing an immense, yet hitherto underused source of information regarding Nazi persecution, as

well as offering an abundance of material that will provide new insights into Jewish life before, during, and after the Holocaust.

The project is designed to set out preliminary markers that will facilitate further investigation into this important field of historical inquiry. It will incorporate the perspectives of the claimants and of the mediators, together with that of the German bureaucracy that processed the claims, showing how the study of personal compensation claims can help us gain a better understanding of changing conceptions of historical selfhood as well as providing access to the lost voices of men and women that disappeared during that period of history. Gideon will spend the next academic year as a Fellow at the Alfried Krupp Wissenschaftskolleg Greifswald, Germany.

# Nationalism, Citizenship, Exile and Diaspora

Professor David Tal (University of Sussex) and Professor Raanan Rein (Tel Aviv University) planned to hold a two-day workshop in December 2020, in which issues relating to Nationalism, Citizenship, Exile and Diaspora would have been discussed. Due to the pandemic the workshop has been postponed and will now take place in December 2021. Scholars from the UK and Israel will participate and serve as the core of a new research group.

The workshop will concentrate mainly (but not exclusively) on the Jewish experience of Nationalism, Trans-Nationalism and Diaspora in Israel, the UK and the Americas. The emergence of the Zionist movement shook the conceptual and spiritual world of Jews living in free countries such as the UK and the United States as Zionists claimed that Judaism was not a religion, but a national identity. The need to contemplate new individual and collective identities in their home countries became more relevant when the international community recognized the Zionist movement as a national movement and the Zionist movement claimed that it represented the Jewish people. The American and British Zionists had to deal with questions such as: 'If Judaism was a form of nationalism, to which nation did they belong?' 'Were they loyal citizens in their country, or were they people with dual loyalties?' 'What was the meaning of their hyphenated identity?' 'Were they Jewish-British/American/Argentine only, or did they have a variety of national identity components?' 'Were they at home or in a Diaspora?' 'What was the meaning of the Jewish prayers' references to exile, and to prayers that God would restore their homeland?'

These questions became even more compelling after the Holocaust and the establishment of the state of Israel. Israel was forced to contemplate the nature of her relations with the existence of Jews in free countries. The Israelis had to grapple with the question of the meaning of Exile and Diaspora when Jewish people could live freely, and as equal citizens in other nations?

The workshop will discuss these issues from interdisciplinary perspectives: historical, sociological, cultural and theoretical. It will serve as the opening event for the creation of a research group whose members will engage with these issues. The workshop will allow them to present their findings to one another; to receive and give feedback and to progress with their research. An edited volume based on presentations from the workshop will be published. The workshop and continued study through the research group will be led by scholars from the University of Sussex and Tel Aviv University where many faculty members are involved in various aspects pertinent to the study of Nationalism, Trans-Nationalism, Diaspora and Citizenship.

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2021

Peter Summerfield BEM, Hon. Solicitor of the Advisory Board of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and his twin brother George Summerfield will speak about their experiences during the Holocaust. Their talk will be recorded in advance and will be available on YouTube from 08:00 on 27 January 2021.

There will be an online question and answer session with them on Wednesday 3 February at 14:00.

If you would like to receive the link for the YouTube talk and/or submit a question for Peter and George Summerfield  
[E: events@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:events@sussex.ac.uk)

### The Future of Holocaust Memory

**Friday 5 February 2021 13:30-15:30**

A year ago, we were commemorating the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz at in-person events across the globe. A few months later, just as many museums and memorial sites were preparing for physical gatherings designed to mark further special anniversaries of the end of World War II and the liberation of the last Nazi concentration camps, the Covid-19 pandemic forced them to close their doors to the public. Whilst many of us hoped we would only face restrictions for a few months, we find ourselves in 2021 planning to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day online-only.

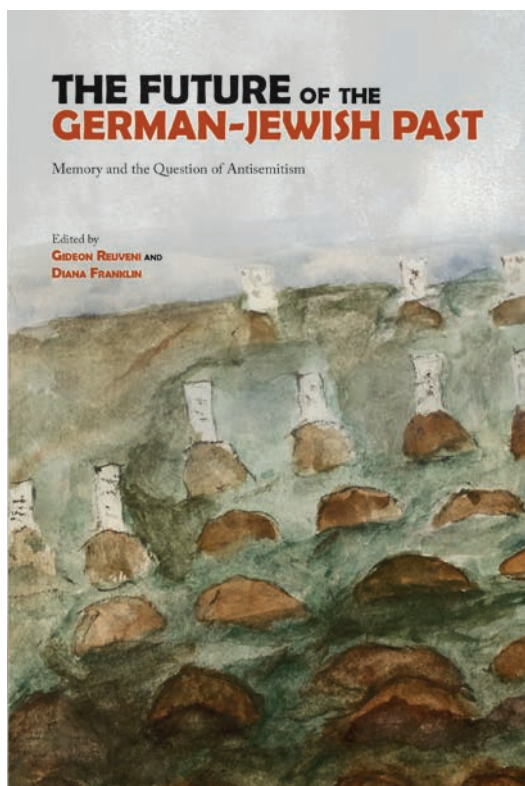
Holocaust museums and memorial sites have had to rethink what they do and how they communicate to their visitors overnight. In this panel discussion, we will welcome Fiona Darling (Senior Producer, Public Engagement and Learning, Imperial War Museum); Dr Iris Groschek, (Head of Education, Neuengamme Concentration Camp Memorial), Michael Haley Goldman, (Director of Futures Project, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC) and Dr Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann (Lecturer in Visual Culture, Film and German Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Consortium Partner on the Horizon 2020 action: 'Visual History of the Holocaust: Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age') to discuss how Holocaust organisations have managed the shift to online-only provision; what they have learnt from this transition and what they think lies ahead for Holocaust memory in the digital age.

Please see our website:  
<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/>

# Publications

## The Future of the German-Jewish Past Memory and the Question of Antisemitism

edited by Gideon Reuveni and Diana Franklin



Germany's acceptance of its direct responsibility for the Holocaust has strengthened its relationship with Israel and has led to a deep commitment to combat antisemitism and to rebuild Jewish life in Germany. As we draw close to a time when there will be no more first-hand memory of the Holocaust, there is great concern about what will happen when German responsibility turns into history. Will the present taboo against open antisemitism be lifted as collective memory fades? There are alarming signs of the rise of the far right, which includes blatantly antisemitic elements, already visible in public discourse. But it is mainly the radicalization of the otherwise moderate Muslim population of Germany and the entry of almost a million refugees since 2015 from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan that appears to make German society less tolerant and somewhat less inhibited about articulating xenophobic attitudes. The evidence is unmistakable – overt antisemitism is dramatically increasing once more.

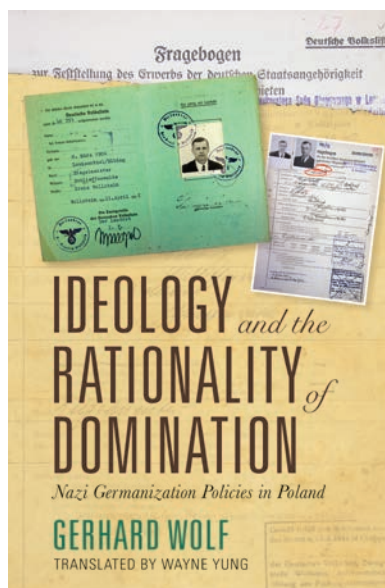
*The Future of the German-Jewish Past* deals with the formidable challenges created by these developments. The volume addresses topics such as antisemitism, Holocaust memory, historiography, and political issues relating to the future relationship between Jews, Israel and Germany. While the central focus of this volume is Germany, the implications go beyond the German-Jewish experience and relate to some of the broader challenges facing modern societies today.

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## Ideology and the Rationality of Domination Nazi Germanization Policies in Poland

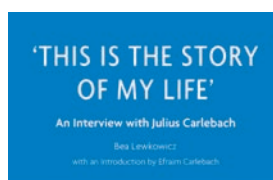
by Gerhard Wolf



Following the brutal invasion and occupation of Poland, the Nazis moved swiftly to realize one of their key ideological aims, namely the expansion of German living space: deport Jews, bring in German settlers and subjugate the rest of the population to a selection

process to separate Poles from ethnic Germans. As simple as this might have seemed initially, the various parts of the German occupation machinery soon found themselves embroiled in a bitter fight about the essence of Germanness and how to identify a German. Gerhard Wolf reveals an astonishing development in which a more inclusivist understanding of Germanness based on a more traditional notion of Volk eventually won out against one that was based on Rasse (race) and much more exclusivist. This had important implications, as Wolf can show, as it paved the way for turning around three million Poles into German citizens. Parallel to the mass deportation and mass murder of Christian Poles and the genocide of Jewish Poles, the Nazis paradoxically thus also presided over the largest (forced) assimilation program in German history. Students and scholars of the Polish occupation, the Holocaust, and Nazism will find new analysis of German imperialism, ethnic cleansing, and genocide in this important book.

## Research paper



### 'This is the Story of my Life' An Interview with Professor Julius Carlebach (1922-2001)

by Dr Bea Lewkowicz  
is now available.

To purchase a copy for £12.50 + £1.50 postage and packing  
E: [d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:d.franklin@sussex.ac.uk)

## MBE

We congratulate Zahava Kohn on her award of an MBE for services to Holocaust Education. Zahava's daughter, Hephzibah Rudofsky, is a member of the Advisory Board of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

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

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