



Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School



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 Siegel (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.

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

A Jewish Novelist in Victorian England (Kurt Hellman Lecture)

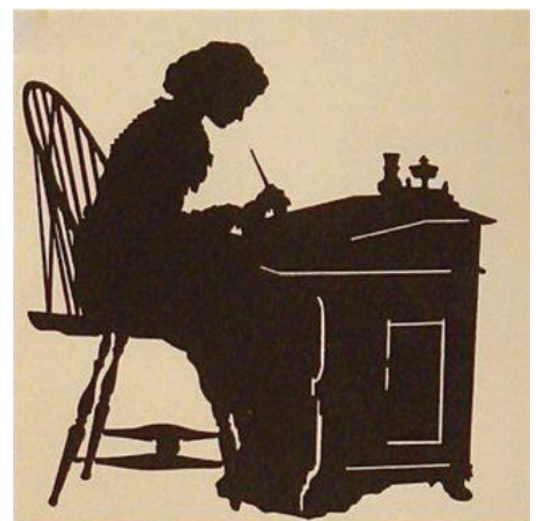
One of the highlights of this year's Summer School programme was the Kurt Hellman memorial lecture. Over fifty people attended the event, including members of the Kochmann and Hellman families and members of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies London-based support group. Before the lecture commenced, 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 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 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 Education in Schools: Report Summary

Over the last two years, researchers at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies have been working on a project which explores the effectiveness of Holocaust teaching by examining teaching approaches, and observing student responses to Holocaust education in the Sussex area. With the school observations now complete the project is entering its final stages and the report will be finalised by the end of the year. Whilst undertaking this research it has become strikingly apparent that the delivery of Holocaust education varies considerably across the region. Despite this variation a number of trends have emerged within the research which not only enhance our understanding of how students engage with the Holocaust but which also gesture towards the fact that schools, teachers and academics need to continue to work together on the broader context of Holocaust education.

Just one of the trends discerned in these observations was that key aspects frequently remain underdeveloped concepts in the school classroom. Of the schools visited during the course of this research, for example, few provided their students with the opportunity 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 alone suggests a degree of inevitability about the Holocaust thus distorting the historical reality of the event by diminishing the role of historical actors, other historical events and other contextual factors in contributing to the climate in which the Holocaust was able to be carried out.

Encouragingly, however, despite the fact that Academies are no longer required to follow the National Curriculum, of which the Holocaust is a mandatory part, three of the schools visited during this research which have converted to academy status in recent years still teach the Holocaust on their history scheme of work. The teachers assure us that they still consider the Holocaust to be a crucial part of their students' education.

This project not only highlights the continued complexities of engaging with this subject in the classroom but also demonstrates the fact that teachers feel that they receive a lack of support and guidance to enable them to enhance their own understanding of the subject and how it should be taught. It will be one of the recommendations of the report that the Centre for German-Jewish Studies works towards providing educational modules for both teachers and students in the future.

Obituary Tribute to Clemens Nathan

(24 August 1933 – 2 June 2015)



Clemens Nathan, who died in June at the age of 81, was actively involved with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex for over 20 years, a founding member and honorary Life-President of its Support Group. Recently, 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.

Tributes to Lord Attenborough

On 3 September 2015 the remarkable achievements of the film director Richard Attenborough were celebrated on the Sussex campus at the renovated Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (formerly the Gardner Arts Centre). This multimedia event, hosted by Richard's son Michael Attenborough and Michael Farthing, Vice-Chancellor, enabled a large gathering of supporters of the arts to admire the splendid facilities.

Music from the soundtracks of films like *Cry Freedom* and *Gandhi* was played before the curtain went up on a sequence of specially recorded TV interviews by Jon Snow with luminaries who knew Lord Attenborough well, including his brother Richard and Professor Asa Briggs. Recalling an association with the university dating back to the filming of *Oh What a Lovely War!* in 1969, Asa Briggs stressed how passionately committed Attenborough was to education as a creative blend of 'thinking' and 'feeling'.

Michael Attenborough then spoke most movingly about his father's vision of the arts as the beating heart of a civilized society. His most forceful comments were directed against politicians who are attempting to constrict the creativity of the younger generation by relegating arts subjects to the margins of school curriculums and cutting funding for university humanities. He paid special tribute to Michael Farthing's determination to counteract such tendencies by making the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts a dynamic hub for both the university and the wider community.

There followed an on-stage discussion between Sussex chancellor Sanjeev Bhaskar and three leading contributors to Attenborough films. What came across most clearly was the high level of teamwork that the director inspired. George Fenton gave a fascinating account of how – in collaboration with Ravi Shankar – he composed the music for *Gandhi*, combining Indian and European idioms.

The climax of the ceremony was the unveiling of a word-painting of Attenborough in younger days. Almost two hundred names were inscribed by the typographic artist Mike Edwards to create this composite portrait with each letter rendered in a different shade of colour. Supporters of the Attenborough Centre whose names are featured include Tom Stoppard, Maggie Smith, Anthony Hopkins, Ben Kingsley, Judi Dench, Amit Sen, Claus Moser, Richard Dawkins, Gail Rebeck and Michael Chowen, not to mention Channel Four Television and Chelsea Football Club. Sir David Attenborough was present to witness the unveiling.

Supporters of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies may remember the exhibitions and workshops we staged when the building was still in operation as the Gardner Centre, including displays of artwork by Arnold Daghani and Ralph Freeman. The formal reopening of the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, scheduled for spring 2016, should provide scope for further innovative projects.

Profile: Kim Wünschmann



When I came to Sussex this late summer, the contrast to Jerusalem, which has been my home for the past five years, could not have been starker. During the first few days, I found myself rejoicing over cool temperatures and refreshing rain showers – a welcome respite from the Middle Eastern heat. Walks in the green fields surrounding the campus introduced me to scenery completely different from the rocky hills of the Judean desert that can be overlooked from Mount Scopus. In the process of my transition I benefit from experiences made during earlier stays in this country. I first moved to Britain in 2006 from Berlin where I did my MA in Jewish studies and worked in exhibition-making for the Holocaust Memorial. What drew me was a research project on the history of the pre-war concentration camps conducted at Birkbeck,

University of London. In my contribution, I explored the instrumental role of the camps in the development of the regime's anti-Jewish policies in the 1930s. The study analyses the function of terror in the process of turning 'Germans' into 'Jews' and forcing them to emigrate. It also investigates Jewish resistance to this most brutal form of exclusion. My work has been published by Harvard University Press as *Before Auschwitz: Jewish Prisoners in the Pre-war Concentration Camps* and was awarded the Herbert Steiner Prize of the Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes (DÖW) and the Jacques Rozenberg Prize of the Fondation Auschwitz – Mémoire d'Auschwitz. It was a great pleasure to receive the latter prize in a festive ceremony held on October 8 2015 in the Brussels City Hall.

Joining the Centre, I bring with me a quality that I have learned to cherish: the spirit of collaborative work. Fruitful cooperation with colleagues at the Hebrew University's Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center has inspired a special section on the history of science in the 2013 *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* that investigates the impact of persecution on scholarly works of Jewish intellectuals exiled from Central Europe. As a Fellow of the Martin Buber Society, I joined forces with colleagues from sociology, philosophy, law, literature and religious studies to compile a cross-disciplinary anthology entitled *Revenge, Retribution, Reconciliation* that explores how individuals and groups in a variety of cultural context and historical times respond to the perpetration of injustice.

In my new position as DAAD Lecturer at Sussex, I will work on my second book project on 'enemy aliens' in the Second World War. Examining the treatment of foreign civilians in both Britain and Nazi Germany, my 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 restrictive measures like internment and deportation. At the same time, it is a history of international law aiming at the humanitarian protection of these civilians. A second project

examines German-Jewish relations after the Holocaust through the lens of *Heimatsforschung*, that is, grass roots research into local history. Focussing on the micro level, I want to find out how Jews and non-Jews interpreted local history and how, in their correspondence or during visits, they communicated about the *Heimat* as also a locality of antisemitic violence.



1945: A Year of Magical Thinking (Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture)

Paul Betts



A full house was in attendance for the second Evi Wohlgemuth memorial lecture held on the October 15 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 explained 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 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.

Encountering Perpetrators of Mass Killings, Political Violence and Genocide: Conference Report

In September 2015, academics from around the world gathered at the University of Winchester for an international conference to explore and analyse the complexities of engaging with perpetrators of genocide and political violence at a conference co-organised by Dr Kara Critchell from The Centre for German-Jewish Studies and Dr Emiliano Perra from the University of Winchester.

Delegates from 22 countries spanning 6 continents were addressed by 74 speakers including noted historian and genocide studies expert Professor Donald Bloxham from the University of Edinburgh. Professor Bloxham's keynote lecture posed the challenging question of whether there is a societal need to justify the study of the perpetrators of such crimes, prompting lively responses from the audience. Over the course of the three-day conference a number of delegates confronted difficult questions associated with perpetrators, including a particularly insightful paper about the female concentration camp guards at Belsen and the Belsen trial, given by Dr Shelly Cline from the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education in Kansas.

The second conference in this series, *Representing Perpetrators*, will take place at Utrecht University in September 2016 and will feature the English-language première of *The Woman at His Side: Careers, Crimes, and Female Complicity under National Socialism*, a staged reading by Inga Dietrich, Joanne Gläsel and Sabine Werner.

Forthcoming events

Germany and Israel – a Historical Asymmetry (Peter Straus Memorial Lecture)

Tuesday 8 December, 19:45
New North London Synagogue, 80 East End Road, London N3 2SY
Speaker: **Prof Moshe Zimmerman**

The Centre is delighted to be able to stage, in London, a lecture by the distinguished Israeli historian, Prof Moshe Zimmerman (Richard M. Koebner Professor of German History, Director of the Koebner Centre).

The lecture begins by recalling that German-Israeli diplomatic relations were established half a century ago. What characterizes the relations between Germany and Israel is a manifold asymmetry – two states that pretend to represent past entities – the German Reich on the one hand and the Jewish people on the other hand; the heirs of the perpetrators vis-a-vis the heirs of the victims. 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 believes in war. And the most surprising asymmetry – the asymmetry of public opinion. Over time the Israelis have come to like the Germans more and more whereas the Germans show less and less understanding and sympathy for Israel.

To book your place/s:
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Workshop on Volksgemeinschaft and Lebensraum



Gerhard Wolf (centre) with a group of delegates

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 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 organised together with Dr Daniel Siemens for the bi-annual conference of the German Historical Association in Göttingen in September 2014. The proceedings will be published as a special issue by the *Journal for Genocide Research*.

The Last Days of Mankind

Tuesday 19 January 2016, 18:30
Book Launch at the Austrian Residence, 18 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8HU
(By kind invitation of Ambassador Eichinger)

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies together with The Austrian Cultural Forum present the London launch of the first complete English edition of Karl Kraus's documentary drama of the First World War, published by Yale University Press; featuring readings by actors Chris Staines and Liza Weber of scenes from this new version of the play, followed by a discussion with the translators, Fred Bridgham and Edward Timms.

Chaired by **Ritchie Robertson**, Taylor Professor of German, University of Oxford

To reserve your place/s:
T: +44 (0)20 7225 7300
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HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Don't Stand By
Wednesday 10 February 2016, 13:30-18:00
Jubilee Building Lecture Theatre, University of Sussex

Dan Stone, Professor of Modern History, Royal Holloway, University of London will deliver the opening lecture on 'Concentration Camps Then and Now'.

Joanna Millan, who as a child survived the ordeal of being imprisoned at Theresienstadt with her mother, will speak about the sufferings of her family and her own traumatic memories.

The programme will conclude with a screening of the film 'Night Will Fall' – a powerful documentary about the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. A discussion with the director, **Andre Singer**, will follow the film.

To book your place/s please visit:
www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs

Discounts on publications associated with the Centre

Publications by researchers at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies may be purchased at a discount by Friends of the Centre.

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

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