



## The Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School 9-12 July, 2023



Founded in 2009, the Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD Students in Jewish History and Culture provides a platform for emerging scholars. Particularly beneficial to junior researchers in universities lacking dedicated Jewish Studies programmes, the Summer School serves as an academic arena where scholars can showcase their research. This opportunity facilitates a thorough examination of their work, enriched by feedback from established and upcoming scholars in the field. Over the years, the Summer School has cultivated a network of historians, philosophers and literary scholars. This network represents a generation of talented academics whose trajectory has been influenced by their engagement with the Summer School. For these scholars, the programme has proved to be a catalyst, propelling their scholarly endeavours.

This year the Summer School took place on the University of Sussex campus from July 9-12. The event was organised in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz, Austria. Eighteen junior scholars from nine different countries were given the opportunity to present and discuss their research in an interdisciplinary setting. The wide range of topics spanned from Talmudic to Queer studies. The consistently high-level of presentations, together with the friendly and supportive atmosphere made the Summer School intellectually stimulating and inspiring.



*Yaakov Yadgar addressing the students*

In addition to the students' presentations, the programme encompassed an opportunity to delve into the historical tapestry of Jewish Brighton through an engaging tour and a visit to the German-Jewish archives at The Keep.

One of the standout moments of the Summer School was the inaugural Peter Summerfield public lecture, hosted at the newly established Jewish

Community Centre (BNJC) in Hove. The lecture was delivered by Yaacov Yadgar, Stanley Lewis professor of Israel Studies at the University of Oxford. Entitled 'Israel's Identity Crisis', the lecture attracted over sixty attendees. Yadgar's presentation explored pressing questions such as: 'What defines Israeli nationhood?' and 'How does the fabric of Israeli nationalism intertwine with the state's self-identification as Jewish?' The talk considered the complexities of Jewish sovereignty in the light of the inherent tension between Israel's identity as Jewish and as a state of all its citizens. A lively debate ensued exploring nuances of these fundamental challenges.

For the closing event of the Summer School, we had the privilege of hosting Rüdiger Bohn, Deputy Head of Mission at the German Embassy in London. On this occasion, we engaged in a comprehensive dialogue concerning the state of Jewish life in Germany today. The event truly epitomized the essence of intellectual engagement that the Summer School fosters.

The feedback from the students was heartwarming, with comments such as: 'I would like to thank you for the experience of the summer school, which, from my perspective, was the most successful gathering of doctoral students I have participated in (and I have participated in many), both in terms of the excellent atmosphere and the level of research.' Another

## The Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School Continued

student wrote: 'It was a great experience – I left with new questions and approaches that I could include in my project as I continue my research.'

The next Summer School will take place in summer 2025, and we are hopeful that Bader Philanthropies will continue to support this significant undertaking.

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## Challenges to Democracy: Power, Protest and Identity

### A series of meetings discussing 'Democracy in Israel and Beyond.'



Panel discussion at Latest TV, Brighton, from left to right: Gideon Reuveni (SWI), Karabekir Akkoyunlu (SOAS), David Tal (SWI), Thomas Lorman (UCL) and Aleks Szczerbiak (University of Sussex)

The global state of democracy is currently in crisis as the fundamental principles it upholds, such as the rule of law, freedom of the press and protection of basic human rights, are facing widespread attacks and are increasingly in retreat. The challenges are not limited to developing countries but also affect the world's most powerful democracies grappling with complex issues such as socio-economic inequalities, terrorist threats and an influx of refugees that has strained alliances and increased fears of the 'other.'

A quarter of a century ago, at the end of the Cold War, it seemed as though totalitarianism had finally been defeated and liberal democracy had emerged victorious from the great ideological struggle of the 20th century.

Today, democracy appears to be facing significant challenges, with many states that appeared to be making

progress towards democratic governance a decade ago now experiencing a decline into authoritarianism. Examples include Hungary, Poland and Turkey, amongst others. Recent developments in the State of Israel have triggered an unparalleled wave of protests, as the nation's very foundation is being questioned by the growing trend towards authoritarianism.

The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute organised a series of five meetings in London, Eastbourne, and Brighton to delve into the intricate challenges facing democracy. These sessions dissected the multifaceted relationships intertwining democracy, civil protest and the nuanced question of identity. The final event was held at Latest TV in Brighton on July 6, with experts specializing in Israel, Hungary and Turkey. Through their diverse perspectives, attendees were offered a comprehensive view of democracy's challenges in different regions and contexts.

It is our fervent hope that these sessions not only enlightened attendees but also ignited broader conversation. Addressing evolving challenges to democracy is undoubtedly among the most pressing and vital issues of our era.

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## Reparation: Negotiation – Compensation – Responsibility, Seventy Years of the Luxembourg Agreement

The Academy of the Sciences,  
Berlin, 21 March 2023

**A cooperation between the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies, The Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), the Federal Ministry of Finance and Yad Vashem Friends' Association in Germany.**

Marking the 70th anniversary of the Luxembourg Agreement's ratification in March 1953, an international, interdisciplinary conference dealt with the long-term implications of the German-Jewish settlement. This exploration focused not only on Holocaust remembrance but also on how contemporary societies grapple with their fraught historical legacies.

Under the moderation of Shelly Kupferberg, journalist and author, the conference commenced with a series of three dialogues that brought together six renowned scholars, each discussing a different facet of reparations:

1. Mirjam Wenzel from the Jewish Museum, Frankfurt and Michael Hollmann, Head of the German Federal Archives, started the discussions. Their conversation

centred on the meticulous process of producing evidence and the intriguing dilemma of restitution, especially for cultural repositories such as museums and national archives.

2. The next dialogue brought into focus the symbolic and administrative nuances of reparations. Nicole Immler of Utrecht University and José Brunner from Tel Aviv University tackled the bureaucratic intricacies and the overarching political implications of these settlements.
3. Shedding light on the global-local dichotomy, the third dialogue took in a wider lens. Bénédicte Savoy of TU Berlin and Friedemann Pestel from the University of Freiburg navigated the vast landscape of global perspectives while juxtaposing them against local efforts to mediate redress.

The centrepiece of the evening was a panel discussion. An initial dialogue between Amy Gutmann and Shimon Stein wove an intricate tapestry characterising German-Jewish relations' manifold interpretations, especially in the context of reparations. Joining them in this discussion were Dörte Schmidt and Gideon Reuveni.

To bring the event to a conclusion, attendees were treated to a musical performance which featured pieces that had historical relevance, having been appended to compensation claims by musicians. Delivering these musical narratives were Marc Secara, Jonas Schoen and Johannes von Ballestrem. Their performance echoed the sentiments of the day, acting as a poignant reminder of the intertwined histories and the importance of remembrance and reconciliation.



From left to right: Israeli Ambassador (ret.) Shimon Stein, Dörte Schmidt, Gideon Reuveni, United States Ambassador in Berlin Amy Gutmann and Shelly Kupferberg

## First Hella Pick lecture celebrates 'Women in Journalism'



The Austrian Ambassador Mag. Phil. Bernhard Wrabetz speaking at the First Hella Pick Lecture

Issues faced by female journalists, including online abuse and barriers to career progress, were discussed at an event supported by the University of Sussex in celebration of Hella Pick CBE.

Hella, whose career as a foreign correspondent for the *Guardian* newspaper spanned more than thirty years, told the packed audience at the Austrian Ambassador's Residence in London on 12 October that she was full of admiration for women who were now reporting from war zones and taking on senior roles.

In introducing Hella, Daniel Franklin, executive editor of *The Economist*, praised her for her memoir, *Invisible Walls, A journalist in search of her life*, in which she describes arriving in England in the year 1939 as an Austrian-Jewish refugee of eleven years old on the *Kindertransport*, and her remarkable career that incorporated winning the trust of world leaders and reporting on momentous events, from the assassination of President Kennedy to the collapse of communism.

Hella's career since leaving the *Guardian* has included work for the Advisory Board of the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies, which incorporates the University of Sussex's Centre for German-Jewish Studies. This lecture was the first in a planned series of lectures and events.

A panel of female journalists and academics, comprising Katrin Steffen (University of Sussex, DAAD Professor of European History and Jewish History), Suzanne Franks (Professor of Journalism, City University), Katja Hoyer (journalist and historian), and Katinka Nowotny (Austrian broadcast journalist), lauded Hella for her trail-blazing professionalism.

In responding to the question of issues that female journalists currently face, the panel agreed that even though more women than men now enter journalism, few still reach the upper echelons.

Suzanne spoke about the 'huge barrage' of online abuse women writers and broadcasters experience. She also highlighted the

lack of diversity in newsrooms – especially of ethnicity and social class – and how this affected news coverage. ‘Newsrooms are overwhelmingly middle-class,’ she said.

Broader issues, such as how AI would affect journalism, and how social media was muddying readers’ abilities to differentiate between fact and fiction, were also touched upon.

In expressing a concern for a growing lack of objectivity and professionalism in journalism, Katinka said: ‘We are not activists, we are journalists.’

On a more positive note, the panel also discussed how female journalists were drawn to revealing the human side of stories, with female war correspondents frequently focusing on civilian suffering as well as the big geopolitical angles.

University of Sussex’s Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sasha Roseneil, gave the closing address and said it was a great honour for Sussex to be partnering with the Austrian Cultural Forum at the Austrian Ambassador’s Residence for the first Hella Pick lecture.

She commented: ‘Social media has stopped us turning to serious comment and analysis. To be able to turn to trusted journalists on the questions of the moment is really important.’

Hella finished with a few words: ‘I just want to say thank you. I have been showered with compliments that I don’t deserve, but I have really enjoyed listening to this discussion.’

She added: ‘Journalism is hugely important, but consumption is falling. So much information comes from those reliant on social media. Journalists have to be able to capture the trust, not just of the consumers and readers, but also of the people they write about. For me, that’s hugely important.’

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## Co-creating Recommendations for Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory and Education

Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison ran the final workshops for the ESRC-funded ‘Co-creating Recommendations for Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory and Education’ project. The fifth and sixth workshops in the series focused on the themes of virtual Holocaust memoryscapes in partnership with the Future Memory Foundation (the Netherlands) and Holocaust computer games in partnership with the Historical Games Network (UK). These online sessions brought together a range of international experts and stakeholders who co-produced recommendations which will be published in open access reports in 2024.

## The AJR’s International Testimony Forum



Dr Kate Marrison speaking at the AJR International Testimony Forum

In April, Dr Kate Marrison shared the report *Recording, Recirculating and Remixing Testimony* at the AJR’s International Testimony Forum, which was held in Lancaster House in St James’ Park, London. The event brought together archives, museums and professional memory institutions to discuss the digital and non-digital futures of Holocaust testimony.

This report is part of the work carried out by Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Marrison on the ESRC-funded ‘Co-creating Recommendations for Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory and Education’ project. The recommendations and next steps action plan can be read here:

<https://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/digitalholocaustmemory/digital-holocaust-memory-and-education/recommendations/>

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## RememBAR Camp at the Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial Site

In partnership with the Alfred Landecker Foundation, Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison were invited to run an extension to this year’s RememBAR CAMP at Dachau Memorial. The day brought together designers, tech specialists, academics, and professionals working in Holocaust museums and archives, and challenged them to design digital projects which would connect global Holocaust collections.

## Digital Holocaust Memory – Professional Resources Launch Event

Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison hosted an online event to launch the Digital Sharing Hub and Training Platform Pilot as part of their work on the HEIF-funded Dealing with Difficult Heritage Project. The event provided an opportunity for Holocaust organisations and professionals working with digital memory projects to preview new initiatives designed to support digital practice and provide feedback. The launch took place on the Digital Collective Memory platform with support from the iRights Lab and the Foundation Evz.

## Professor Ivor Gaber awarded OBE

We congratulate our Sussex Weidenfeld Institute Fellow Ivor Gaber who was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for his services to media freedom around the world. He was Britain's first Professor of Broadcast Journalism and first Professor of Political Journalism, which is his current post at the University of Sussex. As an academic, Gaber has published widely on a range of topics related to media freedom; these include media regulation, the relationship between politicians and the media and, more recently, aspects of disinformation and media manipulation.



Professor Ivor Gaber

## The 1952 German-Jewish Settlement and beyond. New Perspectives on Reparations During and After the Cold War Vienna, 1-10 October 2023

**A joint workshop of the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute, The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute and the research group: 'Paying for the Past' at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies.**

Amidst the backdrop of the harrowing assault on Israel on Saturday 7 October 2023, our workshop found sanctuary in the serene city of Vienna. Here, we delved deep into the intricate implications of the 1952 German-Jewish settlement. According to this agreement, Germany committed to compensating Israel for the monumental task of resettling a vast number of Jewish refugees, those displaced not just from Germany but also from regions previously under German influence.

The workshop showcased eleven research papers, each offering distinct insights into often overlooked aspects of reparations and restitution, mainly in Central and Eastern Europe.

While the Luxembourg Agreement served as the linchpin for our discussions, the breadth of topics spanned even wider. For many today, the Cold War seems like a distant memory, a mere historical interlude situated between the tumultuous early 20th century and the challenges that have emerged since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Our workshop aimed to recalibrate this notion, underscoring the profound impact the Cold War era exerted on the German-Jewish settlement and its ramifications. Beyond this, we ventured into



Gideon Reuveni opening the workshop 'The 1952 German-Jewish Settlement and beyond. New Perspectives on Reparations During and After the Cold War.'

an analysis of the Cold War's overarching influence on various redressal mechanisms aimed at rectifying historical injustices.

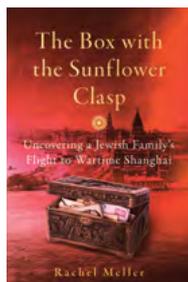
The deliberations took on an added layer of profundity in the wake of the devastating Hamas-led massacre, and the abduction of 247 individuals, including

men, women, children and the elderly. In such a charged atmosphere, our discussion offered fresh insights into the complexities of reparations, especially in the throes of conflict, highlighting the ever-evolving nature of historical reconciliation and the challenges it presents.

## Recent publications

We congratulate Sussex Alumnus, **Rachel Meller** on the publication of her family memoir entitled: 'The Box with the Sunflower Clasp: Uncovering a Jewish Family's Flight to Wartime Shanghai.' To purchase a copy, contact Ruth Killick Publicity:

[www.ruthkillick.co.uk](http://www.ruthkillick.co.uk)  
M: 07880 703741



personal emotions, arguing that these played a pivotal role in his policy decisions. It presents a thorough examination of various records reflecting Kissinger's interactions with key figures, including Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Gerald Ford. The analysis demonstrates how Kissinger's emotional responses influenced the intensity of his diplomatic pursuits and reactions to obstacles. This approach not only enhances our understanding of the disengagement agreement negotiations, but also fosters a linkage between diplomatic history and the history of emotions. It propounds that emotions are a crucial aspect of decision-making analysis, both at an institutional and individual level.

## Gideon Reuveni

With Emma Zohar (eds.), *The World According to Flakowitz: Memories of a Jewish Entrepreneur from the Turn of the Century to the Establishment of the State of Israel* (Ramat Gan: Bar Ilan University Press, 2023)

'Individual Reparation Claims and Holocaust Research: The Forschungsgruppe Berliner Widerstand 1933-1945,' *Journal of Modern European History* 21(3) (2023), (pp. 361-376)

'The Great Jewish Transformation: The Marketplace and the Jewish Experience from Pre-Emancipation to the Post-Holocaust Period,' *Jewish Culture and History* 24, 1 (2023), (pp. 11-27)

## Katrin Steffen

With Claudia Kraft and Dietlind Hüchtker (eds.), *'Begehren macht Akteurinnen. Praktiken der Subjektivierung im 20. Jahrhundert'* (*Desire Creates Involvement. Practices of Subjectification during the 20th Century*), Nordost-Archiv, XXIX, 2020 (2023) (pp. 7-16)

And therein: (with Claudia Kraft and Dietlind Hüchtker), 'Am Schnittpunkt von Selbst und Gemeinschaft: Zur Geschichte der Sexualität in Europa des 20. Jahrhunderts' (translation: 'At the Intersection of Self and Community: On the History of Sexuality in 20th Century Europe').

## David Tal

'Kissinger's Wrath: The Reassessment of US-Israel Relationship (March 1975),' published by *Middle Eastern Studies*, October 2023 (DOI -10.1080/00263206.2023.2270430)

This article delves into the often-overlooked emotional aspect of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's decision-making during the 1975 Shuttle Diplomacy, focusing on the US-Israel relationship. While historical records commonly highlight policy nuances and international dynamics, this article illuminates Kissinger's

## Forthcoming Events

### 'Exploring the Dynamics of Special Relationships: Nations, States, and People.'

**International conference**  
**11-13 December 2023,**  
**University of Sussex**

Sixteen scholars from across the globe will delve into the various factors that contribute to the formation and growth of 'special relationships' among states, nations and people, moving beyond its traditional state-to-state connotation.

## Holocaust Memorial Day

**Wednesday 7 February 2024**  
**14:00-17:00**  
**Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts,**  
**University of Sussex**

Testimony from Holocaust Survivor, **Ivor Perl BEM.**

Ivor Perl was born on 4 February 1932, in the Hungarian town of Mako. He was 12 years old when he was taken to Auschwitz. He survived with the help of his older brother, but the rest of his family were murdered in the Holocaust. Ivor, who is now in

his 90s, will be accompanied by his granddaughter Lia Brett, to help tell his story.

'**The Third Reich of Dreams**', a taster of the film which is still in pre-production will be shown. This will be followed by a discussion with **Amanda Rubin**, the Director of the film, chaired by **Professor Ivor Gaber**, Professor of Political Journalism.

**Booking essential:**  
<https://alumni.sussex.ac.uk/hmd-booking>

**For further information about the Weidenfeld Institute/Centre for German-Jewish Studies and joining the Friends please contact:**

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