

Dancing in Berlin and Fighting on the Western Front: from the German-Jewish Archives at The Keep



SxMs96/5/45 Wedding of Erna K., Berlin Kaiserhof 1913. Eva Sommer (front row 3rd from right)

Since its foundation in 1994, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies has been proud to research the former refugee community and to play an active role in its work of commemoration. Over the years, a number of families who came to the UK in the 1930s have donated archival collections to the University of Sussex so that they could be used in research and teaching for generations to come. Now the collections are stored at The Keep, a newly built archival repository close to the University campus, where they are looked after using professional standards and technology which will preserve them for future generations.

Just as every refugee life-story is unique, so are the collections donated to the archives. In their entirety, the collections document and illustrate the history of German-Jewish relations from the early 19th century up until the early 2000s.

The collection

Particular highlights of the collection are documents that reflect the German-Jewish relationship before the Holocaust, exemplified by the famous letter (now in the Elton Collection) written in 1918 by the Jewish philosopher Franz Rosenzweig, defining how German and Jewish identities can co-exist. The same collection contains photographs kept as evidence of Jewish acceptance into German society, such as an image of a fashionable wedding in 1913 in the Kaiserhof in Berlin at which the Jewish debutante Eva

Sommer was a bridesmaid. The significance of this for the family was enhanced when the celebrated military commander General August von Mackensen, who was also present at the wedding, invited Eva to dance with him, as is noted on the back of the photo.

Many German Jews in the early 20th century, determined to demonstrate their loyalty to Germany, volunteered for the army at the outbreak of the First World War. They kept mementos from the war, such as photos, diaries and medals. Now Sussex students are able to study these items, which give them insight into the personal experiences of war on the German side, such as those of Max Sondheimer, who served on the Western Front. Military historians, on the other hand, can find a large number of photos showing the technology that was used and how it compares with British equipment.



SxMs117 Max Sondheimer collection: Field kitchens ca. 1915

With the rise of antisemitism leading to the Nazi seizure of power, Jewish families found themselves under pressure to contemplate emigration, particularly after the November pogroms in 1938. They became increasingly desperate to leave or at least send their children to safety. For example, Hannah Weinberger, as the oldest child of a family from Bavaria, was sent on a Kindertransport at the age of 11 to stay with a family friend in Bristol. This was supposed to be a temporary arrangement until the rest of the family succeeded in obtaining a visa to the US. Tragically, the visa never arrived and Hannah was the only survivor of the Weinberger family.

Digitisation

These examples provide a small snapshot of the documentation that can be found in the German-Jewish collections at Sussex. To make them available to a wider audience, the University's Special Collections team and the Centre have received funding from the Rothschild Foundation for a systematic cataloguing and digitisation project. Selected digital images will be published in a series of thematic packages to support Holocaust education. The project is being carried out in close collaboration with a number of organisations in the field, including the Jewish Museum in Berlin and the Holocaust Education Centre at University College London.

For more information on how to search the catalogue and consult the collections, please see The Keep website: www.thekeep.info or E: samira.teuteberg@sussex.ac.uk

Brighton and Hove Jewish Community 250th Anniversary

To celebrate 250 years since the first record of Jewish residents in Brighton (Israel Samuel and his wife Susannah), a well-attended workshop was held on 23 June 2016 at The Keep, the East Sussex historical archive that holds the University of Sussex Special Collections. This event, introduced by Gideon Reuveni, opened with a spirited account of highlights from local history by Godfrey Gould of the Jewish Historical Society. He particularly stressed the achievements of Jewish luminaries from the Victorian period including Henry Solomon, Brighton's first Chief Constable, and David Mocotta, architect of the London and Brighton Railway.

Continued overleaf



Deborah Schultz (Regent's University London) speaking on the Daghani collection at The Keep

There followed an illustrated lecture about the Holocaust survivor Arnold Daghani, presented by art historian Deborah Schultz, a former Research Fellow at the German-Jewish Centre. After Daghani's death in 1985, his artworks were donated to the University of Sussex and now form part of Special Collections at The Keep. They include uniquely valuable watercolours created in the early 1940s when he and his wife Nanino were imprisoned in a Nazi slave labour camp in the Ukraine. Dr Schultz highlighted the imaginative qualities of the word-and-image artworks that are so characteristic of Daghani's mode of creativity. The Holocaust commemorative folio he completed during his retirement in Hove was among the archival treasures featured in a display of artefacts, arranged by archivist Samira Teuteberg and other colleagues.

A third presentation by Edward Timms recalled the remarkable career of Julius Carlebach, whose papers are also preserved at The Keep. After arriving in Britain as a teenage refugee, Julius became a housefather at the West Norwood Jewish Orphanage, where he met and married Myrna Landau. He joined the University of Sussex in 1968 as a Lecturer in Sociology and Israel Studies, producing publications that ranged from *Caring for Children in Trouble* to *Karl Marx and the Radical Critique of Judaism*. After helping to re-establish Jewish learning in Germany at the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien in Heidelberg, he retired with Myrna to Brighton, where they played a leading role both in the Jewish community and at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

Lectures and Conferences

International Workshop on US-Israel Special Relations

The Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies along with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and with the support of the Sussex Centre for American Studies organized an International Workshop on US-Israel Special Relations at the University of Sussex from 12 to 13 September 2016. The Workshop hosted twenty-four scholars from Israel, Europe, the UK and the United States who discussed various aspects of the manifold relationships between the two countries. Scholars explored aspects such as the Israeli lobby in the US, representations of the Jewish state in film and literature such as Leon Uris's *Exodus* as well as US-Israeli diplomatic relations past and present.

Religion and political ideology were examined as driving forces in the making of these special relations. A highlight of the workshop was the key-note address by Dr Jeremi Suri from the University of Texas, Austin who discussed: 'What is special about US-Israel special relations?'. In his presentation, Dr Suri placed the term 'special relations' within the broader historical context and wondered whether there are altruistic components in the making of the Israeli-American special relations, or if it might be more about common interests. His answer inclined more toward the latter. The workshop sparked lively debates and aimed to serve as a peer-review forum for the next stage of this joint research endeavor, when the presentations will be turned into articles to be published as an edited volume.

Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies Inaugural Lecture

The Making of an Ally: the sources and history of Israel-US Special Relations

In 1968 the distinguished scholar Julius Carlebach was appointed at Sussex as Lecturer in Sociology and Israel Studies in the School of African and Asian Studies. He held this post, later as Reader, for twenty years and was also the university's Jewish chaplain. Carlebach's courses in Israel Studies were taught within the framework of Sociology and attracted students from many different disciplines.

The appointment of David Tal as Yossi Harel Chair in Modern Israel Studies in 2013 continues the university's interest in the region. But it has also created a unique opportunity to consolidate and further develop its Jewish Studies programme. Students from various disciplines, members of the Jewish community, as well as many colleagues heard Professor Tal speak about the nature of the Israeli-American Special relations. A timely topic with an illustrious history.

Tal argued that these relations are based on

deep religious sentiments that highlight the connection between Jews and Christians, who traditionally conceived Israel as the crucible of Christianity. Such sentiments allowed Zionist and Israeli leaders to create close, almost intimate relations with American presidents and high-ranking officials, and to create a deep web of ties that served the interests of both countries. Tal provided ample examples for this proclivity, turning the Israeli-American relationship into an illuminating case study of the place and the role of religion in diplomacy.



Professor David Tal speaking on Israel-US relations

Coercion and survival

A public lecture entitled: 'The Concentration Camps and Antisemitic Terror' was given by Dr Kim Wünschmann on 25 October at the University of Leicester. The event, which was attended by over 80 people, was hosted by the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, an established research institution founded in 1990. Deputy Director Dr Paul Moore chaired the session in which Kim Wünschmann analysed the persecution of German-speaking Jews and their ordeals in concentration camps before the outbreak of war. Her investigation of Jewish responses and resistance to this brutal form of exclusion was taken up by Dr Svenja Bethke, who, in her commentary, stressed the need for further research into ghetto and camp societies as communities of coercion with their very own dynamics of conflict and cohesion. In her studies of everyday life in the ghettos, she explores concepts of criminality and law formulated by the Jewish Councils. The talks were followed by a lively discussion with contributions from Prof Aubrey Newman, the founding director of the Stanley Burton Centre, and Ruth David, whose own family history is a striking testimony to the potential for survival under persecution.

Publications and Research

No fish and chips: A tribute to Gabriel Josipovici



'Contre-Jour' (cover image from Josipovici's novel inspired by the painter Pierre Bonnard)

A convivial gathering addressed by distinguished speakers was held on 10 September at the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts to mark the 75th birthday of critic and novelist Gabriel Josipovici. The event was co-sponsored by the German-Jewish Centre. As Josipovici's finest work one speaker singled out the biography of his mother, the poet Sacha Rabinovitz, with its moving account of how she and Gabriel, born in Nice in 1940, survived the Nazi occupation by finding refuge in a remote French village.

Josipovici's most significant publication was identified by other speakers as *The World and the Book* with its challenge to the 'fish and chips' approach to literary representation and its stress on artistic self-reflection. We were also reminded of the connection between his sensitive aesthetics and his outspoken critique of the insularity underlying the Brexit vote.

His most notable achievements challenge the philistinism of mainstream British culture through experimental forms of writing such as his novel *Contre-Jour*, a reflection on the painter Pierre Bonnard. Using visual images, the art historian Timothy Hyman argued that for Josipovici, as for Bonnard, experience becomes translucent when 'viewed from the edge'.

The values of marginality were linked by other speakers to Josipovici's preoccupation with Jewish themes, especially in *The Book of God*. This reading of the Hebrew bible was the focus of a tribute by Rabbi Howard Cooper, who highlighted a wealth of learning lightly worn. By contrast *The Singer on the Shore*, with its essays on Appelfeld and Kafka, was praised by David Herman for its multi-layered explorations of existential solitude.

Sitting modestly at the back of the audience, Gabriel must have been gratified by the tributes paid to his teaching by several former Sussex students. Succulent refreshments were served at intervals during this event, which concluded with an interview between Gabriel and his French translator Bernard Hoepfner, recorded for the University's sound archive.

Revenge, Retribution, Reconciliation

What happens after harm is done and injustice has to be endured? Is revenge really sweet? Should the injured claim an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth? Is it at all possible for perpetrator and victim to settle their scores and 'make good' again? Or are there things that can never



Kim Wünschmann speaking at the Stanley Burton Centre

be undone? These questions lie at the heart of a cross-disciplinary anthology entitled *Revenge, Retribution, Reconciliation: Justice and Emotions between Conflict and Mediation* edited by Kim Wünschmann with Laura Jockusch and Andreas Kraft.

Approaching the topic from many different angles, contributors employ their expertise in the fields of psychology, biology, political science, sociology, law, philosophy, literature and history to explore how individuals, groups and societies in a variety of cultural contexts, political settings and time periods responded to the perpetration of wrongdoing. Evolutionary biologist David P. Barash and psychiatrist Judith Eve Lipton, for example, tell us that far from being an archaic concept held in check by seemingly progressive achievements of modern societies, revenge is an ubiquitous phenomenon that continues to trouble our world.

Legal scholar Alon Harel criticizes the privatisation of government functions with regard to retribution and discusses the question of who has the right to mete out punishment and inflict criminal sanctions. Looking at the Holocaust, historian Mark Roseman raises the question of why more surviving Jews did not commit acts of revenge against Germans in the wake of the Second World War. Jewish honour courts founded in post-war Germany are the subject of Laura Jockusch's chapter that investigates the case of a community of victims who are not willing to bestow trust upon any given court of law when prosecuting individuals from their own ranks who had allegedly collaborated with the Germans. Valerie Hébert, a scholar of transitional justice, critically investigates whether ongoing reference to an agonizing past is really productive in processes of political healing or whether it might be dangerous to the fragile peace of the present.

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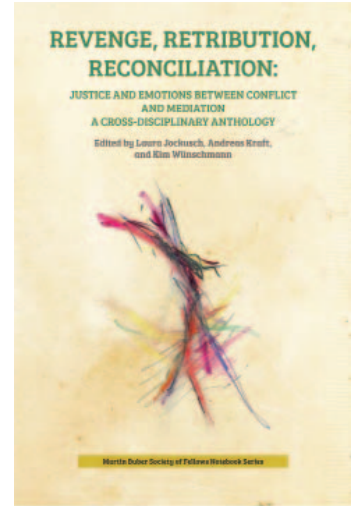
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New research at the Centre

The 'Volkskartei': Compiling Personal Data in Nazi Germany

Stefan Boberg's PhD project at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, funded by an Alfred Bader scholarship, analyses the impact of the 'Volkskartei' (People's Card Index) on German society. This unified registration system was established in 1938 to fulfil the fundamental National Socialist aim of creating a racially homogeneous People's Community – the 'Volksgemeinschaft'. This could only be achieved by the conceptual and practical exclusion of 'non-Aryans'. To achieve this double aim of mobilizing the People's Community and segregating those regarded as racially or socially undesirable required the registration of the entire population. This replaced the fragmented system of registration that had operated under the federal constitution of the Weimar Republic before the Nazis took over.

In addition to identifying those entitled to enrol in party affiliated organisations such as the Hitler Youth (HJ), the League of German Girls (BDM) and the Wehrmacht, the 'Volkskartei' was designed to inform the authorities on the whereabouts of those targeted by racial policy. But complications arose about the data on those labelled 'Judenmischlinge' (Jewish mixed race) by the Nuremberg Laws. Data on Jewish ancestry was specifically recorded in the German census of 1939 by means of a supplementary index ('Ergänzungskarte'). Whether this was crucial for the compilation of lists of Jewish deportees is a disputed question. Boberg's thesis is that it was not the census data alone, but rather their integration in the comprehensive database provided by the 'Volkskartei' that facilitated the identification and localization of individuals as a precondition for the Holocaust.



Cover image of the newly published volume featuring a drawing by Eileen Shulman

Awards and Announcements

Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research

Kim Wünschmann has been awarded The Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research for 2016 for her book *Before Auschwitz: Jewish Prisoners in the Prewar Concentration Camps*.

The prize is in memory of Abraham Meir Schwarzbaum, Holocaust survivor, whose family members were murdered in the Holocaust. The Prize Ceremony will be held in Jerusalem on 13 December 2016.

Scaglione Prize for 'The Last Days of Mankind'

The Scaglione Prize for Translation of a Literary Work has been awarded to Fred Bridgham and Edward Timms for their version of Karl Kraus's *The Last Days of Mankind*, published by Yale University Press. The prize is named after Aldo Scaglione, a distinguished scholar in the field of comparative literature, and his wife Jeanne (née Daman), who was honoured as one of the Righteous among Nations for saving the lives of Jewish children during her early career as a Catholic schoolteacher in Nazi-occupied Belgium. The Scaglione awards ceremony will take place on 7 January 2017 in Philadelphia during the annual convention of the American Modern Language Association.

Lecture announcements

The Diaries of Anne Frank and Anna Haag as Acts of Anti-Nazi Resistance

An illustrated lecture by Edward Timms, Research Professor at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, 7.45pm, Tuesday 6 December 2016 at the New North London Synagogue, 80 East End Road, London, N3 2SY.

The diary of Anne Frank is rightly recognized as a classic. In this lecture it is contrasted with diaries secretly written during the Second World War by the German democratic feminist Anna Haag. Although an outspoken pacifist, she was never arrested by the Gestapo, so she was able to record incisive impressions of everyday life in the Third Reich: reactions to the imposition of the Yellow Star followed by the Jewish deportations; critical responses to the killing of the disabled at secret 'medical centres'; the execution of 'radio criminals',



The anti-Nazi diarist Anna Haag at her writing-desk in Stuttgart in the 1930s

ordinary Germans who defied the regime by listening to the BBC; the complicity of 'white collar' murderers like the judges who imposed death sentences for trivial offences; and the struggle to survive of Jews in supposedly 'privileged' mixed marriages.

Where Anne Frank's observations were necessarily restricted by what she could see from her window in the Secret Annex, the diaries of Anna Haag offer a compelling panorama of the catastrophe of National Socialism. Having survived the war, she was also able to play a leading role in post-war democratic reconstruction. To register for this event: <https://event.bookitbee.com/e/veqev> or T: 020 8346 8560

Paul Moore's lecture on 'Bild'

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies looks forward to hosting Paul Moore at Sussex. Dr Moore is Lecturer in Modern European History and Deputy Director of the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the University of Leicester. His research focuses on popular opinion, propaganda and the media in modern Germany. His book *The View from Outside: The Nazi Concentration Camps and the German Public, 1933-1945* is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. In this talk Dr Moore will discuss a new project examining Germany's mass-market, populist *Bild* newspaper as a political factor in and an important historical source for post-war German history. The lecture is open to the public and will take place at 4pm on 8 December 2016 in Arts A, room 108 at the University of Sussex. No registration necessary.

Contesting Jewish Loyalties: The First World War and Beyond

Jewish Museum Berlin, 15-18 December, 2016

An international conference organized by The Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex in cooperation with The Institute for the History of German Jews, Hamburg, the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts in Deutschland, TU Berlin and The Jewish Museum in Berlin.

Just decades after intense persecution and the struggle for recognition that marked the second half of the 19th century, Jewish leaders and ordinary Jews found themselves at an unprecedented social and political crossroads. The frenzied military, social, and cultural mobilisation of European societies from 1914, along with the outbreak of revolution in Russia and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East had a profound impact on Jewish communities all over Europe and worldwide. One of the most compelling findings to emerge from viewing the Great War as a 'Jewish event' is the question of Jewish loyalties. The nature of Jewish allegiance was not only questioned from the outside, but was an omnipresent problem for Jewish individuals, families, and communities that struggled to reconcile what appeared to be divided loyalties.

The aim of this conference is to explore the multifaceted aspects of the question of Jewish loyalties. In bringing together junior and more established scholars from a range of different disciplines, the conference seeks to provide the setting for in-depth discussion on the place and multifaceted meanings of a crucial question in Jewish history that will significantly improve our understanding of the Jewish experience in modern times.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2017 at the University of Sussex

The next Holocaust Memorial Day programme at the University of Sussex organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and once again generously sponsored by the Association of Jewish Refugees will take place on Wednesday 8 February 2017. As the University of Sussex term starts on 30 January, the event takes place after students arrive back on campus.

The programme will include Professor Mary Fullbrook, Director of the University College London European Institute, who will speak about: 'After Nazism: Addressing the Legacies of Persecution'. Freddie Knoller, survivor of Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz concentration camps and now in his mid-nineties will answer questions from the audience after a showing of his film entitled: 'Freddie Knoller's War'. The final session will include a showing of the film: 'The Children of the Holocaust' which is an animated documentary series made with 'BBC Learning' based on interviews with World War Two Holocaust Survivors from Leeds. Both Kath Shackleton, producer and Zane Whittingham, director will be in attendance and will discuss the ideas behind the making of the film.

All welcome, booking place/s essential. To book: <https://alumni.sussex.ac.uk/hmd-booking>

For further information, please contact Diana Franklin.

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

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