



## University of Sussex appoints Professor Sasha Roseneil as Vice-Chancellor

The University of Sussex has appointed the world-renowned, interdisciplinary social scientist Professor Sasha Roseneil as its next Vice-Chancellor. Joining in the summer of 2022, Professor Roseneil becomes Sussex's ninth Vice-Chancellor – and first female VC – in its 60-year history.

Professor Roseneil was previously Pro-Provost (Equity and Inclusion) and Dean of the Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences at UCL. Over more than 30 years as an academic, Professor Roseneil has developed an international reputation for her pioneering research on gender, sexuality, and intimate life, and on citizenship, social movements, and social change. Originally trained as a sociologist, she has played a leading role in establishing the interdisciplinary fields of Gender Studies and Psychosocial Studies, and she is a qualified psychotherapist and group analyst. Before joining UCL in 2018, she was Executive Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Essex. She also spent eight years as Director of the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, served as Head of the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, and was the founding Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the University of Leeds.

Professor Roseneil led the creation of a new ten-year strategic vision for the social and historical

sciences at UCL, which addresses key contemporary social challenges and she will bring this strategic approach, along with a deep-rooted commitment to interdisciplinarity, to Sussex as it enters its seventh decade.

Professor Roseneil said: 'During its first 60 years, Sussex has established itself as one of the most innovative, progressive, and dynamic universities in the world.

'Sussex's future is extremely bright, and I am hugely honoured to be appointed as its next Vice-Chancellor.

'I will focus the energy and resources of the University on realising the full potential of its ground-breaking research, thought leadership and transformational education in the service of the common good. The world is currently facing enormous challenges, particularly relating to environmental sustainability and intensified inequalities, and



Professor  
Sasha Roseneil

Sussex has a vital contribution to make in tackling these problems and shaping a better future for all.'

Professor Roseneil said that students will be at the heart of her Vice-Chancellorship at Sussex. 'My goal is to ensure that we attract a diverse body of students with the potential to benefit from a Sussex education, and that we offer them an inspirational, life-changing, challenging, and supportive education that equips them to flourish beyond university.'

## New Appointment: Kate Marrison Weidenfeld Institute Postdoc Fellow in Holocaust Education and Commemoration

The Sussex Weidenfeld Institute is delighted to welcome Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Kate Marrison, who will lead the digital Holocaust education project. Prior to this, Kate worked as a Lecturer in film studies at the University of Leeds, where she completed her PhD project titled *Digital Witnessing: Towards Holocaust Memory Practice in a Post-Survivor Age*. Emerging at the intersection between Holocaust studies and media theory, Kate's research explores new media technologies such as AR, VR, interactive 3-dimensional testimony installations and video

games. Her most recent work has been published within *Jewish Film and New Media* and has contributed to the edited volumes, *Digital Holocaust Memory, Education and Research* (Walden, 2021) and forthcoming edited collection, *Visitor Experience at Holocaust Memorials and Museums* (Popescu, 2022).



# The Digital Holocaust Memory Project

Dr Victoria Grace Walden has been presenting work related to the **Digital Holocaust Memory Project**. The work has involved collecting interviews and recording walkthroughs of digital projects across mainland Europe during summer 2022. During her nine-week field trip, she collected more than 45 interviews with curators, educators, designers and front-of-house staff at memorial sites, museums and archives in Norway, the Netherlands, Germany, Serbia, Poland, and Austria. As this newsletter goes to press, she is deep into the next stage of the fieldwork, with four weeks in the USA. Over the past few months, she was invited to speak (in person!) at:

1. *From the Novi Sad Raid to Auschwitz*, a program held to recognise Novi Sad as the Capital of Remembrance Culture 2022.
2. *Migrating Images/Image Migration*, a conference held as part of the EU-funded Visual Holocaust History project in Jerusalem.
3. *ECommemoration Convention 2022* in Hamburg.

In the USA, she will speak at the *Museums and Mass Violence: Perils and Potential* symposium at Yale University and to deliver a public lecture at the Shoah Foundation, University of Southern California.

She was also interviewed in the Norwegian cultural magazine *Morgenbaldet* and is very pleased to announce that the networked AR project 'If These Streets Could Talk' on which she is a lead collaborator has been accepted for the DocLab Forum at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), which she and the rest of the team hope will accelerate funding support for this ambitious 5-year practice and research innovation project focused on location-based narratives of Jewish histories. She has also been consulting on the re-development of a US-based Holocaust Museum.

Dr Kate Marrison and Dr Walden have also run another two series of closed workshops focused respectively on 'co-creating guidelines for digitally recording, recirculating and remixing testimony' and 'social media for Holocaust commemoration and education,' with partners at the University of Sussex's Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, the University of Bern, and Hebrew University, Jerusalem. The outcomes of these workshops and those held earlier this year on 'AI and machine learning', and 'digitising material evidence' will be available in the coming months.

The fieldwork is funded by British Academy/Leverhulme Trust, and Kate's contribution to the workshops has been funded by support from the School of Media, Arts and Humanities.

# Holocaust Education Project

The Holocaust Education Project seeks to create a digital resource to enable students actively to explore the question: *What did Britain know about the Holocaust as it was unfolding?* This project follows on from a research report produced by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in 2015 which assessed teaching approaches to the Holocaust, educational materials, and student responses in classrooms within secondary schools across the counties of Sussex and Hampshire. Following this report, the concept of exploring micro-events through local newspapers, cabinet papers and documents within the Mass Observation Archives was tested with educators in pilot sessions led by Paul Salmons. As the project enters its next phase, Dr Marrison has organised a workshop entitled **Digital Holocaust Education: Connecting Local Histories** (for further information see later in the newsletter).

## Workshop: Space and Place in the German-Jewish Experience of the 1930s 12-13 May 2022, University of Rostock



Professor Marion Kaplan

This workshop was organised by Ofer Ashkenazi (The Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History), David Jünger (University of Rostock, Historical Institute), Björn Siegel (Institute for the History of the German Jews), Katrin Steffen (Sussex

Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Sussex) and co-financed by the Weidenfeld Institute.

Thirteen scholars from Germany, Israel, Austria, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated in this intense workshop, whose aim it was to explore spatial aspects of the experiences of German Jews during the 1930s in Germany and in transit. In highlighting the convoluted relationship between place and identity and the essential influence of these relations on the history of emotions, thoughts and culture, the workshop focused on the spaces that shaped German-Jewish self-perceptions in the

face of National Socialism. Professor Marion Kaplan from New York University delivered the keynote lecture on *The Emotional Dissonance of Space: German-Jewish Refugees in Portugal*. Subsequent talks dealt with the interplay of migration, tourism, and vacation at various stages of the 1930s and the interdependencies of expectations, imageries and geographical or physical boundaries of movement. Over the course of the workshop, it became apparent that the discussion of spatial elements benefits from specific case analyses. The discussions of the papers and the final discussion yielded some general observations. Firstly, a spatial approach necessarily goes hand in hand with adjacent approaches, such as those that emphasize transnational, visual or emotional aspects of historical experience. Secondly, a spatial approach does not require reinterpretation of the 1930s in a radically unique way, but it does allow for broader perspectives that expand our understanding of the period, especially regarding Jewish agency.

# CITIZENS AS DIPLOMATS

Conference, 21-23 September 2022, University of Sussex



*Raanan Rein in conversation with Gilead Sher, who served as Chief of Staff and Policy Coordinator to Israel's former Prime Minister Ehud Barak (right to left)*

Professor Raanan Rein (Tel Aviv University) and Professor David Tal, (Chair of Modern Israel Studies, Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies) organized a workshop entitled 'Citizens as Diplomats' which took place on the university campus in September 2022. It was made possible due to grants from the British Council's Strategic Cooperation and Tel Aviv University's Vice-President's

Office for International Affairs.

The workshop brought together fifteen scholars from the UK, Israel and Europe who presented and discussed various aspects of the workshop's theme. The discussions were based on pre-circulated papers. Manchester University Press have offered to publish an edited volume based on the papers presented in the workshop.

The participants discussed instances of citizens as diplomats. Galia Sabar and Deby Babis outlined the community of migrant Filipino workers in Israel who practised public diplomacy through digital means such as Facebook, in which they advocated promoting a positive image of Israel in times of crisis and massive global criticism. Gauri Kristmannsson presented diplomatic translators as citizen-diplomats, who, through their translation, forge bridges between cultures and communities, using linguistics and language as a mean of mediation between people and nations. Jonathan Grossman presented the case of two Brazilian Jews who promoted Israel's case in Brazil, under Brazilian democratic and authoritarian regimes. A similar case, where citizens acted on behalf of a state to advance its case, was presented by Gideon Reuveni, who discussed the post-Holocaust reparation demands against Germany, as an example of Jewish political diplomacy. This agreement, signed by Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany was negotiated by non-state officials. Katja Seidel presented the case of an American woman, Miriam Camps, a former diplomat, who, following her retirement, joined Chatham House and advanced ideas that penetrated the British foreign office in the 1960s. Gilead Sher, a former Israeli government official, who played a role in various missions as a citizen-diplomat, outlined how citizen diplomacy appears from the citizen-diplomat's point of view.

## Simon Wiesenthal Lecture

### The Phantom Giant, the No-Key Gate, and the Beauty Salon of History: The German-Jewish Settlement and the Holocaust

The Simon Wiesenthal Lecture series has been held in collaboration with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance and the Institute of Contemporary History at the University of Vienna since 2007, when the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies was being established. The lecture series has developed into the VWI's education flagship.

The lectures take place every six to eight weeks, with renowned scholars presenting their most recent research insights on the Holocaust. They highlight the impressive spectrum of this discipline, its numerous questions and issues ranging from empirical-analytical historiography to topics of cultural scholarship.

Gideon Reuveni delivered the Simon Wiesenthal lecture in

Vienna on 20 October 2022. When the Federal Republic of Germany, the State of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany signed a reparation agreement in Luxembourg on September 10, 1952, this settlement was considered historical. Official publications from both sides portrayed it as an historic enterprise of tremendous scope, unprecedented in the history of international relations just as the attempted extermination of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany was unprecedented in human history. The agreement was to play a crucial role for the education of the German people and as a historic precedent for the entire world. It set an example and contained a warning: crimes of genocide cannot go unpunished and the moral debt

arising therefrom must be paid. However, what was regarded as a momentous event in post-war history for a brief period was promptly pushed to the margins of the historical stage. In his talk, Gideon explored why that happened. This discussion raised another challenging question, namely how remembering the German-Jewish settlement might affect, if at all, the study and memory of the Holocaust?



*Gideon Reuveni*



# Remembering Ralph Emanuel and Edward Timms: A Conversation about Ralph's Diaries (1944-1946)



Edward Timms and Ralph Emanuel, left to right

On Sunday 23 October 2022, despite having to travel in the middle of a thunderstorm, over fifty people crowded into the Highgate Literary Society in North London to remember Dr Ralph Emanuel and Professor Edward Timms. The audience who attended in person were joined via zoom by friends from all over the world.

Fascinated by the contribution of Jews to German-speaking countries from the Enlightenment up to the Shoah, Edward Timms founded the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in 1994. Motivated by his interest in his German-Jewish heritage, Ralph Emanuel became a founder member of the Centre's

London-based support group. Over the ensuing years, Ralph and Edward became the best of friends.

In their last meeting which took place in May 2018, they held a conversation about a diary which Ralph wrote in the 1940s and only rediscovered in 2018. This discussion was filmed by Liza Weber who completed her doctoral thesis at the Centre in 2022.

In the film, Edward comments: 'You would expect a diary written in 1944-45-46 to be full of moans and groans about food shortages, austerity and the terrible events of the war and it is a very life affirming diary. It sparkles with life and ideas.'

The diary covers Ralph's lively social and cultural life and national and international current affairs. The themes of what it means to be Jewish, English and of German-Jewish heritage recur frequently, as do his changing views on Zionism. Both the rich content in the diary and indeed what he omitted, is of great interest.



Diana Franklin explaining how Edward Timms and Ralph Emanuel met

Following the showing of the film there was a vibrant discussion in the hall. Several members of the audience, many of whom were descendants of Jews of German heritage and friends of both Edward and Ralph, shared perspectives that the film had generated.

For a brief introduction to the diaries:

**E:** [judith.emanuel@myphone.coop](mailto:judith.emanuel@myphone.coop)

A recording is available at:

<https://vimeo.com/763096022/>

## New Chair of Advisory Board, Michael Blake



Michael Blake

We warmly welcome Michael Blake as the newly elected chair of The Advisory Board of The Centre for German-Jewish Studies/Weidenfeld Institute at the University of Sussex.

Michael writes: 'My parents were both refugees – my father was born in Austria but lived his early life in Czechoslovakia and my mother came from Frankfurt in Germany. Both my parents were strong Zionists and always involved in Jewish Communal organizations which is something I feel I inherited. I am a former chair of Young Leadership JIA (now known as UJIA), I have been involved with Jewish Care for over thirty years and served on the board for six years. I currently chair the Advisory Board of Jewish Care's Holocaust Survivors Centre and am a Director of a Jewish Care Subsidiary. I also sit on the Board of the Claims Conference (The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany). I have been Chair of the European Council of Jewish Communities for the past six years and a Board member of the Jewish Community Centres Global.

'I shall shortly be stepping down from some current roles to concentrate some efforts as the newly elected chair of The Advisory Board of The Centre for German Jewish Studies/ Weidenfeld Institute at Sussex University for which I feel very honoured. I have just chaired my second meeting and I have to say that the members of the board are most enthusiastic regarding the future of the centre, and I hope that you will hear much more from us in the future. I also would like to have the opportunity to meet many of the readers of this newsletter and Friends of the Centre as well. I want to take this opportunity to thank Diana Franklin and Gideon Reuveni for their support and for welcoming me into "the family".'

## New PhD projects

### Sally Cherara

#### A Historical Exploration into Mashreqism and its Streams of Thought, 1860 to the Present



Sally is a recipient of the Morris and Bessie Emanuel PhD scholarship in Modern Jewish History and Culture.

Sally will explore Mashreqism/Levantinism as an identity expanding in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel, and the Palestinian territories and in areas that constitute the Mashreq. Despite inhabiting a region fragmented along ethnic, sectarian and tribal lines, her research will demonstrate that various Arab and Jewish intellectuals have

attempted to find a common thread that weaves the diverse people of the Mashreq together. The impetus for this research is the popularity and revival of the term Mashreqism among public intellectuals, government officials and activists in the region. This is the case on both an international level, where agreements have been signed between various Mashreqi governments and on an internal level, where Mashreqism and Levantinism have aroused interest in the aforementioned countries and territories.

### Samuel Ogden

#### Austria and the Holocaust: Coming to Terms with an Unwanted Past



Samuel is a recipient of the Morris and Bessie Emanuel PhD scholarship in Modern Jewish History and Culture.

‘Having been lucky enough to have been awarded the Morris and Bessie Emanuel Scholarship, I am delighted to be joining the Weidenfeld Institute this autumn. I am very much looking forward to drawing on the wealth of experience and resources here to enable my research, which will be centred on the questions of Holocaust complicity in modern Austrian public memory. I aim to better understand the ways in

which contemporary Austrian society is confronting its Holocaust past and identify some of the forces which are shaping the contemporary memorial space.

‘My interest in this field began while living in Germany and observing how German society has interacted with its past and I hope my research will contribute to the body of work which is examining similar phenomena in Austria – a nation with an analogous, but distinct, memorial past.’ – Samuel Ogden

## Completed PhD

### Florian Zabransky

#### Agency and Vulnerability. An Intimate History of Jewish Men during the Holocaust

Having achieved an unconditional pass without corrections, Florian is to be warmly congratulated on the successful completion of his PhD. Florian’s research was generously funded by the family of the late Clemens Nathan, the Association of Jewish Refugees and the Anglo-Jewish Association. The publication of Florian’s important study, which has been submitted to Brandeis University Press is eagerly awaited. Florian currently works as a programme manager for the German Federal Agency for Civic Education.

## Forthcoming Workshop

### Digital Holocaust Education: Connecting Local Histories

This workshop takes place on 12 December 2022 on the university campus. This workshop will bring together over fifteen representatives from Holocaust museums and educational organisations around the UK with a range of academic and professional expertise. The discussion will be centred around the affordances and opportunities of digital methods for Holocaust education and the possibilities for the project to highlight and connect local resources to improve accessibility for learners. The morning session will be held at The Keep where colleagues will introduce participants to the collections held at Sussex, including the Mass Observation Archives. The afternoon session will open with a presentation on the project to date, followed by break-out group activities to encourage networking, debate, and discussion.

# Holocaust Memorial Events at the University of Sussex, February 2023

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023 is *Ordinary People*. The Centre for German-Jewish Studies event will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 1 February 2023 on the University of Sussex campus. The first speaker will be Holocaust survivor, Manfred Goldberg, who was transported, aged 13, to Preču concentration camp in Latvia with his mother and younger brother. Manfred Goldberg was put to work there as a slave labourer by the Nazis. He was later moved to Stutthof concentration camp where 28,000 Jews were murdered during the Holocaust.

The second part of this event will be the showing of a film entitled: *Reckonings*. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, German and Jewish leaders met in secret to negotiate compensation for the survivors. Directed by award-winning filmmaker Roberta Grossman, this film is the first documentary feature to chronicle the harrowing process of negotiating German reparations for the Jewish people, which resulted in the ground-breaking Luxembourg Agreements of 1952.

To book a place: <https://alumni.sussex.ac.uk/hmd-booking>

## Other Events

As the centre's events have attracted larger audiences every year, a week will be devoted to the memory of the Holocaust with activities organised by Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison.

### Public Engagement and Knowledge Exchange Activities: International Approaches to Digital Holocaust Education

As the Holocaust moves from a 'living memory' to a 'mediated memory' (James Young 2000), there has been much debate about how to commemorate and teach about this past. As we move towards the post-witness era (Popescu and Schultz 2015), there is a particular urgency to conceptualise innovative approaches of mediating this past. Whilst ongoing research at the University of Sussex (funded by the British Academy/ Leverhulme Trust) evidences a vast digital imagination in the global Holocaust education sector, it has also recorded the frustrations of colleagues across the world in the lack of opportunities to engage with existing practice and to learn from each other's experiences. Digital Holocaust education exists in national, and even local, silos. Our theme for Holocaust Memorial Week 2023 focuses on making connections across different national and transnational contexts. It aims: to introduce the public to the challenges involved in the process of developing digital Holocaust projects, especially in the post-witness age; to create a training opportunity for UK educators. We will introduce a series of innovative, international examples

of digital interventions in Holocaust education, which should also benefit contributors as a space for the sharing of best practice:

1. **An evening screening of *Tacheles – The Heart of the Matter*** with Q&A with protagonist, filmmaker, and game designer Yaar Harell. The film explores the challenges for the third generation as we move into an era in which they contemplate their responsibility for remembering this past.
2. **A masterclass workshop and Q&A for faculty students, with Yaar Harell.** The workshop will foster scholarly and practice communities' capacity to engage confidently with the ethical complexities of these topics.
3. **A full-day workshop for UK educators on International Approaches to Holocaust Education.** The day will be held in a workshop format, in which UK educators from schools, museums and Holocaust education organisations will engage with representative case studies. The day will conclude with a round-table discussion of the challenges and opportunities of the digital for Holocaust education.

These events will complement the work of the **Digital Holocaust Education Workshop: Connecting Local Histories**, referenced earlier in this newsletter.

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## New Publication

*Visitor Experience at Holocaust Memorials and Museums* is the first volume to offer comprehensive insights into audience motivation, expectation and visitor behaviours at a wide range of museum exhibitions, memorials, and memory sites. It is essential reading for academics, postgraduate students and practitioners with an interest in museums and heritage, visitor studies, Holocaust and genocide studies, and tourism. The volume includes a chapter contribution from Dr Kate Marrison entitled *Dachau from a Distance: The Liberation during the Covid-19 Pandemic*. 20% Discount Available – enter the code FLA22 at checkout\*  
Hb: 978-1-032-11587-0 | £96.00

For enquiries about this publication,  
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## For further information about the Weidenfeld Institute/Centre for German-Jewish Studies and joining the Friends please contact:

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