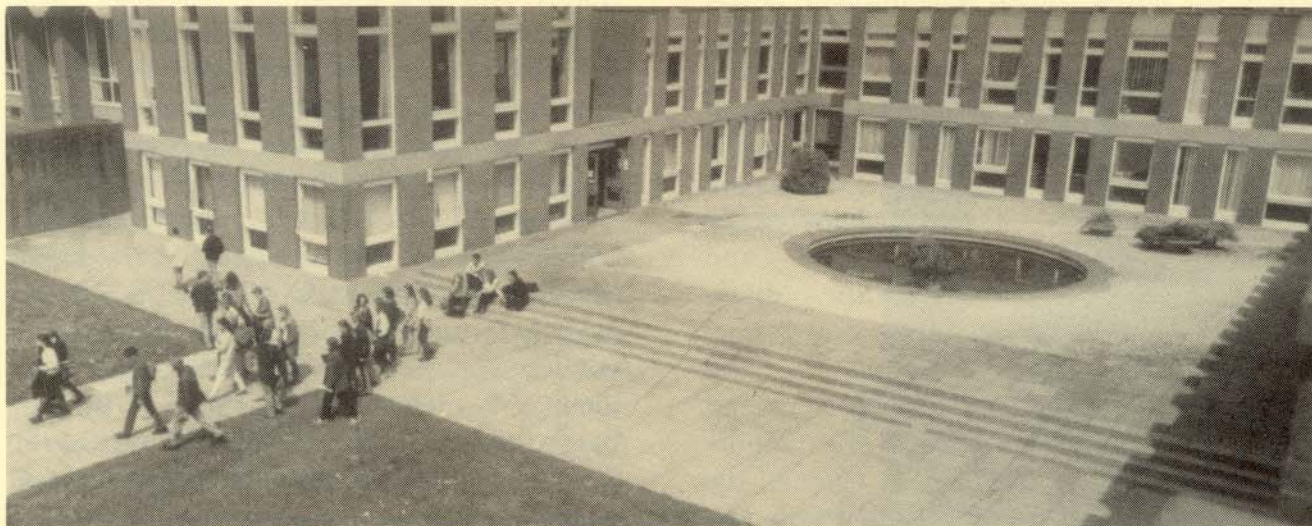


## INTRODUCTION

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies is a major new venture in research and teaching at the University of Sussex. It is supported by numerous organisations and individuals from both within and outside the academic world.

A Newsletter will be published regularly to report on the progress of the Centre. The first issue is intended chiefly to give an account of the Centre's activities to date and to explain its position within the University as a whole.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX



A bold experiment in the early 1960s, the University of Sussex is now firmly established as one of the leading institutions of British higher education. While constantly adapting to a changing world, it has retained many of the distinctive features which allowed its founders to claim that they were 'redrawing the map of learning'. With its broadly-based Schools of Studies rather than traditional single-subject departments, the University of Sussex remains

committed to interdisciplinary research and teaching, crossing the borders between different areas of study, and giving rise to new discoveries and insights. This makes it an ideal environment for the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, which draws on a wide range of disciplines from both the social sciences and the humanities in its investigation of German-Jewish relations in the past as well as in the present.



## THE CENTRE FOR GERMAN-JEWISH STUDIES

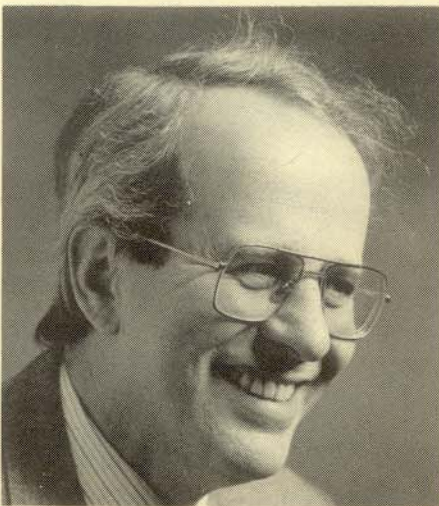
### Purpose

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies was set up in 1994 with the assistance of the University of Sussex and various external bodies, including the Association of Jewish Refugees in Britain. Funds donated by numerous groups and individuals have enabled it to extend its activities significantly in the current year. Directed by its initiator, Professor Edward Timms, the purpose of the Centre is to study the contribution of German-speaking Jewish communities to modern European civilisation, and to train teachers and researchers in an

important dimension of the European heritage that is in danger of disappearing. The creative impulses of German-Jewish symbiosis provide a counterpoint to the rise of anti-Semitism and the tragic chain of events that culminated in the Holocaust, while the recent increase in racist activities makes it more urgent than ever to analyse and counteract anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice. The Centre is thus concerned with positive as well as negative aspects of German-Jewish cultural, social and political relations over the centuries.

### Director

Edward Timms came to the University of Sussex as an Assistant Lecturer in German in 1963. In 1965 he took up a post at Cambridge, where he stayed till his appointment to the Chair of German at Sussex in 1992. He has



long been fascinated by the 'divide between the good and the disastrous' in German society and the importance of the 'Jewish element' in

Central Europe in the last 250 years. He sees Sussex as a particularly favourable environment for the study of the 'combination of literature, culture and politics'. A German translation of his book on the Austrian cultural critic Karl Kraus, entitled *Karl Kraus: Satiriker der Apokalypse*, was published in September 1995 by Deuticke Verlag, Vienna. His edition of the memoirs of the psychoanalyst Fritz Wittels, *Freud and the Child Woman*, published by Yale University Press, was presented at the Freud Museum, London, in October 1995. He has recently lectured on German-Jewish topics in London, New York, Chicago, Minneapolis and Vienna. As member of the Board of the Leo Baeck Institute, London, he contributes to the Institute's conference planning and publication strategy.

### Academic Advisory Board

The activities of the Centre are overseen by an Academic Advisory Board consisting of the following: Lord Beloff (Brighton), Professor Julius Carlebach (Heidelberg), Professor Sander Gilman (Chicago), Ms Trudi Gold (London), Mr Max Kochmann (London),

Lord Weidenfeld (London), Professor Peter Pulzer (Oxford), Dr Ritchie Robertson (Oxford), Professor John Röhl (Sussex), Professor Julius Schoeps (Potsdam and Vienna), Professor Robert Wistrich (Jerusalem).



## Teachers and Researchers

A growing number of Sussex academics whose research or teaching has a bearing on German-Jewish issues, participate in the Centre.

Professor Edward Timms, mainly known for his expertise in Austrian studies, the history of psychoanalysis and 20th century German literature and politics, is increasingly concentrating on interdisciplinary German-Jewish studies. Professor Gabriel Josipovici's interests, ranging from Antiquity to Modernism, include the literary study of the Bible and the writings of Kafka. Professor John Röhl's researches into the history of 19th and 20th century Germany cover anti-Semitism in Central Europe. Dr Ladislaus Löb, having completed several studies of German drama, is investigating the portrayal of anti-Semitism in literature. Dr Margarete Kohlenbach's work on contemporary German and Austrian writing places special emphasis on the literature of the

Holocaust. Daniel Steuer is interested in the history of eugenics and in the influence of the Judaic tradition on modern German philosophy. Caroline Welsh is studying the role of eye-witnesses and oral history in totalitarian states, and the philosophical consequences of the Holocaust and the atom bomb. Dr Nancy Wood's analyses of the media, popular history and national identity extend to the representation of the Holocaust in film and on television. Dr Barbara Einhorn's research into German women's writing raises questions about Jewish involvement in Communism.

Sussex University members of the Centre's Steering Group, which is chaired by Professor Edward Timms, include Dr Ladislaus Löb and Daniel Steuer (German Subject Group), Dr Jacky Senker (Science Policy Research Unit) and Robin Street (Development Officer).

## Conference

The first international conference organised by the Centre was entitled 'The German-Jewish Dilemma: From the Enlightenment to the Holocaust'. It took place at the University of Sussex on 21-24 March 1995, marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps and the end of the Second World War. Some 30 papers were given to an audience of over 150 people from a dozen different countries. The papers will be published in book form.

The second international conference, 'Theodor Herzl and the Origins of Zionism', will be held in London on 16-19 April 1996. Organised by the Centre with the support of the Austrian Institute and the Institute of Germanic Studies, London, it will commemorate the centenary of the publication of Herzl's *Der Judenstaat*. A public lecture on 'Theodor Herzl and the Dreyfus Affair' will be delivered by Professor Julius Schoeps (Potsdam and Vienna) at the Senate House, University of

London, at 6 pm on 18 April 1996. Some 20 papers, given to academics at the Germanic Institute, will discuss Jewish identity and Zionism before and after the Holocaust.





## Four Corners

A 'Four-cornered' consortium for the development of teaching and research in German-Jewish Studies is envisaged with the Moses Mendelssohn Centre in Potsdam, the Rosenzweig Centre in Jerusalem and the University of Chicago. To avoid duplication of

resources, the activities of the Centre will be coordinated with those of other major British institutions such as the Leo Baeck Institute and the Wiener Library in London and the Parkes Library at the University of Southampton.

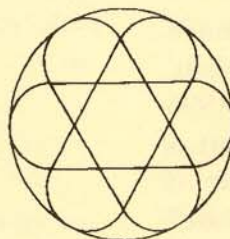
## COURSES IN GERMAN-JEWISH STUDIES IN THE SUSSEX CURRICULUM

The University of Sussex is the only institution in the UK to offer the combination of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in German-Jewish studies. The teaching of these courses is closely connected with the research work of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

Undergraduates majoring in German can follow a course on 'German-Jewish Culture and Politics from the Enlightenment to the Holocaust'. Postgraduates can take an MA in 'German-Jewish Culture and Politics', with courses on 'The German-Jewish Symbiosis (Berlin and Vienna)', 'Kafka and Judaism', 'From the Enlightenment to the Holocaust' and 'Holocaust Literature and the Crisis of Representation'. Several doctoral students are undertaking research into Jewish contributions to psychoanalysis, women writers in exile from National Socialism and the transports of Jewish refugee children to Britain in the 1930s. A research colloquium, held at regular intervals

at the University, is open to all interested. Speakers from a wide range of disciplines frequently discuss German-Jewish topics. Papers given in the autumn term 1995 have included 'The Significance of the Jewish Context for the Development of Psychoanalysis and Group Psychology' (Malcolm Pines, London), 'Gallows Humour and Persiflage as a Response to National Socialism' (Richard and Lisel Grünberger, London), 'Freud and History in Italo Svevo's Confessions of Zeno' (John Gatt-Rutter, Melbourne), 'Vienna 1900, Berlin 1910, Bloomsbury 1920: The Dynamics of Cultural Innovation' (Edward Timms, Sussex), 'Anti-Semitism on the Internet: The Holocaust Denial Campaign' (Simon Harding, Sussex), 'On Being Jewish: A New Book and its Implications' (Julia Neuberger, London), 'The Function of Metaphor in Psychoanalytic Theory' (Daniel Steuer, Sussex).

*The logo of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the Star of David encircled by a rose, symbolizes the ideal of co-operation between the two communities.*



*It derives from a decorative motif in the old synagogue at Dresden, constructed to the designs of Gottfried Semper in 1840, destroyed by the Nazis in 1938.*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

*Inquiries about any particular aspects of the Centre should be addressed either to Professor Edward Timms, Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QN. Tel 01273-678495, Fax 01273-623246, or Ms Diana Franklin, Tel 0181-4554785, Fax 0181-3814721.*