



Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism

NEWSLETTER • ACADEMIC YEAR 2017–2018

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Inessa Laskova

From the Director...



Maurice Samuels

Last year saw a modest decrease in the number of violent attacks perpetrated against Jews around the world. According to the annual report issued by the Kantor Center at Tel Aviv University, violent incidents directed against Jewish people and property fell by about 9% in 2017. Overall, there are about 40% fewer attacks than in the years between 2006 and 2014.

This does not mean that antisemitism is less of a threat than it was a few years ago, however. As the Kantor Center report also notes, Jewish communities around the world have reported an increase in nonviolent incidents even as violent ones have

fallen. Moreover, Jews are disproportionately targeted for hate crimes. In France, 40% of crimes designated as religiously or racially motivated were directed against Jews in 2017, even though Jews make up less than 1% of the French population. According to FBI statistics, Jews were the victims of 54% of hate crimes in the United States in 2016.

Over the past decade, scholars of antisemitism have called attention to the threat posed by radical Islamist groups, for whom hatred of Israel often merges with hatred of Jews more generally. This is especially a problem in European countries, where certain segments of the large and often disenfranchised Muslim communities have proven susceptible to antisemitic ideology. Gunther Jikeli, a scholar at Indiana University, has shown that antisemitic attitudes are much greater among Muslims than non-Muslims in Europe, and that these attitudes correlate with levels of exposure to radical religious ideology. But as the recent scandals involving antisemitism in the British Labour Party reveal, anti-Jewish attitudes are by no means confined to Muslim communities: they have become an all-too-frequent fixture on both the far-left and the far-right of the political spectrum.

The rise of extremist parties around the globe poses a real threat to Jews and other minorities today. Far-right, nationalist parties have grabbed increasing shares of the electorate in Germany, Austria, Italy, and elsewhere, unleashing angry racist rhetoric. We have already seen the results of the antidemocratic ethos of the far-right in Hungary, where the Jewish financier George Soros is regularly demonized by the government of Viktor Orbán. This year, members of the far-right in the Polish Senate passed a law making it a crime to blame Poland for the Holocaust. These and other developments have encouraged Donald Trump's former chief strategist Stephen Bannon to see Europe as the vanguard of his racist "alt-right" crusade.

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From the Director... (continued)

Now more than ever clear-sighted scholarship is necessary to understand these complex and fast-changing developments. At the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, we have continued our mission to cast light on hatred directed against Jews in the contemporary world and to place it in historical perspective.

In September 2017, we cosponsored a major conference, “Racism, Antisemitism, and the Radical Right,” which brought together scholars from around the world to map out the recent manifestations of hate on the right of the political spectrum. Coming as it did just over a month after the disturbing events in Charlottesville, VA, when crowds chanted “Jews will not replace us!” at a “Unite the Right” rally, the conference drew a large and engaged audience. In addition to being the fifth annual conference of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism (ICRAR), the event was also the first collaboration between the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism and the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration.



Carolyn Dean gives the introduction to Cécile Alduy.

Besides the conference, YPSA hosted ten lectures on a wide variety of topics over the course of the 2017-18 school year. A number of these focused on the issue of Zionism and anti-Zionism. Alex Ryvchin, the author of *The Anti-Israel Agenda*, talked about the anti-Israel movement in Australia. Dorian Bell of UCSC gave a fascinating lecture entitled “Viral Populism: Antisemitism and Islamophobia in the Era of Mass Migration.” Hizky Shoham of Bar-Ilan University returned to Yale, where he had held a postdoc, to deliver a lecture entitled “Why the Hebrew ‘Shoah’? A Lexical History and Two Zionist Narratives.” And Jeffrey Herf of the University of Maryland returned to Yale to speak about “Antagonism to the Jews, Zionism and Israel from Nazi Germany to the German Democratic Republic and the West German Far Left: Continuities and Breaks.”

Several of our talks focused on more historical issues with clear relevance for contemporary debates. These included the talk by Amelia Glaser of UCSD on Jewish leftists and the challenge of Palestine in the 1920s as well as the talk by Brian Crim of Lynchburg College on Walter Jessel, Operation Paperclip, and Transatlantic Antisemitism during the Cold War. A number



Timothy Snyder

of Yale's quality studying this topic is critical for us [...] to combat this kind of scourge.”

– Ira Forman, Former U.S. State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism

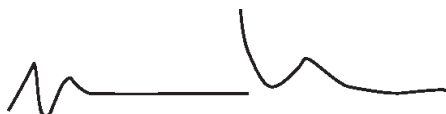
of lectures also focused on specific thinkers whose work has informed the study of antisemitism in the contemporary world. These included Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins's lecture, "Raymond Aron, Liberalism, and the Question of Antisemitism," and Adam Stern's talk, "Hannah Arendt and the Idea of Survival."

Thanks to the continued generosity of Charles Knapp and the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron grants, we were able to fund seven important research projects by Yale students. Allyson Gonzalez will be studying applications for Spanish/Portuguese citizenship from Sephardi Jews in the 20th century. Justin Jin is participating in a project to report on the historical memory of the Holocaust and how it is changing across contemporary Europe. Rachel Kaufman will examine how conversos and crypto-Jews memorialized their history in colonial New Mexico. Karolina Kolpak is looking at the ways that Janusz Korczak (Henryk Goldszmit) sought to make an impact as a

social activist, pedagogue, physician, and intellectual in interwar Poland. David Labastida is studying the attitudes toward Jews in the town of Weimar during the Nazi era. Isabella Pazaryna is investigating Eastern European Jewish immigration to London and the backlash it created in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. And Milosz Wiatrowski will conduct research for his dissertation on the antisemitic campaign of 1968 in Poland and the way that the Communist regime was viewed by both Jewish and non-Jewish Polish intellectuals.

I am happy to report that Adam Stern completed his first year as YPSA's inaugural postdoctoral associate, and that he will be returning for the 2018-19 school year. In addition to helping run all aspects of the program, and presenting his current research, Adam spent the year developing three course syllabi relating to the study of antisemitism that we will make publicly available on the YPSA website. This coming year, Adam will teach a course at Yale based on one of these syllabi. Adam's efforts will help us fulfill our mission to facilitate the study of antisemitism at Yale and beyond. This November, Adam will also be organizing a major international conference on Hannah Arendt and antisemitism. Please check the YPSA website for details relating to this exciting event, which is free and open to the public, as are all of our events.

We look forward to seeing you this year!



Maurice Samuels
Director, Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism



Brendan McGeever

Tuesday, September 5

Devorah Baum, Lecturer in English Literature and Critical Theory, University of Southampton

“Between Pride and Prejudice: A Frank Discussion About What It Means To Be ‘Jewish’ Today”

In Conversation with **Mark Oppenheimer**, Yale University and columnist for the *New York Times*

Co-sponsored by the Judaic Studies Program



Marc Silverman and Karolina Kolpak

Sunday and Monday, September 10–11

The Fifth Annual Conference of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism (ICRAR)

“Racism, Antisemitism, and the Radical Right”

Wednesday, November 1

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Hizky Shoham, Senior Lecturer at the Interdisciplinary Program for Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

“Why the Hebrew ‘Shoah’? A Lexical History and Two Zionist Narratives”



Hizky Shoham and Maurice Samuels

Monday, November 6

Marc Silverman, Senior Lecturer, Hebrew University

“Humanist, Pole and Jew – Janusz Korczak’s Road to the ‘Religion’ of the Child”

A Conversation with **Karolina Kolpak**, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences

Moderated by **Marci Shore**, Yale University

Wednesday, November 29

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Amelia Glaser, Associate Professor of Russian and Comparative Literature, University of California, San Diego

“Angry Winds: Jewish Leftists and the Challenge of Palestine, 1929”

Wednesday, January 24

The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker Lecture Series

Dorian Bell, Associate Professor of Literature and Jewish Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Viral Populism: Antisemitism and Islamophobia in the Era of Mass Migration”

Wednesday, February 14

**The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker
Lecture Series**

Daniel Steinmetz-Jenkins, Lecturer, Yale University
“Raymond Aron, Liberalism, and the Question of
Antisemitism”

Thursday, March 8

**The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker
Lecture Series**

Alex Rychin, writer, commentator, and lawyer
“The Anti-Israel Movement in Australia: Perspectives
on a Controversy”

Wednesday, April 4

Brian E. Crim, Associate Professor of History,
Lynchburg College
“From ‘unrepentant Nazis’ to ‘our Germans’: Walter Jessel,
Project Paperclip, and Transatlantic Antisemitism during
the Cold War”



Brian Crim

Thursday, April 12

**The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker
Lecture Series**

Jeffrey Herf, Distinguished University Professor,
University of Maryland
“Antagonism to the Jews, Zionism and Israel from Nazi
Germany to the German Democratic Republic and the
West German Far Left: Continuities and Breaks”

Tuesday, April 17

**The Benjamin (Yale 1962) and Barbara Zucker
Lecture Series**

Adam Stern, Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University
“Hannah Arendt and the Idea of Survival”



Adam Stern

2018 Recipients of Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Research Grants

Students

Allyson Gonzalez, *postdoctoral associate in Judaic Studies Program*
Professions of love are not a common antisemitic trope in modern Iberia. In the expansion of modern Spanish and Portuguese imperial power, however, declarations of love by the Sephardim came to be expected among Iberian functionaries. In petitioning for citizenship, Sephardim from across transatlantic and former Ottoman domains confronted the realization that love declarations – as one applicant put it, of a shared Iberian “blood ... language, and love” of country – had become a necessary part of naturalization discourse. Working within the confines of limited notions of Jewishness, Sephardic applicants explored the frontiers of consular constructions of love and national affiliation, even as they articulated differences that diverged from imperial Iberian philo-Sephardic fantasies. With this research project, “Petitions of Love: Antisemitism and Modern Sephardi Citizenship,” I will deepen my existing research on Sephardic citizenship in the early twentieth-century Mediterranean littoral.

Justin Jin, *undergraduate student in history*

This summer, I will be traveling around Europe, documenting and researching the historical memory of the Holocaust and how it’s changing across Europe. While retellings of such a hideous crime, and the undeniable involvement of quite a few “fathers of their nation” in such crimes, will inevitably be distorted by national histories, recent years have seen an upswing in histories that fundamentally distort entire history of the Holocaust. In Poland, legislation has made the phrase “Polish Death Camps” illegal, erasing the hard truth that some Poles did collaborate in the Final Solution. In Croatia, the culture minister has praised the fascist Ustase, who oversaw the killings at the regimes death camp at Jasenovac. And yet the European Union’s response has been muted, limited as much by lack of comprehensive information as by lack of political will. With a combination of ground level impressions and discussions with as high-level policy makers, historians, and commentators as I can reach, I hope to help make clear the nature and extent of the revisionist wave in Europe and create a framework to identify and understand the rising tide in the United States.

Rachel Kaufman, *undergraduate student in history*

I am interested in both the history of conversos and crypto-Jews in New Mexico during the American colonial period and the ways in which America has remembered and memorialized this history. I aim to explore the ways in which this process of remembering, as well as the history of crypto-Jews living in Spanish colonies in the aftermath of the Inquisition, are infiltrated by antisemitism. I have spent much of my time at Yale studying the intersections of literature, poetry, history, and memory studies. This research will be a continued exploration of the blurred lines between these fields, using literary sources as a means to uncovering and analyzing memory in America of Spanish conversos.

Karolina Kolpak, *graduate student in history*

The aim of my dissertation project, “Janusz Korczak: Between and Beyond Identities,” is to examine the network of institutions, organizations, people, and venues through which Janusz Korczak (Henryk Goldszmit) sought to make his impact as a social activist, pedagogue, physician, and intellectual in interwar Poland. It is also to analyze the limits and restrictions placed on his work by authorities and their increasingly antisemitic motivations, particularly in the 1930s. My goal is to look at the sites of Korczak’s activity – his orphanages, radio broadcasts, books for children, personal writings, his milieu and their common projects – and treat them as both spaces where Polish-Jewish relations were taking place and were negotiated, as well as where Korczak’s humanist worldview became the driving force in the attempt to transcend Polish-Jewish antagonisms, stereotypes, etc. Thus, as sites rooted in the socioeconomic and political conditions of interwar Poland, they can tell us a lot about the various complexities of Polish-Jewish relations as well as about how they were thought about and addressed in the world of Janusz Korczak, one which sought to push back against the seemingly irreconcilable nationalist solutions of the time.

Through the generous support of the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation, YPSA was able to award seven research grants to Yale students this year.

David Labastida, *graduate student in European & Russian Studies*

My project will examine the collective mentality of the society in the town of Weimar during the Nazi era. I am interested in analyzing how Weimar's population understood and reacted towards the persecution and annihilation of the Jews at a local level. This project intends to examine the extent to which the Nazi ideology penetrated the collective mentality of the town. Thus, I want to examine what elements of this Nazi ideology merged in Weimar's historical and cultural mentality, thereby giving birth to a local version of Nazi ideology. I will attempt to demonstrate that a radical sort of Nazified, Christian antisemitism created local fantasies and narratives that justified the persecution, expulsion, and extermination of German Jewry, thus prompting a sector of Weimar's society to contribute to the persecution. However, I will also try to demonstrate that social apathy towards the Jewish community also arose and commingled with a radical, antisemitic culture. In large part, this social indifference also facilitated the State and popular persecution against the Jews, thus normalizing the interaction between Weimar's society and the prisoners of the camp of Buchenwald. This project intends to examine how both social apathy and a Nazified version of Christian antisemitism flourished simultaneously in Weimar's popular culture, thus influencing the behavior and attitude of Weimar's society.

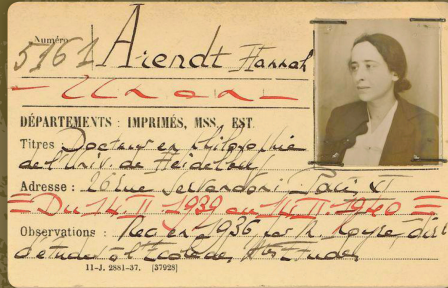
Isabella Pazaryna, *undergraduate student in history*

I plan on conducting archival research at the British National Archives and the London Metropolitan Archives concerning Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe that settled in London's East End. The political backlash against this immigration resulted in Great Britain's first law to suppress immigration, and the social and political status of these Jewish immigrants as nonassimilated aliens contributed to a greater political culture of anti-immigrant sentiment and antisemitism. I am hoping to embark on a senior thesis that will synthesize the lived experiences of the Jewish immigrants as well as the British political response to it, and situate it in the larger context of European antisemitism.

Milosz Wiatrowski, *graduate student in history*

As part of my doctoral research, I will be researching the impact that the antisemitic campaign of 1968 in Poland and the forced Jewish emigration that ensued had on how the communist regime and socialism more broadly were perceived by the Polish and Polish-Jewish left-wing intelligentsia. I wish to uncover ways in which the virulent nationalism and antisemitism mobilized by the communist party in 1968 led to disillusionment with the socialist idea in Poland in general, pushing the intellectuals in question away from Marxist revisionism and towards a new political philosophy of individual freedoms and human rights, which in turn laid the foundation for both the festival of Solidarity and, in due time, the embrace of market liberalization and neoliberalism at the expense of more socially conscious reforms in 1989. Such a turn towards market reform was further facilitated by the increasing exposure of the anti-communist activists in Poland to Western European debates on political economy, popularized by the Polish-Jewish intellectuals in exile via publications such as *Aneks*, edited by Aleksander Smolar. Through this, I hope to root the origins of the economic shock therapy of 1989/1990 firmly in the antisemitic campaign of 1968 and establish it as the central event in the intellectual history of the Polish People's Republic.

Arendt & Antisemitism



November 1-2, 2018
Whitney Humanities Center
Yale University

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Martin Jay
Sidney Hellman Ehrman Professor of History
at the University of California, Berkeley

KEYNOTE BOOK PANEL

with **Seyla Benhabib**
Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science
and Philosophy, Yale University

For more information and a full schedule, please visit
<https://ypsa.yale.edu/event/arendt-and-antisemitism>

Conference sponsored by the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism
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Dorothy Clarke Kempf Memorial Fund

SPEAKERS

Dorian Bell
University of California, Santa Cruz

Kathryn Sophia Belle
Pennsylvania State University

Roger Berkowitz
Bard College

Richard J. Bernstein
The New School for Social Research

Susannah Young-ah Gottlieb
Northwestern University

Ayten Gündoğdu
Barnard College

Hagar Kotef
SOAS, University of London

Robyn Marasco
Hunter College

Adi Ophir
Brown University

Na'ama Rokem
The University of Chicago

Adam Stern
Yale University

Liliane Weissberg
University of Pennsylvania



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