



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM  
HOLOCAUST AND AUSTRALIAN JEWISH HISTORY



## Call for Papers – Australian Association for Jewish Studies

The 29th AAJS Conference, 12-13 February 2017

### Narratives and Counter-Narratives: Jews, Nation and Nationhood

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL 12 SEPTEMBER

2017 is the anniversary of several landmark events in Jewish history. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, the partition plan of 1947 and the Six Day War of 1967 comprise only a few modern examples of events whose legacies demand a re-examination of the concepts and practice of nation and peoplehood in the *longue durée* of Jewish history. An examination of the narratives and counter narratives in which these concepts are couched provide a compelling framework to examine their importance for understanding the Jewish past and also to delineate and assess their ongoing resonance in and for the present.

Debates as to what constitutes the 'People Israel' stretch back to antiquity, with biblical notions of who the Israelites were and what their communal obligations entailed fundamental to their identity and self-understanding. Yet, the Talmudic ideal of *Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh* (all Israel is responsible for each other) has often been sorely tested by the travails of Jewish history. In times of persecution, the framework of peoplehood has been pushed to its limits, and dissention among Jewry has left indelible marks. Collaboration and betrayal, both real and perceived, have pushed the limits of group identity and cohesion. Yet despite these

conflicts, peoplehood has prevailed as a lasting and distinctive component of both ancient and modern Jewish identities.

The theme of AAJS Sydney, ***Narratives and Counter-Narratives: Jews, Nation and Nationhood*** invites exploration of notions of the nation, peoplehood, intra-communal conflict and *Klal Yisrael* from all perspectives, including but not limited to the topics of nationhood and identity, society, literature, art, philosophy, language, religious, ancient and modern connections to the Land and State of Israel, the concept and practice of *Klal Yisrael* and the experience of peoplehood *in extremis*, particularly with regard to the period of the Holocaust.

***Narratives and Counter-Narratives: Jews, Nation and Nationhood*** convenes 12-13 February 2017 at the Sydney Jewish Museum, 148 Darlinghurst Road, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. The University of Sydney's Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies will host the conference in partnership with the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Please submit your paper proposal by the new extended deadline (original deadline was 22 August) of **Monday 12 September 2016** to the convenor: Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod: [michael.abrahams-sprod@sydney.edu.au](mailto:michael.abrahams-sprod@sydney.edu.au).



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Notice of acceptance will be sent out **by 30 September 2016**.

**Submissions must include the following:**

- Postal and email address
- Abstract of the paper to be presented (no more than 250 words)
- Short biographical note (no more than 50 words).

AAJS encourages students engaged in academic research to submit proposals based on their work to the conference committee.

Authors should clearly indicate their student status on their submission. Presenters are also invited to submit written articles for consideration for publication in the Australian Journal for Jewish Studies. Communication about the conference should be sent electronically to Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod and Dr Avril Alba via Email:

[michael.abrahams-sprod@sydney.edu.au](mailto:michael.abrahams-sprod@sydney.edu.au) and  
[avril.alba@sydney.edu.au](mailto:avril.alba@sydney.edu.au).

**Conference Committee:**

Dr Michael Abrahams-Sprod, AAJS President,  
Conference co-convener

Dr Avril Alba, Conference co-convener

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland OAM

Dr Jan Lanicek

As this Conference addresses a small community of scholars, it is imperative that we all support the Association. Thus, it is a requirement that all presenters at this conference must have paid the conference registration fee, which includes the AAJS membership for 2016, by Friday 16 December 2016. Visit [www.aajs.org.au](http://www.aajs.org.au) for details.