



MEDIA RELEASE

Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS)

30th Annual Conference - *By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews*

11 – 12 February 2018

Perth, Western Australia

The Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS) will be holding its 30th annual conference at Curtin University on Sunday 11th – Monday 12th February in Perth. The 2018 conference is themed ***By the Rivers of Babylon: Memory, Emotion and Jews***, and will present diverse Jewish topics currently being explored in academia and beyond: religious and secular, historical and contemporary, Australian and International. AAJS conferences are well-known for their inclusive programs and research across all fields, and its nurturing of emerging scholars, and key international scholars including Israel, the US, the Netherlands and China.

This is the first time the AAJS conference has ventured so far westward, and we are very excited to meet members of the Perth Jewish and wider communities. As Western Australia was historically the frequent first port for incoming migrants, its geographical marker in Australian Jewish history is recorded often in documents, as well as in the memories of migrants. We are looking forward to be hosted by Australia's third largest, thriving Jewish community in Perth.

The 2018 AAJS conference will be co-hosted by Professor Seth Kunin (Curtin University) and Aviva Freilich (Honorary Fellow, UWA Law School). We are pleased to announce that the keynote speakers are Rev. Hon. Dr. Lynn Arnold, AO (Former Premier of South Australia): *Jewish influences in the development of Spanish and Western European Christian mysticism*, Professor Alexandra Ludewig (University of Western Australia): *In Memoriam: Steinberg's Historic Ord River Expedition in Contemporary Emotions*, and Professor Jaky Troy (University of Sydney): *Refugees in our own Countries: comparing the land rights experiences of Jewish and Aboriginal peoples*. A community panel on the topic of Australian Jewry will be held on Sunday afternoon, and we invite and encourage local audience participation.

The conference dinner will be held at the conference venue, St Catherine's on Park, on Sunday night, 11 February, presenting a great opportunity for the local community to meet with keynote speakers, the AAJS committee, as well as academics and researchers from across Australia and overseas.

The AAJS Committee extends a warm invitation to the Perth community to join us at the 2018 conference. The program and registration details are at www.aajs.org.au including fees for attending one or both days, single sessions and the conference dinner. We look forward to meeting you.

For further information or interviews, please contact: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann, AAJS President

Phone: 0423 901 808 or email: ghilad.zuckermann@adelaide.edu.au

AAJS website: www.aajs.org.au

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/668885276569727/>