

Introduction

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The XXXII volume of the Australian Journal of Jewish Studies opens a new chapter in the history of this established international outlet. 2019 has been a transitional year for the journal. Dr Jennifer Creese and Dr Jan Láníček took over as the new editors, and the board of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies also made the crucial decision to move the journal online. It will now be available for free on the webpage of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. The decision reflected the current trend in academia and our effort to make the research prepared by Australian and international scholars widely accessible to the global audience. It is also our minor contribution to the effort to limit the impact of the academic work on climate change and the sustainability of the environment. We hope that our readership will still find this new “paperless” issue as user-friendly as the previous hardcopies of the journal. The forthcoming steps of the new editors include the initiative to update the journal editorial board and to make past issues of the journal available online.

We, the new editors of the journal, will continue the close cooperation between the journal and the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, which houses Jewish studies academics in Australia, but also many international scholars who take part in academic events organized by the Association. The annual conference of the Association often offers the first opportunity for scholars to present their research findings, which they later develop into a scholarly article for the journal. The editors consider any submission that is related to the broad field of Jewish Studies, not only in Australia but worldwide. Each article is subject to a rigorous peer-review process, which ensures the high quality of the published articles, and allows authors to sharpen their main arguments and improve the quality of their contributions. We have also decided to introduce alternative types of scholarly exchanges to the journal format, including roundtable discussions about recent books, historical events or current issues in Jewish Studies. The opening roundtable in the current volume deals with issues pertaining to Holocaust representation in literary fiction, focusing on the recent bestseller novel *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* authored by Heather Morris. We have also decided to keep the traditional sections of academic journals, such as book reviews or short reports. The key part is however still represented by scholarly articles on topics spanning from biblical studies to the 20th Century Australian-Jewish history and artistic representation of the Holocaust.

We hope that the readers will find the new format of the journals and the other new features intriguing. We are open to other suggestions about alternative formats of scholarly papers or exchanges, which would reflect the dynamic changes in the modern world of academia and the effort to engage also the general public in academic discussions and in this way to spread the impact of our work. We look forward to receiving submissions for the following volume.