

AAJS

Australian Association for Jewish Studies

BIANNUAL
NEWSLETTER

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Editor's
welcome

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2025 issue of the AAJS biannual newsletter!

This issue comes in the wake of a successful annual conference at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, convened by AAJS President (Victoria) Dr Anna Hirsh, AAJS Vice President (Victoria) Dr Simon Holloway, and Dr Donna-Lee Frieze. Both the convenors' report and AAJS co-Presidents'

annual report can be read in the pages that follow. Also included are publication updates from AAJS members and information about interesting Jewish Studies-related lectures in Melbourne and Sydney.

The editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, Dr Suzanne Faigan, invites submissions to the journal's 38th volume (2025), and shares her editorial from the recently published 37th volume, co-authored with outgoing co-editor Dr Joshua Nash. As usual, this issue lists several exciting opportunities in Jewish studies and related fields, calls for submissions to seminars and publications, as well as fellowship and other grant opportunities. We highlight several fascinating books in diverse areas of Jewish studies published in 2024 and the first half of 2025. As always, we invite our readers to get in touch and send us announcements of your publications and events related to the field.

Meet your AAJS board

AAJS board members are listed below with contact details: we encourage you to get in touch with any of them for answers to all your Association questions.

All general inquiries/correspondence to: the Co-Presidents: president@aajs.org.au

All membership inquiries/correspondence to: the Membership Secretary: memberships@aajs.org.au

Journal enquiries to: the Editor: ajjewishstudies@aajs.org.au

Website enquiries to: the Website Administrator: website@aajs.org.au

President, NSW : Associate Professor Jan Láníček (University of New South Wales)

President, VIC: Dr Anna Hirsh

Vice President, NSW: Dr Lynne Swarts (Sydney University)

Vice President, VIC: Dr Simon Holloway (Melbourne Holocaust Museum)

Treasurer: Ms Kathy Baykitch

Membership Secretary: Mr Nathan Compton

Secretary: Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney)

Editor, *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*: Dr Suzanne Faigan

Newsletter Editor: Dr Jonathan Kaplan (Sydney Jewish Museum and University of Technology Sydney)

Website Coordinator: Dr Suzanne Faigan

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Israel: Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

New Zealand: Dr Suzanne Faigan

USA: Dr Jason Schulman

Canada: Associate Professor David Koffman

2024–2025 AAJS Co- Presidents’ annual report

Welcome AAJS Members,

This has been another challenging year for our scholarly community in Jewish Studies. That is why we would like to thank all of you for your continuing contribution to the work of our Association and to its public activities. We understand it is hard to find time in your professional and private lives to make voluntary contributions to our scholarly work.

After the past SGM, which finetuned the constitution, we can proceed to hold the AGM and any SGMs outside of the annual conference; this allows for more discussion and online attendance, contributions and voting rights.

Activities over the past year include the aforementioned changes and finetuning to the constitution where we have, with the wonderful efforts of Emerita Professor Suzanne Rutland working with ABL lawyers pro-bono, formally achieved status as a not-for-profit organisation. We should use this opportunity to explore ways to raise funds for our work, especially our conferences.

Core activities that we will review are the annual conference, the newsletters, and the Journal.

Firstly, this year the Annual Conference was held in Melbourne, being the key event connected to the organisation. It was hosted by Melbourne Holocaust Museum. We offer our thanks to our Melbourne conference committee: Dr Anna Hirsh, Dr Simon Holloway and Dr Donna-Lee Frieze for efforts with the planning and programming, and ensuring that all attendees were looked after. Special thanks to Kathy Baykitch for her support on the day, and for

Nathan Compton’s support with Humanitix and membership communications. We thank members of MHM staff, including senior management, security and IT personnel, who contributed their support to the conference venue, preparation, logistics and delivery, and on-site support.

Professor Kathy Temin, from Monash University’s School of Art and Design, was the keynote, and attendees travelled from far and wide, all the way from Europe, Israel and North America, in addition to the mostly Sydney-Melbourne duality of attendees. A successful event, although smaller than previous years.

Anna and I would like to express our utmost thanks to Dr Jonathan Kaplan for the work he invests in the newsletters, and we hope that these can continue to reflect the organisation’s aims to promote Jewish studies in Australia.

The *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* continues to be diligently and carefully edited by Dr Suzanne Faigan; Dr Joshua Nash has confirmed that he will be stepping away from this role. We also really appreciate the continuing guidance offered by Dr Jennifer Creese, even though she moved to Britain several years ago, and is no longer able to fully contribute to the work of our association. Suzanne will speak about the future of the journal in this meeting. We will also need to decide about a new co-editor who would help Suzanne from 2025 onwards.

Anna and I would also like to thank all members of the Executive, Dr Lynne Swarts, Dr Simon Holloway, and Dr Jonathan Kaplan, as well as committee members, Professor Avril Alba, Jasmine Beinart, Angelica Jacob, Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland OAM, Dr Myer Samra, and Professor Ghil’ad Zuckermann. Finally, our successful work would not be possible without the continuing help from Nathan Compton, our membership secretary, and Kathy Baykitch who stepped into Miri Mill’s role as Treasurer.

Associate Professor Jan Láníček and Dr
Anna Hirsh
AAJS Co-Presidents

AAJS Conference Report – 2025 Melbourne

In February, the AAJS hosted the 2025 conference at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum (MHM). Professor Kathy Temin, a prominent artist and educator, was the keynote, and presented on Jewish and Holocaust-related influences on her artistic practice, revealing many of the influences on her aesthetic output and artistic oeuvre. The program included twenty-two academics presenting their research, as well as two round-tables: one on Australia and the Holocaust, and another on the complexities of Holocaust education.

As always, the AAJS conference was a great opportunity for professional networking, with connections made and revived, and lively conversations.

The theme of the conference was ‘Sanctuary’, and this was explored through a range of different disciplines and fascinating topics. Some scholars looked at Australia as a provider of sanctuary, sometimes problematised through the Australian government’s historical denial of sanctuary to Jews in professions (as explored by Dr George Weisz and A/Professor Gabrielle Wolf), extending sanctuary to former war criminals (discussed by Emerita Professor Suzanne Rutland), and the resentment of individual Australians (expressed for the most part through vandalism) to the arrival of Jews. Australia’s ambivalent role as a provider of sanctuary was especially powerful in light of recent events in Sydney and Melbourne; Dr Anne Sarzin made explicit and visual reference to this fact. Dovi Seldowitz’s paper on the 1959-1960 swastika epidemic resonated with recent graffiti in Sydney in particular.

Academics examined historical sanctuaries, including the 16th century Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, or in Poland in the interwar period. We were most fortunate to host two Polish academics: Professor Anna Michałowska-Mycielska from the University of Warsaw, and Professor Mariusz Kałczewiak from the University of Potsdam, to present their fascinating research on these topics.

Other international researchers this year included Lena Christoph, former intern with Dr Anna Hirsh at the MHM as part of her studies at the ACJC, who joined us from the University of Vienna and spoke about the Philippines as a place of refuge after the war, while Emeritus Professor Nachum Dershowitz of Tel Aviv University spoke about the use of AI software in analysing mediaeval Hebrew manuscripts and building recognition tools relating to authors and origins. Dr Jason Schulman, from the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, spoke about ‘moments of schism’ in North American synagogues, highlighting the degree to which intra-communal conflict has even penetrated religious spaces. Jason is currently serving as a visiting researcher at the Sydney Jewish Museum as part of a Fulbright Scholarship.

Sanctuary in the Jewish tradition can be viewed through biblical and religious lenses; both topics addressed on the second day. Marcia Pinskier shared her research into child sexual abuse in Australia, a challenging moment of reflection on the responsibilities and abuse of power of care-givers in religious spaces.

Dr Simon Holloway took personal satisfaction from the opportunity to host attendees through the MHM special exhibition space at the end of the conference, the secret archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, with original artefacts from the JHI, as well as from Melbourne families. The 2025 Conference Committee thanks the Melbourne Holocaust Museum for providing the venue and facilities; we thank the security personnel, and the members of the AAJS who assisted with the organisation and running of the conference.

Dr Anna Hirsh – AAJS Co-President (Victoria)

*Dr Simon Holloway – AAJS Vice President
(Victoria)*

Dr Donna-Lee Frieze (Deakin University)

Recent publications by AAJS members

The recently published 2024 volume of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* includes articles by two of our long-term, active members:

- Suzanne D. Rutland, Ben M. Ezzes & Michael J. Sassoon, “‘Yalla!’ Is Now the Time for Australia’s Sephardi/Mizrahi Journey?”
- Anne Sarzin, ‘My Grandfather, Reverend Abraham Levy, and the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation’.

Both articles can be read via the [Australian Journal of Jewish Studies website](#).

Earlier this year, *The Conversation* published two articles by AAJS members:

- Jan Láníček and Avril Alba, [‘80 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, amid rising antisemitism, the memory of the Holocaust remains contentious’](#)
- Jan Láníček and Ruth Balint, [‘A new definition of antisemitism from Universities Australia is attracting criticism – two historians explain why’](#)

In conjunction with the release of the paperback edition of his monograph, *Jews in Suits: Men’s Dress in Vienna, 1890–1938* in December 2024, Jonathan C. Kaplan-Wajselbaum penned an essay, [‘A Jew in the Street and a Man in Your Tent?: Rabbinical Dress in Vienna at the Fin de Siècle’](#), for the Jewish Book Council.

Lectures of interest in Sydney & Melbourne

- **Professor Emeritus Colin Schindler at the University of Sydney, 15 May 2025: ‘Marxist Zionists in Mandatory Palestine’**

The October Revolution in Russia in 1917 inspired and influenced the leadership of the Zionist movement – many of whom were Marxists. Ben-Gurion gave a eulogy for Lenin when he died at the beginning of 1924 while the poet, Uri Zvi Greenberg penned a poem about the Bolshevik leader. Ben-Gurion admired Lenin rather than Trotsky – as a figure who dealt in realpolitik.

Yet as Stalinism with its incipient antisemitism and its Arabisation of the Palestine Communist Party took hold, Ben-Gurion began to criticise the Soviet leadership in the late 1920s. His partner in Ahdut Ha’avoda and the leading ideological figure in Hakibbutz HaMeuhad, Yitzhak Tabenkin, however remained silent on issues such as the Moscow Show Trials and the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact – and often interchanged socialism and communism in his speeches. Tabenkin’s loyalty to the Kremlin and Ben-Gurion’s opposition to it was one of the factors which led to the secession of the Zionist Left in 1944 from the dominant Mapai party. Joining with two other left wing parties, the pro-Soviet Mapam was established at the beginning of 1948 and was the second largest party in the election of 1949. Stalin’s last years with the Prague Trial of mainly Jewish Communists in 1952 and the Doctors’ Plot of mainly Jewish doctors the following year forced the Zionist Left to confront its belief that it was part and parcel of the advance of international Communism in Israel.

More information via this [link](#)

- **An Evening with Philippe Sands KC : 38 Londres Street at the Melbourne Holocaust Museum, 26 May 2025**

Join us for *An Evening with Philippe Sands KC: 38 Londres Street: On Impunity, Pinochet in England, and a Nazi in Patagonia*, a powerful exploration of justice, memory, and identity. Internationally acclaimed author and human rights lawyer Philippe Sands KC shares riveting insights from his latest work. In this distinctive mix of memoir, courtroom drama, and travel narrative, Philippe Sands offers an insider’s view of the Pinochet trial—where he served as a barrister representing Human Rights Watch—and unravels the surprising link between the Chilean dictator and a prominent Nazi who found himself running a king crab cannery in Patagonia. This one-night-only event promises a thought-provoking conversation and unique storytelling experience. Don’t miss the chance to engage with one of the world’s leading legal minds.

Booking via this [link](#).

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies Volume XXXVIII, 2025, call for submissions

The *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* is an international, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, Open Access journal published annually by the Australian Association for Jewish Studies. The Journal is devoted to the study of Jewish culture in all aspects and all periods – please see [the AJJS webpage](#) for full scope.

The Journal's editorial team is currently welcoming submission of manuscripts for consideration for the 2025 volume (XXXVIII) of the Journal. This is an open-themed call: the Editors welcome submission of articles based on original research up to 8,500 words, as well as book reviews of 1,500 to 3,000 words, of relevance to the scope of the Journal.

Submission is open to any author worldwide. The publication language of the Journal is English.

All research articles in the Journal undergo rigorous double-blind peer review. The Journal is indexed by EBSCO, and all papers since 2019 have been made fully available Open Access on the Journal's webpage. For the 2025 volume, there is no article processing charge (APC) for publication in the Journal.

Proposals and submissions may be sent at any time, though, to be considered for the 2025 volume, **article submissions should be made by 17.00 UTC Thursday 26 June 2025**. Book reviews should be submitted by the end of September. Please refer to the [Guide for Authors](#) for guidelines on manuscript preparation and details on how to submit.

Queries should be directed to the Editors: ajjewishstudies@aajs.org.au

‘Editorial: Jewish Studies as device’

Joshua Nash and Suzanne Faigan

This editorial was first published in *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, Vol. XXXVII, 2024

There has possibly never been a time to be alive which has not been strange. Indeed, there has likely never been any occasion in the Jewish world which has not been one of movement and change, perceived either as positive or negative. This year, 2024, is no exception. While the events initiated in October 2023 in the Middle East continue with no end in sight, thinking and writing in all geographical and intellectual locations endure. It is these everythings and everywhere we wish to consider in *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* in the 2024 volume.

We posited Jewish Studies in our 2023 editorial as *balm*, something which could soothe given congenial circumstances. Extending this analogy, we offer Jewish Studies as *device*, a method and tool through which to explore the plurality of ideas, places, and ways of developing the field. We are based in Australasia; we welcome work which is about Jewish matters in Oceania and beyond. Our outlook is here and not-here. We offer Jewish Studies as heuristic device to explore the human condition both intellectually and practically.

How can a conglomerate of articles, apparently disparate and unrelated except that they fall under the rubric of Jewish Studies, be device and amalgamating instead of being divisive and alienating? Because they probe into this Jewish and non-Jewish, Australian and abroad, local and far. While encouraging Australian takes, *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* is perpetually all-inclusive, plural in its invitation, trans-, multi-, and interdisciplinary in its inviting. The further and wider we cast our net as editors, writers, and collaborators, the more likely we are to land those articles, thoughts, and perspectives which help us see academic pursuits as more than mere theory.

And this easing beyond plain conjecture should enable a reworked balming and devising of not only this journal specifically and Jewish Studies generally, but also query how scholarly endeavours can engage outside of the mind and heart and beyond the academy into the world to lead to possible change. Intellectual strivings should sharpen the mind and its discretionary power to help us make right decisions based on the available data and options. We hope the words and topics in this volume go some way to identifying blind spots in our judgments and the dangers associated with othering those we perceive as different (to us).

We are delighted to present this collection of new articles and book reviews in Jewish Studies. The opening article, ‘Yalla! Is Now the Time for Australia’s Sephardi/Mizraḥi Journey?’ by Suzanne D. Rutland, Benjamin M. Ezzes, and Michael J. Sassoon, presents new qualitative research undertaken in Sydney’s Sephardi/Mizraḥi community. The new data, obtained using social science methods, are set against the history of the Sephardi/Mizraḥi community in Australia and enable the authors to look ahead to a future of ever greater representation for this ‘minority within a minority’.

Anne Sarzin takes us back to the Australia and South Africa of 100 years past in her article, ‘My Grandfather, Reverend Abraham Levy, and the Brisbane Hebrew Congregation’. The contemporary sources—what a good idea to publish the latest rabbinical sermons in the community newspaper—provide a picture of a young, brilliant, dynamic rabbi whose concern for the wellbeing of his congregants and the wider community only deepened as his career continued, though his time in Australia would prove to be much briefer than all had hoped.

In ‘The Miracle of Speech and Jewish Identity in Russian-Israeli Literature’, Aleksei Surin looks at themes in

the prose of authors based in Israel and writing in Russian. Works by Julius Margolin, Yulia Shmukler, Efrem Baukh, and Linor Goralik feature characters who miraculously gain the ability to speak. In the first three cases, the characters' verbal acknowledgement of their Jewish identity is redemptive. By contrast, in the work by Goralik, which is much more recent, even the miracle of speech cannot ease the characters' suffering in a post-apocalyptic, dystopian Israel. This evolution of the 'miracle of speech' motif reflects a transformation over time in the priorities of Russian-Israeli literature.

In the Book Reviews section, Steven Frankel reviews *Jewish Virtue Ethics*, edited by Geoffrey D. Claussen, Alexander Green, and Alan L. Mittleman, a collection of essays presenting a diversity of perspectives on questions of character and virtue in Jewish literature ranging from the Bible to modern works founded in social justice. Amy-Jill Levine reviews Isaac Kalimi's *The Book of Esther between Judaism and Christianity: The Biblical Story, Self-Identification, and Antisemitic Interpretation*, which explores the origins of the Book of Esther and its interpretation and reception in both Christian and Jewish traditions, including the relevance of its themes in the present day. Joshua Nash considers *Zev's Los Angeles: from Boyle Heights to the Halls of Power. A Political Memoir*, by Zev Yaroslavsky with Josh Getlin. Zev Yaroslavsky is the son of Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine who in his long career as a public official—he is now an academic in Public Policy and History at UCLA—made a lasting impact on the city of Los Angeles. Intended to be 'a history as much as a memoir', the book links the personal story to the larger narrative of post-war LA. Andre Oboler reviews *Phishing for Nazis: Conspiracies, Anonymous Communications and White Supremacy Networks on the Dark Web* by Lev Topor. Taking into account the history of white supremacy, this book uses the unique approach of 'undercover cyberethnography' to shed light on areas of the internet where hatred and conspiracies are able to thrive and spread, and presents conclusions about the significance of these phenomena and how governments must deal with them.

This volume includes an *In memoriam* section, to honour two people who passed away in the past year, both of whom made an enduring contribution to Jewish Studies in Australia. Rabbi Dr. Raymond Apple AO was the senior rabbi of Sydney's Great Synagogue for many years, and served in many other important public roles such as chaplain to the Australian armed forces. Among his lifelong work in the sphere of education, he was involved in the founding and ongoing management of Mandelbaum House, which in addition to providing kosher accommodation for students and visitors to the University of Sydney, acts as a venue for academic events in Jewish Studies and hosts visiting scholars who participate in the University's Department of Hebrew, Jewish, and Biblical Studies. He was a towering presence and a true role model.

Among his many contributions to academia, Emeritus Professor William D. Rubinstein OAM was the author of many books and articles in the field of history, including Jewish history, and was one of the founders of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies, serving as president in the Association's early years and continuing as a committee member until only two years ago. He regularly contributed articles to *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, and was a member of the Journal's editorial board. With his wide knowledge and academic rigour, he was known for his ability to set the record straight on contentious issues. It was a great honour to have received a positive message from Bill after the publication of the 2023 Journal.

This is the second volume under the editorship of the Nash/Faigan team, supported by our editor-in-chief, Dr. Jennifer Creese. We thank all contributors to this volume for their submissions, and all peer reviewers for their comments on the original article drafts. We encourage all Jewish Studies scholars in Australia and abroad to consider making a submission for the 2025 volume, either as a standard research paper, review paper, response to a published article, a roundtable, or book review on any topic of relevance to the broad remit of this journal. Please see <http://www.aajs.org.au/journal/> for submission details, and address any enquiries to ajjewishstudies@aajs.org.au.

Vacancies in Jewish studies and related fields

Director of Public Programs, Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania

The position of the Klatt Family Director for Public Programs at Penn's Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies has the job of creating innovative programming and content that communicates the work of the high level of scholarship associated with a center for advanced studies, with a range of publics local and global.

The Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania is driven by the mission to deepen and broaden the understanding of Jewish history, texts, cultures, ideas, and experiences. The research it supports spans all periods of Jewish history, from distant antiquity through to the present day; it reaches into every part of the globe where Jews have lived, and it is grounded in a wide range of disciplines and approaches. Over the decades, after supporting hundreds of scholars and untold numbers of discoveries and publications, it has earned a reputation as the nation's preeminent research center in the study of Jewish history and culture. It did not secure this status overnight. The Katz Center is heir to an intellectual legacy that is more than 110 years old, developing out of an earlier institution known as the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, founded in 1907 as the first secular institution to grant PhDs in Jewish studies. From Dropsie, the Katz Center has inherited some of the features that define its success such as the core of its Judaica library and the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, but in the quarter-century since it merged into the University of Pennsylvania, it has come to reflect Penn's strengths and has advanced its mission in keyways. Especially relevant is Penn's commitment to "integrated knowledge," its investment in bringing different disciplines and approaches together in ways that lead scholarship in new directions. The Katz Center is organized around this idea of integrated knowledge, using its fellowship program and other activities to

bring scholars from different fields and disciplines together to pursue research in a collaborative setting.

As a scholarly institution striving for inclusivity, the Katz Center is committed to creating an intellectual space welcoming to all scholars regardless of nationality, religious orientation, racial or ethnic identity, gender identity and expression, professional rank, or institutional affiliation.

Job Responsibilities

- Work with and under the supervision of the Center director to conceive all public programming, and work with Center staff to organize and execute said programs.
- Coordinate and lead the team responsible for the advertising and execution for all events under their jurisdiction, keep track of expenses and how to a budget.
- Work with staff and outside partners to execute collaborative programs that involve working with other academic units or institutions beyond the university
- Work with communications coordinator and other staff to contribute to public-facing communication—blogging, newsletter, occasional press releases, etc.
- Participate in the intellectual life of the center and fellowship by attending seminars and other activities.
- Keep abreast of university and community events and units of relevance to the center's public mission.

Qualifications

At a minimum, a Bachelor of Arts degree and 2- 3 years of relevant work experience are required, but a PhD or another advanced degree in Jewish Studies or related field is strongly preferred, as is a substantial track record in public programming.

The ideal candidate will hold a deep commitment to the academic study of Jewish civilization and an ability to articulate the fruits of scholarship to the community at large. We seek an innovator able to build on the Katz Center's strong track

record of online and in person programming and minicourses, and who is willing and able to conceive, develop, and implement new forms and formats of public academic programming in new media.

This person must possess outstanding interpersonal abilities, excellent written and spoken skills, and an ability to engage with scholars from a range of disciplines as well as heads of our institutional partners and help to translate their work for lay audiences. They should be able to work cooperatively with senior and junior staff. The role requires a sense of effective pedagogy, strong attention to detail and follow through, an ability to coordinate and oversee the efforts of relevant staff, and to follow through with the various stages of planning and executing a successful public program.

For additional information and to apply, visit <https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/resources/blog/katz-center-hiring>

Emil & Eva Hecht Visiting Professor of Holocaust and Antisemitism Studies, Center for Judaic Studies, University of Denver

The Center for Judaic Studies seeks a scholar-teacher and dynamic program-builder with a demonstrated record of academic and/or professional success. We invite applications for a three-year appointment as the Emil & Eva Hecht Visiting Professor of Holocaust and Antisemitism Studies. Qualified candidates with knowledge and experience in the study of historic, modern, and contemporary antisemitism in its many socio-cultural, political, or religious contexts are encouraged to apply. The individual hired to fill this position will teach two Judaic Studies courses focused on Holocaust and antisemitism studies over three academic quarters (September to June) each year of appointment. This position will direct the Center's Holocaust Awareness Institute (HAI) and expand its flagship Survival and Witness online platform. The Hecht Visiting Professor will work with Center faculty and staff, as well as University Advancement, to fundraise

towards an endowed professorship in Holocaust and Antisemitism Studies.

Visiting Professors are considered full-time faculty who teach and mentor students, attend relevant campus and public programs, and participate in the intellectual and social life of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at the University of Denver. The projected start date for this position is Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 subject to negotiation.

Essential Functions

- Teach two in-person courses over three academic quarters each year of appointment
- Initiate and implement HAI programming aimed at memorialization and education, including the expansion of the Survival and Witness platform
- Collaborate with regional, national, and international Holocaust and antisemitism initiatives and institutions
- Strategically develop and systematically advance ongoing CJS fundraising efforts to endow a professorship in Holocaust and Antisemitism Studies

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Experience teaching college-level courses
- Ability to teach two in-person undergraduate courses in the following specialties:
 - o Holocaust Studies
 - o Antisemitism Studies
- Willingness to mentor students and participate in the scholarly life of the College
- Demonstrated experience serving in a public-facing role within an academic and/or professional institution
- Collaborate with a faculty and staff
- Commitment to outreach and to working with various student and community populations

For preferred consideration, please submit your application by **4:00pm (MST) August 1, 2025**. The application will fully close at **4:00pm (MST) October 1, 2025**. For additional information and to apply, visit <https://jobs.du.edu/en-us/job/497862/emil-eva-hecht-visiting-professor-of-holocaust-and-antisemitism-studies>

Upcoming calls for papers and submissions

CfA – The Bohemian National Hall Annual Lecture on the History and Culture of Jews in the Czech and Slovak Lands, deadline for applications: 31 May 2025

The Jewish Museum in Prague – in co-operation with the [Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews](#) and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in New York – invites applicants to submit their topic proposals for the Bohemian National Hall Annual Lecture on the History and Culture of Jews in the Czech and Slovak Lands. This call is open to scholars from different disciplines working on a variety of topics centred around Jewish history and culture in the Czech lands, Slovakia and in the other regions of the former Habsburg Monarchy from the Middle Ages to the present.

The lecture will be given in English and will be connected with a stay in New York between November 17–23, 2025. Depending on the lecturer's area of expertise, the organizers may also arrange additional presentations at one of New York's universities.

Please send your application with CV, including a list of your publications or research activities, and a 500-600 word summary of the proposed lecture in English (attached in two separate files) by email to annuallecture.ny@jewishmuseum.cz. The deadline for applications is **May 31, 2025**. The winning proposal will be selected by the Board of Directors of the Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews in collaboration with the Jewish Museum in Prague. The result will be announced by August 15, 2025.

CfA – Oxford Biblical Hebrew Summer School 2025

We are happy to announce that the Oxford Biblical Hebrew Summer School will take place online from August 26 – September 5, 2025. This year the school is being offered online (via Zoom). The school offers nine days of intensive teaching

in Biblical Hebrew. Each weekday, there will be 3 hours of teaching, delivered in two separate 90-minute sessions, from 11.30-13.00 and 14.00-15.30 UK time.

The course corresponds to two full terms of intensive teaching for a full-time university student. It is open to students with or without experience of the language. For the former, it offers a chance to review and consolidate what they have previously learnt. For the latter, it will provide a strong foundation from which to begin formalized study of Biblical Hebrew.

The cost of the school is £290 per student for 27 hours of language instruction, including all video recordings of the lectures. This does not include any textbooks/workbooks, which the student will be expected to acquire for him/herself.

Closing date for applications: Friday 11 July 2025 (places are limited)

Further information and instructions to apply can be accessed via <https://www.ochjs.ac.uk/oxford-biblical-hebrew-summer-school-2025/>

CfP – Musings: SJM Journal Volume 4

Musings: Sydney Jewish Museum Journal is a cross-disciplinary scholarly and educational publication that promotes research into all aspects of Holocaust and genocide history, Holocaust education and representation as well as Australian and broader Jewish History and culture. It publishes articles on these subjects both to increase knowledge of these topics and to improve and share expertise in educating about these difficult pasts.

Musings welcomes empirical and more theoretical pieces on these and related topics. While the publication aims to profile Australian-focussed research, it remains open to a broad array of contributions on relevant themes. Cross-disciplinary in its approach, *Musings* is open to all relevant scholarly methods and disciplines. All submitted articles undergo rigorous peer review, based on initial editor screening and anonymized refereeing by at least two external scholars.

The editors invite abstract submissions of up to 250 words by 31 May 2025. Authors will be informed of the outcome of their submission in June 2025, with full articles (5,000–10,000 words) due by 30 September 2025.

Please review author guidelines via <https://sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au/musings-sjm-journal-form/>

For enquiries please contact the editors at research@sjm.com.au

Grants and other opportunities

Postdoctoral Research Associate (Arabic and Hebrew Sources), Department of History, King's College, UK

The Department of History at King's College London invites applications for one 2-year (24 month) Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) to work on the project 'ECOMEDS: Economic and cultural connections within Mediterranean ecosystems, c.1250-c.1550' (a UKRI Frontier Research Grant, previously ERC).

The primary objective of PDRA (Arabic and Hebrew Sources) is to collect information regarding the production, consumption and trade of four target commodities (coral, honey, citrus and cheese), especially with regard to Muslim and Jewish communities, through research as part of a team that includes the Principal Investigator and two other Research Associates working on archival sources in Italy and the Crown of Aragon.

The ability to work with primary sources and related secondary literature in at least one the target languages is essential, although both languages is preferred. Ability to work with related materials in other languages is an advantage. The PDRA will expand their research skills through working with multiple sources across the study region and its zones of contact as feasible. They should have knowledge of the

relevant history and historiography of the Mediterranean region, and the ability to connect this to the wider research questions of the project. An understanding of, and ability to use Islamic and/or Jewish legal texts and to be able to relate these to economic and social history would be an advantage, as is an interest in economic and environmental history.

In addition, the post-holder will be expected to attend project meetings, seminars and conferences related to the project, give conference papers, and publish research papers. They will also undertake any other reasonable duties associated with the project as required by the PI, or within the Department as required by the Head of Department.

Abstract of project:

The medieval Mediterranean was home to diverse religions, ethnicities, languages, and political entities spread across innumerable landscapes and seascapes—on land inhabiting a shared biome defined by fire and resistance to it, and encompassing a sea of enormous biodiversity, in a complex and dynamic ecosystem.

ECOMEDS examines the interrelationships between economy, environment and culture in the Mediterranean, c.1250-1550. The project combines the history of the plant and animal life of the Mediterranean with the production of highly sought-after location-specific commodities whose trade in the Middle Ages drew together networks of producers, merchants, processors and consumers from different places, polities and communities. Four commodities will be examined: coral, honey, citrus, and cheese, each representing a different facet of this environment, each embedded in the cultural and economic life of the Mediterranean and beyond, and each traded over long distances. Together, ECOMEDS will tie the environmental history of the Mediterranean to its economic activity and cultural exchange, shedding light on the long-term genesis

This is a full time role (35 hours per week), and you will be offered a fixed term contract for 24

months starting from 1st September 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Application deadline: **1 June 2025**.

For additional information including eligibility criteria, salary and application guide visit the following [link](#).

The Stewart and Lynda Resnick Fellowship at the National Library of Israel, Jerusalem

The National Library of Israel invites applications for the Stewart and Lynda Resnick Fellowship Program. Applications are now open for the third cohort of Resnick Fellows, who will join the Library as researchers in residence during the summer of 2026.

This year, two Resnick Senior Fellowships will be awarded to senior, tenured (or tenure-equivalent) professors. In addition, we are pleased to announce that two additional fellowships will be awarded to Resnick Emerging Scholars — academics who hold full-time positions at a university or college and completed their doctoral degrees within the last four years.

Resnick Senior Fellowships

The fellowship provides a generous stipend and a digitization allowance to support research. Fellows will be in residence at the National Library for a period of one to two months during the summer of 2026. During this time, fellows are expected to:

- Conduct advanced research utilizing the Library's resources.
- Deliver a public lecture to engage a wider audience.
- Participate in a seminar for graduate students.

Resnick Emerging Scholar Fellowships

The fellowship provides a competitive stipend to support research. Fellows will be in residence at the National Library for a period of one to two months during the summer of 2026. During this time, fellows are expected to:

- Conduct advanced research utilizing the Library's resources.
- Engage with Israeli colleagues in their field of research.

Project Proposals

Successful project proposals will include a thorough explanation of how in-person access to collections at the National Library of Israel is essential to the progress and completion of the research project. Core collections include:

- Israel
- Judaica
- Islam and the Middle East
- Humanities
- Israeli and Jewish Music

Fellows will also have access to the extensive holdings of the [Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People](#), housed at the Library.

Supporters

The Resnick Fellowship Program at the National Library of Israel is made possible with the generous support of Stewart and Lynda Resnick.

Eligibility and Application

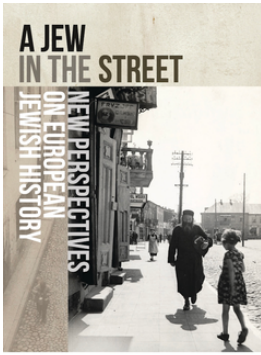
Both fellowships are open to full-time academics who are not residents of Israel. Please consult the [Call for Applications](#) for further details.

- Application deadline: **June 30, 2025**
- Notification of decision: September 2025

The application process for both fellowships is completed online.

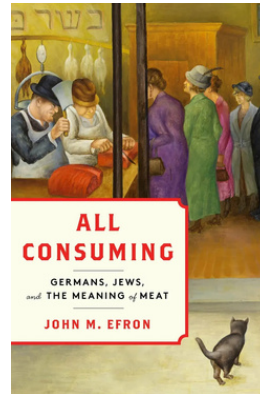
For further details, please contact: resnickfellows@nli.org.il

Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)



A Jew in the Street: New Perspectives on European Jewish History/ edited by Nancy Sinkoff, Jonathan Karp, James Loeffler & Howard Lupovitch. Wayne State University Press, 2024.
[9780814349670](#)

Reconsidering how early modern and modern Jews navigated schisms between Jewish community and European society. This collection brings together original scholarship by seventeen historians drawing on the pioneering research of their teacher and colleague, Michael Stanislawski. These essays explore a mosaic of topics in the history of modern European Jewry from early modern times to the present, including the role of Jewish participants in the European revolutions of 1848, the dynamics of Zionist and non-Zionist views in the early twentieth century, the origins of a magical charm against the evil eye, and more. Collectively, these works reject ideological and doctrinal clichés, demythologize the European Jewish past, and demonstrate that early modern and modern Jews responded creatively to modern forms of culture, religion, and the state from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. Contributors to this volume pose new questions about the relationship between the particular and universal, antisemitism and modernization, religious and secular life, and the bonds and competition between cultures and languages, especially Yiddish, Hebrew, and modern European languages. These investigations illuminate the entangled experiences of Jews who sought to balance the pull of communal, religious, and linguistic traditions with the demands and allure of full participation in European life.



All Consuming: Germans, Jews, and the Meaning of Meat/ by John M. Efron. Stanford University Press, 2025.
[9781503642607](#)

An engaging 700-year history of meat at the intersection of German and Jewish culture, uniquely illuminating the rich, fraught, and tragic history of German Jewry.

In Judaism, meat is of paramount importance as it constitutes the very focal point of the dietary laws. With an intricate set of codified regulations concerning forbidden and permissible meats, highly prescribed methods of killing, and elaborate rules governing consumption, meat is one of the most visible, and gustatory, markers of Jewish distinctness and social separation. It is an object of tangible, touchable, and tastable difference like no other.

In *All Consuming*, historian John M. Efron focuses on the contested culture of meat and its role in the formation of ethnic identities in Germany. To an extent not seen elsewhere in Europe, Germans have identified, thought about, studied, decried, and gladly eaten meat understood to be "Jewish." Expressions of this engagement are found across the cultural landscape—in literature, sculpture, and visual arts—and evident in legal codes and commercial enterprises. Likewise, Jews in Germany have vigorously defended their meats and the culture and rituals surrounding them by educating Germans and Jews alike about their meaning and relevance.

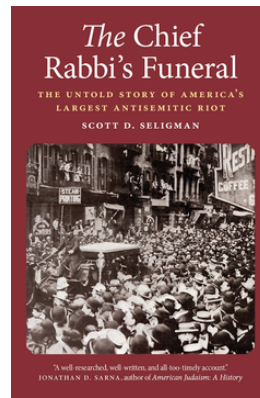


Sacred Places Tell Tales: Jewish Life and Heritage in Modern Cairo/ by Yoram Meital. Pennsylvania University Press, 2024.

[**9781512825886**](#)

Cairo's synagogues shed new light on the transformation Egyptian society and its Jewish community underwent from 1875 to the present.

Sacred Places Tell Tales is the previously untold history of Egyptian Jewry and the ways in which Cairo's synagogues historically functioned as active institutions in the social lives of these Jews. Historian Yoram Meital interprets Cairo's synagogues as exquisite storytellers. The synagogues still stand in Cairo, and they shed new light on the social, cultural, and political processes that Egyptian society and the Jews underwent from 1875 to the present. Studying old and new synagogues in the Egyptian capital, their locations, the items they stored, and the range of religious and nonreligious activities they hosted reveals the social heterogeneity and the diverse ways in which modern Jewish sociocultural identity was constructed within Cairo's Sephardi, Ashkenazi, and Karaite communities. Meital contends that studying the congregations and the social services provided in synagogues reveals the local Jewish community's customs, cultural preferences, socioeconomic gaps, and class divisions.

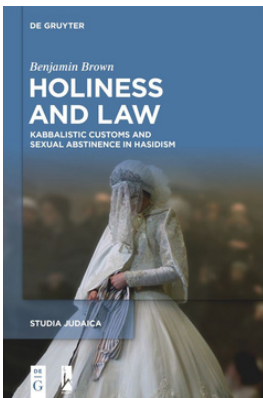


The Chief Rabbi's Funeral: The Untold Story of America's Largest Antisemitic Riot/ by Scott D. Seligman. Potomac Books, 2024.

[**9781640126183**](#)

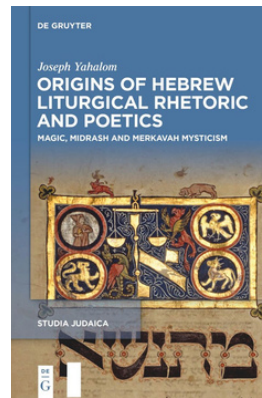
On July 30, 1902, tens of thousands of mourners lined the streets of New York's Lower East Side to bid farewell to the city's chief rabbi, the eminent Talmudist Jacob Joseph. All went well until the procession crossed Sheriff Street, where the six-story R. Hoe and Company printing press factory towered over the intersection. Without warning, scraps of steel, iron bolts, and scalding water rained down and injured hundreds of mourners, courtesy of antisemitic factory workers. The police compounded the attack when they arrived on the scene; under orders from the inspector in charge, who made no effort to distinguish aggressors from victims, officers began beating up Jews, injuring dozens.

To the Yiddish-language daily *Forverts* (Forward), the bloody attack on Jews was not unlike those that many Russian Jews remembered bitterly from the old country. But this was America, not Russia, and the Jewish community wasn't going to stand for such treatment. Fed up with being persecuted, New York's Jews, whose numbers and political influence had been growing, set a pattern for the future by deftly pursuing justice for the victims. They forced trials and disciplinary hearings, accelerated retirements and transfers within the corrupt police department, and engineered the resignation of the police commissioner. Scott D. Seligman's *The Chief Rabbi's Funeral* is the first book-length account of this event and its aftermath.



Holiness and Law: Kabbalistic Customs and Sexual Abstinence in Hasidism/ by Benjamin Brown. De Gruyter, 2024.
[9783111358970](#)

Hasidic groups have myriad customs. While ordinary Jewish law (halakhah) denotes the “bar of holiness” mandated for the ordinary Jew, these customs represent the higher threshold expected of Hasidim, intended to justify their title as Hasidim (“pious”). How did the hasidic masters perceive the enactment of these new norms at a time in which the halakhah had already been solidified? How did they explain the normative power of these customs over communities and individuals, and how did they justify customs that diverged from the positive halakhah? This book analyzes the answers given by nineteenth-century hasidic authors. It then examines a test case: kedushah (“holiness”), or sexual abstinence among married men, a particularly restrictive norm enacted by several twentieth-century hasidic groups. Through the use of theoretical tools and historical contextualization, the book elucidates the normative circles of hasidic life, their religious and social sources and their interrelations.



Origins of Hebrew Liturgical Rhetoric and Poetics: Magic, Midrash and Merkavah Mysticism/ by Joseph Yahalom. De Gruyter, 2024.
[9783111449074](#)

This book follows the origins of the Keduṣhta, a sequence of poems that leads up to the epitome of Jewish prayer, the Keduṣha or Sanctus. It tracks back the earliest forms of prayer in late antiquity and by doing so defines the main characteristics of this genre, both from the standpoint of rhetoric and poetics. This genre draws from Midrash and Mysticism- adjacent literary forms that influence liturgical poetry.

How has such an enigmatic and complex liturgical genre survived the twists and turns of history and is recited to this day, for over 1500 years?

The answer to this question pertains to both form and content. When analyzing form, we address rhyme, alphabetical acrostics, and different poetic forms. Those all have a specific rhetorical function in determining the structure of the poem, pushing it forward, and musically aligning the different segments. The form cannot be detached from narratology, referencing early midrash and mysticism. In addition, the emotional approach of the private prayer can express one's existential pain as part of an oppressed community. We can follow the composition of the prayer book for each community over the ages, through the first millennium, starting with Geniza fragments to the European prayer books. Finally, these poems use of sophisticated etymology, correlation by sound, leads to innovative medieval interpretation of the Torah.

Photo submissions: Australian or Australian-Jewish theme



Above: Photograph of Anzac Day march in Sydney, circa 1945. Sydney Jewish Museum collection M2021/026:062.

In honour of the recently commemorated Anzac Day this issue's Australian-Jewish themed image honours the great dedication and sacrifice of many Jewish servicemen and -women to Australia and its armed forces. This image comes to us from the Sydney Jewish Museum collection. The photograph depicts an Anzac Day march with crowds surrounding the street as servicemen march. A flag bearer is at front with individuals in both civilian and military dress. Barry Chirlian, the Australian-born son of Jewish immigrant parents from the Russian Empire, is present at this march, seventh from the right in a suit and wearing glasses. This photograph was taken at the corner of George and Park Streets, Sydney, with Sydney Town Hall in the background. Barry began his military career at the age of 14, undertaking compulsory service in 1917 as a Senior Cadet during the First World War in Perth. During the Second World War, he served in the Royal Australian Air Force from 28 February 1942 until 3 January 1946.

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No 93

Do you have a story, report, review or image you'd like to see in the next edition of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies newsletter? Send your submissions, or even just your ideas, to newsletter.aajs@gmail.com.