



BIANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Editor's welcome

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter 2026 issue of the AAJS biannual newsletter.

Over the past two and a half years since 7 October 2023, the rise in antisemitism in Australia and around the world has been a cause for alarm for our members. From the doxxing of Jewish academics and creatives, to the firebombing of synagogues and vandalism of other properties, the impact of these events Australian Jewish community has

been nothing short of devastating. As scholars of Jewish studies, with a knowledge of deep-seated Jewish resilience over the centuries, we hoped things would serve as a consolation of sorts, a reminder of how Jews have endured and thrived throughout history.

However, the murder of fifteen innocent people and injuring of many others at Chabad of Bondi's Chanukkah celebration on 14 December 2025 has shaken Australian Jewry to its core. It is not exaggeration to say that we are a community still grieving. As I write this editor's introduction, the Royal Commission into Antisemitism and Social Cohesion has released its interim report, and many in our communities – Jewish communities, academia, Jewish studies,

wider Australian community – ask ‘what now?’ The words of AJJS editor Dr Suzanne Faigan and her then co-editor Dr Joshua Nash’s editorial of the Journal’s volume XXXVI come to mind: can Jewish studies serve as ‘balm’? Can we, as scholars of Jewish studies find comfort in this rich, inter-disciplinary field of study? I do not have the answers but the fact that we are still so invested must count for something.

In our post-conference issue, we include a convenor’s report on the successful 2026 annual conference, hosted at Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney, 8–9 February, as well as AAJS co-presidents’ 2025-2026 report, shared with members at our recent AGM.

Members of the AAJS are invited to submit abstracts to our 2027 annual conference, which will be held in Melbourne and co-hosted by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization, Monash University: the theme is ‘Between Haunting and Humour: Spectral Afterlives and the Comic in Jewish History, Culture and Thought’. Similarly, the editor of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* invites submissions for volume 39 (2026).

Included are announcements from AAJS members, such as recent publications and an upcoming event of interest to our members. We share several exciting opportunities in Jewish studies and related fields both in Australia and abroad, as well as suggest six recently-published books in diverse areas of Jewish studies, ranging from history to Jewish thought. We hope you enjoy this latest issue of the AAJS newsletter and invite you to send in any material you would like us to share with fellow AAJS members in future issues.

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan
Sydney Jewish Museum/UTS
Newsletter Editor

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 (University of Sydney)

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

Vice President, SA: Ms Jasmine Beinart (University of Adelaide)

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

Reviews Editor, *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*: Ms Angelica Jacob (Monash University)

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

Website Coordinator: Dr Suzanne Faigan

AAJS Executive Board Members:

Ex-Officio, Immediate Past President: Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann

Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland (University of Sydney)

Professor Avril Alba (University of Sydney)

Dr Myer Samra

Ms Angelica Jacob (Monash University)

International Liaisons:

Israel: Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

New Zealand: Dr Suzanne Faigan

USA: Dr Jason Schulman

Canada: Associate Professor David Koffman

2025–2026 AAJS Co- Presidents’ annual report

It is my pleasure to present this report on behalf of the Association for the past year. This has been a year of sustained effort, and significant voluntary contribution across all areas of our work. Our Association continues to function as a result of the investment of time, expertise, and commitment of committee and members who already carry substantial professional responsibilities in their own institutions and fields.

Our work has taken place during an exceptionally and increasingly fraught period for Jewish Studies globally, which sadly does not appear to show any signs of abating soon. The Bondi massacre in December last year brought a violent manifestation of international antisemitism to Australia, and this was after years of increasing hostility, threats and marginalisation in academic, public, arts and institutional spaces. For many of us, as academics, artists, and cultural practitioners, even professional connections with Jewish topics or organisations now carries reputational, professional, and personal risk. It is a shameful state of affairs. We acknowledge how much intellectual input many of the committee members are contributing to formal reports and research projects that are working to combat the rise of antisemitism in Australia and worldwide.

Against this backdrop, the existence of a professional community matters profoundly. Connection, collaboration, and mutual support are essential forms of intellectual and civic resistance. I personally avoid the widely used term of resilience, as the opposite of this is to acquiesce or collapse, and these are never options.

Conference Committee

Our annual conference remains the central in-

person activity for the Association. This year's conference in February was held at the University of Sydney at Mandelbaum house. The title 'Bridges and Boundaries: Jewish-Christian Relations across Time' proved to be a fantastic broad church - pun intended – that attracted an engaging variety in presentations, and definitely created more bridges than boundaries.

I extend sincere thanks to this year's conference organisers, Professor Avril Alba, Vanina Vaisman-Levy, Dr Simon Holloway, Kathy Baykitch and Emerita Professor Suzanne Rutland, whose planning, coordination, and academic leadership ensured a rigorous and collegial program and an enjoyable two-day event. As all who have organised such events are aware, delivering a conference requires extensive unseen labour, program development, peer review coordination, logistics, communications, and participant support, and we are deeply grateful for the professionalism and care invested in this work. We also want to thank Avril and the discipline of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney for sourcing fantastic philanthropic support, including the Ann Kirby Bequest, which funded the Keynote, Professor Michal Bar Asher Segal. We express our gratitude to the Mandelbaum Trust, with particular thanks to Ms Naomi Winton, CEO, whose organisation, generosity, and attention to detail were instrumental in facilitating the Trust's support, and funded students to attend, and generously provided a wonderful venue of Mandelbaum House.

Journal Editors

Our journal continues to serve as a vital platform for scholarship in Jewish Studies in Australia and internationally. We thank our editors Dr Suzanne Faigan, Angelica Jacob, and Dr Jennifer Creese, for their editorial leadership and judgement, and the considerable workload involved in managing submissions, peer review, revisions, and production. The journal's quality reflects their diligence and intellectual stewardship.

Treasurer

The financial stewardship of the Association has been exemplary. I wish to acknowledge our wonderful Treasurer, Kathy Baykitch for her

careful oversight, transparent reporting, and responsible management of resources that sustain our programs and ensure organisational stability. Thank you Kathy for your conference contributions as well, all greatly appreciated.

Membership Secretary

Our Membership Secretary, Nathan Compton has continued his hard work and fantastic contributions to manage the Humanitix set up, maintain records, support renewals, respond to enquiries, and strengthen engagement across our community. This role is central to the Association's continuity and member experience, and we are grateful for his care and reliability shown throughout the year.

Newsletter Editor & Committee Secretary

We would also like to thank Dr Jonathan Kaplan for his fantastic work on the AAJS Newsletter, always packed with excellent articles, opportunities, and reviews. Jonathan, the hours and work you invest in producing these beautifully presented newsletters are highly valued. Thank you also for your committee work, including minute taking at our AGM and committee meetings.

As co-presidents, Jan and I thank every member of the committee, Lynne Swarts and Simon Holloway, we sent our good wishes to Jasmine Beinart, and extend our thanks to Emerita Professor Suzanne Rutland for the time and expertise they contribute. Committee service is demanding and often invisible work, governance, strategy, compliance, communications, and event support, and the Association depends entirely on this voluntary labour. These efforts continue to strengthen our organisational foundations and raise the profile of the Association across academic and arts sectors. Our committee members are contributing at high levels within their own institutions while also giving their time and expertise to this Association. The strength of our organization rests on this collective commitment.

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

Conference Report: Bridges and Boundaries: Jewish-Christian Relations Across Time AAJS 2026 Conference, Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney, 8–9 February 2026

The 2026 AAJS Conference, held at the University of Sydney on 8–9 February brought together an impressive range of scholars from Australia and beyond to explore the rich and complex history of Jewish-Christian relations across time. Spanning nine sessions over two days, presentations ranged from ancient textual traditions and late antique linguistics to medieval philosophy, Holocaust memory, and contemporary interfaith dialogue, demonstrating the remarkable breadth and vitality of Jewish studies scholarship. The conference was generously supported by Mandelbaum House and the Ann Kirby Plotke Bequest through the Discipline of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney, whose patronage also enabled student attendance.

The keynote address, delivered by Professor Michal Bar-Asher Siegal of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev – and this year's Ann Kirby Scholar – was a highlight of the program. Due to security concerns regarding international travel from Israel at the time, Professor Bar-Asher Siegal joined us via Zoom, presenting her lecture, “Did Words on the Wall Matter More? Public Scripture and Jewish-Christian Encounters in the First Centuries CE,” to an engaged and appreciative audience. Her talk introduced a new database of scriptural inscriptions and offered a compelling framework for understanding how publicly displayed texts shaped theological and legal encounters among Jews, Christians, and Samaritans in the ancient world.

The conference was organised by a dedicated committee – Professor Avril Alba, Emerita Professor Suzanne Rutland, Kathy Baykitch, Dr Simon Holloway, and Vanina Vaisman-Levy – whose considerable efforts ensured the event ran smoothly and productively. Special thanks are owed to Ms Vaisman-Levy (HJS) and Ms Naomi Winton (Mandelbaum House) for their outstanding contribution to the conference's organisation and coordination. The committee extends its gratitude to all presenters, session chairs, and attendees whose engagement made this such a collegial and intellectually stimulating event.

Professor Avril Alba
Conference co-convenor



Image: still (colourised) from *The Dybbuk* (1937), dir: Michal Wasynski

Australian Association of Jewish Studies (AAJS) Conference 2027

A joint initiative of AAJS and the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation,
Monash University

Between Haunting and Humour: Spectral Afterlives and the Comic in Jewish History, Culture and Thought

Dates: 7–8 February 2027

Location: Melbourne, VIC, Australia – CBD-accessible location – TBA to all registered participants

Conference Committee: Professor Rebecca Margolis, Dr Anna Hirsh, Dr Simon Holloway, Dr Yu Wang

Call for Papers

This conference explores the dynamic relationship between haunting and humour across Jewish history, thought, and cultural expression. Jewish experience has often unfolded between solemnity and satire, memory and irony, mourning and laughter. Across time and place, Jewish communities have grappled with loss, displacement, and rupture while also cultivating traditions of wit, critique, and comic imagination. These impulses do not stand in opposition; they frequently intersect and inform one another.

Between Haunting and Humour invites contributions that examine how Jewish individuals, texts, and communities inhabit this space across diverse contexts. We welcome papers that engage religious traditions, philosophical reflection, historical experience, literary and artistic production, communal life, public discourse, and contemporary media. How have Jewish traditions negotiated the spectral afterlives of the past alongside practices of humour? In what ways do remembrance and laughter function within Jewish sacred texts, literature, film, and popular culture across different periods, geographies, and settings?

This conference invites contributions from all disciplinary perspectives and methodological approaches.

We encourage applications from academic scholars and professional practitioners from all areas of Jewish Studies and related fields, including (but not limited to):

- Tanakh, Biblical and Talmudic Studies
- Antisemitism, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
- Memory Studies
- Cultural Studies, including the Visual Arts and Literature
- Philosophy
- Theology
- Jewish and/or interreligious Education
- Gender Studies
- Screen Studies
- Israel and Diaspora Studies
- Museums, Architecture, and Arts Professionals

Please send an abstract of no longer than 200 words and a short bio of 100-150 words to Professor Rebecca Margolis (Rebecca.Margolis@monash.edu) by 30 August 2026.

Recent publications by AAJS members

Professor Emerita Suzanne D. Rutland is pleased to share recent publications with AAJS members:

- 'Bondi Heartland of Sydney Jewry,' in *We Will Prevail: Jewish Responses to Bondi*, ed. Menachem Creditor (Menachem Creditor, 2026), 37–39.
- 'Religious Discrimination in the Playground,' in *Religion in Modern Education: Conflict, Economics and Politics*, ed. David Kim and Melissa E. Lovell (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2025), 217–42. This volume was dedicated to Suzanne Rutland in honour for her contributions to issues of religion and education.

Dr Jonathan C. Kaplan-Wajselbaum recently published a chapter titled 'From Schnorrer to Parvenu: Jews, Tailoring and the Performance of Respectability,' in *The Intellect Handbook of Men's Fashion* (Bristol: Intellect, 2026).

Dr Jana Vytrhlik recently published an article titled 'On Her Own: The Art of Olga Horak (1926–2024) in the Frame of Modern Australian Art' in *Musings: SJM Journal* 4, no. 1 (2026): 29–49.

Dr Lynne Swarts's latest published piece has been a long time in the making: a chapter on Holocaust Art in Australia and as one of 33 chapters in the new book, *The Palgrave Handbook of Australia and the Holocaust*, edited by Professor Avril Alba and Associate Professor Jan Láníček (2026). The *Handbook* is a comprehensive survey on Australian History and the Holocaust, covering the refugee crisis, Holocaust memory and connections to Australian colonial history. Dr Swarts is honoured to have contributed the only chapter dealing with the history and representation of memory works on the Shoah from 1937 to the present. The first survey of its kind undertaken in Australian Art. Titled 'Imaging the Unimageable: Holocaust Representation in Australian Art, 1937 to the Present,' the chapter begins with a discussion of the refugee artists who came here largely after

the war, how they survived, what they created and how they nurtured an artistic field that has grown to include the second and third generation of Australian Jewish and now a few non-Jewish artists.

News from Professor Emerita Suzanne Rutland

Professor Rutland was invited to the annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists which was held in Warsaw from 18–20 November 2025. She participated in the panel on Teaching Law and Holocaust: 80 Years On'. She also participated in a conference in Israel on Free Speech in January 2026, speaking on 'Self-censorship on and hiding Jewish identity: the Australian University Experience,' drawing on qualitative data of the Australian Academic Alliance Against Antisemitism (5A) survey of Australian universities, with Professors Andrew Markus and Efrat Eilam. Finally, she participated in the annual AAJS February 2026 conference held at Mandelbaum House, University of Sydney, speaking on 'Challenges in Jewish-Christian Relations: Developing Dialogue in the later twentieth century'.

At the December 2025 plenary of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) in Jerusalem, Professor Rutland attended as an invited member of the Australian expert delegation. She is on the Education Working Group and the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial (the latter with Dr Andre Oboler). She has been part of an IHRA special project on campus antisemitism and presented to the Academic Working Group on academic studies of the upsurge of antisemitism in universities since 7 October. The commonality of experiences illustrates that the anti-Israel movement is a global phenomenon. At the Jerusalem plenary, Professor Rutland was

nominated to chair the Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial in 2027, and her nomination was endorsed subsequently at a meeting of the Heads of Delegations of the IHRA community.

Event: Voices of a Murdered City: Archaeology of the Warsaw Ghetto

Post-1945 Warsaw was built on 3 million cubic metres of rubble. Beneath it lie the remnants of tenement buildings, typically with underground cellars, often interconnected. Many Jewish families lived in these tenements, especially in Muranów, the site of the Warsaw Ghetto. Overcrowding in the ghetto was so intense that many families were forced to live in the cellars and attics.

When the Great Deportation began, many Jews sought refuge in these cellars. In April 1943, the Nazis responded to the Ghetto Uprising by firebombing and razing the entire area. Countless people were entombed, yet Jewish law determined that the dead must not be disturbed.

But what if it were possible to investigate what lay beneath without invading these sacred spaces? In 2021–2022, Dr Jacek Konik (Pultusk Academy of Humanities) and his team did just that. Armed with cutting-edge geoscientific tools, they implemented ‘non-invasive archaeology’.

Join Dr Konik and AAJS member Rita Nash in conversation, as they take you into the cellar adjoining Miła 18, the legendary final headquarters of Mordechai Anielewicz and the Jewish Combat Organization. Explore some of the rooms, discover the non-invasive techniques and see some of the three thousand objects recovered by the archaeologists.



Netilat Yadayim cup found in the excavation. Image courtesy of Rita Nash.

This event is hosted by the Australian Society of Polish Jews and Their Descendants (ASPJ) and will take place on 28 May 2026, 8–9pm AEST. Keep an eye out for the registration link via the ASPJ's website:

<https://www.polishjews.org.au/aspj-oration/>

Reflections on Jessen Beinart Z'L

The AAJS was deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of Jessen Beinart Z'L, husband of Jasmine Beinart, AAJS South Australian VP, leaving behind his beloved wife and their beautiful 8 month-old son Asher. Our hearts are with them during this profoundly difficult time.

Kathy Baykitch, AAJS Treasurer, first met Jessen during her tenure as the CEO of Adelaide Holocaust Museum and shares her reflections and memories of Jessen.



I worked closely with Jasmine Beinart who worked as the social media coordinator for the Adelaide Holocaust Museum. Jasmine had relocated to Melbourne where she had met Jessen.

I remember the joy of learning about the couple's relocation from Melbourne to Adelaide. In 2022, they were married, and I felt truly honoured to attend this beautiful celebration and to witness the signing of the marriage certificate and ketubah.

While Jasmine pursued her PhD at the University of Adelaide, Jessen quickly became an integral part of the Adelaide Jewish community. He embraced leadership roles with warmth and dedication contributing to communal life through the Beit Shalom Synagogue as a Board member and was part of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry's Jewish Advocacy and Leadership Corps. Jessen also helped lead services at Beit Shalom with ruach and a deep, heartfelt connection to Jewish tradition.



Photos courtesy of Jasmine Beinart.

He held a Bachelor of Mechatronics Engineering from the University of Western Australia and co-authored important work addressing online hate through the Online Hate Prevention Institute and the Online Hate Task Force reflecting his commitment to making the world a better and more compassionate place.

He was a kind, humble and gentle soul who deeply cherished his family and was utterly devoted to Jasmine and their 8-month-old son Asher. Together, they built a life rich in love and shared memories that will live on, to be passed down to their son, ensuring that his life remains a lasting blessing.

Jessen, aged 34 was diagnosed with Stage 4 Bowel cancer on 25 February 2026 and sadly passed away 24 March 2026. A GoFundMe campaign has been established to help raise funds to assist Jasmine and Asher through this difficult time of navigating life without Jessen – for details please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-for-jessen-jasmine-asher>

Kathy Baykitch, AAJS Treasurer

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies, Volume XXXVIII, 2025

Dr Suzanne Faigan, *AJJS Editor*

A new volume of the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies (AJJS)*, Volume XXXVIII, was published on the Association's website in December 2025. Freely accessible for everyone to read and enjoy, the volume contains new academic articles and reviews of books published in the past few years, by Australian and international authors and on local and international topics:

Articles

The first article in the volume, 'Attention, Sign-making, and the Tragic: On the Indexing of Ecological Icons in the Work of Harry Nankin', is by Jason Goroncy, who is an Associate Professor of Theology at the University of Divinity, Melbourne. The article examines the work of the Australian photographer Harry Nankin. Inspired, in part, by the Kabbalist notion of *tikkun olam*, Nankin's work arguably constitutes a form of ecological iconography that simultaneously acknowledges the world's tragic, ruptured state and maintains a sense of hope.

'The Bergson Group: Hillel Kook and the Effort to Save European Jewry from Extermination during the Shoah', is by Avital Hecht, head of the Shoah Memorial Center at Gordon College of Education, Haifa, and a researcher and lecturer in the fields of ethics, gender, and history. The article relates the story of the Israeli group's work in the United States and the opposition it faced in its efforts to save European Jewry from extermination by the Nazis.

Written by Elisheva A. Perelman, an Associate Professor of History at the College of Saint Benedict + Saint John's University in Minnesota, 'The Fringes of the Faith: Abraham Kotsuji, Bernard Geis, and a Judaism of the Japanese Mind' focuses on the biblical scholar Abraham Setsuzō Kotsuji (1899–1973), his path to Bernard J. Geis (1909–2001), who would publish his memoir, the political, social, and spiritual events that marked pivotal moments within his journey, and ultimately, the ways in which his journey of faith shaped his own vision for postwar Japan.

'The Testimonies of SS *Einsatzgruppen* Perpetrators: Wartime and Postwar Justifications' considers the explanations provided at various times of their lives by members of the murderous *Einsatzgruppen*. This article was authored by Susan Samardjian, a graduate of the Master's program in European and Russian Affairs at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

The research for the next article was first presented as a conference paper at the 2024 AAJS conference in Sydney. In 'Connecting and Transforming: Eva Engel's Lifelong Outreach Mission', the writer and researcher Dr Anne Sarzin explores the dedicated community activism of Sydney's Eva Engel.

'International Marriages and Jewish Identity: Unconventional Community Data Sources and the Diasporic Ties of Australian Habad Hasidim' presents the social science research of the Sydney researchers Dr Dovi Seldowitz, Atara Kaye, and Mushka Kaye. Their study used data collected from a Hasidic news website to examine the marriage patterns of Australian Habad Hasidim. The study's findings confirm the importance of transnational networks in sustaining Jewish identities within peripheral communities – inherent here are implications for policy makers, particularly around support for integration of international spouses.

Book Reviews

Opening the 'Book reviews' section, the University of Adelaide PhD candidate Jasmine Beinart reviews Christopher L. Schilling's consideration of antisemitism and general attitudes towards Jews in East Asia, *The Japanese Talmud: Antisemitism in East Asia* (Hurst Publishers, 2023). Next, Dr Lauren Chalk, a museum professional and researcher and Research Fellow at the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University, Melbourne, reviews *The Holocaust Museum and Human Rights: Transnational Perspectives on Contemporary Memorials* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025), edited by Jennifer Barrett, Avril Alba, and A. Dirk Moses.

Renewing the Old, Sanctifying the New: The Unique Vision of Rav Kook (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilisation, 2025), by Marc B. Shapiro, is reviewed by Rabbi Dr Benjamin J. Elton, Chief Minister of The Great Synagogue, Sydney. *Growing Up Jewish in India: Synagogues, Customs, and Communities from the Bene Israel to the Art of Siona Benjamin* (Niyogi Books, 2021), edited by Ori Z. Soltes, and *Historical Geography of the Bene Israel in Bombay and Konkan: Their Synagogues and Prayer Halls* (Ktav Publishing House, 2024), by Shaul Sapir, are jointly reviewed by Angelica Jacob, a PhD Candidate in the School of Media, Film and Journalism, Monash University, Melbourne, and Dr Andrea Stern, a former Visiting Associate Professor at Ahmedabad University, Gujarat, India, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney.

Dr Darren O'Brien, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, University of Queensland; Adjunct Lecturer, The University of Sydney Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery; President of the Australian Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; and Director of the Australian Stumbling Stones project, reviews *Hitler's Female Physicians: Women Doctors during the Third Reich and Their Crimes against Humanity* (Springer Nature Switzerland AG, 2025), by Edzard Ernst. Dr Paul O'Shea, a graduate in History from the University of Leicester and researcher of friendship and

social relations between male prisoners in the Nazi Concentration Camp system, reviews *More Than Parcels: Wartime Aid for Jews in Nazi-Era Camps and Ghettos* (Wayne State University Press, 2022), edited by Jan Láníček and Jan Lambertz.

Suzanne D. Rutland OAM, Professor Emerita of Hebrew & Jewish Studies, University of Sydney, a past president of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies, patron of the Australian Jewish Historical Society, and member of the Australian IHRA Delegation, reviews *Why Do People Discriminate Against Jews?* (Oxford University Press, 2021), by Jonathan Fox and Lev Topor. Lastly, *Jewish Identity in Multicultural Australia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2024), by Jennifer Creese, is reviewed by Dr Jennifer Skerritt, an Adjunct Lecturer (History, Ancient History) at Sheridan Institute of Higher Education, Perth.

Work on the 2026 volume is well underway, and there is still time to submit an article or book review – this year's deadline is on **Thursday, 25 June**. All scholars in Australia and abroad are encouraged to submit their work, in the form of either 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 the *AJJS* webpage (<https://aajs.org.au/journal/>) for submission details, and address any enquiries to ajjewishstudies@aajs.org.au. A special message to authors: **let the *AJJS* know of your new books**, and the editorial team will do their best to organise and publish a book review.

A new development anticipated for the *AJJS* in the not-too-distant future is the publication online of articles from our archive. Currently only available in print, these articles will soon become easily accessible to internet users around the world.

Australian Journal of Jewish Studies Volume XXXIX, 2026, call for submissions

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

The *AJJS* is currently calling for submission of manuscripts for consideration for Volume XXXIX, 2026. This is an open-themed call: the Editor welcomes 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 *AJJS* 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 2026 volume, there is no article processing charge (APC).

Proposals and submissions may be sent at any time, though to be considered for the 2026 volume article manuscript submissions should be made by 17.00 UTC Thursday 25 June 2026, and book reviews by the end of October. Please refer to the [Guide for Authors](#) for guidelines on manuscript preparation and details on how to submit.

Contact Information

Dr Suzanne Faigan, Editor

Ms Angelica Jacob, Reviews Editor

Contact Email

ajjewishstudies@aajs.org.au

URL

<https://www.aajs.org.au/journal>

Vacancies in Jewish studies and related fields

Tenure Track Position, Jewish Studies, Assistant Professor, University of Salzburg

A tenure track position at the University of Salzburg offers clear career development opportunities leading to an associate professorship in strategic focus areas of the university. The tenure track phase includes clearly defined development goals and interim evaluations based on individually agreed qualification targets.

An assistant professorship at the University of Salzburg offers opportunities to develop innovative research, committed teaching, and social responsibility. Assistant professors encourage early-career scientists, value interdisciplinarity, organise third mission activities, and are involved in university committees and internationalisation. With a sense of responsibility, integrity, and innovative strength, they shape a respectful working environment and promote scientific, technological, and social developments.

Areas of responsibility

- Achievement of individually agreed qualification targets within a specified period;
- independent teaching of 4 hours per week in the area of Jewish Studies/Jewish Cultural History (rising to 8 hours upon completion of the qualification phase);
- independent research in Jewish Studies;
- contribution to the organisation of teaching and research at the Department of Classics and the Centre for Jewish Studies („[Zentrum für Jüdische Kulturgeschichte](#)“);
- active participation in interdisciplinary collaboration with related fields, such as religious studies, history, medieval studies, and classical and modern philology.

Required qualifications

Considering academic age and individual career path:

- Doctorate (PhD) in Jewish Studies or other fields with a strong focus on topics related to Jewish cultures and literatures;
- very good proficiency in Hebrew (including modern Hebrew);
- dissertation at least partially published;
- demonstrated experience in research and university-level teaching on topics in Jewish cultural history;
- experience in applying for external research funding;
- proven pedagogical expertise;
- proven external (outside the University of Salzburg) academic activity, preferably abroad, for a minimum of 1 year;
- very good proficiency in German and English.

Desirable additional qualifications

Considering academic age and individual career path:

- Research expertise in the cultural and religious history of ancient Judaism, with a focus on the rabbinic period and its historical impact through to the present age;
- experience in university self-administration
- experience in coordination and academic research management;
- national and international networking;
- experience in third mission and public outreach/knowledge transfer;
- experience in interdisciplinary projects (incl. *Digital Humanities*).

Deadline for applications: **27th May 2026**

Applications should be addressed to the Head of the University (“Rektor”), Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Fügenschuh.

E-Mail: bewerbung@plus.ac.at

Subject: 2026_12_995

For full application requirements and to apply visit

<https://www.plus.ac.at/personalwesen/stellenmarkt-en/universitatsprofessuren-en/tenure-track-position-judaistik/?lang=en>

Head at Department for the Study of Religions, Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Brno

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University announces a selection procedure for the position of Head of Department and concurrently for the position of: Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor.

- advanced knowledge of academic English
- knowledge of secure data management and the ability to cooperate using digital technologies (MS Teams, Zoom, etc.)
- organizational, managerial, communication and negotiation skills
- attention to detail, responsibility, and reliability

MAIN JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- serving as Head of Department in accordance with Section 13 of the FF MU Organizational Regulations, [Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, Organizational Regulations](#)
- serving as Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor in accordance with the internal directive of the FF MU System of Positions and Job Titles at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, [Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, System of Positions and Job Titles at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University](#)

HOW TO APPLY

Please send your application via the electronic application link by May 15, 2026 (please use the link in the Electronic Application section below) and please attach all required documents.

As part of your application, the following documents are required:

- a short CV, including the main publication and research outputs from the past five years
- a development plan for the department for the next four years, covering the following areas: teaching, research, grant strategy, HR strategy, international cooperation, financial management, student recruitment, and the department's third mission (maximum 6 pages)
- a brief vision for team leadership (maximum 2 pages)

At the same time, candidates for the position of Vice-Head of the department may also be proposed (up to two Vice-Heads may be proposed). The results of the selection procedure will be announced no later than 31 July 2026.

The appointment to the position of Head, or Vice-Head, may be granted for a term ending no later than 30 June 2030.

Application Deadline: **May 15, 2026**

For additional information and to apply visit <https://www.muni.cz/en/about-us/careers/vacancies/80853>

REQUIREMENTS

- the conditions laid down for serving as Assistant Professor / Associate Professor / Professor in the internal directive of the FF MU System of Positions and Job Titles at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University, [Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University, System of Positions and Job Titles at the Faculty of Arts of Masaryk University](#)
- academic degree or scientific qualification (Professor, Associate Professor, Ph.D., or equivalent) in the relevant or a related field
- high personal integrity, ethical conduct, and the ability to represent the values of the faculty and the university
- professional expertise and personal qualities for the development of the field and research
- adequate teaching, publication and creative activity (including international activities)
- professional experience abroad outside the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic in an academic or research environment of at least 6 months, completed either continuously or in two shorter periods whose combined duration amounts to at least 6 months

Visiting Lecturer in Modern Hebrew (Fall 2026), Brown University, Rhode Island

The Program in Judaic Studies at Brown University invites applications for a Visiting Lecturer in Modern Hebrew Language for the Fall 2026 semester.

The successful candidate will teach three in-person courses in the Modern Hebrew language sequence: Elementary Modern Hebrew (HEBR 100), Intermediate Modern Hebrew (HEBR 300), and Advanced Speaking and Writing Hebrew (HEBR 500). To ensure curricular continuity, syllabi and instructional materials for these courses will be provided. The lecturer will be expected to implement an established communicative, proficiency-oriented curriculum emphasizing the development of advanced reading and writing skills and Hebrew language literacy.

Qualifications

Applicants must hold a Master's degree or higher in Hebrew, Hebrew language pedagogy, or a closely related field. Native or near-native proficiency in Modern Hebrew is required. Preference will be given to candidates with demonstrated experience teaching Hebrew at the college or university level.

Application Materials

Applicants should submit:

- A cover letter describing qualifications and interest in the position
- A curriculum vitae
- The names of three professional references who may be contacted for letters of recommendation

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.

Application deadline: **30 June 2026**

To apply visit <https://apply.interfolio.com/182386>

One-year Visiting Instructor/Assistant Professor of Jewish History, Western Washington University

Western Washington University invites applications for a One-year Visiting Instructor/Assistant Professor of Jewish History beginning on September 16, 2026 through June 15, 2027. The successful candidate will teach seven five-credit in-person courses over three quarters, including three sections of two lower-division surveys, an upper-level History of the Holocaust, and three other courses in the candidate's specialty. No service is required during the term of the appointment.

Requirements

- ABD or Ph.D. in Jewish history or a related field, with the ability to teach courses in Jewish history and the Holocaust
- Required Qualifications: ABD or PhD in Jewish history or a related field, with the ability to teach courses in Jewish history and the Holocaust

Preferred Qualifications

- PhD preferred
- Demonstrated potential for effective teaching and high-quality scholarship
- Ability to work effectively with diverse students and colleagues

Required Application Materials

A letter of application along with a c.v., a graduate transcript, a chapter- or article-length writing sample, sample syllabi for an introductory course in Jewish history as well as an upper-level course in Jewish history or the Holocaust, and the contact information for three referees.

Application deadline: **14 July 2026**

For additional information and to apply visit <https://hr.wvu.edu/careers-faculty?job=502983>

Upcoming calls for papers and submissions

CfP – The Wandering Jew and other myths: a special issue of *Patterns of Prejudice*. Deadline for papers 12th June 2026

Part of the Volkswagen Stiftung funded project 'Redrawing the Wandering Jew', which will include an exhibition 'Eternal Strangers' at The Winchester Gallery in 2027.

The legend of the Wandering Jew is ubiquitous in our modern age for better or worse – deviating from its historical origins to appear in myriad contemporary representations, lingering in the artistic imagination to express exilic sentiment, or weaponised politically to justify wilful rootlessness. Our issue seeks to find what makes this immortal, nomadic, shape-shifting figure so enduring and adaptable. We aim to collect analytic reflections on 'other myths' from cultures and contexts beyond Christian Europe to map the propagation of cursed wanderers and the like. Since so often such myths and legends appear at geographical or cultural crossroads, in what ways can these figures mediate or elucidate difference and encounter? How can they empower in the face of historically stigmatised 'otherness'? Can diaspora be reimagined without being romanticised, alert to the realities of forced migration and exile past, present and future?

We call for submissions discussing legends and mythic figures exclusively through the lens of reclamation responding to racial, national, ethnic or religious exclusion. These narratives emerge out of harmful contexts, disseminating derogatory and divisive storytelling about the misunderstood 'stranger'. Be it a warrior, supernatural guide, or everyman, how is this type removed from such origins, and reshaped by indigenous (or other) cultural actors? We are especially interested in non-formal methods of knowledge as transmitted through folklore or oral tradition, and representations in the visual arts, literature and music. Submissions may explore the difference

between Israeli and diasporic approaches to the Wandering Jew; its resonance amongst other traditionally nomadic peoples, such as Roma; or relevance for other postcolonial cultures.

This call is grounded in sociological research questions:

- What are the affective implications of creative reclamation for, in particular, marginalised individuals and structurally demonised groups?
- Can and should these so-called reappropriations be defined or classified, and if so, how?
- What happens when a legend becomes an interpolation, divorced from its derisive origins — can it still empower?

We invite contributions from across the arts, humanities and social sciences, including but not limited to: literature, history, art, music, sociology, anthropology, religious studies, psychology, linguistics, migration studies.

Please submit 1-page proposals for papers (maximum 7,000 words) **before 12 June 2026** to a.alexander-rose@soton.ac.uk. All contributions must be the original work of the author/s, will be subject to peer review, and the editors' decisions will be final.

CfP – Musings: *SJM Journal* Volume 5

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

CfP – Humanities Bulletin, Vol. 9, No. 2 - Special Issue: On Antisemitism and Other Anti-Jewish Matters: Phenomenology, Rhetoric, Media, and Culture

Humanities Bulletin, an open-access, peer-reviewed journal in the field of Arts and Humanities, invites submissions of paper proposals for its Special Issue scheduled for November 2026.

This journal is not allied with any specific school of thinking or cultural tradition; instead, it encourages dialogue between ideas and people with different points of view. Our aim is to bring together different international scholars, in order to promote the dialogue between cultures, ideas and new academic researches. In this context, the current Call for Papers invites scholarly contributions that examine the complex nature and manifestations of anti-Jewish phenomena.

Antisemitism, Anti-Judaism, Judeophobia, and Jew-hatred are interconnected, long-standing forms of marginalization, systemic oppression, and subjugation that have continued to operate in contemporary societies. These attitudes manifest through both overt and subtle rhetoric, ideas, media expressions, racial projects, legal and extralegal discrimination, justifications for harm,

and fantasies of a world without Jews. All of them require serious scholarly and intellectual analysis. In the last decade, and especially since October 7, 2023, anti-Jewish hate crimes and incidents have increased worldwide, including deadly attacks, threats, assaults, vandalism, and hate speech, as well as new institutional policies and discrimination. Currently, Jewish individuals and communities – whether religiously, culturally, or ethnically identified – often face fear, trauma, abandonment, isolation, and a sense of hopelessness.

For this special issue, we call on international scholars to submit essays and articles that advance our understanding of these phenomena. Contributions should engage with one or more of the following disciplines: critical cultural studies, communication and media studies, ethnic studies, women and gender studies, rhetoric, philosophy, literature, and/or the arts. These fields offer crucial tools and approaches to deepen insight into marginalization, oppression, racism, and intersectionality. We are seeking original research, theoretical analyses, or reflective essays. We invite contributors to engage with these disciplines and undertake the imperative scholarly work necessary for studying antisemitism and addressing historical and contemporary Jewish experiences.

We are interested in topics that engage with the main question of what antisemitism (or other overlapping phenomena) is, how it operates in specific cases/regions/fields, and/or what can/should be done about it. We envision this special issue as relevant to scholars, students, and activists, explaining what people have actually been missing when studying, learning, and acting on antisemitism. While we are also interested in historical aspects, we encourage clear inquiry about contemporary times. Reflection on what Jewish people need, and the inclusion of authentic Jewish voices, are especially welcome.

Deadline: 1 September 2026

See suggested topics and submission guidelines <https://journals.lapub.co.uk/index.php/HB/announcement/view/23>

Fellowships and other opportunities

PhD Scholarship: Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism – History of Antisemitism in Australia, Monash University

Job No.: 692577

Location: Caulfield campus

Employment Type: Full-time

Duration: 3.5 years fixed-term appointment

Remuneration: The successful applicant will receive a Research Living Allowance, at current value of \$37,145 AUD per annum 2026 full-time rate (tax-free stipend), indexed plus allowances as per RTP stipend scholarship conditions at:

www.monash.edu/graduate-research/study/scholarships/fees-scholarships/scholarship-policy-and-procedures.

The Opportunity

This PhD scholarship is funded as part of the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism, led by Associate Professor David Slucki.

The Initiative supports rigorous, policy-relevant and publicly engaged research on antisemitism in Australia. This scholarship will support a PhD candidate to undertake a substantial historical study of the history of antisemitism in Australia, examining how antisemitism has been expressed, contested, and reshaped across different periods and social settings. The project may draw on archival and documentary sources, institutional records, public debate, cultural production, and/or media (with a historical lens).

The successful applicant will be embedded within the wider Initiative and contribute to shared activities, while developing and completing their own distinct PhD thesis. The precise PhD topic is open to negotiation within the Initiative's aims, and may include (for example):

- a focused study of antisemitism in a defined period (e.g., Federation to WWII; post-war Australia; late-20th century; contemporary roots)

- institutional histories (political parties, unions, churches, education systems, universities, government agencies)
- historical analysis of antisemitic discourse in Australian print culture, broadcasting, or online environments
- transnational influences and comparative dimensions (e.g., Australia in relation to UK/Europe/US currents)

Undertaking this PhD within the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism has several advantages. The candidate will be integrated into an active research agenda and will have access to support for archival travel, fieldwork and conference attendance (where relevant). The candidate will benefit from expert supervision and opportunities to contribute to Initiative outputs and events, including publications, workshops, and public-facing engagement activities (with appropriate recognition of the candidate's contributions).

Candidate Requirements

The successful applicant will have an excellent academic track record in History or a closely related discipline (e.g., Jewish studies, political history, cultural history, intellectual history, migration history, historical sociology). In its assessment, the selection committee will prioritise applicants who hold an Australian (or equivalent international) Honours or Master's degree in a relevant field, with a significant research component and first-class honours/H1 (or equivalent).

You are required to discuss your research proposal with Associate Professor David Slucki, Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Email: david.slucki@monash.edu before you submit an Expression of Interest.

Deadline: 10 May 2026, 11:59PM AEST

For full details visit

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/513/cw/en/job/692577/phd-scholarship-monash-initiative-for-rapid-research-into-antisemitism-history-of-antisemitism-in-australia>

Colonel George Johnston Fellowship in Australian History, University of Sydney

The Colonel George Johnston Fellowship in Australian History is a prestigious, fixed-term postdoctoral appointment at the [University of Sydney](#), designed to support outstanding early-career researchers within six years of completing their PhD (or equivalent). The Fellowship provides dedicated time and resources to develop a major research output, typically a book arising from the doctoral thesis or a similarly ambitious project, while contributing to the scholarly life of the discipline.

Applications are invited for the 2026 Colonel George Johnston Fellowship in Australian History. The Fellowship is offered at Academic Level A on a part-time basis (0.8 FTE) for 12 months, with the following benefits and opportunities:

- Flexibility to undertake the Fellowship at a lower FTE to extend beyond one year, subject to approval of the Discipline Lead and Head of School
- Opportunity to undertake casual teaching up to 0.2 FTE in addition to the Fellowship for one year
- Access to \$10,000 from the Colonel George Johnston bequest to support research travel, conference participation, and publication costs (including subventions)
- Eligibility to apply for additional discipline, school, and university, based research funding

Your key responsibilities will be to:

- Completing an original and substantial research project for publication, typically a book arising from the doctoral thesis or a similarly ambitious scholarly output such as a body of publishable articles or non-traditional research outputs
- contributing to the intellectual life of the discipline by assisting with the development and coordination of research activities such as workshops and conferences, and participating in discussions that help shape future research directions

- acknowledging the support of the Colonel George Johnston bequest and the affiliation with the University of Sydney in all publications and research outputs arising from the Fellowship

About you

You are an early-career researcher with a strong research profile and a clear plan to produce a significant scholarly output during the term of the Fellowship. You will bring intellectual independence, research focus, and the capacity to deliver high-quality work within a defined timeframe.

To be considered for the Fellowship, you will:

- Have completed a PhD within the last six years (or equivalent) and hold a doctoral qualification in history or a related discipline, where the proposed project is strongly historical in nature
- Demonstrate a commitment to producing a major research output, such as a book manuscript for submission to a high-quality academic or trade press, and/or a body of publishable articles or non-traditional research outputs
- Show evidence of a strong and emerging research track record with national or international standing
- Demonstrate the capacity to deliver high-quality research outcomes in a timely and independent manner

How to apply

Applications (including a cover letter, CV, and any additional supporting documentation) can be submitted via the [Apply button at the top of the page](#).

For a confidential discussion about the role, or if you require reasonable adjustment or any documents in alternate formats, please contact Justyn Griffin, Recruitment Operations by email to justyn.griffin@sydney.edu.au.

Deadline: **15 May 2026, 11:59PM**

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, 2026-2027, Bar Ilan University, deadline for submissions 15th June 2026

The Halpern Center for the Study of Consciousness According to Judaism and the Marcell and Maria Roth Chair in the History and Culture of Polish Jewry, both situated at the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Bar-Ilan University, are inviting applications for post-doctoral fellowships of up to 70,000 NIS, for the academic year 2026-2027. The fellowship will be undertaken at the department.

The Halpern Center typically supports projects that deal with consciousness and self-consciousness in Jewish societies in historical perspective, and the Roth Chair focuses on East European Jewish History.

The fellowships are open to candidates who have completed their doctoral degree in 2022 or thereafter.

Candidates must submit the following materials:

- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- Copy of doctoral degree
- Detailed research proposal, including a one-page bibliography
- Letter of reference from the doctoral advisor
- Letter from a faculty member of the Bar-Ilan Department of Jewish History who is willing to serve as mentor for the duration of the fellowship

The Letters should be sent directly to the email address below.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Postdoctoral fellows will be expected to deliver a lecture sponsored by the Halpern Center on their research over the course of the academic year, to participate in the activities of the Center, and to acknowledge the Center's support in all relevant future publications.

Materials should be sent as a PDF file to Prof.

Uriel Gellman, at uriel.gellman@biu.ac.il by June 15, 2026, with the subject header: 'Postdoctoral Application, Halpern Center' or 'Postdoctoral Application, Polish Jewry' respectively.

Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania - Postdoctoral Fellow in the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism

The Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania announces a search to fill a recently established postdoctoral fellowship that will combine teaching, public scholarship and research in the field of contemporary antisemitism studies. The appointment, renewable for up to two years, combines teaching students, helping to develop learning opportunities and other resources for the broader public, and serving as a source of expertise within and beyond the university. The person in the role will also serve as an adviser to the Katz Center as it continues with a multi-year initiative to support new research in the study of antisemitism.

The applicant who is awarded the fellowship must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree (dissertation deposited) by July 31, 2026. The ideal candidate for the position will be a scholar who is enthusiastic about teaching and research and has an ability to make connections to the broader scholarly treatment of racism, prejudice, and hatred, as well as the study of how to address and overcome them. We are especially interested in applicants approaching antisemitism from a social-scientific perspective. Priority will be given to applicants with legal authorization to work in the United States.

Application Requirements

- Cover Letter (including a description of research projects to be carried out during the fellowship, and teaching interests/experiences)
- CV
- Writing Sample (a published/publishable article or a dissertation chapter)

- One course syllabus
- Two Letters of Recommendation (uploaded to the Interfolio directly by the recommenders)

Consideration of applications will begin on April 20, 2026 and continue until the position is filled. The fellowship is available to holders of a doctorate from any discipline relevant to the position. Those who have not defended their thesis at the time of application should supply a statement attesting to their expected graduation date by a departmental graduate chair or supervisor.

The School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania is committed to cultivating a vibrant community of students, scholars, researchers, and staff and to upholding the highest standards of academic excellence. The School and The Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies strive to create working and learning environments that foster intellectual growth and encourage meaningful connections within our Penn academic community and beyond.

Contact Information

Steven Weitzman

wsteve@sas.upenn.edu

Job URL

<https://apply.interfolio.com/183364>

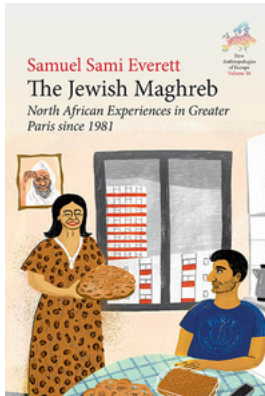
Website

<https://katz.sas.upenn.edu/>

Closing Date

June 19, 2026

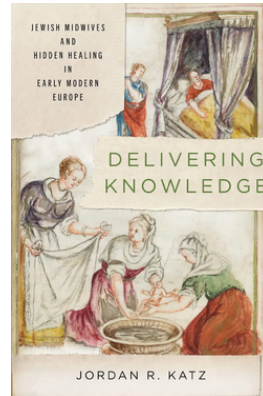
Recent books of interest (click any ISBN to purchase)



The Jewish Maghreb: North African Experiences in Greater Paris since 1981/ by Samuel Sami Everett. Berghahn Books, 2026.

[9781836954491](#)

Homogenization, monochromatic rendering, and the process of schematic imposition is readily apparent in modern mainstream Jewish French politics. The Jewish Maghreb explores complex self and communal understandings of Maghrebi Jewish populations and their descendants in France through ethnography across generations. This study examines how colonial history, migration, and geopolitics shape ongoing Maghrebi belonging. From commercial networks in Paris to Algerian pilgrimage journeys, the book reveals communal North African Jewish navigation of plural sediments of self and history. The heuristic ‘maghrebinicité,’ works to illuminate ongoing negotiations of memory, citizenship, and cultural transmission in postcolonial France, offering fresh insights into diaspora, return, and the persistence of transnational connections.

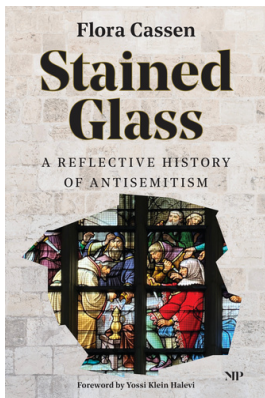


Delivering Knowledge: Jewish Midwives and Hidden Healing in Early Modern Europe/ by Jordan R. Katz. Stanford University Press, 2026.

[9781503644106](#)

This book offers a new perspective on the history of early modern Jewish communities by centering the experiences of Jewish midwives. In the wake of the Thirty Years' War, as cities and towns across northern and central Europe placed new emphasis on the regulation of healthcare and childbirth, Jewish midwives stood at the crossroads of tremendous changes in both Jewish communities and the surrounding Christian municipalities. Drawing on previously untapped archival sources, Jordan Katz reveals that Jewish midwives were integral to the expansion of medical bureaucracies, crossing boundaries between genders, between religious communities, and across classes through their work caring for pregnant women and newborn babies.

Grounded in rich historical evidence, the book shows how a focus on Jewish midwives illuminates the complex relationships between Jewish communities and local municipalities, showcasing a level of engagement between Jews and Christian civic authorities that has gone unstudied. Through the lens of midwives, this book opens up new understandings of Jewish communal history, the history of women's healing practices, Jewish-Christian relations, and cultures of record in the early modern period.



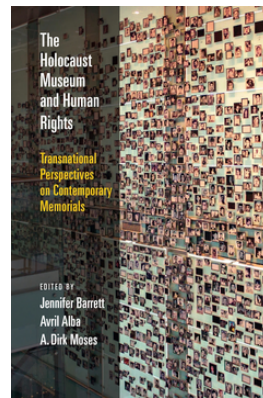
Stained Glass: A Reflective History of Antisemitism/ by Flora Cassen. University of Toronto Press, 2026.

[9781487557911](#)

In *Stained Glass*, Flora Cassen offers a deeply personal and intellectually rich exploration of Jewish life in Europe, from the shadows of the medieval past to the aftermath of the Holocaust and into the present. Blending memoir, family history, and historical analysis, she illuminates how old myths and prejudices about Jews continue to shape Jewish identity today.

Drawing from her upbringing in Antwerp's Jewish community and her later life in America, Cassen weaves together historical events, family narratives, and contemporary challenges to paint a vivid portrait of Jewish experience in modern Europe. At once intimate and analytical, she reflects on childhood fears of being identified as Jewish, connecting these anxieties to the trauma of historical persecution and the Holocaust.

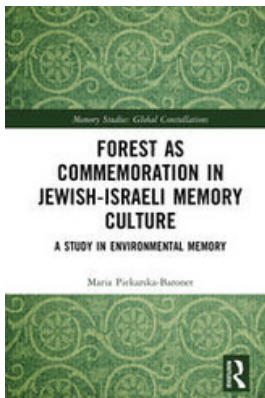
The book also offers a comparative analysis of Jewish life in Europe and America, highlighting the vibrancy of American Judaism while acknowledging rising concerns about antisemitism in the United States. By juxtaposing these experiences, *Stained Glass* invites readers to reflect on the future of Jewish communities in a world that is increasingly fractured and uncertain.



The Holocaust Museum and Human Rights: Transnational Perspectives on Contemporary Memorials/ edited by Jennifer Barrett, Avril Alba & Dirk Moses. Pennsylvania University Press, 2025.

[9780812253221](#)

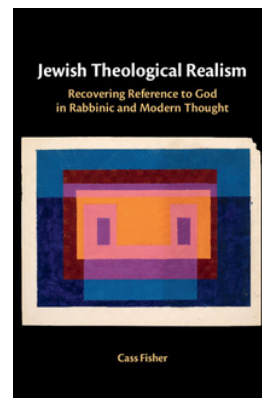
Spanning six continents – Europe, Australia, Africa, Asia, North America, and South America – this edited collection offers a comparative, transnational study of Holocaust and human rights museums that foregrounds the overlapping and often contested work these institutions do in narrating and memorializing histories of genocide and human rights abuses for a public audience. Museums that link the Holocaust with social justice, human rights, and genocide prevention have been founded in many countries – for example, the Kazerne Dossin Memorial Museum in Belgium, the Anne Frank House in the Netherlands, and the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre in South Africa – making Holocaust and human rights museums a global phenomenon. It is not uncommon for these institutions to court controversy by linking the Holocaust to human rights issues in their locales and abroad. Some begin from a ‘Holocaust core’ and extrapolate from this history to address broader concerns, while others integrate the Holocaust as ‘a’ or, at times, ‘the’ case study par excellence of human rights abuses. Other institutions that may not explicitly focus on the Holocaust continue to engage these representational practices to highlight other instances of genocide and human rights abuses.



Forest as Commemoration in Jewish-Israeli Memory Culture: A Study in Environmental Memory/ by Maria Piekarska-Baronet. Routledge, 2026.
[9781032989747](#)

Situated within the broadly understood subfield of environmental memory studies, this book explores Israeli forests as spaces of commemoration. It investigates their significance in the Jewish-Israeli memory culture over the last century, as well as their role as a recurrent form of environmental memorial, understood as a commemoration that uses the organic as both the symbolic and the building substance. In doing so, it reveals the roles that the natural environment plays in memory practices: as a carrier of symbolic meanings, and also as an acting, more-than-human element of memorial spaces.

Employing the perspective of environmental hermeneutics, the analysis is grounded in the realities of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and reflects on the intricate intersection of ideological, political, socio-economic, personal, and institutional dimensions of local tree planting. Simultaneously, it draws from instances of arboreal commemorations found in other geographical and cultural contexts, situating the practice of memorial forests within the wider framework of environmental memory and its associated social practices. In this way, it offers instructive insights for other cases of arboreal remembrance, highlighting both the potential benefits and risks linked to environmental memorials.



Jewish Theological Realism: Recovering Reference to God in Rabbinic and Modern Thought/ by Cass Fisher. Cambridge University Press, 2026.
[9781009494915](#)

Jewish Theological Realism restores the place of theology in rabbinic Judaism and provides resources for contemporary Jewish theological reflection. Cass Fisher uses the ideas of theological realism and theological reference to diagnose and remedy the marginalization of theology in Judaism. Both the depiction of rabbinic theology as an edifying discourse for the laity, and the pervasive move in modern Jewish thought to limit theological language arise from skepticism about our ability to make truth claims about God. Fisher argues that the rabbis valued knowledge of God and affirmed their capacity to speak truthfully about the divine. Moreover, while most modern Jewish thinkers sharply limit theological language, there exists an important countertrend of theological realists who have sought to preserve Jewish theology. Fisher concludes with the first application of new theories of reference to theology, demonstrating that these approaches to reference can resolve longstanding challenges to Jewish theology and provide the basis for re-envisioning theology as a communal and religious practice.

Photo submissions: Australian or Australian-Jewish theme



Above: *Flowers of Memory*. Photo Jana Vytrhlik.

In moments of grief, Jews traditionally bring small stones rather than flowers, but it was not Sydney Jews, who first brought floral tributes to gates of The Great Synagogue. Within minutes of the breaking news on Sunday 14 December 2025, international visitors, church communities, and many others expressed grief, love and unity with the Jewish community fatally attacked in Bondi that evening. The Synagogue's curator responded as quickly, transforming the collection object *Exodus* (2011) by Sydney glass artist Marc Grunseit into a commemorative installation. Fifteen stems, selected from the hundreds of flowers left at gates, have been preserved and now rest on the glass surface, evoking both biblical symbolism of hope and the fragility of life. The artwork remains on display in the Synagogue.

Call for Submissions, AAJS Newsletter No 95

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.