

Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School



The first in a series of annual summer schools for PhD students in European-Jewish History and Culture, organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, took place from 20-23 July at Yarnton Manor, Oxford. The opening event was held at University College London in the presence of Dr Kurt Hellman, whose generous donation has enabled the Centre to plan a series of such workshops for the coming years. Before introducing the speaker, Edward Timms shared his memories of Max and Hilde Kochmann with the audience. Max was the first Chairman of the Centre's London-based Support Group. What he and Hilde provided was not merely practical support, but something more inspirational. They embodied in their own personalities the cultural and religious heritage which provided the focus of our teaching and research, and they succeeded in involving a network of further enthusiasts, including their friend Kurt Hellman. The keynote address that followed was given by Prof. Mitchell Hart (University of Florida, Gainesville), who spoke on 'Nature's Chosen People: Darwinism and Eugenics in Modern Jewish Thought'.

The workshop itself was a truly international experience, since the twenty participants who presented their work came from a variety of countries, including Israel, the United States of America, Canada, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Belgium and the UK. They were selected from a group of more than 85 excellent applicants and their presentations demonstrated the quality and variety of the work currently done in European-Jewish history. Prof. Joanna Weinberg (Oxford), Dr David Rechter (Oxford), Prof. Mitchell Hart (Gainesville) and Prof. Christian Wiese (Sussex), who chaired the different sessions, contributed to a creative atmosphere that enabled the students to discuss both their own projects and more general questions concerning methodology and current trends in Jewish history. The topics discussed included the history of the Jews in Verona in the 16th century, seventeenth-century Sephardi history in Amsterdam and Salonica, European-Jewish social, political and cultural history in the 18th and 19th centuries in different parts of Western and Eastern Europe, the history of Zionism, the Jewish experience in France, Belgium and Poland before and during the Holocaust, as well as the history of Jews in Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia after 1945. The participants welcomed the opportunity to share their research with other colleagues and will continue the intellectual exchange started at Oxford.

For the Centre for German-Jewish Studies this tradition of summer schools is of great importance. It forms part of our endeavour to support the research of young international scholars and bring them together in an interdisciplinary atmosphere in the presence of experienced scholars of different disciplinary backgrounds. In planning this series of events in the coming years, the Centre commits to creating a growing network of young scholars from different countries and to providing an institutional setting for an ongoing scholarly exchange and debate that will build bridges between European institutions and enrich future research on European-Jewish history.

Sussex-Nanjing-Shanghai Research Network

During a visit to China in May 2009, Christian Wiese lectured on 'Religious Change in Nineteenth-Century German-Jewish Life' as well as on 'Modern Anti-Semitism in Europe' at the Universities of Nanjing and Beijing. Part of the programme was a workshop at the Glazer Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Nanjing. Founded in 1992 by Prof. Xu Xin, one of the leading scholars in Judaic Studies in China, this research centre has contributed to an astonishing development of Chinese-Jewish Studies, with increasing numbers of doctoral students studying Hebrew in Jerusalem and researching the history of different Jewish immigrant communities in China. The experience of German-speaking Jewish refugees from Central Europe who fled to Shanghai between 1938 and 1941, joining the existing communities of Baghdadi and Russian Jews and establishing a rich cultural life under difficult circumstances in the Shanghai Ghetto, marks an important episode in this history that currently attracts increasing interest in Chinese academia.

In order to explore new material and unknown aspects of the social and cultural life in the Shanghai Jewish community during the Second World War, the Centre for German-Jewish Studies plans to establish a network of cooperation between Sussex, the Nanjing Institute for Jewish Studies and the Centre of Jewish Studies at the Academy of Social Sciences in Shanghai (led by Prof. Pan Guang). Funding is currently being sought for joint workshops and conferences in China and the United Kingdom, with the aim of preparing more comprehensive research projects on specific aspects of the Jewish experience in Shanghai, including the local Zionist movement and the Jewish economic and cultural contribution in China, as well as the history of the Shanghai refugees who emigrated to Israel and the United States after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949.

Obituaries

Carola Grindea (1914-2009)

'You must speak to Carola,' said a voice on the telephone, 'if you want to find out about Arnold Daghani'. It was through this surprise phone call (from the Brighton-based journalist Mollie Brandl Bowen) that researchers at the newly founded Centre for German-Jewish Studies became aware of the Arnold Daghani collection, the most significant body of artistic and literary work by a Holocaust survivor at any British institution. After Daghani and his wife Nanino had died in Hove in the mid-1980s, the collection was presented to the University of Sussex by Miron Grindea and his wife Carola, who was Nanino's sister.

After Miron's death, Carola was the most important surviving witness to the life of the Romanian Jewish community from which this idiosyncratic artist came. At her home in London's Emperor's Gate, she welcomed visitors from the Centre and guided the research that has led to the rediscovery of the artist. She particularly welcomed the publication of *Arnold Daghani's Memories of Mikhailowka*, the illustrated edition of the artist's labour camp diary edited by Deborah Schultz and Edward Timms and published by Vallentine Mitchell. Carola generously donated further works to the Centre and as recently as April 2009 she attended the Daghani Exhibition at the Austrian Cultural Forum in London. She encouraged us to showcase not only his Holocaust-related paintings, but also Daghani's wide-ranging later work, not least on musical themes (including the tribute to Prokofiev reproduced here).

The piano was Carola's passion, and she was internationally celebrated for her method of relieving concert performers from the debilitating effects of anxiety and tension. Innumerable musicians have benefitted from her sensitive coaching, and her work will live on through the European Piano Teachers Association, which she founded and through publications such as *Great Pianists and Pedagogues in Conversation with Carola Grindea*.

Walter Ledermann (1911-2009)

The early development of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies enjoyed the enthusiastic support of Walter Ledermann, who taught mathematics at Sussex for many years and became a world authority in the field of algebra. Born in Berlin to assimilated Jewish parents, Walter came from a musical family, learning to play the violin at the age of eleven. His studies were brought to an abrupt end by the Nazi seizure of power, and in 1934 he moved to Scotland, having been awarded a scholarship created by students at St Andrews to support a refugee. He soon completed his doctorate and by 1940 had become a British citizen, teaching navigation to the RAF during the war. Through a fellow refugee named Erwin Freundlich he was introduced to the psychotherapist Ruth (Rushi) Stadler, whom he married in 1946.

After several years at Manchester, Walter was invited to join the University of Sussex in 1962, remaining there until his retirement. He will be remembered by generations of students both for congenial teaching and for expertly edited textbooks. Both he and his wife Rushi attended the seminars of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and contributed papers based on their personal experiences and cultural interests. Rushi spoke about modern painting under the title 'Genius and Narcissistic Disorder' while Walter's topic was 'Germany – From Inflation to National Socialism'. Sharing our concern to document the experiences of refugees, Walter composed his memoirs during retirement, published as *Encounters of a Mathematician*. In addition to an evocative account of childhood, the book celebrates the pleasures of chamber music which sustained him throughout his life.



Daghani, 'Symphonie Classique': Ballet de Prokofiev (1972)

Norbert Lynton (1927-2007)

Born in Berlin as Norbert Casper Loewenstein, Lynton was one of the most inspiring art historians of his generation. After his family settled in England in 1938, he developed a passion for modern art, making a name for himself as both critic and curator. During his period as Professor of History of Art, it was he who piloted through the gift of the Arnold Daghani Collection to the University of Sussex. 'Like Goya and Daumier,' Lynton wrote in 1987, 'Daghani had to tell the world what he saw and experienced. He did so in ways that are sometimes amazingly beautiful and sometimes ghastly. Everything he did questioned art and humanity, his own included'.

Among his many publications, Lynton is best known for *The Story of Modern Art*, a work he proposed to Phaidon as a counterpart to E. H. Gombrich's *The Story of Art*. Lynton was a well-loved teacher who enjoyed working in tandem with colleagues from other subjects at a time when such interdisciplinary seminars were a distinctive feature of Sussex. After his retirement in 1989, he remained active as a researcher, committed to subjects that ranged from Russian Constructivism to the English idiom of Bloomsbury. In 2006 he was awarded the OBE for his work as chair of the Charleston Trust, and the posthumous publication in 2009 of *Tatlin's Tower* has further cemented his reputation.

Conferences

The Kindertransport Seventy Years On: New Developments in Research

A workshop outlining new developments in research on the Kindertransport took place on 17 September 2009 at the Institute for German and Romance Studies in London. Organised by Andrea Hammel (Centre for German-Jewish Studies) and Bea Lewkowicz (Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies), the event brought together academics, former Kindertransportees and the film director Lindsay Hill. Both the director of the IGRS, Professor Naomi Segal, and the Centre's Director, Professor Christian Wiese, welcomed the attempt to forge new directions in the field of Kindertransport research.

After an introduction by Anthony Grenville (Consultant Editor of AJR Journal), Hermann Hirschberger introduced the AJR's new Kindertransport database. Francis Williams (University of Edinburgh) demonstrated how child refugees' experiences can be explored by means of statistical information. Other papers focused on Nicholas Winton (Jana Buresova), Kindertransport Testimonies and the AJR Refugee Voices Archive (Bea Lewkowicz) as well as the process of autobiographical writing (Leslie Brent). Andrea Hammel outlined the future of Kindertransport Research, calling for an interdisciplinary approach which might include comparative studies between Kindertransportees and Evacuees, Life Writing and Trauma Theory or a focus on outreach work on the internet. The workshop included a screening of 'Kindertransport Story', a BBC film, introduced by its director Lindsay Hill, which inspired a lively concluding discussion.

Council for Assisting Refugee Academics

Friends of the Centre were well represented at the 75th anniversary conference of the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics, held in London in December 2008. This organization, originally named the Academic Assistance Council, was founded in 1933 to support scholars and scientists persecuted by the Nazi regime. Its work continues to the present day, when academics from the Middle East are particularly in need of assistance.

The keynote lecture, entitled 'Nazi persecution – Britain's gift', was delivered by Dr Ralph Kohn FRS, who was born in Leipzig and fled from Germany as a five-year-old child, travelling with his parents first to the Netherlands and then to Britain. His lecture, published by the Royal Society, provides an eloquent account both of the work of rescuers, led by William Beveridge and his executive assistant Esther Simpson, and of the – predominantly Jewish – scientists whose lives they saved. Britain, Dr Kohn explained, formed a 'haven of sanity' for refugee academics by providing them with facilities and financial support.

In a further lecture entitled 'Eva and Esther', Professor Lewis Elton recalled how he and his brother Geoffrey were brought to England in February 1939 by their parents Eva and Victor Ehrenberg. Their efforts to leave Prague had begun immediately after the Munich agreement, which nobody – except Chamberlain – believed would be Hitler's 'last territorial demand'. Their escape owed much to the drive of Eva Ehrenberg, but it would not have been successful without the efforts of Esther Simpson, who secured an academic position in England for Victor Ehrenberg, a noted Classical Historian. Ralph Kohn's lecture draws on archives at the Bodleian Library in Oxford, while Lewis Elton's is based on family papers deposited in Special Collections at the University of Sussex.

Publications and lectures

Andrea Hammel

'Idealized or Demonized: Representations of Jewish Motherhood in the work of Anna Gmeyner and Selma Kahn', in *'Not an Essence but a Positioning': German-Jewish Women Writers, 1900-1938*, ed. Andrea Hammel and Godela Weiss-Sussex (Munich, 2009)

"A Mean Old Woman?" Ruth Kluger's Autobiographical Texts and her Audiences' at 'Holocaust Representations Since 1975': A One-Day Interdisciplinary Conference, 18 September 2009, Department of English, University of Chester

Nitzan Lebovic

'Nietzscheanischer Film (oder Biopolitik am Ende aller Tage)', in *Film Avantgarde, Biopolitik*, eds. Sabeth Buchmann, Helmut Draxler, Stephen Greene (Vienna, 2009), pp. 312- 325

Review: Steven Aschheim, *The Nietzsche Legacy in Germany: 1890-1990*, in *Zmanim: A Historical Quarterly* 107 (Summer 2009), pp.110- 112 (in Hebrew)

Co-organizer of the international conference 'Bund and Borders: German-Jewish Thinking between Faith and Power', Jewish Museum Berlin, 17-19 May, 2009 (see www.sdvnet.de/leobaeck/index.html)

Leena Petersen

Leena Petersen's current research project at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies is entitled 'Transformations of the Utopian: From Jewish Apologetics to Dialectics of the Enlightenment'. She is currently undertaking research at the Jewish National and University Library Archives in Jerusalem. In April 2009 she co-organised a one-day workshop on 'Aesthetic Theories of Catastrophe in Fin-de-Siècle' at Goldsmiths College in London. In October 2009 she will return to the UK.

'On Heartquake and Suburbia Hallucination: Israeli Palestinian Art Collaborations', Article, to be published in *The International Journal of the Arts in Society*, vol. 3 'Transnationalism', Common Ground Publishing, Victoria, Australia 2009 (forthcoming)

'On the Occasion of Linguistic Mimesis': review of, *The Anti-Journalist: Karl Kraus and Jewish Self-Fashioning in Fin-de-siècle Europe* by Paul Reitter, H-Judaic, H-Net Reviews, March 2009

'Times of Decay' in the Linguistic Thought of Baroque and Expressionism', paper given at the one-day conference 'Aesthetic Theories of Catastrophe in Fin-de-Siècle' at Goldsmiths College, London, 30 April 2009

'Physiognomic Culture Critique and Image Studies – A Comparison', paper given at the Third Critical Theory Conference 'Images of a Demystified World: Critical Theory', John Cabot University in Rome, 13 May 2009

'Heartquake and Suburbia Hallucination. On Israeli Palestinian Art Collaborations', paper given at the Common Ground Publishing Conference 'The Arts in Society. Transnationalism' in Venice, 30 July 2009

Deborah Schultz

Teaching Pack for the Arnold Daghani

Collection, designed for future use with students. This 20-page illustrated brochure consists of an outline of the Daghani Collection; selected images and related short texts; questions for students; a map of Romania and Transnistria showing the Durchgangstrasse IV (1942-3); a chronology of the artist's life and artistic career; and a bibliography. It is available from Special Collections, Sussex University Library or directly from Dr Schultz.

Edward Timms

'Vienna Circles: The Parameters of Cultural Innovation' in *City of Dreams: Vienna 1900-1935*, ed. Julian Johnson (souvenir programme, London: philharmonia orchestra, 2009), pp. 14-18

'Libris (London) Ltd: A Refugee Bookshop and its Legacy' in *Buch- und Provenienzforschung: Festschrift für Murray G. Hall*, ed. Gerhard Renner, Wendelin Schmidt-Dengler and Christian Gastgeber (Vienna, 2009), pp. 187-201

'Cultural Parameters between the Wars: A Reassessment of the Vienna Circles' in *The Forgotten City: Interwar Vienna between Tradition and Modernity*, ed. Deborah Holmes and Lisa Silverman (Rochester NY, forthcoming November 2009), pp. 21-31

Christian Wiese

Jüdische Bildung und Kultur in Sachsen-Anhalt von der Aufklärung bis zum Nationalsozialismus, ed. Giuseppe Veltri and Christian Wiese (Berlin: Metropol, 2009)

'Revolte wider die Weltflucht: Hans Jonas' Auseinandersetzung mit Martin Heidegger und dem modernen Existentialismus' in *Trumah* 18 (2009), pp. 161-188

"Let his Memory be Holy to Us!": Jewish Interpretations of Martin Luther from the Enlightenment to the Holocaust' in *Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook* 2009 (forthcoming)

'Religious Change in Nineteenth-Century German-Jewish Life', lecture at the Centre for Jewish Studies at Nanjing University, 7 May 2009

'Jewish Intellectual History in 19th Century Germany', lecture at the University of Beijing, 11 May 2009

'Modern Anti-Semitism in Europe: Historiographical Perspectives and Debates', lecture at the University of Beijing, 12 May 2009

'No Love for the Jewish People? Hans Jonas's Controversy with Hannah Arendt over "Eichmann in Jerusalem" Revisited', paper given at a conference on 'Bund and Borders: German-Jewish Thinking between Faith and Power', Jewish Museum Berlin, 17-19 May 2009

'Robert Weltsch and the Ambivalence of Jewish Nationalism', lecture at the Jewish Historical Society in Birmingham, 31 May 2009

Gerhard Wolf

Mac Goldsmith: The Life and Work of a Refugee Engineer (1902-1983) (University of Sussex, Centre for German-Jewish Studies and University of Leicester Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust Studies, 2008)

Forthcoming lectures and events

Workshop

3 November 2009

'70 Years Later: The German Invasion of Poland and the Outbreak of the Second World War' (in cooperation with the Centre for Modern European Cultural History)

Seventy years ago, on 1 September 1939, the Nazi leadership finally unveiled their true intentions and, in attacking Poland, started Germany's second grab for world power in just one generation. Not even the last war had prepared European societies for the brutalities to come.

As Hitler informed his generals a few days before, his Death's Head squads were prepared "to send every man, woman, and child of Polish origin or language to death without mercy". Radically new and expansive aims, i.e. the creation of German living space in Eastern Europe, translated into a radically new way of warfare and, later on, into an occupation policy that was ideologically driven and without pity towards the Christian and, even more so, the Jewish population.

This panel discussion will explore the invasion and its immediate aftermath by linking the German atrocities to the ideological aims of the Nazi regime and thus understanding the war against Poland as a prelude and first climax of Nazi genocidal warfare culminating in the war of annihilation against the Soviet Union and the Holocaust against the Jews.

5 pm, University of Sussex
venue to be announced

Lectures

Sunday, 18 October 2009

Bill Epstein Memorial Lecture

Prof. Emanuel Marx (Tel-Aviv and Ben Gurion University), 'The Kristallnacht as Symbolic Turning Point in the Nazi Rule'

3 pm, Ajex Hall, Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue, Palmeira Avenue, Hove BN3 3GE

All welcome, booking not required

Monday, 26 October 2009

Prof. Richard Wolin (City University of New York Graduate Centre), 'Walter Benjamin Meets the Cosmics: The Influence of Ludwig Klages and the 'Kosmische Runde' on Benjamin's Work'

4.30 pm, Centre for German-Jewish Studies Meeting Room Arts B127 (Tea at 4 pm)

All welcome, booking not required

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

Prof. Christian Wiese (University of Sussex), 'Leo Baeck; Scholar and Representative of German Jewry in Nazi Germany'

8 pm, Leo Baeck Lodge, 11 Fitzjohn's Avenue London NW3 5JY

All welcome, booking not required

Tuesday, 8 December 2009

Prof. Christian Wiese (University of Sussex), Professorial Lecture: 'No Love for the Jewish People? Hannah Arendt's "Eichmann in Jerusalem" Revisited'

6.30 pm, University of Sussex, Chowen Lecture Theatre, Brighton and Sussex Medical School (Refreshments from 6 pm)

To book a place:

E events@sussex.ac.uk

For further information contact Amy Stevens:

T +44 (0)1273-877488

Thursday, 28 January 2010

Dr. Leena Petersen (University of Sussex), 'Transformations of the Utopian: From Jewish Apologetics to Dialectics of the Enlightenment' (History Work in Progress Seminar)

4 pm, University of Sussex, Arts A 155

All welcome, booking not required

Film Series 'Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust'

The question whether and to what extent the European Jews resisted against the Nazi persecution during the Holocaust is highly contested among historians. The film series will explore different forms of Jewish resistance, including the history of Jewish partisans in Eastern Europe, organised resistance in the ghettos as well as the phenomenon of spiritual and cultural resistance against a merciless enemy.

Monday, 12 October 2009

Flames in the Ashes (a film on the emergence of organised Jewish resistance, directed by Haim Guri and Jacquot Erlich, Israel 1985)

Introduced by Prof. Christian Wiese (University of Sussex)

5 pm, University of Sussex, Engineering 1, AS02

Monday, 9 November 2009

Ghetto (a film on the ghetto in Vilnius, directed by Audrius Juzenas, Germany and Lithuania 2006)

Introduced by Dr. Gudrun Schroeter (Berlin)

5 pm, venue to be announced

Monday, 23 November

Madrid Before Hanita (a film on Jews from Palestine in the International Brigades during the Spanish Civil War, directed by Eran Torbiner, Israel 2006)

Introduced by Dr. Gerben Zaagsma (University College, London)

5 pm, venue to be announced

Monday, 30 November 2009

Defiance (a film on Jewish partisans in Belorussia, directed by Edward Zwick, USA 2008)

5 pm, venue to be announced

All welcome, booking not required

Sussex-Berlin Dialogues on Jewish History and Contemporary Issues

Theme for 2009/10: 'The Question of Redemption: Messianism and the End of Days'

Thursday, 10 December 2009

Prof. Moshe Idel (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and Prof. Elliot Wolfson (New York University) will discuss 'Messianic Manifestation and Mystic Vision'

The event will take place at 7 pm at the Berlin Jewish Museum (Konzertsaal)

Tuesday, 12 January 2010

Prof. Sigrid Weigel (Director, Centre for Literary and Cultural Research, Berlin) and Prof. Michael Löwy (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris) will discuss 'The End of Secular Utopias'.

The event will take place in London (time and venue to be confirmed)

Holocaust Memorial Day

Wednesday, 27 January 2010

Speaker: Freddie Knoller (London). Freddie Knoller was born in Vienna in 1921, where he lived with his parents and his two brothers until 11 March 1938, when Austria was annexed by Germany. His life, during the tragic period 1938-1945, reads like a novel: arrests, prison, escapes, hiding with false papers, joining the resistance and concentration camps. But luck and courage saved him from extermination. He is the author of 'Desperate Journey: Vienna, Paris, Auschwitz' (2002) and 'Living with the Enemy: My Secret Life on the Run from the Nazis' (2005).

Film: 'Daring to Resist: Three Women Face the Holocaust' (a film by Martha Goell Lubell and Barbara Attie, USA 1999)

2 pm, University of Sussex, Chowen Lecture Theatre, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

All welcome, booking not required

Discounts on publications associated with the Centre

Publications by researchers at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies may be purchased at a discount by Friends of the Centre.

For further information about the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, please contact:

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