



## Holocaust Memorial Day at the University of Sussex Wednesday February 1, 2023



Sasha Roseneil VC opening the proceedings



Manfred Goldberg



Chief Inspector Lawrence McAndrew, Sussex Police lighting the Anish Kapoor memorial candle

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies/Weidenfeld Institute was fortunate to secure additional funding this year from the Association of Jewish Refugees which enabled the University to hold a week of Holocaust commemoration.

On Wednesday 1 February, despite rail strikes and teachers' strikes, the auditorium of the Jubilee building – the largest lecture theatre on campus, was packed with people of all ages to hear a remarkable testimony from Holocaust survivor – Manfred Goldberg.

Manfred was born on 21 April 1930 in Kassel, in central Germany into an Orthodox Jewish family. As Hitler consolidated his grip on power his parents became increasingly aware of the dangers posed by the rise of the Nazis and realised that they had to escape. His father was lucky enough to encounter an exceptional British 'passport officer' at the Embassy in Berlin. He was Frank Foley who was the head of MI6 in the German capital; and who, in the teeth of opposition from the British Government, secured visas for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Jews enabling them to escape to either the UK or, what was then, Palestine. However, Manfred, his young brother and his mother were sent to the Jewish ghetto in Riga, capital of Latvia and were then shunted between ghettos and concentration camps for the duration of the war.

Manfred's young brother was murdered by the Nazis, but he and his mother survived. He tells his story in an almost matter-of-fact way, which is most powerful. 'I was living in hell on earth...' he told the Sussex audience.

In the ensuing question and answer session, Manfred talked about the importance of continuing

to testify about the Holocaust: 'It is unbelievable that whilst there are still witnesses alive like me there are people who deny the Holocaust' he said. The last questioner asked him if he could forgive the Nazis. 'I cannot forgive' he said, 'but hatred is beyond me.'

The second half of the programme explored the fraught ethical issues that arise when genocide survivors attempt to go beyond memorializing destruction and seek to secure some form of restitutive justice from the heirs of the perpetrators.

The session began with a screening of the film *Reckonings* which deals with the question of how, less than seven years after the end of the war, Jews and Germans were able to find themselves at the negotiating table discussing reparations. This was extremely controversial at the time and remains a sensitive topic – one which the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies is committed to addressing.

The issue was further explored by Professor Constantin Goschler, Chair of Contemporary History at Ruhr-University, Bochum in conversation with Institute's Director, Professor Gideon Reuveni. Constantin Goschler



Olly DeHerrera speaking on behalf of the students

is one of the world's leading authorities on the history of reparations for historical injustice. The discussion threw light on the 1952 German-Jewish reparation settlement, about which relatively little is known.

Students from schools in the area were asked to complete questionnaires following the event. Of the 37 that responded, 84% found Manfred Goldberg's talk very engaging and 83% would like to hear him speak again. 90% found the event 'very good' or 'good'. 32% knew a lot about the Holocaust beforehand and 67% previously knew something about this period of history. All those that responded to the questionnaire said that they would like to attend another event at the University of Sussex.

# Holocaust Memorial Day continued

**Thursday 2 February**

## Screening: *Tacheles – The Heart of The Matter*

On Thursday 2 February, members of the public joined Dr Kate Marrison and Dr Victoria Grace Walden in the Attenborough Centre on the University of Sussex campus for a screening of the documentary film *Tacheles – The Heart of The Matter*. This film follows Yaar Harell as he sets out to make a computer game about his grandmother's experiences during the Holocaust. Following the screening, the audience heard a recorded message from Yaar as he reflected on his journey and personal growth since making the film. This was followed by a lively post-film discussion.

**Saturday 4 February**

## CPD: International Approaches to Digital Holocaust Education

How do we incorporate digital tools into Holocaust Education? During the morning, participants heard from Miško Stanišić from *Terraforming* who shared his concept of Ester Graphic Novels. Following this, Birthe Pater from the Arolsen Archives presented on multiple projects including *#everynamematters* and *Stolen Memory*. In the afternoon sessions, David Klevan from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum invited participants to take part in the *History Unfolded* project and from Alex Maws (Head of Education and Heritage at the Association of Jewish Refugees) who added a spatial dimension to the discussion by sharing the UK Holocaust Map. Closing with a roundtable discussion, guest speakers reflected on the affordances of digital tools for zooming in on local microhistories and for empowering students to do the research themselves.

## The Isaacsohn and André families' Visiting Fellowship Programme

The Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies is establishing a new ten-year Fellowship Programme in Jewish and Holocaust Studies in memory of five members of the Isaacsohn and André families who perished during the Holocaust. The André families' Visiting Fellowship programme will run initially for ten years and will see leading academics from universities around the world joining Sussex experts in Jewish and Holocaust studies as Visiting Fellows, for a period of up to three months. This will deepen Sussex's research in this field and enrich the programmes offered to students. Fellows will join the Centre for German-Jewish Studies – a major component of the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies, within the University's School of Media, Arts and Humanities. They will have the opportunity to form affiliations with other research centres across the University to promote even greater collaboration on the broad topic of Jewish studies.

## Paying for the Past: Reparations after the Holocaust in a Global Context

We congratulate Gideon Reuveni who, along with Dr Iris Nachum (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) and Professor Daniel Siemens (Newcastle University), has been selected to lead a research group at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies in Jerusalem. The group will focus on the topic of reparations for historical injustice. Victims of past injustices and their descendants often seek both material and symbolic compensation, as well as a say in how present-day societies frame and narrate these events. Redressing historical wrongs is a vital form of social justice and has become increasingly important on political and historical agendas. This research group aims to bring together scholars from various disciplines to stimulate discussion and establish a new framework on this topic. In doing so, the group aims to make a significant contribution to the discourse on reparations and reconciliation in the 20th and 21st centuries.



Miško Stanišić, Alex Maws, David Klevan, Birthe Pater, Kate Marrison (left to right)

## The Weidenfeld Faculty Exchange Programme with the University of Tel Aviv

The School of Media, Arts and the Humanities (MAH) and Tel Aviv University are delighted to announce the establishment of a faculty exchange programme. Sponsored by the Weidenfeld Institute, this programme will host one faculty member from the other institution for a period of up to a semester. The timing of the faculty visits will be set by mutual agreement on a case-by-case basis. Visiting faculty will have the chance to present, research and engage in discussion with faculty members of the host institute. Sussex faculty

visiting Tel Aviv will teach one course for which they shall be paid a stipend of \$7000. Faculty from Tel Aviv will be paid a stipend of up to £5,000 and will be expected to engage in the research and outreach activities of the School of Media Arts and Humanities and the Weidenfeld Institute.

## Book review



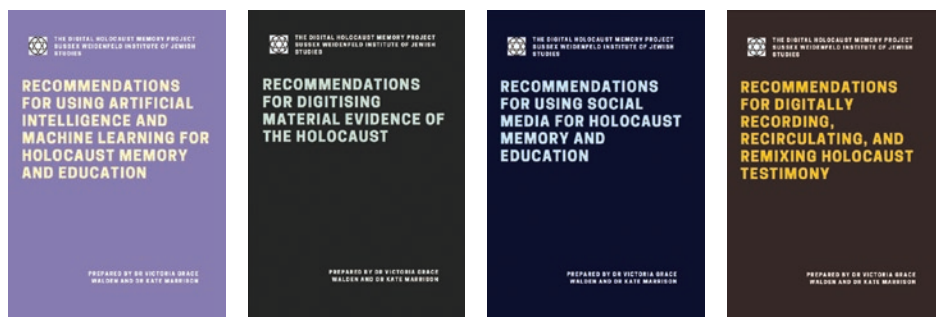
*The Future of the German-Jewish Past: Memory and the Question of Antisemitism* edited by Gideon Reuveni and

Diana Franklin was reviewed in *Antisemitism Studies*, Volume 6, No. 2. Following is a quote from the review:

'The Future of the German-Jewish Past' makes for compelling reading. Its essays are wide-ranging in topic, perspective, and tone, yet they remain tightly oriented around the book's central questions. They are at once rooted in the long German Jewish past and attentive to current developments, rendering the volume both a useful introduction to the field and an up-to-date catalogue of new perspectives and approaches.'

Purdue University Press  
[www.thepress.purdue.edu/](http://www.thepress.purdue.edu/)

# Digital Interventions in Holocaust Memory and Education



During 2022, Dr Victoria Grace Walden and Dr Kate Marrison worked with more than 80 representatives from a diverse range of academic disciplines, Holocaust institutions across the world, and wider GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) sector creative and technical professionals to create recommendations for digital interventions in Holocaust memory and education.

The project was structured as six series of creative, participatory workshops on the following themes:

- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- Digitising Material Evidence
- Social Media
- Recording, Recirculating and Remixing Testimony
- Virtual Memoriscapes
- Computer Games

The **reports** developed from the first four of these series are now available and the next two will be published later in 2023. Each report lists recommendations directed towards a range of different stakeholders. Dr Walden and Dr Marrison would appreciate it if readers circulate these reports as widely as possible and they can be contacted via the contact form. They are keen to support this and would like to put people working in the field in contact with others.

The project was run in association with the following project partners: The University of Bern; iRights.Lab, Germany; The Centre of Life Writing and Life History, University of Sussex; The Hebrew University; Future Memory Foundation; and the Historical Games Network. It was generously supported by funding from the Economic and Social Research Council's Impact Acceleration Account and the School of Media, Arts and Humanities, and the in-kind support of all of the project partners (the

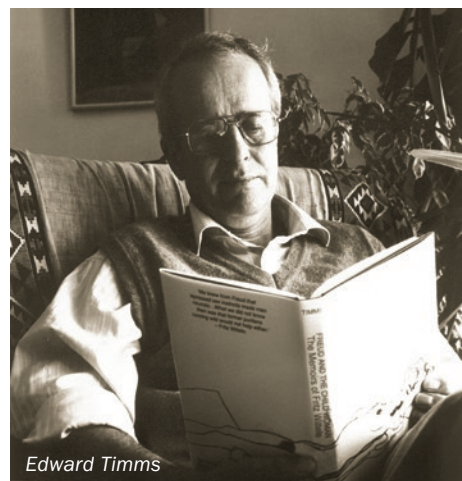
support from the University of Bern was enabled by generous funding from the Alfred Landecker Foundation).

The recommendations and next steps action plan can be read here:

<https://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/digitalholocaustmemory/digital-holocaust-memory-and-education-recommendations/>

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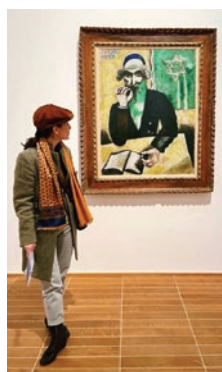
## The Edward Timms award



Edward Timms

The Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies is launching *The Edward Timms Award*. Fascinated by the complex and painful history of Jews in Europe, Professor Edward Timms founded the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex in 1994. This award of up to £500 is open to all members of the school of Media, Arts and Humanities from undergraduate students to faculty to support any event (lecture, workshop etc.) related to the broad remit of the Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies.

## PhDs



### Liza Weber

On 12 January 2023, Liza Weber successfully defended her doctoral thesis, 'documenta and its Double: Germany's Myth of Modernism in Memory and Provenance, from "Degenerate" to documenta (1939-1955).'

Her PhD project was generously funded by the Alfred Bader PhD Scholarship in Modern Jewish History and Culture, which she was awarded in the Summer of 2017. Combining the methodologies of provenance research and oral history, Liza's thesis traces the trajectory and memory of modernism in Germany from the National Socialist's "Degenerate Art" campaign to the founding documenta exhibition in 1955.



Marc Chagall and his painting of a rabbi which was displayed at the first documenta ©documenta Archiv

Drawing on nineteen interviews with contemporary witnesses, Liza's thesis measures the relationship between the 'Degenerate Art' campaign and the founding documenta in the realm of human experience. By mapping the everyday but no less momentous tales of those people who not only experienced the exhibition first-hand, but have also lived with its legacy ever since, her PhD thesis captures the emotional impact of these events, thereby enriching our understanding of the past with greater depth and feeling.

## PhDs continued



### Florian Zabransky

**Title:** Agency and Vulnerability. An Intimate History of Jewish Men during the Holocaust

**Dates:** September 2017 – September 2022

**Marks:** Unconditional pass without corrections

Florian's thesis seeks to convey the intimate lives of Jewish men during the Holocaust. By considering the agency and vulnerability linked with a history of sexuality and emotions, he explored intimate choices, the representation of masculine ideals, intimate violence, and the expression of various emotions. Amid death and violence, male Jews were not mere powerless victims. The thesis' innovative, novel approach explores the exercise of intimate agency, highlighting power struggles, negotiations of relationships, social dynamics and representations of masculinities. This gendered experience of Jewish men is excavated in four chapters – 'ghettos', 'concentration camps', 'Jewish resistance in the countryside' and 'DP camps in the aftermath of the Holocaust'. While Jewish men experienced intimate violence and were powerless against the Germans, some still established male-dominated structures during the Holocaust and established intimate strategies to find pleasure and solace.

Following Florian's successful completion of his PhD he works as a programme manager for the German Federal Agency for Civic Education.

## Obituary: Peter George Julius Pulzer (29 May 1929 – 26 January 2023)



Peter Pulzer chaired the Academic Advisory Board of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies from the Centre's inception in 1994. His pioneering and seminal work: 'The Rise of Political Anti-Semitism in Germany and Austria' was published in 1964 at a time when research into this area had barely commenced. He published widely – both in academic publications and in the Leo Baeck Yearbook. Peter delivered a memorable lecture at Sussex's Holocaust Memorial Day in January 2013 and his lecture was published in the Centre's Research Paper series under the title: *30 January 1933, The Nazi Seizure of Power After Eighty Years*.

Peter was born in Austria and was possibly the last remaining academic who could remember Kristallnacht but even when describing his family's experiences, he was measured in the way in which he described the atrocities. His short interview can be viewed here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emzor3hbB\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emzor3hbB_k)

Peter's work on Antisemitism placed this in the context of the collapse of liberal democracies and the political and national structures of Germany and Austria's political consciousness.

He was honoured with many decorations including the Federal Cross of Merit from Germany in 2004 and, in 2008, he received the Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria – the highest award in the Austrian national honours system. In December 2012, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy *honoris causa* by the University of Vienna.

Peter was the Gladstone Professor of Politics at All Souls College, Oxford from 1984-1996. In many ways he was an academic of the 'old school' – a dignified academic with high moral values and a broad innovative understanding of his subject. Peter had great gravitas but was always modest and self-effacing. He carried with him an encyclopaedic amount of knowledge – both quantitative and qualitative in the area of Antisemitism in Germany and Austria.

## Book publication



Our congratulations to Gideon Reuveni and Emma Zohar, a former visiting fellow at the Centre for German-Jewish studies, on the publication of 'The World According to Flakovich: Memoirs of a Jewish Businessman from the Turn of the Century until the Establishment of the State of Israel'. Born in 1881, Shmuel Falkovich arrived in Palestine with his wife and two daughters in 1933. They settled in Tel Aviv and continued to manufacture lace curtains in their factory in Kalisz, Poland and subsequently opened a similar factory near Tel Aviv. During the 1930s Falkovich wrote a memoir of his life in

pre-Holocaust Poland and two copies of the manuscript were discovered in his grandson's attic, who also wrote a postscript to his grandfather's book. The memoirs provide unique insights into the lives of an upper middle-class Polish-Jewish family during a turbulent time. The book is currently available only in Hebrew. It can be obtained from the publisher's website:

<https://www.biupress.co.il/index.php?dir=site&page=catalog&op=item&cs=2391>.

**For further information about the Weidenfeld Institute/Centre for German-Jewish Studies and joining the Friends please contact:**

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