

## University of Sussex Honorary Degree for Hella Pick



Sanjeev Bhaskar (Chancellor of the University of Sussex), Hella Pick, Adam Tickell (Vice-Chancellor, University of Sussex), Gideon Reuveni

Hella Pick was awarded an honorary degree from the University of Sussex at Summer Graduation in July 2018 in recognition of her outstanding journalistic career. Hella was also recognised for her continued commitment and steadfast dedication in advancing the mission of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex.

### Hella's graduation speech:

'Chancellor – Often when I visit my native city, Vienna, I find myself being addressed as: 'Frau Doctor' – many Austrians think you only exist if you have a title. I always try to wave this away. But after today, I will feel that I have gained a certain degree – if I may use the word – of legitimacy as 'Frau Doctor'. More seriously, it really means a great deal to a hack, as we journalists are regularly described, to have my happy association with

Sussex University marked by such a distinction.

Those of you who graduate today are facing a tough world. Fulfilling and adequately paid jobs are few and far between. I belong to a luckier period when graduates faced far fewer problems as they embarked upon their careers.

I have often asked myself what has played the most important role in my working life – Luck, ambition, ability or opportunity? I still don't know for sure. But I am certain that without luck I would not be standing here today and equally certain that luck needs to be exploited through commitment and professionalism. It's what you do with luck that matters.

When I graduated – not I confess from Sussex, but from the London School of Economics, journalism as a career was far from my mind. Looking for a job I answered a series of advertisements, among them one seeking a Commercial Editor for a weekly news magazine called 'West Africa'. To my surprise, I got the job. Before long I found myself in Africa – just about the only female European journalist reporting on the independence negotiations of the British and French colonies in West Africa. Far from being disadvantaged I had a whale of a

time. And it triggered the ambition to become a good journalist. *If you have an opportunity, never waste it!*

Luck was once more on my side when a chance encounter with a senior *Guardian* journalist led to a job in New York as the *Guardian*'s United Nations correspondent – my first rung up the *Guardian* ladder. Again, learning on the job, hard work and, I dare say, a measure of brain power, all helped. There were many amusing incidents in that UN fishbowl. On one occasion, while working on an important story I was in urgent need of information from a British diplomat. Not a single one was in sight. Where are they all? A French male diplomat explained: "They are in the men's cloakroom, hiding from you." But they couldn't stay there for ever – and I got my story and kept my contacts.

As the *Guardian*'s Washington correspondent, I had the good fortune to meet President Kennedy. Sadly, it was not long before his assassination. While being introduced to him at a party, I accidentally tripped and fell into his – somewhat welcoming – lap. Today that might have made news itself – was this harassment? But I belong to a generation of career women who worked alongside men and fought their corner without constant worry about harassment or discrimination. You are graduating into a very different world.

Before closing I want to express my deepest thanks to the University for the honour it has bestowed on me. I treasure my association with Sussex University and I look forward to the future success of its work and all who are associated with it – the alumni, staff and current students and last, but by no means, least: all of today's graduands. May you all find purpose and joy in the next phase of your life!

# Refugee in Times of Crisis: Europe 1938–2018

Workshop, 2 May 2018, University of Sussex



Gerhard Wolf (Sussex), Anna Pincus (Refugee Tales and Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group) and Mariam Gubrial

In this workshop, the refugee situations of 1938 and today were juxtaposed and the question was raised to what extent both situations could be compared and what to learn for today from the 1930s and 1940s. Emphasis was placed upon the Evian Conference of July 1938 and the Kindertransport following Kristallnacht in November 1938 and their repercussions for today. The workshop comprised papers on the context of the year 1938 (David Juenger), the Kindertransport of 1938/39 in a new perspective (Andrea Hammel), current refugee policies in Europe (Gerhard Wolf) and British refugee policies (Anna Pincus). Hella Pick, a Kindertransport child, and Mariam Gubrial, an immigrant from Sudan, shared their experiences with the audience.

The workshop was primarily aimed at students, and almost 100 people attended. The workshop was organised by Dr David Juenger and Dr Gerhard Wolf on behalf of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies.

## The Centre for German-Jewish Studies in Israel 2-5 September 2018

Thanks to a generous grant from the Anglo-Israel Association the Centre organised a weeklong visit to Israel with six of our members (three PhD candidates and three faculty). The main purpose of the trip was to strengthen the Centre contacts and working relations with Israeli academics working in related fields. While in Israel, we held two academic workshops, visited museums and special archives and had meetings with Israeli academics.

The week started with a two-day workshop with the Holocaust Studies Programme at the Western Galilee College in Akko. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Nissim Ben-David, President of the Western Galilee College who presented a brief history of the college and its special role in northern Israel. Under the title: "The Second World War, the Holocaust and their Repercussions," seventeen speakers, including six from Sussex, presented their work over the two days of the workshop. A diverse range of topics and themes were discussed, most of which dealt with the influence of the Second World War and the Holocaust on various aspects of the post-war world. In addition to the academic proceedings we visited the German-Speaking Jewry Heritage Museum in Tefen, the Ghetto Fighters' House Museum and Archive and had a tour of the city of Ma'alot.

The second event was in Tel Aviv University where we were hosted by the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism and The Minerva Institute for German History. The Tel Aviv event started with a fascinating presentation on the Historical Jewish Press (JPress). This is a joint project between the National Library of Israel and Tel Aviv University that provides a digital gateway to Jewish newspapers and journals. The centre-piece of the day was a PhD workshop

with three PhD students from Sussex and three PhD students from Tel Aviv presenting and discussing their work with faculty from both institutions in front of an audience. To close the day participants were invited to visit the Museum and Archive of Beit Hatfutsot on the Tel Aviv University campus.

This was the third trip to Israel that the Centre has organised over the past five years. It is our aspiration that we will continue to organise similar events in the future and establish an academic exchange programme with one of the leading academic institutes in Israel.



(L to R) David Juenger, Boaz Cohen (Head of Holocaust Studies Department, Western Galilee College), Gerhard Wolf, Florian Zabransky, Liza Weber, Gideon Reuveni, Stefan Boberg



# Diving into German-Jewish history and identity – Exploring the Ehrenberg-Elton Papers at The Keep

by Anika Wagner, Intern at the Keep, February/March 2018

“Alles Erleben ist eine Episode. Auch Hitler war eine Episode. Daß er nur eine Episode bleibt, liegt an Euch.”

[“Every experience is an episode. Even Hitler was an episode. That he remains just an episode is up to you.”]

– Eva Ehrenberg, *Sehnsucht – mein geliebtes Kind*, p.67

I'm a Librarian Master student from Berlin/Leipzig, Germany and I joined The Keep for an internship. My main work focused on the Ehrenberg-Elton Papers ([www.thekeep.info/german-jewish-collections](http://www.thekeep.info/german-jewish-collections)).

I had the opportunity to read letters and literary manuscripts. As I delved into the boxes containing the family's photo albums, by the end of my time at Sussex it was quite surprising. I already knew so much about the people, what their past had been and what became of them. It's most distressing when you read next to a portrait the simple caption: “Hans im Konzentrationslager” (Hans in concentration camp). And I became very emotional when looking at photos of Eva Ehrenberg in her later years as she reminded me of my grandmother.

One of the most exciting objects in this collection for me was a book about an old German legend which was dedicated by Kaiser Wilhelm II to Eva Ehrenberg's father Siegfried Sommer.

I did some research in preparation for cooperation with the Leo Baeck Institute in New York. They also hold material relating to the Ehrenberg family



Some of the Ehrenberg family papers



An impression of the 12th May Day Diary event.

which they have digitised. I checked their digital archive (DigiBaeck), to see if what they hold is also in the Ehrenberg/Elton Papers collection at The Keep, so it can be linked into the catalogue.

I also had the opportunity to join sessions and events at the Keep. I didn't know that so much outreach work was organised from an archive. Most sessions were for students to show them

what an archive is and the kinds of materials that an archive contains. It was most impressive to see the enthusiasm with which colleagues spoke about their work and collections.

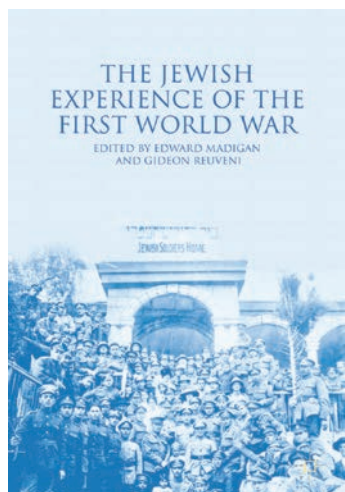
A fascinating workshop about 'Refugees in times of crisis 1938-2018' demonstrated that history can so easily repeat itself.

Whilst working here I learnt a lot about archival work and The Keep's collections; about British life; emigration and identity and about German-Jewish history. I understood more about my own country's history while looking at these authentic and personal materials. At a time when right-wing populists are gaining power in so many countries, it is important to understand the past in order to prevent it being repeated.

I would recommend to everyone, who is interested in the work of archives, to join The Keep for an internship or work experience! It was my most enjoyable internship (and I've done eight so far!), thanks to everyone!

## Publications

Gideon Reuveni, Edward Madigan (eds.), *The Jewish Experience of the First World War* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019)



We are delighted to announce the forthcoming publication of the volume *The Jewish Experience of the First World War*, which is based on a conference the Centre organised in summer 2014. This book explores the variety of social and political phenomena that combined to make the First World War a key turning point in the Jewish experience of the twentieth century. Just decades after the experience of intense persecution and struggle for recognition that marked the end of the nineteenth century, Jewish

men and women across the globe found themselves drawn into a conflict of unprecedented violence and destruction. The frenzied military, social, and cultural mobilisation of European societies between 1914 and 1918, along with the outbreak of revolution in Russia and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East had a profound impact on Jewish communities worldwide. The First World War thus constitutes a seminal but surprisingly under-researched moment in the evolution of modern Jewish history. The essays gathered together in this ground-breaking volume explore the ways in which Jewish communities across Europe and the wider world experienced, interpreted and remembered the 'war to end all wars'.

**Joanna Nowotny, »Kierkegaard ist ein Jude!« Jüdische Kierkegaard-Lektüren in Literatur und Philosophie (Wallstein, 2018)**

We congratulate Joanna Nowotny on the publication of her book on the Danish Philosopher Søren Kierkegaard. Joanna is an alumnus of the Max and Hilde Kochmann summer school for PhD students in European Jewish Studies. Her book discusses the reception of Kierkegaard amongst Jewish intellectuals. Some of whom, like Max Brod and Gershom Scholem were deeply influenced by Kierkegaard. In his diaries, the seventeen-year-old Gershom Scholem celebrates the “brilliant books” by the Dane and goes

*continued overleaf*

## Publications *continued*

as far as to proclaim: "Kierkegaard is a Jew!" Such an empathic reception amongst Jews is remarkable considering the explicitly Christian thrust of many of Kierkegaard's writings. This begs the question of why and in what way Kierkegaard's work became particularly relevant in the context of Jewish Modernity? How is Kierkegaard's thought being used in that context, in theological, political and literary ways? These and other questions stand at the hub of this inspiring book.

## An evening on Egon Schiele with Sir Norman Rosenthal and Tracey Emin CBE RA

**Tuesday 29 January 2019  
6.30–7.30pm £20/12**

(Concession: students, jobseekers, people with disabilities)

The Benjamin West Lecture Theatre, The Royal Academy of Arts, House, Piccadilly, Mayfair, London W1J 0BD

Sir Norman Rosenthal and Tracey Emin will discuss the work of Egon Schiele for the **Centre for German-Jewish Studies annual Evi Wohlgemuth Memorial Lecture**, held in conjunction with The Austrian Cultural Forum.

This event is inspired by the exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts: *Klimt / Schiele, Drawings from the Albertina Museum, Vienna*.

**Tracey Emin** is a Royal Academician and Professor of Drawing at the RA. (She represented Great Britain at the Venice Biennale in 2007). Her work has been exhibited extensively around the world. Her forthcoming solo exhibition opens at the White Cube in February 2019.

**Sir Norman Rosenthal** was the exhibitions Secretary at Royal Academy of Arts, London from 1977-2008.

Tickets will be available on the RA website from 21 November for Friends of the RA and 27 November for the public.

Please visit: <https://roy.ac/talks>. There will also be a booking link available from our Centre website.

## Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD students in European-Jewish History and Culture 2019

### Call for Applications

**Dates:** 7-10 July 2019 at the University of Sussex (Brighton, UK)

**Deadline for applications:** 5 January 2019

The Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex ([www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/cgjs)) in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies of the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz (<https://juedischestudien.uni-graz.at/>), the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University (<http://humanities1.tau.ac.il/roth/>) and the Minerva Institute for German History, Tel Aviv University ([www.minerva.mpg.de/minerva\\_centers/center\\_19.html](http://www.minerva.mpg.de/minerva_centers/center_19.html)), invite PhD students to apply for the biennial Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School for PhD students in European-Jewish History and Culture 2019. The Summer School brings together young researchers who are currently working on topics in Jewish history and culture (e.g. on Jewish religion and inner life, literature, culture, ideological movements, inter-religious and inter-cultural relations and everyday life and antisemitism) giving them the opportunity to present and discuss their projects in an informal and friendly

atmosphere with leading scholars in the field. In so-doing we continue the series of Kochmann Summer Schools at Sussex creating an interdisciplinary network of younger scholars engaged in areas of European-Jewish studies, Thought and Culture from the early modern periods to the present day. Candidates are invited to send, via email, a 500-word proposal outlining their PhD project, a short CV and one reference from their supervisor or relevant scholar in the field to David Jünger:

**E:** [d.juenger@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:d.juenger@sussex.ac.uk)

The CGJS will pay the travel and accommodation expenses of accepted candidates. Candidates from Israel, the United States and other non-European countries will be considered, but may be asked to contribute towards their flight costs.

## Holocaust Memorial Day at Sussex

**Wednesday 6 February 2019, 1:30pm**

Jubilee Lecture Theatre, Jubilee Building University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9SL

### TORN FROM HOME

#### SESSION 1 – Professor Richard Overy

'September 1939 and the Fate of Europe's Jews'  
Richard Overy is a British historian who has published extensively on the history of World War II and Nazi Germany.

**SESSION 2 – Anita Lasker-Wallfisch**, one of the founders of the English Chamber Orchestra survived Auschwitz as a member of the woman's orchestra. She has spent the past 30 years lecturing here and in Germany as a warning for the future. Anita will be in conversation with **Niklas Frank** whose father was Dr Hans Frank, Governor of Nazi occupied Poland. He has completely repudiated his father and spends his time warning new generations about the future.

#### SESSION 3 – Film: HOME MOVIE

This film has been selected for several prestigious international Jewish Film Festivals: London, Jerusalem, Toronto, San Francisco, New York, Berlin and Moscow. Following the showing of the film, **Caroline Pick**, director of the film, will answer questions from the audience.

Places are free, but booking is essential.

**Book your place for this event:**  
[sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/hmd](http://sussex.ac.uk/cgjs/hmd)

**Florian Zabransky**, doctoral researcher and holder of the Clemens N. Nathan Scholarship, has been awarded a further EHRI (European Holocaust Research Infrastructure) Fellowship. He will spend two weeks in January 2019 at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies in order to conduct research on his thesis on male Jewish intimacy during the Holocaust.

The Fellowship is financed by the European Union to support Holocaust-related research in archives.

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

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