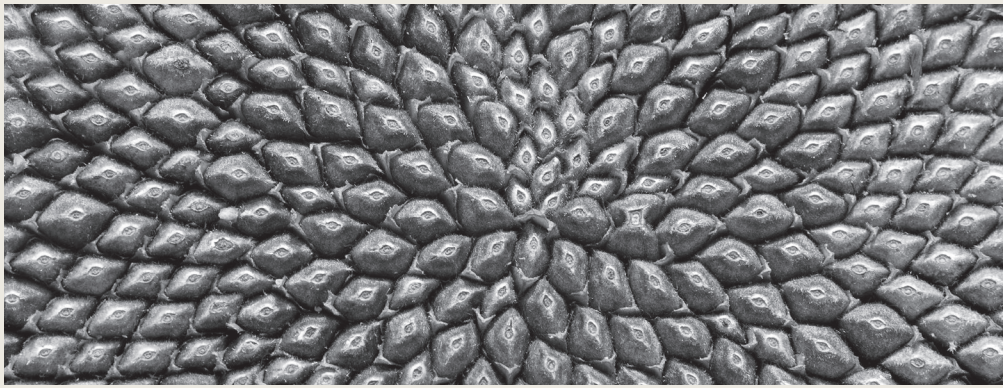


ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012



RESEARCH

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

PEARS INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANTISEMITISM

ANNUAL REPORT

1 August 2011 – 31 July 2012

**Professor David Feldman, Director
15 November 2012**

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Overview of the year

The Institute's mission is to promote the understanding of antisemitism, engaging with the issue in a way that is academically rigorous and intellectually inclusive. It is internationally recognised as a centre for innovative research and teaching and also contributes to contemporary discussion and policy formation on antisemitism and racial intolerance more broadly.

The activities undertaken support the Institute's four objectives: research, teaching, public engagement and policy engagement. Much of the work in this, the Institute's second year (2011/12), has been to build on the first year's activity, maintaining momentum on long-term projects and realising tangible outputs on others.

Key achievements in 2011/12 include:

- Launch of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism which brought together scholars in Europe, the USA and Israel
- The first two day workshop in the international series of events, 'Muslims and Jews: Citizenship, Identities and Prejudices in Europe, the United States and Israel.'
- Securing additional funding for research. Successful grant applications made this year will deliver a fourfold increase in external research funding in the Institute's third year (2012/13).

Through the year the Institute has maintained a high level of public activity for both scholars and the broader public, holding a total of 13 events, involving approximately 1,200 people (although some may have attended more than one event). The momentum achieved through this work has significantly raised the profile and reputation of the Institute since its launch in November 2010. Moreover, the breadth of subjects explored and range of speakers invited has reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to independent and inclusive debate.

Research

Objective: To establish an internationally recognised centre of research excellence. This will be reflected and measured in terms of publications, grant income, and a population of postdoctoral researchers, research students and visiting scholars, as well as regular workshops and conferences

Research fellows

Two research fellows joined the Pears Institute in 2011/12, bringing expertise in new areas and enabling the Institute to extend its research base.

Dr Madelyn Travis commenced her one year Postdoctoral Fellowship in October 2011, exploring, 'Anglo-Jewish Childhood: A Cultural History, 1860 to 1930'. Madelyn's research led to the development of a database of materials about Jewish young people in England through the 70 year period under study. She presented her research findings on the periodical *Young Israel* at a Jewish History Research Seminar, Institute of Historical Research in February 2012; the paper has also been accepted by the *Victorian Periodicals Review* and will be published in March 2013. Madelyn's research led to a further paper on 'Young Jews and World War I', which she will give at a conference on childhood and the war in March 2013, prior to publication. Madelyn is now expanding her work into a project on the social history of Jews in Britain during the First World War; this will form the basis of a bid for further research funding, supported by the Pears Institute.

Dr Joanna Michlic, from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute, Brandeis University, Boston, joined the Institute in January 2012 for a four month Visiting Fellowship. Joanna focused on 'Polish-Jewish Children in Britain during and after the Holocaust', exploring written, image and sound archive materials held in London and Glasgow and conducting interviews with child Holocaust survivors. Two papers are expected to come out of Joanna's research while a visiting fellow at the Institute: 'The memories of Great Britain among child Holocaust survivors' in *Historical Quarterly* and 'British relief organizations in the eyes of child Holocaust survivors' in the *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*. The material discovered in the British archives will also be used in a book Joanna is writing: *Transformation of Polish-Jewish Childhood after the Holocaust*. A further benefit of research fellows is in the sharing of knowledge with others. While at the Institute Joanna gave an academic seminar for the Pears Institute on 'Bringing the Dark to Light: Memory of the Holocaust in Post-Communist Europe', she spoke at five other academic events across the UK and gave a talk to the general public at St John's Wood Library.

Research funding

Both research fellowships for 2011/12 were funded by the Rothschild Foundation. The Institute has built on this early success, securing two further fellowships this year, which will bring significant research income into the Institute over the next three years, commencing in September 2012.

The Pears Institute Early Career Fellowship, funded by the Pears Foundation was agreed in November 2011 and advertised in January 2012. There was a strong field of candidates. The successful applicant Dr Ludivine Broch joins the Institute in September

2012. Ludivine will work on her own research project, 'Blacks, Jews and Vichy France', exploring the history of antisemitism and racism under the Vichy regime. She will also assist the Director in developing the Institute's research agenda more broadly.

A grant application made in the autumn of 2011 for a Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship was also successful. This bid was for a three year project, 'Public health and 'outsiders': British responses to refugees in the twentieth century' which explores four case study groups: German/Jewish refugees in the 1930s; post-1945 Displaced Persons; Ugandan Asians in the 1970s; and post-1991 refugees/asylum seekers. It will be carried out by Dr Becky Taylor and will commence in October 2012.

Publications

The Director's own research has resulted in two papers published this year. One, an examination of Jewish integration in London and of attitudes to Jews, was published in autumn 2011 in *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century*; the other, on the politics of multiculturalism, appeared in *Secularism, Racism and the Politics of Belonging*, Runnymede Trust, published April 2012.

Projects

November 2011 saw the launch of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism. This initiative was jointly conceived and co-chaired by the Director of the Institute and Scott Ury, Director of Stephen Roth Institute for the study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University. The consortium, which comprises leading scholars from nine institutions in Europe, Israel and the US, is committed to reshaping and revitalising the study of antisemitism through promoting rigorous academic enquiry and engaging with other disciplines. Planning for the Consortium's first conference, 'Boycotts – Past and Present', which will be hosted by the Pears Institute in June 2013, has been an important focus for this year. The call for papers has generated an international response.

Academic events

A number of events for scholars have also been held through the year.

Academic events 2011/12

- *Bringing the Dark to Light: Memory of the Holocaust in Post-Communist Europe* – seminar given by Dr Joanna Michlic, Visiting Research Fellow
- *Muslims and Jews: Citizenship, Identities and Prejudices in Europe, the United States and Israel* – two day workshop exploring the ways Jews and Muslims experience multiculturalism and its bearing on the politics of Israel/Palestine as it is enacted in different places (for more information see Policy Engagement, page 8)
- *Norman Cohn Colloquium* – a full day event considering the writings, influence and legacy of Norman Cohn, author of *Warrant for Genocide* and other influential books; held in partnership with Yale University Press

In addition, through the course of 2011/12, the Director spoke at ten academic conferences and seminars in the UK, Europe and USA. Themes included: the history of

antisemitism; approaches to the study of antisemitism, Jewish nationalism; immigrants in modern British history; and immigrants and welfare.

Director's Lectures 2011/12

- *Privileging the Perpetrator – Approaches to the Study of Antisemitism*, ESA, Geneva
- *Dealing with Difference, Immigrants in Modern British History*, GIS Histoire des migrations, Paris
- *History and Antisemitism*, seminar, University of Warwick
- *Jewish Nationalism in History*, panel debate, Confraternitas Historica, Sydney Sussex College, Cambridge
- *Immigrants and Welfare: Lessons from History*, COMPAS, University of Oxford
- *Race, Equality and the Jews*, Yale, New Haven, US
- *Christians and Jews in Nineteenth Century Britain*, University of Hong Kong
- *Jewish Integration in Nineteenth Century Britain*, Leiden University, Netherlands
- *Equality, Race and the Jews*, Institute for Historical Research
- *Norman Cohn and Antisemitism*, Norman Cohn Colloquium, Yale University Press and Pears Institute
- *Antisemitism and Security*, Durham University

Teaching

Objective: To create a hub for teaching at Birkbeck on antisemitism and racism. The Institute's expertise will be integrated into programmes at all levels: certificate, BA, MA and research degree

Courses

The new MA History module, 'Jews and Antisemitism in Modern Europe: Histories and Approaches', taught by the Director, commenced in October 2011. It was offered as an option across nine courses, including two interdisciplinary MAs: *Psychoanalysis, History and Culture*; and *Culture, Diaspora and Ethnicity*. Twenty students successfully completed the module. A further 26 students on the *Victorian Studies* MA, offered in the School of Arts, also took the compulsory reading module, 'Victorians and the Jews' taught by the Director. In addition, the certificate module 'The Holocaust: Propaganda, Experiences, Memory', held in partnership with the Wiener Library, and MA module, 'The Holocaust', both taught by Associates of the Pears Institute, attracted 12 and 22 students respectively.

A further 16 modules on related subjects of religious and racial intolerance and multiculturalism more broadly, were available to students studying at Birkbeck in 2011/12; from certificate courses to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, across a range of disciplines and departments.

A new module, 'A Century of Genocide' has been planned and approved this year and will be offered to students in 2012/13.

Postgraduate dissertations

The Director supervised six MA History students this year undertaking 15,000 word dissertations on the following topics:

- British Immigration Policy Towards Refugees from Nazi Germany
- British Welfare Provision for Refugees from Nazi Germany
- Women's Support for Zionism in the UK since 1945
- The History of the Jewish National Fund
- Enoch Powell and Local Politics in London 1968-1974
- British Immigration Policy, 1948-71

Postgraduate researchers

Three PhD students are now undertaking research supervised by the Director. Their research covers:

- Britain and "the East End of Europe": The Balkans and British Liberalism, 1875-1925
- Campus Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism in the 1970s
- The relationship between British Trade Unions and black and Asian workers 1968-80

Public engagement and events

Objective: To provide lectures, exhibitions and other events that engage and educate a broad public on the subject of antisemitism.

Events

Through the course of the year, 10 public events have been held: three round-table discussions and seven public lectures.

These events have furthered the Institute's interdisciplinary approach, encompassing history, politics, psychosocial studies, religion, literature and music and covering a diverse range of topics from the 75th anniversary of Cable Street to antisemitism in Wagner's operas.

In delivering its events the Institute has continued partnerships with the Wiener Library (Making History series), Institute of Historical Research (Holocaust Memorial Day) and Anne Frank Trust (Annual Lecture). It has also collaborated with: the Jewish Museum; the School of Arts and School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy at Birkbeck; Birkbeck Institute of Humanities; and Yale University Press.

Public events in 2011/12

- *Fighting Together for a Better Past: the Story of Cable Street*, various speakers
- *After the Holocaust: Challenging the Myth of Silence*, Professor David Cesarani and others
- *Defending the Indefensible: Reflections on the Anglo-Jewish Reaction to Domestic Antisemitism, 1931 – 1940*, Professor Geoffrey Alderman
- *Memory and Memoirs of Jan Karski*, various speakers
- *A Spiral of Silence? How Germans Talked About the Murder of the Jews During the Second World War*, Professor Nick Stargardt
- *Finding Humanity in a World of Technology*, Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE
- *Homelands*, Professor George Steiner
- *Wagner - Antisemitism in Music*, Professor Paul Lawrence Rose
- *Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Jewish Antisemitism and the Fate of Western Civilization*, Professor Eric Kaufmann
- *Proust Among the Nations: from Dreyfus to the Middle-East*, Professor Jacqueline Rose and others

The public lectures have been very well attended with audiences typically numbering between 65 and 150. Feedback has been very positive:

After the Holocaust

"Last night I thought we had two outstanding speakers....Thank you for organising the event which was indeed fascinating, and has sent me rummaging among my books..." Academic, SOAS

Homelands

"An excellent, thought provoking lecture that raised important thinking points..."
Member of the public

Wagner – Antisemitism in Music

“It is difficult to pitch a lecture of this sort to an audience with different baselines but this was very good!” Member of the public

Proust Among the Nations

“It was a treat to hear Jacqueline (Rose), after knowing of her work for many years... From this one evening, I totally agree with her that the Pears Institute seems to be doing important work at high levels...” Academic, Oxford

Policy Engagement

Objective: To act as an acknowledged source of independent advice and dialogue for organisations and individuals engaged in forming and reflecting on public policy

The Institute has been actively involved with two important research projects in 2011/12, both of which will engage directly with policy makers.

European Antisemitism Survey

This extensive survey is intended to gain new insights into how Jews across Europe perceive and experience antisemitism today. The research – the first of its kind - has been commissioned by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and is being managed by them in partnership with the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and Ipsos MORI. The Director of the Institute is contributing his expertise to the academic team of eight scholars who lead in the study of contemporary European Jewry and antisemitism.

The research, undertaken through 2012, investigates the extent to which Jews feel safe and secure in Europe today, how they characterize antisemitism, and whether or not they perceive it to be a growing threat. It further explores cases of antisemitic harassment and violence, as well as whether and how incidents are being reported, and levels of awareness among European Jews about their legal rights. Data is being collected in nine European Union Member States: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The findings will be published in 2013, providing a valuable source of data and evidence for use by the European Union and national governments, as well as for Jewish organisations and others concerned with tackling antisemitism.

Muslims and Jews: Citizenship, Identity and Prejudice in Europe, the US and Israel

The Institute has taken the lead in this international project, holding the first workshop in London in February 2012. Devised by Professor David Feldman, Director of the Pears Institute, in collaboration with Professor Arie Kochavi, Herzl Institute for the Research and Study of Zionism, University of Haifa, the project seeks to explore attitudes to Israel and antisemitism in the context of multiculturalism, Islamophobia and racism today.

The two-day UK workshop attracted a great deal of interest, securing a maximum attendance of 45 people (plus waiting list), and drawing speakers and participants from a range of disciplines and political viewpoints, including both scholars and activists. The workshop had two main objectives: to explore the ways Muslims and Jews in Britain experience and respond to multiculturalism, antisemitism and Islamophobia; and to examine whether there is a relationship between multicultural politics in Britain and perceptions of the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

As anticipated the subject matter generated controversy but also constructive debate. Holding such an event was seen as a bold move by many and it served to underline the Institute's commitment to inclusive debate and willingness to seek to address difficult issues:

"A fascinating and important workshop on relations between Muslims and Jews, organized by the Pears Institute...the opening and closing sessions exemplified the intelligent conceptual approach... to organizing the discussion, which was to tackle some issues from a thoroughly academic angle but also to get activists to speak...." Antony Lerman, Blog, 27 February 2012

"I wanted to congratulate you on an excellent workshop...It was extremely interesting..." Academic

"Thank you so much for inviting me to your event. I admire very much what you are trying to do through your institution. This work is not easy, as we saw on the day, but it is critical." Muslim faith activist

"A seminar at Birkbeck College last week, showed how constructive dialogue can be held between people with deeply opposing views... Unlike the one-sided conferences that characterise so much anti-Israel campaigning on our campuses, this seminar housed a genuine mix of views." Jewish Chronicle, March 1, 2012

The series of workshops - London, Haifa, Paris and Berlin - is intended to give rise to a report which will be addressed to policy makers and interested groups both in Israel and Europe.

Other opportunities

Discussions continued in 2011/12 with the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism on how best to engage with MPs. Through the course of the year it has become evident that the Institute's view that antisemitism should be explained and understood, in order that it can be dealt with effectively, challenges current perceptions and approaches to tackling antisemitism held by many politicians and others involved in forming policy. It is an area that the Institute will seek to address as part of its on-going public policy work.

In the wake of the furore in May 2012 over the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance GCSE question, "Explain, briefly, why some people are prejudiced against Jews." the Director approached the Centre for Holocaust Education, Institute of Education, with a view to collaborating on the issues this raised. This has led to a number of potential initiatives, involving both the education of teachers on antisemitism and a research project with the AQA. These will be explored further in 2012/13.

The Director has also spoken at conferences directly concerned with immigration and multiculturalism and attracting a broad audience including those representing community organisations, think tanks and government, as well as academics:

- *Multiculturalism in the East End*, 'Religious Diversity in Modern Britain', Open University, Kings College London and Arts & Humanities Research Council
- *Migrant London* - panel discussion, 'London, City of Paradox', UEL, Runnymede Trust

The Director also delivered a half-day interactive workshop on *Jews, Antisemitism and Multiculturalism in Britain*. This was at the invitation of the international educational organisation, Facing History and Ourselves, and took place at its headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. The organisation's mission is to encourage teachers and others

involved in education to examine racism, prejudice, and antisemitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed society. The workshop was podcast live and an interview recorded for distribution to educators across the organisation's international network.

In September 2011 the Director was invited to brief a delegation from China's Bureau of Exit and Entry Administration of the Ministry of Public Security, on the history of British border control and immigration policy.

APPENDIX: PUBLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES BY ASSOCIATES

Stephen Frosh

- 'Hauntings: Psychoanalysis and Ghostly Transmission', *American Imago*, 69, 2012, 241–264
- 'The Re-Enactment of Denial'. In A. Gulerce (ed) *Re(con)figuring Psychoanalysis: Critical Juxtapositions of the Philosophical, the Sociohistorical and the Political*, Palgrave, 2012
- 'Psychoanalysis, Antisemitism and the Miser'. In D. Bennett (ed) *Loaded Subjects: Psychoanalysis, Money and the Global Financial Crisis*, Lawrence and Wishart, 2012. Also as: Frosh, S. (2011) Psychoanalysis, Antisemitism and the Miser. *New Formations*, 72, 2012, 94-106
- 'The Relational Ethics of Conflict and Identity', *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*. 16, 2011, 225–243

Christian Goeschel

- (with Nikolaus Wachsmann) *The Nazi Concentration Camps, 1933-1939: A Documentary History*, Nebraska University Press, 2012

Susan Jackson

- *Lifelong Learning and Social Justice: Communities, Work and Identities in a Globalised World*, NIACE, 2011 (editor)

Eric Kaufmann

- *Political Demography: How Population Changes Are Reshaping International Security and National Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2012 (co-edited with Jack Goldstone and Monica Duffy Toft)
- *Nationalism and Conflict Management*, Routledge, 2012 (co-edited with Robert Schertzer and Eric Taylor Woods)
- (with Daniele Conversi) 'Ethnic and Nationalist Mobilization', in J. Tournon and A. Guelke (eds.), *The Study of Ethnicity and Politics: Recent Analytical Developments*, Barbara Budrich, 2012
- (with V. Skirbekk), " 'Go Forth and Multiply': the Politics of Religious Demography" in J. A. Goldstone, Eric Kaufmann and Monica Duffy Toft (eds) *Political Demography: identity, conflict and institutions*, Oxford University Press, 2012
- 'The Northern Ireland Peace Process in an Age of Austerity', *Political Quarterly*, vol. 83, no.2, (March) 2012, 203-209
- 'Primordialists and Constructionists: A typology of theories of religion', *Religion, Brain and Behaviour*, Issue 2 (2), 2012, 140-60
- (with Anne Goujon and Vegard Skirbekk) 'The End of Secularization in Europe?: A Socio-Demographic Perspective', *Sociology of Religion*, published online 8 August, 2011
- 'Demographic Change and Conflict in Northern Ireland: Reconciling Qualitative and Quantitative Evidence,' *Journal of Ethnopolitics*, vol. 3, no. 4, September, 2011, 369-89
- 'The Demography of Ethnic Conflict,' *Journal of Ethnopolitics* (also Editor of special section on 'The Politics of Ethnic Demography') vol.3, no. 4, September 2011, 367-8

Public Engagement

- *Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Jewish Antisemitism and the Fate of Western Civilization*, Inaugural Lecture hosted by the Pears Institute, June 2012

Daniel Pick

- *The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind*, Oxford University Press, 2012
- Edited *The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind* web archive, Birkbeck College, University of London: <http://www.bbk.ac.uk/thepursuitofthenazimind/>

Public Engagement

- *The Pursuit of the Nazi Mind*, public lectures at Hay Book Festival, June 2012 and Edinburgh Book Festival, August 2012
- *The Psychiatrist and the Deputy Fuhrer*, presenter of 30 minute documentary, Radio 4, April 2012

Nikolaus Wachsmann

- (with Christian Goeschel) *The Nazi Concentration Camps, 1933-1939: A Documentary History*, Nebraska University Press, 2012