
Annual Report

1 August 2015–31 July 2016



RESEARCH

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Annual Report

1 August 2015–31 July 2016

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism

Professor David Feldman, Director

28 November 2016

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Overview of the Year

In November 2015 the Pears Institute marked its fifth anniversary. Since its launch in 2010 it has acquired an international reputation for innovation as well as research excellence. The Institute's singularity stems both from the precise definition of its remit – to reframe the understanding of antisemitism – and the way this has been interpreted.

The Institute combines:

- A focus on antisemitism alongside an active interest and concern with all forms of racism
- A concern with both the past and with the present
- A neutral, independent space that encourages and incorporates a wide range of perspectives and disciplines across the social sciences and humanities
- Academic research with a capacity to address and engage with policy makers
- New thinking on difficult topics and a commitment to engage with a broad public.

Three significant achievements in 2015/16 underscore this inclusive approach:

- The successful realization of the public exhibition *Blood – Uniting and Dividing*, conceived in collaboration with the Jewish Museum London
- The award of a pan-European research project to assess the effect of recent immigration on the scale and sources of antisemitism
- The Director's appointment as Vice-Chair, along with Baroness Royall, of the Chakrabarti inquiry into antisemitism and other forms of racism in the Labour Party.

Together, these accomplishments further raise awareness of the Institute's work among the public, policy and academic audiences.

The 'Blood' exhibition received wide critical acclaim and was seen by over 11,000 people. The supporting publication, co-edited by the Director and Anthony Bale in the School of Arts, Birkbeck, has sold c.1,000 copies to date. Five public lectures, attended by over 300 people, and an academic workshop have explored themes relating to the exhibition.

The two high-profile public policy initiatives are an important endorsement of the Institute's standing both in the UK and Europe and reflect the significant work that has been undertaken to build this aspect of the Institute's role since its launch. The issues concerning the Labour Party and antisemitism were reflected in the Institute's work in other ways. A public event, 'The Left and the Jews in Britain Today', was held in the late autumn of 2015 and the symposium 'Protecting and Offending Jews: The Boundaries of Debate, Law and Policy' was held at the House of Commons in summer 2016. Both proved very popular and were over-subscribed.

Research outputs have had a boost this year with three full-time research fellows in post, enhancing the Institute's capacity and the breadth of research it generates. The appointment of the Lecturer in the Sociology of Racialization and Antisemitism in April 2016 has significantly extended the Institute's teaching role. A new Psychosocial Studies teaching module, 'Racialization and Antisemitism', has been designed and approved and is being offered to students enrolling for 2016/17.

This annual report sets out the Institute's key achievements in 2015/16.

Institute Staff

Core Team

Professor David Feldman, Director

Dr Brendan McGeever, Lecturer in the Sociology of Racialization and Antisemitism

Dr Jan Davison, Head of Communications and Institute Manager

Dr Elaine Hudson, Event Coordinator

Research Fellows

Dr Nathan Kurz, Pears Institute Early Career Research Fellow

Dr Diana Popescu, Swedish Research Council Early Career Research Fellow

Associates

The Institute has over twenty Associates whose research interests align with its remit. The Associates are drawn from Birkbeck and other academic institutions: their details can be found on the Pears Institute website, www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk. Associates' publications and other activities are included in the appendix of this report.

Research

Publications

The breadth of the Institute's work, and in particular its aim of connecting antisemitism with other forms of racism and intolerance, is evidenced in the publications arising this year. The Director co-edited *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us*, an interpretive book to accompany the 'Blood' exhibition, and also contributed an essay. He has had three other essays published, including a topical thought-piece commissioned by *BBC History Magazine*, entitled 'How Noble is Europe's Tradition of Welcoming Refugees?' (October 2015). Issues around migration and migrants are also the focus of the essay, 'Mutable Citizenship' published in *Citizenship and its Others*, edited by Bridget Anderson and Vanessa Hughes (November 2015). Brendan McGeever, Lecturer in the Sociology of Racialization and Antisemitism, has similarly addressed issues around immigration, writing on the racialization of the EU Referendum and the rise of racism in Britain in *openDemocracy* (June 2016). In addition, he has co-edited a Special Issue of *Patterns of Prejudice* entitled 'Antisemitism and Socialist Strategy, 1881-1917' which will be published in 2017. Research Fellow Diana Popescu's work on the representation and commemoration of the Holocaust has led to an essay concerning post-witnessing the concentration camps in *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* (March 2016) and another in press. Research Fellow Nathan Kurz has two papers in press concerning Jewish human rights and another concerned with the history of Jewish aid.

The first title to be published as part of the Palgrave Macmillan series 'Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism', for which the Director is series editor, is in press: Anne Summers, *Living with Difference: Christian and Jewish Women in Britain, c.1860-1940*.

The Director was invited to join the academic advisory board of the *Jewish Quarterly*.

Director: Professor David Feldman

- 'Evangelicals, Jews, and Anti-Catholicism in Britain, c.1840-1900', *Jewish Historical Studies*, 47:1 (December 2015): 91-104.
- (with Anthony Bale), *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us* (Shire, 2015).
- 'Modern Blood', in Anthony Bale and David Feldman (eds.), *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us* (Shire, 2015): 25-9.
- 'Mutable Citizenship', in Bridget Anderson and Vanessa Hughes (eds.), *Citizenship and its Others* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015): 28-34.
- 'How Noble is Europe's Tradition of Welcoming Refugees?', *BBC History Magazine* (8 October 2015): 14.

Lecturer: Dr Brendan McGeever¹

- 'Racism and the EU Referendum: A State of Emergency', *openDemocracy* (21 June 2016).
- 'The Easter Rising and the Soviet Union: An Untold Chapter in Ireland's Great Rebellion', *openDemocracy* (25 March 2016).

Research Fellow: Dr Diana Popescu

- 'Post-Witnessing the Concentration Camps: Paul Auster's and Angela Morgan Cutler's Investigative and Imaginative Encounters with Sites of Mass Murder', in *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*, 22:2-3 (2016): 274-88.

Conference Papers

The Institute had a strong international presence at conferences this year with the Director and Research Fellows delivering papers in the USA and Europe as well as the UK. The Director had fourteen speaking commitments through the year, including lectures in Bloomington (Indiana), Warsaw, Cambridge, London and Manchester. His lectures have focused on the place of Jews and other minorities in British society and on the changing understanding of antisemitism, presenting early findings from his substantive research project on the history of the concept of antisemitism.

The Institute's academic team have made a significant contribution to the profile and research reputation of the Institute through the year, giving papers at conferences which reflect their specific areas of expertise and serve to broaden the research focus of the Institute. Brendan McGeever has presented papers concerning antisemitism, Bolshevism and the Russian Revolution at conferences in Berlin, Prague, St Petersburg, Vienna and Warwick. He has also given papers in the UK exploring issues around racism and nationalism arising from the Scottish Referendum and 2015 General Election. Nathan Kurz has delivered papers relating to Jewish politics and Human Rights in Boston, New York, San Diego, London, Oxford and at the University of Sussex. Diana Popescu has spoken on Holocaust commemoration in the arts at conferences held at Harvard, Stockholm, London, Southampton, Winchester and the University of Sussex. In addition, Dr Popescu co-convened a four-day international conference, 'Performative Commemorations of Painful Pasts', held in Stockholm in June 2016.

Director: Professor David Feldman

- 'Thinking about Jews, Antisemitism and Racialization', E.S.R.C Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity at the University of Manchester and University of Glasgow, Seminar Series, University of Manchester, April 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'London's Suburban Jews: Integration and Difference in the Postwar Metropolis', Economic History Society, Urban History Group, Conference, University of Cambridge, March 2016 (with Becky Taylor).

¹ Dr Brendan McGeever was a Research Fellow at the Institute in 2015/16 and took up the post of Lecturer in the Sociology of Racialization and Antisemitism on 1 April 2016.

- 'Antisemitism after the Linguistic Turn', History of Antisemitisms, University of East London, March 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Blood - Uniting and Dividing', Research Seminar on the Abrahamic Religions, University of Oxford, March 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Blood in Dracula', Fluid Physicalities Series, Birkbeck, University of London, February 2016 (respondent).
- 'From Toleration to Multiculturalism', 1656, Cromwell and the Readmission of Jews: Towards a Tolerant and Pluralist Society, University of Cambridge, January 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Racial Discourse and Jewish Immigrants, 1885-1939: The View from London', Migration and Citizenship: Jewish Migration within and from Eastern Europe, 1815-2015, POLIN - Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, November 2015 (invited speaker).
- 'Antisemitism and its Opponents from the Kaiserreich to BDS', Indiana University, November 2015 (invited speaker).
- 'Jews, Jewishness, and the Formation of National Identity in the British Empire', NACBS conference, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, November 2015 (commentator).
- 'Jews: A Model Minority?', SOAS-Nodhouth Integration Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, November 2015 (invited panel member).
- 'Refugees and Public History', IHR Public History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, October 2015 (invited speaker).
- 'The Politics of Race', London Summer School in Intellectual History, Queen Mary, University of London, September 2015 (commentator).

Lecturer: Dr Brendan McGeever

- 'Race and Crisis', Framing the Financial Crisis, Open University, London, July 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement', Symposium: Protecting and Offending Jews: Speech, Law and Policy, House of Commons, London, June 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Reaktsiia Bol'shevikov na Antisemitizma v 1918 godu', International Colloquium on the Epoch of War and Revolution, 1914-1922, European University in St Petersburg, St Petersburg, June 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Antisemitism and Radical Politics: Explaining Working-Class Antisemitism in Revolutionary Russia', Warwick History of Violence Network Workshop, University of Warwick, May 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'The Bolshevik Response to Antisemitism in the Russian Revolution', Pears Institute Seminar, Birkbeck, University of London, February 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Antisemitism, Bolshevism and the Russian Revolution', Antisemitism in Europe, Amadeu-Antonio-Stiftung, Berlin, December 2015 (invited speaker).

- 'The Bolshevik Response to Antisemitism in the Russian Revolution, 1917-1919', Modern Antisemitism in the Peripheries: Europe and its Colonies, 1880-1945, Simon Wiesenthal Institute, Vienna, November 2015.
- 'Scotland and the Breakup of Britain: Implications for Racism and Nationalism', Racism and Nationalism after the Scottish Referendum and 2015 General Election, Birkbeck, University of London, November 2015 (invited speaker).
- 'The Breakup of Britain: Race, Class and Nation in Scotland and England', 12th Annual Historical Materialism Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, October 2015.
- 'Antisemitism, Bolshevism and the Russian Revolution', 12th Conference of the European Sociological Association, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, August 2015.

Research Fellow: Dr Nathan Kurz

- 'Surviving the "Witch Hunt"? The 1968 NGO Review and the Relocation of Human Rights Advocacy', Annual Conference of the Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations, University of San Diego, June 2016.
- "'Jewish Rights are Human Rights": The Precarious Construction of an American Jewish Ideology, c. 1940s-1970s', American Jewish Historical Society Biennial Conference, Centre for Jewish History, New York, June 2016.
- 'On the Presence and Absence of the "Holocaust" in Jewish Human Rights Talk, c. 1940s', The Holocaust and Civil Rights, International Symposium, University of Sussex, April 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'The *Mission Civilisatrice* and Post-Imperial Jewish Anxiety in French Morocco, c.1950s', International History Workshop: Human Rights in History, London School of Economics, January 2016.
- 'International Jewish Politics and the End of French Civilization in North Africa', Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, University of Boston, December 2015.
- 'The Rise and Fall of International Jewish Human Rights Politics, 1945-1975', Modern European History Seminar, University of Oxford, October 2015 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Dr Diana Popescu

- 'Staging the Holocaust Archive? Artistic Re-framings of Holocaust Historical images in Contemporary Public Spaces and Their Impact Upon Visitors', BAHS International Conference 'The Presence of the Holocaust in Society, Politics and Culture, c.1970-2015', Centre for Holocaust Education, University College London, July 2016.
- "'The Missing Image" in Albertina Platz: Public Art as Historical Re-enactment and the Performance of Perpetrator Memory', Performative Commemorations of Painful Pasts, University of Stockholm, June 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Ephemeral Ruins: The Fragility of Holocaust Memory', Arts Week, Birkbeck, University of London, May 2016 (invited speaker).

- 'The Universal or/and the Particular? Revisiting Narratives of Human/Civil Rights in Holocaust Memorial Museums', The Holocaust and Civil Rights, International Symposium, University of Sussex, April 2016.
- 'Performative Practices of Holocaust Remembrance', Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), 'Performing Visuality' Seminar, Harvard University, March 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Is There a "Performative" Turn in Holocaust Commemoration? Revisiting the Polish Memory Landscape', James Parkes Research Seminar Series, University of Southampton, February 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Nazi Imagery in Contemporary Art - Aesthetics Practices of Holocaust Defamiliarization', International conference 'Encountering Perpetrators of Mass Killings, Political Violence and Genocide', University of Winchester, September 2015.

Pears Institute Workshops and Seminars

Three academic workshops were held this year. The first, in November 2015, revisited the relationship between racism and nationalism in the light of historic events of the past twelve months – the Scottish Referendum of September 2014 and the General Election of May 2015. It was convened by Brendan McGeever, with funding from Birkbeck Institute of Social Research, and involved thirty-three scholars. The second, held on 20 June 2016, to coincide with Refugee Week, was titled 'Placeless People: What Can History Tell Us About Today's Refugee Crises?'. The workshop brought together over fifty experts in a range of fields – leading historians and scholars, policy makers, representatives from local government, NGOs, think tanks, advocacy groups and the media – to explore how history, in its broadest political, cultural and social senses, can inform our understanding of the current refugee crisis and help shape our responses. The workshop was organized in partnership with Dr Becky Taylor, Reader in History, University of East Anglia, who was previously a Research Fellow at the Institute.

The third workshop took a theme from the 'Blood' exhibition and explored 'Blood Libels: from the Middle Ages to the Modern World'. This international workshop, attended by twenty-five scholars, drew in speakers from the USA, Israel and the UK to address the following questions: how does blood libel change over time and between places? How should we approach blood libel methodologically? How were blood libels proven and disproven? Did this change over time and place? Why do blood libels cease to be propagated?

Workshops

- 'Blood Libels: from the Middle Ages to the Modern World', in collaboration with Birkbeck School of Arts, June 2016.
- 'Placeless People: What Can History Tell Us About Today's Refugee Crises?', in partnership with the University of East Anglia, June 2016.
- 'Racism and Nationalism after the Scottish Referendum and 2015 General Election', funded by the Birkbeck Institute for Social Research, University of London, November 2015.

The Pears Institute lunchtime seminar series, a new initiative this year, has been well received by scholars. The seminars provide an opportunity to hear and discuss new research in progress from an invited speaker in an informal setting. Six seminars have been held through the year covering a broad range of topics including, Zionism and Anti-Zionism, antisemitism among Muslims, Philosemitism, and 'Holocaust Inversion'. Speakers from the USA, Europe and the UK have participated and between ten and twenty scholars have attended each seminar. The seminar series highlights how the Institute functions as a research centre, and importantly, builds on its reputation for providing a space that encompasses a plurality of perspectives.

Seminar Series

- 'The Discourse of "Holocaust Inversion" in Britain during 2014 Gaza Conflict: Contexts, Presences and Meanings', Dr Alan Johnson, British Israel Communications and Research Centre, June 2016.
- 'The Racialization of Antisemitism: Turkish and Arab-only Prevention Programmes in Germany', Dr Esra Ozyurek, London School of Economics, May 2016.
- 'A Second Emancipation? "Philosemitism" and the Jewish Condition in Postwar Europe', Professor Daniel Cohen, Rice University, Texas, March 2017.
- 'The Bolshevik Response to Antisemitism in the Russian Revolution', Dr Brendan McGeever, Pears Institute, Birkbeck, University of London, February 2016.
- 'The Gaza War, Summer 2014 - Perceptions in Europe', Professor Helga Embacher, Bernadette Edtmaier and Alexandra Preitschopf, University of Salzburg, November 2015.
- 'Zionism and Anti-Zionism: Political Protest and Student Activism in Britain, 1968-1986', Dr Dave Rich, Community Security Trust and Associate Research Fellow, Pears Institute, October 2015.

Over 200 scholars and postgraduate students participated in events organized by the Pears Institute in 2015/16.

Research Grants

The Institute has been awarded the research contract for a pan-European research project on 'Immigration, Antisemitism and Toleration in Western Europe Today', funded by the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ). This successful bid reflects the Institute's growing reputation in the arena of public policy (see below).

Teaching

Dr Brendan McGeever took up his new post of Lecturer in the Sociology of Racialization and Antisemitism in April 2016. He has devised and received approval for a new undergraduate module 'Racialization and Antisemitism' which will be offered in the autumn term 2016. Other teaching commitments encompass an undergraduate compulsory module 'Power' which includes issues around antisemitism and race.

The Director taught the MA module 'Victorians and the Jews' in the summer term. Eight students took the module, which is compulsory for all students on the Victorian Studies Programme in the School of Arts. Diana Popescu has also been involved in teaching in the School of Arts, devising and running the doctoral research seminar 'Working with Archives of Difficult Pasts' for three PhD students in the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies. The session focused on the role of archives in providing accounts of genocidal and traumatic histories for archivists, historians and artists.

PhD student Dave Rich, supervised by the Director, has received his doctorate for his thesis, 'Zionists and Anti-Zionists: Political Protest and Student Activism in Britain, 1968-1986'. Dr Rich has become an Associate Research Fellow of the Pears Institute and is continuing with his research interests exploring the relationship of anti-Zionism to antisemitism and the boundaries that separate them, which in turn fuel debates over the 'new antisemitism'. His doctoral research formed the basis of his book, *The Left's Jewish Problem: Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Anti-Semitism* (Biteback), published in September 2016.

The Bonnard Trust PhD Scholarship scheme, launched in November 2015, attracted twenty-seven applicants with research proposals relating to the themes of diversity and belonging and minorities and social justice. The first scholarship, commencing in September 2016, was awarded to Dominic Reilly for research exploring the phenomenon of racialized sexual preferences.

The Director was invited to join the expert panel of the 'Migration History Project' led by the Runnymede Trust, University of Cambridge, University of Manchester and OCR Exam Board. The purpose of the project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, is to develop an online resource on British migration history for use by GCSE students, teachers and parents, as well as the general public. The website draws on extensive academic research to present the stories of generations of migrants who have shaped Britain, including Anglo-Saxon, African, Irish, Indian, Italian, Jewish and Polish peoples. Their stories are told through a diverse range of historical source material. This includes images, newspaper clippings, parliamentary reports, videos, poems, extracts from novels and quotations, arranged into four time periods beginning in AD 43 and continuing to the present day: the Director speaks about immigration to Britain from 1750 to 1900. *Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain* will be launched in September 2016 to coincide with the roll-out of the new OCR GCSE History 'Migration to Britain' module.

Policy Engagement

The award of the pan-European EVZ research project into ‘Immigration, Antisemitism and Toleration in Western Europe Today’ is a significant achievement for the Institute and further builds its reputation as a formative influence on public policy debate at a national and European level. This one-year project commenced in July 2016 and involves experts from partner academic institutes in Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands. Research in each participating country will investigate the scale and sources of antisemitism that arise from recent immigration from the Middle East and North Africa. The research will review the mechanisms in place to monitor and counter antisemitism and ask how adequate they have been in responding to the emerging situation. A key question will concern what constitutes best practice. The Institute’s final report with recommendations will be submitted to EVZ in July 2017.

The Institute, in partnership with the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, held a seminar at the House of Commons entitled ‘Protecting and Offending Jews: The Boundaries of Debate, Law and Policy’. The aim of the seminar was twofold. First, to consider those aspects of discourse which offend Jews, for example: is offensive discourse necessarily antisemitic? Do people take offence too readily and endanger free debate? At what point does criticism of Israel become offensive? Second, to ask whether, in view of growing concern over antisemitism, the law should be augmented or amended to protect Jews further or whether current laws that target discrimination and prejudice give adequate protection. Speakers included Rebecca Hilsenrath, Equality and Human Rights Commission; Paul Iganski, Lancaster University; Omar Khan, Runnymede Trust; Brendan McGeever, Pears Institute; John Mann MP; and Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury. This timely seminar, held in June 2016, attracted a great deal of interest and was over-subscribed. The audience of sixty comprised politicians, civil servants and representatives from think tanks, charities and advocacy groups as well as academics.

It was a pleasure to attend your event at the House of Commons yesterday. I felt the standard of presentations and debate were very high. It is good to unpack these issues and allow the complexities to surface.

Educational consultant

The Director’s appointment as Vice-Chair for the Chakrabarti Inquiry into Antisemitism and Other Forms of Racism in the Labour Party reflects both his academic expertise on antisemitism and racism and the reputation he has earned for his public policy work since the launch of the Institute. In the course of the year, the Director has held briefing meetings with Rabbi Andrew Baker, Personal Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Chair-in-Office on Combating Antisemitism; Ira Forman, the US Department of State Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism; and a delegation of senior Norwegian government officials from four ministries tasked with developing Norway’s Action Plan against Antisemitism. The meetings have focused in particular on the complexities around defining antisemitism and how best to combat it.

Other members of the Institute have also made an important contribution to the Institute's public policy work this year. Brendan McGeever spoke at the House of Commons symposium 'Protecting and Offending Jews: Speech, Law and Policy'. Diana Popescu was commissioned to advise on the positioning of the UK Holocaust Memorial Foundation's proposed Holocaust Learning Centre. Her paper addressed key aspects of planning and design including insights on potential audiences, approaches to collection development and curation and assessment of partnerships with national and international institutions working in the field of Holocaust education and research. Helen Carr, one of the Institute's doctoral research students, was commissioned by Bright Blue, an independent think tank and pressure group for liberal conservatism, to prepare a report on the history of Muslim integration in Britain.

Public Engagement and Events

Exhibition at the Jewish Museum London

The public exhibition *Blood – Uniting and Dividing* opened at the Jewish Museum London on 5 November 2015 and ran until 28 February 2016. This exhibition, jointly developed by the Pears Institute and the Jewish Museum, explored how blood, in its regulation and its representation, has been interpreted and traded as a symbol between Jews and non-Jews through the centuries, with a particular focus on the real and symbolic links between Christians and Jews. The Director of the Institute and Anthony Bale, Professor of Medieval Studies at Birkbeck and an Associate of the Institute, acted as academic advisors for the exhibition, providing input into its conception and curation and fostering an innovative, research-led partnership with the Museum over several years. The exhibition drew together religious, historical and medical artefacts, as well as literature, art, film and cultural ephemera, to explore some of the most difficult issues surrounding Jewish culture and identity, including the rite of circumcision, blood libel, ideas of the Jewish ‘race’ and of racial purity and ‘Jewish’ genetic diseases such as Tay-Sachs.

The exhibition received excellent reviews in the media, including on BBC Radio 4’s *Saturday Review*, and in the broadsheets. *The Times* devoted a double-page spread to the exhibition and described it as ‘remarkable’, *The Independent* ran a feature under the title ‘Centuries of Shame that Make the Blood Run Cold’, *The Guardian* listed it as ‘Exhibition of the Week’.

Over 11,000 people attended the exhibition and 97 per cent of those in the visitor survey rated the quality of the exhibition as good or very good. Comments received run to c.200 and include:

‘#Blood @JewishMuseumLDN is nothing short of superb. Curation, design and interpretation impeccable. Fans of @ExploreWellcome would love it!’

‘I am completely blown away at how compelling, informative, nuanced, insightful and powerful this exhibit is. Bravo.’

‘I really, really enjoyed this exhibition – stunningly compact, intensely thought provoking, wonderfully informative and brilliantly conceived.’

‘Excellent exhibition. Showing interesting connotations and perspectives. It makes me think about the whole “idea” of blood in western culture. Thanks a lot for preparing it.’

‘An insightful exhibition – inspired me to read more about this subject of blood – how it unites and separates.’

‘We were struck by the elegance of the exhibition – the ability to employ such a concise and selective collection of artefacts and texts and yet open up so many historical and cultural questions....it is quite rare, I think, to see such a productive cooperation between academia and more popular venues.’

The response from both the media and public confirms that there is public appetite for scholarly-led exhibitions that both challenge and inform. The success of the exhibition has led to interest from other museums in Europe and the USA and it will tour from 2017. *Blood – Uniting and Dividing* is due to open in Warsaw in late 2017.

A fifty-six-page publication, *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us*, edited by Anthony Bale and David Feldman, was produced to support the exhibition, funded by the Birkbeck Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund for Public Engagement. Seven specially commissioned short essays from leading international scholars expand on the exhibition's themes, reflecting on the religious, historical and medical dimensions of blood. Written for a broad audience and illustrated with colour plates, the essays explore blood in Christian and Jewish culture, medieval antisemitism, Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, Jewish ritual, blood and 'race' and Jews and genes. The book has sold over 1,000 copies and sales continue. In due course the book will be offered as an e-publication, providing an ongoing opportunity for readers to engage with contemporary research and thinking on the cultural meanings of blood.

Pears Institute Public Events

The Institute held eleven events for the public through the course of the year. Five lectures took themes related to the 'Blood' exhibition and involved speakers from the USA and UK exploring topics as diverse as the literary and cultural representations of people of 'mixed blood', 'blood ties' and Jewish kinship, early race theory, circumcision, and blood libels in fin de siècle Europe. These lectures attracted over 300 people: 94 per cent of those attending agreed or strongly agreed that they had learnt from them.

The Institute was fortunate in securing eminent speakers from overseas for two other public lectures. Professor Michael Wildt of Humboldt University, Berlin, delivered the Holocaust Memorial lecture, 'Individuality and Collectivity in Nazi Germany', and Professor Todd Endelman of the University of Michigan explored 'The Emotional Toll of Antisemitism and its Consequences'. Both spoke to capacity audiences of over 100 people. Other public events reflected topical political issues with panel discussions including 'The Left and the Jews in Britain Today' and 'The Migrant Crisis and the Populist Right'. The Institute's 'Sunday Screenings' again proved popular, with over seventy people attending the screening and discussion of *Ida* and ninety attending the three-and-a-half-hour screening of *The Last of the Unjust* followed by discussion. The full list of events is below.

- 'Blood Inscriptions: Science, Modernity, and Ritual Murder in Fin de Siècle Europe', Professor Hillel Kieval, Washington University in St. Louis, June 2016.
- 'The Emotional Toll of Antisemitism and its Consequences', Professor Todd Endelman University of Michigan, May 2016.
- *The Last of the Unjust*, film screening with panel discussion, Professor David Feldman, Director, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London; Professor Jacqueline Rose, Professor for Humanities, Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, Birkbeck, University of London, March 2016.

- 'Circumcision: Identity Politics and/or Health?' Professor Sander Gilman, Emory University, March 2016.
- 'Race Theory, Anthropology and the Jewish Connection', Professor Dan Stone, Royal Holloway, University of London, February 2016.
- *Ida*, film screening with panel discussion, Dr François Guesnet, University College London and Dr Małgorzata Pakier, POLIN, Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, February 2016.
- 'Antisemitism, "Volksgemeinschaft" and Violence: Inclusion and Exclusion in Nazi Germany', Professor Michael Wildt, Humboldt University, Berlin (in partnership with the Institute of Historical Research), January 2016.
- 'Genealogies of the Future', Professor Jonathan Boyarin, Cornell University, December 2015.
- 'London Blood Fractions: The Octoroon and Other Fantasies', Professor Roger Luckhurst, Birkbeck, University of London, November 2015.
- 'The Migrant Crisis and the Populist Right', Professor Chris Bertram, University of Bristol; David Goodhart, Demos Integration Hub; Professor Matthew Goodwin, University of Kent; Dr Daphne Halikiopoulou, University of Reading; Professor Eric Kaufmann, Birkbeck, University of London (in collaboration with the Department of Politics, Birkbeck, University of London), November 2015.
- *Blood - Uniting and Dividing*, exhibition, Jewish Museum London, London, 5 November 2015-28 February 2016.
- 'The Left and the Jews in Britain Today', Dr Alan Johnson, Britain Israel Communications & Research Centre; Dr Lesley Klaff, Sheffield Hallam University and UK Lawyers for Israel; David Rosenberg, educator, author and Jewish Socialist Group; Dr Nadia Valman, Queen Mary, University of London and Independent Jewish Voices, November 2015.

Director's Public Lectures

- 'Living with Others: Jews and Other Minorities in England since the 17th Century', The Roth Lecture, Jewish Museum London, April 2017.
- 'Immigration and National Identity in Britain since 1945', Birkbeck, University of London, October 2016.

Feedback

The Institute's eleven public events were attended by over 1,000 people. The unsolicited feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

'Just wanted to take a moment to congratulate you on your wonderful programme for the Pears - absolutely fascinating and very stellar!!!'

Academic

'Good round-table at @PearsInstitute tonight on Jews and the Left - predictably polarized about Corbyn!' ('The Left and the Jews in Britain Today')

Member of the public

'At @PearsInstitute "Jews & the left" event: great line-up incl @eastend_davidR, Alan Johnson (@fathomjournal), Nadia Valman & Lesley Klaff.' ('The Left and the Jews in Britain Today')

Academic

'I found Professor Wildt's talk last night so illuminating and interesting and am wondering if it was recorded ... thank you for organising and hosting such a worthwhile event.' ('Antisemitism, 'Volksgemeinschaft' and Violence: Inclusion and Exclusion in Nazi Germany')

Member of the public

'This was one of the most enlightening lectures I have ever sat through.'

('Race Theory, Anthropology and the Jewish Connection')

Member of the public

'Ida and the post film discussion today were excellent, many thanks.'

Member of the public

'May I offer my and my partner's warmest thanks for the exceptional event you arranged last Sunday on *The Last of the Unjust?* Both of us have reported to friends on the film ... and the most engaging and informed discussion that followed.'

Member of the public

Appendix: Selected Publications and Activities of Associates

Anthony Bale

Publications

- (with David Feldman), *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us* (Shire, 2015).
- 'Shylock's Blood' in Anthony Bale and David Feldman (eds.), *Blood: Reflections on What Unites and Divides Us* (Shire, 2015): 17–21.

Talks

- 'Blood in Dracula', Fluid Physicalities Series, Birkbeck, University of London, February 2016.

Other professional activities

- Academic advisor (with David Feldman) for the exhibition, *Blood – Uniting and Dividing*, Jewish Museum London.
- Co-convenor of the public lecture programme to accompany the 'Blood' exhibition and academic workshop, 'Blood Libels: from the Middle Ages to the Modern World'.

Stephen Frosh

Publications

- Editor of Special Issue: 'Acknowledgement and Accountability in the Israel-Palestine Conflict' *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*, 21:1 (2016).
- 'Studies in Prejudice: Theorising Antisemitism in the Wake of the Nazi Holocaust', in D. Pick and M. Ffytche (eds.), *Psychoanalysis in the Age of Totalitarianism* (Routledge, 2016): 29–41.
- 'Born with a Knife in their Hearts: Transmission, Trauma, Identity and the Social Unconscious', in E. Hopper and H. Weinberg (eds.), *The Social Unconscious in Persons, Groups and Societies*, vol. 2 (Karnac, 2016): 3–20.
- 'Beyond Recognition', *Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society*, 20 (2015): 379–94.
- 'What Our Fathers Did', *Jewish Quarterly*, 62:3 (2015): 18–21.

Talks

- 'Acknowledgement, Apology and Forgiveness amongst Those Who "Come After"', Sedes Sapientiae Testimonial Clinic, São Paulo, Brazil, June 2006 (invited speaker).

- 'Psychoanalysis, Colonialism, Racism', British Psychoanalytical Society 'Political Mind' Series, May 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Acknowledgement, Apology and Forgiveness amongst Those Who "Come After"', Psychoanalysis and Politics Conference, Vienna Psychoanalytic Association, May 2016 (plenary conference paper).
- 'Bewilderments: Interview with Avivah Zornberg', Jewish Book Week, London, February 2016.
- 'Is Psychoanalysis a Jewish Science?' Freud Museum, January 2016 (invited panel member).
- 'Radicalisation and the Mind', Counterpoint and Open Society, Birkbeck, December 2015 (invited speaker).
- 'Primitivity and Denial: Traces of the Unconscious in Psychoanalysis', Organization for Promoting Understanding of Society Annual Conference, London, November 2015 (invited keynote speaker).
- 'Traces of Resistance', Creativities of Protest: Imaginaries, Commons and Reparations, Birkbeck, November 2015 (plenary talk - co-organized the conference).

Other professional activities

- Consultant (with Bruna Seu, Birkbeck) to Sedes Sapientiae Testimonial Clinic, São Paulo, Brazil, on a project part-funded by the Newton Fund dealing with the victims of state violence in Brazil during and since the dictatorship.

Ben Gidley

Publications

- 'Conflicto y convivencia en los barrios urbanos diversos de Europa: reintroducir los derechos humanos y la justicia social en el debate sobre la integración', in Ángeles Solanes Corella (ed.), *Diversidad Cultural y Conflictos en la Unión Europea. Implicaciones Jurídicopolíticas* (Tirant lo Blanch, 2016): 33-49.
- (with Nasar Meer), 'Communities and Identity', in Yousef Meri (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Muslim-Jewish Relations* (Routledge, 2016): 235-252. (French and Arabic editions to follow).
- (with Ole Jensen) "'They've Got Their Wine Bars; We've Got Our Pubs": Housing, Diversity and Community in Two South London Neighbourhoods', in Ferruccio Pastore (ed.), *Concordia Discors: Living Together in the European City* (Springer, 2016): 19-38.
- *Mainstreaming in Practice: The Efficiencies and Deficiencies of Mainstreaming Migrant Integration* (Erasmus University Press, 2015).
- 'Cultures of Translation: East London, Diaspora Space and an Imagined Cosmopolitan Tradition', in Nando Sigona et al. (eds.), *Diasporas Reimagined: Spaces, Practices and Belonging* (IMI, 2015): 37-40.

- (with Nazneen Ahmed et al.), 'Historicising Diaspora Spaces: Performing Faith, Race and Place in London's East End', in Jane Garnett (ed.), *Religion in Diaspora: Cultures of Citizenship* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015): 55–79.

Talks

- Laïcité & Community, PSL-University of Cambridge exchange Religions, action sociale et politiques urbaines (locale): Paris and London, CNRS Paris, March 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Religious Faith, Changing Patterns of Globalisation and Diasporic Belonging: Jewish, Muslim, and Christian Transnational Politics in East London', CIRIS, Cambridge University, November 2015 (invited speaker).

Other professional activities

- Invited expert witness, Department of Communities and Local Government Casey Review on Integration 2016.
- Invited expert witness, Home Office Extremism Analysis Unit Social Harms of Extremism project 2016.

Danae Karydaki

Publications

- 'National Socialism and the English Genius: Revisiting George Orwell's Political Views on Nazi Ideology', *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust*, 30:1 (2016): 53–73.

Dave Rich

Publications

- 'Jew-Hate: A Guide for the Perplexed', *Jewish Chronicle*, 6 May 2016.
- 'The U.K. Labour Party Must Decide if It's a Political Home for Anti-Semites or for British Jews', *Haaretz*, 21 March 2016.
- 'Revealed: The U.K. Foreign Office's Secret Survey to "Measure Zionist Influence"', *Haaretz*, 17 January 2016.
- 'Hatred at the Heart of the Campus Wars', *Jewish Chronicle*, 2 November 2015.

Talks

- 'Bridging Voices: Violent Extremism, Interfaith Relations & Government', Tackling Hate Speech and Violence through Interfaith Dialogue, Institute for Strategic Dialogue in partnership with Georgetown University, the United States Institute of Peace and University of Cambridge, June 2016.
- 'Walking a Mile in Asghar Bukhari's Shoes: Conspiracy Theories, Antisemitism and Extremism', Bristol University Colloquium on Contemporary Antisemitism, Sheffield Hallam University, September 2015.

Bruna Seu

Other professional activities

- Consultant (with Stephen Frosh, Birkbeck) to Sedes Sapientiae Testimonial Clinic, São Paulo, Brazil, on a project part-funded by the Newton Fund dealing with the victims of state violence in Brazil during and since the dictatorship.

Becky Taylor

Publications

- 'Construction and Constraints: The 1920 Aliens' Order, Medical Examinations and the Limitations of the British State', *Social History of Medicine*, 29:3 (2016): 512–33.
- "“Their Only Words of English were ‘Thank You’”: Rights, Gratitude and “Deserving” Refugees to Britain', *Journal of British Studies*, 55:1 (2016): 120–44.

Talks

- 'London's Suburban Jews: Integration and Difference in the Postwar Metropolis', Economic History Society, Urban History Group, Conference 2016, University of Cambridge (with David Feldman).

Nik Wachsmann

Awards

- Winner of the 2016 Wolfson History Prize for *KL: A History of the Nazi Concentration Camps* (Little Brown, 2015).

Publications

- 'The Nazi Concentration Camps in International Context: Comparisons and Connections', in J. Rüger and N. Wachsmann (eds.), *Rewriting German History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015): 306–24.

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