
Annual Report

1 August 2016–31 July 2017



RESEARCH

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

Annual Report

1 August 2016–31 July 2017

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism

Professor David Feldman, Director

24 November 2017

Contents

Overview of the Year	3
Institute Staff	4
Research	5
Projects	5
Publications	5
Conference Papers	7
Pears Institute Conferences and Symposia	9
Teaching	13
Policy Engagement	15
Public Engagement and Events	16
Media	16
Public Events	16
Feedback	18
Appendix: Selected Publications and Activities of Associates	20

Overview of the Year

The Institute has an ambitious goal: to reframe the understanding of antisemitism. In particular, to connect the study of antisemitism with the study of racisms more broadly, challenging conventional thinking with regard to research, teaching and discussion of public policy.

With this as the overarching objective, the Institute's activity is focused on three broad themes:

- Combatting antisemitism and racism
- Rethinking the relationship between antisemitism and other racisms
- Understanding the historical and present-day relationship between Zionism and antisemitism.

Significant progress has been made across all three themes this year. Notable achievements include:

- A pan-European research project, led by the Institute, exploring 'Immigration, Antisemitism and Toleration in Western Europe Today'
- The successful roll-out of a new BA module 'Racialization and Antisemitism', which attracted many more students than could be accepted
- A major international conference, 'Zionism and Antisemitism', which drew over ninety scholars from more than fifty institutions worldwide.

Through 2016/17 the Institute has mounted an extensive programme of twenty-two academic and public events attended by over 1,800 people. A significant number of these events have been in collaboration with other institutions and scholars. These partnerships extend the Institute's scope and activity, beyond that which could otherwise be achieved.

Outputs from the four-strong academic team have maintained the Institute's international research presence and contribution to academic debate. Publications and numerous conference papers have addressed antisemitism, racism, Holocaust memorialization and multiculturalism.

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 Madisson Brown, Senior Administrator (until 31 January 2016)

Dr Elaine Hudson, Event Coordinator (from May 2016)

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

Projects

The pan-European research project, 'Immigration, Antisemitism and Toleration in Western Europe Today' commissioned by the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ) has been a major focus this year. This important and timely research evaluates the claim that new migrants from the Middle East and North Africa carry antisemitism to Europe. The research centres on Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. Existing quantitative and qualitative data has been reviewed from the 1990s to the present. Supplementary qualitative research has been undertaken with a wide range of actors extending from government departments and agencies and the police, to civil society, including both Jewish and refugee/migrant organizations. The research has been led by the Pears Institute, with the following academic partners:

- Professor Marco Martiniello and Dr Muriel Sacco. Centre d'Etudes de l'Ethnicité et des Migrations (CEDEM) Université de Liège and Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)
- Professor Nonna Mayer and Ms Elodie Druez. Centre d'études européennes et de politique comparée de Sciences Po, Paris
- Professor Leo Lucassen and Dr Annemarike Stremmelaar. Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam and Universiteit Leiden
- Professor Stefanie Schüler Springorum and Dr Mathias Berek. Zentrum fuer Antisemitismusforschung, Technische Universität Berlin

The research findings will be published in 2018.

Publications

The first two books in the Palgrave Macmillan series 'Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism' were published in 2017. This series, edited by the Director, encompasses antisemitism and racism from the ancient world to the present day. It considers topical and theoretical questions and brings historical and multidisciplinary perspectives to bear on contemporary concerns and phenomena. Importantly, it also explores the connections between antisemitism and other forms of racism and prejudice. Anne Summers, *Living with Difference: Christian and Jewish Women in Britain, c.1860-1940*, offers an entirely new contribution to the history of relations between Jews and non-Jews in Britain. It shows how friendship and co-operation between Christian and Jewish women changed lives and, as World War II approached, actually saved Jews from Nazi persecution. Amos Morris-Reich and Dirk Rupnow (eds.), *Ideas of 'Race' in the History of the Humanities*, brings together some of the most distinguished scholars in their respective fields. It is the first collective attempt to address the history of notions of race in the humanities as a whole.

A number of essays written by the Institute's academic staff have appeared in print this year. The Director's essay 'Zionism and the British Labour Party' appeared in Ethan B. Katz et al. (eds.) *Colonialism and the Jews* (Indiana University Press, 2017). Lecturer Brendan McGeever had a chapter 'The Bolshevik Response to Antisemitism' published in Russian in the edited volume *Epokha Voin I Revoliutsii (1914-1922)* [*The Epoch of War and Revolution (1914-1922)*] (Nestor-Istoriia, 2017). This work includes contributions by world-leading historians of the Russian Revolution. Another of McGeever's essays 'Antisemitism and Revolutionary Politics in 1917' was published in the online journal *Jacobin* (June 2017). Research Fellow Diana Popescu has had two essays relating to her research on performative Holocaust memory in Poland published, one in *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust* and the other in the journal *Nordisk Judaistik - Scandinavian Jewish Studies*.

Director: Professor David Feldman

- *Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism*, Palgrave (series editor: David Feldman)
 - Anne Summers, *Living with Difference: Christian and Jewish Women in Britain, c.1860-1940* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).
 - Amos Morris-Reich and Dirk Rupnow (eds.), *Ideas of 'Race' in the History of the Humanities* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Essays

- 'Zionism and the British Labour Party', in Ethan B. Katz et al. (eds.), *Colonialism and the Jews* (Indiana University Press, 2017), pp. 193-214.

Lecturer: Dr Brendan McGeever

- 'Antisemitism and Revolutionary Politics in 1917', *Jacobin* online, 12 June 2017.
- 'Reaktsiia Bol'shevikov na Antisemitizm v 1918 godu' ['The Bolshevik Response to Antisemitism'], in *Epokha Voin I Revoliutsii (1914-1922)* [*The Epoch of War and Revolution (1914-1922)*] (Nestor-Istoriia, 2017).

Research Fellow: Dr Nathan Kurz

- 'In the Shadow of Versailles: Jewish Minority Rights at the 1946 Paris Peace Conference', *Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook*, (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2016), vol. XV, pp. 187-210.

Research Fellow: Dr Diana Popescu

- 'Performative Environments of Polish Memory: The Brama Grodzka-NN Theatre Centre's Approach to Lublin's Jewish Pasts', *Dapim: Studies on the Holocaust*, 31:2 (June 2017): 111-30.
- 'The Aesthetics and Ethics of Performative Holocaust Memory in Poland', *Nordisk Judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies*, Special Issue 'Ethics and Aesthetics of Holocaust Memory', 28:1 (April 2017): 22-37.

Diana Popescu joined the editorial board of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* in April 2017.

Conference Papers

The Institute has maintained a strong programme of international speaking engagements this year. The Director was invited by Israel's pre-eminent Van Leer Jerusalem Institute to deliver a keynote public lecture on *Boycotts: from the American Revolution to BDS*, an acknowledgement of the academic and reputational legacy of the Boycotts conference the Institute held in 2013. He also spoke at the Centre for Jewish Civilisation, Monash University in Melbourne, in a talk entitled 'Towards a History of the Term "Anti-Semitism"' and at The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem on Orwell and Sartre, addressing their writings on the nature and cause of antisemitism. Brendan McGeever was invited to the USA, Berlin and Edinburgh to speak on the topical issues of Brexit and the rise of the far right and antisemitism and racism. Diana Popescu spoke at conferences in Poland and Geneva, 'Performing Local Memories of Multicultural Pasts in Contemporary Poland' and 'The Agency and Impact of (Historic) Images in the Public Space'. Pears Institute Early Career Fellow Nathan Kurz spoke on 'UNESCO's 1974 Israel Crisis' at the Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in San Diego, California, and was an invited speaker at the Oxford international conference 'Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism: The Dialectics of Inclusion', where he gave the talk 'From Liberalism to Human Rights'. He also spoke at the Institute's conference on Zionism and Antisemitism, giving the paper 'International Human Rights, Antisemitism and the Origins of "Zionism is Racism"'. Nathan Kurz was co-convenor of the Institute of Historical Research Jewish History Seminar for 2016/17.

Director: Professor David Feldman

- 'Racism and Antisemitism: American and European Perspectives', After the Election: Antisemitism and Racism in the United States, Technical University Berlin and Indiana University European Gateway, June 2017 (respondent).
- 'Antisemitism and Islamophobia: On the History of Two Concepts', Connected Pasts and Futures: Jews and Muslims of Europe, The London School of Economics and Political Science, June 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Zionism and the Labour Party', The Holocaust and History: The Work and Legacy of David Cesarani, Royal Holloway, University of London, April 2017 (keynote speaker).
- 'The Legacy of the Left and Israel: 1967-2017', Leo Baeck Institute London, March 2017 (invited panel speaker).
- 'Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism: The Dialectics of Inclusion', international conference of the Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, March 2017 (respondent).
- 'The History of the Concept of Antisemitism', Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies: Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism: The Dialectics of Inclusion, University of Oxford, March 2017 (invited speaker).

- 'The Meanings of Antisemitism', Birkbeck, University of London (public lecture).
- 'Race in Modern British History', IHR Seminar, Modern British History PhD Reading Group, February 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Orwell and Sartre', Réflexions sur la question juive: 70 years after - Antisemitism, Race and Gender, The Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Boycotts: from the American Revolution to BDS', Boycotts - An Academic Look, Goethe Institute Israel and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, December 2016 (keynote public lecture).
- 'Towards a History of the Term "Antisemitism"', Centre for Jewish Civilization, Monash University, Melbourne, September 2016 (invited speaker).

Lecturer: Dr Brendan McGeever

- 'Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution', Tolpuddle Festival, Tolpuddle Radical History School, July 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Racism and the Rise of the Right', Radical Independence Scotland Assembly, Edinburgh, May 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Preparing Brexit: Race, Class, Empire', The Impossible Order: Europe, Power and the Search for a New Migration Regime, Berlin Wall Memorial Centre, May 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Brexit, Class, Racism', Swarthmore College, Philadelphia, April 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Antisemitism and Anti-Racism', Brexit, Trump and Beyond: Building Bridges not Walls, NUS Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, March 2017 (invited speaker).
- Russian Revolution Centenary Event, Brixton, Karibu Centre, March 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'The Bolsheviks and Antisemitism in the Russian Revolution', Social Histories of the Russian Revolution public lecture series, Birkbeck, University of London, November 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'The Dimensions of Hegemony: Language, Culture and Politics in Revolutionary Russia', Historical Materialism Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, November 2016 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Dr Nathan Kurz

- 'International Human Rights, Antisemitism and the Origins of "Zionism is Racism", 1959-1965', Zionism and Antisemitism: An International Conference, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London, May 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Writing International Jewish History', Institute for Historical Research Rethinking Modern Europe Seminar, May 2017 (invited speaker).

- 'From Liberalism to Human Rights', Liberalism, Antisemitism: The Dialectics of Inclusion, international conference of the Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, March 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'The Ubiquitous Minority: On International Jewish Politics, 1815–1945', Institute for Historical Research Jewish History Seminar, January 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'UNESCO's 1974 Israel Crisis', Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, December 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'The Ubiquitous Minority: On International Jewish Politics, 1815–1945', Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies: Jews, Liberalism, Antisemitism: The Dialectics of Inclusion, University of Oxford, November 2016 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Dr Diana Popescu

- 'From Memory to Action? Understanding Activism and Agency as Discourse and Practice in Holocaust Memorial Museums', Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, 6–9 July 2017.
- 'Performing Local Memories of Multicultural Pasts in Contemporary Poland', Museums and Their Publics at Sites of Conflicted History, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland, March 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'The Agency and Impact of (Historic) Images in the Public Space', What Do Images in the Public Space Do?, University of Geneva, Switzerland, January 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Commemorating the Holocaust in a Performative Way? A Critical Take on the Performative Turn in Current Memorialization Practices', The Holocaust in the Public Sphere, The Holocaust Research Centre, Royal Holloway, University of London, December 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Keeping the Memory of the Holocaust Alive: Possibilities and Limitations of Performative Practices of Commemoration', Pears Institute Lunchtime Seminar Series, Pears Institute, October 2016 (invited speaker).

Pears Institute Conferences and Symposia

The international conference 'Zionism and Antisemitism' was held in May 2017, ahead of the centenary of the Balfour Declaration. This conference built on the Institute's longstanding interest in the relationship between antisemitism and political debate on Israel. It examined the interaction between Zionism and antisemitism as it has developed from the 19th century through to the present day. The conference attracted significant academic interest: more than 100 proposals were received, and from these thirty speakers were selected to present papers. The themes explored included: Christianity, Jews and Zionism; Zionism and National Socialism; memories of the Holocaust and the Nakba; racisms; and anti-Zionism and antisemitism. Keynote public lectures were given by Bashir Bashir, Open University, Israel and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute and Derek Penslar, Harvard University. A total of ninety-three scholars from fifty-four institutions and from diverse disciplinary and political perspectives participated

in the conference. This wide-ranging and stimulating conference succeeded in addressing its theme from many different viewpoints, with sustained dialogue and debate over three days. Its success underscores the Institute's academic lead in holding events that tackle challenging contemporary issues in an open and inclusive manner. The influence of the conference will spread as podcasts of the talks attract a wider audience.

Feedback from scholars attending the event:

'This was a most stimulating and fruitful gathering of scholars from different disciplines who tackled the issue from complementary angles. Together, they provided in-depth insights into the reciprocal yet complex relationship between Zionism and antisemitism. I gained a lot from the rich program as well as from the informal exchange of ideas with the other participants.'

'Thank you again for organizing the conference and for the impressive leadership. I learned a great deal from fellow speakers... and marveled at the high quality, as well as diversity of opinions, of the presentations and discussions.'

'Congratulations for conceiving and organizing such an important and so balanced conference - personally, I could not think of a better venue to engage with such a broad spectrum of opinions and passionate group of scholars.'

'The conference was stimulating and fascinating and I've enjoyed the debates. I also want to mention that Elaine and Jan were great, very helpful, very kind and the conference was very well organized.'

The Institute continues to develop innovative approaches to thinking on antisemitism and its connection to other racisms. The one-day conference 'Race, Antisemitism and Theory' brought together fifty-two scholars from both disciplines who would not ordinarily engage with each other's work. This event was co-convened by Brendan McGeever with colleagues from the University of East London and the Department of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck, and was funded by Birkbeck Institute of Humanities. The response of scholars participating was positive and encouraging:

'Thank you for organizing this much needed and timely event. I found the individual talks, as well as the discussions, very productive to think further about the continuities as well as discontinuities between racism and anti-Semitism.'

'A productive and thought-provoking event. Putting into train a process to explore the articulation of anti-Jewish racism with other racisms.'

This ground-breaking conference provides a useful basis for shaping future events on this challenging topic.

The international symposium 'Ghettos - from Venice to Chicago' also brought together the themes of antisemitism and racism. Leading scholars from history, literary studies and sociology, from the USA, Israel and Europe, explored the idea of the ghetto as it developed from the early modern period to the present, and considered the institutional, social and cultural practices that have constituted (and constitute) ghettos in everyday life. This symposium, which involved thirty-

five scholars, was devised with, and jointly funded by, the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology at Birkbeck and the Department of English Literature, University of Reading. The Institute also collaborated with partners in Europe to mount an interdisciplinary conference in Berlin which explored the multifaceted aspects of the question of Jewish loyalties. Starting with the Dreyfus affair, speakers considered the degree to which individual Jews and Jewish communities in Europe, the USA and elsewhere engaged with the question of loyalty before, during and after World War I.

Conferences and Symposia

- 'Zionism and Antisemitism: an International Conference', May 2017.
- 'Writing International Jewish History', seminar in collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research, Rethinking Modern Europe Seminar, May 2017.
- 'Racism, Antisemitism, Theory', symposium supported by Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, April 2017.
- 'The Ghetto: from Venice to Chicago', symposium in collaboration with the Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck, University of London and Department of English Literature, University of Reading, March 2017.
- 'Contesting Jewish Loyalties: The First World War and Beyond', international conference, Berlin, held with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, Centre for Research on Antisemitism, Technical University Berlin, The Institute for the History of the German Jews, Hamburg and Jewish Museum Berlin, December 2016.

The Institute's programme of lunchtime seminars provides an opportunity to explore new thinking on a broad range of topics and attracts scholars from diverse disciplines and perspectives, from the UK and overseas. Speakers considered Holocaust memory and commemoration, theoretical approaches to antisemitism, and underscoring the Institute's remit of promoting the study of antisemitism with the study of racisms more broadly, explored connections between Jews and Romanies and between antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Seminar Series

- 'Not in My Family: German Memory and Responsibility after the Holocaust', Roger Frie, Simon Fraser University and University of British Columbia, Vancouver, May 2017.
- 'The Frankfurt School on Antisemitism: A Developmental Approach', Jack Jacobs, City University of New York, April 2017.
- 'When the Elders of Zion Relocated in Eurabia: Conspiratorial Racialization in Antisemitism and Islamophobia', Reza Zia-Ebrahimi, Kings College London, March 2017.
- 'Capitalism, Antisemitism and Stupidity. On Horkheimer and Adorno's Dialectic of Enlightenment', Marcel Stoetzler, Bangor University and Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, March 2017.

- 'Antisemitism and Antiziganism: Jews and Romanies in the Shadow of Genocide', Ari Joskowitz, Vanderbilt University, November 2016.
- 'Left/Right Crossover Movements', Spencer Sunshine, independent scholar, November 2016.
- 'Keeping the Memory of the Holocaust Alive: Possibilities and Limitations of Performative Practices of Commemoration', Diana Popescu, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, October 2016.

Over 290 scholars and postgraduate students participated in events organized by the Pears Institute in 2016/17.

Teaching

The new BA Psychosocial Studies module 'Racialization and Antisemitism' was successfully rolled out to students in September 2016. The module, designed and taught by Brendan McGeever, proved extremely popular and was over-subscribed. Twenty students were selected to take the course and it will be offered again in 2017/18. Its success furthers the objective of embedding the teaching of antisemitism in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy, and specifically promotes connections between the study of antisemitism and the study of racialization. Brendan McGeever has also given lectures at undergraduate level on the complex relationship between Jews and whiteness and on the history of racism.

The MA history module 'Jews and Antisemitism in Europe' also ran in the autumn term, taught by Nathan Kurz. In contrast to its popularity in previous years, five students took the module. This was a disappointingly low number and was due to an administrative or technical error which led to interested students being turned away from the course. In the School of Arts, Diana Popescu ran two specialist seminars for postgraduate students: 'The Jewish Museum Berlin' for the Museum Studies MA, attended by fifteen students, and 'Critical Approaches to Working with Survivor Testimonies' for the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies PhD research seminar series, attended by ten students.

The second postgraduate research student has been selected for the Bonnard Trust PhD Scholarship scheme, which is overseen by the Institute. This scheme closely chimes with the Institute's remit, supporting research in the themes of 'diversity and belonging' and 'minorities and social justice'. The successful candidate was one of twenty-eight applicants and commences their research project - 'The History of Southall from 1962 to 2000 as a Means to Assess the Impact of Multiculturalism on Minority Communities' - in October 2017. The research will be supervised by the Director.

The teaching and learning resource *Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain* was launched in September 2016 to coincide with the roll-out of the new OCR GCSE History 'Migration to Britain' module. The launch was covered by the BBC and *The Guardian* and attracted extensive exposure via Twitter. The website presents the stories of generations of migrants who came to and shaped the British Isles over more than a thousand years, including Anglo-Saxon, African, Irish, Indian, Italian, Jewish and Polish peoples. Their stories are told through a diverse range of historical source material which draws on the research of over sixty historians. 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 of the Pears Institute presents a short video on immigration to Britain between 1750 and 1900. The website was developed by the Runnymede Trust and academics based at the universities of Cambridge and Manchester, and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

The Director was invited to record two short lectures for the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Israel. This invitation signals the Institute's growing reputation in Israel and in the field of antisemitism studies more broadly. The lectures concern antisemitism and attitudes to Jews in the 19th and 20th centuries and contemporary antisemitism in Britain. They will form part of Yad Vashem's MOOC or Massive Open Online Course 'Antisemitism: From its Origins to the Present'. This course features leading scholars in the field speaking on the evolution of the phenomenon of antisemitism, and its changing nature over time, spanning place and culture.

Policy Engagement

The Institute has been actively engaged in two important European policy initiatives in 2016/17: the pan-European research project 'Immigration, Antisemitism and Toleration in Western Europe Today' (described above) and a programme with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). In October 2016, the Director was invited by the OSCE to become a member of the Expert Group on Education Policy, to advise on its pan-European initiative, 'Turning Words into Action to Address Anti-Semitism'. The OSCE will provide national policy-makers and practitioners with education policy guidelines for addressing antisemitism at the national level, following a human rights approach.

In the UK, the Institute has continued to inform policy and public debate on the understanding of antisemitism. The Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into *Antisemitism in the UK* (October 2016), cites (para. 20) the Director's sub-report commissioned for the 2015 All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism, in particular his opinion on the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) working definition of antisemitism. Hugh Tomlinson QC in Counsel's Opinion on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition, similarly referenced this report with respect to this contentious definition of antisemitism (8 March 2017, note 1). The Director's proposed definitions of antisemitism, adopted in *The All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism* (January 2015), has also been cited by others, including an opinion piece in *openDemocracy* (24 October 2016). The Director's *Guardian* article, mentioned earlier, also sought to inform debate over the decision of the UK Government in December 2016 to adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

The Institute has advised a number of organizations on issues of antisemitism this year. The Director was in dialogue with the National Union of Students' Head of Liberation over several months. In February 2017, Brendan McGeever participated in a National Union of Students (NUS) Roundtable on Antisemitism involving the Union of Jewish Students and other Jewish community groups. In March, he spoke at an NUS conference addressing antisemitism and racism, making the case for bringing together the campaigns against racism and antisemitism, and the challenges of doing so. The Director has also held briefings with the Director of School of Oriental and African Studies, and with its Board of Trustees.

Public Engagement and Events

Media

An opinion piece by the Director, which considered antisemitism in the Labour Party, along with related issues, was published in *The Guardian* online in December, 2016.

- David Feldman, 'Will Britain's New Definition of Antisemitism Help Jewish People? I'm Sceptical', *The Guardian* online, 28 December 2016.
- David Feldman and Ben Gidley, 'Social Justice Must Be at the Heart of a Renewed Strategy for Integration and Cohesion', *Birkbeck Comments*, December 2016.

Briefings were given to a number of journalists concerning antisemitism and migration issues, including for *The Guardian* and the BBC World Service.

Public Events

The public events held this year attracted unprecedented high levels of attendance: five events attracted audiences of 150 people or more, three events over 100 people, and three events audiences of 80 plus. This high and sustained level of interest reflects the choice of topics and calibre of speakers the Institute is able to secure, as well as its effective event promotion. Public lectures have been given by numerous eminent scholars from a variety of disciplines and covering a range of subjects. They include: Mark Roseman, University of Indiana, who delivered the Holocaust Memorial lecture, 'An Intimate View of Evil? How German Jews Made Sense of Nazi Perpetrators'; Shaul Bassi, Ca'Foscari University of Venice, with 'The Ghetto of Venice: Past, Present, Future'; Derek Penslar, Harvard University, who spoke about 'Antisemitism and Zionism: Ideologies or Emotions?'; Bashir Bashir, Open University, Israel and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, who explored 'The Memories of the Holocaust and Nakba and the Politics of Binationalism in Israel/Palestine'; and the literary scholar Susan Rubin Sulieman, Harvard University, who considered the life and legacy of the Jewish Franco-Russian novelist Irène Némirovsky. As part of the year's programme, the Director also gave a public lecture titled 'The Meanings of Antisemitism', which attracted an audience of more than 200.

In other events the Institute considered the ethics of republishing Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, explored the theme of 'denial' through three films followed by panel discussions and supported the launch of a major new website, *The Nazi Concentration Camps: A Teaching and Learning Resource*, developed by the Department of History at Birkbeck.

Over 1,550 people attended the Institute's eleven public events, which attracted a broad audience: the general public (41 per cent), students (28 per cent), academics (20 per cent) and independent scholars (11 per cent).

Pears Institute Public Events

- 'Jewish Identity in Question: The Life, Death, and Legacy of Irène Némirovsky, a Jewish Writer in Twentieth-Century France', Susan Rubin Suleiman (with IHR French History Seminar), 12 June 2017.
- 'The Memories of the Holocaust and Nakba and the Politics of Binationalism in Israel/Palestine', Bashir Bashir, 25 May 2017.
- 'Antisemitism and Zionism: Ideologies or Emotions?', Derek Penslar, 24 May 2017.
- 'Not Idly By – Peter Bergson, America and the Holocaust' (UK film premiere and panel discussion), Jonathan Freedland, Laurel Leff, Pierre Sauvage and Ned Temko (with JW3), 10 May 2017.
- 'The Ghetto of Venice: Past, Present, Future', Shaul Bassi, 27 March 2017.
- 'Denial – Painful Pasts and Hidden Histories', Sunday film screening and discussion, Stephen Frosh, Catherine Hall, Daniel Pick and Philippe Sands QC, 26 March 2017.
- 'The Meanings of Antisemitism', David Feldman, 13 February 2017.
- 'An Intimate View of Evil? How German Jews Made Sense of Nazi Perpetrators', Mark Roseman, Holocaust Memorial Lecture with Institute of Historical Research, 1 February 2017.
- '*Mein Kampf* Today: Ideology, Memory and the Question of Censorship', David Aaronovitch, Neil Gregor and Maiken Umbach (with Leo Baeck Institute London), 1 December 2016.
- 'Challenging Myths and Misconceptions: Understanding the Nazi Camps and the Holocaust', Sir Richard J. Evans, Tom Haward, Yiftach Meiri, Nikolaus Wachsmann and Kim Wünschmann (with Department of History, Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck and UCL Centre for Holocaust Education), 21 November 2016.
- 'The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust', Lisa Moses Leff, 8 November 2016.

Other Public Events

- Brendan McGeever, 'Tackling Antisemitism', Trump, Brexit and Beyond: Building Bridges Not Walls, NUS conference, March 2017.
- David Feldman, 'Reflections on the Chakrabarti Enquiry', Limmud Conference, December 2016.
- David Feldman, 'Antisemitism in Contemporary British Politics', Liverpool Limmud, November 2016.

Feedback

The Institute receives feedback on its events through the year.

'Thank you for organizing such a fascinating discussion last night. I left feeling more hopeful and more vigilant than when I arrived - although I'm not sure that this was the intention of the evening!' (*'Mein Kampf Today'*)

Academic

'Attending conference at @PearsInstitute on "denial, painful pasts, hidden histories" - challenging, difficult and moving. @BirkbeckNews.'

Member of the public

'Fantastic viewing & discussion @PearsInstitute today. Rewatching *My Nazi Legacy* with *The Flat* (which I'd not seen) made me rethink it a tad.'

Member of the public

'@PearsInstitute riveting to hear @philippesands at showing of "my nazi Legacy" @BirkbeckNews.'

Member of the public

'Challenging discussions about Holocaust education at launch of Nik Wachsmann's new website camps.bbk.ac.uk @PearsInstitute.'

'Attended the event on the Venice ghetto. It was fascinating....a revelation. Brilliantly delivered.'

Member of the public

'Just to say, Bashir Bashir's lecture was exemplary, as was David Feldman's lecture on the meaning of antisemitism.'

Postgraduate student and Birkbeck alumnus

Over 96 per cent of respondents who completed a questionnaire about the events held by the Institute in 2016/17 rated the breadth of topics covered as good or excellent, with a similar rating given for event organization. More than 40 per cent of respondents had attended three or more events in the course of the year and over 80 per cent said the Institute had contributed to their understanding of antisemitism and prejudice.

The quotations below are representative of many received.

'[The Institute] keeps on engaging in many ways with the university community and beyond by keeping the conversation open.'

Postgraduate student

'[The Institute] covers a broad range of topics - it appears to me that lectures are generally pitched at the right level i.e. interesting enough for scholars in the field, but also accessible for interested members of the public like myself...'

Member of the public

'You bring well known or highly skilled experienced historians who are able to make surprising connections between seemingly unrelated events.'

Undergraduate student

'I am very glad that the Pears organize events where a variety of political opinions can confront each other.'

Academic

'Good range of subjects; well-organized events; and attraction of "audiences" it's a pleasure to be with (congenial, intelligent/good questions, sense of humour).'

Postgraduate student and Birkbeck alumnus

Appendix: Selected Publications and Activities of Associates

Ludivine Broch, University of Westminster

Publications

- 'The SNCF Affair: Trains, the Holocaust and Divided Memories of Vichy France', in W. Lower and L. Faulkner Rossi (eds.), *Lessons and Legacies XII: New Directions in Holocaust Research and Education* (Northwestern University Press, 2017).
- *Les Cheminots, Vichy et la Shoah: les travailleurs du rail sous l'Occupation: 1940-1944* (Tallandier, 2016).

Conference papers and talks

- 'Race, Racism and the French Resistance', Resistance and the Question of Race: Raising National and Transnational Concerns, French Institute, New York and New York University, February 2017.

Bryan Cheyette, University of Reading

Publications

- Co-editor, *The Oxford History of the Novel in English*, vol. 7 (Oxford University Press, 2016). This volume includes the essays: 'British-Jewish Fiction', the 'Question of Evil after the Holocaust', 'Migrant Fiction' and 'Black and Asian Fiction'.

Conference papers and talks

- 'Irish and Jews in Literature', Trinity College, Dublin, June 2017 (public lecture).
- 'Venice: Between Ghetto Jews and Port Jews', Port Jews, University of Southampton, May 2017 (keynote lecture).
- 'David Cesarani and the Holocaust', Royal Holloway conference on the Holocaust in memory of David Cesarani, Royal Holloway, University of London, April 2017.
- 'Israel Zangwill: Ghetto, Melting Pot, Zion', Maccabaeen Public Lecture, King's College London, February 2017.
- 'David Cesarani Memorial Lecture', Royal Holloway, University of London, November 2016.
- 'The Black-Jewish Ghetto', The Black-Jewish Imaginary, University of Reading, November 2016.
- 'Postcolonialism and Antisemitism', workshop, Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, October 2016.

- 'Supersessionist Thinking: Postcolonial and Jewish Studies', Centre for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, October 2016 (invited speaker).

Other Professional Activities

- Co-organized 'The Ghetto: From Venice to Chicago', an international symposium at the Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London.

Stephen Frosh, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- 'Different Trains: An Essay in Memorialising', *American Imago*, 74 (2017): 1-22.
- 'Primitivity and Violence: Traces of the Unconscious in Psychoanalysis', *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, 37 (2017): 34-47.

Conference papers and talks

- 'Acknowledgement', Ariane Rothschild Fellowship, Windsor Castle, Windsor, July 2017 (invited speaker).
- 'Conceptions of Freedom III: Religion', University College London, Institute of Advanced Studies/European Institute, UCL, June 2017 (invited panelist).
- 'Psychoanalysis and Social Violence', Megaron Concert Hall, Athens, April 2017 (public lecture).
- 'Psychoanalysis and Social Violence', University of Oxford, November 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Political Indifference: A Response of Resistance or Denial?', Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies, University of Essex, October 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Psychoanalysis and Social Violence', University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2016 (invited speaker).

Ben Gidley, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- (with James Renton, eds.), *Antisemitism and Islamophobia: A Shared History?* (Palgrave, 2017).
- (with James Renton), 'The Shared Story of Europe's Ideas of the Muslim and the Jew – A Diachronic Perspective', in *Antisemitism and Islamophobia*, *ibid.*, 1-21.
- (with Peter Scholten and Ilona van Breugel), 'Mainstreaming in Practice: The Efficiencies and Deficiencies of Mainstreaming for Street-level Bureaucrats', in P. Scholten and I. van Breugel (eds.), *Mainstreaming Integration Governance: New Trends in Migrant Integration Policies in Europe* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017): 153-68.
- (with Nazneen Ahmed et al.), 'Shifting Markers of Identity in East London's Diasporic Religious Spaces', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 39:2 (2016): 223-242.

Conference papers and talks

- *Humanity at Sea Maritime Migration and the Foundations of International Law*, Columbia University Global Center, Paris, February 2017.
- 'Failing Better at Convivially Researching Spaces of Diversity' (Convivial tools for research and practice), University College London/University of Humboldt, London, November 2016.
- *London as Migrant Metropoli*, (Migrant Metropolis), Migrants Rights Network/Autograph ABP, September 2016.

Media

- 'Why Are U.K. Progressives Still Celebrating a Grotesque anti-Semite and Holocaust Denier?' *Ha'aretz*, 28 October 2017.
- 'Who is Allowed to be Human? "Bare Life" in Aleppo and on the Mediterranean', *Wildcat Dispatches*, December 2016.
- 'Absent Experts and Public Debates About Integration', *Sociological Review*, December 2016, [republished by LSE Religion in Society].
- (with David Feldman), 'Social Justice Must Be at the Heart of a Renewed Strategy for Integration and Cohesion', *Birkbeck Comments*, December 2016.
- Video: 'Is Marine Le Pen a fascist?', *Politics.co.uk*, 6 May 2016.
- Interviewed for 'La France et l'Angleterre au bord de la crise de nerfs', *FranceCulture* radio, January 2017.

Other professional activities

- European Sociological Association Research Network 31: Racism, Antisemitism and Ethnic Relations: Board member, 2011 to date.

Christian Goeschel, University of Manchester

Publications

- 'A Parallel History? Rethinking the Relationship between Italy and Germany, c. 1860-1945', *Journal of Modern History*, 88 (2016): 610-32.
- 'German Intellectuals and Italian Fascism', *German Quarterly*, 90 (2017): 353-5.
- 'Staging Friendship: Mussolini and Hitler in Germany in 1937', *Historical Journal*, 60 (2017): 149-72.

Ana Parejo Vadillo, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- 'Cosmopolitan Disturbances: Amy Levy in Dresden', *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, 53:3 (July 2017): 325-37.

Dave Rich, Community Security Trust and Associate Research Fellow, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism

Conference papers and talks

- 'Anti-Zionism and the "new antisemitism": Theory and Practice', Zionism and Antisemitism: International Conference, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London, May 2017.
- 'The Left's Jewish Problem', Jewish Book Week, March 2017.
- 'Thoughts on Antisemitism Today', Holocaust Memorial Day Ceremony, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, January 2017.
- 'Waiting for the Storm to Break: Antisemitism in Britain Today', International Conference on Contemporary Antisemitism in Europe and Sweden, Swedish Committee against Antisemitism, Stockholm, November 2016.
- 'The Left's Jewish Problem: Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Antisemitism', Jewish Labour Movement North West, October 2016.

Media

- 'Where Is Steve Bannon on the Fascism-nationalism Spectrum?', *Haaretz*, 22 February 2017.
- 'How Israel Became a Battering Ram in the Fight for the Soul of the Labour Party', *International Business Times*, 12 September 2016.
- 'Anti-Semitism and the British Left', *New York Times*, 11 September 2016.
- 'Corbyn's Credibility with U.K. Jews Can't Get Much Lower', *Haaretz*, 5 August 2016.

Jan Ruger, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- *Heligoland: Britain, Germany, and the Struggle for the North Sea* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

Philip Spencer, Kingston University and Research Fellow, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- (with Robert Fine), *Antisemitism and the Left: On the Return of the Jewish Question* (Manchester University Press, 2017).
- 'Marxism, Cosmopolitanism and "the" Jews', *European Review of History*, 23:5-6 (Oct-Dec 2016): 828-846.

Conference papers and talks

- 'Comparative Genocide Studies and the Holocaust: Reflections on Some Recent Developments in the Field', International Conference on Genocide and The Holocaust, University of Minnesota, April 2017 (keynote lecture).
- 'Antisemitism and the Left', Oxford Brookes University, December 2016 (invited speaker).
- 'Antisemitism and the Left: On the Return of the Jewish Question', Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Paris, November 2016 (invited speaker).

Nik Wachsmann, Birkbeck, University of London

Publications

- *KL. A history of the Nazi concentration camps*, translated into German, Dutch, Italian, French, Polish, Russian, Spanish and Portuguese (Little Brown, Spring 2017).

Conference papers and talks

- 'The Message of Auschwitz and the Holocaust', international conference as part of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, July 2017, Auschwitz, Germany (invited panel member).
- 'Structures of Violence', Annual Conference of German Memorial Sites, Oranienburg, Germany, June 2017 (keynote lecture).

Other professional activities

- Launch of educational website, 'The Nazi Concentration Camps: A Teaching and Learning Resource', www.camps.bbk.ac.uk, November 2016.

PEARS INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM

