
Annual Report

1 August 2017–31 July 2018



RESEARCH

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

Annual Report

1 August 2017–31 July 2018

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism

Professor David Feldman, Director

27 November 2018

Contents

Overview of the Year	3
Institute Staff	4
Research	5
Grant Income	5
Publications	5
Conference Papers	6
Pears Institute Conferences and Symposia	8
Teaching	10
Policy Engagement	12
Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection?	12
Public Policy, Advice and Discourse	13
Public Engagement	15
Public Exhibition: Blood – Uniting and Dividing	15
Public Events	15
Pears Institute in the Media	18
Opinion Pieces	18
Research Coverage	18
Media Interviews	19

Overview of the Year

This annual report summarizes the Institute's key achievements in 2017/18 across four main areas of activity: research, teaching, public policy and public engagement, and with respect to its principal aims set down for 2015–20:

- Maintain and increase research outputs
- Generate a step change in research income
- Extend the Institute's engagement with policy makers
- Make a transformational impact on the teaching of antisemitism.

These aims are informed by and support the Institute's strategic goal: to reframe the understanding of antisemitism. In particular, the Institute seeks to connect the study of antisemitism with the study of racism more broadly.

This year has seen notable achievements in the areas of research and public policy. The Institute has:

- Published six major reports for the pan-European research project *Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection?* funded by the Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ)
- Held a public policy symposium at the Houses of Parliament to present the research project's global findings, involving participants from Europe and the UK
- Made three successful grant applications, securing additional research income
- Provided academic expertise and advice to a range of public bodies in the UK and Europe, including engaging with the Labour Party in its attempts to tackle antisemitism
- Made further headway in connecting antisemitism and racialization across the Institute's core activities – research, teaching and public events.

The Institute's public profile has also been appreciably raised this year with articles placed in the mainstream online media, quotations and reports cited in UK and international publications, interviews on European, national and local radio, as well as an active presence on Twitter.

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 (until January 2018)

Mrs Tanesha Westcarr, Event Coordinator (from February 2018)

Research Fellows

Dr Nathan Kurz, Rothschild Foundation Research Fellow (until January 2018)

Dr Diana Popescu, Swedish Research Council Research Fellow

Dr Marc Volovici, Pears Institute Early Career Research Fellow

In 2017/18 responsibility for the Institute was shared between David Feldman, who took up his Visiting Fellowship at All Souls College, Oxford, Brendan McGeever and Jan Davison. David Feldman retained responsibility for the overall direction of the Institute, for its public policy remit and EVZ project (working with Jan Davison) and for generating research income. Brendan McGeever took on the role of Acting Associate Director of the Institute with responsibility for the programme of events and for driving forward the teaching and research agenda with respect to fostering links between the study of racialization and antisemitism. Jan Davison ensured the smooth running of the Institute and provided support and continuity throughout.

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.

Research

Grant Income

Three grant applications have been successful this year:

- The Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation (EVZ) awarded a further grant to the Institute to fund dissemination of the findings and recommendations arising from the research project *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe: is there a connection?*
- The British Academy made two separate awards under its prestigious Visiting Fellowship scheme.

Publications

The pan-European research project funded by EVZ has continued to be a major focus for much of this year. This has included editing five national reports – for Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK – and the synthesis of this data into a final report. The Director co-authored (with Ben Gidley), *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection? The case of the UK* and wrote the final report *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection? Findings and recommendations from a five-nation study*. The full suite of research reports (fourteen separate documents in four languages) was published by the Institute in April 2018. The reports are available to download: www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk.

Underscoring the Institute's commitment to connect antisemitism with other racisms, the Runnymede Trust invited David Feldman to contribute an essay titled 'Islamophobia and Antisemitism' for its report, *Islamophobia Twenty Years On* (Runnymede Trust, 2017). An edited version of the essay, titled 'Muslims and Jews should be Fighting Hate Together', was published in the *Jewish Chronicle* online (November 2017) and in the Greek journal *Avgi* (December 2017). Brendan McGeever (with Satnam Virdee) wrote a topical piece, 'Racism, Crisis, Brexit', published online in the world's leading racism studies journal, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (August 2017). The piece has become the fifth most viewed article in the journal's online history and has secured a global readership.

David Feldman offered a new perspective to Jewish Studies in his essay 'Mr Lewinstein Goes to Parliament: Rethinking the History and Historiography of Jewish immigration', published in *East European Jewish Affairs* (Autumn 2017). Research Fellow Diana Popescu had two essays published relating to her research on Holocaust memorialisation. A commissioned essay, 'Human Memorials: the Holocaust in Contemporary Installation Art and Design', appeared in the art magazine *Mocak Forum: Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow* in Polish and English editions (2017/18). Her analysis of the documentary film *The Dead Nation* (2017), about Jewish persecution in Romania during World War II, and the role of cinema in Romanian Holocaust memory was published in *Humanities* (April 2018).

Director: David Feldman*Reports*

- *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection? Findings and recommendations from a five-nation study* (Pears Institute, 2018).
- (with Ben Gidley) *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection? The case of the UK* (Pears Institute, 2018).

Essays

- 'Islamophobia and Antisemitism' in Fara Elahi and Omar Khan (eds), *Islamophobia Twenty Years On* (Runnymede Trust, 2017): 78–81.
- 'Mr Lewinstein Goes to Parliament: Rethinking the History and Historiography of Jewish immigration', *East European Jewish Affairs*, 47.2–3 (2017): 134–49.

Lecturer: Brendan McGeever

- (with Satnam Virdee) 'Racism, Crisis, Brexit', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(10), (August 2018): 1802–1819.

Research Fellow: Diana Popescu

- 'Human Memorials: the Holocaust in Contemporary Installation Art and Design', *Mocak Forum: Museum of Contemporary Art in Krakow*, 13(1), (2018): 62–9.
- 'Staging Encounters with Estranged Pasts: Radu Jude's *The Dead Nation* (2017) and the Cinematic Face of Public Memory of the Holocaust in Present-day Romania', *Humanities* 7(2) (2018): 40.

Conference Papers

The Institute's reputation as a leading research centre on antisemitism and its commitment to explore the relationship between antisemitism and other racisms have been further consolidated this year through its contribution to international academic debate and its own programme of events.

David Feldman, building on his substantive research project 'The meanings of antisemitism' has given lectures on this theme at Oxford, Keele and the universities of Greifswald and Oslo, as well as a public lecture entitled 'Islamophobia and Antisemitism Today' at the Jewish Museum Berlin, which led to a full-page interview in the daily newspaper *Berliner Zeitung*. Brendan McGeever spoke on historical and contemporary antisemitism and modern-day racism at conferences held in Chicago, Yale, Vienna and Kiev as well as the UK. Diana Popescu presented papers on various aspects of 21st-century Holocaust memorialization in Gothenburg, Utrecht, Rome and Oxford. Pears Institute Early Career Research Fellow Marc Volovicci gave papers connected to his research on the German language and antisemitism and Zionism in Dresden, Krakow, Washington DC (at the Association of Jewish Studies Annual Conference) and London.

Director: David Feldman

- *What is Antisemitism? Definitions and Meaning in the 21st Century, Antisemitism and Jewish Life in the 21st Century*, Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities, Oslo, June 2018 (keynote speaker).
- *Reflections on Why the English Like Turbans*, Immigration and Radicalism Seminar, University of Cambridge, Sidney Sussex College, May 2018 (invited panellist).
- *Populist Politics and the Minority Voice: British Muslims*, Extremisms and Inclusion, Muslims in Britain Research Network in partnership with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London, April 2018 (invited speaker).
- *Antisemitism and Islamophobia Today*, Jewish Museum, Berlin, March 2018 (public lecture).
- *Brexit, Islamophobia and Antisemitism*, Reconfiguring British History Seminar, Institute of Historical Research, February 2018 (invited speaker).
- *The Meanings of Antisemitism*, The Study of Antisemitism – Where are we Heading?, University of Greifswald (keynote speaker).
- *Beyond East and West: Rethinking the History of Jewish Migration and Settlement, c.1870–1920*, Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University of Oxford, February 2018 (public lecture).
- *The Meanings of Antisemitism*, Department of History, University of Keele, January 2018 (invited speaker).
- *Beyond East and West: Rethinking the History of Jewish Migration and Settlement, c.1870–1920*, Department of History, University of Chicago, November 2017 (invited speaker).
- *The Meanings of Antisemitism*, All Souls, University of Oxford, October 2017 (invited speaker).

Lecturer: Brendan McGeever

- *Jews and Ukrainians: A Millennium of Co-Existence*, Ukrainian Institute, London, May 2018 (invited discussant).
- *Racism in Scotland*, Rethinking Racism in Scotland, University of Glasgow, January 2018 (invited speaker).
- *Revolution and Post-Revolutionary Modernization*, Policy, Culture, Society, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, October 2017 (invited speaker).
- *Race and the Russian Revolution: Revisiting the 'Jewish Question' a Century on*, The Red and the Black: the Russian Revolution and the Black Atlantic, University of Central Lancashire, October 2017.
- *Intersectional Bolshevism? Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution*, The Russian Revolution a Century On, Anglia Ruskin, October 2017 (invited panel speaker).
- *Brexit, Class, Racism, Crisis*, Racism, Antisemitism and the Radical Right, Yale University, September 2017 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Diana Popescu

- *The Post-Memorial Dimension of Museum Exhibition Design: An Audience Research Study of the Holocaust Exhibition, at the Imperial War Museum*, London, Past (Im)Perfect Continuous. Trans-Cultural Articulations of the Postmemory of WWII, University of Rome, 'La Sapienza', June 2018.
- *Remembering with a Purpose: Debating the Social Impact of Holocaust Commemorative Practice in the 21st Century*, Post-War: Remembrance, Recollection, Reconciliation, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, University of Oxford, May 2018.
- *Debating Mirroring Evil*, Mirroring Evil Revisited, Utrecht University, March 2018, (invited speaker).
- *Performing Tangible Memorialisation?*, Genocide Memorialisation. Political Imaginaries and Public Materialities, Valand Academy, Gothenburg, December 2017.

Research Fellow: Marc Volovici

- *German as the Language of Antisemitism: Genealogy of a Trope in Jewish Nationalism*, European Association for Jewish Studies 11th Congress, Krakow, July 2018.
- *Eastern European Zionism and the German Language, 1870-1920*, International Conference: Cosmopolitanism and (Post-) Imperial Space. German-Speaking Networks in Eastern Europe, Technical University Dresden, July 2018.
- *Yiddishism, Hebraism, and the German Language*, Association for Jewish Studies 49th Annual Conference, Washington DC, December 2017.
- *The Germanic Question: The Lineage of Yiddish in Early 20th-Century Jewish Nationalism*, Jewish History Seminar, Institute for Historical Research, December 2017 (invited speaker).

Pears Institute Conferences and Symposia

In January 2018 the Institute managed and hosted one of the foremost conferences in Holocaust studies, *Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution*. This triennial, multidisciplinary three-day conference involved more than 130 speakers. It was organised jointly by the Pears Institute, the Department of History Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck; Imperial War Museums (IWM); Royal Holloway, University of London; University of Wolverhampton and The Wiener Library. Significant external funding, totalling over £50,000, was secured from EVZ and the Toni Schiff Memorial Fund to mount the event and in particular to fund the participation of doctoral students and early career scholars.

The Institute's lunchtime seminars have explored, among other things, the intertwined history of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Europe, the dynamics and prejudices connected to both, and the resurgence of the far right, racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia in the United States.

A full-day, round-table discussion on the theme of denial brought together forty invited historians, social theorists and clinical psychologists to explore the operation of denial in particular times and places, including the Holocaust, the Romani in former Czechoslovakia, slavery and settler Australia; and to consider the role of denial in social, political and historical analysis:

We both felt [Denial] went very well, with excellent thoughtful discussions in both the morning and afternoon, and impeccable organisation by Jan Davison and her team.

Co-convenors of the round-table on Denial

Conferences and Symposia

- *Beyond Camps and Forced Labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution, an International Conference*, in partnership with the Department of History Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck, IWM, Royal Holloway, University of London, University of Wolverhampton and The Wiener Library, January 2018.
- *Denial*, in collaboration with the Department of History Classics and Archaeology, Birkbeck and University College London, December 2017.

Seminar Series

- *The Rights of the Roma: The Struggle for Citizenship in Postwar Czechoslovakia*, Celia Donert, University of Liverpool, in collaboration with the Institute for Historical Research, Rethinking Modern Europe seminar series and hosted by The Wiener Library, May 2018.
- *Understanding Prejudice: Stigma, Self-Esteem and the Dynamics of Antisemitism & Islamophobia*, Maryyum Mehmood, Kings College London, March 2018.
- *Racism, Antisemitism and the Revival of the Far-Right in 'Post-Racial' America: a Historical Perspective*, Aaron Winter, University of East London, December 2017.
- *Islamophobia and Antisemitism in Christian Europe: an Intertwined History*, Ben Gidley, Birkbeck University of London, October 2017.

More than 300 scholars participated in academic events organized by the Institute in 2017/18.

Teaching

The BA module 'Racialization and Antisemitism' taught by Brendan McGeever was attended by a full class of 20 students. Brendan McGeever also taught the BA module 'Power', which includes the study of antisemitism, and was taken by over 35 students. For both modules, students were drawn from the departments of Psychosocial Studies, Politics and History, serving to further embed the teaching of antisemitism in the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy and to promote the links with racialization more broadly. Both modules were highly rated by students attending and will be offered again in 2018/19.

'The context of this course has been incredible, informative, challenging and has allowed broad and deep conversation and critical thinking.'

'This has given me a great understanding of race, racialisation, racism and antisemitism. The delivery of the lectures was exceptionally very good and engaging.'

'The use of material and teaching style were excellent, and as a history student taking their first psychosocial course, I felt both welcomed and included in discussions that otherwise may have been beyond my reach.'

The online teaching and learning resource *Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain*, intended for GCSE students and teachers, was awarded joint winner of the Research Champion category in the Community Integration Awards 2017. David Feldman was on the expert panel for the project and presents a short video on immigration to Britain 1750-1900. *Our Migration Story* presents 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. In the website's first year, from launch in September 2016 to September 2017, recorded sessions on the website numbered over 36,000. The judges commented:

'This project makes an important intervention in the much-needed conversation on migration, British colonial past and the legacy of the Empire. It challenges the history curricula and invites us to consider how the history of Britain is intermingled with the history of migration. This disrupts and unsettles the unhelpful, binary narratives around 'Them and Us', especially in the times of revival of nationalist sentiments in Britain.'

It is a fantastic project, clearly with a massive involvement of historians, schools, and researchers, as well as with an excellent strategy of dissemination. It enriches the curriculum, makes research relevant and focuses on influencing future generations'.

Judges Panel, Community Integration Awards 2017

The *Our Migration Story* 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.

Yad Vashem's MOOC, or Massive Open Online Course, 'Antisemitism: From its Origins to the Present' went live in March 2018. The six-week course is divided into historical and themed sections. David Feldman contributes a lecture on the perceptions of Jewish success in the urban environment, focusing on late 19th-century Britain. More than 7,500 learners from 149 countries signed up for the course, 75% of whom were active learners: this figure is significantly higher than other historical courses on the FutureLearn website. The course will run on a regular basis.

Diana Popescu has been working closely with Imperial War Museums, evaluating pupils' and teachers' experiences of the Holocaust exhibition, in particular looking at their post-visit emotional and cognitive responses to the exhibition's content and design. The results of the study were presented in April to members of the IWM team in charge of developing the new Holocaust exhibition. Rachel Donnelly, Holocaust Learning Manager & Learning and Audience Advocate (The Holocaust Galleries) described the findings 'as more enlightening than any other presentation we've had during [the development] of this project'.

Policy Engagement

Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection?

The findings and recommendations of the pan-European research project were presented at the Houses of Parliament on 23 April 2018. The symposium, held in partnership with EVZ, and hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, supported by the Antisemitism Policy Trust, was attended by over 50 representatives from the UK and Europe, including parliamentarians, government officials, representatives from policy think tanks, Jewish and Muslim communal organizations and civil society organizations. Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, welcomed the report on behalf of the government:

'The findings of the study are having a direct impact on the shape of policy... This study has shown that antisemitism is not an issue for minorities alone. Antisemitism is an issue within society as a whole, and it will need our whole society to eliminate it.'

Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

The report was endorsed by Britain's leading cross-party think tank, Demos:

'Balanced new @PearsInstitute reports on anti-Semitism in Europe, esp exploring link w/Islamic migration & far-right. Finds long-term trends positive (excl UK), although I suspect lack of recent data esp. constrains German analysis.'

Sophie Gaston, Deputy Director and Head of International Research, Demos

Positive support was also received from civil society organizations including the Community Security Trust and the Race Equality Foundation in the UK and the CEJI (A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe) based in Brussels, which circulated details in its news bulletin *Kol Europe*. Unfortunately the report's findings attracted criticism from the American Jewish Committee in Berlin, which sought to discredit the report and its authors.

Events to present findings of the national studies were held in Europe. The French research was presented at the 2018 Ariadne Policy Briefing held in Paris in March 2018, attended by funders and philanthropists who support social change and human rights, and public policy briefings were held in Amsterdam and Brussels. Further events are planned in Berlin and Paris in autumn/winter 2018. Media coverage is considered below.

The full suite of research reports is available to download: www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk.

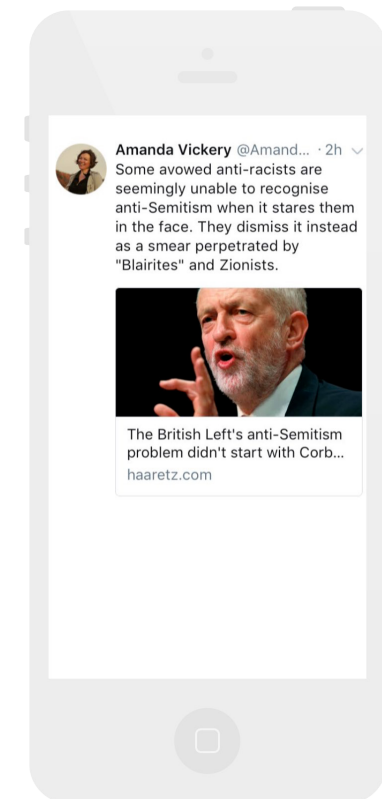
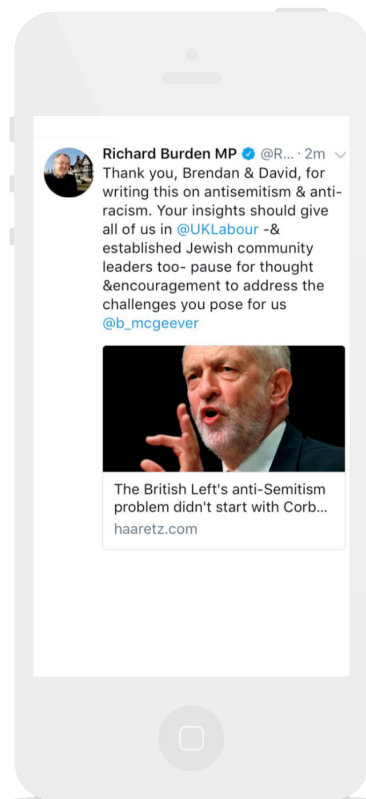
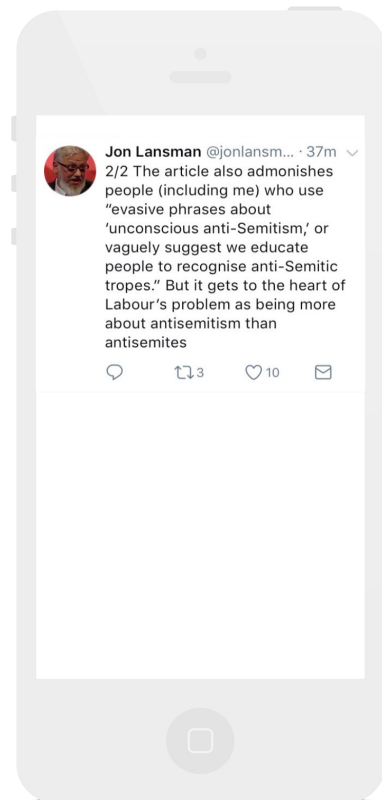
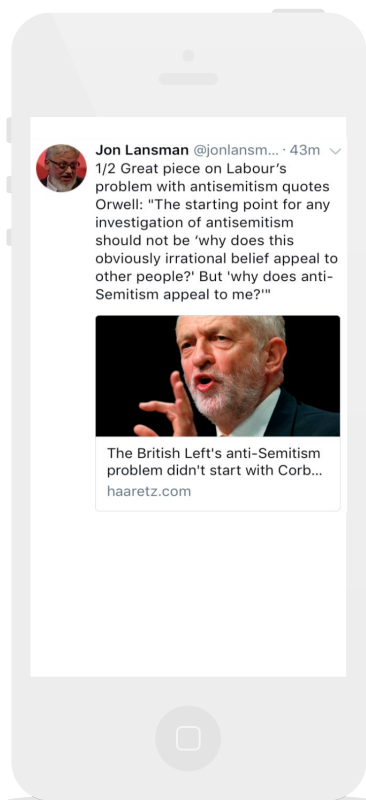
Public Policy, Advice and Discourse

A policy briefing, 'Warnings from the 1930s? Lessons from Britain's Refugee History for Today', was held at the Houses of Parliament in December 2017. The Pears Institute partnered Refugee History, University of East Anglia, for this timely event, which was supported by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Archives and History. The briefing explored how history can inform Britain's current responses to and responsibilities towards the global challenges of forced human displacement, and in the light of Brexit asked whether it is possible to reduce Britain's refugee intake while holding true to its post-1945 humanitarian principles. Over 40 people attended the invitation-only briefing, including parliamentarians, representatives from think tanks and civil society groups, and academics. Speakers included Dima AlMekdad, Qisetna, Talking Syria Project; Lord Dubs; Lisa Matthews, Right to Remain; Becky Taylor, Refugee History, University of East Anglia; and Nick Thomas-Symonds MP. A 16-page briefing document, *Refugee History: The 1930s Crisis and Today*, written by Becky Taylor and Kate Ferguson, is available online at <http://refugeehistory.org>.

Over the last 18 months, David Feldman has given considerable input to senior officials at the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and latterly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), both to inform their thinking and in shaping the guidelines for their joint initiative and publication, *Addressing Anti-Semitism through Education: Guidelines for Policymakers*. The guidance was launched in Paris on 4 June 2018 and examines the many and complex manifestations of antisemitic prejudice and discrimination and offers best practice recommendations to fight them through education.

In addition to the OSCE, the Institute has given expert advice to National Museums Liverpool and the Labour Party. The former commissioned a report on whether a picture, entitled 'Partition Politics', showing at the Walker Gallery as part of the exhibition *Slaves of Fashion, New Works by The Singh Twins*, could be regarded as antisemitic.

In May 2018 the Director met with the Labour Party's Working Group on Antisemitism to advise on educational initiatives to promote greater understanding of antisemitism. An opinion piece written by David Feldman and Brendan McGeever, 'The British Left's Antisemitism Problem Didn't Start With Corbyn', published in *Haaretz* (April 2018), also proved an extremely effective means of engaging with members of the Labour Party about the issues it faces and the reasons why. It is evident from the Twitter and Facebook activity that followed, including by Jon Lansman, chair of Momentum, and MP Richard Burden's blog in the *Huffington Post* (24 April 2018), where he quoted extensively from the article, that it successfully encouraged reflection among some senior Labour Party figures. This positive engagement is significant. This is a further example of what the Institute strives to achieve in the arena of public debate and policy formulation.



Some responses to David Feldman and Brendan McGeever's opinion piece, 'The British Left's Antisemitism Problem Didn't Start With Corbyn' (*Haaretz*, April 2018)

Public Engagement

Public Exhibition: Blood – Uniting and Dividing

The successful London exhibition *Blood – Uniting and Dividing* jointly conceived by the Pears Institute and Jewish Museum London in 2015/2016, opened at the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw on 12 October 2017 and ran until 31 January 2018. It developed the themes that emerged in the London exhibition, augmenting them with new ideas and artefacts, and presenting contemporary artworks throughout the large space. The Institute's role was acknowledged at the opening event and credited in the exhibition publicity material, website and accompanying catalogue. The exhibition was an unprecedented success: the POLIN Museum anticipated 25,000 visitors but it attracted more than 45,000 and visitor numbers were still increasing weekly as the exhibition closed. Had it been possible, the museum would have extended the exhibition's run.

'Blood – Uniting and Dividing is the most popular temporary exhibition in POLIN's history.'

Katarzyna Tomczak-Wysocka, Curator, POLIN Museum

The *Blood* exhibition attracted broad media coverage in Poland, including in the Christian press and a two page feature in the weekly cultural review magazine *Polityka*. The exhibition opened at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow on 15 May 2018 and will run until 31 October 2018. It also attracted considerable attention. The role of the Pears Institute was similarly acknowledged.

Public Events

The Institute held ten public events in 2017/18, which fell into three broad themes.

Three events marked the centenary of the Russian Revolution and explored questions of antisemitism and Zionism in the Soviet Union. Elissa Bemporad, City University of New York, spoke on *Jewish Voices of the Russian Revolution*. Screenings of two rarely seen Soviet films, *Seekers of Happiness* and *The Commissar*, addressed the neglected story of the Soviet Zion in Birobidzhan and the contentious question of the persistence of antisemitism after the October Revolution. These events proved extremely popular, each attracting audiences of over 130 people: *The Commissar* screening and discussion filled the 167-seater auditorium.

Four events supported the Institute's strategic aim of connecting antisemitism with contemporary debates around racism. A panel discussion explored *Cosmopolitanism – Jewish and Postcolonial Perspectives* and Ethan Katz, University of Cincinnati, spoke about *Jews, Muslims, Frenchmen: The Promises and Perils of Fraternity* in the inaugural public lecture of the Maurice Freedman Trust held in collaboration with the Institute and supported by Jewish Book Week. At the end of June, the eminent scholar Lewis Gordon, University of Connecticut, spoke on *Jews of Colour: Race and Afro-Jewishness*.

Other events focused on the Holocaust and took a multidisciplinary perspective. Ulrike Weckel, Justus-Liebig-University, Giessen gave the Holocaust Memorial lecture, *Shaming with Images: German Responses to Atrocity Films, 1945–46*, held in partnership with the Institute of Historical Research. A half-day workshop, *Traces: Representations of the Holocaust and Antisemitism in British Film and Television*, was held in collaboration with the British Jewish Contemporary Cultures Network and supported by Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image. As part of Birkbeck's Arts Week, a colloquium, *Curating Sound for Difficult Histories*, was held in partnership with the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies and History, Classics and Archaeology Department at Birkbeck and the Media Research Group, University of Hertfordshire. Talks, screenings and discussions explored how soundscapes – music, voices, speech, noise and silence – evoke difficult histories, in particular the Holocaust.

Pears Institute Public Events

- *Decolonial Judaism: Jews, Antisemitism and the Global South*, Santiago Slabodsky, July 2018.
- *Jews of Colour: Race and Afro-Jewishness*, Lewis Gordon, June 2018.
- *Curating Sound for Difficult Histories*, with Birkbeck Arts Week, with the Department of Film, Media and Cultural Studies, Birkbeck and Media Research Group, University of Hertfordshire, May 2018.
- *Jews, Muslims, Frenchmen: The Promises and Perils of Fraternity*, Ethan Katz, the Maurice Freedman Trust Lecture in association with the Pears Institute and Jewish Book Week, May 2018.
- *Commissar*, Sunday screening with Marat Grinberg, Jeremy Hicks, Rachel Morley, April 2018.
- *Iskateli schast'ia – Seekers of Happiness*, Sunday screening with Claire le Foll, Philip Spencer, Robert Weinberg, February 2018.
- *Shaming with Images: German Responses to Atrocity Films, 1945–46*, Ulrike Weckel (Holocaust Memorial Lecture with the Institute of Historical Research), January 2018.
- *Cosmopolitanism – Jewish and Postcolonial Perspectives*, Gurminder Bhambra, Bryan Cheyette, Sander Gilman, with the Leo Baeck Institute London, December 2017.
- *From Berdichev to Minsk and Onward to Moscow: Jewish Voices of the Russian Revolution*, Elissa Bemporad, November 2017.
- *Traces: Representations of the Holocaust and Antisemitism in British Film and Television*, with the British Jewish Contemporary Cultures Network and supported by Birkbeck Institute for the Moving Image Cinema, November 2017.

The Institute's public events were attended by more than 1,100 people in 2017/18. Spontaneous feedback highlights how these events are appreciated by the audience and speakers alike and the important role they play in furthering thinking and debate around issues of antisemitism and racialization.

'A quick message to say I really enjoyed the lectures you organised earlier this summer, especially on Race and Afro-Jewishness. It genuinely gave me a new way in to my own research.'

Postgraduate student

'May I add how brilliant we found Gordon Lewis's talk on Tuesday? I look forward to the podcast that I want to send to a number of friends and interested parties who couldn't make it.'

Member of the public

'This was truly one of the best or perhaps even the best event I've ever had the honour of speaking at.'

(The Commissar screening) Academic

'Dear Pears, Thank you so much for last night! It was really interesting, informative and funny with a great mix of speakers. It also helped me feel a lot better in this very uncertain and racist climate we seem to be living in. Please keep organising such wonderful events!'

(Cosmopolitanism – Jewish and Postcolonial Perspectives) Member of the public

Pears Institute in the Media

Opinion Pieces

David Feldman and Brendan McGeever addressed the ongoing issues of antisemitism in the Left in a joint essay 'The British Left's Antisemitism Problem Didn't Start With Corbyn', published in *Haaretz* – in print and online (9 April 2018) and subsequently in *The Independent* as 'Labour and Antisemitism: What is to be Done?' (18 April 2018).

- David Feldman and Brendan McGeever, 'Labour and Antisemitism: What is to be Done?', *The Independent* (online) 18 April 2018.
- David Feldman and Brendan McGeever, 'The British Left's Antisemitism Problem Didn't Start With Corbyn', *Haaretz* (print and online), 9 April 2018.
- David Feldman, 'Muslims and Jews Should be Fighting Hate Together', *Jewish Chronicle* (online), 20 November 2017 (trans. for the Greek journal *Avgi*, December 2017).

The response to the *Haaretz* article was overwhelmingly positive. Importantly, as discussed above, it elicited active engagement and support from a number of influential senior Labour Party figures and it was quoted on two separate occasions by contributors writing in the *Huffington Post* (see below). Several eminent academics circulated the article to students and intend to use it in their teaching. The Community Security Trust chose to highlight the article, as it appeared in *The Independent*, in its own Twitter and Facebook activity.

Research Coverage

Balanced coverage was achieved in European news outlets for the overall findings of the pan-European research report *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe Today: Is There a Connection? Findings and recommendations from a five-nation study*. Articles appeared in *The Economist* – Europe Edition (print and online), the German international broadcaster *Deutsche Welle* (www.dw.com) and the Swiss German-language daily newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, which boasts over 45 million unique users for its online version. In the UK, a negative and misleading comment piece by Rabbi Andrew Baker of the American Jewish Committee, Berlin, was published in the *Jewish Chronicle*. This was picked up by the *Jewish Telegraphic Association* and *The Times of Israel*; however, the latter led with key findings from the report. The *Jewish Chronicle* subsequently published a thoughtful and balanced commentary on the research.

- Kersten Knipp, 'Antisemitism on the Rise? Western European Jews think so', *Deutsche Welle*, 31 July 2018.
- Keith Kahn-Harris, 'Does Muslim Immigration into Europe pose a Threat to Jewish Communities?', *Jewish Chronicle*, 19 July 2018.
- Andreas Ernst, Haluka Maier-Borst, 'Warum in Westeuropa der Hass auf Juden immer wieder aufflammt' (Why does hatred towards Jews in Western Europe constantly erupt?), *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 7 July 2018.

- Cnaan Liphshiz, 'No Link between Muslim immigration and Anti-Semitism, German Study Says', *The Times of Israel*, 30 May 2018.
- Matt Steinglass, 'Haters Gonna Hate: Anti-semitism in Europe May not in Fact be Rising', *The Economist* – Europe Edition (print and online), 27 April 2018.

Media coverage relating to the specific findings for countries included in the research was generated in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands and was broadly balanced.

Media Interviews

The Pears Institute's presence in the mainstream media, particularly broadcast, has been notable this year. Journalists have approached the Institute for interviews and background briefings, particularly with regard to rising antisemitism in the UK and to issues in the Labour Party.

Coverage achieved:

- *The World This Weekend*, BBC Radio 4 – special report on antisemitism in Britain, exploring its origins, definitions and history, interview with David Feldman, 20 May 2018.
- *Sunday*, BBC Radio 4 – special broadcast marking the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel, including a section on what Israel means to British Jews, interview with David Feldman, 13 May 2018.
- *The Sunday Programme*, BBC Local Radio – 12 four-minute interviews with David Feldman exploring the history of antisemitism in Britain, broadcast live on 12 BBC local radio stations, 30 April 2018.
- Richard Burden MP blog, 'Bin The Conspiracy Theories, From Whichever Quarter They Come – Uncomfortable as it may be for us to recognise and address, a thread of antisemitism has been present in parts of the Left for many decades', *Huffington Post* (online), quotes extensively from the *Haaretz* op-ed, 24 April 2018.
- Duncan Robinson, 'Labour's Problem with Anti-Semitism', *The Economist* (print edition and online), 15 March 2018.
- Susanne Lenz, 'Formen der Feindlichkeit – Der britische Historiker David Feldman interessiert sich für die Parallelen von Islamophobie und Antisemitismus' (Forms of Hostility: The British historian David Feldman is interested in the parallels between Islamophobia and antisemitism) – full page interview, *Berliner Zeitung*, 20 March 2018.
- Nicola Slawson and Sarah Miller Llana, 'Anti-Semitism Stains Labour, Corbyn Again. Why does this keep happening?' *Christian Science Monitor*, quotes David Feldman, 10 April 2018.
- Paul Waugh, 'The Five Things you Need to Know about Politics Today' – includes excerpt from *Haaretz* op-ed, *Huffington Post* (online), 17 April 2018.
- ARD German Radio (equivalent of the BBC) – concerning the rise in antisemitism in the UK, interview with David Feldman, 18 August 2017.

PEARS INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM

