
Annual Report

1 August 2018–31 July 2019



RESEARCH

EDUCATE

ENGAGE

Annual Report

1 August 2018–31 July 2019

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism

Professor David Feldman, Director

19 November 2019

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Overview of the Year

This annual report presents the Institute's key achievements in 2018/19 across four main areas of activity: research, teaching, public policy and public engagement.

It highlights how these achievements contribute to the Institute's strategic objective of reframing the understanding of antisemitism and seeking to connect the study of antisemitism and racialization, acting as a catalyst for change.

Significant accomplishments this year include:

- Mounting the award-winning exhibition *Jews, Money, Myth* with the Jewish Museum London
- Publication of the edited volume of essays *Boycotts Past and Present: From the American Revolution to the Campaign to Boycott Israel*
- The development of a new short course, 'Facing Antisemitism: Politics, Culture and History'
- The Institute's growing reputation in the public sphere as a measured and clear voice on antisemitism
- Three successful grant applications for young scholars
- Lecturer Brendan McGeever selected as BBC Radio 3/AHRC 2019 New Generation Thinker.

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

Mrs Tanesha Westcarr, Event Coordinator

Research Fellows

Dr Diana Popescu, Swedish Research Council Early Career Research Fellow

Dr Marc Volovici, Pears Institute Early Career Research Fellow

Associates

The Institute has over twenty Associates whose research interests align with its remit. The activities of select Associates are included in the Appendix.

Details of all Pears Institute Associates can be found on the Pears Institute website, www.pearsinstitute.bbk.ac.uk.

Research

Grant Income

The Institute has had significant success this year with grant applications in support of young scholars.

- The Leverhulme Trust has awarded Marc Volovici, currently a Pears Institute Early Career Fellow, a three-year Research Fellowship at the Institute/Department of History, Birkbeck. Marc's research project will explore 'Self-Criticism and Dissent in 20th-Century Jewish Politics'. The fellowship commences in September 2019.
- The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has awarded the Institute two PhD studentships. The studentships will commence in October 2019.

Both schemes are highly competitive and therefore prestigious. For example, only 5% of applicants to the Leverhulme scheme are successful and the whole of Sussex University received only six AHRC studentships this year; for a small institute to receive two in one year is outstanding and highlights the calibre of students the Pears Institute attracts and the quality of the research proposals submitted.

These awards provide welcome growth for the Institute and are a mark of its academic standing.

Publications

This year has seen significant outputs, with the publication of two books and a special-issue academic journal.

The volume of essays, *Boycotts Past and Present: From the American Revolution to the Campaign to Boycott Israel*, edited by David Feldman, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in January 2019 as part of its 'Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism' series. This volume, which arose out of an earlier conference on this subject, includes contributions by historians and sociologists who examine boycotts from the eighteenth century to the present day, from struggles against British rule in the American colonies, to the current Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. David Feldman contributes an introductory essay to the volume.

Jews, Money, Myth, a volume of essays edited by Marc Volovici (with Joanne Rosenthal) to accompany the exhibition of the same title, was published jointly by the Jewish Museum London and Pears Institute in March 2019. With an introduction by the editors, contributions from David Feldman and other leading scholars and artists, the publication develops some of the exhibition's key themes. It examines the role of money in Jewish life and the place of Jews – real and imagined – in commerce, capitalism and finance up to the present day. Notably, the essay by David Feldman, entitled 'Capitalism, Commerce and Antisemitism', provided the catalyst for Daniel Finkelstein's article 'Corbyn's praise for deeply antisemitic book' in *The Times* (30 April 2019), which stimulated considerable

debate in the mainstream and social media. Over 1,000 copies of *Jews, Money, Myth* have been sold to date.

Diana Popescu (with Tanja Schult) edited 'Performative Holocaust Commemoration in the 21st Century', a special issue of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* (March 2019). The contributions explore performative practices in contemporary artistic, educational and memorial projects. Diana Popescu's introductory essay (with Tanja Schult) situates performative practice in relation to the pledges 'never forget' and 'never again' proclaimed by survivors and endorsed by newer generations. It argues that empirical research is crucial to reach a better understanding of how such practices impact on contemporary audiences.

The leading international history journal, *American Historical Review* (AHR), published an essay by David Feldman, 'Toward a History of the Term Anti-Semitism', which formed part of an AHR Roundtable 'Rethinking Anti-Semitism', a collection of eight essays by leading scholars (AHR, October 2018). The impetus for the roundtable arose from the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism (ICRAR), which David co-founded in 2011. The decision of the editorial board to devote an issue to antisemitism is of particular significance: it underscores the success of the Institute in seeking to promote the wider study of antisemitism and position it in a broader context. The introduction to the issue notes:

The October issue features an AHR Roundtable on the vexed history of anti-Semitism. Initiated by Jonathan Judaken (Rhodes College) in partnership with the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism (ICRAR) at Birkbeck, University of London, the eight-part roundtable reflects ICRAR's ongoing effort to overcome the isolation and politicization of the study of anti-Semitism. This is necessarily a controversial topic, and some of the essays are sure to generate heated debate; given recent developments in the U.S., Eastern Europe, and of course the Middle East, the task of historicizing anti-Semitism seems even more relevant now than it did when first initiated several years ago.

Contemporary issues of antisemitism on the Left as well as Brexit have been explored in scholarly articles by David Feldman and Brendan McGeever. An article by David Feldman entitled 'Jeremy Corbyn, Imperialism and Labour's Antisemitism Problem' posted on the website *History Workshop Online* (12 June 2019) attracted considerable attention, well beyond academic circles: its wider impact is considered below. Brendan McGeever (with others) considered 'Antisemitism, Anti-Racism and the Labour Party' in *Soundings: A Journal of Politics and Culture* (Volume 70, Winter 2018), and with Satnam Virdee he wrote a piece entitled 'Race, Class, Brexit: How Did We Get Here?' (LSE Brexit Blog, October 2018). Brendan McGeever's forthcoming monograph, *Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution* (Cambridge University Press, September 2019) was awarded Birkbeck's 2019 Ronald Tress Prize, which recognizes exceptional early career academics in the social sciences.

Director: David Feldman*Books*

- (Ed.) *Boycotts Past and Present: From the American Revolution to the Campaign to Boycott Israel*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), part of the 'Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism' series (series editor: David Feldman).

Essays

- 'Jeremy Corbyn, Imperialism and Labour's Antisemitism Problem', *History Workshop Online* (12 June 2019).
- 'Capitalism, Commerce and Antisemitism', in Joanne Rosenthal and Marc Volovici (eds), *Jews, Money, Myth*, Jewish Museum London and Pears Institute (March 2019): 85–7.
- 'Toward a History of the Term "Anti-Semitism"', AHR Roundtable 'Rethinking Anti-Semitism', *American Historical Review*, 123 (4) (October 2018): 1139–50.

Lecturer: Brendan McGeever*Essays*

- (with others) 'Antisemitism, Anti-Racism and the Labour Party', *Soundings: A Journal of Politics and Culture*, 70 (Winter 2018): 22–44.
- (with Satnam Virdee) 'Race, Class, Brexit: How Did We Get Here?', LSE Brexit Blog (October 2018).
- 'Bolshevik Responses to Antisemitism during the Civil War: Spatiality, Temporality, Agency', in C. Read, A. Lindenmeyr and P. Waldron (eds), *Russia's Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914–1922: Book 4. The Struggle for the State* (Slavica Publishers, 2018).

Research Fellow: Diana Popescu*Essays*

- (Co-edited with Tanja Schult) 'Performative Holocaust Commemoration in the 21st Century', a special issue of *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History* (March 2019).
- 'A Eulogy of a Different Kind: Letters to Henio and the Unsettled Memory of the Holocaust in Contemporary Poland', in Special Issue 'Divided Memory of the Holocaust in Poland', Larry Ray and Slawomir Kapralski (eds), *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*, 25 (3) (March 2019): 273–99.
- 'Infelicitous Efficacy: Alfred Hrdlicka's Memorial against War and Fascism' (with Tanja Schult), in Special Issue 'What Do Images in the Public Space Do?', Allison Huetz, Clémence Lehec, Thierry Maeder and Jean-François Staszak (eds), *Articulo. Journal of Urban Research*, 19 (Online) (2019).
- 'Memory Activism and the Holocaust Memorial Institutions of the 21st Century', in Robert R. Janes and Richard Sandell (eds), *Museums and Activism* (Routledge, 2019): 326–36.

- 'The Hidden Legacies of Jewish Traditions and The Global Allure of Psychotherapy: The Case Study of the Israeli TV series Be-Tipul (2005–2008)', in Simon J. Bronner and Caspar Battegay (eds), *Connected Jews: Expressions of Community in Analogue and Digital Culture*, Jewish Cultural Studies Series, 6 (2018): 131–48.

Research Fellow: Marc Volovici

Books

- (Co-edited with Joanne Rosenthal) *Jews, Money, Myth* (Jewish Museum London and Pears Institute, March 2019).

Conference Papers

The institute maintained its profile at conferences this year. Both David Feldman and Brendan McGeever presented papers that underscore the Institute's approach to making connections between antisemitism and other racisms, broadcasting this academic mission in the UK and internationally.

Director: David Feldman

- *Antisemitism and Islamophobia*, L. Simone Veil: 'A Multifaceted Legacy on European Politics and Society', Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, April 2019 (invited speaker).
- *The Meaning of Israel. Anti-Zionism and Philo-Zionism in the Norwegian Left 1933–1968*, first opponent in the public defence of a doctoral dissertation, University of Bergen, March 2019 (invited speaker).
- *How do Histories of Britain at Home and Abroad Relate to Each Other?*, Institute of Historical Research Seminar, Britain at Home and Abroad since 1800, October 2018 (invited discussant).

Lecturer: Brendan McGeever

- *Connecting Racism and Antisemitism: Theoretical Challenges for the 21st Century*, 'Protecting Future: On Combatting Antisemitism, Racism and Xenophobia', The Second Moscow International Conference, Moscow, Russia, 29–30 October 2018 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Diana Popescu

- *The Performativity of Dark Space in Holocaust Memorial Museums and Exhibitions*, 'The Thrill of the Dark: Heritages of Fear, Fascination and Fantasy', Ironbridge International Institute for Cultural Heritage, University of Birmingham, April 2019.
- *The After-Lives of Holocaust Archival Images in Public Art*, 'It Happened Here! Digital and Shared: Holocaust History in Public Space', Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, April 2019.
- *Dancing the Traumatic Past Away? The Performativity of Dance for Survivors of the Holocaust and their Descendants*, 'Memory, Migration and Movement', l'Université de Paris Nanterre, Paris, December 2018.

- Moderator/co-leader for Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust's annual programme 'The Robin Hambro Seminar 2018: Moral Philosophy for Leadership', Manchester Harris College, Oxford University, September 2018 (invited speaker).

Research Fellow: Marc Volovici

- *How German is Yiddish? A Loaded Question in Jewish Nationalism*, 'Modern Jewish History and Culture in German/Slavic Contact Zones', International Summer School, Technical University Dresden, July 2019 (invited speaker).
- *German-Speaking Jews and German-Reading Jews in Early Zionism*, 'Mosse's Europe: New Perspectives in the History of German Judaism, Fascism, and Sexuality', German Historical Museum, June 2019 (invited speaker).
- *On Steven Aschheim's 'Fragile Spaces: Forays Into Jewish Memory'*, 'European History and Complex Identities', University of Antwerp, February 2019 (invited speaker).
- *The Linguistic Politics of Emancipation: Early Jewish Nationalism between German, Yiddish and Hebrew*, 'The Global History of Europe in the Long 19th Century Seminar', Oxford University, November 2018 (invited speaker).
- *German Zionists, the First World War and the Problem of Hebrew Literacy*, German History Society Annual Conference, University of Leicester, September 2018.

Pears Institute Workshops and Seminars

The Institute has had an unprecedented busy schedule of academic events this year, hosting three international workshops as well as its programme of research seminars.

Workshops

- *Jews, Money, Myth*, Pears Institute in collaboration with New York University, June 2019.
- *Antisemitism: Definition Matters*, April 2019.
- *Jews, the Left, and Antisemitism: International Perspectives*, Pears Institute in collaboration with Jack Jacobs, City University of New York, December 2018.
- *After Multiculturalism? Conversations between History and Sociology*, Pears Institute in collaboration with University of East Anglia and the Runnymede Trust, October 2018.

Research Seminars

- 'Excavating Philip Roth: On Beginning a Biographical Study', Steven Zipperstein, Stanford University, Pears Institute in collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research Jewish History Seminar, March 2019.
- 'Un/settled Relations? India, Minorities and the Tropes of Jewish-Muslim Difference', Yulia Egorava, Durham University, February 2019.
- 'Modernity and Jewish Experience: On Zygmunt Bauman's Sociology of the Jewish Question', Ben Gidley, Birkbeck University of London, February 2019.

- 'The Holocaust and Yiddish', Miriam Schulz, Columbia University, November 2018.
- 'Yiddish Exceptionalism: Lynching, Race and Racism in Joseph Opatoshu's American Fiction', Marc Caplan, Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften (IFK), Kunstuniversität Linz, Vienna, Pears Institute in collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research Jewish History Seminar, November 2018.
- 'Political Antisemitism and the Early Phantasms of European Fascism', Grzegorz Krzywiec, Polish Academy of Sciences, October 2018.

The workshop on *Jews, the Left, and Antisemitism: International Perspectives* (December 2018) was held in collaboration with Jack Jacobs, City University of New York. The workshop explored the theoretical, historical and comparative perspectives of the relationship between the left, Jews and antisemitism. In doing so, it also aimed to shed light on current controversies concerning antisemitism in the Labour Party and the British left more widely. The workshop was wholly funded by the British Academy as part of Jack Jacobs' visiting fellowship (see below).

Attempts to define antisemitism are often accompanied by disputes and controversy, bringing to the surface disciplinary, conceptual and broader political differences. The Institute's second workshop, *Antisemitism: Definition Matters* (April 2019), sought to explore these disagreements. It brought together speakers from a range of perspectives to consider the various meanings of antisemitism and the issues that arise when trying to define it in particular times and places.

It was a pleasure to participate in the workshop with such a wonderful collection of scholars on and off the program.

Cynthia Baker, Bates College

The third workshop, *Jews, Money, Myth* (June 2019), took themes arising from the exhibition at the Jewish Museum to explore the connections – real and imagined – between Jews and money. This workshop was mounted in collaboration with New York University (NYU) as part of a wider Birkbeck/NYU initiative and the Institute's commitment to foster links with NYU's Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. Importantly, the workshop provided the opportunity for three PhD students from NYU to present papers. The eminent scholar Hasia Diner, NYU, also participated at the workshop and gave a public lecture on the subject of Jewish pedlars the same evening. The workshop was part-funded by Birkbeck/NYU.

It was my great pleasure to be invited to the Pears Institute at Birkbeck.

It was a great conference to be part of. I learned a great deal from scholars that are entirely out of my field. This exchange is very valuable.

Dotan Greenvald, New York University

The workshop yesterday on 'Jews, Money, Myth' was exceptional. Each panel cohered and worked at a high level and left a good deal of room for elucidation and dialogue between audience and panel.

Bryan Cheyette, University of Reading

The three workshops drew distinguished speakers from the US, Israel and Europe as well as the UK and all were over-subscribed, with over forty participants at each. The quality of papers presented at the *Antisemitism: Definition Matters* workshop will give rise to a volume of essays in the Palgrave series 'Critical Studies of Antisemitism and Racism'.

The Institute also partnered the University of East Anglia in mounting a workshop *After Multiculturalism? Conversations between History and Sociology*, developed in collaboration with Camilla Schofield. The workshop's themes aligned closely with the Institute's approach to the study of racism. Established and emerging scholars of contemporary Britain from the UK and the US discussed the past and present of 'multiculturalism'; the shifting politics of class, race and difference in post-1968 Britain; and the role and responsibilities of anti-racist scholarship. The event attracted ninety-five participants, a mix of academics, students, representatives from civil society organizations and the general public.

The Pears Institute made the workshop a major public event. It was great having non-academics attend through the Pears network. There was a real buzz in the room and I had very positive feedback through the day. Thank you for putting the weight of Pears behind it. I can't thank you enough on so many levels.

Camilla Schofield, University of East Anglia

Visiting Fellows

Two British Academy-funded Visiting Research Fellows joined the Institute between June and December 2018; both contributed to the academic life of the Institute as well as undertaking their own research.

Dr Grzegorz Krzywiec, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, is undertaking a project on the cultural history of Polish fascism. He used his time at the Institute (1 June–30 November 2018) to undertake research on the Eastern European, especially Polish, impact and transaction of ideas on Western (British) modern antisemitism between the Russian Revolution and the early 1920s, and presented his findings in the Institute's lunchtime seminar series.

Professor Jack Jacobs, City University New York, focuses on Jews and the Left, on the histories of Jewish socialist movements and on the Frankfurt School. His current project examines the degree to which relations between Jews and the Left in other countries may shed light on current conflicts between Jews in the UK and the British Labour Party. The workshop *Jews, the Left, and Antisemitism: International Perspectives* (described above) formed part of Jack Jacob's research while at the Institute (27 August–31 December 2018).

Teaching

The BA module 'Racialization and Antisemitism' taught by Brendan McGeever continues to be extremely popular with students across the School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy. The maximum twenty students took the module in the autumn term: feedback from students indicates that they find the module both challenging and enlightening; the quotations below are examples:

These phenomena [antisemitism and racism] are resurfacing stronger than ever in today's society ...The way the two topics were weaved together ... really showed insight on how these topics are deeply related but still stand individually.

I must admit, it made me look at myself with regards to anti-semitism. My understanding has definitely been helped. I hope on finishing the course that I take what I have learned with me, and not simply return to old ways of thinking and doing.

A short, stand-alone non-accredited course on antisemitism, intended for the general public, has been devised and approved. The course, 'Facing Antisemitism: Politics, Culture and History', draws on the social sciences and history to explore the sources, development and contemporary forms of antisemitism. It addresses the questions: What is antisemitism? How can we recognize and define it? How widespread is it? Where does it come from? Why does it persist? Is there a difference between anti-Zionism and antisemitism? What is the relationship, in theory and in practice, between anti-racism and opposition to antisemitism? The course will be taught over three two-hour sessions by David Feldman, Brendan McGeever and Ben Gidley, senior lecturer in the Department of Psychosocial Studies and an Associate of the Pears Institute. As well as open enrolment, the course will be offered to institutions who wish to make it available to their staff. The course will be offered from September 2019.

The Institute has secured funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for two PhD studentships to commence in October 2019. David Feldman will supervise both students: one PhD is on the history of international efforts to combat antisemitism since 1990; the other is on the history of attempts to convert Jews to Christianity in Victorian London. David Feldman has also agreed to be the second supervisor to a current PhD history student who is exploring 'The Crisis and Renaissance of the Balkan Sephardim (1890-1940)'.

The Bonnard Trust PhD Scholarship scheme, which the Pears Institute oversees, continues to attract strong candidates. Selection of the fourth PhD student, to commence their studies in October 2019, has been completed. The student will explore "'White' Muslims": Turks in London 1970-1999'. David Feldman will be joint supervisor with Julia Laite, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology.

The teaching website *Our Migration Story: The Making of Britain*, launched in September 2016 to coincide with the introduction of new GCSEs on migration and reflect the demand for resources from students from more diverse backgrounds, has received a third award: The Guardian University Award 2019 for Research Impact. David Feldman was on the expert panel for *Our Migration Story* and

presents a short video on immigration to Britain between 1750 and 1900. The judges said they were particularly impressed by the extensive collaboration involved in realizing the project and how the website importantly challenges us to think again about what British history is and who gets counted as part of that story. Since its launch, the website has attracted more than 112,000 users: 53% (60,000) from the UK and 47% (52,000) from across the world.¹

¹ In September 2017, *Our Migration Story* was awarded joint winner of the Research Champion category in the Community Integration Awards 2017, and in January 2018 it received the Royal Historical Society's Online Resources Public History Prize.

Policy Engagement

Connecting Research and Public Policy

Three public policy events to disseminate the pan-European research report *Antisemitism and Immigration in Western Europe: Is There a Connection? Findings and Recommendations from a Five-Nation Study* were held in Europe and Israel in the course of the year.

In October 2018, David Feldman presented the research findings at an international conference in Berlin, 'Confronting Antisemitism and Intolerance', jointly organized by the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the EVZ Foundation, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and KlG (Politische Bildung Fur Die Migrationsgesellschaft). The conference was attended by approximately fifty delegates from Germany, the UK and USA, representing government, public policy, civil society and academic institutions, and provided an opportunity to present the report's findings in the context of Muslim and Jewish relations.

In December, the full research team presented the findings at a symposium in Paris, organized by Sciences Po Paris, and attended by fifty academics, students and representatives from non-governmental organizations including Amnesty International and Ligue des droits de l'homme (Human Rights League).

In April 2019, Nonna Mayer, Sciences Po Paris, the lead academic of the French team, gave a special briefing to the French ambassador and her team at the French Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel. The request for the briefing reflects the high level of interest in Israel around issues of migration and antisemitism in Europe.

In total, eight events have been held to alert and inform stakeholders, opinion-formers and policymakers of the research and its findings. The final report has been downloaded from the Pears Institute website over 1,000 times in all languages (English, Dutch, French and German) and over 250 printed copies of the final report have been distributed. There have been over 800 downloads of the national reports.

The research findings (managed by the Pears Institute) were reported in several European media outlets and in the national media of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The decision was taken not to seek press coverage in France and the UK. In the case of France, this was because of sensitivities around Muslims and immigration. In the UK, it was not appropriate because the immigration issue is marginal to the current politics of antisemitism, which is largely focused on the Labour Party. On the whole, the media coverage has been balanced. This is extremely pleasing and is a reflection of the quality of the research and careful presentation of the findings by the research team.

Overall, the research findings have received serious and considered attention. The controversial nature of the subject has been reflected in a small portion of the feedback. The responses from those involved in public policy, as well as academics, have been largely positive. In particular, they have commended

the breadth, objectivity and balance of the research, and note that it makes an important contribution to understanding the dynamics of antisemitism.

Policy Advice

David Feldman was invited to contribute to the United Nations consultation on antisemitism conducted by Dr Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion. The meeting, co-convened by the All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism, took place at the Houses of Parliament in June 2019. David Feldman was subsequently asked for his advice on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. Dr Shaheed will present his thematic report on antisemitism to the UN General Assembly in October 2019.

Public Engagement

Public Exhibition: Jews, Money, Myth

The major public exhibition *Jews, Money, Myth*, developed in collaboration with the Jewish Museum, opened on 19 March 2019. This cutting-edge exhibition examined the social, cultural, political and economic dimensions of the place of money in Jewish history and the history of Jewish/non-Jewish relations, especially antisemitism. Specifically, it explored and deconstructed some of the longest running and most deeply entrenched stereotypes linking Jews with money, drawing together material from public and private collections across the world, with a strong emphasis on Britain.

David Feldman, Marc Volovici and Anthony Bale (School of Arts) acted as academic experts for the exhibition and featured in short films showing at the exhibition that expounded on selected exhibits and topics. Marc Volovici co-edited a volume of essays to accompany the exhibition (see above). The Pears Institute also gave significant input into shaping how the exhibition was presented. Public lectures and an academic workshop took themes arising from the exhibition.

The exhibition received extensive and overwhelmingly positive reviews in the UK and internationally including, in the press: *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Financial Times*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *New York Times*, *New York Review of Books*, *Die Welt*, *Haaretz* and the *Times of Israel*; and in broadcast: *Front Row* BBC Two; *Saturday Review* BBC Radio 4; the BBC World Service and, in Germany, the political/cultural radio station Deutschlandfunk carried an extended feature including interviews with Joanne Rosenthal, curator of the exhibition, and David Feldman.

Next time I'm asked how antisemitism started, I'll say: 'go to this exhibition' ... a subtle examination of a complicated topic, separating truth from fiction and well-intentioned misunderstanding from malicious conspiracy theory.

Daniel Finkelstein, *The Times*, 20 March 2019



Tom Sutcliffe, *Saturday Review*, BBC Radio 4, 19

'A radical exhibition'

Ella Whelan

'Done with integrity'

Simon Schama

Front Row,

BBC Two, 16 May 2019

The exhibition was scheduled to run until July 2019, but was extended until the end of October on account of its popularity. More than 26,800 people visited the exhibition including 9,388 students and 1,088 teachers. Schools made good use of the exhibition as part of their scheduled workshops.

The exhibition won the Museum Associations prestigious Museums Change Lives Award in October 2019.

The Jews, Money, Myth exhibition stood out against tough competition in a category that represents the best of what museums can do – inspiring engagement, reflection and debate’ ... [it is] brave, fascinating and timely.

Museums Association, Judges Panel, 1 October 2019

There has been interest in touring the exhibition from museums in Brussels, Amsterdam, New York, Krakow, Warsaw and Sydney.

Public Events

Many of the public events in 2019 took themes arising from the *Jews, Money, Myth* exhibition and involved leading international scholars. Other events reflected the broad scope of the Institute’s mission. In the autumn, speakers explored how to challenge denial in respect of both the Holocaust and Britain’s role in African enslavement and its legacy. A panel discussion entitled *Placeless People* explored how refugees and people seeking asylum have called into question ideas about sovereignty, law and nationhood, and asked how we should reckon with this challenge as we think about the present. The Holocaust Memorial lecture, given by Sir Richard Evans, considered *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and examined the light they throw on the origins and nature of Nazi antisemitism.

***Jews, Money, Myth* – public lectures**

- *Jewish Money and the Image of the Jewish Body in the Middle Ages*, Sara Lipton, July 2019.
- *On the Road: Jewish Peddling and the Shaping of Jewish History*, Hasia Diner, June 2019.
- *From Amsterdam to Istanbul: Fundraising and Jewish Refugee Relief in the Seventeenth Century*, Adam Teller, May 2019.
- *Shidduchim, Deals Made in Heaven: Romance, Politics and Economics in Modern Jewish Life*, Mirjam Zadoff, April 2019.
- *German Reparations and the Impact of Post War Jewish Politics*, Ron Zweig, March 2019.

***Jews, Money, Myth* – Sunday screenings with panel discussions**

- *Fiddler on the Roof*, Helen Beer, Devorah Baum, May 2019.
- *The City Without Jews*, Erica Carter, Marc Volovici, April 2019.
- *The Merchant of Venice*, Emma Smith, Filippo de Vivo, March 2019.

Other public events

- *'Warrant for Genocide'? Hitler, the Holocaust and the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion'*, Richard Evans; Pears Institute Holocaust Memorial Lecture in collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research, Feb 2019.
- *Placeless People: The Calamity of Statelessness*, Les Back, Lyndsey Stonebridge and Daniel Trilling, Feb 2019.
- *1938 in Retrospect*, Mary Fulbrook, Nicholas Stargardt and Jennifer Craig-Norton; an event to mark the eightieth anniversaries of Kristallnacht and the Kindertransport, Pears Institute in collaboration with the Jewish Museum London and The Wiener Library, November 2018.
- *Challenging Denial: From Slavery to the Holocaust*, Caroline Bressey, Keith-Kahn Harris and Bruna Seu, November 2018.

Wider public engagement

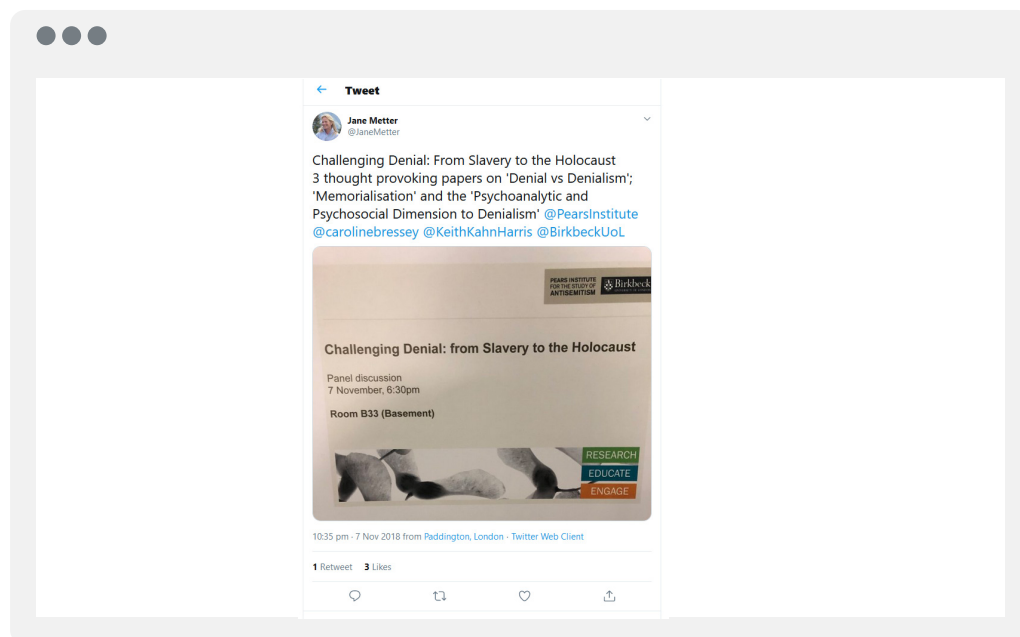
Brendan McGeever

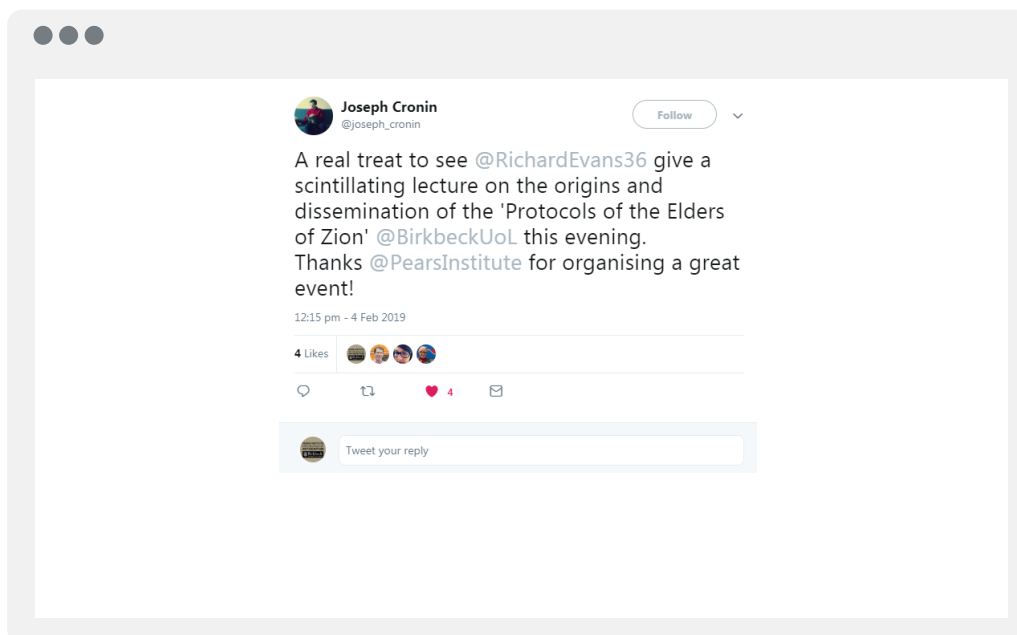
- 'Antisemitism and the Russian Revolution', Edinburgh Jewish Literary Society, Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation, 7 April 2019.
- 'Antisemitism BBC Free Thinking Festival', Gateshead, 30 March 2019.

Feedback

The Pears Institute allows brilliant intellectuals and communicators the opportunity to connect with the Jewish Community and beyond to bring their knowledge of antisemitism alive.

Member of the public, June 2019





I look forward to further talks at the Institute. This was not the first I've attended. In addition to my own personal interest in the subjects, it's a pleasure, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of London, to see what productive and stimulating things are taking place at the University.

Member of the public, February 2019

Pears Institute in the Media

The Institute has continued to build its presence in the national and international media, with articles and interviews on radio and television and in leading publications, including the *Today* programme on BBC Radio 4, *Le Monde* and *Haaretz*. The Institute is regularly approached by journalists and international broadcasters seeking background briefings or comment on current issues around antisemitism: in particular, the IHRA definition, the rise in antisemitic incidents in Europe and antisemitism in the Labour Party.

A comment piece by David Feldman and Brendan McGeever, entitled ‘Corbyn’s Labour, British Jews and Antisemitism: Will Peace Break Out Now?’ was published in *Haaretz* (6 September 2018). This article considered the Labour Party’s decision to adopt the IHRA definition in full and explored the rift between the politics of anti-racism and opposition to antisemitism. It asked why the avowedly anti-racist Labour Party has found it so hard to deal with antisemitism in a principled and decisive way.

An article by David Feldman entitled ‘Jeremy Corbyn, Imperialism and Labour’s Antisemitism Problem’, posted on the website *History Workshop Online* (12 June 2019), reflected on the controversy stimulated by an earlier revelation by Daniel Finkelstein in *The Times* that Jeremy Corbyn provided an uncritical foreword to an edition of J.A. Hobson’s *Imperialism*, a book that includes a notably antisemitic passage. David Feldman’s essay was read by some 1,200 people in the first eighteen hours of posting and generated significant activity on social media: it received a positive response from across the political spectrum. Two past presidents of the Board of Deputies, Vivian Wineman and Johnathan Arkush, endorsed the piece, while from the left, Jewish Voice for Labour reproduced the article on its website. Adam Wagner, the barrister who prepared the submission to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Campaign Against Antisemitism, commented as follows:



Jonathan Freedland, *The Guardian*, and Daniel Finkelstein, *The Times*, both praised the piece for its clarity. *The Jewish Chronicle* ran an edited version of the article in its 21 June 2019 print issue.

Brendan McGeever's appointment as a 2019 BBC Radio 3/AHRC New Generation Thinker provided a number of broadcast opportunities to share his research on antisemitism and radical social movements on BBC Radio and TV. In April, he discussed antisemitism and the left at the BBC Free Thinking Festival in Gateshead, broadcast as part of its 'Arts and Ideas' series on Radio 3. In May, he presented a piece on the exhibition *Jews, Money, Myth* on BBC Radio 3's 'Free Thinking' programme. In June, he gave an extended interview, alongside the eminent historian Deborah Lipstadt, Emory College, for a programme he had proposed to the BBC entitled *Pogroms: Antisemitism, Revolution and Civil War*, broadcast on BBC Radio 4 as part of its 'History of Hate' series.

Opinion Pieces

- *The Jewish Chronicle* (online), Diana Popescu, 'Should Memorials Do More than Keep Memory Alive?', 23 January 2019.
- *Haaretz*, David Feldman and Brendan McGeever, 'Corbyn's Labour, British Jews and Antisemitism: Will Peace Break Out Now?', 6 September 2018.

Interviews

Broadcast

- BBC Radio 4, 'History of Hate' series, *Pogroms: Antisemitism, Revolution and Civil War*, extended interview with Brendan McGeever (and Deborah Lipstadt, Emory College, US), 5 June 2019.
- BBC Radio 3, 'Free Thinking' series, feature on the exhibition *Jews, Money, Myth* presented by Brendan McGeever followed by discussion on the exhibition with presenter Laurence Scott and Rabbi Julia Neuberger, 16 May 2019.
- BBC Radio 3, BBC Free Thinking Festival, 'Arts and Ideas' series, *Antisemitism and the Left*, interview with Brendan McGeever, 25 April 2019.
- Global News Canada (broadcast and online), *The Rising Worries about Anti-Semitism in Europe*, interview with David Feldman on the rise of antisemitic incidents in Europe, 7 March 2019.
- BBC Radio 4, *Today*, interview with David Feldman on the IHRA definition, 4 September 2018.
- Another Europe (podcast), *Is Brexit Racist?*, discussion with Brendan McGeever and others, 13 August 2018.

Press (excluding *Jews, Money, Myth* exhibition)

- *Wall Street Journal*, Yaroslav Trofimov, 'The New Anti-Semitism', article exploring the rise of populist politics, quotes David Feldman, 12 July 2019.
- *France24* and *Yahoo News*, Pauline Froissart, 'UK's Labour Party Torn Apart by Anti-Semitism Row', quotes David Feldman, 5 March 2019.
- *Le Monde*, Phillippe Bernard, 'Le Labour a un reel problème d'antisémitisme', extended interview with David Feldman, 15 September 2018.
- *The Mirror*, Nicola Bartlett, 'Protestors Clash as Labour's Ruling NEC Hold Crunch Anti-Semitism Talks', quotes David Feldman's interview on *Today* programme, 4 September 2018.
- *Metro*, Tanveer Mann, 'Labour's Executive Body Votes to Adopt Full International Definition of Anti-Semitism', quotes David Feldman's interview on *Today* programme, 4 September 2018.
- *i24NEWS*, Jesseca Manville, 'Analysis: How do you Solve a Problem Like Jeremy Corbyn?', quotes David Feldman, 28 August 2018.

Appendix

Selected Publications and Activities of Associates

Ludivine Broch, University of Westminster

Essays

- 'Colonial Subjects and Citizens in the French Internal Resistance, 1940-1944', *French Politics, Culture & Society*, 37 (1) (2019): 6-31.

Talks

- Screening of *Chichinette: How I Became an Accidental Spy*, panel discussant at the UK Jewish Film Festival, 11 November 2019.

Media

- Sky News, interviewed by Isabel Webster on the eightieth anniversary of the start of the Second World War, 1 September 2019.
- *RMC Découverte*, interviewed about the film *La shoah en France: le tournant de 1942* (2018, Dir. Pauline Legrand, François Pomès), 21 September 2018.

Stephen Frosh, Birkbeck, University of London

Books

- *Those Who Come After: Postmemory, Acknowledgement and Forgiveness* (Palgrave, 2019).

Essays

- 'Postmemory', *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 79 (2) (2019): 156-73.
- (With Ruth Sheldon), 'Transmission, Relationality, Ethnography', *Angelaki*, 24 (3) (2019): 117-34.
- 'In the Shadow of Violence: Isaac and Abraham', in J. Burke (ed.), *Psychoanalytic Perspectives on the Shadow of The Parent: Mythology, History, Politics and Art* (Routledge, 2018).

Ben Gidley, Birkbeck, University of London

Reports

- (With Jonathan D Smith, Lenita Törning and Ruth Sheldon), *Hate Crime, Faith and Belonging* (The Faith & Belief Forum and Department of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck, University of London, 2019).

Essays

- (With Mette Louise Berg and Anna Krausova), 'Welfare Micropublics and Inequality: Urban Super-Diversity in a Time of Austerity', *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 42 (15) (2019): 2723-42.

- (With Samuel Everett), 'Getting Away From the Noise: Jewish-Muslim Interactions and Narratives in E1/Barbès', *Francosphères*, 7 (2) (2018): 173–96.

Conference papers

- *Culture, Religion and Social Model: Paris and London in Comparison*, The Seed Meetings Programme, French Embassy, London, May 2019.
- *Language, Identity, and Culture: Transformations of Yiddish Anarchism*, panellist for YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, February 2019.
- *Jewish East London and the Myths of Integration*, 'Jewish and Muslim UK Immigration Experiences: Echoes of the Past, Influences on the Present' conference, The Woolf Institute and Cambridge Muslim College, December 2018.

Media

- Birkbeck, University of London, podcast/vlog series, *The Rise of the Far Right? – Talking Europe*, episode 4, June 2019.
- FRANCE 24 English, interview on 'The Resurgence of Anti-Semitism: Alarm in France over Increasing Attacks, Violent Rhetoric', February 2019.
- *Children of Peace* newsletter, interviewed by Sarah Brown on the 'History of Relations Between Faith Communities in London', December 2018.

Other professional activity

- Appointed to executive board of British Association of Jewish Studies.

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

Books

- *The Left's Jewish Problem: Jeremy Corbyn, Israel and Antisemitism* (Biteback, 2nd edition, September 2018).

Conference papers and talks

- *What Role Does Antisemitism Play in Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party?*, 'Contending with Antisemitism in a Rapidly Changing Political Climate', Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, Indiana University, March 2019.
- *Never Is Now* summit, panels on 'Antisemitism in France and the UK' and 'Answering the Question: When is Criticism of Israel Anti-Semitism?', organized by the Anti-Defamation League, New York, December 2018.
- *Antisemitism and the Left*, lecture hosted by Ian Austin MP, Houses of Parliament, December 2018.
- *Labour's Jewish Problem is All of Our Problem*, De Beauvoir Balloon Debate, London, November 2018.
- *Antisemitism in Football*, panel discussion organized by Chelsea FC, Speaker's Rooms, Houses of Parliament, October 2018.

- *Antisemitism and Anti-Muslim Hate*, panel discussion organized by Solutions not Sides, Westminster Abbey, September 2018.

Media – opinion pieces

- *Jewish Chronicle*, 'Labour's New Antisemitism Website Raises More Questions Than it Answers', 23 July 2019.
- *New Statesman*, 'Labour MPs Must Show Greater Courage in Confronting their Party's Anti-Semitism', 11 July 2019.
- *New Statesman*, 'J. A. Hobson, Jeremy Corbyn and the History of Left-Wing Anti-Semitism', 1 May 2019.
- *Jewish News*, 'How Politics and Social Media is Being Polluted', *Jewish News*, 7 February 2019.
- *Jewish News*, 'Resilience the Best Response to Pittsburgh', 31 October 2018.
- *Jewish Chronicle*, 'Jeremy Corbyn Has Lit a Fire of Jew-Hate That is Now Beyond his Control', 3 October 2018.
- *The Guardian*, 'Jeremy Corbyn Needs to do Much Better to Convince Jews he Acts in Good Faith', 5 August 2018.

Marcel Stoetzler, Bangor University

Essays

- 'Durkheim's and Simmel's Reactions to Antisemitism and Their Reflection in Their Views on Modern Society', in Mareike König and Oliver Schulz (eds), *Anti-Semitism in the 19th Century in International Perspective* (Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Unipress Schriften aus der Max Weber Stiftung), 2019): 83–100.
- 'Dialectic of Enlightenment. Philosophical Fragments', in Beverley Best, Werner Bonefeld and Chris O'Kane (eds), *The Sage Handbook of Frankfurt School Critical Theory*, 1 (Sage, 2018): 142–60.
- 'Critical Theory and the Critique of Anti-Imperialism', in Beverley Best, Werner Bonefeld and Chris O'Kane (eds), *The Sage Handbook of Frankfurt School Critical Theory*, 3 (Sage, 2018): 1467–86.

Conference papers

- *The Place of Antisemitism in Horkheimer and Adorno's Critique of Modern Capitalism and Human Civilization in Dialectic of Enlightenment*, Annual Conference of the British Association of Jewish Studies, Durham, July 2018.
- *Fascism as the Self-Destruction of Civilization (and How the Dialectic of Enlightenment Might Prevent It)*, C-REX Centre for Research on Extremism, University of Oslo Faculty of Social Sciences, April 2018.
- *The Theory of Antisemitism in Horkheimer and Adorno's Dialectic of Enlightenment*, HL-S Center for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities, Oslo, April 2018.

- *Still Fighting the Zionist Machia-Villains: Continuities of Antisemitic Defences of Good Capitalism from Bad*, 'Resurgences of Anti-Semitism: Realities, Fictions, Uses' International Conference, Free University Brussels (ULB), Institut Marcel Liebman, December 2018.

Nik Wachsmann, Birkbeck, University of London*Talks*

- *The Holocaust and the Limits of Representation*, Ambassador Conference, Holocaust Education Trust UK, QEII Conference Centre, July 2019.
- *Being in Auschwitz: Space, Sense and Sensibility*, Theodore Zev Weiss Annual Lecture, Holocaust Education Foundation, Northwestern University, April 2019.
- *Inside Auschwitz: Lived Experience and the Holocaust*, Annual Holocaust Memorial Lecture, Holocaust Education Trust Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, February 2019.
- *Making Sense of Auschwitz*, British Academy, Elie Kedourie Memorial Lecture, October 2018.

