

Newsletter No

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Australian Association of Jewish Studies

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Professor Konrad Kwiet

EDITORIAL

We all cross all sorts of milestones and when that happens, we pause, take stock of what they mean to us and proceed to honor the fulfillment of commitments made and brought to fruition. More often than not, however, it is the case of honoring someone to whom our community will remain forever indebted for efforts aimed at furthering the knowledge of our turbulent past, thus making sure that new generations of students, as well as the public in this country, will remain well informed of what our people endured prior to and during the

Second World War. These comments are particularly pertinent to Professor Konrad Kwiet who last month celebrated his 70th birthday.

Respected world wide, Professor Kwiet was the chief historian of the Australian War Crimes Commission; he is the Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC; Senior Research Fellow at St. Antony's College, Oxford; Visiting Professor in Amsterdam, Munich, Heidelberg, Frankfurt am Main, Berlin. In 2000, following his retirement as Professor in German and European Studies at Macquarie University, Sydney, he took up the position of Adjunct Professor in Jewish Studies and Roth Lecturer in Holocaust Studies at the University of Sydney. Professor Kwiet was also appointed resident historian at the Sydney Jewish Museum. Moreover, he conducted research on behalf of the Claims Conference searching for art works looted by the Nazis hidden in Australian Museums and Galleries.

Well known for his academic writing, Professor Kwiet is first and foremost a dedicated teacher who has encouraged countless students of Holocaust Studies at the University of Sydney to research the immense varieties of topics relating to the history of the Shoah. His in-depth knowledge of Jewish history is second to none. His guidance and devotion to his students in their quest for mastering the subjects he taught, has always been a source of inspiration for all. For this he will always be admired.

We wish Professor Kwiet all the very best for the future. It is a privilege to have benefited from a man who so generously contributed to the awareness of our past, to his students and to all who came to know him and appreciate his work.

Anna Rosenbaum

24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH STUDIES AND THE DINA AND RON GOLDSCHLAGER FAMILY CONFERENCE IN CONTEMPORARY JEWISH LIFE

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE FUTURE OF THE JEWS: GLOBALISATION, JUDAISM AND JEWISH IDENTITY (FEB 12-13, 2012)

The Future of the Jews is a multidisciplinary conference that examines the impact of globalisation on Jewish identity and culture. Over the centuries the contours of Jewish identity have shifted through encounters with broader intellectual, historical, cultural and sociological trends. The nineteenth century was notable for transforming Jewish identity through the impact of

emancipation, modernisation, antisemitism and the birth of new ideologies. In the twentieth century, the Holocaust and the creation of Israel were two events that dramatically reshaped the Jewish world. This conference focuses on examining how the twenty-first century will sustain and transform Judaism and Jewish identities. It looks to past models of Jewish culture and identity in order to provide a comparative perspective on current and future trends impacting on Jews and Judaism. Papers and keynote addresses will look at questions of Judaism and Jewish identity – its transmission, diversity, and specificity in relation to national and global settings. The conference will look at how the Israel-Diaspora relationship is being remodelled, Jewish institutional life, the impact of new technologies, Judaism in an age of choice and hybrid identities, demographic trends and marriage patterns, population movements and scholarly constructs of ethnicity, identity and social cohesion.

Papers will be accepted across a broad range of themes.

- Models of Jewish identity through the ages
- Israel, Middle East and globalisation
- new technologies and virtual Jewish communities
- Jewish education and globalisation
- Jews and language
- Judaism in an age of choice
- Immigration, multiculturalism and globalisation
- Antisemitism and globalisation

Papers on related topics not listed here will also be considered. We welcome proposals from academics, postgraduates and independent scholars.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Daniel Gordis

Samuel Heilman

Bethamie Horowitz

Moshe Semyonov

David Shneer

SCHEDULE

The conference will meet on 12-13 February 2012 at the Caulfield Campus of Monash University, Melbourne Australia

SUNDAY 12TH February – A day of international keynote speakers and panel discussion, concluding at night with a panel discussion on

MONDAY 13TH February- A day of keynote speakers, parallel sessions of academic papers and a closing address.

Abstracts are due Monday 12 September

Abstracts should be no more than 300 words long, for a paper of 20 minutes duration and include the title of the paper, the author's name and institutional association and the abstract. Upon acceptance of the paper, we will require a brief (approximately 60 words) biographical note. Proposals for panels with multiple papers on a common topic should follow the above format for each author and panel chair.

Please send all abstracts of papers or panel proposals by 12 September 2011 addressed to: miriam.munz@monash.edu

Conference chair: Associate Professor Mark Baker

Conference convenor: Dr Miriam Munz

REGISTRATION

More information on registration costs, full schedule and other downloadable conference information will be available from the conference website as the information becomes available.

All participants are encouraged to seek financial support from their home institutions.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS

CONFERENCE PUBLICATION

ACJC @ Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

ACJC is a leading tertiary education provider of Jewish Studies in Australia.

ACJC is committed to advancing Jewish education and research in the Southern Hemisphere. In support of this endeavour, ACJC runs conferences promoting new and original research.

ENQUIRIES

TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION

Miriam Munz

University of Sydney – Israel Research Partnership Forum: “Shared Challenges, Future Solutions”

Australia and Israel have a number of challenges in common, in areas as diverse as teaching a second language, issues of sustainable food and water, rising rates of obesity and diabetes and developing energy alternatives. It was also recognized that there is considerable expertise at Israeli academic institutions and at the University of Sydney, to research ways of overcoming these challenges and further strengthening research collaborations already in place. Meeting these needs has resulted in the proposal to set up a University of Sydney- Israel Research Partnership Forum, an initiative of the office of the University of Sydney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, International.

Outcomes and Benefits:

- 1) Foster collaborative research between University of Sydney academics and research students and their Israeli counterparts, to develop novel solutions to challenges in a range of diverse areas that affect Australia and Israel.
- 2) Facilitate better interaction and collaboration between Israeli and local academics and relevant government and semi-government authorities, with the possibility of gaining funding for particular projects and possibly influencing policy.
- 3) Raise the profile of Israeli and relevant USyd research in the general community in a University research setting which provides high credibility to both groups.
- 4) Further enrich the teaching and research of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney.

A committee was established to organise a symposium to take place at the University of Sydney on 31 October 2011, as well as associated events. Key members of the committee include Professor Rebecca Mason, from the Sydney Medical School, Professor Suzanne Rutland, Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies and Professor Tony Vassallo, Faculty of Engineering. The visiting scholars will contribute to a general forum on the morning of 31 October, and in the afternoon to specific discipline related workshops. A number of symposia are being organized by the various departments based on the expertise of the overseas scholars.

This is a major opportunity for both the University of Sydney and Israeli researchers, with considerable potential benefits to the people of both countries.

Suzanne Rutland

**University of Sydney Mandelbaum Trust with the Department of Hebrew,
Biblical, and Jewish Studies**
**Dead Sea Scrolls Conference in Memory of Emeritus Professor Alan
Crown**



31 October – 1 November, 2011

In memory of the late Emeritus Professor Alan Crown, the University of Sydney is convening a conference on the Dead Sea Scrolls to be held October 31–November 1, 2011. The conference convenors are Associate Professor Ian Young from the Department of Hebrew Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney and Dr Shani Tzoref from the Israel Antiquities Authority. The occasion will also mark the purchase of the facsimile edition of the Dead Sea Scrolls by Fisher Library, an acquisition that came about at the initiative of Emeritus Professor Crown. (See <http://www.facsimile-editions.com/en/ds/>).



The keynote speaker will be Emeritus Professor Emanuel Tov of the Hebrew University, a world-renowned expert on the scrolls. Professor Tov was the Editor in Chief of the Dead Sea Scrolls Publication Project from 1990-2009. His visit is being supported by the Mandelbaum Trust at Mandelbaum House. Among the other presenters is Professor Albert Baumgarten, another leading Dead Sea Scrolls scholar, from Bar Ilan University.

This conference is being held in conjunction with the Symposium being held on 31 October 2011:

**University of Sydney - Israel Research Partnership Forum:
Shared Challenges, Future Solutions**

An exhibition of the facsimile edition and other rare items of Judaica held by the Fisher Library at the University of Sydney will be displayed in conjunction with the conference.

For further information about the conference, contact Ian Young:
Ian.Young@sydney.edu.au.

**Reflections as a Post Doctoral Fellow in the Departments of
History and Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of
Sydney**

The Sir Zelman Cowen Universities Fund, which provides for academic exchange between the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Sydney, has made possible a visit to Australia by **Dr. Isaiah (Yeshayahu) Gruber**. During Feb.-July 2011, Dr. Gruber has been hosted by Sydney Uni's Departments of History and of Hebrew, Biblical, and Jewish Studies. He has worked on several publications, including: the final revisions to a forthcoming book, *Orthodox Russia in Crisis* [Northern Illinois University Press, 2012]; an article on the history of "Hebrew in Russia" [forthcoming in the *Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics* from Brill]; "'Like unto Moses': The New Israel Ideology of Russia's First Patriarch, Iov of Moscow" [submitted to the *Russian Review*]; and "Russians, Jews, and Hebrew: The Makings of Ambivalence" [intended submission to the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*]. Dr. Gruber has also given a number of academic presentations during his stay. He participated in the 2011 Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies in Canberra, delivering a paper on "Interpretation of Hebrew in the 'New Israel': New Research on the Pre-History of Russian Jewry." His presentation at the Faculty Seminar Series in History was entitled, "Turning Russia Upside-Down: How an Autocratic, Patriarchal Society Became Dependent on Popular and Female 'Voices of Legitimacy' During the Time of Troubles." For the Australian Friends of the Hebrew University, Dr. Gruber spoke on "Life in Jewish Russia and in Russian Israel."



He also gave several lectures on Russian and Jewish history for undergraduates. He has been able to attend numerous enlightening presentations by colleagues; and his research visit, including residence at Mandelbaum House, has been exceptionally productive for the development of scholarly contacts. Dr. Gruber also anticipates exploring local Australian history during a planned trip to the Broken Hill synagogue and historical society.

Isaiah Gruber

Membership Fees

Fees are current from 1 January 2011–31 December 2011, include the *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies* published annually (early in the next year), AAJS Newsletter (online) book discounts, and discounted registration fee for the AAJS annual February conference). Conference registration includes the membership fee.

Benefactor : \$250

Regular: \$60 (Aus)

Pensioner/ Full-time Student: \$25 (Aus)

Institutional: \$70 (Aus)

Overseas: \$80 (Aus) **All correspondence to: PO Box 233, Holme Building, University of Sydney NSW 2006**

Please consider becoming a benefactor member.

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

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TEL:.....

FAX:.....

EMAIL:.....

Post your cheque to the above address/ or access and print and fill in the webform at : <http://www.aajs.org.au> and send us your credit card details for payment to our NAB account.

Newsletter edited by Anna Rosenbaum

