



LATEST ANNUAL REVIEW OUT NOW!

DID you know that the Parkes Institute publishes annual reviews of its activities?

The [latest 2018-2019 review](#) features all the Institute's work and major achievements in the last academic year.

These include a report on our busy outreach programme, such as a live performance of "[The King of Lampedusa](#)," our Summer School, staff news, and major events such as the Annual Lecture Series and conferences.

There are also special tributes to the late Clinton Silver (1929-2019) and Diana Bailey (1925-2019), both good friends and supporters of the Parkes Institute, and very much missed.

The report is available via the [Parkes Web page](#), alongside archived annual reviews dating back to 2007-2008.

Parkes Institute YouTube Channel Launched

THE Parkes Institute has launched its new [YouTube channel](#), offering a wide range of lectures, short films and more.

At present, the channel is releasing recordings of its special lectures on a weekly basis, with plans for documentaries on the life of James Parkes, and interviews with staff, researchers and guest speakers.

The first video to go live on the channel is the 2019 Ian and Mildred Karten [Memorial Lecture](#), which was filmed last year. Here, Professor Antony Polonsky, the Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies at Brandeis University, explored the often tangled and fraught process of addressing the Holocaust in Poland, Lithuania and the Ukraine.

Following this, the next video is another Karten Memorial Lecture, this time [from 2016](#). [Main Picture]

In a melancholy and yet hopeful fashion, the Parkes Institute's own Professor [Joachim Schlör](#) reflected on the lives of Jewish Berliners and their lasting relationship with the city, before, during and after the war.

What unites these experiences is a shared identity that still lingers in memory and culture to this day.

By the time of publication, a further two videos will have been published.

The first of these is from January 2020, and covers the complex [relationship](#) between the Babylonian Talmud, the study of medicine, and the widespread use of Aramaic in Mesopotamia.

As Professor [Mark Geller](#) (UCL) observes, this language became the primary medium for medical knowledge in both the region and its rabbinic circles.

Finally, Professor Alison Salvesen's [November 2019 lecture](#) assessed Jerome's translations and commentaries, and his complex relationship with the Jewish scholars and teachers who informed his work.

However, the Parkes Institute's Digital Coordinator, Dr Alexander Hay, notes that plans for the channel do not stop here.

"The aim is to include all of our filmed lectures on an easy to access platform", he says. "But another big project in the works is a short film about the life of James Parkes himself."

"We shall also feature videos on the work of our scholars and students, and a range of events aimed at a wider audience."



Parkes Exhibition Hits The Road

AS a travelling exhibition on the life of James Parkes continues its UK tour well into 2021, what inspired it, and what does it have to offer visitors? Organiser Chad McDonald tells all.

He was first inspired during his time as a PhD student at the University of Southampton. Every time he visited the Avenue Campus, he kept walking past a very prominent James Parkes quote, featured as wall art.

Intrigued as to who this was, he found out more, and realised that even his fellow students didn't know who Parkes was.

Given the chance to curate an exhibition by the South,

West and Wales DTP, he therefore chose to focus on the life and work of James Parkes, and bring this to new audiences.

"It was always planned to be a touring exhibition," Chad told Parkes Institute News.

"Since his death, Parkes has been increasingly forgotten... whilst others are celebrated for the work he pioneered."

The exhibit was officially launched in January 2019 as part of Southampton city's Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day event.

It has been on tour ever since, with great demand for more bookings.

It has already had an effect on its visitors. "Professor Emma Clery [University of Southampton] discovered that her great-grandfather had been good friends with James Parkes," Chad revealed.

"It was great that the exhibition helped uncover this family connection."

Events Bulletin Jan-Feb 2020

Image Credit: Parkes Institute



As this is both the launch issue, and the first in 2020, it means we have not just one, but two months of events to report on.

First up was the Howard Rein Lecture, which took place on 21st January 2020. As noted in our main story, this was given by Professor Mark Geller (UCL), and covered Biblical Authority and the evidence in the Babylonian Talmud.

Professor Geller discussed medicine in third and fourth century CE Mesopotamia - modern day Iraq.

Here, Babylon's rabbis helped preserve a long established and detailed body of Mesopotamian medical knowledge. In part, this was due to the widespread use of Aramaic in the region and amongst the rabbis themselves. As said, the lecture is now available on YouTube.

Next was the *Southampton Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day* [PICTURED], which took place on the 27th of January 2020. This was a collaboration between the University of Southampton, the Parkes Institute and Solent University, which hosted the event.

The theme for the day was 'Stand Together', and featured several speakers, including Emeritus Fellow [Mark Levene](#), as well as a drama performance, an exhibition and music.

Finally, Professor [Shirli Gilbert](#) (UCL) gave the *Ian and Mildred Karten Memorial Lecture* on the 4th of February, 2020. This covered South African Jews' response to the introduction of Apartheid in the late 1940s, influenced inevitably by the Holocaust and the founding of Israel. These responses were varied and even surprising. Their legacy also continues to this day in South Africa.

Image Credit: Carolyn Sanzenbacher



Who Was James Parkes?

THE Parkes Institute is named after the [Reverend Dr. James Parkes](#) (1896-1981), a clergyman and academic, who campaigned against both the rise of antisemitism and the Far Right during the 1930s.

Ordained after serving in the First World War, he not only helped and rescued

refugees, but also confronted his own faith's legacy of anti-Judaism, and campaigned for greater understanding between faiths.

He was also an accomplished scholar who wrote over [400 works](#) on the topic of the Jewish experience and its history.

Part of his legacy saw him amass a vast personal archive of books and other documents. This was then transferred to the University of Southampton in 1964, and served as the foundations of the [Parkes Library](#) and Parkes Institute, which continue his work to this day.

AS a result of the ongoing Covid 19 crisis and lockdown, many events at the Institute and elsewhere have either been forced to cancel, or be rescheduled for a later date. Many apologies for this, and we will keep you updated:

POSTPONED: WHY ARE SKELETONS LIKE TEXTS? COMBATting BIAS AND METHODOLOGICAL DEMONS IN THE STUDY OF ANCIENT JEWISH MEDICINE AND MAGIC.

In this research seminar, Dr [Lindsey Askin](#) (University of Bristol) will explore how the study of ancient Jewish medicine has come to include broader discussions of Near Eastern and Mediterranean history, the occult, and even osteoarchaeology.

WHEN? TBC

WHERE? TBC

POSTPONED: "JUD-APEST": AUSTRIA-HUNGARY AND ITS JEWS AT THE FIN-DE-SIÈCLE (2020 PARKES LECTURE).

Here, Professor [Michael L Miller](#) (Central European University) examines the often complex history of Budapest and its relationship with Jews before and after the First World War.

WHEN? TBC

WHERE? TBC

POSTPONED: 2020 BAJS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's [British Association for Jewish Studies](#) (BAJS) conference was to take place at the University of Southampton. Owing to recent events, the event is still going ahead, but further details are not available at this time. The theme will remain 'World in Crisis: Reflections and Responses from Antiquity to the Present.' More information and an update will be published by the end of April.

WHEN? TBC

WHERE? TBC

POST-SCRIPT: We hope to begin hosting events online, including lectures, seminars and more. For further updates, be sure to check out our social media channels (see below), as well as future issues of *Parkes Institute News*. Finally, If you would like to promote an event, online or otherwise, please [e-mail us](#) for more details.

Credits

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www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes.

parkes@soton.ac.uk. +44 (0) 23 8059 2261. Edited, written and designed by Alexander Hay. Special thanks to: Claire Wilkins, Chad McDonald, Uri Agnon and Katie Power, Anna Collar, George Gilbert, Helen Spurling and Claire Le Foll. Produced on Scribus. Visit us on [Twitter](#), [Wordpress](#) and [FaceBook](#). Finally, please do contact us if you have any feedback or comments.

Parkes Diary