



Webinar on 'Antisemitism and the Left'

OVER the last years antisemitism in left-wing circles has been a major issue in the UK political discourse. The debate on whether or not the left is uniquely antisemitic rarely receives nuanced consideration.

This is why the Parkes Institute initiated and organised a two-session event about "Antisemitism on the Left" to which it invited a variety of excellent speakers from the Institute and beyond. Originally planned to take place at Southampton, due to COVID-19 the event was carried out online on 28-29th of June.

Despite these challenges, the event was very well attended by a diverse audience which included renowned academics, teachers, activists, and other members of the public from across the UK.

Is left-wing antisemitism different to other types of antisemitic

beliefs? Is it a new phenomenon, and is it unique to Britain? These and other questions were addressed on the event's two days. The first session offered "A Historical Context." It included [Dr Claire Le Foll](#) (Parkes Institute) who spoke of "Russian Socialists and the Jewish Question", followed by [Dr Charlotte Riley](#) (University of Southampton) who discussed "Antisemitism and the British Left, from the late nineteenth century to the 1980s".

The next day saw the second session, "Antisemitism on the Left - Here and Now." This session's speakers included [Professor David Feldman](#), Director of the Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck, University of London. His talk discussed if there was "Antisemitism on the Left or Left Antisemitism?" [Dr. Keith Kahn-Harris](#), Senior Lecturer of Contemporary Jewish Communities at Leo Baeck College, then addressed "Antisemitism and the politics of attention." Finally, [Tony Kushner](#), Professor of the History of Jewish/non Jewish Relations, University of Southampton, explored the nuances of the topic in "Why some of Jeremy Corbyn's best parents were at Cable Street. The Strengths and Limitations of Left Anti-Racism."

Both sessions were well received by those in attendance, and saw a great deal of discussion in their respective roundtable discussions, hosted by [Dr. George Gilbert](#).

They were hosted on Blackboard Collaborate, and organised by our Outreach Fellow, [Uri Agnon](#). Recordings of the event are available on the official Parkes Institute [YouTube channel](#).

A Honorary Fellow of the Parkes Institute wins the inaugural Social History Society's Pamela Cox Public History Prize

THE Parkes Institute is delighted that [Dr Chad McDonald](#), a Honorary Fellow of the Institute, has won the Social History Society's 2020 Public History Prize.

The prize is awarded to a postgraduate or early career researcher who demonstrates excellence in taking their research beyond the academy.

Dr McDonald was awarded the prize for *James Parkes and the Age of Intolerance*, a travelling exhibition which he wrote, curated, and organised. The exhibition focuses on the neglected career of Reverend Dr James Parkes, who was a tireless Christian campaigner against antisemitism in all forms, including from within Christianity.

The exhibition has toured a range of religious and civic venues, including Winchester Cathedral and West London Synagogue. It was showcased during Southampton city's Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day event in 2019 and will return to the city during next year's British Association for Jewish Studies conference.

The judges praised the project for 'raising diverse public awareness of the history of antisemitism' and agreed that it showed a real determination to use historical research for the public good.

Dr McDonald was recently awarded his PhD in History, which was co-supervised by Professor Tony Kushner and Professor Tim Cole (University of Bristol) and funded by the South, West, and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership (AHRC).

Dr McDonald's PhD explores the construction of Holocaust remembrance in Britain. He has organised a range of Holocaust memorial events and is the Social Media Editor for the internationally-renowned journal *Patterns of Prejudice*.



Image Credit: From the Parkes Institute archives

Parkes Institute site launches new Jewish history resource page

THIS year, the Parkes Institute has explored new ways of engaging with the wider community through digital technology. One example is the newsletter you're reading right now.

Our next project will be the 'Re-sourcing Jewish history and culture' page, which we will be launching on the Parkes Institute website later this month. Here, you will be able to find a growing collection of primary sources, each covering a major aspect of Jewish/non-Jewish relations.

Every source is chosen personally by members of the Parkes Institute, who

also provide in-depth commentary and images. This is a new way for us to share our research interests and expertise. Look out for these sources:

- A photograph of pogrom victims in Odessa, in October 1905.
- A 1937 postcard from a father asking his daughter to help emigrate.
- Commentary on a 1961 stand-up routine by Lennie Bruce.
- A critique of 1971's *Fiddler on the Roof* film, and its reception.
- A 1994 letter where a refugee recalls his German background and experiences in Britain, 1939.

Introducing the Moss and David Cesarani Prizes

THE Parkes Institute is extremely fortunate to have annual student prizes that reward the best of our students' work as undergraduates and on our MA programme. These are the **Moss Prizes** and the **Cesarani prize**.

The Moss Prizes are named in honour of Stephen Moss who was an undergraduate at the University. Stephen died tragically young but the Moss family have ensured his memory by generously supporting both an undergraduate and an MA prize for an essay in Jewish history and culture.

David Cesarani was a much valued colleague in the Parkes Institute who both before and after his years in Southampton maintained close contact with it. David also died before his time but we are privileged to have an undergraduate dissertation prize in his name for the most outstanding work in Jewish studies or Holocaust studies, areas in which David contributed so influentially. This year's winners are:

Moss Prize Winners

Best PG essay: Eleanor Joyce, "Athanasius is one who can be trusted": how did Athanasius of Alexandria respond to Jews, 'pagans' and Christianities in Alexandria in the fourth century CE?

Best UG essay: Nico Zavrou-Blackstock (Y2), 'How far was the 'Birkat ha-Minim' a key factor in the 'parting of the ways' between Judaism and Christianity?'

Highly commended: Robert Thompson, 'How have historians understood British memory of Belsen?' (PG) and Nathan Thrill (Y3), 'The Predominance of Economic Grievances over Nationalism as a Driving Force for Austro-Hungarian Anti-Semitism, 1873-1911'.

Cesarani Prize Winner:

2019-2020: Liam McGlynn, 'Gender in the art of the Weimar Republic'

For more details on these prizes, please see the [Parkes Institute](#) site.

Credits

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Illustration of mistreatment at a concentration camp by Violet le Coq, a prisoner of war (The National Archives, catalogue reference RW 2/2)

The Parkes Institute hosts three week workshop on 'Ethics of teaching the Holocaust and difficult histories'

IN July 2020, the Parkes Institute organised a free online workshop for educators titled 'Ethics of Teaching the Holocaust and Difficult Histories'.

The event took place over three weeks with over 75 participants from institutions across the world including schools, universities and museums.

The workshop set out to offer a space for reflection on teaching 'difficult histories' such as Empire, the Holocaust, and Slavery, and run as three discussion-based weekly live webinars supported by sources designed and curated for the workshop.

The workshop featured talks and participation from staff across the University, including organiser [Heather Mann](#) (University of Oxford), [Ms Rachele Morse](#) (Programme

Director for the Secondary PGCE), [Professor Christer Petley](#), [Professor Kendrick Oliver](#), and [Dr John McAleer](#) (all from the History department in the School of Humanities), as well as external guest speaker [David Ruah](#) (University of Lisbon).

We were also very proud to present the research of third year BA History student Daniel Rickards whose dissertation formed the basis for third week discussion on teaching the Holocaust using online resources.

We are very grateful to Heather Mann for inspiring and contributing to the organising and running of this workshop, supported by co-organisers Dr Claire Le Foll and [Katie Power](#).

The feedback from the workshop has been extremely positive and we look forward to developing a similar workshop for 2021.

Virtual Roundtable asks how University of Southampton can be a refugee sanctuary

ONE area the Reverend Parkes was noted for was securing asylum for refugees before World War Two.

The need for this continues, as forced migration is at a global high. Fittingly, then, the Universities of Sanctuary movement, founded in 2017, continues that work. A stream of the [City of Sanctuary UK](#) charity, it seeks to turn universities into places of support, raising awareness and providing a place for asylum seekers and refugees.

So far, the scheme has seen a success, with 16 UK institutions already being awarded Universities of Sanctuary status, including the neighbouring University of Winchester.

But while Southampton is a City of Sanctuary, it is yet to have a corresponding University of Sanctuary. How, then, can the University of Southampton join this growing list?

To address the issues and challenges, a special online roundtable event took place during Refugee Week, on Thursday, 18th June 2020, between 17.00 and 19.00. The [Sanctuary@UniSouthampton](#) Virtual Roundtable saw over 100 guests attend via Zoom, and was chaired by University of Southampton ESRC Research Fellow, [Dr Tess Altman](#).

Speakers on the evening were City of Sanctuary UK's South West Regional Coordinator,

Nicola Walters, University of Southampton medical student Maariyah Ahmed, representing Student Action for Refugees Southampton, the Parkes Institute's Professor Tony Kushner, and Mike Brown, manager of the [CLEAR Project](#), a charity supporting refugees in Southampton.

The other speakers were Esther Adeleke, an asylum seeker, Sanctuary Award winner, and student at the University of Winchester, and [Steve Leggett](#), Labour councillor for the Freemantle ward.

Providing the closing remarks was Winchester's [Dr. Terri Sandison](#), while the University of Southampton's [Professor David Owen](#) and the University of Cambridge's [Dr. Ignacia Arteaga](#) assisted with the Q&A session that followed the main roundtable event.

This saw a great deal of engagement from the audience, and the event was a success. Its findings were used to develop a briefing for the University of Southampton's management, with proposals for refugee scholarships, and providing support for forced migrants. As a result, Southampton has set up a working group to plan how it too can become a Sanctuary University.

The event was recorded, and will soon be featured on the Parkes Institute [YouTube page](#).