

# The Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/ non-Jewish Relations

**Annual Review 2023-2024**

## THE PARKES INSTITUTE

James Parkes (1896-1981) was an Anglican priest, a pioneering scholar of antisemitism, a campaigner on behalf of refugees and a prominent commentator on issues ranging from inter-faith relations to the history and politics of the Middle East.

He was ordained in 1926, having served in the First World War. Rather than seek a parish living he worked in continental Europe for the International Student Service and the Student Christian Movement. Here he witnessed for the first time the discrimination and persecution of the Jews that became the focal point of the rest of his life. Returning to Britain following the Nazi takeover of power he wrote *The Conflict of the Church and the Synagogue* (1934), a seminal intervention on the origins of antisemitism that remains influential today.

Alongside his prolific career as the author of both scholarly and popular texts on antisemitism, Jewish history and culture, and the history of Palestine/Israel he campaigned to raise awareness of the plight of refugees from Nazi genocide. He was also instrumental in the foundation of the Council of Christians and Jews in 1942. His personal library – the historical core of the Parkes Library – became the focal point of wide-ranging conversations and encounters centred on inter-faith dialogue and understanding.

Following his retirement in 1964 his library came to the University of Southampton, where it gradually evolved into the world-renowned Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations. The institute is a community of scholars, students, archivists and librarians who continue to work in James Parkes' spirit. Inspired by Parkes' unshaking dual commitment to scholarship and to public activism – both to understanding the world and to changing it – the institute combines world-class rigorous academic research with public engagement activities that range from open lectures and symposia to theatre performances, concerts, exhibitions, schools work, and much more.

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Cover image: Gerda Cohen (1925-2018)(Untitled, n.D.)

Gerda Cohen was a Jewish child refugee from Vienna who came to Britain with her mother in 1938. Her father survived incarceration in Westerbork and Bergen-Belsen. The family was finally reunited in 1946. After the war Gerda eventually settled in Southampton, where her husband worked in the Department of Mathematics at the University, establishing herself as a practising artist. Much of her work resonates with the trauma of her family's Holocaust history. We are honoured that the Cohen family has agreed to donate some of her work to the University, with the intention that students will be able to work with it to develop their understanding of curatorial issues in this field.



# IN THIS ISSUE

04

Report of the Director  
of the Parkes Institute

Professor Neil Gregor

08

Outreach Report



12

Report by Digital Officer



13

Partnerships

14

CONFERENCES,  
WORKSHOPS,  
LECTURES AND  
SEMINARS



19

Prizes and Awards

## CONTENTS

Report of the Director of the Parkes Institute	4
Tributes	6
Outreach report	8
Report by Digital Officer	12
Partnerships	13
Conferences, Workshops, Lectures and Seminars	14
Journals of the Parkes Institute	16
Development Report	17
Internationalisation	18
Prizes and Awards	19
Postgraduate studies in Jewish history and culture	20
Reports by Supervisors of PhD Students	21
Reports by Parkes Students	22
Special Collections and Library Report	24
Reports by Members of the Parkes Institute	25
Publications, Papers and Talks by Members of the Parkes Institute	32
Members, Fellows and Patrons of the Parkes Institute	34
The Parkes Institute and Library Friends Membership Programme	35

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE PARKES INSTITUTE

Professor Neil Gregor

**This year the work of the Institute has inevitably been overshadowed by the appalling murders of Israeli citizens perpetrated by Hamas on October 7, 2023, the associated hostage crisis, and the destructive violence of the war in Gaza that has ensued. At the time of writing there is a clear danger that the situation on Israel's northern border will also descend into another full war, with all the terrible consequences this will inevitably entail.**



Like all academic institutes with a focus on Jewish Studies, broadly conceived – and like all societies committed to a robust culture of free and open speech – we make room for a range of views on the intractable difficulties that cleave to the Israel-Palestine situation. We are committed to defending the rights of others to hold positions other than our own. But there are also clear limits, and we must speak clearly when those limits are breached – as they frequently are at the moment. We are united in our condemnation of the atrocious killings that precipitated the crisis, united in our grief at the dreadful loss of life on both sides of the war, and united in our fervent hope for a return of the hostages and a swift end to the immediate conflict. If conditions of meaningful, lasting peace in the region feel as hard to imagine at this moment in time as they have for very many years, an end to the current bloodshed must be the first step towards that.

Ours is a small institute, and its immediate influence in the face of such events is obviously limited. It is easy to feel helpless, and understandable that we sometimes do. The briefest consideration of how difficult the United Kingdom has found it to maintain a culture of democratic civility as people argue out their deeply felt differences in recent years – be that over Brexit, over devolution and Independence, or over the range of topics one might subsume under the heading ‘culture wars’ – reminds us that it is far easier to call for peaceful dialogue between others than it is to live up to that ideal ourselves. It cautions us against making naïve demands of those who have to live with the realities of the conflict on the ground and its painful consequences, or of those charged with finding workable solutions that guarantee the peace, security and dignity of all who inhabit the lands concerned on a durable basis.

Our work this year has been shaped by the crisis in obvious ways. We offered extra-mural lectures on the history of Palestine-Israel to our undergraduates, and we organised a series of lunchtime lectures entitled ‘A Short History of Antisemitism’ that were open to all members of the university. Yet as an academic institute founded by a clergyman-scholar who made the improvement of interfaith relations his life's work we have no choice but to reaffirm our dedication to the underlying values of dialogue, outreach, education and peaceful discussion, underpinned by our own commitment as scholars and teachers to study, to learn and to deepen our understanding on a daily basis. We have also, therefore, continued with the full range of research, teaching, educational and public outreach initiatives that we had planned for this year. We know that we can have no impact on world events in the short term, but we have to believe that an institute such as ours has a meaningful contribution to make to repairing the world in the long run.

This year's report, accordingly, gives evidence of another year of remarkable activity, combining rigorous scholarship, a wide-ranging programme of teaching, public-facing activities that have ranged from a first public recital of Lieder composed in Dachau and a two-week London run of ‘Antisemitism: The Musical’ composed by our brilliant PhD student Uri Agnon through public film discussions and schools visits to another very powerful iteration of Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day. We were honoured to hear Chantal Uwamahoro describe her experiences of the Rwandan genocide of 1994 in a powerfully thought-provoking evening which brought civic leaders and members of the

public together to reflect inclusively and respectfully upon the violence experienced by others across the twentieth century and beyond. Details of all of this and much more can be found in the following pages.

As always, the leading role played by our postgraduate students in delivering this range of public-facing activities has been a source of particular pride for us. Not only for this reason we are pleased that we have re-established our provision of a dedicated Parkes Masters programme – in Holocaust Studies – ending the pandemic-induced hiatus that followed the ending of our very successful Jewish History and Culture programme. In keeping with the deep traditions of the institute we have designed the programme to emphasise the many varied traditions of European Jewish history and culture as well as the murderous destructiveness of the genocide itself. As well as making a valuable contribution to sustaining awareness of the Holocaust across our society for students who go out into the world of Holocaust education, we hope that the programme will provide a new valuable pipeline of students going onto PhD level study.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming new staff to the institute. Janek Gryta, who specialises in the history of Poland, joined us at the start of the academic year and has quickly assumed a pivotal role in the delivery of the new MA programme, as well as initiating a range of initiatives that will bear fruit over the next year or two. It was also a great joy to welcome Dr Noémie Duhaut to the Department of History part way through the year. Noémie is a specialist on both French and southeast European Jewish history and her appointment adds a welcome additional layer of depth and experience to our expertise in the modern period.

Towards the end of the academic year we also received the hugely positive news that the University of Southampton is to take

on the co-ordinating role for the UK's contribution the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure network. This has resulted in the appointment to Southampton of Dr Rachel Pistol who will co-ordinate the network's work in the UK. It a reflection of the leading role Southampton has played in the development of Holocaust studies in the UK over the years and of the unique strengths of the University's archival holdings in this field. We welcome Janek, Rachel and Noémie warmly!

This year has been immensely difficult for everyone interested, in one way or another, in the fields in which the Institute works. Given the challenges we have faced it is more important than ever that we express our thanks in various directions. We gratefully acknowledge the supportiveness of the senior management of the University over the past year, particularly the sensitivity which they have shown to all those with personal ties to the region and/or to the communities affected – not just towards Jewish students and staff, but towards students and staff of Palestinian heritage and belonging too. Knowing sadly that we cannot take these things for granted, I am very pleased to be able to say that the University of Southampton has remained at all times a place governed by respect for the reasoned views, the authentically-held beliefs and the emotional ties of others.

I should like, finally, to express my gratitude to the many donors who support our work and to our many partners - both in academia and in the wider community – with whom we have collaborated again so productively this year. The supportiveness, concern and kindness we have received from a wide range of communities, partners and well-wishers affirms us in our belief that a more peaceful, mutually respectful world remains both imaginable and worth working for.



# TRIBUTES



## Brian Raywid (1941-2024)

**Brian Raywid led a remarkable if far from easy life. His father was of Jewish origin and that part of his identity was always important to him, increasingly so in his later life and his membership of the South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community.**

For much of his peripatetic life, Brian was part of a Romani community and widely accepted within it. With detailed knowledge of the history and language of the Romani, he became a leading national advocate for travellers' educational rights. His extensive papers now housed at the University archives make clear this life of activism, including his deep interest in the Nazi extermination of the Roma and its relationship to the Holocaust. He was also an active anti-fascist in the UK, campaigning against groups such as the National Front.

Brian was a regular attendee and supporter of the Parkes Institute and admired our work promoting Jewish history and studies of

genocide. Possessing the driest sense of humour and brilliant comic timing, Brian was also a skilled writer – he came to higher education late in life and was proud of his MA gained in the English Department. Brian Raywid's text to the photographs of Tony Bexill's superb *Gypsy Camera* (1992) evoked the last days of the Romani in England and their horse-drawn way of life. Brian had the archive staff and myself mesmerised when visiting his papers and recalling when he bought his first horse and cart to become a traveller. Details of his papers can be found at <https://archives.soton.ac.uk/records/MS443>.

*Tony Kushner*



## Richard Stone (1937-2024)

**The Parkes Institute is proud to remember Richard Stone and his support for our work in forging connections, past and present, between Jews and other minority groups in the UK.**

Trained as a doctor, he practised in the area around Notting Hill during the 1970s and soon became involved in the struggle to achieve equal rights for those in the Caribbean community and especially in fighting against police racism. Later he was to play an equally important role in the struggle against Islamophobia and was a key figure in the Macpherson Inquiry into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, especially in insuring that the concept of 'institutional racism' was enshrined in British law. It reflected the failures of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with the murder of Stephen and in many other cases of discriminatory behaviour.

Through the Ashdown Trust, Richard funded a PhD in the Parkes Institute in partnership with the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE). The student, Gemma Romain, produced an outstanding thesis exploring the life stories of Jews and Caribbean in the UK. Gemma, who is now a leading independent scholar of the Black British experience, was also part of a team that was funded by

Richard Stone that led to a major Parkes Institute/JCORE travelling exhibition, 'Connections'. The exhibition which went across the UK in community centres and public spaces, explored everyday relations between Jews, African Caribbean and Asians in the UK and beyond.

Richard was a quietly spoken, determined man who was not the least bit fazed when we managed to sit him next to the lawyer of Lady Porter at a Parkes Institute advocacy meeting in the National Liberal Club in London (Richard had successfully sued Lady Porter for mis-selling council houses in Westminster in a major political scandal). He whispered to me what we had inadvertently managed to achieve with our seating arrangement and promised not to fight during the event. He was a fearless man very much in the spirit of James Parkes. The papers of JCORE are housed at the University archives and are currently being catalogued.

*Tony Kushner*



### **Stuart Olesker (1942-2024)**

**It is with great sadness we report the death of Stuart Olesker, a long-time friend of the Parkes Institute. Stuart was a remarkable man – kind, extraordinarily generous in spirit and immensely talented as a writer, storyteller and actor.**

His career was an unorthodox one embracing teaching and performing in Iran, Israel, the United States as well as various positions in the UK, settling eventually in what became the University of Portsmouth.

Stuart's work was hardly confined to one area, and it was led, as his oldest son, Max highlighted at the funeral, 'by the ideas that fascinated him, no matter how obscure or off-piste; from nonsense in all its forms, to shadow puppetry to experimental filmmaking, to Yiddish folktales, to promoting the world of under-read writers'.

Stuart had a natural empathy with people of all backgrounds - he took them as he found them without judgment. In particular, he used his love of theatre to communicate with people of all disabilities, helping them to reach their creative potential.

His Jewish background, religiously but more so culturally, deeply informed Stuart's work and he had a particular interest in the Yiddish world of his East European ancestors. The good fortune of Stuart settling in Portsmouth from the late 1970s meant that he was able to engage with the Parkes Institute for many decades. He took great pleasure in attending our public seminars and lectures, especially those with a literary and cultural focus. The last occasion was the 2023 Parkes Lecture with Howard Jacobson where Stuart was in lively exchange with the speaker.

Stuart's passion for Yiddishkeit and drama came to its fruition in terms of the Parkes Institute with his wonderful performance as Khatski, the father of the hero, Sam 'The King of Lampedusa', in our sold-out airing of this remarkable Second World War musical at the Nuffield Studio. It was not only his theatrical excellence but also his ability to enthuse the younger members of the Parkes Institute who

had researched and enabled this venture that made this a special occasion for all of us involved and one never to be forgotten.

Sadly the Parkes Institute never quite realised Stuart's ambition for us to stage his musical Chelm which celebrated this town of East European wise Jewish fools. It was, however, performed at his eightieth birthday at the Portsmouth Guildhall, showcasing his vision, wit, and compassion. Stuart Olesker will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him, including those of us in the Parkes Institute.

*Tony Kushner*



# OUTREACH REPORT

Professor Neil Gregor

One of the great pleasures of serving as director of the Institute is the opportunity it affords to work in partnership with a wide range of interlocutors, facilitating together events that provide opportunities for encounter, for dialogue and for learning in such varied and interesting ways.

As well as supporting our Outreach Fellows in the work that they describe in their reports below, I was privileged to support a range of activities.

Some of our 'outreach', of course, actually involves 'bringing in': we started the year by welcoming friends from the **Jewish Historical Society of England** to the university's library and Special Collections as part of their 130th anniversary tour of the country. Some of our PhD students provided talks on their current work, and we were able to show a small selection of 'treasures' from our archive collections to our guests.

Similarly, we built upon our established tradition of organising conferences for PhD students by running a first ever **Parkes MA conference**: students from Oxford, Royal

Holloway, Bristol, Cambridge, UCL and Southampton treated us to a rich programme of papers on themes ranging from Ancient Magic to contemporary Holocaust garden design – again, we combined this with a tour of Special Collections and a roundtable on 'How to do a PhD'. We hope that it provided a friendly and supportive environment for our guests to gain early experience in giving a conference paper and see both this and our more regular PhD conference as a key contribution to supporting the vitality of graduate studies in the UK.

Outside the library, but still on campus, December saw us take over the university's Turner Sims Concert Hall for a concert entitled **Music From The Concentration Camp: The Dachau Songs of Leon**



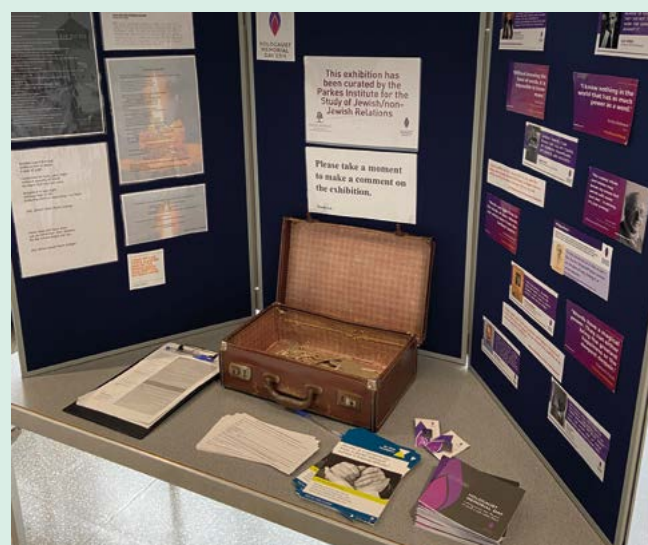
**Kaczmarek (1903-1973).** This represented the first fully public performance since 1945 of Lieder composed by the Polish composer and prisoner of Dachau Leon Kaczmarek. The songs had been excavated by Manuel Cini, as part of his PhD project at the University of Surrey, and consisted mainly of settings of 19th German romantic poetry or of poems written by Kaczmarek's fellow prisoners; one, a setting of a text by a German propaganda official, had been composed under duress. The powerful performance by Manuel Cini (piano) and James Beddoe (tenor) was followed by a panel discussion at which the songs were contextualised in various ways and the ethics of performing music composed under duress was discussed.

Further afield, and sticking with the musical theme, we supported the staging of Parkes PhD student Uri Agnon's remarkable **'Antisemitism: A Musical'** in a two-week run at Camden People's Theatre in October, followed by a performance in Southampton. The musical, which was reviewed widely and positively in the theatre press, and was selling the theatre out as word got around, told the story of a visitor to London and the varying kinds of antisemitism, subtle and not-so-subtle, that they encountered on their visit. The subject matter, challenging at the best of times, gained in immediacy by virtue of the fact that performances took place only a couple of weeks after the October 7th attacks. The context only underlined the relevance of the work, and the atmosphere in the performances was – understandably – intensely powerful.

In January we co-organised Southampton's **Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Day**, renewing a fruitful collaboration with our friends at Solent University to deliver another powerful evening of learning and reflection which was the culmination of a range of events in schools and colleges too, described in the reports below. This is an important moment in the calendar, not only for those immediately involved but also for what it represents in terms of a wider university and civic commitment to honouring the victims of genocide and acknowledging the pain of many members of our city community who have been affected by it. We are grateful to Southampton's mayor, Councillor Dave Shields, to local MP Caroline Nokes, to the (then) Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and (now) MPs Darren Paffey and Satvir Kaur, and to many other city councillors for showing their support, and to members of the public for their participation too.

During the spring, we hosted lively roundtable discussions on two films related to the Holocaust. The first, co-organised with the Department of History, focused on the **representation of the Kindertransport in One Life** (James Hawes, 2023), a feature film on the story of Nicholas Winton who played a key role in rescuing 600 children. Discussants included Tony Kushner, Verity Steele, Helen Abeles, Nicola Woodhead, Charlie Knight and Janek Gryta. Next, we examined the Oscar-winning **The Zone of Interest** (Jonathan Glazer, 2023), with a thought-provoking discussion between filmmaker Josh Appignanesi and scholars from the University of Southampton and University of Winchester, including Emily-Rose Baker, Drew Crawford and Emiliano Perra. The discussion focused on the film's cinematography and soundscape, its historical context, and questions surrounding the ethics and aesthetics of foregrounding a perpetrator perspective of Nazi genocide on screen.

Finally, we developed a new 'Pop up' exhibition entitled **The University of Southampton: A Place of Refuge**. The exhibition, which was developed to support the university's application to become a 'University of Sanctuary' and was produced with the generous support of the Association of Jewish Refugees and the German History Society, tells the story of seven European Jewish refugees who fled persecution in the 1930s and 1940s and eventually made their homes in Southampton. It features scholars from Politics (Josef Frankel) to Chemistry (Martin Fleischmann), Law (Gabi Ganz) to Electronics (Eric Zepler), and History (Edgar Feuchtwanger) through Physics (Karl Weissenberg) to Medicine (Leslie Brent). The individual stories are, in themselves, remarkable enough, but it is only by putting them all together that we see what an incredible debt the University of Southampton owes to refugees – in this the university is of course a microcosm of society as a whole. We are delighted to note that the University has since been awarded the status of 'University of Sanctuary'.



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## Outreach Fellows Report



### Charlie Knight

Although in my third year at the Parkes Institute, this was my first year officially part of the outreach team (having helped out ad-hoc in the past two), and I found the experience enriching professionally and personally, as well as immensely enjoyable. It has been a pleasure to work with Anoushka, Claire, Neil, and Muniza to educate, disseminate, and hopefully inspire the various audiences we work with. With my contributions to the outreach team this year I have strived for a research-led approach, and to really demonstrate Parkes's vibrant community to the public, alongside my own interests.

The vast majority of my work with Parkes this year has been leading on our school provision, and developing our educational offer. Over the course of the 2023/24 academic year we have led workshops and given lectures to students ranging in age from 10-18, in a total of six schools. This was the first year Parkes has delivered workshops to students in Key Stage 2 education (Year 5 and 6), and I was immensely proud to design these sessions based on my own research into Klaus Licht (Ken Light) who arrived on the Kindertransport in 1939. In February 2024 I similarly delivered a lecture to students at Highgate School in

London on the life and experiences of Klaus's cousin Peter King, who was educated at the school throughout the war. The Barton Peveril College visit was another highlight which saw many members of Parkes's academic community contribute to lead workshops for the college's HMD commemorations.

In January 2024 I aided in the organisation of the city's Holocaust Memorial Day event, working with students from Barton Peveril in their reflections, and undergraduates from Southampton Solent in their adaption of the letters and diaries of Else and Siegfried Behrend-Rosenfeld, on which I wrote a blog on for Parkes.

A personal highlight from my outreach fellowship was the opportunity to deliver the Holocaust Memorial Day lecture at St Helen's Church, Sandal Magna, in Wakefield. Over the past five years I have researched the lives of two German-Jewish refugees, Ernst and Gertrud Neustadt, who died in 1942 in Wakefield, and are both buried at St Helens. After fundraising for a headstone for them in 2020 – it was a full circle moment to speak about their extraordinary lives to a packed congregation of people.

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## Short Summary of Schools Visits

### Knightwood Primary School (November 2023)

The Outreach team visited Knightwood Primary school in Chandler's Ford to deliver a new workshop 'Journeys of the Kindertransport – Researching Klaus Licht' to the Year 6 history classes. Students had the chance to trace Klaus through the archive using documents from the Licht family's archive now housed at the Jewish Museum Berlin.

### Barton Peveril Sixth Form College (January 2024)

The Parkes outreach team, alongside Parkes academic staff Dr Janek Gryta and Dr Emily-Rose Baker, Parkes alumnus Dr Uri Agnon, and Parkes Honorary Fellow Graham Cole, visited Barton Peveril College to deliver workshops and lectures on the Holocaust through various subject areas including, history, literature, film, memory studies, public history, and theatre.





### Highgate School (February 2024)

Parkes outreach fellow Charlie Knight delivered a lecture to Highgate School's history society on the life and family of Dr Peter King, who arrived in Britain from Berlin in the 1930s as a young child refugee, and who was later educated at Highgate School.

### Farnborough College (April 2024)

Parkes outreach fellow Charlie Knight delivered a lunchtime lecture to staff and students of Farnborough College in Hampshire entitled 'British Knowledge of the Holocaust and Nazi responses'.

### St Augustine's Church of England High School (May 2024)

Our outreach team visited St Augustine's C of E High School in Kilburn, London, delivering a series of workshops to Year 9 students on the Kindertransport and explored questions such as: why some children were able to leave and what life was like for refugee children in Britain.

### Kane's Hill Primary School (June 2024)

In June, our outreach team attended Kanes Hill Primary School's 'Humanities Day' where students in Year 5 and Year 6 took part in our Key Stage 2 workshop 'Journeys of the Kindertransport – Researching Klaus Licht'.

## Anoushka Alexander-Rose

It has been an honour to work again as an Outreach Fellow at the Parkes Institute. As always, it was a busy start to the academic year, with marketing to do for 'Antisemitism: a (((musical)))', a new piece by former Outreach Fellow and PGR Uri Agnon, as well as for our evening course on 'Jewish History and Culture through the Ages'.

The first official Outreach event was Inter Faith Week in November. We were honoured to have Elisabeth Becker all the way from the University of Heidelberg to deliver an especially dynamic and thought-provoking lecture titled 'Another Fateful Triangle: Jews, Muslims, Europe', offering examples from Jewish Museum exhibitions in Berlin to demonstrate this cultural entanglement.

I continued to edit the Parkes Institute blog to build networks to promote the research of our affiliated journals, Patterns of Prejudice, Holocaust Studies and Jewish Culture and History. This included pieces on Jewish/Muslim relations in Norway by Cora Alexa Døving,

on performance and theatricality in Nazi concentration camps by Laura Miñano Mañero, and findings from the Moritz Lazarus archives by Mathias Berek. Additionally, we published a blog for Holocaust Memorial Day by Charlie Knight on the letters and diaries of Else and Siegfried Behrend-Rosenfeld, a 'Day in the Life' from our MA Holocaust, and a blog from our MA students on their study trip to Poland.

The highlight of this year has been the opportunity to write an exhibition based on my own research into the legend of the Wandering Jew and its literary and visual representations as an instrument for Jewish empowerment and interfaith cultural rapprochement. With help from the wider Outreach team, we have confirmed hosts for the travelling exhibition and worked with museum curators to use images from their collections, to launch 'The Wandering Jew' soon!





# REPORT BY DIGITAL OFFICER

Katie Power

Locations of our online audiences for 2023-2024



**This year has been a tale of two halves in my role as Digital Officer at the Parkes Institute. My primary focus has however remained the same, working to enhance and grow our reputation and presence through work in both existing and new digital spaces to engage with institutions and individuals across the world.**

During the first semester I continued with my usual role providing technical support to our event and seminar programme, compiling our newsletter, and overseeing our social media channels. We continued to offer a rich programme of hybrid events, allowing us to welcome close to 1000 online attendees from across the world, including Romania, India, Australia, Poland, the United States and beyond. Recordings of these events posted to our YouTube channel have garnered over 15000 views in the last twelve months, helping us to surpass 500 subscribers. Alongside our events programme, we continue to publish regularly on our **blog ([parkesinstituteblog.wordpress.com](https://parkesinstituteblog.wordpress.com))**, with posts covering themes such as PGR research trips and archive discoveries, as well as our regular interview series, 'The Parkes Questionnaire'. We also launched our new website as part of a University-wide web refresh project. You can visit our updated website at **<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/parkes>**.

During the second semester, my duties shifted to a new project funded by the Southampton Institute for Arts and Humanities. This project saw me produce a series of films showcasing the University of Southampton's Special Collections and Archives in collaboration with organisations and external partners. The first batch of videos focus on four of our collections: The Council of Christians and Jews (MS65), the papers of James Parkes (MS60), Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE) (MS457) and the papers of Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld (MS183). The films are due to be launched by the end of 2024. Watch this space!

# PARTNERSHIPS

Muniza Siddiqui

Partnership with the Education  
and Engagement Team at Parliament, London



**As partnership manager I'd like to start by thanking all our colleagues and partners for their work, ideas and support which have contributed to our successful partnership work this year.**

Our programme of research, teaching, events and community outreach could not take place without your efforts, and it has been a pleasure to help coordinate them over the year.

We've developed exciting new partnerships with contacts including the Education and Engagement Team at Parliament, as well as the Cathedrals Network and Westminster Abbey. We hope to explore opportunities in both education, exhibition spaces and interfaith networks and forums with both.

This year we've also developed several new educational partnerships in the local community, working with Charlie Knight (Parkes Outreach Fellow) to deliver educational projects with primary and secondary schools in the Southampton area. These programmes enabled pupils take the role of a historian for the day, working with primary sources to understand the experiences of Kindertransport children. We've also reactivated a partnership with Barton Peveril College, that saw academic colleagues deliver a day of lectures and seminars to Sixth Form students. Locally we also worked with Solent University to mark Holocaust Memorial Day across the city, with representation from the Mayor and Southampton City Council.

Our partner relationships have also added a great deal to our own teaching on our exciting new MA Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage programme. In particular we worked closely with Dr James Bulgin, head of public history at the Imperial War Museum, London, and Dr Christine E Schmidt, Deputy Director and Head of Research at The Wiener Holocaust Library to arrange visits for our students to both institutions. These partnerships gave our students a fascinating opportunity for in-person experience of museum artefacts, curation and public engagement. We're also grateful to the numerous colleagues and partners who've worked with us as part of our rich programme of public events, including the Parkes Lecture, the Karten Lecture, and our Research Seminar series.

As we move into the new academic year, we are undertaking a strategic review to see how we can develop our partnership work. We hope this will yield more opportunities, particularly for university connections in both the US and EU. As ever, we welcome any ideas, connections or feedback from colleagues and supporters of the institute – please do feel free to contact me at [m.siddiqui@soton.ac.uk](mailto:m.siddiqui@soton.ac.uk).





Sami Everett in full flow

# CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, LECTURES AND SEMINARS

**Emily-Rose Baker**

**Horror and the Gothic in Holocaust Representation**

University of Southampton, 31st October 2023

Together with James Jordan, I co-organised an international symposium on the theme of 'Horror and the Gothic in Holocaust Representation', which took place on Highfield Campus at the end of October 2023. Broadly based on the questions underpinning my postdoctoral research, the symposium sought to explore the dialogic relationship between moving images of the Holocaust and the horror genre as well as the ethical questions bound up in placing horror and the Holocaust alongside one another. In addition to Libby Saxton's (Queen Mary University of London) impressive keynote talk on 'disfigured memories' in Georges Franju's film *Les Yeux sans visage* (Eyes Without a Face, 1960), presenters from institutions across the UK and in Europe demonstrated the far reach of ghostly hauntings, Jewish folkloric monsters and configurations of evil in Holocaust fiction, graphic novels, film and television. We ended

the day with a screening and discussion of Roz Mortimer's 2019 film *The Deathless Woman*. I am currently in the early stages of collating a co-edited special journal issue based on the conference with Mary Going, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sheffield, which we hope will be ready for publication in 2025.

**Sami Everett**

**Moving Encounters: engaging with materiality that speaks**

University of Luxembourg/University of Southampton, 12th December 2023

In December 2023 with Gabriele Budach Associate Professor in Teaching Education, Learning and Diversity at the University of Luxembourg we co-convened a lecture followed by an afternoon seminar at the Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton and in association with the Parkes Institute: <https://wsarotunda.soton.ac.uk/event/professor-gabriele-budach-moving-encounters-engaging-with-materiality-that-speaks/>.

Professor Budach's talk was entitled

"Moving Encounters: engaging with materiality that speaks" and it drew on her arts-based research using stop-motion animation with multilingual student cohorts to speak beyond language. In the afternoon, with multiple colleagues from the Parkes Institute, Modern Languages and Linguistics and Art and Media Technology at the Winchester School of Art we discussed our joint UK-Luxembourg transnational research project proposal on the empathetic potential of walking and animation among precarious demographics which we will be submitting to the Arts and Humanities Research Council by the end of 2024.



## Annual Lecture Series 2023-24

### 14 November 2023, Annual Inter Faith Lecture

Another Fateful Triangle: Jews, Muslims, Europe, Elisabeth Becker

### 5 December 2023, Annual Howard Rein Lecture

The Great War and the Inception of Jewish Medical Humanitarianism, Jaclyn Granick

11 December 2023, To mark 75th Anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration

The 1951 Refugee Convention: Still Fit for Purpose?, Professor Tony Kushner

### 7 February 2024, Montefiore Lecture 2024

Jerusalem in Rome and Galilee: Encountering the Holy City in Jewish and Christian Mosaics, Karen Britt and Ra'anan Boustan

### 21 February-1 May 2024, A Short History of Antisemitism-mini lecture series

21 February ...in Britain  
(Professor Tony Kushner)

28 February: ...in Postwar Poland  
(Dr Janek Gryta)

13 March: ...in Late Imperial Russia  
(Dr George Gilbert)

24 April: ...in Modern Germany  
(Professor Neil Gregor)

1 May: ...in Modern France  
(Dr Noémie Duhaut)

### 5 March 2024, The Ian and Mildred Karten Memorial Lecture 2024

'Have Poles Forgotten the Holocaust?  
Remembering the Genocide of the Jews in Socialist and post-Socialist Poland.'  
Janek Gryta

### 19 March 2024, Parkes Lecture 2024

David Schneider in conversation with Deborah Baum and Katie Power on the topic of 'Performance and Comedy as a response to Suffering'.

## Research Seminars 2023-24

### 3 October 2023

Dress Migration and belonging between Diaspora & Eretz Israel, 1880s-1948,  
Dr Svenja Bethke

### 16 October 2023

The Holocaust and/ as Horror in Central & Eastern European Cinema: Juraj Herz's 'The Cremator' (1969), Dr Emily-Rose Baker

### 7 November 2023

Visiting Fellows Event, Jews and Christians in the town of Sluck in the 17th Century, Maria Ciesla

### 7 May 2024

Competing Jewish Responses to the Destruction of the Temple, Shayna Sheinfeld

## Doctoral Seminar 2023-2024

### Sami Everett and Emily-Rose Baker

Doctoral study workshop (December 2023)

### Charlie Knight

'Writing in a time of rupture: Clara Licht's diaries in history and memory' (March 2024)

### Anoushka Alexander-Rose

'Using the Jew' (May 2024)

### Eliaou Balouka

Algerian Mzabi Judeo-Ibadite Symbioses & Their Diasporic Afterlives' (May 2024)

# JOURNALS OF THE PARKES INSTITUTE



## Holocaust Studies

*Professor James Jordan*

The journal continues to attract high quality articles from colleagues around the globe, with the number of downloads per quarter seeing a year on year increase for 2024. In production for the coming year, some already available online are special editions on 'Genocide/Ecocide: Culture, Public Debate, Language' edited by Helena Duffy (University of Wroclaw) and David Tollerton (University of Exeter); and 'Transnational Holocaust Studies in History and Memory' edited by Barnabas Balint (University of Oxford) and our own Charlie Knight. The journal is edited by Sarah Cushman (NorthWestern), Hannah Holtschneider (Edinburgh), James Jordan (Southampton) and Joanne Pettitt (Kent), with reviews editor Caroline Sharples (Roehampton).



## Jewish Culture and History

*Professor Joachim Schlör*

The journal has done very well. In autumn last year we published JCH 24.3 with three articles based on the play 'Felix' Room', staged in July 2023 by the Berliner Ensemble. Written and directed by Adam Ganz, the play tells the story of his grandfather Felix Ganz, a businessman and art collector based in Mainz, Germany. His firm was 'aryanized', his possessions

taken from him, and he was placed in a 'Judenhaus'. A chest of drawers was one of the few possessions he could hold onto before deportation to Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. Two research reports by Sandra Lipner, 'Ludwig Ganz: a German-Jewish family business', and Nathalie Neumann, 'The reconstruction of the art collection of Felix Ganz (1869–1944)', and a very personal testimony by Adam Ganz, 'Chest of Drawers', tell the background history of the play.

We then published three special issues:

- JCH 24.4: Jewish migration in 'new cities' (Ruthie Kaplan on Lodz, Tony Kushner on Manchester, Tobias Brinkmann on Chicago, Deborah Dash Moore on Miami Beach, Ranan Rein and David Sheinin on Buenos Aires, and Jeffrey Lesser on Sao Paulo), edited by Tobias Brinkmann and Adam Mendelsohn.
- JCH 25.1: Imag(in)ing Materiality. German-Jewish Archives in the Digital Age, edited by Sebastian Schirrmeyer. The National Library of Israel holds more than 200 personal archives and collections of German-Jewish intellectuals from the 19th and 20th centuries. A conference in Hamburg (June 2023) discussed the complex characteristics of this collection and its significance for scholarship through three exemplary dimensions: personal entanglements, multilingualism, and migration histories. The individual papers explore the archives of Moritz Lazarus, Martin Buber, Ernst Simon, Arno Nadel, and Arie Ludwig Strauss
- JCH 25.2: 'Space and Place in the German-Jewish Experience of the 1930s', edited by Ofer Ashkenazi, David Jünger and Björn Siegel, with contributions by Sarah Wobick-Segev, Gerald Lamprecht, Katrin Steffen, Björn Siegel, and Amit Levy.

JCH 25.3 will be an open issue that also includes a special section on 'Impossible Love: Jewish Relationships and the Holocaust', edited by Daniel Mahla. I am looking forward to working on further special issues on 'Centres and margins in the postwar Jewish world', edited by Brett Kaplan and Gavin Schaffer; and 'Jewish dissidence in the Eastern Bloc', edited by Cathy Gelbin, Ion Popa, and our friend Sander Gilman. Special thanks go to our new book review editor, Daniela Ozacky Stern (Western Galilee College) who renewed and revitalized the section.



## Patterns of Prejudice

*Professor Tony Kushner*

The journal is doing well and, as ever, publishes a wide range of articles. An example of this variety is represented in a recent issue which included the following articles: 'Racial Warfare in German women's colonial memoirs' (by Matthew Fitzpatrick); 'Anti-Muslim tribalism: a new framework for analysing Islamophobia in contemporary times' (Promise Frank Ejiofor); 'The Jewish "monopoly" of the slave trade in the early Middle Ages: the origins of an enduring historical motif' (Joseph Phelan); and 'When antisemitism and philosemitism go hand in hand: attitudes to Jews in contemporary East Asia' (Rotem Kowner, Mary Ainslie and Guy Podoler).

Having welcomed a new editor to join myself and Barbara Rosenbaum last year (Elisabeth Becker-Topkara), we are delighted to announce our new review editor, Paula Arana Barbier.

Paula writes

'As a postdoctoral researcher of Peruvian origin, I bring a unique perspective to the academic community. Having lived half of my life in Europe, I am deeply rooted in a migrant community with a diverse background. I am eager to share my worldview and the latest research through book reviews. As a Reviews Editor for Patterns of Prejudice, I am committed to showcasing new research conducted in diverse languages and providing a platform for younger researchers to present their work and perform reviews. The study of prejudice and discrimination of minorities is a dynamic field that continues to evolve, and I am excited to be a part of this journey.'

Dr Paula Arana Barbier is Postdoctoral Fellow Max Weber Institut für Soziologie at the University of Heidelberg.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rpop20/current>

# DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Joanna Watts



We are very pleased to highlight the wonderful donors who have contributed to the Parkes Institute's success in the last year. The continued advancement of our work is only possible with the support, encouragement and advocacy of our donors.

We hugely appreciate all of the donations made to the Parkes Institute in the last year which enable the work detailed within this report. Whilst we cannot publicly recognise gifts made anonymously, we extend our sincere thanks to each and every one of the individuals and organisations who have donated to our programmes this year.

Supporters Larry and Mira Agron have generously continued their funding of the Parkes Institute Agron Partnership Manager. Muniza's important role has increased our network and collaborations, establishing further partnerships with key academic and cultural organisations.

The significant impact of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust's support of our work was felt throughout the year and within many of our programmes. We remain grateful for this historic and special partnership.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to award the Moss Prizes at the Parkes Lecture in March. We were delighted to have Liz Moss join us to represent the family's generosity. This was particularly poignant after we recently lost Sidney Moss. We are also very grateful to the anonymous donors who have supported the David Cesarani dissertation prize for work in Jewish and Holocaust studies. You can read more about the awardees on page 19.

As in previous years we are pleased to recognise the ongoing benefit we have from having an annual seminar fund in place, created by close friend and supporter, Clinton Silver, before he sadly passed away. The seminar programme is an important part of our education provision and Clinton's generosity ensures we are able to include a wide-ranging and engaging programme of activity every year.

Our new Masters in Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage is detailed in this report on page 20 and we are very grateful to the following donors for their generous support of scholarships to fund students on this exciting new programme: The Sayers Family, Joseph and Ruth Smilg Charitable Trust plus a very generous anonymous donor.

A further PhD scholarship has been awarded with thanks to Sephardi Voices UK.

Many of our donors give generously to support core funding costs to run our Parkes programmes. We are very pleased to recognise the Bertie Black Foundation again this year for their considerable support of this most essential funding. This support enables us to deliver the teaching, learning and research activities for which the Parkes Institute is renowned. Our thanks also go to the Friends of the Parkes Library. This important, annual support enables us to fund activity throughout the Parkes Institute, Library and Archives.

## Donors

The Parkes Institute relies significantly on the support and generosity of our donors and gifts of all levels have a real impact, contributing to our success. Please do encourage friends, family and contacts to join one of our donor programmes or to talk with us about supporting a part of our activity. Gifts can be made online at

**<https://giving.southampton.ac.uk>**.

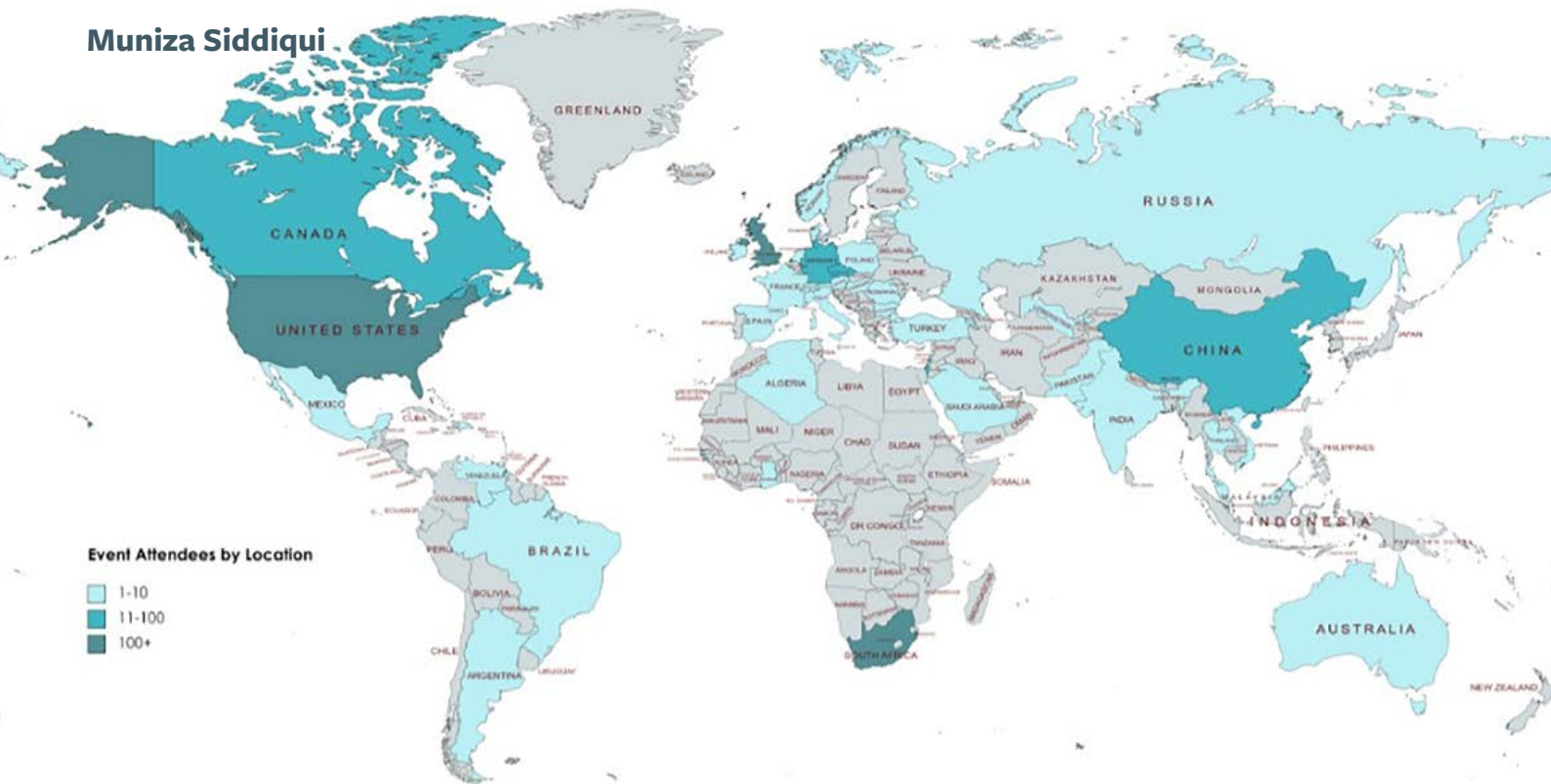
To discuss a gift in more detail, please contact Tony Kushner or Joanna Watts via [Joanna.watts@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:Joanna.watts@southampton.ac.uk) or on

**023 8059 7727**.



# INTERNATIONALISATION

Muniza Siddiqui



**Internationalisation is central to the work of Parkes and we are extremely proud of what we have been able to achieve in this area over the last year. Firstly, the Parkes Institute secured four Turing Scheme placements as part of a University-wide application to the UK Government Turing Scheme. The programme enables PhD students to spend four weeks at one of our partner institutions in the United States (Dallas and/or Penn State), South Africa (Cape Town), Australia (Sydney), and Germany (Potsdam).**

These placements offer several benefits to the Parkes Institute and its PhD students. The time spent at a partner institution enriches the academic experience as students gain exposure to different research methodologies, cultural perspectives, and academic traditions, as well as providing them with opportunities to connect with international scholars and build lasting relationships. Students may collaborate with faculty and other students at the partner institutions, leading to joint international research projects and publications.

As outlined in more detail elsewhere, Anoushka Alexander-Rose and Charlie Knight took up this opportunity, accepting placements at the University of Potsdam, Germany. We are grateful to colleagues there for welcoming them warmly and providing them with an intellectually stimulating environment in which to conduct their research and study. We are thankful to the Faculty of Humanities for choosing Parkes to pilot this project and look forward to being part of this again in the coming academic year.

As well as the great success of the Turing initiative, the Parkes Institute also continued to provide a forum for colleagues from across the globe to share their research and expertise. Our commitment to providing online access to our events has ensured that our seminars, lectures and roundtables have been opened up to a diverse international audience, sharing the outputs of our work internationally, and helping us to hold truly global conversations about our research and teaching.

We are also delighted to continue our work in developing international partnerships with fellow institutions. In the autumn of 2023, we welcomed a Visiting Fellow. Maria Ciesla, Associate Professor at The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History. Maria joined us for two months, making a valuable contribution to the work of the Institute through her research and teaching. She kindly shares her thoughts on her time with us here in more detail.

## Parkes Visiting Fellowship Programme

**Maria Ciesła**

**Associate Professor, The Tadeusz Manteuffel Institute of History**

**Polish Academy of Sciences**

I enjoyed being a Visiting Fellow at the Parkes Institute in the autumn of 2023. My time there has been incredibly productive. Unencumbered by any additional responsibilities, I could concentrate on my research project on Christian-Jewish relations in the early modern Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Excellent conditions and a great intellectual atmosphere at the Institute facilitated the work. I used different collections in the University Library and focused primarily on methodological issues. I had the opportunity to present my research in an open lecture, and I received many productive suggestions and questions, which influenced my project. I benefited from conversations with members of the Parkes Institute and the excellent students. I enjoyed participating in the institute seminars; I learned much from the vibrant discussion. Long walks in Southampton Common and weekend trips in the area perfectly complemented a wonderful stay.

# PRIZES AND AWARDS

## THE MOSS MEMORIAL PRIZE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-2022

**Sacha Wood**

Best undergraduate Essay

**'Self-representation in the face of the unrepresentable: Visual allegory, trauma and postmemory in Art Spiegelman's *Maus* and *In The Shadow of No Towers*'.**

Sacha Wood's essay demonstrated a high level of independent thought and critical nuance in its analysis of intertextuality in Art Spiegelman's *Maus* and *In The Shadow of No Towers*. The synthesis of theoretical engagements with Marianne Hirsch's concept of postmemory with original interpretations of the operation of visual language as a mode of self-representation and intergenerational traumatic processing in Spiegelman's works was expertly done and culminated in a thoroughly convincing argument.



**Alexandra Potter**

Highly commended undergraduate Essay

**'What impact did gender have on Jewish experiences of the Holocaust?'**

I am very grateful to have been awarded one of the Moss Prizes for my essay titled: What impact did gender have on Jewish experiences of the Holocaust? I wrote this essay for the special subject module on the Holocaust. I found this a fascinating essay to write and enjoyed broadening my horizons and developing my skills. My use of testimony enabled me to give voice to the Jewish

women and men I was studying which was very powerful. This essay has inspired me in my MA and has spurred me to explore more specific elements of gender, for example, dynamics of Fatherhood in the Holocaust and Masculinity in Jewish self-defence during the 1903-06 Pogrom Wave in Russia. Additionally, the reading I completed for this essay has been essential to my MA dissertation which also focuses on gendered dynamics in the Displaced Person Camps. I would like to thank everyone at Parkes for this award their support and encouragement have been invaluable in both my undergraduate degree and my current MA. In particular, I would also like to thank Neil Gregor who supervised this essay and ran the Holocaust module it was written for.



**Isobel Wright**

Highly commended undergraduate Essay

**'To what extent is Israeli Jewish womanhood informed by feminism and religion?'**

I wrote my essay for the Modern Israel History module I studied in my final year. What I was interested in discussing was how Judaism and feminism are not homogeneous entities, rather they intersect and inform one another in Jewish Israeli society. I enjoyed researching how women in various religious communities empowered themselves through modest dress and how they cultivated their relationship with God. I also felt it was important to note the impact race has on feminist discourse within Israel, highlighting the often imbalanced and unrepresentative state of feminism in the country. This essay was an embodiment of

everything I learned in the Modern Israel module, framed through the lens of female experiences, which is an area of study I find particularly interesting. It is a great honour to have won an award for a piece of my work that was focused on a topic I personally enjoyed a lot, and one which showcases aspects of Jewish Israeli women's religious identity which may not have been known about before.



**Immy Tozer**

Highly commended undergraduate Essay

**'How can Anglo-Christian reactions to London synagogue architecture be characterized between 1656-1706?'**

I am honoured to have been awarded the Moss Prize for my essay focusing on characterising the Anglo-Christian reactions to London synagogue architecture between 1656-1706. This essay, written for my Themes in Jewish History MA course, combined my fascination of popular reactions to the Jewish readmission in 1656, and Jewish self-expression and identity in early modern England. My source base for this essay consisted of neglected books and pamphlets published between 1656-1706. Many thanks to the module lead and my now PhD supervisor, Professor Tony Kushner, for running such a wide-ranging and interesting course, and to Professor Maria Hayward for supervising this essay and providing excellent guidance and feedback. An article adapted from this essay has been accepted into the Question postgraduate journal, and I am excited to share this research not only with other early career historians but with a public audience. I am looking

forward to continuing to work with the Institute during the remainder of my PhD. scholarship, but also because it allowed me to uncover a major piece of my hometown's history.

## DAVID CESARANI PRIZE 2022



**Maddison Walch**

**'The Auschwitz Sonderkommando & Masculinities'**

I am honoured to have been awarded the David Cesarani Prize for my undergraduate dissertation supervised by Professor Neil Gregor, who I would like to thank for all his support throughout my time studying at Southampton as well as the Parkes Institute for this award. My dissertation explores the impact of experiences of prisoners recruited to the Auschwitz Sonderkommando on their individual masculinities using survivor testimonies. Studying the Holocaust through the lens of gender, especially when looking at the experiences of prisoners, is vital to our understanding of the Holocaust and specific victim groups such as the Auschwitz Sonderkommando. I was also able to explore the burden of witnessing and how this impacted survivors in the years after the Holocaust. Though this is an extremely difficult and complex topic to research and write about, it is extremely important not only because it falls into a gap in scholarship on the experiences of prisoners in Auschwitz, but also because of its emotionality and focus on the individual.

I look forward to continuing my research in this area at Southampton with the Parkes Institute in the years ahead.



# POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

Claire Le Foll with MA students  
on their field trip to Poland

## Report on MA Holocaust

**Dr Janek Gryta**

The new MA Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage is now officially one year old. In September 2023 we welcomed our first cohort; three students with a deep interest in the Holocaust and a passion for research. The first cohort might have been small, but our students were very active. Many readers of this Review have likely met Maddie, Alex and Ben during Parkes lectures and events. All three of them went above and beyond in becoming a part of the Parkes community. One (congratulations Maddie!) succeeded in obtaining prestigious doctoral funding and will stay in Parkes for her PhD.

## Parkes MA trip to Poland 2024

**Professor Claire Le Foll**

As convenor of the Field Trip module, it was my pleasure to co-organise and accompany our students during their MA trip. One of the novelties (and challenges) of this module is that the students chose the country and sites they wanted to visit, planned the trip including booking the accommodation and managing the budget that was allocated to them, did relevant reading (with my advice) and

prepared travel guides. Alex Potter, Maddie Walch and Ben Newton decided to go to Poland. The trip lasted five days and took us from Kraków to Warsaw and included visits of camps' memorial sites (Płaszów, Auschwitz and Treblinka), museums (Schindler Factory and POLIN), as well as places of Jewish heritage and memory such as the Kazimierz neighbourhood, Remuh and Reform synagogues in Krakow and the former ghetto in Warsaw. The students had also organised guided tours and visits by local curators and collections managers in Płaszów, POLIN and in Warsaw former ghetto, which turned out to be the most fascinating parts of the trip in my view, as they gave us to understand the issues at stake in the memorialisation of the Holocaust in contemporary Poland and provided opportunities to discuss the

curatorial choices made in different institutions. The visit to Treblinka was the most powerful moment of the trip. We were all deeply moved by the silence of the site and its earnest memorialisation. These five days were a memorable experience for all of us: from an educational and intellectual point of view, as the confrontation with the physical sites changed our understanding of the Holocaust, but also at an emotional and human level, as the journey was sometimes difficult. I was privileged to witness how Alex, Maddie and Ben reflected on what they had learned in class during the trip and, each in their own way, processed their knowledge and emotions. Many thanks to them and to our donors for funding the trip. You can read their travel diaries on our [blog](#).





# REPORTS BY SUPERVISORS OF PHD STUDENTS

**Anoushka Alexander-Rose (DB, CLF, GG)** her thesis on Vladimir Nabokov's Jewish Muse, which I co-supervise with Claire le Foll and George Gilbert in History, is now moving towards the final writing up stage and submission. The thesis has developed brilliantly and has already attracted the attention of international experts in her field. Anoushka has translated previously untranslated sources from Russian into English, delved into archives, published work derived from her research, presented her work at conferences and seminars both here and abroad, and she's achieved scholarship backing from more than one distinguished body. She's also continued to excel in planning and participating in outreach activities for both Parkes and SIAH.

**Neil Batley (NG, TK, Charlotte Riley)** has started part-time doctoral work on the experiences of ordinary British soldiers in Palestine between 1945 and 1948. Thus far he has made excellent progress in defining the terrain of the project and developing some initial lines of inquiry.

**Tara Baker (HS, Peter Clarke, Charlotte Behr)** is undertaking some fascinating work on crucifixion symbolism and its reception from the Bible to the fifth century. Tara focuses on Christian writings up to Late Antiquity. Tara's innovative project addresses a range of Church Fathers as well as crucifixion iconography.

**Khaleda Brophy-Harmer (TK, Nick Clarke and Eve Colpus)** continues her work on the social anthropological organisation, Mass-Observation and how whiteness has been constructed in modern Britain. Khaleda sailed through her review to confirm her PhD status. She has recently been exploring two Mass-Observers, one of whom writes negatively about the Jews and the other who explores her Jewish identity and has written extensively on the Holocaust.

**Chris Byrne (JJ, TK)** successfully passed his viva in September 2024 on a thesis titled 'The Jew has been persecuted because he is a Jew':

The Discursive Construction, Disruption, and Reconstruction of 'The Jew' in Race Relations Legislation and Situation Comedy, 1965–1976.

**Hannah Capey (HS, SP, DB)** holds the Ian Karten PhD Studentship. Hannah is working on the reception of Sarah in the biblical Abrahamic cycles from the Second Temple to Rabbinic Era with a particular focus on the theme of laughter and how this has been interpreted in a range of contexts.

**Sarah Prais (CLF, DB, Eve Colpus)** passed her third interim progression review in March. During the viva she convincingly demonstrated how her research on Rokhl Brokhes and other female Yiddish writers reveals the importance of popular culture and so-called 'shund' in the development of the modern Yiddish culture, and in particular in the working-class culture. Thanks to Devorah joining the supervisory team, Sarah has gained even more confidence in her literary analysis. She is now working on the writing of a chapter on literacy and letters.

**Charlie Knight (TK, JS)** continues his remarkable work on Jewish refugee correspondence. He has made contact with descendants of those refugees and also those that rescued them, often reuniting them with letters held in archives and finding new sources from these contacts. We are delighted that Charlie has been awarded a Leo Baeck Institute fellowship to enable him to complete his thesis next year and to continue his work with the Parkes Institute.

**Verity Steele (TK, JS)** successfully defended her PhD on the Bachad Zionist youth movement last autumn. Aside from her extensive research in many different countries, Verity, a long standing contributor to the Parkes Institute, has explored the memory of Bachad settlements in the UK and has created a powerful history display in her home town of Thaxted and the farm where the youths were trained in agriculture work.

**Atafa Tajik (TK, Eve Colpus and Priti Mishra)** is making great progress with her PhD on contemporary refugees and asylum seekers and their access (or not) to higher education in the UK. One of the most moving moments last year was Atafa meeting Edgar Feuchtwanger who came as a child refugee to the UK in 1939. Their meeting is featured in the Parkes Institute exhibition on refugees and their contributions to the University of Southampton.

**Immy Tozer (TK, Mark Stoye)** is in her first year of PhD study funded by the University's archive studentship. Immy is exploring English Jewish history in the seventeenth century, working especially at this early stage of her thesis on how the figure of 'the Jew' featured in all sides of the English Civil War, and thereby defining political and religious identities.

**Asher Yiliang (HS, Lena Wahlgren-Smith)** Chee studies exegetical encounters between Jews and Christians over the book of Isaiah. Asher is now working towards completion of an exciting thesis on the relationship between Jewish and Christian interpretation of Isaiah in the Eastern Mediterranean in Late Antiquity.

**Katherine Wright (HS, Annelies Cazemier)** is working on narratives of ascent in Jewish and Christian traditions. Katherine is particularly interested in a comparative approach to reveal exchange between Jews and Christians over ideas of heaven and the afterlife. Katherine is currently focused on assessment of sacred geography in the ascent genre.

# REPORTS BY PARKES STUDENTS



## **UG student: Hamish McLay**

I am an undergraduate BA Spanish and History Student and have recently completed my second year in which I undertook “The Responses to the Holocaust” module led by Janek Gryta, as well as “The Making of Englishness” module led by Tony Kushner.

I first encountered the Parkes Institute before coming to the University of Southampton. Upon telling my history teacher that I would be studying here, he told me about the significance of the Parkes Institute, inspiring me to immerse myself in Jewish history at Southampton. Through this I have discovered the extensive opportunities that Parkes has to offer.

The Parkes Library is invaluable to anyone who takes an interest in Jewish history and culture. The scale of primary and secondary resources enables its user to not only access the breadth of Jewish history, but delve deep into the scholarship surrounding individual topics.

Focussing specifically on my studies, the emphasis on primary sources and archives in “The Responses to the Holocaust” has shifted my understanding of Jewish history. In contrary to previous teachings, it has challenged me to attempt to understand the Holocaust through the lens of the victim. I found this perspective particularly thought-provoking, and moving, in my essay centred around a magazine published by children in a Warsaw Ghetto boarding home. Secondly, working with Tony Kushner has enabled me to become more critical of scholarship and challenge the ways that we have been led to understand Jewish history in the British context.

The most important experience that the Parke’s Institute has offered to me during my time at Southampton was the talk from John Dobai, a Hungarian Holocaust survivor. His vivid account of the Holocaust is one that touched me deeply. In years to come few will have the chance to experience this and his words will stick with me forever.



## **MA student: Ben Newton**

The course, MA Holocaust: History, Experience and Heritage is one of the most physically and mentally demanding things I’ve ever tackled (in and outside of education). But looking back on the year as a whole there’s not much – if anything – I would change about it.

Having undertaken ‘The Holocaust’ special subject during my third year as a Joint Hons undergrad, I was able to continue to hone the skills I had already acquired, and further pursue this rich subject through the wide array of modules that were on offer. Having access to the collection of both the Parkes Library and the Special Collections archives leaves you rather spoilt for choice in satiating your thirst for knowledge.

The next best thing after having access to the facilities of the Parkes Institute is collaborating with the fellows of the Institute whether they be academics, PhD students, or post-graduate students. The community within the department is so close-knit and it’s one I feel privileged to say that I have been a part of. Working with like-minded people and academics who have such a wealth of knowledge would not have been possible had I not opted to study this MA; it’s something I wouldn’t trade for anything.

So, though the hours may be gruelling and it isn’t always easy, this MA has been a wonderful experience for me, and I can’t think of any reason why it wouldn’t be for someone else as well.



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**PGR student: Khaleda Brophy-Harmer**

I am an interdisciplinary PhD student with supervisors in both the History and Human Geography departments at Southampton, going into the final year of my PhD candidature (part-time).

My research uses the writing submitted by self-selecting volunteers to the Mass Observation Project (a social writing project) to understand the performance and construction of 'whiteness' in England 1990-2000. Building upon the work of Tony Kushner, my research has increasingly called me to consider the racialised underpinnings of the Mass Observation Archive itself, which I argue to be primarily a 'white archive' and space.

One of my focuses this year has been the place of Holocaust memory discourse from 1990-2000 in Mass Observation writing. With a focus on the role of the imagined past in the performance of 'whiteness', I consider what Holocaust memory and the imagined past migrant 'other' was being called upon to do during a period of increasingly restrictive immigration and asylum policy, and the lacunas of memory these performances were implicitly built upon. In this research I have also placed a focus on the Jewish voices within the archive that disrupted, contradicted and problematised dominant narratives, built upon familial inter-generational memory and storytelling.

This year I have given papers at the IMISCOE conference, and the Social and Cultural History Conference, and worked on chapters to be published in the Bloomsbury Academic's Mass Observation Critical Series. Now coming to the end of my archival research, I look forward to continuing to draft and write-up my findings and analysis for my thesis.



# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND LIBRARY REPORT

Karen Robson and Jenny Ruthven



## Montefiore Collection

This year has seen considerable progress made on the re-establishment of the Montefiore Collection. Throughout his long association with University College, Southampton, of which he was President from 1913 to 1934, Claude Montefiore (1858-1938) gave many books to the Library. In 1937, the year before his death, this included what was described as a 'magnificent gift of books' and subsequently his son, Leonard, presented 'the greater part' of his father's library to the College, this being kept as a Special Collection. On the arrival of the Parkes Library in 1964, Montefiore's books on Jewish studies were transferred to Parkes and those on other subjects were added to the general collections. More recently the decision was made to re-establish the Montefiore Collection and this year has seen the tracing and collecting of around 4,500 books from across the Library's stock.

Unsurprisingly, religion, philosophy and classics are the main strengths of the collection which also includes English and German literature as well as books that demonstrate Montefiore's interest in education. A discerning book collector, Montefiore also presented books to the College which are now held in the Rare Books Collection. At present only a third of the Montefiore Collection is recorded in Library Search, the online catalogue,

and a re-cataloguing project will be required in due course. In the meantime, re-establishing the original card catalogue will help to provide access to the collection.

## Schonfeld archive project

In August Archives and Special Collections have commenced a three-year externally funded project that will focus on the

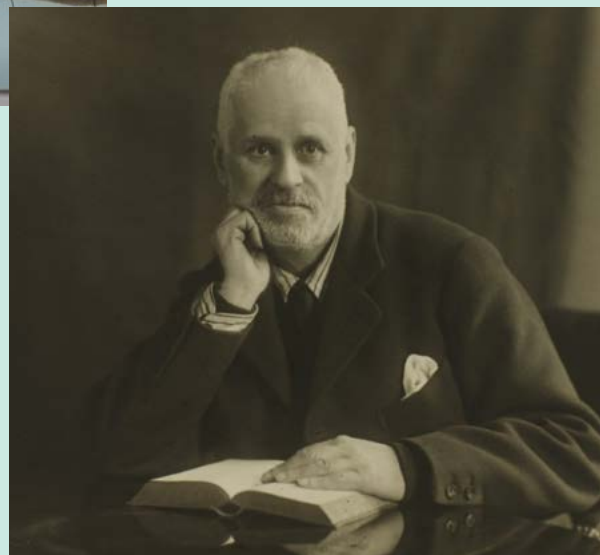


conservation and then cataloguing of badly damaged material in the archive of Rabbi Solomon Schonfeld, one of our significant Anglo-Jewish archive collections. Rabbi Schonfeld (1912-84), the second son of Dr Avigdor Schonfeld, the founder of the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement (JSSM), was a man of action and boundless zeal, qualities particularly apparent from his work as Executive Director

of the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council. The papers of the CRREC provide one of the most extensive surviving collections in Great Britain reflecting the work of a refugee organisation and one particularly working with Jewish refugees in the period around the Second World War. Through his work with the Jewish Secondary Schools Movement, Solomon Schonfeld fulfilled a plan for Orthodox Jewish education and Jewish day schools put forward by his father in September 1909. The material for the JSSM is an important source for the history of the development of the movement, which Schonfeld oversaw from becoming Principal in 1933 into the 1980s, as well as for Jewish education in the UK.

## Films

The Archives and Special Collections has undertaken a project with the Parkes Institute to create a small number of films promoting the collection of Revd Dr James Parkes and key Jewish collections at Southampton. The first film focused on the archive of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality (JCORE) and featured an interview with the organisation's founder Dr Edie Friedman. Others have featured Solomon Schonfeld and the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council and the Council of Christians and Jews. Once completed the films will appear on the Special Collections and Parkes Institutes YouTube channels.



# REPORTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PARKES INSTITUTE



## Dr Emily-Rose Baker

Research fellow in the English department

I began the year by hosting a Parkes conference with James on 'Horror and the Gothic in Holocaust Representation,' which involved some brilliant paper presentations from international scholars and engaging discussions. These discussions will be foregrounded in a co-edited special issue on the topic I am in the early stages of preparing with Mary Going from the University of Sheffield.

This year I continued to work on my first monograph on Central and Eastern European representations of Holocaust memory in post-communist literature and film, the manuscript for which I hope to submit to Palgrave this winter. I have also finished up several writing projects due for publication next year, including a chapter on cinematic dreams of the Holocaust in the work of Daria Martin for Devorah's co-edited *Routledge Handbook of Psychoanalysis and Jewish Studies*.

It has been my pleasure to co-teach Holocaust Literature to third year English students alongside Devorah, and to begin supervising Parkes MA student Ben Newton's dissertation on Holocaust cinema. I was also delighted to convene the Parkes Doctoral Seminars from January, which included engaging presentations and discussions of PGR work from Charlie Knight, Anoushka Alexander Rose and Eliaou Balouka. Together with Janek and Uri, Charlie, Anoushka and I visited Barton Peveril College in January for Holocaust Memorial Day, where I enjoyed teaching an outreach session on film and the Holocaust.

I also enjoyed giving several papers at international events this year, including one on Ukrainian documentary cinema at Princeton University in October and another on animal witnesses to the Holocaust in Jonathan Glazer's recent film *The Zone of Interest* at Oxford University. The latter paper was inspired by a Parkes roundtable discussion on the film I helped to organise in March, which sparked engaging conversations about the use of sound and cinematography in the film, as well as the ethics of foregrounding perpetrator perspectives in Holocaust cinema.

Two final recent highlights include a trip I took to Berlin to celebrate the launch of a book I contributed a chapter to, and my participation in the Summer Institute on the Holocaust and Jewish Civilisation at the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University in June.

## Professor Devorah Baum

Professor of English Literature

It's been another busy year. I embarked on a new role as the School of Humanities' 'early career champion' and I've made a good start, but there's a way to go. For Parkes related teaching, Emily Rose-Baker and I co-taught a small but engaged cohort of students on the third-year Holocaust Literature module. My 2023 book *On Marriage* (Penguin, UK) was published by Yale University Press in the US in November and launched in NYC in conversation with Orna Guralnik from TV reality show *Couples Therapy*. I was invited to give lectures on marriage at the British Psychoanalytical Society and Oxford University and I did podcast interviews for NPR's 'Think', Yale, Berkley's Unsiloed, and Interintellect. I also appeared at literary festivals such as Jewish Book Week (with





“I also stood for election to the UK Parliament in July for the Green Party in my constituency, New Forest West. This was an extraordinary experience, very empowering, and extremely humbling”

**Professor Anna Collar**

Stephen Frosh) and Adelaide Writers Week. My book was fortunate to have fantastic writeups and was listed by *The New Yorker* and *Kirkus Reviews* as one of the ‘Best Books of 2023’. For Jewish Book Week, I also did an in-person discussion of faith with Raphael Zarum and an online discussion of Elon Musk with Australian writer Richard Cooke.

Other highlights of my year included interviewing the comedian David Schneider for the Parkes Lecture, interviewing the comedian David Baddiel about his hilarious new memoir *My Family* for the Proms at St Jude’s festival, interviewing Lisa Appignanesi about Jewish women’s lives for Oxford University’s Life Writing Centre, interviewing Zadie Smith about her nonfiction for London’s ‘Conversations with Writers’ series. I also loved addressing Romsey U3A Philosophy Group about Jewish philosophy.

Further involvements this year included my ongoing membership of *Jewish Quarterly*’s trustees board; symposia analysing ‘internalisation’ with Shaul Bar-Haim (Essex) and others; public screenings and talks for a climate film I produced and perform in, *My Extinction* (also screened in December at COP28 in Dubai); a screening and Q&A at BIAJS annual conference in Bristol of my codirected feature film *Husband*. And I’ve continued (with Stephen Frosh at Birkbeck) to edit contributors’ chapters of a very large volume entitled *The Routledge International Handbook of Psychoanalysis and Jewish Studies*. This field-defining anthology should come out in 2025. I’d add that the terrible events going on in the world have inevitably had their impact on everything this last year and in Southampton teaching and research has of course sought to be mindful of these events and the feelings they’ve aroused even as other things have continued.

**Professor Anna Collar**

This year has been super busy, I’m Archaeology’s Admissions Tutor, while also taking on organisation of the Archaeology Departmental seminars. I was thrilled to have my teaching recognised by the students and was Highly Commended in SUSU’s Most Engaging Lecturer award in the spring.

I continued to direct excavations at Avebury in Wiltshire in 2024. We had a brilliant team of first year students this year, who were willing to graft hard, arriving early on site because the weather was so hot. We continued to investigate our small Roman-period enclosure, revealing not an Iron Age roundhouse as we had assumed last year, but in fact, a Roman-period shrine next to a

springhead—with a clipped coin and folded lead pieces (curse tablets?) to support this interpretation. The presence of water close by is clearly significant and something we’ll continue to investigate in coming years.

The climate and biodiversity crises have driven me in different directions this year: I have written an article about the unique contribution Archaeology can make towards the rewilding debate, I continue to work on an application to the AHRC to support my work on Avebury; and I also stood for election to the UK Parliament in July for the Green Party in my constituency, New Forest West. This was an extraordinary experience, very empowering, and extremely humbling – although I came in after the Reform candidate, I was moved by the many messages of thanks that I received from constituents.

**Dr Noémie Duhaut**

**Lecturer in Modern European Jewish History**

I grew up in France and moved to the UK for university. I was trained in Eastern European and Jewish history at University College London and briefly worked in public engagement and curriculum development at the London Metropolitan Archives between my MA and my PhD.

Before joining the University of Southampton as Lecturer in Modern European Jewish History in January 2024, I was based at the Institute of European History in Mainz and held fellowships at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, Dartmouth College, Hebrew University, Central European University, and German Historical Institute in Paris. I was also a guest professor at the University of Graz in 2021-22.

As a historian of Jewish politics in modern Europe, I’m interested in the voices not only of marginalised minorities but also from regions seen as peripheral. The monograph I’m currently finishing, *Defending Balkan Jews, Shaping Europe: French Jewish International Activism in the Nineteenth Century*, examines Jewish international politics in the context of post-Ottoman state-building in the Balkans. It asks why Western European Jews became so concerned about Jews in the Balkans and explores how Jewish political elites tackled questions of European belonging. This book challenges notions of centre and periphery in Jewish political history by writing the Balkans back into the history of Jewish international politics and casts light on the circulation of political ideas between the Balkans, Western Europe, and French North Africa. In doing so, it excavates the interplay between Jewish internationalism and abolitionism.







I am also working on a second book that takes me further into the history of Mediterranean and imperial France and zooms in on one prominent actor in international Jewish politics, Adolphe Crémieux and his wife Amélie Silny. Adolphe Crémieux, a lawyer, belonged to the first generation of emancipated French Jewish men and established himself as a trailblazer in Jewish participation in national and international politics, becoming the first Jewish minister in Europe in 1848 and leading the international Jewish organisation the *Alliance Israélite Universelle* for much of the 1860s and 1870s. Through the lens of personal history, this book delineates how Jews in 19th-century France positioned themselves in a world where imperialism and antisemitism increasingly influenced each other.

This summer, I completed my first chapter out of this project, “*Les angles morts de l’universalisme: Whiteness and Jewishness in Adolphe Crémieux’s legal writings*,” for the forthcoming volume *Jewish Ideas of France: Migration, Diaspora, and Empire* edited by Meredith Scott and Nick Underwood. I also finally did a trip I’d been thinking about for a while and that I affectionally refer to as my “Crémieux pilgrimage”: among other things, I visited my protagonist’s birthplace, the synagogue in which he got married, the place where he went to university, the towns his parents were from, and, last but not least, the region where he campaigned to get elected to parliament and where he bought a country house and a mesmerising forest.

During my first semester in Southampton, I taught a module on Anne Frank for first-year history students and got to know the wonderful inaugural cohort of the MA Holocaust by giving a session for the ‘After the Holocaust: Jews and Others after 1945’ module and through the weekly Yiddish

circle that Claire Le Foll runs. As marketing and communication officer for Parkes, I’m the Institute’s community manager (follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X if you don’t already do so!), produce our newsletter and promote our new Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage MA.



#### **Dr Sami Everett**

Senior Research Fellow, Parkes Institute and Winchester School of Art

Upon receiving two generous and constructive readers reports in October 2023, over the course of the academic year 2023-24 I continued to work on my first single authored monograph currently entitled “Maghrebinicité: Jewish North African experience in France since 1981”. It is a much-augmented form of my 2014 thesis, a work of cultural and historical anthropology that explores both communal (Jewish) and intercommunal (Jewish-Muslim) modes of identifying or disidentifying with North Africa (the Maghreb) across generations in French North African Jewish families.

“I’m interested in the voices not only of marginalised minorities but also from regions seen as peripheral”

**Dr Noémie Duhaut**

“The collaborative efforts of Parkes colleagues continue to speak to many of the challenges apparent in the world around us, in what is a period of heightened tension in many of the regions that we study”

**Dr George Gilbert**

It was wonderful to give a series of talks in April and May 2024 entitled “Judeo-indigeneity & Abrahamic alterity: Intimate Maghrebi entanglement” based on the opening historical chapter of my monograph at the Universities of Southampton, Durham and as (my first ever) keynote at the “Jews and Colonialism” conference, King’s College London.

The Zouj (two) project on the dialogical interaction of North African Judeo-Muslim popular culture continues to develop. I spoke about the curatorial (museum-based) aspect of the study at the Universities of Aix-Marseille, Bristol, Cambridge and Granada. With the help of star colleagues Anoushka Alexander-Rose (also at Parkes), Anastasia Badder and Sonya Nevin (Cambridge) we have developed the opening historical chapter of Zouj on Maimonides and his encounters in the Muslim world into an Impact project with the Manchester Jewish Museum.

In 2024-25 we are very much looking forward to putting on workshops at the museum with Jewish schools and groups of volunteers which will involve the creation of animation about movement and encounter including a ‘Maimonides from Scratch’ digital animation.

Finally, I continue to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in Marseille on the question of coexistence. This work has been ongoing since 2020 and with Cléo Cohen creating a “Fragile Encounters” podcast series with several key interlocutors. This is a difficult time to be discussing Judaeo-Muslim encounter and interaction, but Marseille continues to marvel as host to everyday and banal intercommunal contact. I spoke about my Marseille-based ethnographic experiences in Berlin (Max Planck), London (UCL), and Marseille (Iméra, Institute for Advanced Study Aix-Marseille).

The Marseilles presentation that I gave was part of a Wenner Gren-Iméra-ERC three-day workshop that I co-convened with fellow anthropologists Charis Boutieri and Erica Weiss “Political Life on the Edges of Europe”, in June 2024 which brought together 12 anthropologists of the Mediterranean. I also conducted some outreach work devising and giving a tour of the city with a group of University of Chicago undergraduates.



**Dr George Gilbert**  
Lecturer in Modern Russian History

As usual, it’s been a busy year at Parkes, and in the university community more generally. I have been pushing ahead with my own research: my current book project, *Martyr Cults in Revolutionary Russia*, is at the peer review stage and one of my big summer jobs will be pulling that into a form which (I hope) will prove suitable for publication. Elsewhere, the outcomes of this project are apparent in a journal special issue on ‘Political Martyrdom in late Imperial Russia’ which I have put together with my colleague at Exeter, Ben Phillips, for the *The Slavonic and East European Review*.

At the time of writing, we have just received our hard copies of this and are very happy with how it has turned out and thank our contributors for providing a series of very insightful articles taking in diverse subjects including terrorism, gender and transnational history. I have also recently been contracted to write a textbook with my colleague at University College Dublin, Jennifer Keating, titled *New Directions in Late Imperial Russia*, and that will be a focus for the next several years – it’s the first time I’ve had a go at such a synoptic project.

Away from my own research area, I’ve been fortunate to have observed, yet again, several first-rate talks and papers from visiting speakers at our institute. My own work as co-director for the Centre for East European and Eurasian Studies at Southampton (CEEES) has continued through 2023-24 and I would here like to thank my Parkes colleague Janek Gryta for his help in organizing a highly successful event on ‘Conflict, Displacement and Migration’ held on 24 April, which included several Parkes colleagues in the audience. I am hopeful in future we can think of some likewise inclusive events.

I have been busy delivering talks on my own research and broader concepts in a variety of forums, as well as blogging; with my Parkes

hat on, I delivered a talk about antisemitism in late imperial Russia for the Parkes 'Short History of Antisemitism' lecture series in March 2024. The collaborative efforts of Parkes colleagues continue to speak to many of the challenges apparent in the world around us, in what is a period of heightened tension in many of the regions that we study.

### **Professor Neil Gregor**

Professor of Modern European History

My main focus through the year in terms of my own work has been the preparation for publication of my book *The Symphony Concert in Nazi Germany*, which will be published in 2025 by the University of Chicago Press. The product of around fifteen years' work and drawing on materials from around forty archives and libraries in Germany, Austria, Poland and the UK, the book explores how an institution commonly imagined as the embodiment of civility and cultivation adapted to and navigated the presence of the Nazi regime with remarkable ease. It explores how orchestras and their audiences participated in the exclusion of Jewish musicians, repertoire, and concertgoers, and reframed their understanding of German music to fit the precepts of Nazi ideology, while at the same time convincing themselves that the concert hall remained a site of decency and politesse.

The award of a period of sabbatical leave by the university in the second half of the year enabled me to complete this work. Teaching-wise, I ran the core module on the Genocide of the Jews of Europe for the new MA programme and reprised my contribution to the Department of History's Short History of the Far Right – a module which seems to get sadly more relevant and necessary to teach each year. Otherwise, my Parkes-related activities have consisted in supporting the range of activities described in this report in my capacity as Director.

I am grateful to Claire Le Foll for being so helpful in handing over the reins and for stepping back in as interim director during my leave. Meanwhile, I have continued my long-standing role as deputy chair of the Academic Advisory Board of the Documentation Centre Nuremberg Party Rally Grounds – a role which is becoming increasingly busy as the museum moves towards completion of its new standing exhibition in the next couple of years.

### **Dr Janek Gryta**

Lecturer in Holocaust History

The academic year 2023/24 has been my first year at Southampton and the Parkes Institute. In summer 2023 I was appointed a Lecturer in Holocaust History.

I specialise in the Holocaust memory, looking especially at Poland. What drives my research is the question of antisemitism. I try to understand how European antisemitism survived the tragedy of the Holocaust but also how the memory of the Shoah was used to curb it. In my first book, I focused on Holocaust museums in Poland analysing the ways in which they integrated the history of the suffering of Jewish Poles into Polish history. In my new project, I look at the sites of the Holocaust by bullet. I spotlight the memorials erected in the places where face-to-face mass killings took place. A number of those memorials were erected by Jewish survivors, who until 1968 still lived in the Socialist Poland. What interests me the most is how those activists navigated a state that was not exactly interested in either minority rights or Holocaust memory.

I pursued my research during my long and stimulating road to Southampton. I received my doctorate at the University of Manchester in 2016. The short, parallel, part-time stints at the Universities of Manchester and Chester were followed by the move to the University of Bristol where I spent four years. Eventually, with a short stop in Wales, I arrived at Parkes.

My first months at Southampton were occupied by teaching and figuring out where the best coffee shops on Campus are. I took over one of the Parkes flagship, 3rd year modules called simply 'The Holocaust'. It is a well-established module, taught by generations of scholars, and I had the privilege of putting my own spin on it. On top of working with our undergraduates, I also contributed to the new MA Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage where I offer a host of classes on the memory and heritage of the Genocide.

It is also my job to lead this MA programme. This year, I shared this work with Prof Claire Le Foll, who showed me the ropes. Starting in the summer of 2024, I will be responsible for the (smooth!) running of the MA on my own. The MA programme is new. The first cohort of our students has just submitted their MA dissertation. It will be my job to grow and expand the programme and recruitment is now at the forefront of my To Do list.

“I try to understand how European antisemitism survived the tragedy of the Holocaust but also how the memory of the Shoah was used to curb it”

### **Dr Janek Gryta**



“I also taught my course on Stalin and Stalinism to second-year History students and found it as relevant and important as ever to discuss with them the historical origins of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine”

**Professor Claire Le Foll**

**Professor Tony Kushner**

James Parkes Professor of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations

Ten years is a long time to live with a ghost of an eighteenth-century Jewish triple murderer, but I am pleased to say that my quest to ‘find’ Jacob Harris is now complete. The book that has emerged studies the intersection between peddling and criminality in the Jewish world from the early modern world onwards. It will be published by Manchester University Press in May 2025.

My latest research focuses on an *imagined* criminality – it is an exploration of how migrants since the late nineteenth century to the present day have increasingly been described as ‘illegal’. To begin this new project, I have written a chapter on the historical precedents of the attempts made to send those coming to the UK to Rwanda, especially relating to Jewish refugees from the Nazi era.

It has been a great pleasure to teach the first intake of MA students on our new programme devoted to the Holocaust. Their dedication and talent made this a very stimulating experience.

At undergraduate level I have continued to teach my course exploring race and immigration in modern British history which becomes ever more relevant to contemporary concerns each time I present it. Finally on the teaching front, I am delighted to have new doctoral students just as a group of the ones that I had been supervising over several years successfully completed.

I have continued my work in public history, including two pieces for the widely circulated *The Conversation*, including one on the film exploring the life of Nicholas Winton and his work on the *Kindertransport* – *One Life*. This was read by tens of thousands of people, although some challenged my more critical approach to the film.

With Neil Gregor I have researched and written a pop-up exhibition on refugees from Nazism and their contribution to our university. It is now travelling round the campus and was used to support the application to become a University of Sanctuary.

Beyond Southampton I was delighted to visit the University of Luxembourg to give a paper and develop a research project with my colleague, Sami Everett, on creating stop motion films created by recent migrants. I also examined a PhD in the University of Linköping, Sweden. It was a public event and screened live across the world – not quite the intimate chat of a British viva (though the latter rarely end in a celebratory Viking scream of freedom!).

**Professor Claire Le Foll**

Professor in Eastern European Jewish history and culture

I was on study leave in the first semester after four years directing the Parkes Institute. I started working on my new book project. It will be dedicated to Zmitrok Biadulia, a Belarusian-Jewish writer who dedicated his life to building a multicultural Belarus. The book will examine his complex relationship to his Jewishness and will look at his multifaceted activity: as a newspaper editor and political activist, as an ethnographer and specialist of Belarusian folk theatre, and as a poet, novelist and writer for children. It was lucky that I had collected material from the archives in Belarus but the trip to archives in Israel that I had planned had to be cancelled because of the 7 October terrorist attack and the war. I focused on reading of his literary work, starting by his poems and the novel *The Nightingale*. I was invited to Graz to present early results during the workshop ‘Telling History(s). Klio and Kalliope in the Jewish History of Central and Eastern Europe’.

In the second semester, I returned to Parkes as acting director while Neil was on research leave. I also had the pleasure to co-convene our new MA Holocaust with Janek Gryta and to teach two of the new modules to our small but amazing first cohort.

With Tony I co-taught ‘The Holocaust as Public History’ that made students think about ways of presenting this difficult history to different audiences. The module included workshops at our Special Collections, at the Imperial War Museum, at the Wiener Library and with Holocaust education specialists. I particularly enjoyed co-organising with the students the field trip to Poland that took us to Krakow and Warsaw (see *separate report for details*). It is always a unique and fantastic experience to spend five days with the students and reflect with them on the upsetting visits of camps but also share more relaxed moments.

I also taught my course on Stalin and Stalinism to second-year History students and found it as relevant and important as ever to discuss with them the historical origins of Putin’s invasion of Ukraine. I was also busy writing grant proposals for my project on Biadulia and, with Sami Everett, for an interdisciplinary project on ‘Diversifying Tolerance’ that brings together colleagues across social sciences and humanities.

I am also currently working on an article on mutual representations of Jews and Belarusians in early 20th century literature for the journal *Polin*. As usual, it has been a pleasure to continue to direct the Parkes Institute, to work with my amazing Parkes colleagues and to get to know Janek and Noémie.

### **Professor Sarah Pearce**

Ian Karten Professor

I completed my five-year role as Head of the School of Humanities at the end of October 2023, and have been on research leave since then. In addition to my focus on research and writing up publications, my main contribution is through serving as Chair of the Anglo-Israel Archaeological Society (**AIAS**), a charity founded in the 1960s by academics including Richard Barnett and Yigael Yadin, which is open to all, and which aims to promote public knowledge of archaeological finds in Israel and the surrounding region through an international public lecture programme, publication of the journal *Strata*, and the funding of students to take part in relevant excavations. With my co-chair, I have organised three panels for the Hellenistic Judaism unit of the SBL, including a panel dedicated to antisemitism, ancient and modern, to appear at the annual congress in November 2024, San Diego, California.

### **Professor Helen Spurling**

Professor of History

There has been a lot of change for me this year as I moved from the role of Deputy Head of School for Research and Enterprise in Humanities to the position of Associate Dean for Research and Enterprise across the Faculty. It is an immense privilege to have the opportunity to support my colleagues from grant applications to research culture development.

I contributed a little on the teaching front and I was glad to be part of the new Parkes MA Holocaust: History, Experience, Heritage. I taught three sessions: the first was a fascinating dialogue between Neil Gregor and myself over James Parkes as scholar and activist and the students were brilliant at engaging with the questions that we posed.

The second session was on anti-Judaism in early Christian teachings – a sensitive but important topic that the students grappled with thoughtfully. The third session allowed me to discuss biblical interpretation but in a post-Shoah context, and how Jewish and Christian approaches have been impacted

in this context in significant ways. This was another sensitive and challenging topic, and the students were impressive in their willingness to talk things through and offer insightful ideas. I would like to thank them for all the efforts that they made.

I now have four PhD students who continue to challenge me with their innovative thinking. I am delighted that Hatty Walker, who works on Jewish Babylonian Aramaic magic bowls of Late Antiquity, submitted her thesis. Hatty has done some tremendous work creating a database of bowl texts that will facilitate comparison and analysis of the terminology and concepts in this corpus on a scale that was previously not possible.

I am also pleased to give the occasional talk and would like to thank Spencer Nathan for the opportunity to share some of my work on midrash at Edgware United Synagogue. My research on Jewish apocalyptic writings at the emergence of Islam continues; I am exploring a range of Jewish apocalyptic works and what they suggest about Jewish-Christian-Muslim relations in this formative period. I would very much like to thank all my brilliant, sympathetic and remarkable colleagues in History, the Parkes Institute, the School, and the Faculty. I am always impressed by my colleagues and am deeply fortunate to work in an institution where collegiality is paramount.

“Hatty Walker has done some tremendous work creating a database of bowl texts that will facilitate comparison and analysis of the terminology and concepts in this corpus on a scale that was previously not possible”

### **Professor Helen Spurling**

# PUBLICATIONS, PAPERS, TALKS AND AWARDS BY MEMBERS OF THE PARKES INSTITUTE

## Dr Emily-Rose Baker

### Publications

'Review: Matilda Mroz (2020), *Framing the Holocaust in Polish Aftermath Cinema: Posthumous Materiality and Unwanted Knowledge* (London: Palgrave Macmillan), *Film Philosophy*, 2024, 28(1): 131-135.

### Conference papers and talks

'Documentary Witnessing in Contemporary Ukrainian Cinema', Re/Framing Eastern European Cinema conference, Princeton University, October 2023.

'Dreams, Trauma and the Imagination in Holocaust Literature and Film', Idleness Research Day, Center for Modern and Contemporary Writing, University of Southampton, January 2024.

'Horror, Gender, and Intergenerational Holocaust Memory in Daria Martin's *Tonight the World*', Postdoctoral Colloquium in Transnational Jewish Film Histories (online), March 2024.

'Reading Daria Martin's *Tonight the World* as an Intergenerational Feminist Holocaust Dream Diary', BIAJS conference on 'Jews, Gender and Sexuality', University of Bristol, July 2024.

'Pets and Cinematic Animal Witnessing in The Zone of Interest', Animals and the Holocaust workshop, (University of Oxford, July 2024).

## Professor Deborah Baum

### Publications

'Challah', words for *Vittles* special issue on Jewish food and 'Friday Night Dinners' Oct 2023

'Love and Looking: On What We (Don't) See Together', long essay for *Literary Hub* Nov 2023

### Conference papers and talks

Screening and post screening discussion of *My Extinction* at Harbour Lights Cinema, Southampton, Oct 2023

Paper presented on marriage and psychoanalysis at the invitation of the Applied Section of the British Psychoanalytical Society, Dec 2023

In conversation with Lisa Appignanesi about Jewish Women's life writing for Oxford University's Life Writing Centre, Wolfson College, Jan 2024

Interview online for the Jewish Literary Foundation with Australian writer Richard Cooke about his book length essay 'Dark Star: Elon Musk's Dangerous Turn', Feb 2024

Interviewed about marriage for the online Interintellect salon, Feb 2024

Interviewed Rabbi Raphael Zarum about his new book 'Questioning Belief' for Jewish Book Week, March 2024

Interviewed about marriage for Adelaide Writers Week (online), March 2024

In conversation with Stephen Frosh about 'Jewish Intimacies' at Jewish Book Week, March 2024

Interviewed (together with Katie Power) comedian David Schneider for the annual Parkes Lecture, March 2024

Online interview on *My Extinction* for 'Power Station Film Club' March 2024

Interviewed Zadie Smith about her nonfiction for 'Conversations with Writers' literary salon, Kensal Rise, London, May 2024

Presented a Parkes related research talk for Romsey U3A's philosophy group, May 2024

Invited lecture, 'The Desire for Marriage', for Oxford University's Modern and Contemporary Research Seminar, All Souls College, May 2024

Post screening discussion of Elaine May's 1972 film *The Heartbreak Kid* at Garden Cinema, Covent Garden, as part of their 'Women Aren't Funny' season, June 2024

Interviewed David Baddiel about his memoir *My Family for Proms* at St Jude's music and literature festival, London, June 2024

Post screening of Husband Q&A for BIAJS annual conference, Bristol University, July 2024

## Dr Anna Collar

### Publications

*Pilgrims in Place, Pilgrims in Motion*. Ed. Anna Collar and Troels Myrup Kristensen. (Aarhus: Aarhus University Press, Jan 2024)

### Conference papers/talks:

**Keynote:** 'Meaningful Networks: Who Do you Trust?' Presented at *Steps Ahead. New trends in the analysis of Roman Polytheism* (University Carlos III de Madrid) October 2023.

**Paper:** 'Wilderness, Heavy Places, and Storytelling'. Presented at 'Sacred Landscapes in the Roman World' session at the Roman Archaeology Conference, London, April 2024.

**Paper:** 'Lower Gökusu Archaeological Salvage Survey Project'. Presented at 'Regional Mobilities and the Making of the Ancient Greek World' conference, Vienna, June 2024.

## Dr Noémie Duhaut

### Publications

Zuzanna Krzemień (†), *Shaping the Jewish Enlightenment: Solomon Dubno (1738–1813), an Eastern European Maskil*, edited by Noémie Duhaut and Wojciech Tworek, with the help of Monika Biesaga (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2023).

### Conference papers/talks:

'The Brangelina of the 19th century? Amélie Silny and her husband Adolphe Crémieux,' British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies' annual conference, University of Bristol, July.

## Dr Sami Everett

### Publications

Becker, E., & Everett, S. "Introduction: Decolonizing the metropolis." *Patterns of Prejudice*, 57(1–2), 1–16, 2023

Everett, S., "Comme un village méditerranéen: postcolonial North African Jewish de- and re-racialization in Sarcelles." *Patterns of Prejudice*, 57(1–2), 39–60, 2023

Everett, S., "Between Generations in the North African Jewish and Muslim Textiles Industry in Paris" *POMEPS Studies 52 - Race Politics and Colonial Legacies: France, Africa and the Middle East*, 2024.

### Conference papers/talks:

In-person Paper (Spain): "Curating Commonality" Granada, Humboldt & Heidelberg Universities, 1-3 Sept, 2023

In-person Paper: "Curating Commonality" at Interfaith and the Material Turn workshop, University of Cambridge, 7-8 Sept, 2023

Outreach (Uni Chicago in Paris): Anthro walk through Marseille (Belsunce, Panier, Mucem) & follow-up at University of Chicago, Paris, Sept 11-12, 2023

Convening/Paper (Germany): "Encounters project overview", Jewish-Muslim Encounters Fr-Ger-UK ORA project, Humboldt University, Berlin 9-11 Oct, 2023

Paper (Aix-en-Provence): "Curating Commonality", Mediterranean Network - European Association of Social Anthropology workshop, Aix-en-provence 26-27 Oct, 2023

Convening: "Animating Empathy" talk and workshop, Winchester School of Art, 6-7 December, 2023

In-person Talk (Marseille): "Jewish-Muslim popular cultural production in the 20th Century" (with Rebekah Vince), Carte Blanche: Mediterranean programme, Iméra, Institute for Advanced Study Aix-Marseille University, April 11, 2024



In-person Talk: “Judeo-indigeneity & Abrahamic alterity: Intimate Maghrebi entanglements”, Debating Ethnography Seminar, University of Southampton, 25 April, 2024

In-person Talk: “Judeo-indigeneity & Abrahamic alterity: Intimate Maghrebi entanglements” Durham University Anthropology Seminar, 1 May, 2024

In-person Talk “Maimonides from Scratch” SE Regional Research with Impact, Sussex University, 8 May, 2024

Keynote (in-person): “Northern African Intercommunal Entanglements: from Judeo-Indigeneity to the Abrahamic Other” in ‘Jews & Colonialism: Communities and Networks on the African Continent” King’s College London, 13-14 May, 2024

In-person Response (Marseille): Book Talk “The Shamama Case: contesting citizenship across the modern Mediterranean” by Jessica Marglin, Iméra, Institute for Advanced Study Aix-Marseille University, 14 May, 2024

Convening/Presenting (Marseille): Co-convened Wenner Gren-Iméra-ERC workshop “Political Life on the Edges of Europe”, presentation given “Maimonides in Marseille” Iméra, Institute for Advanced Study, 5-8 June, 2024

Paper: “Maimonides in Marseille” for the MEUS ERC Project “Encounters of Difference”, UCL, 17-18 June, 2024

Paper \*2: “Curating commonality: intercommunal Jewish-Muslim Maghribi memory in France” BIAJS panel “Curation, creation & examination: Jewish Heritage in the cultural sphere” Panel 1 (morning, “Maimonides from Scratch” case study in “Curation, creation & examination” panel 2 (afternoon), July 8, 2024

## Dr George Gilbert

### Publications

Research article: ‘Liberal funerals, political resistance and sites of martyrdom in the late Russian Empire’, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 102, No. 1, 2024, pp. 13-42.

With Ben Phillips, ‘Introduction’, in our co-authored journal special issue, ‘Political Martyrdom in late Imperial Russia’, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 102, No. 1, 2024, pp. 1-12.

Forum: ‘Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and its impact on research’, special issue on the challenges of the Russia-Ukraine War, *Revolutionary Russia*, Vol. 36, No. 2, 2023, pp. 157-66.

### Conference papers and talks

‘The Russian Revolutions of 1917: Hopes, Tragedy, Fears’, Bournemouth branch of the Historical Association, 16 October 2023

‘Antisemitism in late imperial Russia’, Southampton Parkes series, 13 March 2024

‘Roundtable on new directions in Eastern European history’, British Association for Slavonic, East European and Eurasian Studies (BASEES), Cambridge, UK, 5 April 2024

‘Roundtable on political martyrdom’, BASEES, Cambridge, UK, 6 April 2024

‘The Russian Revolutions and their Legacy’, Richard Collyer’s, Horsham, West Sussex (virtually, via Zoom), 3 May 2024

‘Control of the People, 1917-85’, Peter Symonds College, Winchester, 10 May 2024

‘The Russian Revolutions of 1917’, A-level history event, University of Southampton, 17 June 2024

## Professor Neil Gregor

### Talks

‘Israel and Palestine: A Background to the Current Crisis’, University of Southampton History Society, 19 October 2023

‘Antisemitism in modern Germany’ Parkes Lecture Series, 24 April 2024

### Dr Janek Gryta

### Conference papers and talks

*New York – Geneva – Kraków. Diaspora and Production of the Holocaust Memory in 1960s Poland.* BIAJS Annual Conference, Bristol, July

*Postronni Zagłady? Harcerski Alert Zwycięstwa ’65 i przekazywanie wiedzy o Holokauście na poziomie lokalnym.* Memory, myth, and reality. The Second World War and the occupation of Polish lands, Kraków (Poland), May

*How to Create a Bystander? Polish Scouts learning about the Holocaust in 1965.* BASEES Annual Conference, Cambridge, April

*Non-Sites of Memory?: Commemorating the Holocaust in 1960s Poland.* 55th Annual ASEES Convention, Philadelphia (USA), December

*Between the Egalitarian Project and Anti-Semitic Rejection. Jewish Civic Organizations and Socialism in 1960s Poland.* Shades of Red: Rediscovering the Plurality of Socialism and Communism in Europe in the 20th Century, Montreal (Canada), October

*Jak stworzyć postronnego Zagłady? Harcerski Alert Zwycięstwa ’65 i lokalne narracje o Holokauście.* Jagiellonian University, Kraków (Poland), May

Have Poles Forgotten the Holocaust? Remembering the Genocide of the Jews in Socialist and post-Socialist Poland. Parkes Institute, Southampton, March

## Professor Tony Kushner

### Publications

‘On the Eighth Day’: Jews and Manchester’, *Jewish Culture and History* vol.24 no.4 (2023), pp.416-37.

‘What One Life Gets Wrong about Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport Story’, <https://theconversation.com/what-one-life-gets-wrong-about-nicholas-winton-and-the-kindertransport-story-220965>, January 2024.

‘Holocaust Memorial Day Shouldn’t be about “heroes” and villains’, <https://theconversation.com/holocaust-memorial-day-shouldnt-be-about-heroes-and-villains-unsung-ordinary-people-made-the-biggest-difference-221270>, January 2024.

### Conference papers and talks

‘From Mauritius to Rwanda via the Kindertransport’, University of Luxembourg, November 2023.

‘The 1951 Refugee Convention’, University of Southampton commemoration of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights’, December 2023.

‘The Kindertransport’, ARD German Radio, <https://www.swr.de/swr2/wissen/85-jahre-kindertransporte-nach-grossbritannien-eine-rettung-mit-schattenseiten-sw2-wissen-2023-11-28-102.html>, December 2023.

‘One Life’. Parkes Institute workshop on the film, February 2024.

‘An Unorthodox History of Sussex Jewry’, Sussex Branch of the Jewish Historical Society of England, May 2024.

‘James Parkes and the Parkes Institute’, Oxford Council of Christians and Jews, May 2024.

‘Researching an eighteenth-century Jewish triple murderer: the influence of the Sheffield school’, University of Sheffield Jewish Studies Network, May 2024.

## Professor Claire Le Foll

### Publications

Review of Moyshe Kulbak, *Ale lider un poemen*, gathered, introduced, edited by Siarhej Šupa, Pragua, Vesna books, 2022, 2 volumes, 253p + 534 p, *In Geveb*, April 2024.

### Conference papers and talks

‘History and ethnography in Zmitrok Biadulia’s literary work’, Workshop ‘Telling History(s). Klio and Kalliope in the Jewish History of Central and Eastern Europe’, Graz, January 2024

## Professor Sarah Pearce

### Publications

Jewish perspectives on slavery in Egypt. In, Rowlandson, Jane L., Bagnall, Roger S. and Thompson, Dorothy J. (eds.) *Slavery and Dependence in Ancient Egypt: Sources in Translation.* Cambridge University Press, (2024) pp. 176-210. (doi:10.1017/9781139506809.005).

### Conference papers and talks

‘Philo on Capital Punishment’, International Symposium on “Bible, Language, Context: Recontextualisation of the Hebrew Bible in Antiquity”, University of South Bohemia, 26-28 February 2024.

“Ptolemy I Soter and Ptolemaic Judaea”, *Colloquio Internazionale La normalità dei Lagidi*, University of Bologna, 4-6 April 2024).

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