



Centre for German-Jewish Studies

University of Sussex

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Shortly after the founding of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in 1994, two of its researchers were invited to attend the annual reunion of the *Verbands der Juden in Deutschland* at a hotel in Bognor Regis. Although the members of the *Verbands* are a

Faculty members affiliated to the Centre have been involved with a wide range of undergraduate courses relating to German-Jewish studies and cognate fields of cultural and political history.

Raphael Gross is responsible for a third-year course on 'European Fascisms', which focuses on Nazi Germany, the Holocaust and European antisemitism.

In the German section of the modern language programme, **Uffa Jensen** taught the course 'German-Jewish Culture and Politics – From the Enlightenment to the Holocaust', which provides an overview of German-Jewish history, including the controversial career of Heinrich Heine. In the recently revised curriculum of the History department, a similar overview has been introduced under the title '1938: Kristallnacht', which will also be taught by Uffa Jensen.

Chana Moshenska teaches courses on the Holocaust in both the History and the English department: 'Time and Place, 1942: the Holocaust' (2nd year History) and 'Holocaust Representation and Cultural Memory' (2nd year

English). She also teaches Cultural Studies programmes: 'Diaspora Cultures' (1st year) and 'Autobiography and the Construction of Identity' (2nd year). From September 2005, Chana will teach two new 3rd year courses entitled 'Sites of Memory' and 'Gender and Violence'. From September 2005 she will combine her work at the Centre with a part-time lectureship in the Anthropology department.

Andrea Hammel, who contributes to the course on 'Autobiography and Identity', teaches a Final Year German Language course including contextual and translation studies. She also contributes to two cultural studies courses: 'Studying Culture' and 'Representations of Culture'.

The Centre has developed a new MA in 'Modern European Jewish History, Culture and Thought', which is currently taught at the Leo Baeck Institute in London.

Raphael Gross taught the core course entitled 'Jews, Power and Intellectual History', assisted by **Professor Sander Gilman**, an expert on Jewish cultural history. This course covers 'Jewish Thought' from Moses Mendelssohn to Hannah Arendt and is proving most popular. During the spring term 2005, **Lisa Silverman** co-taught the seminar on 'Modern European Jewish Literature' with Professor Gilman. The aim was to trace the Jewish experience in modern Europe by surveying a range of literature in English translation, focussing on authors like Jurek Becker, Sholem Aleichem, Arthur Schnitzler, Franz Kafka, Joseph Roth, Veza Canetti, Paul Celan, Italo Svevo, Primo Levi, Georges Perec, Israel Zangwill and Amy Levy. Issues covered included theoretical questions such as what makes a Jewish writer 'Jewish', and whether this description has changed over time or across national borders. This course concluded with a memorable visit from the novelist **Gabriel Josipovici**, who recently retired after a distinguished career as Professor of English at Sussex.

A further element in the MA programme is the core course on 'Jewish History and Culture', taught by **Uffa Jensen**, which serves as an introduction to fundamental developments within Jewish history over the past 250 years. Additionally, MA students can choose from the optional courses 'Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust', currently taught by **Ben Barkow**, Director of the Wiener Library; and 'Jews in the Sciences and the Humanities', taught by **Ulrich Charpa** and **Ute Deichmann**, both research professors at the Leo Baeck Institute.



Heine, Heinrich (1797-1856): 'The fog of war / faints Morgan, / Jan 6th April / 1829 / H. Heine.'

Readers with an interest in the Kindertransport will find a mine of information in the Fall 2004 number of *Journal of American Jewish Archives*, guest-edited by Wolfgang Benz, Claudia Curio and Andrea Hammel. Articles based on the research seminars held at Sussex and at the Technical University in Berlin include accounts of the Selection Strategies of Relief Organizations (by Claudia Curio), of the Role of British Women in the Rescue Operation (by Sybil Oldfield), and of the importance of keepsakes, such as Bracelet, Hand Towel or Pocket Watch, which the Kinder brought with them (by Mona Körte). Autobiographical Texts by Child Refugees form the subject of a further article by Andrea Hammel, while Susan Kleinman and Chana Moshenska discuss Class as a Factor in the Social Adaptation of Kinder. This publication marks the conclusion of the Centre's Kindertransport project, funded by a grant from the British Academy.

The Kindertransport also features prominently in *Learning to Live*, an activity pack for primary schools developed by Chana Moshenska, Mike Levy and Vicky Barker, with the generous support of the ANNE FRANK-Fonds. Co-operating with education departments in Cambridge and in Brighton, Chana piloted the pack with large groups of 9 – 11 year olds, and the resulting fully designed and resourced lesson plans have been enthusiastically welcomed by teachers. Although the pack covers successive waves of migration to Britain, from the Huguenots to the most recent asylum seekers, the main focus is on the experiences of the child refugees of the 1930s. Learning activities encourage pupils to relate to the lives of children from other cultures, and the pack also provides teachers with materials on current refugee issues which can be copied and distributed to children and parents alike.

A new German book on Arnold Daghani, based on the collection at the University of Sussex, is due to be published by zuKlampen Verlag, Lüneburg. The book, entitled *Persecuted Marked: The Artist Arnold Daghani*, is co-authored by Deborah Schultz and Helmut Braun, a historian based in Cologne. Deborah's research has been supported by grants from the Ian Karten Trust and the Leverhulme Trust. This book will accompany the further stages of the Daghani exhibition as it tours Germany, Austria and Romania during the next two years. It will contain eighty images by Daghani and essays that contextualise his career in relation to the culture of his native Bukovina and the sufferings endured in a Nazi slave labour camp in Ukraine.

Katharina Leinius, a 20-year-old German-Finnish student, worked as a volunteer at the Centre for a year from September 2004 as part of a scheme organised by Action Reconciliation Service for Peace (ARSP), a German organisation founded in 1958 to confront the era of National Socialism in German history.

Lisa Silverman's research on German-Jewish women photographers has increasingly attracted international attention, and in April 2005 she was invited to present the results of her research on the photographer Lotte Jacobi (1896-1990) at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio and at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. In September 2005 she will take up an appointment as Visiting Assistant Professor of German and Religious Studies.

A further major publication is in the pipeline entitled *Must Patriotic Pride Inevitably Develop into Nationalistic Aggression?* based on the project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and edited by Jan Herman Brinks, Stella Rock and Edward Timms. This book, to be published by I B Tauris, explores a series of fundamental questions. Must patriotic pride inevitably develop into nationalistic aggression? And what is the relationship between mainstream politics and increasingly vocal far-right groups in Britain and the United States, Germany and Russia? The papers collected in this book address these questions from a variety of angles, tackling topics ranging from Holocaust Denial to the War on Terror, from the 'martyrdom' of Rudolf Hess to the 'sanctity' of Rasputin.

Andrea Hammel, 'The Destabilisation of Personal Histories: Rewriting and Translating Autobiographical Texts by German-Jewish Survivors' in *Journal of American Jewish Archives*, Vol.1, No. 3, 2004

Raphael Gross, *Die Kindertransporte*, 2nd edition, with a new afterword by the author (suhrkamp taschenbuch wissenschaft, 2005).

Uffa Jensen, *Educated Doppelgänger. Bourgeois Jews and Protestants in the 19th century*, published by Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, May 2005

Margarete Kohlenbach and Raymond Geuss (eds), *Arnold Daghani: The Artist and the Refugee* (Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2005)

Stephen Nicholls, *Arnold Daghani: The Artist and the Refugee*, with a postscript by Arno Surminski (Burgess Hill, December 2004)

Edward Timms, *Must Patriotic Pride Inevitably Develop into Nationalistic Aggression?* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2005)