

Annual Report 2009



MONASH University

Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation

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History and mission statement

The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation (ACJC) is located within the School of Historical Studies, Faculty of Arts, at Monash University, Australia's largest university.

The centre was established in 1992 with the appointment of a lecturer in modern Jewish history. Associate Professor Mark Baker took up the position of full-time director in 2008. The centre now has six full-time academic staff members and two half-time members, including three research professors.

The research professors cover the following fields:

- Pratt Foundation Chair in Jewish Civilisation, held by Professor Andrew Markus;
- Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, held by Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger; and
- Loti Smorgon Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, held by Professor Leah Garrett.

The Centre offers units in Jewish history, politics, Bible, law, and Yiddish language and literature. In 2008 the Centre established a Graduate School of Jewish Studies, offering six course and research programs in the following areas: Judaic Studies, Modern Israel Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Interreligious Studies, Jewish Communal Service and Leadership and a program to train Jewish educators.

Development of learning resources has seen the establishment in the university's main library of the Laura and Israel Kipen Judaica Collection and the Australian Archive of Jewish Music within the Faculty of Arts. External funding has also facilitated online access to the 52,000 oral testimonies in the Shoah Foundation Archives held at the University of Southern California. Monash University is the first Australian university to gain this access.

The Centre's mission is to:

- offer a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate subjects, encompassing the gamut of Jewish civilisation including history, thought, languages, classical texts and modern Israel studies;
- undertake research that encourages intramural, national and international collaboration in Jewish studies;
- develop masters and doctoral programs of international standing;
- train Jewish studies teachers and provide opportunities for graduate study in Jewish education; and
- facilitate the involvement of the community in Jewish learning by hosting forums, seminars and debates and by the provision of educational resources.

Director's Message

2009 has been a year of growth for the ACJC as it continues to lead the field of tertiary Jewish studies in Australia. Our Centre is proud to offer a diverse program of teaching, research and ideas that has a deep impact on the intellectual life of Australia. At the end of the academic year, I attended a meeting in America of directors of Jewish studies programs throughout the world. The ACJC is now on the global map of Jewish studies, valued for its expanding staff, scholarly work, and record of international collaborations.

My vision for the Centre is to achieve the highest accolades for our teaching and research programs. In 2009, our teaching programs touched almost a thousand students from all backgrounds, who have learned about Jewish civilisation through its history, texts, politics, traumas and ethics. Monash students are experiencing Jewish studies from an international perspective by participating in exchange programs in Israel and America. Our programs are also committed to building bridges with other cultures and communities by engaging in research areas of common interest in our region of Malaysia, Indonesia and India. In the future, I hope to position our Centre to be more active in building these bridges of understanding between Jewish culture and our neighbours.

We are fortunate to be part of a university whose official values are in alignment with the Jewish ethos of Tikkun Olam – social justice. Our diverse postgraduate programs enact this principle by focusing on the intersection of Judaism and interreligious dialogue and promoting understanding of the complexity of Israeli society and the Middle East, as well as a program in Holocaust and genocide studies. A personal highlight was a trip I led to South Africa and Rwanda to learn about post-conflict reconciliation since the Holocaust.

In 2009, we hosted numerous visitors from Israel as part of the Leon Liberman Lecture Series. We also launched the Roslyn Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Service and Leadership and are committed to training a new generation of teachers for Jewish schools. The Gen08 survey of the Australian Jewish community led by Professor Andrew Markus is the most significant of its kind and is continuing to generate reports of value to the Jewish community.

We are proud that our Centre is stimulating high-level intellectual discussion at Monash and in the broader community about issues of concern to contemporary Jewish life.

On behalf of Monash, I want to thank our donors who continue to nourish the Centre's 'Tree of Knowledge'. Your generosity – which is acknowledged in this report – is bearing fruits that are increasing knowledge and understanding of Jewish civilisation in Melbourne, Australia and the world.

Mark Baker
ACJC Director



“My vision for the Centre is to achieve the highest accolades for our teaching and research programs.”

Vice-Chancellor's Message

One of the rewards of my new role as Vice-Chancellor of Monash University is working together with academic units that are innovative and have a passion for their work.

The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation is one of the jewels in the crown of our university. It offers a diverse program of teaching and its record of research achievements for 2009 is impressive.

The University leadership has identified several core areas of research and education where we can make a positive difference to society. These include social cohesion and cultural heritage.

The ACJC is spearheading initiatives that showcase the contribution of Jewish civilisation throughout history. In 2010 I will be leading a mission to Israel to learn more about the success there of

knowledge-intensive innovation, where Israel's achievements are widely recognised. I look forward to bringing these experiences back to Monash University.

It is fitting that a university which bears the name of one of Australia's finest citizens, Sir John Monash, should have a leading centre that carries the legacy of Jewish culture through education and research.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have supported the Centre. Our partnership with the community is an essential ingredient for the wellbeing and vitality of our institution, and a prerequisite for delivering on our core missions of innovative education and research.



Professor Ed Byrne
Vice-Chancellor and President, Monash University

Advisory Board Chair's Message

Over the past three decades or so, the spread of Jewish Studies at hundreds of universities around the world, and therefore the exponential growth of researchers and teachers in the field, has been a remarkable academic and intellectual phenomenon worthy of study in its own right. Indeed, if the PhDs on the subject haven't been written yet, they soon will be.

The Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation is a relative newcomer to the world-wide trend. Although some courses in Jewish Studies were available at Monash University through the 1990s, it's only in the past decade, and especially in the past five years, that the Centre, supported by generous donors and the Monash academic leadership, has begun to make its mark within the university, Melbourne's Jewish community and, increasingly, in the burgeoning international network of Jewish Studies.

As viewed from the Advisory Board, 2009 has been an especially rewarding year to

be associated with the Centre's development. Some of the early challenges in focusing the Centre's direction and strategic planning have now been overcome. Inevitably, quite a few management and funding issues remain. But the Centre's academic achievements, at undergraduate and graduate level, and in continuing education, as well as its ability to attract outstanding visiting scholars from established centres of learning in Israel and North America all augur well.

In bringing together representatives from the university's Chancellery, management, the Faculty of Arts and the School of Historical Studies, with representatives from the philanthropic sector and the Jewish community, the Board aims to provide the Centre, and its Director, Associate Professor Mark Baker, not only with "advice", but active support.

We look forward to continuing our involvement in 2010.



Sam Lipski AM, LLD (Hon)
Chair, Advisory Board

Research

The ACJC is building an international research profile through academic articles in high-impact journals and titles published by prestige university presses. Student research training through postgraduate programs is rapidly growing across a diverse range of subjects.

Our broad scholarly interests convey Jewish civilisation's contribution to our world by exploring fields that include: contemporary Jewish life, classical Jewish thought, Israel and the Middle East, and the Holocaust and its legacies. Our staff and research students are expanding knowledge by researching in such diverse areas as the sociology of Jewish identity, comparative diaspora communities, Kabbalah and Jewish philosophy, Yiddish literature, Jewish–Muslim relations, the Arab–Israel conflict, the aftermath of the Holocaust, and modern Jewish politics.

Research seminars

ACJC lecturer Dr Michael Fagenblat organised the ACJC research seminars throughout 2009. This was the first time an Australian university has held research seminars in Jewish studies on an ongoing basis. The seminars featured ACJC faculty and international guests.

The following research seminars were held at the Centre in 2009:

- 11 March: Fania Oz-Salzberger, Leon Liberman Research Chair in Modern Israel Studies, 'Social justice and the right of the people: the 17th century reads the Hebrew Bible.'
- 25 March: Leah Garrett, Loti Smorgon Research Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, 'Rewriting the canon: Jewish American literature.'
- 17 April: Dalia Ofer, Max and Rita Haber Professor of Contemporary Jewry and Holocaust Studies at the Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry and the Melton School for Jewish Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 'The contribution of gender analysis to Holocaust research.'
- 29 April: Melanie Landau, Lecturer in the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation, 'Rabbinic presumptions about men's sexual intentions.'
- 13 May: Omer Bartov, John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of German Studies, Brown University, 'Testimonies as historical documents: a view from below of the Holocaust.'
- 27 May: Gideon Reuveni, Lecturer in Jewish History, University of Melbourne, 'Jews and consumerism.'
- 21 July: David Slucki, 'Hereness, thereness and everywhere: the Jewish Labor Bund and the question of Israel.'
- 18 August: Yedidia Stern, Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished Visiting Professor, Monash University; Professor of Law, Bar Ilan University; and Vice President for Research on the Jewish State at the Israel Democracy Institute, 'Legal pluralism in Israel.'
- 1 September: Andrew Markus, Pratt Foundation Chair in Jewish

Civilisation, 'The Australian Jewish Community Survey 2008–09, methodological considerations and key findings.'

- 15 September: Danielle Celermajer, Director of the Asia Pacific Master of Human Rights and Democratisation, University of Sydney, 'Sins of the nation and the ritual of apology: the transmission of ritual from Judaism to contemporary politics.'
- 6 October: Andrew Benjamin, Professor of Critical Theory and Philosophical Aesthetics, Monash University, 'Happiness, justice and law: notes on Walter Benjamin's *Theologico-Political Fragment*.'
- 13 October: Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Associate Professor and Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Fellow in linguistics at the University of Queensland, 'Lessons from the Hebrew revival in the Promised Land to the resuscitation attempts of no-longer-spoken Aboriginal Languages in the Lucky Country.'
- 20 October: Melanie Landau, Lecturer in Jewish studies at ACJC, 'When the "other" is your "lover": interrogating rabbinic Jewish marriage.'

Higher degrees by research

(underway and completed in 2009)

PhD

Peter Paul Andrew Bajer, Scottish immigration to the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, 16th to the 18th centuries. Associate supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Annabelle Baldwin, An examination of sexual abuse during the Holocaust as recounted in the Visual History Archive. Supervisor: Professor Leah Garrett.

Miriam Benedikt, 'Anti-Christian polemic in Midrash Psalms'. Examines covert Jewish critique of Christian interpretations of Psalms. Supervisor: Dr Michael Fagenblat.

Continued overleaf

Research

Continued from page 5

Dr Francis Kay Dreyfus, Jewish refugee musicians in Australia and the musicians union: the 'Weintraub Syncopators' 1937–45. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Anita Jane Frayman, Cultural approaches towards ageing: trends in the Jewish community. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Melanie Landau, The idea of acquisition in traditional Jewish marriage. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Jonathan Landes, The Western Wall (Palestine) riots of 1929. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

John Manning, Australian Antarctic policy 1920–90. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Chloe Okoli, The changing category of 'Prohibited Immigrant': Australia 1901–30. Associate supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Catherine Pearce, The politics of *kashrut* in postwar Melbourne. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Ran Porat, 'Yordim Down Under: The Israeli diaspora in Australia'. Explores Israeli settlement in Australia. Supervisors: Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger and Professor Andrew Markus.

Jeannie Elizabeth Rea, Relations between indigenous Australians and the labour movement. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Keren Rubinstein, creative writing thesis: An autobiographical account of Keren's transition from Israel to Australia as a teenager and the imagined and physical returns to Israel. The exegesis is a study of Israeli autobiography since the 1990s and the ways in which its writers challenge the Zionist meta-narrative and Israeli founding myths. Supervisors: Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger and Professor Leah Garrett.

David Simon Slucki, The history of the Jewish Labor Bund post-1945. Supervisors: Professor Andrew Markus and Professor Leah Garrett.

Rachel Ann Stevens, Aspects of immigration policy in Australia and the United States, 1972–90: a comparative

study. Joint supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Elizabeth Steward, German–Jewish identity in pre-war Germany (thesis in the discipline of sociology). Caretaker supervisor (was responsible for last two years of candidature, previously associate): Professor Andrew Markus.

Margaret Sarah Taft, Witness and survivor attempts to conceptualise the Holocaust 1941–49. Joint co-supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

MA

Caryn Bella Granek, The impact of feminism on Melbourne Jewish religious life in 1970–90. Supervisor: Professor Andrew Markus.

Freda Hodge, Aspects of Jewish identity in the Displaced Persons camps, 1945–49. Supervisors: Professor Andrew Markus and Professor Leah Garrett.

Janine Luttick, 'Anti-Judaism in progressive New Testament exegesis'. Examines anti-Jewish implications of contemporary Christian interpretations of the New Testament that emphasise the socially progressive character of Jesus's teachings. Supervisor: Dr Michael Fagenblat.

Sibella Stern, A comparative analysis of support and protection measures offered by local authorities in Australia and Israel for victims of human trafficking. Supervisor: Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger.

Research grants

Professor Andrew Markus received an ARC Discovery Grant for a three-generational study of Yiddish Melbourne. The preliminary publication has been completed and distributed, with more than 40 interviews completed. A community survey is currently underway to identify and analyse generations. Dr Miriam Munz is collaborating with Professor Markus on this project.

Professor Markus received an ARC Linkage Grant for his study of Australia's Jewish population. More than 5800 surveys were completed in Australia, 400 in New Zealand – exceeding targets. The census analysis has been completed and reports published, with analysis underway. Tanya Aronov is working on

this project with Professor Andrew Markus.

Dr Michael Fagenblat led a team of Monash scholars in a successful internal grant application called 'Internationalising Interreligious Studies'. The grant enabled Monash scholars to visit the Monash Malaysia campus and plan for collaborative research and teaching, and played an important role in developing the interreligious studies network in the Monash arts faculty.

Survey launches and briefings

The preliminary findings of the Gen08 survey were launched by Bill Shorten MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, at the home of John and Pauline Gandel on 26 August 2009. A series of stakeholder briefings in Melbourne and Sydney occurred prior to and following the launch.

The preliminary findings of Mapping Social Cohesion 2009 were launched by Andrew Demetriou at the Melbourne Town Hall on 1 December 2009. A series of confidential stakeholder briefings were held prior to the launch in Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne with Laurie Ferguson MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs and Settlement Services, senior public servants and NGOs. Survey findings were sent to all members of federal parliament, state premiers and heads of multicultural units.

Other externally funded research

Professor Andrew Markus received a \$258,000 grant from the Scanlon Foundation for Social Cohesion in Australia, the second national survey (first was in 2007) which was undertaken in June–July 2009. Headline findings were released in November 2009 with the full study released in 2010. Professor Markus is also leading a trial of an online system to monitor shifts in attitudes.

Staff research projects

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger is currently working on two books: *Jewish History: A Personal Take* (provisional title) co-authored with Amoz Oz to be published by Yale University Press, and *Political Hebraism in the Seventeenth Century* (provisional title).

In March 2009, Professor Andrew Markus travelled to Ottawa and Montreal to meet with researchers in government departments in Canada. He undertook research in the Canadian National Library, at McGill University, and at the Jewish Public Library.

Professor Markus is currently co-editing a book with Professor Moshe Semyonov (Universities of Tel Aviv and Chicago) on comparing immigration in Israel and Australia. The meeting of authors took place in Prato in May and the book will be published by Edward Elgar (UK) in 2010. It is funded by the Pratt Foundation and the Monash Institute for the Study of Global Movements.

Professor Markus is creating teaching resources for interpreting the history of Israel and the Middle East, utilised in the subject the Modern Middle East. A website is being developed, funded by Lee Liberman.

In 2009, Dr Nathan Wolski completed an extended phase of research on the *Zohar*, culminating in his book, *A Journey into the Zohar: An Introduction to the Book of Radiance* being accepted for publication by SUNY press. It will be released in April 2010. Nathan's translation of Melila Hellner-Eshed's *A River Flows from Eden: On the Language of Mystical Experience in the Zohar* was released in July 2009 by Stanford University Press. Nathan is currently working on the Yiddish mystical poetry of Aaron Zeitlin.

Postdoctoral fellow in Modern Israel Studies, Dr Ari Ofengenden, is currently writing a book, *Secularisation and Political Theology between the Jewish Enlightenment and Romantic Nationalism 1783–1930*. Dr Ofengenden is also writing articles on 'The literary construction of Jewish national liberalism' and 'The culture wars in Israel and the religious secular boundary'.

Keren Rubinstein is a PhD candidate writing an autobiographical novel examining Israeli identity and migration history. She is concurrently researching place and displacement in Israeli literature.

Publications



Professor Andrew Markus (co-written with James Jupp and Peter McDonald), *Australia's Immigration Revolution*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 2009.

Professor Leah Garrett's book, *A Knight at the Opera: Heine, Wagner, Herzl, Peretz and the Legend that Transformed Jewish Culture*, will be published by Stanford University Press.

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger

- 'Intercivilizational conflict: some guidelines and some fault lines' in the *Israel Journal of Conflict Resolution*, vol. 1, no. 1, Spring 2009.
- 'Een poging wagen [I must try]' in *Nexus* 51, special issue, 'My Arcadia'.
- 'Clash of civilisations: yet another introduction' in the *Israel Journal of Conflict Management*, vol. 1.
- 'The historical significance of the Hebrew University: a national project or a chapter in the history of science?' in *Alpayim*.
- 'The Scottish enlightenment' in *International Encyclopaedia of Political Science*.
- 'A.B. Yehoshua, history and historians' in Nitza Ben-Dov (ed.), *Essays on A.B. Yehoshua*.

Dr Nathan Wolski

- Translation from Hebrew into English of Melila Hellner-Eshed's *A River Flows from Eden: The Language of Mystical Experience in the Zohar*, Stanford University Press.
- *A Journey into the Zohar: An Introduction to the Book of Radiance*, (forthcoming by SUNY Press in 2010).
- 'The secret of Yiddish: Zoharic composition in the poetry of Aaron Zeitlin' in *Kabbalah: Journal for the Study of Mystical Texts*, vol. 20, 2009.
- 'Don Quixote and Sancho Panza were walking on the way: El Caballero Andante and the Book of Radiance (Sefer HaZohar)', *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol. 27, no. 2, Winter 2009.

Dr Michael Fagenblat, *A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas's Philosophy of Judaism* (forthcoming by Stanford University Press).

Dr Ari Ofengenden's article, 'Man-woman, prophet-priest: charisma and chauvinism in Hebrew modernism' will be published by Ramses Publications in January 2010.

Dr Deborah Staines

- With M. Arrow and K. Biber, editors, *The Chamberlain Case: Nation, Law, Memory*, Australian Scholarly Publishing, North Melbourne, 2009.
- 'Textual traumata: letters to Lindy Chamberlain from the Australian public', reprinted in G. Whitlock and K. Douglas eds., *Trauma Texts*, Routledge, London, 2009.
- 'Review of Judith Butler, *Frames of War: When is Life Grievable?*' for *new formations: a journal of culture/theory/politics* (in preparation).

Melanie Landau

- 'Good sex: a feminist perspective' in Danya Ruttenberg (ed.), *The Passionate Torah: Sex and Judaism*, NYU Press, 2009.
- 'Recovering woman as religious subject: reflections on Jewish women and hair-covering', *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*, vol xxii, 2008.
- Edited chapter on Judaism in *Tread Lightly on the Earth: Religion, the Environment and the human future* by C.G Weeramantry, Stamford Lake, 2009.

David Slucki, 'From a party in one country to a global organization: re-imagining the Bund after the Holocaust', *Jewish Social Studies*, vol. 16, no. 3, Fall 2009.

Ran Porat

- 'Let my people vote', *Rhapsody*, no. 7, 2009.
- With Eitan Drori, 'Israeli citizen abroad, the ballot box is not for you!' (Hebrew), nrg.co.il, 8 February 2009.

Paul Forgasz co-authored (with Dr Miriam Munz) a chapter on Jewish education in Australia for a forthcoming *International Handbook on Jewish Education* published by Springer.

Teaching

Our Centre teaches the breadth and depth of Jewish civilisation across the disciplines – history, literature, politics, law, anthropology, sociology, film, and languages. Our students come from all sectors – undergraduates and postgraduates, Monash and external life-learners, Australian and international students. We offer courses, public programs and conferences to almost one thousand students each year whose worldview is influenced by their encounter with Jewish studies. We value innovative teaching, consistently borne out by high assessment indicators on student surveys. We cover coursework and research degrees for all levels, in areas of specialisation from the Bible to Hollywood, from Sinai to Auschwitz, from ancient Jerusalem to modern Israel. We are also committed to training a new generation of Jewish studies teachers, and to nurturing Jewish literacy and the skills for future community leaders.



Undergraduate teaching

The following undergraduate units are offered in 2010:

Conflict and Coexistence: Jews, Christians, Muslims
The Bible as History
Histories of God
The History of the Arab–Israel conflict
Modern Israel: History, Politics and Society
The Holocaust in an Age of Genocide
Jesus and the Jews
Mystics, Authority and Society
After the Death of God: Continental Philosophy of Religion from Nietzsche to Today
Post-conflict: Justice, Memory, Reconciliation
Final Journey
Israelis and Palestinians Between War and Peace
Yiddish Language, Culture and Literature
Jewish Philosophy and Kabbalah
Modern Jewish Literature: Writing Across the Languages

Study Abroad units

ACJC offers three intensive Study Abroad units.

- *Final Journey*: Beginning in Berlin, this 16-day intensive Study Abroad unit explores the pre-war life of European Jewry.
- *Israelis and Palestinians Between War and Peace*: Based in Israel, this two-week intensive Study Abroad unit examines the complexities of Israeli and Palestinian society.
- *After Atrocity*: This unit studies the contemporary histories of post-genocide and post-conflict societies, through three specific cases: European Jews after the Holocaust; the South African approach after apartheid; and local and global responses to the Rwandan genocide.

Postgraduate teaching

The ACJC offers a range of coursework and higher degrees by research in the following areas:

- Judaic Studies
- Israel Studies
- Holocaust and Genocide
- Interreligious Studies
- Jewish Communal Service and Leadership
- Jewish Educators Program

Teaching awards

Students of Nathan Wolski's undergraduate unit Histories of God (HSY1200) rated the course as 'outstanding' in 2009 student evaluations. Only 5.7% of units evaluated university-wide scored so highly, so Dr Wolski's result is a testament to the considerable effort and dedication put into preparation and delivery of this subject.

Thesis supervision

Elissa Lipshutz, Masters by coursework, Holocaust and Genocide Studies: 'Darfuri asylum-seekers in Egypt and Israel'. Supervised by Dr Deborah Staines.

Naomi Frauenfelder, Masters by coursework, Holocaust and Genocide Studies: 'Independent cinema in Rwanda'. Supervised by Dr Deborah Staines.

Larissa Larissa, Honours thesis, ACJC, School of Historical Studies: A consideration of the Jewish influences on comic books in America. Supervised by Professor Leah Garrett.

Lucy Bradlow, Honours thesis, ACJC, School of Historical Studies: 'Rape trials at the ICTR'. Supervised by Dr Deborah Staines.

Sara Pearce, Honours thesis, ACJC, School of Historical Studies: 'Images of Rwanda'. Supervised by Dr Deborah Staines.

Marlena Regens, Honours thesis, ACJC, School of Historical Studies: Western press coverage of Palestine, 1936–39. Supervised by Professor Andrew Markus.

Student activities and achievements

ACJC is focused on training students to be the critical researchers and thinkers of the future. In 2009, scholarship recipients completed internships in Israel, Rwanda and Bosnia. Our Centre is committed to expanding opportunities for students to conduct research and engage with their work in practical ways. We congratulate the recipients of prizes and scholarships for 2009 and thank those donors for valuing educational excellence.

Scholarships 2009

Peter and Barbara Kolliner Jewish Studies Abroad Scholarship

- Sue Hampel

Pinskier Memorial Holocaust and Genocide Studies Scholarship

- Alissa Littmann

Zyga and Diana Elton Coursework Scholarship

- Alissa Littmann

Prizes 2009

The Bernard and Helen Shulkes Prize (for a postgraduate masters thesis in Jewish civilisation)

- Elissa Lipshutz

Bernard Rechter Jewish Civilisation Honours Prize (for the best Jewish studies honours thesis)

- Larissa Larissa

Peter and Barbara Kolliner Undergraduate Prize in Jewish Civilisation (for the top Jewish studies student completing a major or minor sequence in Jewish civilisation)

- Emily Fero

Holocaust Studies Prize (for the top student in the unit Holocaust in an Age of Genocide)

- Chantalle Josephine

Stewart Baron Prize in Middle Eastern and Israel Studies (for the top student in the units History of the Arab-Israel Conflict, the Modern Middle East or Modern Israel: History, Politics and Society)

- Shared by Levona Lavi, Kasra Taghian and David Schaefer



Inside Kigali Memorial Centre, Rwanda.

Staff activities and achievements

The ACJC adheres to Monash University's commitment to harnessing knowledge to improve the world. In Jewish terms, the notion of Tikkun Olam – healing the world – inspires our teaching and research program.

In a globalised world, knowledge knows no boundaries. Our Centre builds on the Monash network of campuses in Italy, Malaysia, South Africa and India to develop teaching and research collaborations across the globe. Our focus is on building bridges between Jews and other people, and in sharing Jewish ideas with other religions and cultures. Our Centre aims to contribute to the reconciliation of civilisations through its work in interreligious dialogue, genocide prevention, peace and conflict studies, and student internships in the developing world.

Our global programs incorporate overseas study tours in places such as Rwanda, South Africa, Poland and Israel. We are engaged in the academic life of Israel, and with colleagues in the United States and England, through research and visiting fellowships at our Centre. We aim to position our research deep within the Jewish world, and at the intersection of Jewish civilisation and other cultures.

Conferences

Associate Professor and Centre Director Mark Baker delivered a paper at the *Australian Association of Jewish Studies* annual conference in Sydney on Agunot in the 19th century (February).

In August, Baker presented a paper at the *AUS Davos* conference on the Middle East conflict and on genocide.

In December, Baker attended the annual meeting of directors of Jewish studies centres at the Association for Jewish Studies conference in Los Angeles.

Pratt Foundation Chair in Jewish Civilisation, Professor Andrew Markus, co-convoked *Nations of Immigrants: Israel and Australia*, a conference at Monash University Prato Centre, Italy (25–27 May). Professor Markus presented two papers: the introduction to the conference with Moshe Semyonov and 'Attitudes and public opinion' with Professor Rebecca Rajieman.

Markus attended *Pathways, Circuits and Crossroads: International Migration in Uncertain Times* (2–4 November), a conference in Wellington, New Zealand, where he presented his paper, 'Australia's immigration revolution and public opinion'.

Markus presented his paper, 'Social cohesion: exploring the religious dimension' at the *Parliament of the World's Religions* conference in Melbourne (9 December).

Markus attended the *Association for Jewish Studies* conference in Los Angeles (December) where he and Dr Nicky Jacobs presented their paper, 'Jewish values in the first decade of the 21st century: comparing Australian and American survey findings'.

Loti Smorgon Chair of Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture, Professor Leah Garrett, delivered a public lecture at the *Australian Association of Jewish Studies* annual conference in Sydney on 'Wagner and Heine: an uncomfortable legacy' (February).

Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, co-convoked the following conferences in 2009: *Rabbinate and Sovereignty*, the Israel Democracy Institute (12 February), where she also gave the opening address; Israel, Germany and Iran, the University of Haifa (28–30 March); *Political Biblicism in the Early Modern Period*, University of Haifa (2 April). Oz-Salzberger presented a paper, 'In the footsteps of Herotodus' at the European University Institute in Florence (July).

Jewish Studies lecturer **Dr Nathan Wolski** and **Dr Merav Carmeli** convoked a conference on the *Zohar* in Prato, Italy (13–15 July). The symposium, a world first, brought together leading *Zohar* scholars from across the globe. Conference papers will appear as a special volume of the prestigious journal, *Kabbalah: Journal for the Study of Mystical Texts*.



ACJC lecturer, Nathan Wolski, at the head of the table with fellow *Zohar* scholars at the groundbreaking *Zohar* symposium at Prato in July.

Dr Deborah Staines convened a Monash Research in Sexual Violence Workshop (April). Staines has had the following conference papers accepted in 2009: 'Biopolitics of genocide prevention: a critique of evolving policy' at *Biopolitics of Security* workshop (19–20 January 2010), Keele University, UK; 'Speaking of conflict rape', *Making Sense of Pain* conference (17–19 February 2010), Sydney; 'National identity in the letters to Lindy Chamberlain', *International Auto/Biography Association* conference (29 June–2 July 2010), University of Sussex, UK.

Postdoctoral fellow in Modern Israel Studies, Dr Ari Ofengenden, presented his paper, 'Secularisation in modern Hebrew language literature: Abraham Shlonsky's example' at the *International Conference on Hebrew in Language, Literature and Culture* conference in July.

Ofengenden also presented his paper, 'Man-woman, prophet-priest: sex and charisma in Zionist culture' at the *15th World Congress of Jewish Studies* at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in August.

In November, ACJC lecturers **Melanie Landau** and **Dr Michael Fagenblat** attended the Australia–India Research Dialogue in Mumbai, co-hosted by Monash University and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences and led by Professor Marika Vicziany, Director of the Monash Asia Institute. They attended as members of the Interreligious Studies cluster, and met Indian scholars in order to facilitate research collaboration on questions such as the relationship between religious traditions and contemporary political institutions; the capacities for religion to respond to contemporary moral, political and environmental challenges; and the contribution of multifaith networks to peace-building. The overall aim of the Dialogue was to promote Australia's academic and research links with India.

In December, **Melanie Landau** organised and presented at the 'Overturning Kiddushin' panel at the *Association of Jewish Studies* conference in Los Angeles, December 2009.

Also in December, Landau made three presentations at the *Parliament of the World's Religions*: she initiated a panel entitled 'Owning the shadow in our own traditions'; she was part of the Spiritual Directors' international panel called



Dr Michael Fagenblat of the ACJC led a team of scholars to Monash's campus in Malaysia. The workshop was part of a project called 'Internationalizing Interreligious Studies' which is aimed at establishing teaching and research collaboration in the field of interreligious studies. The ACJC's Melanie Landau also attended the workshop.

'Listening with a grateful heart'; and participated on the panel for Women in Religions for Peace, Asia-Pacific.

Dr Michael Fagenblat presented a paper on 'Ethical creatureliness' at the *Limits of the Human: Philosophical, Historical and Ecological Perspectives* conference at ANU in September 2009. He also presented a paper, 'The ethics of creation' at the *Philosophy and the Bible* conference hosted by the Shalem Centre, Jerusalem, in October.

Jewish Studies lecturer **Paul Forgasz** presented the keynote address at the *Dialogue Australia Network* conference (April) for religious educators in schools across Australasia with a paper entitled, 'Teaching about Jesus the Jew.' In August, Forgasz presented the keynote address at the *Living Justly* conference organised by the Catholic Education Office of Victoria with a paper entitled, 'Living justly: perspectives from the Bible.'

Hebrew Language and Culture lecturer **Keren Rubinstein** presented a paper entitled 'Concrete dreaming' at the *Talk About Town: Urban Lives and Oral Sources in the 20th Century* conference organised by the School of Historical Studies and held at the State Library of Victoria.

Ran Porat, recipient of the Leon Liberman Chair Scholarship, attended a conference at Monash Prato (25–27 May) for authors of the upcoming book *Nations of Immigrants, Australia and Israel*. Ran attended *Limmud Oz* (30 May) to present his paper, 'Yordim Down Under: an Israeli community in Australia: review.'

Other activities

Centre Director and Associate Professor Mark Baker

- Numerous speaking engagements
- Led a student study tour to South Africa and Rwanda (July)

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger

- Moderator and speaker at the International Book Fair in Jerusalem (February)
- Moderator and speaker on panel discussion, 'New Jewish time' at Beit Daniel, Tel Aviv (February)
- Participated in Hebrew University of Jerusalem, festive colloquium, 'The Hebrew University: a national project of a chapter in the history of science?' (March)

Professor Leah Garrett

- Delivered a lecture at the Jewish Holocaust Museum on 20th century Jewish American literature
- Ran a series of seminars for postgraduate students in Jewish studies to share their work and discuss research projects
- Ran a broader focused series of seminars for postgraduate students from across the faculties on how to get their research published in international journals

Continued overleaf

Staff activities and achievements

Continued from page 11

- Currently working with the Jewish Museum of Australia on an exhibition about Yiddish literature
- Scholar for the ARC to evaluate all the Jewish Studies journals and make suggestions about their rankings

Dr Michael Fagenblat

- Invited to speak on 'St Paul and the Jews' to students and staff of the United Faculty of Theology (October)
- Teaches Jewish philosophy to groups of students outside the university framework

Paul Forgasz

- Presented a three-part lecture series to guides at the Jewish Museum of Australia on various aspects of Jewish theology (February)
- Scholar in Residence for Wellington Jewish Community Centre, NZ (April)
- Conducted 'mock seder' for Resurrection Church in Keysborough (April)
- Tikkun Leil presentations at Caulfield Synagogue and Kehilat Nitzan (May)
- Guest speaker, B'nai Brith Menorah Community Service Awards (May)
- Presenter at *Limmud Oz*, Sydney (June)
- Presenter at Festival of Jewish Learning, Auckland, NZ (August)

- Seminar for Sisters of Zion on the Prophets (September)
- Presented two sessions for the 'Ayeka' program organised by Ittay Flescher – one on the books of Joshua and Judges and one on the Prophets (August/September)
- On the faculty of the Florence Melton adult Jewish education program
- On the exam-setting panel for VCE subjects Texts and Traditions and Religion and Society

Melanie Landau

- Presented a paper 'When the other is your lover: examining traditional Jewish marriage' at the Monash Malaysia Interreligious Studies seminar (June)
- Participated in a conversation with Father John Stewart, Holy Trinity Church, a pre- *Parliament of the World's Religions* event (July)
- Participated in the 'Educating for living justly in a multifaith setting': educators' seminar, organised by the Catholic Education Office (August)

Achievements

Students of Dr Nathan Wolski's undergraduate unit Histories of God (HSY1200) rated the course as 'outstanding' in 2009 student evaluations. Only 5.7% of units evaluated university-wide scored so highly, so Dr Wolski's result is a testament to the considerable

effort and dedication put into preparation and delivery of this subject.

Dr Michael Fagenblat's forthcoming book, *A Covenant of Creatures: Levinas's Philosophy of Judaism* (Stanford, 2010) will feature as the topic of a panel discussion at an international conference in Toulouse in July 2010 hosted by the North American Levinas Society and the Société Internationale de Recherche Emmanuel Levinas.

Media

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger's articles ' Hamas's zero-sum game' (January) and 'The morning after Israel's vote' (April) were distributed by Project Syndicate and published in newspapers all over the world, including *The Times of India*, *Die Welt*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Le Figaro*, amongst others.

Professor Andrew Markus's *Mapping Social Cohesion 2009* report received the following media coverage on 1 December 2009 following the launch: *Herald Sun*, *Age*, *Australian*, *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, SBS News.

Ran Porat interviewed Eitan Drori on SBS radio in October. Ran has also conducted several interviews on the *Jewish Show 3ZZZ*, Melbourne Ethnic Community Radio, and on 16 December aired a special broadcast, 'Israelis worldwide'.

Two extracts from **Keren Rubinstein's** creative writing thesis were translated into Hebrew and published in *E-Ton*, the Israeli newspaper of Australia, vol. 28, Sept–Oct 2009. On 30 September, Keren appeared on the *Jewish Show* on 3ZZZ, Melbourne Ethnic Community Radio.

Dr Michael Fagenblat spoke at the Australian Friends of Palestine dramatisation of the controversial play *Seven Jewish Children* at the State Library of Victoria.

Associate Professor Mark Baker wrote several columns for the *Australian Jewish News* including one on the future of the peace process (February) and another on the meaning of Passover (April).



Community Education Program



Nathan Wolski addresses the audience flanked by fellow panellists (from left) Jan Epstein, Mark Baker and Adrian Martin and chairperson Philippa Hawker at a discussion on Quentin Tarantino's film *Inglourious Basterds* answering the question, 'Can Hollywood rewrite history?.'

Innovative ideas

Our Centre's teaching and research generates transformative ideas. We are a think-tank for the future, committed to bringing the fruits of Jewish thought and experience into the public arena. Our commentary is informed by our research training and academic independence, and contributes to public opinion on topics such as Jews in Australia, antisemitism and racism, Israel and the Middle East, and popular culture.

Our ideas are debated and communicated through public lectures and workshops, media articles, research reports and academic publications.

Our Centre aims to be a hub of intellectual activity that cross-fertilises with other ideas in the public sphere and introduces fresh approaches to problems affecting Jews, Australia, the wider world and our environment.

In 2009, our dynamic community education program was enhanced by the contribution of local and international guests.

Participants at the 'Rethinking Australian Jewish Community' intensive session held early in the year included back row (left to right): Tamara Newman, Dara Podjarski, Benji Gersh, Debbie Dadon, Marcia Pinski; front row (left to right): Sara Meyerowitz, Amy Goldman, Melanie Landau, Laini Liberman, Naomi Gelbart, Susie Ivany.

Lectures, workshops and seminars

January

ACJC lecturer Melanie Landau facilitated an intensive unit, 'Rethinking Australian Jewish Community: Policy and Practice'.

March

Professor Steven Katz, prominent American philosopher, theologian and author, presented a lecture, 'Wrestling with God: Jewish theological responses to the Holocaust.'

April

Dalia Ofer, Max and Rita Haber Professor of Contemporary Jewry and Holocaust Studies at the Avram Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry and the Melton School for Jewish Education, Hebrew University, visited the ACJC and spoke on 'The contribution of gender analysis to Holocaust research.'



29 April: The future of Yiddish was discussed by Professor Leah Garrett, Dr Nathan Wolski, Dr Doodie Ringelblum and David Slucki. Examining the role of Yiddish in the formation of Jewish culture in the 21st century, they talked about Yiddish activism, politics, literature, poetry and music as prisms through which to explore contemporary Jewish identity. Husky and Evie Gawenda and Freydi Mrocki performed Yiddish songs.

May

13 May: Professor Omer Bartov, John P. Birkelund Distinguished Professor of European History and Professor of German Studies, Brown University, gave a public lecture on 'Interethnic relations in the Holocaust as seen through postwar testimonies: Buczacz, East Galicia, 1941-44.'

14 May: Professor Bartov presented the annual Wallenberg Oration, entitled, 'The Holocaust and genocide: remembering the 20th century.'

20 May: Rachel Elior, Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Jewish Mystical Thought, Hebrew University, presented her lecture, 'Who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls?'

20 May: Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, Professor Andrew Markus and Emmanuel Santos participated in a panel discussion on 'Visualising Israel.'

21 May: The former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel, Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, was guest of the ACJC at a lunch attended by Jewish and interfaith religious and community leaders and Monash academics. Rabbi Lau also presented a lecture, 'Dialogue and difference.'

July

2 July: Amy-Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, gave a public lecture on 'Paul the Jew: continuities and contradictions.'

14 July: Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Associate Professor and Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Fellow in linguistics at the University of Queensland, presented his lecture, 'Without any shame: Israeli, speak Israeli!'

Continued overleaf

Community Education Program

Continued from page 13

August

The lecture series, 'Israel Among the Nations', endowed by the Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, brought the following four international guests to the Centre:

27 July: Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, presented her lecture, 'Israel and Europe: past burdens, future assets.'

5 August: Professor David Menashri, Director of the Centre for Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University, lectured on the topic, 'The Islamic Revolution in Iran: a view from Israel.' Professor Menashri also conducted a seminar on Iranian society and the geopolitics of the region, which was presented in association with the Monash Asia Institute.

12 August: Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Professor of Middle East Studies at Tel Aviv University and Distinguished Global Professor at New York University, presented the annual Monash Israel Oration titled, 'Israel and the new Middle East: what next?'

19 August: Professor Yedidia Stern, Sir Louis Matheson Distinguished and Visiting Professor, Monash University, Professor at Bar-Ilan University Law School and member of the Israel Democracy Institute, presented a lecture, 'Israel and the nations: universal or unique?' Professor Stern also convened a seminar entitled, 'Legal pluralism in Israel.'

23 August: Dr Avivah Zornberg, world-renowned Bible scholar, presented a seminar, 'Letter from an unknown woman: Joseph's dream.'

24 August and 27 August: Dr Zornberg presented, 'Let me see that good land: the story of a human life' and 'From another shore: Moses and Korach.'

September

Two seminars were held as part of the Roslyn Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Service and Leadership:

- the first on fundraising and marketing was addressed by Louise Zygiel, Philanthropic Relations Director, Art and Design at Monash University, who discussed preparing to fundraise;
- the second on project management was presented by Dr Joze Kusic, Director of Master of Business, Information Technology Management at Monash.

24 September: A panel discussion on Quentin Tarantino's film *Inglourious Basterds* was hosted by the ACJC and featured panellists Adrian Martin, Jan Epstein, Mark Baker and Nathan Wolski. The participants responded to the question: 'Can Hollywood rewrite history?'

October

21 October: Stephen Smith, director of the Shoah Foundation Institute at the University of Southern California and co-

founder of the Aegis Trust, presented a public lecture, '~~Never Again.~~ Yet Again. From the Holocaust to Rwanda and Darfur.'

22 October: the ACJC hosted an evening with Michael Gawenda in conversation with James Button.

December

2 December: Rabbi Michael Melchior presented his lecture, 'Religion as a pathway to peace.' Rabbi Melchior's visit was sponsored by the Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies.

Other activities

The Roslyn Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Service and Leadership offers a comprehensive course and professional training for university students as well as for community professionals, lay leaders and philanthropists. The program is run by ACJC lecturer Melanie Landau.

Israeli Shorts is a community program that invites keen Hebrew speakers to meet weekly, read and discuss a short text and the issues that arise from it. The text is either a short story, a poem or a newspaper column, and the discussion is accompanied by a relevant film excerpt, television program or audio recording, which helps to illustrate the depth and complexity of Israeli culture, society and language. The group has six to fifteen members who are disinhibited and eager to express themselves, and so far have done so around the works of Orly Castel-Bloom, Ronny Somek, Ephraim Kishon, Etgar Keret, Sayed Kashua and others. The members are also invited to give their own presentation on a text or writer who inspires them.

Ayeka is a community program for those interested in creating an 'active, serious, engaged, secular Jewish community'. The first step was a 10-week biblical literacy program called 'A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Tanach' and featured seminars by Jewish scholars and ACJC lecturers Paul Forgasz, Dr Michael Fagenblat and Dr Nathan Wolski.



From left: Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger (Leon Liberman Chair), Professor David Menashri, Professor Eli Salzberger, Professor Yedidia Stern, Associate Professor Mark Baker (ACJC Director).

Resources

Shoah Visual History Archive

Monash University is the first Australasian university to provide access to the Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education. This was made possible through the generous support of Lee Liberman and the Pratt Foundation.

With a collection of nearly 52,000 video testimonies, in 32 languages and from 56 countries, of Holocaust survivors and other witnesses, this is the largest visual history archive in the world. The Institute interviewed Jewish survivors, homosexual survivors, Jehovah's Witness survivors, liberators and liberation witnesses, political prisoners, rescuers and aid providers, Roma and Sinti survivors (Gypsy), survivors of Eugenics policies, and war crimes trials participants.

The Institute relies on partnerships in the United States and around the world to provide public access to the archive and advance scholarship in many fields of inquiry. Since March 2007, more than 2000 interviews recorded in Australia are now cached on Monash University servers, and are immediately available for teaching and research. All other interviews are made available within 48 hours of a user's request.

The Australian Archive of Jewish Music

The Australian Archive of Jewish Music is located in the School of Music, in the Performing Arts Building of Monash University.

The Archive was jointly founded by Professor Margaret Kartomi, Head of the School of Music, and Professor Bernard Rechter, Founding Director of the Centre, following the visit of folklorist Professor Dov Noy to Monash University in 1994.

It is the only archive in the world concerned exclusively with collecting sound, visual and bibliographic materials on the musical cultures of the Jewish peoples of Australia and South, East and Southeast Asia.

The aims of the Archive are:

- to collect selected records, tapes, CDs, videotapes, films, field recordings, musical folk history recordings, oral histories, journals,

costumes, scores, ritual items, personal collections, and musical instruments, especially related to Australia and South, East and Southeast Asia;

- to present lectures, seminars, study group seminars and musical events featuring live performers for the community;
- to encourage and provide a focus for research and performance of Jewish music in Australia, especially folk and cantorial music and encompassing contemporary Australian Jewish music; and
- to strengthen links between all those interested in Jewish music in Australia and abroad.

In 2002 the Archive launched its first CD, based on its collection.

The Australian Archive of Jewish Music focuses on the following kind of music as found in Australia and Asia:

- Yiddish folk and Klezmer music
- Liturgical and paraliturgical music encompassing Ashkenazi, Baghdadi and Sephardi cantorial traditions
- secular music of Jewish Oriental communities
- Chassidic music
- Holocaust songs
- Jewish popular and art music and popular and art music performed by Jews

The Archive has accumulated around 1000 records, over 200 audio-cassettes and approximately 50 video-cassettes. The collection represents the rich and varied musical styles and traditions migrant Jews brought to Australian shores over the past 200 years, and thus provides valuable substance for academic scholarship. The collection is also a window to the Jewish music cultures that developed along trade routes to Asian cities such as Bombay, Rangoon, Singapore, Penang, Jakarta, Surabaya, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Books and articles relating to the Jewish music in these areas are currently being written by top-ranking academics for a world-wide readership.

Although there are Jewish music archives in other parts of the world, the Australian Archive of Jewish Music is unique because of its focus on Australia and Asia. Examples of unique materials include field recordings of liturgical music in traditional Babylonian-Baghdadi style from Singapore, music from the now defunct Shepparton Jewish community in Victoria, and music from the discontinued Australian Chassidic Song Festivals.

Laura and Israel Kipen Judaica Collection

The Laura and Israel Kipen Judaica collection houses materials relating to the history of Jewish civilisation and Judaism. The collection supports courses offered by the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation.

The collection is located in the Sir Louis Matheson Library, Monash Clayton. Items in the collection are available for loan.

Holocaust Autobiographies Published in Australia

Sponsored by the ACJC and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, the Holocaust Autobiographies Catalogue is a database of over 180 memoirs that have been written by survivors of the Holocaust and published in Australia.

The database contains detailed information about each book, including a summary and a list of camps, towns and cities mentioned. In addition to bibliographical details, the database also lists a book's location, where possible. The database has been created in parallel with a collection of memoirs located in the Rare Books Collection of the Sir Louis Matheson Library of Monash University.

Projects

Yisroel Shtern Project

The ACJC is a proud supporter of the Yisroel Shtern Project, co-ordinated and edited by Andrew Firestone. It is available online at www.yisroelshtern.org.

Shtern was regarded as one of Yiddish Warsaw's most significant poets before the Second World War. Thanks to the generosity of a number of gifted translators in Australia and America, much of his poetry and some of his most important prose have now become available in English. His very first publication, 'Shrayt in der Nakht', reappears in Yiddish for the first time since 1919, together with a translation by Miriam Koral. In addition, thanks to prize-winning translator Jon Levitow, Shtern's remarkable essay, 'Crowns to Adorn the Head of Yiddish Criticism', is also available. Levitow's own critical essay about 'Crowns' is also on the site, as is his translation of Shtern's most famous poem, 'Springtime in the Hospital'. The site also carries, in Yiddish, essays that have been long out of print, such as Shtern's assessment of Byron (1924).

Jewish Population Survey 2008–09

In April 2009, the preliminary findings for Melbourne and Sydney of the Gen08 Jewish population survey were released. The survey was conducted from September 2008 to April 2009 in Australia and New Zealand. Gen08 was the first national and cross-national survey undertaken in the two countries. A lengthy questionnaire of some 144 questions was completed by 6200 respondents.

The survey was a partnership between the ACJC, Jewish Care Victoria, the Jewish Communal Appeal in Sydney and B'nai B'rith in Auckland. The project was led by Professor Andrew Markus, with assistance from Tanya Aronov and Dr Nicky Jacobs, who analysed data and statistical information.

Mapping Social Cohesion 2009

Professor Andrew Markus received a \$258,000 grant from the Scanlon Foundation for Social Cohesion in Australia, the second national survey (first was in 2007) which was undertaken in June–July 2009. Headline findings were released in November 2009 with the full study released in 2010. Professor Markus is also leading a trial of an online system to monitor shifts in attitudes.

Yiddish Melbourne

Professor Andrew Markus received an ARC Discovery Grant for a three-generational study of Yiddish Melbourne. The preliminary publication has been completed and distributed, with more than 40 interviews completed. A community survey is currently underway to identify and analyse generations within the Yiddish community. Dr Miriam Munz is collaborating with Professor Markus on this project, while Margaret Taft is developing a biographical register of people who held key positions as well as a broad cross-section of the community.



Staff profiles

Academic staff



Mark Baker

Associate Professor Mark Baker is Director of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilisation and Associate Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies. He completed his PhD in Philosophy at Oxford University and was twice a Fellow at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Before moving to Monash University, he was a lecturer in Jewish history at the University of Melbourne and has taught widely in the field of Modern Jewish History, the Holocaust and Genocide, the Arab–Israel Conflict and Terrorism in Modern Conflict. He is the author of *The Fiftieth Gate* (HarperCollins, 1997), a personal book about memory of the Holocaust which was the recipient of numerous prizes and is taught on the NSW curriculum for HSC English studies. For more than a decade he edited *Generation*, a quarterly journal of Australian Jewish thought, and has been a regular columnist for the Jewish and wider media.



Michael Fagenblat

Dr Michael Fagenblat, who teaches rabbinic literature and Maimonides' philosophy, holds a PhD in Philosophy from Monash University (1998). His thesis examined and evaluated Emmanuel Levinas's ethical critique of Heidegger's philosophy. Michael then pursued postdoctoral studies at Hebrew University and the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. Upon graduating from the Jerusalem Fellows program of the Mandel Leadership Institute he co-founded Darsheini, an extra-mural community-oriented educational program. For four years in Jerusalem he studied classical Jewish thought and literature. His research and writing interests concentrate on modern Jewish and Western thought.



Paul Forgasz

Paul Forgasz is the coordinator and lecturer of the three 'foundation' courses in Jewish history offered by the ACJC, covering the ancient, medieval and modern periods. Paul also lectures in Jewish education and in school leadership in the university's Faculty of Education. Beyond Monash University, Paul has had an extensive career in Jewish education. He was headmaster of the secondary division of Mount Scopus Memorial College for more than a decade. He has also played a leading role in the development of the curriculum for VCE Texts and Traditions, as well as for Religion and Society. Paul is a member of the exam setting panel for both these subjects. He has contributed to two VCE Religion and Society textbooks and a number of educational journals. Paul is also actively involved in community adult Jewish education as faculty head of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School in Melbourne.



Leah Garrett

Professor Leah Garrett holds the ACJC Loti Smorgon Chair of Contemporary Jewish Life and Culture. Leah moved to Australia in April 2008 from Colorado where she was an Associate Professor of Jewish Literature at the University of Denver. She was born in New York and grew up in Niger, West Africa, and Massachusetts. Leah attended graduate school in literary studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary, completing her PhD in 1999. In the US she received two major research fellowships, a Fulbright Fellowship to Israel and an Academy of Learned Sciences Research Fellowship. Leah is working on a book about the influence of Wagner's opera *Tannhäuser* on three prominent Jewish thinkers, Heinrich Heine, Theodor Herzl and I.L. Peretz. Her two previous books are *The Cross and Other Jewish Stories* by Lamed Shapiro (Editor Yale University Press, 2007) and *Journeys beyond the Pale: Yiddish Travel Writing in the Modern World* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003).

Staff profiles



Melanie Landau

Melanie Landau, a lecturer in Jewish law and Jewish community, completed Arts (hons)/Law from University of Melbourne, an MA in Psychoanalytic Studies from Latrobe University and has submitted her PhD, 'The Sanctification of Subordination: A Feminist Critique of Traditional Jewish Marriage'. She has also completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, has a certificate in Massage Therapy and is an active member of a social change and peer counselling organisation and community. She lived in Jerusalem for four years where she studied and taught traditional Jewish texts and was a Jerusalem Fellow at the Mandel School for Social and Educational Leadership. She has also facilitated on Encounter trips, taking Jewish leaders to Palestinian Territories. For 10 years she has been a spiritual companion to people around life-cycle events, predominantly working with people around marriage and relationships. Along with Anna Halafoff she is building an exciting collaboration at Monash University in Studies in Interreligious Dialogue. This collaboration draws on centres in the university with additional international partners from Asia. Her research includes feminist analysis of Jewish law and practice, interreligious studies, and she is moving into the field of post-conflict personal and collective healing.



Andrew Markus

Professor Andrew Markus holds the Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilisation. He is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia and is a past head of Monash University's School of Historical Studies. He has published extensively in the field of Australian race relations. He is the sole author of four books and the editor or co-editor of more than ten others. His publications include; *Race: John Howard and the Remaking of Australia* (Allen and Unwin, 2001); *Building a New Community: Immigration and the Victorian Economy* (editor, Allen and Unwin, 2001) and *Australian Race Relations 1788–1993* (Allen and Unwin, 1994). Andrew is presently involved in two ARC-funded projects: an attitudinal study of the Jewish communities of Australia and New Zealand and a three-generational history of Yiddish Melbourne. He is also continuing his research on social cohesion in Australia, with the second Scanlon Foundation Survey released in November 2009.



Ari Ofengenden

Dr Ari Ofengenden is in his second year of a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the Leon Liberman Chair of Modern Israel Studies. Dr Ofengenden's PhD thesis (University of Haifa) was in Comparative Literature titled 'The Self and its Passion for Absence: The Aesthetic of Negativity in the Modernist Poetry of Abraham Shlonsky'. His analysis of this important Hebrew poet's work as well as the intellectual and cultural contexts of early Zionist poetics will appear as a book in 2010 (Magnes Press in Jerusalem). His more recent research lies in modernism and secularism in early Zionist culture and beyond.



Fania Oz-Salzberger

Professor Fania Oz-Salzberger, the Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies, is Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Haifa and Founding Director of the Posen Research Forum for Jewish European and Israeli Political Thought at the Faculty of Law. She holds a joint appointment at Haifa and Monash universities and is the Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor for Distinguished Teaching at the Princeton University Centre for Human Values.



Dan Rabinovici

Dan Rabinovici is a Senior Tutor in Holocaust and Genocide, Arab–Israel Studies.



Deborah Staines

Dr Deborah Staines is a cultural theorist teaching Holocaust and Genocide Studies. She was previously a researcher at Macquarie University and a Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University, England. Deborah is completing her project on rethinking the Sonderkommando manuscripts of Auschwitz and has begun inquiring into the biopolitics of medicine and the historical relationships between medical practice, profit and atrocity.



Nathan Wolski

Dr Nathan Wolski, who teaches Jewish studies, gained his PhD in Aboriginal Archaeology from the University of Melbourne in 2000. He then pursued studies at the Shalom Hartman Institute and the Mandel School for Educational Leadership in Jerusalem. Upon graduating from the Jerusalem Fellows program, Nathan was appointed head of education at Harvard Hillel in Cambridge. When he returned to Australia in 2003 he co-founded Darsheini, an extra-mural community-oriented educational program. Nathan's key research area is the *Zohar*, the classical work of the Spanish Kabbalah. His book *Journey into the Zohar: An Introduction to the Book of Radiance* (SUNY Press) is due for release in May 2010.

Management staff



Centre Manager
Nadine Davidoff



Development Manager
Karen Klein



Manager Leon Liberman Chair,
Modern Israel Studies
Tammy Reznik



Centre Administrator
Gillian Brameld

Donor activities and endowments

Over the past five years, the generosity of donors to our Centre has transformed the face of tertiary Jewish studies in Australia. We acknowledge the following endowments which have secured the foundations of the ACJC's 'Tree of Knowledge' and continue to nourish its branches through the establishment in perpetuity of several professorial chairs and lectureships.

Governors

- Bori and Helen Liberman (Bori and Helen Liberman Family Lectureships in Jewish Studies)
- Lee Liberman and family (Leon Liberman Chair in Modern Israel Studies; Shoah Visual History Archive; Postdoctoral Fellowship in Israel Studies; Sir Louis Matheson Visiting Distinguished Professor)
- The Pratt Foundation (Pratt Foundation Chair in Jewish Civilisation; ACJC programs; Shoah Visual History Archive)
- Victor Smorgon Charitable Fund (Loti Smorgon Chair in Contemporary Jewish Life and Thought)

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- George Lewin (Endowment for Yiddish, Scholarships and Prizes)
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- Miriam Mahemoff (Endowment for Jewish Studies)
- Professor Andrew Markus and Simone Markus (Endowment for Jewish Studies)
- Philip and Sylvia Munz (Endowment for Jewish Studies)

- Justice Howard Nathan (Roslyn Smorgon Program in Jewish Communal Service & Leadership)
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*The Monash Foundation for Jewish Studies was restructured in 2009 into a variety of endowments governed by university regulations in accordance with donor agreements. The Advisory Board of the ACJC composed of university and external members is entrusted with overseeing these endowments.



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