



The 32nd Conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies

Imagining Jews: Jewish Imaginings

9–10 February 2020

Sydney Jewish Museum



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY



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Conference Convenors

Dr Avril Alba

Senior Lecturer in Holocaust Studies and Jewish Civilisation
Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies
School of Languages and Cultures, University of Sydney

Dr Jan Lániček

Senior Lecturer in Jewish and Modern European History
School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales

Imagining Jews: Jewish Imaginings

The publication of seminal texts such as Sander Gilman's *The Jew's Body* (1992) and more recent works including David Nirenberg's *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition* (2013) testify to the potency that ideas about Jews have had in the formation of broader philosophical and ideological world views. Ranging from philosemitic fantasies through to longstanding anti-Jewish caricatures, understanding how Jews have been 'imagined' across time and place can shed new light on both historic and contemporary views of Jews and Judaism. This conference seeks to focus on these imaginings and asks how they have shaped views about Jews within and beyond the Jewish world, over time and in the present. Further, it asks how the creation of these 'Jewish imaginaries' has influenced how Jews think about themselves and their own societies. Where have these ideas about Jews, their origins, culture and influence crossed over into Jewish thought and writing and what has been its effect? We look forward to two days of thought-provoking presentations and discussions focussed on these vital and enduring questions.

The 32nd Conference of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies is supported by the Department of Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies, University of Sydney, the School of Humanities and Languages, University of New South Wales and the Sydney Jewish Museum.

President's Welcome



Esteemed Scholars,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Australian Association for Jewish Studies (AAJS), I welcome you to the 32nd annual AAJS Conference. Our long-established annual conference has since its inception been the crown jewel of Jewish studies in Australia, and one of the featured events of the international Jewish Studies community. I offer a special welcome to our world-renowned keynote speaker Professor Sander L. Gilman, to all our conference speakers, and to our international delegates who join us after long journeys across the world.

Our conference this year returns to the spectacular, exquisite city of Sydney and the world-class Sydney Jewish Museum. Delegates will be inspired by its engaging and immersive exhibits and experiences, as well as our excellent, diverse programme of conference presentations.

I highly commend our conference conveners, Dr Avril Alba and Dr Jan Láníček, and their organizing committee for their dedicated work in producing such a high calibre conference.

I hope you enjoy all the opportunities to learn, share, network and further develop your own Jewish Studies expertise at the 2020 Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference.

Yours respectfully,

Professor Ghil'ad Zuckermann
President, Australian Association for Jewish Studies

International Keynote Speaker: Professor Sander L. Gilman



The Australian Association for Jewish Studies is delighted to welcome Professor Sander L. Gilman as our international keynote speaker for our 32nd Annual Conference *Imagining Jews: Jewish Imaginings*. Professor Gilman is a distinguished professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. A cultural and literary historian, he is the author or editor of well over ninety books. His standard study *Jewish Self-Hatred*, the title of his Johns Hopkins University Press monograph of 1986, is still in print.

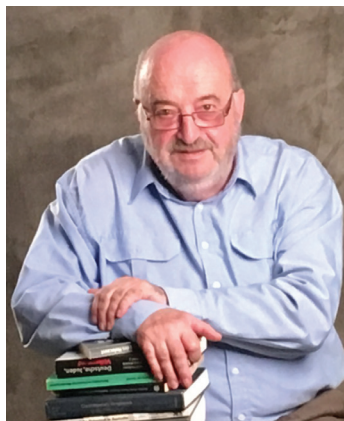
His seminal work *The Jew's Body*, published in 1992, details of the antisemitic rhetoric about the Jewish body and mind, including medical and popular depictions of the Jewish voice, feet, and nose. For 25 years he was a member of the humanities and medical faculties at Cornell University where he held the Goldwin Smith Professorship of Humane Studies. He has also held Distinguished Professorships at the University of Chicago and at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been a visiting professor at numerous universities in North America, South Africa, The United Kingdom, Germany, Israel, China, and New Zealand. He was president of the Modern Language Association in 1995. He has been awarded a Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*) at the University of Toronto in 1997, elected an honorary professor of the Free University in Berlin (2000), an honorary member of the American Psychoanalytic Association (2007), and made a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2016).

Professor Gilman will open the conference on **Sunday, 9 February at 9.15am** with a keynote address entitled: ***You, too, could walk like a Gentile: Jews and Posture***

He will also give a public address at **Sunday, 9 February at 6pm** on the topic of: ***How Did Anti-Semitism and Racism Become Mental Illnesses? From Anti-Semitic Vienna to Segregated Topeka, Kansas And Beyond***

Note: For bookings for Prof Gilman's public address on Sunday night only, please visit the Sydney Jewish Museum website at: sydneyjewishmuseum.com.au

Australian Keynote Speaker: Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet



The Australian Association for Jewish Studies welcomes one of Australia's best-known and beloved Holocaust scholars, Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet to give the Australian keynote address. Born in Germany in 1941, Professor Kwiet studied History and Political Sciences in Berlin and Amsterdam. Since 1976 he has held residency in Australia, taking up a position as historian at the German Department at the University of New South Wales. In 1992 he was appointed Professor in German and European Studies at Macquarie University.

He has also served as chief historian of the Australian War Crimes Commission (SIU), Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies at St Antony College, Oxford, the Jewish University in Heidelberg, the Universities in Frankfurt/Main and Berlin and was Senior Scholar-in-Residence at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC. In 2000, he joined the faculty of the Department for Hebrew, Biblical and Jewish Studies at the University of Sydney. In December 2014 Kwiet retired as Pratt Foundation Professor in Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies, still offering his services as casual lecturer. He continues to work as the Resident Historian at the Sydney Jewish Museum, a position he took up 28 years ago.

Professor Kwiet will speak on **Monday, 10 February at 9.15am** with a keynote address entitled: ***Holocaust Landscapes - The Transformation of a Jewish Space***

Abstracts – Professor Sander L. Gilman

You, too, could walk like a Gentile: Jews and Posture

How we stand and move – our posture and gait – defines us as healthy or ill, able or disabled, beautiful or ugly. Indeed it defines us as human or not human. Images of Jewish posture have come to define what being ‘Jewish’ means from some of the earliest commentaries to the philosophers of modernity. Shifting ideas of posture provide insights into the claims of what it means to be a Jew, an Israeli, or indeed, a human being as seen from a Jewish perspective. Who is ‘upright’ both in terms of our anatomy and our morality? The micro-history of the Jew’s posture is also the history of our cultural reading of human anatomy in the West. From the ancients to the moderns, how the Jew’s anatomy is understood shaped and shapes our understanding of what is human (Why did Adam learn to stand upright?), what is attractive (Who is the ‘beautiful Jew’?), what is patriotic (Jews don’t slouch in ranks!). What we ascribed in the modern world to upright posture very much defines the ideal Jew – today and projected into the past. How we used and use our understanding of posture to define who we are—and who we are not—is the theme of this lecture.

How Did Anti-Semitism and Racism Become Mental Illnesses? From Anti-Semitic Vienna to Segregated Topeka, Kansas And Beyond

In 2012, an interdisciplinary team of scientists at the University of Oxford reported that clinical tests showed that the beta-blocker drug, Propranolol, could reduce implicit racial bias among its users. Do experiments like these mean that racism is a mental illness? In this talk Sander Gilman traces the genealogies of race and racism as psychopathological categories, exploring the significance that the psychological sciences play in the biological understandings of race and racism. Beginning in mid-19th century Europe, with wide-spread anti-Semitic and racist beliefs, the talk moves across the Atlantic to contemporary America, up to the aforementioned clinical experiment at the University of Oxford, all in an attempt to understand how racism became a mental illness. The 19th century ‘Sciences of Man’— including anthropology, medicine, and biology—used race as a means of defining psychopathology. Such assertions about race and madness became embedded within disciplines that deal with mental health and illness up to the age of Trump, where over and over acts of racism such as the shootings in El Paso or Christchurch are ascribed to persons with mental illness.

Abstract – Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet

Holocaust Landscapes - The Transformation of a Jewish Space

The Holocaust never stood still. Moving through European and North African landscapes, the murder of the Jews created new places - ghettos and camps, mobile and stationary gassing facilities, or reworked public sites - roads and buildings, synagogues and cemeteries, river banks and dunes, pits and ravines, fields and forests into genocidal landscapes. My lecture depicts such landscapes and presents one example of the transformation of a Jewish space: the Ukrainian village Medschybisch, the burial place of Baal Shem Tov, the founder of Hasidism. Light will be shed on the Jewish world that was, on the destruction during the Holocaust and on the recent rebuilding of Jewish life, initiated by the Satmar, the largest group of the Hasidic movement.

Panel Schedule

Sunday 9 February

Time	Room 1	Room 2
8.30 – 9am	Registration Welcome: Avril Alba	
9.15 – 10am	International Keynote Address: Professor Sander L. Gilman, Distinguished Professor of the Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of Psychiatry, Emory University <i>You, too, could walk like a Gentile: Jews and Posture</i> Chair: Jan Lániček	
10 – 10.30am	Morning tea	
10.30am – 12.30pm	Panel One: Non-Jews Imagine Jewish Communities Chair: François Soyer Andreas Gehringer, 'Love Thy Neighbour': Nuances of Christian-Jewish Relations Anna Rosenbaum, Images of Jews in 1950s Czechoslovakia Oscar Larsen, Israëlief-Hudiu-Stinkie: Dutch Imaginings and Sephardic Acculturation in the Netherlands and the Dutch West Indies 1650-1940 Jonathan C. Kaplan, The Jew in the City and the Goy in the Province: Vienna as a Dangerous Jewish Metropolis	Panel Two: Imagining Survival: The Holocaust in History and Memory Chair: Avril Alba David Slucki, In Heroic Struggle: Survivor Publications in the Postwar Decades Christin Zühlke, 'Like Sheep to the Slaughter'? The Perspective of the Sonderkommando in Auschwitz-Birkenau Clare Stace, Imaginings of Self: Evolving Oral Histories Miriam Munz, Images from that time, In those places

Time	Room 1	Room 2
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch and AAJS AGM	
1.30 – 3pm	<p>Panel Three: Imagining Jews in Australia (1) Chair: Anna Rosenbaum</p> <p>Suzanne D. Rutland, <i>The Jewish Lobby: Power and Powerlessness as it played out in Australia of the 1990s</i></p> <p>Yona Gilead, <i>Students' Jewish identity Imagined within a broader Social and Cultural World</i></p> <p>Emma Carolan, <i>A Holy Land?: Evolving Australian Catholic Church Perceptions of the State of Israel</i></p>	<p>Panel Four: Artistic Imaginings (1) Chair: Anna Hirsh</p> <p>Lynne Swarts, <i>Imagining Women in the Work of Ephraim Moses Lilien at the German Fin de Siècle</i></p> <p>Nathan J. Timpano, <i>Imagining the Nesi' at Kapayim: Egon Schiele, Max Oppenheimer, and the Viennese Jewish Body</i></p> <p>Shoshanna Jordan, <i>Jewish Imaginings Through Art</i></p>
3 – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 5pm	<p>Panel Five: Imagining Jewish Performance Chair: Vicky Schinkel</p> <p>Don Perlgut, 'Confessions of a Jewish film critic: 30 years of professional Australian Jewish film reviewing'</p> <p>Anna Hueneker, <i>Reimagining an Oral Tradition</i></p> <p>Jan Poddebsky, <i>The Jewish Divine Femme Fatale</i></p>	<p>Panel Six: Ancient Imaginings Chair: Max Kaiser</p> <p>Antoinette Collins, <i>Sabbath Imaginings. Can the Sabbath Save the Earth? Selected biblical and cross-cultural reflections on the Jewish Sabbath and the saving of the environment</i></p> <p>Gili Kugler, <i>Portraying the Ultimate Hated – Amalek</i></p> <p>Marianne Dacy, <i>Jews as Seen by the Greeks and Romans</i></p>
5 – 6pm	Cocktail reception and chance to tour the Sydney Jewish Museum exhibitions	
6pm	<p>Public address: Professor Sander Gilman <i>How Did Anti-Semitism and Racism Become Mental Illnesses? From Anti-Semitic Vienna to Segregated Topeka, Kansas And Beyond</i></p> <p>Chair: Avril Alba</p>	

Monday 10 February

Time	Room 1	Room 2
9.15 – 10am	<p>Australian Keynote Address</p> <p>Emeritus Professor Konrad Kwiet, University of Sydney, Macquarie University and Resident Historian, Sydney Jewish Museum</p> <p>Holocaust Landscapes – The Transformation of a Jewish Space</p> <p>Chair: Jan Láníček</p>	
10 – 11 am	<p>Panel Seven: Jewish Cultural Imaginings</p> <p>Chair: Gili Kugler</p> <p>Adam Weitzer, 'Every Conceivable Kind of Illness': A Comparative Study of Franz Schreker's <i>The Distant Sound</i> and Thomas Mann's <i>Death in Venice</i></p> <p>Jana Vyrhlík, <i>Imagining the Temple of Solomon: An unexpected link with the Jews in Australia in 1840s</i></p>	<p>Panel Eight: Jewish Identities in Modern History</p> <p>Chair: Yona Gilead</p> <p>Nicola Woodhead, <i>Imagining the Kindertransport: Transmigrant Kinder Life Narratives</i></p> <p>Jakub Bronec, <i>Cultural and Spiritual Imagery through the postwar Jewish generations in relations to Material Heritage. Comparative study – Czechoslovakia and Luxembourg (1945–90)</i></p>
11 – 11.30am	<p>Morning tea</p>	

Time	Room 1	Room 2
11.30am – 1pm	<p>Panel Nine: Images of Jews in Israel and Palestine Chair: Suzanne D. Rutland</p> <p>Max Kaiser and Lisa Milner, <i>'Them songs are dangerous': The Jewish Left, Palestine and the Radical Theatrical Imagination</i></p> <p>Aviva Halamish, <i>Who Are You, the Zionist 'New Jew'?</i></p> <p>Ran Porat, <i>Tough Love - Ausraeli (Israelis in Australia) diasporic citizenship perceptions on Israel</i></p>	<p>Panel Ten: Artistic Imaginings (2) Chair: Lynne Swarts</p> <p>Laura Kevan, <i>Fritz Schonbach Imagines Australia</i></p> <p>Anna Hirsh, <i>In the Image of the Image: Figurative Sculpture by Holocaust Survivors</i></p> <p>Joseph Toltz, <i>Transcendent Innocence: Red-Riding-Hood Redeemed</i></p>
1 – 1.30pm	Lunch	
1.30 – 3pm	<p>Panel Eleven: Jewish Cultural Imaginings (2) Chair: Sonja M. Hedgepeth</p> <p>Danielle Raffaele, <i>Jewish imaginings in non-Jewish mediums: Harry Potter as a paradigm for teaching themes of race, antisemitism and morality in the Holocaust (and beyond).</i></p> <p>Andrew Fogel, <i>'The Myth That Threatens America': Efforts by Activist Institutions to Diversify Mass Entertainment in 1945</i></p> <p>Raphael Rauch, <i>Janina David – the most famous Australian Jew in Germany</i></p>	<p>Panel Twelve: Imaginings in Religion and Philosophy Chair: Jan Láníček</p> <p>Peter Lanchidi, <i>Judaism as the Source of Civilization and Freemasonry—Rabbi Alexander Barnard Davis and a Kabbalistic Lithograph</i></p> <p>Vicky Schinkel, <i>Jewish Imaginings: Multiple Interpretations of Being and Becoming</i></p> <p>Samuel Wan, <i>'These days of Purim will not cease...': The mask of G-d and His People: a practical theological comparative study of the use of masks in Jewish portrayal of Jewish suffering in and implications to post-Holocaust Jewish faith and celebrations</i></p>

Monday 10 February

Time	Room 1	Room 2
3 – 3.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3.30 – 5pm	<p>Panel Thirteen: Antisemitic imaginings Chair: Anna Hirsh</p> <p>Sonja M. Hedgepeth, <i>The Lurking Monster: Antisemitic Portrayals of Jews in Gustav Meyrink's Der Golem</i></p> <p>Anat Gueta, <i>Y. L. Pinsker and his Psychiatry. Diagnosis of Anti-Semitism</i></p> <p>Francois Soyer, <i>A Pedagogy of Faith and Hatred: The Blood Libel in Illustrated Books and Comics for Children in Twentieth-Century Spain</i></p>	<p>Panel Fourteen: Imagining Jews in Australia (2) Chair: David Slucki</p> <p>Myer Samra, <i>Biographies of Iraqi Jews in Australia</i></p> <p>Anna Sarzin, <i>Dr Fanny Reading imagines the new Jewish woman in Australia</i></p> <p>Marcia Pinskiar, <i>Looking in the mirror – Reflections on Jewish leadership</i></p>
5 – 6pm	<p>Book launch: Lynne Swarts Gender, Orientalism and the Jewish Nation: Women in the Work of Ephraim Moses Lilien at the German Fin de Siècle</p> <p>The book will be formally launched by Professor Sander L. Gilman</p>	



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