

BOYCOTTS - PAST AND PRESENT

International Conference, London: 19-21 June 2013

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism
on behalf of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism

CONTEXT AND PROGRAMME

This three-day international conference will examine boycotts in the *longue durée*, seeking to gain deeper understanding of the development of these movements and their efforts to weaken, ostracize and delegitimize specific institutions, polities and states.

Boycotts have been a strategy of protest since the eighteenth century: used for example in struggles against British rule in the American colonies, slavery in the Caribbean, racial discrimination in the United States during the Civil Rights movement, and Apartheid in South Africa. Today, it is Israel that is the focus of an Arab League boycott as well as the more recent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Beyond actions against the state, Jews and Jewish interests have also featured prominently in the history of boycotts. From the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries Jews were the targets of economic and political boycotts advanced by various national movements in Central and Eastern Europe and the state-sponsored anti-Jewish boycotts instigated by the Nazis.

This wide-ranging conference will explore the history of boycott movements in their own right and at the same time examine the two quite different narratives put forward by proponents and opponents of the current BDS movement directed against Israel: one which places the movement within a long history of struggles for 'human rights'; the other which views BDS as the latest iteration of an antisemitic tradition.

This unique and timely conference brings together speakers from various disciplines: political scientists, sociologists, historians and legal scholars. In so doing, it seeks to create an academic forum to better comprehend the causes and content of boycott movements and seeks to advance understanding of whether and how BDS sits within the debate on contemporary antisemitism.

Conference co-convenors

David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London
Michael L. Miller, Central European University, Budapest
Scott Ury, Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University

The [International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism](#) involves leading scholars from universities and institutes across Europe, Israel and the US who share the common goal of revitalising and reshaping the study of antisemitism.

The [Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism](#) is based at Birkbeck, University of London. The Institute is a centre of innovative research and teaching and contributes to discussion and public policy formation on issues concerning antisemitism, race and intolerance.

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**Birkbeck, University of London, Clore Lecture Theatre, Clore Management Centre,
Torrington Square, London WC1E 7HX**

PROGRAMME

Wednesday 19 June

- 15.00 – 16.00 **Registration**
Tea and coffee
- 16.00 – 16.15 **Welcome**
David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism,
Birkbeck, University of London (founding member of ICRAR)
- 16.15 – 18.00 **Keynote Panel**
Chair: David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism
- Consumer Boycotts in Modern History
Frank Trentmann, Birkbeck, University of London and Sustainable
Consumption Institute, University of Manchester
- In Defence of the Nation: Protectionism and Boycotts in Central and
Eastern Europe, 1844 – 1933
Michael Miller, Central European University (founding member of ICRAR)
- Boycotts and Rights – A South African Perspective
Saul Dubow, Queen Mary, University of London
- 18.00 – 19.00 **Panel 1: Consumer Politics, Race and Colonialism**
Chair: Sonya Rose, University of Michigan and Birkbeck, University of
London
- ‘There Can Be No Friendship’: The Contentious Nature of Non-Importation
on the American Road to Revolution
Molly Perry, The College of William and Mary, Virginia
- Abolitionists and Abstention: British Consumer Activism Against Slavery
Richard Huzzey, University of Liverpool
- 19.00 **Drinks Reception**

Thursday 20 June

9.30 – 11.00

Panel 2: Boycotts and Nationalism in Early Twentieth Century Europe

Chair: François Guesnet, University College London (founding member of ICRAR)

'A More Efficient Strike Than With Bats': Boycott Practice and Discourse in Galicia Prior to WW1

Tim Buchen, European-University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder)

'To Each His Own': Marketplace Nationalism in the German-Polish Borderland of Poznan at the Turn of the Century

Elizabeth A. Drummond, Loyola Marymount University, California

'Swój Do Swego Po Swoje!' Anti-Jewish Boycott: Polish and East European Right-Wing Politics in the Early Twentieth Century

Grzegorz Krzywiec, Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences

11.00 – 11.30

Tea and coffee

11.30 – 13.00

Panel 3: Politics of Resistance and Mobilization

Chair: Eyal Naveh, Tel Aviv University

'Buy Only *'Totzeret Ha'aretz'* (the Land's Products): Separatist Consumption in British Mandate Palestine

Hizky Shoham, Shalom Hartman Institute and Bar Ilan University

Tired Feet and Empty Pockets: The Montgomery and Alexandra Bus Boycotts in Comparative Perspective

Derek Catsam, University of Texas of the Permian Basin

A Blossoming of Red Flags: Cesar Chávez and the United Farm Workers' Lettuce Boycott in California

Lori A. Flores, State University of New York at Stony Brook

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 4: Nazi Era Boycotts

Chair: Jessica Reinisch, Birkbeck, University of London

The Ban of Jewish Owned Businesses in Nazi Germany - Was it a Boycott? Christoph Kreutzmueller, Memorial House of the Wannsee-Conference

The Good, the Bad and the Marketplace: Buycott, Boycott and Jewish Consumers in pre-1933 Germany

Gideon Reuveni, University of Sussex

German Culture Calls – Don't Forget Your Brass Knuckles: American Efforts to Boycott Academic Exchanges with Nazi Germany

Stephen H. Norwood, University of Oklahoma

15.30 - 16.00 **Tea and coffee**

16.00 – 17.30 **Panel 5: Capitalism, Apartheid and 'the Third World'**
Chair: Maurice Samuels, Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism,
Yale University, (founding member of ICRAR)

'Dirty Export Business with Chile, South Africa, Israel...': Boycott
Campaigns of the Radical Left in Cold-War West Germany
Alexander Sedlmaier, Bangor University

Boycotting Nestle: The Campaign Against Milk Formula, 1974-1984
Tehila Sasson, University of California, Berkeley

'Bank of Apartheid': The Barclays Bank Boycott and the Anti-Apartheid
Disinvestment Campaign in Britain, 1969-1986
Simon Stevens, Columbia University, New York

Friday 21 June

9.30 – 11.00 **Panel 6: After Apartheid: The Politics, Rhetoric and
Economics of Boycott**
Chair: Hilary Sapire, Birkbeck, University of London

Sanctioning Apartheid: Comparing South Africa and Israel BDS
Campaigns
Lee Jones, Queen Mary, University of London

Why BDS-Activists Portray Israel as an Apartheid State
Ilka Shroeder, Technical University, Berlin

The Best of Intentions, Profiteering and a Self-Congratulatory Narrative:
Reviewing the Effects of the Economic Sanctions Against Apartheid South
Africa
Jan-Ad Stemmet and Yehonatan Alsheh, University of the Free State,
Bloemfontein

11.00 – 11.30 **Tea and coffee**

11.30 – 13.00 **Panel 7: Legal and Ethical Perspectives on BDS**
Chair: Daniel Monk, Birkbeck, University of London

The BDS Movement and the Question of Horizontalism
John Chalcraft, London School of Economics

The Ethics of Boycotts
Oliver Leaman, University of Kentucky

Anti-Israel Boycotts and American Anti-Discrimination Law
Kenneth L. Marcus, Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under
Law, Washington DC

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Panel 8: BDS and the Global Era

Chair: Scott Ury, Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University (founding member of ICRAR)

The BDS Movement and Antisemitism in the United States: A Collision of Frames

Sina Arnold, Technical University, Berlin

Anti-Israeli Boycotts: An International Human Rights Perspective
Aleksandra Gliszczynska-Grabias, Institute of Legal Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Boycott, Localism and Global Activism
Philip Marfleet, University of East London

15.30 – 16.00

Tea and coffee

16.00 – 17.00

Round-table

Chair: David Feldman, Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London (founding member of ICRAR)

Jeremy Krikler, University of Essex

Derek Penslar, University of Toronto and University of Oxford