

ZIONISM AND ANTISEMITISM

International Conference, London: 24-26 May 2017

Pears Institute for the study of Antisemitism, Birkbeck, University of London

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

CONTEXT AND PROGRAMME

This conference brings together more than 35 scholars from institutions in eight countries, from different disciplines and with diverse perspectives, to examine the interaction between Zionism and antisemitism as it has developed from the nineteenth century through to the present day.

Political Zionism and antisemitism have been connected ever since the late nineteenth century. From the 1870s, self-proclaimed antisemites regarded Jews as an unassimilable element within their nations and states. Many Zionists concluded that the persistence of antisemitism required a Jewish state or national home in Palestine. 'We are one people – our enemies have made us one in our despite....Distress binds us together,' wrote Theodor Herzl in *The Jewish State*, in 1896.

This is a timely moment for our conference. November 2017 brings the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration which enabled the Zionist movement to build a national home in Palestine and set it on the road to statehood, achieved three decades later. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Six Day War. The war and its aftermath have added further dimensions to the relationship between Zionism and antisemitism.

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PROGRAMME

Wednesday 24 May

9.00–9.25 Registration

9.25–9.30 **Welcome**

David Feldman (Birkbeck, University of London)

9.30–11.00 **Panel 1: Zionists, Semitism and Antisemitism**

Chair: Stephen Frosh (Birkbeck, University of London)

'The organ of unifying and sanctifying love': Jews and non-Jews in the Zionist vision of Moses Hess

Adam Sutcliffe (King's College London)

Ottoman Jewish views on nominal semitism

Moshe Behar (University of Manchester)

Jabotinsky's interpretation of antisemitism between the two world wars

Amir Goldstein (Tel-Hai College, Israel)

11.00–11.30 Tea and coffee

11.30–1.00 **Panel 2: Christianity, Jews and Zionism**

Chair: David Feldman (Birkbeck, University of London)

Christian Europe's figure of the fanatic and the Zionist world conspiracy: an ontological process

James Renton (European University Institute)

Christian Israel

Didi Herman (University of Kent)

Contemporary protestantism and Zionism: philosemitism and antisemitism

Yaakov Ariel (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

- 1.00–2.00 Lunch
- 2.00–3.30 **Panel 3: Zionism and Politics c.1920-70**
 Chair: Frank Trentmann (Birkbeck, University of London)
- Between Liberalism and Slavophobia: anti-Zionism and antisemitism in interwar Greece
 Paris Papamichos Chronakis (University of Illinois at Chicago)
- The Zionist as 'survivor': Holocaust memory and the origins of the French-Israeli alliance
 Robert B. Isaacson (George Washington University)
- International Human Rights, Antisemitism and the Origins of 'Zionism is Racism', 1959-1965
 Nathan Kurz (Birkbeck, University of London)
- 3.30–4.00 Tea and coffee
- 4.00–5.30 **Panel 4: Socialism and Zionism**
 Chair: Brendan McGeever (Birkbeck, University of London)
- Anti-Zionism, anti-fascism, and the Great Terror
 Andrew Sloin (Baruch College, City University of New York)
- Antisemitism and the pro-Zionist turn in Norwegian Socialism
 Åsmund Borgen Gjerde (University of Bergen)
- 'A Global Revision'? Late Trotsky on antisemitism and the necessity of a territorial solution to 'the Jewish question'
 Alan Johnson (Editor of *Fathom* journal)
- 5.30–6.30 Break
- 6.30–8.00 **Keynote lecture**
 Antisemitism and Zionism: ideologies or emotions?
 Derek Penslar (Harvard University)
- 8.00 Drinks reception

Thursday 25 May

9.15–10.45 **Panel 5: The New Antisemitism**

Chair: Anthony Bale (Birkbeck, University of London)

International human rights discourse and the new antisemitism
Gerald Steinberg (Bar Ilan University) and Anne Herzberg (NGO Monitor)

Liberal responses to antisemitic implications in the academic BDS movement,
right and left
Eric Alterman (City University of New York)

Antizionism and the return of the Jewish question
Robert Fine (University of Warwick)

10.45–11.15 Tea and coffee

11.15–12.30 **Panel 6: Anti-Israel Attitudes and Opinion Today**

Chair: Philip Spencer (Kingston University and Birkbeck, University of London)

Antisemitism and anti-Israeli sentiments in contemporary Europe
Uzi Rebhun (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

The Israeli occupation and the rise of antisemitism – is there a connection?
Tony Klug (Oxford Research Group)

12.30–2.00 Lunch

2.00–3.30 **Panel 7: Racisms**

Chair: Ben Gidley (Birkbeck, University of London)

'Anti-Zionism is our haven' *Les Indigènes de la République*, Jews and Israel
Samuel Ghiles-Meilhac (SciencesPo, Paris and University Paris8)

A candid confrontation? anti-Zionism and antisemitism after Ferguson
Elliot Ratzman (Swarthmore College)

The mainstreaming of xenophobia, racism and antisemitism in contemporary
populist movements
David Hirsh (Goldsmiths, University of London)

3.30–4.00 Tea and coffee

4.00–5.30 **Panel 8: Israel and Antisemitism in Austria and Germany**
Chair: Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Technische Universität Berlin)

German-Israeli state relations in the postwar era: the role(s) of antisemitism
Daniel Marwecki (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London)

Suspicious Zionism: The right-wing populist Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) and its instrumentalization of Zionism, Jews and antisemitism as a means to attain political power
Helga Embacher (University of Salzburg)

Making Nazis out of Arabs/Muslims: a tertiary antisemitism?
Esra Ozyurek (London School of Economics and Political Science)

5.30–6.30 Break

6.30–8.00 **Keynote lecture**
The memories of the Holocaust and Nakba and the politics of binationalism in Israel/Palestine
Bashir Bashir (Open University, Israel / The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

Friday 26 May

9.00–10.15 Panel 9: After the Holocaust

Chair: Diana Popescu (Birkbeck, University of London)

Holocaust memory in Israeli cinema: from Zionism to post-Zionism
Liat Steir-Livny (Sapir Academic College and The Open University, Israel)

The intersection of philosemitism and antisemitism: German responses to the
Nazi past and the Holocaust
Roger Frie (Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, Vancouver)

10.15–11.45 Panel 10: Zionism, Racism and Antisemitism After the 1970s

Chair: Anne Summers (Birkbeck, University of London)

Antisemitism, Zionism and feminism
Miriam E. David (University College London Institute of Education) and Gail
Chester (writer and independent scholar)

Anti-Zionism and the 'new antisemitism': theory and practice
Dave Rich (Community Security Trust)

Anti-Zionism and antisemitism: reflections from South Africa
Milton Shain (University of Cape Town)

11.45–12.15 Sandwiches and refreshments

12.15–1.45 Panel 11: Controversies and Concepts

Chair: Bryan Cheyette (University of Reading)

The ethnification of political Zionism and modern antisemitism
Ephraim Nimni (Queen's University, Belfast)

Antisemitism as a problem and a symbol
Peter Ullrich (Technische Universität Berlin)

The contemporary controversy over left-wing antisemitism and the problem of
power
Keith Kahn-Harris (Leo Baeck College and Birkbeck, University of London)

1.45–1.50 Concluding Remarks

David Feldman (Birkbeck, University of London)

Conference closes