

Antisemitism in East Central Europe

Ideas, Politics and Praxis of Jew-Hatred
from a Comparative Perspective, ca. 1880-1939

East Central Europe was a particularly significant region in the history of Antisemitism. It was home to a large number of Jews who were not only culturally divided among themselves, but were also separated from their linguistically and denominationally heterogeneous environs. Jews often dominated those specific professions, which in the process of the rise of a market economy assumed central importance in economic life. As a consequence, activists from various social groups – particularly those associated with the Church – began to link economic, civilizational and national discourses to the “Jewish question”, which, in turn, figured prominently in the negotiated construction of modern national (and also Jewish) communities. These discourses found expression in a legal and political framework defined by imperial multi-ethnic states. The diverse nationalities and societies of East Central Europe were thus in particularly close contact. Christian-Jewish relations and contacts were for most people a part of everyday life. Antisemitic discourse and praxis were thus closely intertwined. With the collapse of the empires and the creation of national states after World War I, Antisemites attempted to turn the discrimination of Jews into state policy, in the context of minority politics or nation-building. The conference thus aims to explore the historical dynamics of Jew-hatred, in terms of both continuities and ruptures, and to contribute to theoretical and methodological discussions in the field of Antisemitism research. Bearing in mind the specific regional and historical situation in East Central Europe, the object is to delineate the interrelation between the political and ideological field on the one hand and social practices on the other.

Contact

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Place:

Conference Hall of the German Historical
Institute in Warsaw

Organisers:

German Historical Institute (GHI),
Jewish Historical Institute (JHI),
The European Network Remembrance
and Solidarity (ENRS),
in collaboration with the Center
for Research on Antisemitism in Berlin (ZfA)
and the Stephen Roth Institute
for the Study of Contemporary
Antisemitism, Tel Aviv.

Conception:

Tim Buchen, Piotr Kendziorek,
Grzegorz Krzywiec, Klaus Richter

Conference language:
English



ANTISEMITISM IN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

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16 – 18 May 2013
German Historical Institute Warsaw

 Żydowski Instytut Historyczny
im. Emanuela Ringelbluma

 Dyplomacja
Historyczna
Instytut Historyczny
w Warszawie

 EUROPEAN NETWORK
REMEMBRANCE AND SOLIDARITY

Thursday, 16 May

14.00 Opening:

Address of welcome: *Eduard Mühle* (GHI)
Pawel Spiewak (JHI)
Rafał Rogulski (ENRS)

Introduction: *Tim Buchen* (Frankfurt/Oder)
Piotr Kendziorek (Warsaw)
Grzegorz Krzywiac (Warsaw)
Klaus Richter (Birmingham)

Keynote speech:

Brian Porter-Szűcs (Ann Arbor):
Catholicism and Antisemitism in Modern Poland

16.30 *Coffee break*

17.00 Panel I: Antisemitic Agendas. Economy, Religion and Politics

Chair: *Tim Buchen*

Michael Miller (Budapest):
“The Strongest Fortress of Jewish Plutocracy”.
The Stock Exchange and Antisemitic Imagination

Jürgen Heyde (Halle):
From Program to Politics. Scenarios of Action
of Antisemitic Journalism in Poland, 1880-1939

Commentary: *Christhard Hoffmann* (Bergen)

18.45 Book presentation:

Lesestunde/Lekcja czytania, (Eds. Leiserowitz/Lehnstaedt/
Nalewajko-Kulikow/Krzywiac), Warsaw 2013.

Reception

Friday, 17 May

9.00 Panel II: Antisemitism, Violence, and the Impact of Empire

Chair: *Klaus Richter*

Darius Staliunas (Vilnius):
Antisemitic Violence in Belarus and Lithuania
in the Late Imperial Period

Daniel Unowsky (Memphis):
Jews on Trial. The Habsburg Legal System, Mass Politics,
and the Search for Justice after the 1898 Riots
in Western Galicia

Alina Cala (Warsaw):
Russian and German Transfer of Ideas in Political
Antisemitism

Commentary: *Scott Ury* (Tel Aviv)

11.00 *Coffee Break*

11.30 Panel II: Antisemitism, Violence, and Nationalism during the First World War and the Immediate Post-War Period

Chair: *Werner Bergmann* (Berlin)

Richard Frankel (Louisiana):
The Enemy at Home. Antisemitism, Nationalism,
and Anti-Communism in Germany and the United
States, 1914-1924

Maciej Górny (Warsaw):
The Enemy Within. Betrayal and Violence in Central
and Eastern Europe during the First World War

Eva Reder (Vienna):
Pogroms during the Polish-Soviet and the Polish-Ukrainian
Wars. Actors, Motives, Reception

Commentary: *William Hagen* (Davis)

13.30 *Lunch Break*

14.30 Panel III: Antisemitism, Racism, and the Nation in East Central Europe in the Interwar Period

Chair: *Ulrich Wyrwa* (Berlin)

Eglè Bendikaitė (Leipzig):
One Man's Struggle. On Shimshon Rosenbaum's
Approach to Resist Antisemitism

Miloslav Szabó (Prague):
Defense Practices of the “Jewish People's Union for
Slovakia” in the First Years of the Republic
of Czechoslovakia

Amos Morris-Reich (Haifa):
The Hybridizing Instrument. Photography
in the Study of “Race”

Zuzanna Radzik (Warsaw):
The De-Judaization of Jesus in Polish Theology, 1918-1939

Commentary: *François Guesnet* (London)

17.30 **Guided tour through the reconstructed Great Synagogue on Tłomackie Street and visit of the Jewish Historical Institute, afterwards joint dinner**

Saturday, 18 May

9.00 Panel IV: Mobilisation and Public Scandals. Antisemitism and its Rejection in the Second Polish Republic (Part I)

Chair: *Grzegorz Krzywiac*

Natalia Aleksion (Warsaw):
The Numerus Clausus in the Second Polish Republic.
A Case Study of Practical Antisemitism?

Elisa Bemporad (New York):
Confronting Blood. Jewish Responses to Ritual Murder
Accusations in Poland and Soviet Ukraine

Commentary: *Katrin Steffen* (Lüneburg)

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.30 Panel IV: Mobilisation and Public Scandals. Antisemitism and its Rejection in the Second Polish Republic (Part II)

Chair: *Ruth Leiserowitz* (Warsaw)

Hanna Kosińska-Witt (Rostock):
Moderate Antisemitism? Municipal Policies towards
Jews in Second-Republic Cracow

Paul Brykczynski (Ann Arbor):
Political Mobilization, Antisemitism, and the Murder
of President Narutowicz

Commentary: *Ulrich Wyrwa* (Berlin)

13.30 *Lunch break*

14.30 Round Table: Historiography on Antisemitism in East Central Europe. Results, Methods, and Desiderata (Final Discussion)

Hillel Kieval (St. Louis)

François Guesnet (London)