

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Unfortunately, deadly shootings over the past year from the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh to the Al Noor mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand highlight the extent to which antisemitism and racism continue to be serious social and political problems that affect a range of different societies.

These and other events also demonstrate the degree to which prejudices and hostilities towards Jews are often related to animosities towards members of other minority groups.

Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute is one of the few academic institutions in the world dedicated to researching and

studying these phenomena in a common scholarly framework.

As part of its ongoing efforts to support academic research that will further our understanding of the causes, manifestations and potential amelioration of antisemitism and other forms of prejudice and racism, TAU's Roth Institute sponsors a wide range of academic and public programs.

In addition to hosting guest scholars from leading universities across Europe and North America, the Roth Institute organizes international workshops and conferences at TAU. Additionally, the Roth Institute supports cutting-edge, academic research conducted

by graduate students and scholars at TAU, including those who take part in the Roth Institute's annual research group which is dedicated to examining a particular aspect of antisemitism and racism.

Through these and related endeavors, the Roth Institute not only advances scholarship and knowledge about these critical issues but also ensures that they are researched and discussed in Israel and in universities abroad.

Dr. Scott Ury
Director, The Stephen Roth Institute
for the Study of Contemporary
Antisemitism and Racism
Tel Aviv University

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES HOSTED BY THE ROTH INSTITUTE AT TAU

- **Anti-Semitism and Zionism: Ideologies or Emotions? | Fear from Afar? American Jewry and the 1948 War**
Prof. Derek J. Penslar, Harvard University | [October 2018](#)
- **Innovations in Holocaust Testimony**
An International Symposium | [November 2018](#)
- **Jewish Migration in Modern Times: The Case of Eastern Europe**
A Symposium Dedicated to the Publication of a Special Issue of the Journal East European Jewish Affairs | [November 2018](#)
- **Semites: Towards the History of a Concept**
An International Workshop | [December 2018](#)
- **Intimate Violence: Anti-Jewish Pogroms on the Eve of the Holocaust**
Prof. Jeffrey Kopstein, University of California, Irvine | [December 2018](#)
- **Who Will Write Our History?**
A Symposium on the Emanuel Ringelblum Archives | [December 2018](#)
- **Ecologies of Witnessing: Language, Place, and Holocaust Testimony**
Dr. Hannah Polin-Galay, Tel Aviv University | [March 2019](#)
- **Jews and Non-Jews in East Central Europe: Between History and Memory**
Prof. Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, Northwestern University; Prof. Bożena Szaynok, Wrocław University, Poland | [April 2019](#)
- **Holocaust Memory through Artistic Means: Tools and Insights**
Dr. Francine Mayran, Council of Europe, Strasbourg | [May 2019](#)
- **From Janek to Johann: 'National Indifference' and 'Ethnic German' Police in the Lodz Ghetto**
Prof. Winson Chu, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee | [May 2019](#)
- **Judaism and Heresy**
An International Conference | [May 2019](#)
- **Cause for Concern? New Directions in Attitudes of American Jews toward Israel**
A Symposium | [June 2019](#)

RECENT EVENTS AT THE ROTH INSTITUTE

GUEST LECTURES BY PROF. DEREK J. PENSLAR, HARVARD UNIVERSITY



In October, 2018, the Roth Institute hosted Prof. Derek J. Penslar, the William Lee Frost

Professor of Modern Jewish History at Harvard University, in cooperation with TAU's Sackler Institute of Advanced Studies, and TAU's Chaim Weizmann Institute for the Study of Zionism and Israel.

A renowned scholar of modern Jewish history and Israel studies, Prof. Penslar delivered two presentations that analyzed the phenomenon of antisemitism through the burgeoning field of the history of emotions.

Penslar's first lecture on "Anti-Semitism and Zionism: Ideologies or

Emotions?" examined the historical foundations of antisemitism and Zionism and the emotional responses that these two concepts often elicit. This talk is currently available for viewing via the Roth Institute's [website](#).

Entitled "Fear from Afar? American Jewry and the 1948 War," Prof. Penslar's second presentation analyzed many of the emotional factors behind American Jewry's connection to and support for the formation of the State of Israel during the 1948 War.

JEWISH MIGRATION IN MODERN TIMES: THE CASE OF EASTERN EUROPE

In November, 2018, the Roth Institute co-sponsored an international symposium dedicated to the publication of a special issue of the journal *East European Jewish Affairs* on the topic of "Jewish Migration in Modern Times: The Case of Eastern Europe."

The program was conducted in cooperation with the Israeli Inter-University Academic Partnership and the Hebrew University's Leonid Nevzlin Center for the Study of Russian and East European Jewry.

The symposium included presentations by many of the scholars

who contributed to the volume including Marcos Silber of Haifa University, Mia Spiro of Glasgow University, Yvgeny Tartakovsky of Tel Aviv University, and Olena Bagno-Moldavsky of Tel Aviv.

The different presentations addressed Jewish migration after the collapse of the Soviet Union and also questions related to the impact of the Holocaust and antisemitism on the history of Jewish migration.

The collection has recently been republished as a book and is now available through [Routledge](#).



SEMITES: TOWARDS THE HISTORY OF A CONCEPT



In December, 2018, the Roth Institute hosted an international workshop on the topic of "Semites: Towards the History of a Concept." Sponsored in cooperation with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Tel Aviv, as well as the S. Daniel Abraham Center and the Minerva Institute for German History at Tel Aviv University, the workshop focused on the various interpretations and

uses of the term "Semites" over the past two hundred years.

Participants included leading researchers from the UK and Germany as well as scholars from different universities in Israel.

The different presentations, which focused on the term "Semites," probed the concept from the perspective of religion, race, language, and history.

RESEARCH GROUP ON “JEWS AND THE LEFT: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE”

The Roth Institute’s 2019 Research Group is dedicated to the topic of “Jews and the Left: Past, Present, and Future.” With MA and PhD students from TAU’s departments of History, Jewish History and Literature as well as several post-doctoral fellows from universities abroad, the group is designed to examine the many connections between Jews and political movements, ideologies and organizations on “the Left” in both the past and the present.

Sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Tel Aviv, group members meet regularly to discuss key works, host guest seminars and probe the various intersections between Jews and “the Left” over the past hundred and fifty years. The group’s activities over the course of 2019 will help lay the foundations for the development of individual research projects as well as conferences and public events dedicated to examining this important topic.

THE MAX AND HILDE KOCHMANN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR PHD STUDENTS IN EUROPEAN-JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

In July, 2019, the Roth Institute co-sponsored an intensive, week-long summer school on “European-Jewish History and Culture” in cooperation with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex, the Center for Jewish Studies of the Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, and the Minerva Institute for German History at Tel Aviv University.

Hosted by the University of Sussex, the program offered PhD students from leading universities in Europe, Israel and North America the opportunity to present and discuss their research projects in an informal and supportive academic atmosphere with leading scholars in the field.

The summer school is part of an ongoing academic collaboration between the Roth Institute and the Centre for German-Jewish Studies in Sussex.

THE ROTH INSTITUTE PROJECT ON TOLERANCE AND INTOLERANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Over the course of the 2018-2019 academic year, TAU’s Project for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East continued its work of monitoring Arab-language media for expressions and manifestations of antisemitic attitudes as well as discussions regarding Muslim-Jewish relations and the State of Israel.

Under the supervision of Dr. Esther (Esti) Webman, the project’s staff identify, catalogue and analyze a wide range of print, visual and social media sources from across the Arab world. Relevant items are then summarized in English and entered into TAU’s Database on Antisemitism and Racism, where they are open and accessible via TAU’s Central library system.

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