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.
Thursday, 16 May

14.00 Opening:
Address of welcome: Eduard Mühle (GHI)
Pawel Spiewak (JHI)
Rafal Rogulski (ENRS)
Introduction: Tim Buchen (Frankfurt/Oder)
Piotr Kendziorrek (Warsaw)
Grzegorz Krzywiec (Warsaw)
Klaus Richter (Birmingham)
Keynote speech: Brian Porter-Szücs (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 Anti-Semitic Journalism in Poland, 1880-1939
Commentary: Christhard Hoßmann (Bergen)

18.45 Book presentation:
Lesestunde/Lekcja czytania, (Eds. Leiserowitz/Lehnstaedt/Nalewajko-Kulikov/Krzywiec), 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 Górný (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)
Egle 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 Badzik (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 Krzywiec
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 Kozińska-Witt (Rostock):
Moderate Antisemitism? Municipal Policies towards Jews in Second-Republic Cracow
Paul Bryczynski (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)