

## THE STEPHEN ROTH INSTITUTE

## FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM AND RACISM

Newsletter 2016



# RECENT EVENTS AT THE ROTH INSTITUTE

## JEWISH RIGHTS, MINORITY RIGHTS, HUMAN RIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, MARCH 2015

In March, 2015, the Roth Institute co-organized a major international conference on the topic of "Jewish Rights, Minority Rights and Human Rights" in cooperation with the Minerva Center for Human Rights at TAU's Law School and the Israeli Inter-University Academic Partnership for Russian and East European Studies.

The two-day program brought together leading scholars of international law, European history, Jewish history and Israeli society to discuss many of the historical, legal and contemporary aspects of the various connections between Jews

and rights over the past hundred years.

In addition to a keynote address by Prof. Samuel Moyn of Harvard University, conference participants included Profs. Carole Fink of The Ohio State University, Prof. William Forbath of the University of Texas, Austin's law school, Prof. James Loeffler of the University of Virginia and Prof. Benjamin Nathans of the University of Pennsylvania alongside speakers from different Israeli universities and institutions.

The program also included several panels that attempted to bridge the gap between the academic



and public realms by offering representatives from a variety of institutions and organizations in Israel the opportunity to present and discuss their experiences in light of historical and legal scholarship on these questions.



# GENOCIDE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

LECTURE SERIES, 2014-2015

Over the course of the academic year, the Roth Institute co-organized a series of four afternoon symposia on the topic of "Genocide in the Twentieth Century" in cooperation with several other centers and units on campus.

In addition to presentations by leading scholars in the field like Prof.



Debórah Dwork of Clark University on "Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the Academic World" and Prof. Donald Bloxham of Edinburgh on "The Holocaust within a Modern European History of Genocide and Mass Violence," the program also included presentations and discussions regarding the Armenian Genocide as well as a panel regarding the study of the Holocaust in Israel today.

Initiated and organized by Dr. Raz Segal, the lecture series helped create a forum for scholars and students from a wide range of disciplines and institutions in Israel interested in these and related issues.

## CONVERSION: BETWEEN ANTISEMITISM AND PHILOSEMITISM

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 2014

In November, 2014, the Roth Institute hosted an international workshop on "Conversion: Between Antisemitism and Philosemitism" in cooperation with the ICORE Center for Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben Gurion University.

The two-day program began with a keynote address by Prof. David Nirenberg of the University of Chicago on "Christian Media, Anti-Judaism and the Art of Conversion." Based on his award-winning book *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*, Prof. Nirenberg's presentation laid the foundations for two days of



discussions regarding the many connections between Jews and conversion. In addition to lectures on Jewish-Christian relations in medieval Europe, speakers also addressed attempts to convert Jews in the colonial world as well as debates regarding conversion in contemporary Israeli society.



# RECENT LECTURES, SYMPOSIA AND WORKSHOPS HOSTED BY THE ROTH INSTITUTE

- Dr. Agnieszka Jagodzińska, University of Wrocław, Poland
   Children, Jews and Missionaries: The Jewish Advocate for the Young | November 26, 2014
- Prof. Theodore R. Weeks, Southern Illinois University Jews Between Poles and Lithuanians 1918-1922 | December 7, 2014
- **Dr. Magdalena Waligorska**, University of Bremen, Germany
  The Jewish Music Revival in Post-Holocaust Poland | December 11, 2014
- Prof. Jack Jacobs, John Jay College, City University of New York
   The Frankfurt School, Jewish Lives, and Antisemitism | January 4, 2015
- Prof. Atina Grossman, Cooper Union, New York The Annual Marianne and Ernst Pieper Lecture Gender, War, and Antisemitism | January 14, 2015
- Segregation: A Global Perspective
   An International Workshop | January 15, 2015
- Prof. Samuel Moyn, Harvard University
   Croesus's World: Human Rights and the Age of Inequality | March 18, 2015
- Prof. Benjamin Nathans, University of Pennsylvania
   Amnesty International and Soviet Dissidents | March 22, 2015
- Prof. Nathan Lerner, Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya Prof. Ely Aaronson, University of Haifa Anti-Racism Legislation: A Symposium | May 11, 2015
- TAU-Toronto Working Group on the Study of Antisemitism
  An international Workshop in Cooperation with Brown University's Program in Judaic Studies | June 25, 2015



### 2014-2015 IN NUMBERS

International Conference

14 Research Seminars

2 Graduate Student Assistants 16 Guest Lectures

3 International Workshops at TAU 27 Academic Visitors from Abroad

9 Research Grants for Graduate Students and Post-Doctoral Scholars

### THE ROTH INSTITUTE RESEARCH GROUP ON ANTISEMITISM AND RACISM

Over the 2014-2015 academic year, the Roth Institute hosted a year-long Research Group on Antisemitism and Racism for eight graduate students and post-doctoral scholars studying various aspects of antisemitism and racism.

In addition to receiving research grants, group members took part in monthly seminars, met with visiting scholars from leading universities in Israel and abroad, and received critical support and feedback on their research.

Alongside graduate students from the departments of Anthropology, Cultural Studies, General History, Jewish History, Middle Eastern Studies and Psychology, the 2014-2015 Research Group also included two post-doctoral fellows specializing in modern history, Dr. Raz Segal and Dr. Amir Teicher.

Our congratulations to Dr. Segal and Dr. Teicher, both of whom recently received new faculty positions, Segal at Stockton University in New Jersey and Teicher at Tel Aviv University's Department of History.

### THE ZEEV VERED PROJECT ON TOLERANCE AND INTOLERANCE IN THE **MIDDLE EAST**

Over the course of the 2014-2015 academic year, TAU's Zeev Vered Project for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East continued its important work of monitoring Arablanguage media for expressions and manifestations of anti-Semitic attitudes and opinions.

Under the direction of Dr. Esther (Esti) Webman, one of the world's leading experts in the field, the dedicated staff of the Vered Project identify, catalogue and analyze a wide range of print, visual and social media sources from across the Arab world.

These items are then summarized in English and entered into TAU's Database on Antisemitism and Racism, where they are available and accessible to scholars, students and community members via TAU's library system.

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