
Freud and Psychoanalysis: An International Workshop

(From left to right) Ritchie Robertson, Anthony Kauders, Gideon Reuveni, Naomi Segal, Edward Timms, Uffa Jensen at the Austrian Embassy, 11 September 2012

In the ornate splendour of the Austrian Embassy in Belgrave Square, Ambassador Dr Emil Brix welcomed a packed assembly to a workshop and reception on 'Freud and Psychoanalysis' to celebrate the 75th birthday of Professor Edward Timms OBE, FBA, the founder of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. The event was jointly organised by the Centre and the Austrian Cultural Forum. Dr Brix called the occasion 'a meeting of intellectual minds'; an appropriate celebration for an academic whose distinguished work has spanned a career of more than forty years. More than this, however, the event proved a testament to the respect and warmth with which Professor Timms is regarded by colleagues and friends, several of whom had been invited to present papers in his honour.

Anthony Kauders's paper on 'Truth, Truthfulness and Psychoanalysis: The Reception of Freud in Wilhelmine Germany' offered an exploration of the ideological diversity which affected interpretations of Freud. Kauders's analysis of three different group interpretations of Freud (by youth movements, professional psychologists and liberationists) revealed that while the 'truthfulness' offered by Freud yielded a range of interpretations, all three groups agreed on the centrality of the sovereign ego and the challenge of the unconscious.

Uffa Jensen, a former colleague at the University of Sussex who had travelled from Berlin for the occasion, presented a paper entitled: 'How

LJCC AJR CGJS joint event – German and Austrian Jewish Refugees: Legacy and Impact

A seminar co-organised by the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the Association of Jewish Refugees and the London Jewish Cultural Centre (LJCC) entitled 'German and Austrian Jewish Refugees: Their Impact and Legacy' took place on 12-13 September 2012 at Ivy House, the headquarters of the LJCC. The purpose of the seminar was to reflect on the lives of German and Austrian Jewish refugees who fled Nazism and to discuss their contribution to life in Britain.

This highly successful, very well-attended event began with a lecture by Dr Anthony Grenville, Consultant Editor of the AJR Journal, on the culture of Viennese Jewry before 1938. Following this talk, Edward Timms gave an illustrated lecture on the subject of 'Sigmund Freud and the Creative Circles of Vienna'. In the afternoon, the LJCC's Executive Director of Education and Holocaust Studies, Trudy Gold, gave an overview of Germany during the period 1919-1939. The day ended with a panel discussion by AJR 'first generation' members Edith Argy (born in Vienna), Dr Edgar Feuchtwanger (born in Munich) and Dorli Neale (born in Innsbruck). Rabbi Rodney Mariner, Emeritus Rabbi of Belsize Square Synagogue, skilfully led the discussion.

The second day of the seminar began with an especially topical lecture by Claudia Zimmerman (Sociology Department, Karl Franzens University, Graz) on the legacy of Ludwig 'Poppa' Guttmann, founder of what was to become the Paralympics. Patrick Bade, a senior tutor at Christie's Education Department, played musical extracts and regaled the audience with anecdotes on some of the many musicians, including Hans Gal, Berthold Goldschmidt and Richard Tauber, who enriched the musical life of Britain. In a subsequent session, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg of the New North London Synagogue, in conversation with Dr Gideon Reuveni, underlined the importance of the German-Jewish experience for our understanding of multiculturalism in the UK today.

A panel discussion on 'second generation' experiences closed the . Ch, Karl

Conference on Jewish Studies at Oxford University

Convened by Professor Christian Wiese on behalf of the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought and Philosophy at the University of Frankfurt and the CGJS, the Twelfth Summer Colloquium of the European Association of Jewish Studies (EAJS) was held at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Yarnton Manor from 23 to 26 July 2012. The colloquium was devoted to the topic '*Wissenschaft des Judentums* in Europe: Comparative Perspectives' and brought together scholars from different fields in Jewish Studies to discuss new trends in the historiography on Jewish Studies in Europe and to re-think its history in a collective, interdisciplinary endeavour. The colloquium was attended by scholars from several European countries (Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and the UK) as well as from Israel.

The history of *Wissenschaft des Judentums* is that of a young field of research that was never fully accepted at European universities before the Holocaust. Nevertheless, the discipline spread throughout most of the European Jewish communities, creating its own institutions and producing an impressive record of research on Jewish history, religion, literature and culture. Apart from its scholarly endeavours, the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* had important cultural and political functions: it played a vital role in the Jewish minority's struggle for political and cultural emancipation, especially in its fight against antisemitism, and its attempt to demonstrate that Judaism was compatible with Enlightenment and modern European culture.

The colloquium's main focus was on the transnational networks of Jewish scholarship, particularly between Germany, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Poland and Russia. Furthermore, the speakers explored the ways in which the *Wissenschaft des Judentums* was embedded in these differing European cultures and discussed which impact the respective political context, the degree of cultural integration or the challenges by anti-Jewish sentiments had on the religious and scholarly self-understanding of its adherents.

Between Socialism and Zionism: Moses Hess in Jerusalem



Shlomo Avineri at the Jerusalem conference

The year 2012 marks the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Moses Hess (1812-1875) and the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his famous book *Rome and Jerusalem*. A major international conference took place in Jerusalem on 18-20 March 2012 in memory of this fascinating German-Jewish intellectual, who was brought up in a traditional family, turned to Spinozism and socialism, lived the life of an exiled free thinker in Paris, became a friend and ally (later a critic) of Karl Marx, and was eventually prompted by the emergence of modern antisemitism to publish a challenging book that made him an influential forerunner of Zionism. Christian Wiese co-organized this conference on behalf of the CGJS and the Martin Buber Chair in Jewish Thought and Philosophy in cooperation with the Leo Baeck Institute Jerusalem and the Israel Office of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation.

The multi-layered personality of Moses Hess is like a prism that reflects various political and cultural facets of German-Jewish history. The lectures explored the extent to which the challenges, tensions and contradictions characterizing modern culture in general, and 19th-century German Jewry in particular, are represented in the numerous areas of his activity as a writer, revolutionary activist and nationalist thinker. Scholars from Israel, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and the USA, among them Hess's biographer, the prominent Israeli historian Shlomo Avineri, emphasized that the issues Hess raised in his writings (including his passion for social justice and his search for a Jewish nationalism that was aware of the rights of Arab nationalism) seem to be more relevant than ever in contemporary society, both in Europe and Israel.

Ordeals of Kinder and Evacuees in Comparative Perspective

Researchers at Sussex have a special interest in the experiences of child refugees. A comparison of the Kindertransport with the ordeals of British children evacuated to the countryside during the Second World War can draw on two anthologies: *The Evacuees* (1968) and *I Came Alone* (1990). The comparison reveals two fundamentally different patterns. Evacuation was a coordinated response to a temporary emergency, while the Kindertransport was a desperate attempt to escape impending genocide. Many of the Kinder were emotionally scarred, whereas evacuees experienced fewer difficulties and even described their experiences as character forming.

Within twenty years of the ending of the war, articulate members of the evacuee generation were already prepared to record their experiences for publication. However, the thirty-three contributions to *The Evacuees*, arranged alphabetically and edited by B. S. Johnson, have to be treated with caution, for their authors include a number of people who by the mid-1960s were already enjoying success in the arts, including the actors Michael Aspell and Jonathan Miller.

The evacuation made an essential contribution to the success of the War on the Home Front. Compulsory billeting of evacuees in the countryside, which could certainly be a source of friction, helped to dislodge the class barriers that had disfigured British society between the wars. Together with other forms of sharing,

such as food rationing, the evacuation built up support for the creation of a fairer society, especially a National Health Service committed to improving the health of children. This contributed to the political landslide that brought the Labour government to power in 1945.

For the Kindertransport children the task of coming to terms with separation took far longer, as can be seen from the pioneering anthology *I Came Alone: The Story of the Kindertransports*, edited by Bertha Leverton and Shmuel Lowensohn. This sample of approximately four hundred brief testimonies, also arranged alphabetically, came into being as a result of the first Kindertransport reunion in north London in 1989. The fifty-year time lapse between the arrival of the Kinder in Britain, and this first concerted attempt at reflection on their experiences, indicates the struggle they faced in establishing a fresh identity.

The title chosen for this anthology speaks volumes.

Bertha Leverton did not actually come alone. On the train packed with children, which brought the fifteen-year-old from Vienna via Frankfurt and the Hook of Holland to Harwich in January 1939, she was accompanied by her twelve-year-old brother Theo. The title chosen for the book indicates how lonely they felt, having left almost everything behind – parents, extended family, home, school, books, language, culture and cuisine. In many cases they were even deprived of their original German name or had to live with an English equivalent (Bertha was originally spelt and pronounced Berta). This sense of isolation forms one of the leitmotifs of the book, a striking contrast to the Evacuees anthology with its undertones of togetherness.

Summary of a forthcoming article by Edward Timms to be published in *The Kindertransport to Britain 1938/39: New Perspectives*, ed. Andrea Hammel and Bea Lewkowicz (Rodopi)

The Bombing of Germany

For his doctorate at Sussex University, Paul Weir is researching British attitudes to the aerial bombardment of Germany during the Second World War. Recent historiography, particularly since the turn of the century, has addressed the question of whether certain attacks merit consideration as war crimes. Yet what is largely absent from the literature is a discussion of how British people saw the bombing campaign at the time. Through a series of case studies – each based around an attack at different stages of the war, he is seeking to address this shortfall.

The chapter he is currently writing concerns Hamburg, which in the summer of 1943 was subjected to a sequence of raids that raised a devastating firestorm in the city. Paul has used a wide range of archival sources to assess the debate at an official level, as well as among church leaders, in the media and amongst the general public. The raids on Hamburg took place after the end of the Blitz, the experience of which informed the attitudes of people in Britain at the time.

Paul would be most grateful for any information that may assist him with his research.

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Gifts to our Archive

A key objective of the Centre continues to be research on the history of Jewish refugees to the United Kingdom and their families. Working closely with researchers at the Centre, the Special Collections department in the Sussex University Library currently houses several sequences of German-Jewish family papers. They are used by students and scholars for research into British and Jewish history, as well as the history of migration and Holocaust studies. Two seminal additions have recently been donated to our archival collection. We are most grateful to Libby Coleman for giving us the personal papers of her father, Franz Josef Leuwer. Better known as Frank Lynder, he worked for the British intelligence during the war and after the war made himself a name as a journalist and a close adjunct of Axel Springer. The collection includes documents from the pre-war period as well as Lynder's unpublished memoirs.

We are also most grateful to Alan Sainer for depositing his family papers in our archive. The Gerda Sainer Papers are a unique collection of documents that span from the early nineteenth century to the post war period. The photographs, letters and diaries of this extraordinary collection document the everyday life of a German-Jewish family over five generations. Some of the mid-19th century images are photographs taken in Posen by a dentist, who was an amateur photographer. The collection also contains a series of business and private letters written in Hebrew from the late 19th century. The material from the 20th century documents persecution in Germany and refugee experiences in Britain; the Kindertransport, internment of enemy aliens, and their reception by the British Jewish Community. This exceptional body of documents gives testimony to the life history of a German-Jewish family in the turbulent times of the 19th and 20th centuries.

A Lancaster bomber silhouetted against flares and explosions during an attack on Hamburg in January 1943

News from the Centre's Support Group

At a conference at the University of Essex on 13-14 September 2012 Clemens N Nathan delivered a plenary lecture on 'Compensation and Restitution for the Jewish Victims of the Holocaust'.

This lecture recalls that the organisation created for this task called itself the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, (better known as the Claims Conference). The German government regarded their settlement as 'wieder gut machung' - 'to make whole or to make good'. The Claims Conference would never accept that any material compensation could ever make good what had been done. After reviewing the achievements of the Claims Conference over many years, Clemens Nathan reminded the audience that the work it does today is also for victims of genocide worldwide. It is surely our duty to use our experiences to improve the lives of those who have suffered everywhere: 'He who saves one life saves all of humanity' (Torah).

Gerda Sainer, née Federmann, in 1938

Publications and Research

Gideon Reuveni, Dan Dinner and Yfaat Weis (eds.), *Deutsche Zeiten: Geschichte Und Lebenswelt. Festschrift Zur Emeritierung Von Moshe Zimmermann* (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2012)

German-Jewish Thought Between Religion and Politics: Festschrift in Honor of Paul Mendes-Flohr on the Occasion of his Seventieth Birthday, ed. by Christian Wiese and Martina Urban (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2012)

Jüdische Existenz in der Moderne: Abraham Geiger und die Wissenschaft des Judentums, ed. by Christian Wiese, Walter Homolka and Thomas Brechenmacher (Berlin: De Gruyter, forthcoming)

Romy Langeheine, a DPhil student at Sussex University, has successfully defended her thesis on the biography of the German-Jewish scholar of nationalism, Hans Kohn (1891-1971). She is currently working at the Buchenwald Memorial in Weimar.

Forthcoming lectures and events

From Getting to Spending – Consumer Culture and the Making of Jewish Identity
Dr Gideon Reuveni, Director, Centre for German-Jewish Studies
Tuesday 30 October 17:00
German Historical Institute London, 17 Bloomsbury Square, Holborn, London WC1A 2NJ
All welcome, booking not required

Absolute Fiction – Hannah Arendt and the end of mental freedom
Professor Jacqueline Rose FBA, BA (Queen Mary, University of London)
Wednesday 14 November 17:00 Fulton A, University of Sussex
All welcome, booking not required

Book Launch – ***Ideologie und Herrschaftsrationalität (Ideology and State Rationality)***
Dr Gerhard Wolf Deputy Director, Centre for German-Jewish Studies
Wednesday 21 November 16:00 Arts A Room 108, University of Sussex
All welcome, booking not required

Introducing Gertrud Mayer-Jaspers
Dr Lars Fischer (Cambridge University)
Thursday 22 November 16:00
Arts A108, University of Sussex
All welcome, booking not required

Antisemitism in Fascist Italy, 1922-1945
Lutz Klinkhammer (German Historical Institute, Rome)
Thursday 6 December 16:00
History Work in Progress Seminar, Arts A108, University of Sussex
All welcome, booking not required

Holocaust Memorial Day
Professor Peter Pulzer (University of Oxford) and Zigi Shipper (Holocaust Survivor)
Wednesday 30 January 2013 13:30 -18:00
Jubilee Building Lecture Theatre, University of Sussex
All welcome, booking not required

Discounts on publications associated with the Centre

Publications by researchers at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies may be purchased at a discount by Friends of the Centre.

For further information about the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and joining the Friends, please contact:

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