



Newsletter

No. 5 / Fall 2018

June 2017 – September 2018

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Dina Porat with Pope Francis

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to present the fifth newsletter of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel-Aviv University. This newsletter covers the Center's activities from June 2017 to September 2018. During the past year, the Kantor Center has been extremely active. Its team continued to realize the goals set in our Mission Statement, and to broaden and strengthen fruitful cooperation with a wide range of colleagues and institutes both in Israel and abroad.

Our newsletter offers the complete list of activities initiated and carried out by the Center. Therefore, let us highlight just the major ones, that represent the three main fields of our academic work: Demography of contemporary European Jewish communities and their quest for identity; worldwide legislation against discrimination, antisemitism included; and the monitoring and analyzing of antisemitism worldwide.

In June 2017, a conference marking World Refugee Day and the launch of *Legislating for Equality Vol. III: Africa*, organized by the Kantor Center, in cooperation with a number of institutes, including the UNHCR, was held at Tel Aviv University. The opening ceremony included a keynote lecture by Prof. Yoram Dinstein on "Refugees: Tour D'horizon – Definition, Law and Reality", and was attended by ambassadors and dignitaries.

On 22-25 October 2017, the Kantor Center held its 13th international seminar, supported by Dr. Axel Stawski, New York, and the Audiatur Foundation, headed by Dr. Joseph Bollag. The seminar was held in Zurich, Switzerland, in cooperation with the Audiatur Foundation. During the three-day seminar, Monika Schwartz-Friesel provided the keynote address on "The Emotional Dimension of Antisemitism", and lectures were given by the seminar participants on themes including "Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in the Extreme Left and Right", "Contemporary Antisemitism in Eastern Europe", "Religions – Sources of Hatred or Bridges of Hope?" and "Confronting Antisemitism through Legislation and Lobbyism".

On 28 January 2018, the Kantor Center in cooperation with The Museum of the Jewish People marked the International Holocaust Memorial Day, in an event dedicated to "The Jewish People and the Vatican after the War". Speakers were Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Rabbi David Rosen.

An international five-day conference, *An End to Antisemitism!*, held in February 2018 in Vienna University, was organized by the University of Vienna, Tel Aviv University and New York University. The opening evening was held in the Vienna Old Town Hall with Bernard-Henri Levi, the French philosopher, as the keynote speaker. About 150 international scholars from all disciplines, political and religious leaders, and policy makers, delivered lectures.

The conference aimed to address the topic of antisemitism in its full breadth and historical framework, from the ancient roots of Jew-hatred until today. For this purpose, various fields of study were represented in panels, including: Ancient History; Bible, Christianity and Antisemitism; Islam and Antisemitism; Contemporary Period; Philosophy and Ethics; Jurisprudence, to name a few.

The monitoring and analysis of the current situation of antisemitism and racism by the Kantor Center team resulted in an international widely-attended press conference, in April 2018, held a day before Holocaust Memorial Day; in Position Papers, that are about to be published by Academic Studies Press in the U.S., supported by Celia and Jackie Michonik; in the maintenance and constant improvement of the Moshe Kantor Database; and the tri-monthly bulletin which includes comprehensive information on relevant events, debates and publications in the field. Moreover, the fourth volume in our "Legislating for Equality" series, on Asia & Oceania, is on its way.

On the eve of the Center's eighth year of activity, we, the Center's team, look back with modest satisfaction, and forward, with hope and gratitude. We wish to thank all those who have lent us a helping hand: TAU President Prof. Yoseph Klafter, Rector Prof. Yaron Oz and Dean of Humanities, Prof. Leo Corry, as well as Dr. Axel Stawski and Dr. Joseph Bollag for generously supporting our biennial international seminars.

Well-deserved thanks also go to UNESCO Director General Ms. Irina Bokova; members of our executive board, Prof. Simcha Goldin and the Dean of Humanities; to our legal board, chaired by Prof. Yoram Dinstein, and include two Supreme Court justices, Justice Daphne Barak-Erez and Justice Elyakim Rubinstein; Ms. Orna Cohen, TAU's spokeswoman; Ms. Liora Shani, head of the events department of Beit Hatfutsot - Museum of the Jewish People; Ms. Raya Kalenova, Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress, and Ms. Ariella Woitchik, Director of Legal and Public Affairs of the European Jewish Congress; the friends who support the "Antisemitism per country" research; and our many partners, colleagues and supporters in Israel and abroad.

Special thanks go to Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress, and Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Chairperson of the Center's Executive Board, and Secretary General of the European Jewish Fund, for their ongoing trust and support.

And, finally, a moment of *Nachat*: on 26 April 2018, the Co-Chairs of the U.S. Congressional Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism issued a joint press release statement mentioning the Kantor Center's annual report findings, issued in April, and called for the immediate appointment of a special envoy on antisemitism by president Trump.



With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Dina Porat".

Dina Porat

Mission Statement

Contemporary European Jewry represents a fascinating and dynamic phenomenon, necessitating in-depth academic research in order to become better acquainted with its communities, and with various aspects of Jewish life in Europe. The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, inaugurated in May 2010 at Tel Aviv University, provides an academic framework for the interdisciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II until the present day. The Center offers a platform for the diverse needs of researchers, students, governmental and civil service personnel, professionals, activists, and the public at large, both in Israel and abroad, and cooperates with European Jewish communities and their leaders. The Center initiates, encourages and coordinates research projects, conferences, seminars and publications in the following areas:



Prof. Dina Porat and Dr. Moshe Kantor

- Historical and sociological processes and their ramifications on issues such as identity, education, demography and communal organization of European Jewry;
- Mutual contacts between European Jewish communities and their leaders vis-à-vis local societies, and with other minority and religious groups, in the political and cultural context;
- Preserving national memory, Jewish identity and the Jewish communal legacy, and analyzing their implications for the present.
- Worldwide legislation and enforcement in the promotion of minority rights, non-discrimination, and against racism, hate crimes, hate speech, antisemitism, and Holocaust denial.
- Finally, enhancing the diverse work of the Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism, and holding an annual press conference presenting the situation of antisemitism worldwide.



Photo of the Old Jewish Town Hall clocks in Prague. The clock with Hebrew letters signifies the Jewish time, while the clock above it has Roman numerals and signifies the general time – of which the Jewish time is a part.

Newsletter Editor: **Talia Naamat**

Graphics designer: **Copy Center / graphic studio**

Staff and Board

Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center

Dr. Haim Fireberg, Lecturer in Jewish History, Director of Research Programs

Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari, Research Fellow, Demography

Dr. Marcela Zoufala-Menachem, Research Fellow, Charles University, Prague

Dr. Raphael Vago, Senior Lecturer in Modern East European History and Senior Researcher

Dr. Roni Stauber, Lecturer in Jewish History, Senior Research Fellow, Academic Head of the Wiener Library

Dr. Irena Cantorovich, Researcher, the CIS and Baltic States

Ronit Greenfeld, Administrative Assistant

Adrian Gruszniowski, Researcher, Jewish Sociology. Webmaster

Lidia Lerner, Researcher, Latin America and Spain

Riva Mane, Researcher, Western Europe and Canada

Adv. Talia Naamat, Legal Researcher

Elena Pesina, Legal Researcher

Dr. Giovanni M. Quer, Legal Researcher

Sarah Rembiszewski, Researcher and Coordinator of the Moshe Kantor Database

Dr. Mikael Shainkman, Researcher, Scandinavian countries

Zelda Katz, English Language Editor

Fanny Englard, Volunteer

The Kantor Center works in cooperation with Dr. Esther Webman, head of the Program for the Study of Jews in Arab Lands.

Visiting Interns

Since January 2011, the Kantor Center has hosted over twenty interns from western and central Europe. The interns engage in the study and monitoring of antisemitism and racism, under the guidance of Sarah Rembiszewski. Many of them are students active in the struggle against bigotry and discrimination in their home countries.



Lennard Meiwes

Executive Board

Adv. Arie Zuckerman, European Jewish Fund (Chairman of the Executive Board)



Prof. Leo Corry, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities

Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center

Prof. Simcha Goldin, Head of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center

Academic Legal Board

Prof. Yoram Dinstein, Chairperson of the Board, Former President of TAU

Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez, Supreme Court Justice

Mr. Elyakim Rubinstein, Supreme Court Justice

Adv. Irit Kohn, President of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists



Ronit Greenfeld, Esther Webman, Haim Fireberg, Kira Ablamunits, Dina Porat, Giovanni Quer, Talia Naamat, Lidia Lerner and Riva Mane



Adrian Gruszniewski



Sarah Rembiszewski



Rafi Vago



Lilach Lev-Ari



Marcela Zoufala-Menachem



Roni Stauber

Supporters of the Research on Antisemitism

Dr. Joseph Bollag
(Switzerland)

Dr. Arturo Constantiner
(Mexico)

The Ganan-Gertner Fund
(Ukraine)

Dr. Edward Komberg
(Holocaust denial)

The Moskovich Fund
(Poland)

Mrs. Celia and Mr. Jack Michonik
(Latin America)

Mr. Sigi Siegreich
(Australia)

Mrs. Ruta Zandman
(USA)

The Yitzhak Artzi Fund, founded by Dan David
(Romania)

Mr. Alan Silberstein
(Legislation against antisemitism)

Dr. Axel Stawski
(International seminars)

Conferences and Symposiums

Conference Marking World Refugee Day and the Launching of Legislating for Equality, Volume III: Africa, June 2017

On 14-15 June, a conference marking World Refugee Day and the Launch of Legislating for Equality Volume III: Africa was held at Tel Aviv University.

The Conference was organized by the Kantor Center, Ruppin Academic Center, the Refugee Rights Clinic and the African Studies Department at Tel Aviv University, and in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot, the UNHCR and the United Nations Association of Israel. The opening ceremony included a keynote lecture by Prof. Yoram Dinstein on “Refugees: Tour D’horizon – Definition, Law and Reality”, and was attended by ambassadors and dignitaries. During the two-day conference, spanning four sessions, presentations were given by, among others, Mr. Leonard Zulu (Head of the Policy and Legal Unit, UNHCR Africa Bureau), Prof. Yuval Shany, Prof. Tomer Broude, Adv. Anat Ben-Dor and Prof. Galia Sabar.



Galia Sabar with Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein



Prof. Irwin Cotler, Ambassador Francesco M. Talò, Ambassador Clemens von Goetze



Yuval Livnat with Yuval Shany



Dina Porat, Talia Naamat, Leonard Zulu and Irit Back



World Political and Social Changes and Their Impact on Jewish Communities,

the 13th Biennial International Seminar on Antisemitism, Zurich, October 2017

On 22-25 October 2018, the Kantor Center held the 13th international seminar, in cooperation with the Audiatur Foundation, in Zurich, Switzerland. During the three-day seminar, Prof. Monika Schwartz-Friesel provided the keynote address on “The Emotional Dimension of Antisemitism”, and lectures were given by the seminar participants on themes including “Antisemitism and Anti-Zionism in the Extreme Left and Right”, “Contemporary Antisemitism in Eastern Europe”, “Religions – Sources of Hatred or Bridges of Hope?” and “Confronting Antisemitism through Legislation and Lobbyism”. The international seminar was supported by Dr. Axel Stawski, New York, and the Audiatur Foundation, headed by Dr. Joseph Bollag.

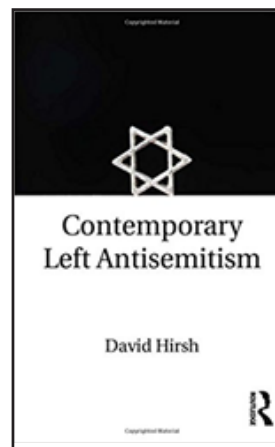


Dr. Joseph Bollag

Contemporary Left Antisemitism,

David Hirsh Lecture, November 2017

On 7 November 2017, David Hirsh provided a presentation of his newly published book, “Contemporary Left Antisemitism” (Routledge, 2017). at Beit Hatfutsot (Tel Aviv University). The book looks at, among other issues, struggles over how antisemitism is defined, the kind of antisemitism which is tolerated or which goes unacknowledged in apparently democratic spaces, and analyses how criticism of Israel can mushroom into antisemitism.



The Jewish People and the Vatican after the War,

International Holocaust Memorial Day, January 2018

On 28 January 2018, the Kantor Center in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot held an event marking the International Holocaust Memorial Day. The event was dedicated to ‘The Jewish People and the Vatican after the War’ and speakers were Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Rabbi David Rosen. The evening was opened with greetings by TAU President Klafter.



Rabbi David Rosen, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Liora Shani, Dina Porat, President Klafter

Conferences and Symposiums

An End to Antisemitism!,

Vienna University, Conference, February 2018

The international five-day conference, held in Vienna University, was organized by the University of Vienna, Tel Aviv University and New York University. The opening evening was held in the Vienna Town Hall with Bernard-Henri Levi, the French philosopher, as the keynote speaker. About 150 international scholars from all disciplines, political and religious leaders as well as policy makers, delivered lectures. The conference aimed to address the topic of antisemitism in its full breadth and historical framework, from the ancient roots of Jew-hatred until today. For this purpose, various fields of study were represented in panels, including: Ancient History; Bible, Christianity and Antisemitism; Islam and Antisemitism; Contemporary Period; Philosophy and Ethics; Jurisprudence, to name a few. The conference's organizers were Prof. Armin Lange, Prof. Dina Porat, Dr. Klaus Davidowicz, Prof. Lawrence Schiffman and Dr. Ariel Muzicant.



Dina Porat, Mark Weizman, Armin Lange, Ariel Muzicant



Armin Lange speaking on the opening night at the Vienna Old Town Hall



Lawrence H. Schiffman



Nathan Sharansky



Katharina von Schnurbein



Bernard Henry Levi

Conferences and Symposiums

Annual Press Conference on Antisemitism Worldwide, April 2018

On 11 April 2018, the annual press conference, during which the Kantor Center's Worldwide Report on Antisemitism on 2017 was presented, was held at Tel Aviv University on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance day in Israel. As always, the press conference is organized in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress and TAU's Spokesperson's Office. Dr. Kantor, President of the EJC, opened with an analysis of the present situation. The entire report is available on the Kantor Center's website.

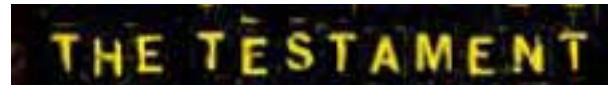


Moshe Kantor with Dina Porat

“The Testament”, Movie Screening and Panel Discussion. Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event, April 2018



On 12 April 2018, the Kantor Center held a screening of the movie “The Testament” (“Ha’edut”), in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot and the Alfred P. Slaner Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism, in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman. The movie, about the Rechnitz massacre, was inspired by events that took place in the last days of World War II in Austria. After the screening, Prof. Porat interviewed Mr. Amichai Greenberg, the movie's director and screenwriter, with the audience's participation.



Amichai Greenberg and Dina Porat

The Annual Raoul Wallenberg Awards Ceremony, May 2018

The Wallenberg Awards Ceremony at Tel Aviv University celebrated its 30-year anniversary.

On 30 May 2018, the Kantor Center in cooperation with the Office of the Vice President of TAU and the Swedish Embassy in Israel, held the gathering commemorating Raoul Wallenberg Day. Two students received the Wallenberg scholarship: Ms. Kira Ablamunits from Humanities-Holocaust Studies, and Gustavo Guzman from Law and Human Rights.



Vice President Raanan Rein, Ambassador Magnus Hellgren, Dina Porat, Kira Ablamunits and Gustavo Guzman

Supporting and Cooperating with Other Institutes and Centers

Women During the War and the Holocaust, Wiener Lecture Series, 2017-2018

The Wiener Lectures Series is coordinated by Dr. Roni Stauber, and continued in 2017-2018, in cooperation with the Kantor Center and the Minerva Center for German History. The Series included lectures by, among others: Prof. Ruth Landau, Prof. Moshe Zimmermann, and Dr. Bella Gutterman.



Upcoming Events

29 October 2018 – a conference within the framework of L'annee Croisee, a joint French-Israel enterprise designed for Israel's 70th year anniversary, organized by Prof. Stella Amossi in cooperation with the Kantor Center. The conference will present the Jewish intellectuals who were rescued in the French village Chambon-Sur-Lignon during WWII.

Research Projects, Proposals and Publications

Jewish and Israeli Immigrants in European Capitals: Acculturation, Ethnic Identity and Trans-nationalism, Research Project A comparative study on the patterns of social, economic and cultural integration processes among Jewish groups. The research, conducted by **Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari, Dr. Haim Fireberg and Adrian Gruszniewski (MA)**, is about to be completed.

People at a Crossroads, Erasmus Project

The Erasmus project, "People at a Crossroads - an Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary European Jewry and Its Reflection" concentrates on three different research areas: Representation of Jews and Judaism in Central Europe; Assimilation, Integration, and new Anti-Semitism"; and the new Jewish/Israeli diaspora in Europe. The submitted project emerged from a long-term collaboration between academic institutions at Tel Aviv University, Charles University in Prague and the Moses Mendelssohn Center in Potsdam. The project was recently approved by Erasmus!

Research Projects, Proposals and Publications

Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism

The database's activities, coordinated by **Sarah Rembiszewski**, include the following:

- Monitoring antisemitism and racism worldwide via an extensive database;
- Preparing the materials for an annual report and analysis on antisemitism and racism worldwide traditionally presented at an annual press conference before Holocaust Memorial Day;
- Undertaking research projects related to aspects of antisemitic and racist manifestations.

Kantor Center and Database Tri-Monthly Bulletin

The Kantor Center publishes a tri-monthly bulletin, edited until recently by Dr. Irena Cantorovich and currently by Kira Ablamunits. The bulletin includes information on the Center's activities, research projects on world-wide legislation against discrimination, issues regarding demography and history, and highlights from the Moshe Kantor Database on Antisemitism and Racism. The bulletin also provides news on matters related to European Jewry and worldwide antisemitism; new books; new articles; book reviews; reports; conferences and workshops.

Position Papers on Antisemitism and Racism

Dr. Mikael Shainkman coordinates a forum published on a bi-monthly basis for short studies on current issues pertaining to antisemitism, racism and related themes. The papers are authored by the Center's research fellows, as well as experts in these fields worldwide. The papers are posted on the Center's website and circulated to the Center's subscribers.

Establishment of the International Organization for Antisemitism Research (IOAR)

On 13 June 2018, a press release was published, simultaneously in Tel-Aviv, Vienna and New York, announcing the establishment of the new organization, as a joint effort of Vienna University, Tel Aviv University and New York University, resulting from the An End to Antisemitism! Conference which took place in Vienna in February 2018. The administrative office is located in Tel Aviv, at the Kantor Center and headed by **Dr. Giovanni M. Quer**.

Forthcoming Publications

Antisemitisms Today and Tomorrow: Global Perspectives on the Many Faces of Contemporary Antisemitism" (edited by Mikael Shainkman)

The book will present a compilation of position papers on the subject of contemporary antisemitisms, and will be published by Academic Studies Press in the U.S. in the fall of 2018.

Legislating for Equality, Vol. IV: Asia and Oceania, a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms (eds. Talia Naamat, Elena Pesina, Dina Porat and Giovanni Quer)

The Center's team is working on the fourth volume of the publication *Legislating for Equality – a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms*, which will be published in late 2018 by Brill Publishing House, under the imprint of Martinus Nijhoff Publishers. The publication was endorsed by UNESCO, and the Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova, provided a foreword.

Being Jewish in Central Europe Today, a collection of essays based on a conference which took place in Charles University, Prague, in November 2015 (eds. Marcela Zoufalá, Haim Fireberg and Olaf Gluekner), will be published in 2018.

Staff News

- On 1-14 October 2018, Prof. Dina Porat visited Melbourne, Australia, where she held meetings with leaders of the local Jewish community, delivered a lecture to the community and participated at a seminar at the University of Melbourne.
- On 13 March 2018, Prof. Porat participated in the reception held in St. Peter's Church in Yaffo commemorating the 5th anniversary celebration of Pope Francis's election.
- On 19-22 March 2018, the Center's researchers participated in the 6th Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism held by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem.
- On 7-8 May 2018, Prof. Porat, **Prof. Lilach Lev Ari, and Dr. Haim Fireberg** participated in meetings held in Prague on the joint submission of a research proposal. They also attended an event held at the Czech Senate in commemoration of Israel's 70th anniversary, at which the Kantor Center's report was mentioned by the ambassador.



- On 28 June 2018, **Dr. Esther Webman** participated in a conference in Geneva, titled, "Expert Stakeholder Consultation on Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism", and gave a lecture titled "Comments on Measuring Antisemitism in the Arab World". The conference was convened by the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights in cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed.
- On 1 July 2018, **Prof. Porat** was awarded the Bahat Prize for the best Hebrew Written Research of 2018 for her forthcoming publication, *"To Me Belongeth Vengeance and Recompense", The Yishuv, the Holocaust and the Abba Kovner Group of Avengers.*



Website

The Kantor Center's website reflects and supports its wide range of activities. It offers a portal to the interested academic community and the public at large, as well as to Jewish communities worldwide, on demography, legislation and the study of antisemitism. It aims to be technically advanced, as well as freely accessible and user-friendly.

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Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry

History and Demography

- Legislation
- Administration and Budget
- Publications & Documents

Highlights about Kantor Center

Extracts from our Mission Statement

Contemporary European Jewry represents a fascinating and dynamic phenomenon, necessitating in-depth academic research in order to become better acquainted with its communities, and with various aspects of Jewish life in Europe.

The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, inaugurated in May 2010 at Tel Aviv University, provides an academic framework for the interdisciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II until the present day.

To read our full Mission Statement and to learn about our various fields of action, visit www.kantorcenter.org.

News

- The General Analysis on Antisemitism (Brno) 2017 was presented today during a press conference at Tel Aviv University.
- From February 16 to 22, 2018, an International Conference on Antisemitism was held in Vienna. It was co-sponsored by the Kantor Center.
- Is there a threatening wave of new antisemitism? Are we witnessing new political dangers for Jews in Western Europe or in the United States?
- The latest newspaper of reference, Haaretz, has published on last January 22, 2018 an article by Mr. Ofer Adarot, in which he poses...