Kantor Center Newsletter
No. 1 | Fall 2012

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www.kantorcenter.tau.ac.il
Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to present the first newsletter of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University. It covers the Center’s activities since its inception in October 2010 until fall 2012.

The energy that accompanied the establishment of a new academic entity impacted on the pace and scope of achievements. Bearing in mind that this was the first center established at an Israeli university dedicated to the issue of European Jewish communities, we immediately set to work and, after arranging the premises allocated to us, launched a website, organized public lectures, conferences and a research seminar, sent applications to academic funds, initiated research projects, and established contacts with colleagues in Israel and abroad.

Academic directions were sought and defined. The first topic chosen was the study of major characteristics of life in Jewish communities in postwar Europe – including demographic and cultural aspects, as well as the quest for identity in a rapidly changing world. This has proved to be a vibrant arena of activity since the communities have galvanized themselves in recent decades in the face of new challenges. In the legal and political areas, we undertook the collection and analysis of current legislation against racism and discrimination worldwide. The first volume, covering Europe, is just out, published by Brill and endorsed by UNESCO.

In July 2011 the Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism, together with its staff, became part of the Center. Work was expanded to include this major field of intensive research and activity, and first and foremost, an annual analysis of antisemitism worldwide presented at a press conference. The staff also publish topical briefs, arrange guest lectures, send materials from the Database to parliamentarians in various countries, and distribute an electronic monthly bulletin, among other activities.

We, the Center’s staff, carry out this work with a sense of deep commitment. Our objectives are to provide an academic address to those dealing with issues central to the Jewish people in general, and to European communities in particular; to make an important research contribution to Tel Aviv University, as well as to the academic community in Israel and abroad; and to foster the excellent working relations that exist among us.

Rosh Hashana is close at hand, and on the eve of the Center’s third year of activity, we 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. Aron Shai and Dean of Humanities, Prof. Eyal Zisser; members of our Board, and of the academic and legislation committees; Dr. Axel Stawski for having generously supported our biennial international seminar; Ms. Irina Bukova, UNESCO’s Director General; our many partners, colleagues and supporters in Israel and abroad; and last, but definitely not least, Dr. Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, and Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Secretary General of the European Jewish Fund, for their trust and support.

With warm wishes for a peaceful and fruitful New Year,

Dina Porat
Contemporary European Jewry represents a fascinating and dynamic phenomenon, necessitating in-depth academic research in order to become better acquainted with the Jewish communities and 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 includes the Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism and cooperates with the Ze’ev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East.

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:

- Historical 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 areas of promotion of minority rights, non-discrimination, and prohibition of racism, hate crimes, hate speech, antisemitism and Holocaust denial;
- Studies in antisemitism and racism worldwide (see below).

Mission Statement

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- Worldwide legislation and enforcement in the areas of promotion of minority rights, non-discrimination, and prohibition of racism, hate crimes, hate speech, antisemitism and Holocaust denial;
- Studies in antisemitism and racism worldwide (see below).
• Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center
• Dr. Roni Stauber, Lecturer in Jewish History and Senior Researcher
• Dr. Haim Fireberg, Lecturer in Jewish History, Director of Research Programs
• Beryl Belsky, Publications Editor
• Irena Cantorovich, Ph.D. candidate and 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
• Sarah Rembiszewski, Researcher and Coordinator of the Kantor Database on Antisemitism and Racism
• Dr. Mikael Shainkman, Postdoctoral Fellow and Researcher, Scandinavian countries
• Dr. Raphael Vago, Senior Lecturer in Modern East European History and Senior Researcher
• Adv. Nina Osin, Legal Consultant

Interns And Volunteers
Ronna Ilan, law student • Idit Deutch, law student
• Fani Englard • Yemima Silverman • Nesia Hordes

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.

Executive Board
Mrs. Shlomit Cnaan, CEO of Yoav S.R. Enterprises
• Dr. Oded Eran, The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) • Dr. Simcha Goldin, Head of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center • Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center • Prof. Eyal Zisser, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities • Adv. Arie Zuckerman, European Jewish Fund

Academic Board
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Academic Legal Board
Supreme Court Justice Prof. Daphne Barak-Erez • Prof. Yoram Dinstein, Former President of TAU • Adv. Irit Kohn, President of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists • Adv. Nina Osin, Kantor Center • Supreme Court Justice Elyakim Rubinstein

International Council
In establishment • Profs Elie Wiesel and Irwin Cotler have already confirmed their participation.

Ph.D./Post-Doctoral Scholarship Students – 2012/2013
Sina Arnold, Doctoral Student, Technische Universität Berlin • Edna Herlinger, Doctoral Student, University of Frankfurt/Main • Doris Maja Krüger, Doctoral Student, Free University of Berlin • Antonia Nicola Schmid, Doctoral Student, University of Potsdam • Ilka Schroeder, Doctoral Student, Technische Universität Berlin • Kim Robin Stoller, Doctoral Student, University of Munich • Julia Eksner, Postdoc, Free University of Berlin • Isabel Enzenbach, Postdoc, Technische Universität Berlin • Günther Jikeli, Postdoc, Technische Universität Berlin
During the past six decades the surviving Jewish communities in Europe have undergone changes and many of their members have emigrated, mainly to Israel. The remaining communities, numbering approximately 1.5 million individuals in over 47 countries, continue to seek the preservation and shaping of a modern Jewish identity. For the third consecutive year, the Kantor Center will hold an interdisciplinary and international seminar series dealing with various aspects of Jewish life and Jewish identities in Europe.

The seminars are initiated and coordinated by Dr. Haim Fireberg. The following lectures were given during 2010–2011:

• Prof. Yosef Gorny & Prof. Eliezer Ben-Rafael (Tel Aviv University) – Reviewing Jewish Identities: European Jewry at the Turn of the 21st Century
• Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, (The Hebrew University) - Is there a Third Way? Jewish Communities in Europe in the 21st Century between the US and Israel
• Dr. Haim Fireberg, (Tel Aviv University) – Virtual Jewish Communities: Jewish Life in Cyberspace
• Dr. Diana Pinto, (French historian and author) – Towards a European-Jewish Identity? The Jew between European Vision and the National State

The following lectures were given during the 2011–2012 seminar series:

• Prof. András Kovács (CEU, Budapest) – Contemporary Hungarian Jewry in the New National State: Social Changes and Conflicting Jewish Identities
• Dr. Diana Lipton (Kings College, London) – Is the Bible still Relevant in the Shaping of Jewish Identity?
• Prof. Erik Cohen (Bar-Ilan University) – To be a Jew in a Secular Republic: Preserving Jewish Identity in Contemporary France
• Dr. Lilach Lev-Ari (Oranim College, Israel) – Jewish Continuity or Assimilation? Identity Patterns and Ethnic Identification among Israelis in Europe

• Dr. Tal Dekel (Tel Aviv University) – There/Here. Preservation of Russian-Jewish Identities among Former Soviet Union Immigrant Artists
• Prof. Carol Fink (Distinguished Fulbright Scholar at the Haifa Center for German and European Studies) – Jews in Contemporary Europe: Antisemitism and Jewish Identity
• Prof. Ilya Altman (Russia’s State University for the Humanities) – Russian Jewry Today - in the Shadow of the Holocaust’s Memory

The following lectures are scheduled for 2012–2013, on the subject “Jews and Judaism in Europe: Disappearing and Developing Identities.”

• Dr. Laurence Weinbaum (World Jewish Congress) – Jewish Culture without Jews – Krakow, Poland as a Case Study
• Prof. Mordechai Altschuler (Emeritus – Hebrew University) – “Nevertheless” – the Synagogue and the Existence of Jewish Life in the Soviet Union
• Dr. Zeev Hanin (Bar Ilan University and Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption) – From the Caucasus to the Waltz: The Forging of a New Jewish Diaspora in Vienna
• Prof. Minna Rosen (Haifa University) – Balkan and Turkish Jewry Following the 21st Century Dissolution of Empires and Political Blocs
• Prof. Dan Shapira (Bar Ilan University) – Karaites in 21st Century Europe
• Prof. Yosef Gorny (Emeritus – Tel Aviv University) – The Bund: Disappearance of a Jewish Socialist Identity in the 21st Century
• Prof. Michael Corinaldi (Netanya Academic College) – The Jewish Identity of Marranos and Other Concealed Jews
Conferences and Other Events

Holocaust Memorial Day
Conference Marking 70 Years since the Beginning of the Mass Murder in Europe, April 2011

The 2011 annual Holocaust Memorial Day Conference was held at Beit Hatfutsot on 2-3 May 2011, with sessions on literature, international armed conflict law and the perpetrators. Among the speakers were high level scholars and authors, such as Prof. Shulamit Volkov, Prof. Yoram Dinstein, Prof. Assa Kasher and authors Amir Gotfreund, Nir Baram and A.B. Yehoshua.

The annual conferences are sponsored by Ruta Zandman and the late Dr. Felix Zandman.

Holocaust Memorial Day Conference on Antisemitism and Holocaust Remembrance as Shapers of Jewish Identity, April 2012

The 2012 annual Holocaust Memorial Day Conference was held at Beit Hatfutsot on Yom Hashoah, 19 April 2012.

The first session, dedicated to the late Daniel Carpi, focused on Remembrance and Documentation of Jewish Communities. The second session was dedicated to Moshe Shamir, and focused on Antisemitism and Antisemites in the Internet. In the final session, dedicated to the memory of Alfred P. Slaner, the lecturers discussed Shoah, Antisemitism and Jewish Identity.

Annual Press Conference on Antisemitism Worldwide, April 2011

With the participation of Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the EJC, and the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Prof. Eyal Zisser, took place in April 2011.

Awarding the Inbal Amoyal (who perished in the Carmel fire) Scholarship, April 2011

The scholarship was awarded to Dr. Mikael Shainkman, in the presence of Dr. Moshe Kantor, April 2011.

Annual Press Conference on Antisemitism Worldwide, April 2012

The annual press conference on Antisemitism Worldwide was held at Tel Aviv University on 18 April 2012. Dr. Moshe Kantor opened the event. Dr. Roni Stauber and Dr. Haim Fireberg presented the latest statistics and figures, noting that the year 2011 was marked by a worldwide continuation and even escalation in acts of harassment and incitement, including verbal threats, insults and abusive language and behaviour. As specified in the General Analysis for 2011: “Such acts have increased dramatically in recent years in various parts of the world, yet the most troubling phenomenon is in-your-face harassment, a daily occurrence, especially
in western Europe, as well as in Australia and Canada, directed mainly against visible Jews, in the street, in public places and in the vicinity of Jewish sites, as well as against children and youth in schools. Such acts are not fully reported due to the lack of proper monitoring in some countries, and cannot be counted.”

The annual reports can be found at the Kantor Center website and in print.

**Guest lecture by Dr. Anthony Julius on Trials of the Diaspora – a History of Anti-Semitism in England, December 2010**

Dr. Anthony Julius delivered a riveting lecture via video-conference to a packed auditorium in the Gilman building, Tel Aviv University, on his new book on the history of antisemitism in England. Rector Prof. Aharon Shai and Dr. Simon Kay, Director of the British Council in Israel, greeted the participants, and Prof. David Katz, Director of the Lessing Institute for European History and Civilization, was the respondent.

**Contemporary Hungarian Jewry and Other Minorities – Between New Nationalism, Social Changes and European Values, November 2011**

A conference on Hungarian Jewry took place in 13 November at Beit Hatfutsot on Tel Aviv University campus. Prof. András Kovács, from Central European University (Budapest), was a keynote speaker, on “Contemporary Hungarian Jewry in the New National State: Social Changes and Conflicting Jewish identities.”

Prof. Ágnes Heller, from the New School for Social Research (New York), also a keynote speaker, discussed “The Current Political Atmosphere and the Future of Democracy in Former Eastern Bloc Countries in the EU.”

Many other distinguished lecturers were present, including, notably, Hungarian Ambassador H.E. Zoltán Szentgyörgyi and Dr. Peter Feldmajer, President of the Hungarian Jewish Communities. During the conference, a short film Clouds over Budapest, was shown on antisemitism in Hungary, written and presented by Leah Zinder and filmed by Dennis Zinn.

**Contemporary Dutch Jewry Symposium, November 2011**

Prof. Evelien Gans from the University of Amsterdam and the Netherlands Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NIOD) discussed contemporary antisemitism in the Netherlands. The symposium also included a lecture by Mr. Eyal Boers from Tel Aviv University on “The Jewish Image in Dutch Films.”

The event was chaired by Prof. Dina Porat. Prof. Dan Michman from Bar-Ilan University was the respondent, and spoke on “a Dutch-Born Israeli Historian’s Perspective on Jewish Life Today in the Netherlands.”

The event took place at Tel Aviv University on 28 November 2011, in cooperation with the Center for Research on Dutch Jewry, the Hebrew University.

**Evening in Honour of Michael Whine, MBE, June 2012**

A conference on Antisemitism and the Jewish Community in Britain was held on June 11, 2012 during the annual Board of Governors meeting in honor of Mr. Michael Whine, Director of Government and International Affairs, CST, London, on the occasion of his recent decoration with an MBE by the Queen of England for his outstanding service to fighting antisemitism.
British Ambassador Matthew Gould and Prof. Aron Shai, Rector of TAU, proffered greetings and observations. The main lecture was delivered by Prof. Robert Wistrich of the Hebrew University. Dr. Roni Stauber chaired the event.

Antisemitism in Turkey under the Justice and Development Party (AKP), June 2012

Prof. Şakir Dinçşahin from the Department of Political Science & International Relations in Yeditepe University (Istanbul), delivered a guest lecture on Antisemitism in Turkey, on 21 June 2012. Prof. Dinçşahin surveyed manifestations of antisemitism in the Turkish Republic since its establishment in 1923. He pointed to highs and lows in Muslim-Jewish relations in Turkey, and in Turkish relations with Israel, asserting that the Turkish people are not inherently antisemitic. Prof. Ehud R. Toledano, Chair of Ottoman and Turkish Studies, chaired the event and Mr. Hay Eytan Cohen Yanarocak, Dayan Center, was the respondent.

The event was hosted by the Kantor Center, the Zeev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East, and Club Turkey (Department of Middle East History).

The Legacy of Raoul Wallenberg: Commemorating 100 Years since the Birth of Raoul Wallenberg and 25 Years of the Raoul Wallenberg Prize in Human Rights and Holocaust Studies at Tel Aviv University, January 2012

The event was held on 17 January 2012 at the Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center at Tel Aviv University. Prof. Dina Porat served as chairperson, and Swedish Ambassador in Israel H.E. Elinor Hammarskjold, as well as other ambassadors, were in attendance.

Survivor Dr. Naomi Gur described how Wallenberg risked his life rescuing her from the shores of the Danube.

The event was sponsored by Swedish Friends of TAU.

Upcoming Events

“Regard de l’autre” – Probing the Limits of Tolerance: Jewish Communities and Other Minorities Facing Antisemitism and Xenophobia, Warsaw, October 2012

The 11th International Seminar on Antisemitism, scheduled for 15-17 October 2012 in Warsaw, will focus on intolerance and discrimination towards members of groups perceived as outsiders, others, foreigners and minorities, who allegedly threaten the cultural, economic and social well-being of their respective host countries. Xenophobia, discrimination, racism and antisemitic harassment have recently increased, a trend noted by monitoring and analyzing researchers, agencies and institutes. Findings of surveys, reports and in-depth analyses taken together suggest that this is the troubling direction majority-minority relationships are heading in the course of an increasingly heated debate over political, ethnic, religious, demographic and cultural issues, locally, nationally and internationally.

The seminar is being organized in cooperation with the Never Again organization, the Collegium Civitas, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Sarah Vered Desk for the Research of Tolerance in the Middle East, Tel Aviv University.

It has been made possible with the generous donation of Dr. Axel Stawski.

Conference on German Jewish Communities

The 2nd annual conference on Jewish Communities will focus on Germany’s Jewish communities and will be held at Aviv University in December 2012.
Research Projects and Proposals

A. Demography

On Jewish and Non-Jewish Immigration, Identity Definitions and Social Adaptations in Europe since 1960

The proposed research objectives are to examine the social, cultural, demographic, economic and political processes that led to the integration of Jewish immigrant groups into the general social fabric in several European countries from the 1960s until today. The research will also examine whether and to what extent a European-wide identity has been created as a result of successful immigration and integration, and to understand to what extent state intervention may foster these processes. Lastly, a comparative study may offer the Jewish experience as a useful case-study and paradigm for broader integration processes in Europe.

This proposal serves as a matrix for future grant applications.

Jewish Immigrants in Berlin and London: Acculturation, Ethnic Identity and Trans-nationalism

A comparative study on the patterns of social, economic and cultural integration processes among Jewish groups in Berlin and London. The research is conducted by Dr. Lilach Lev-Ari (Oranim College & Bar Ilan University) Dr. Haim Fireberg & Mr. Adrian Gruszniowski (MA).

The project is supported by the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption.

B. Antisemitism and Racism Database

Moshe Kantor Database for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, operating within the framework of the Kantor Center since July 2011.

The staff, under the academic guidance of Dr. Roni Stauber, engages in the following:

• Monitors antisemitism and racism worldwide and operates an extensive database;
• Prepares an annual report and analysis on antisemitism and racism worldwide traditionally presented at an annual press conference before Holocaust Memorial Day;
• Publishes topical briefs on current issues;
• Undertakes research projects related to aspects of antisemitic and racist manifestations;
• Cooperates with the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism;
• Publishes a monthly bulletin highlighting events, conferences, new books, articles and debates on antisemitism, racism and Holocaust denial.

Jewish-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Europe: Identity, Integration and Coexistence

This research focuses on the manner in which Jews and Muslims in Scandinavia, Germany and the UK have created a balance between integration into European society on the one hand and safeguarding their distinct identities on the other. The research also examines their mutual relations in this process.

The research is conducted by Dr. Mikael Shainkman, Postdoc research fellow at the Kantor Center. A grant proposal has been submitted to the European Research Council.
Antisemitism Worldwide, 2011 – Main Trends

The Kantor Center submitted to the Israeli Government its initial analysis on the situation of worldwide antisemitism in 2011. The findings were presented during the special Government session commemorating International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 22 January 2012.

C. Legislation

Restitution of Jewish Properties in Europe

In preparation for the next International Property Restitution Conference in Prague on November 2012, the Kantor Center in cooperation with the WJRO (World Jewish Restitution Organization) has been researching the matter of restitution and compensation for Jewish properties seized during 1933–1945, in several ex-communist countries in Europe. The findings will be presented during the conference.

The research is conducted by Adv. Talia Naamat and Ms. Ronna Ilan.

Legislating for Equality – a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms, Volume I: Europe, edited by Talia Naamat, Nina Osin and Dina Porat

The Center has recently completed the first volume of the publication *Legislating for Equality – a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms. Volume I: Europe*, published in July 2012 in the Netherlands 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.

“Papers on Antisemitism and Racism” is a forum for short studies on current issues pertaining to antisemitism, racism and related themes. The authors are the Center’s research fellows, as well as experts in these fields worldwide. The papers are posted on the Center’s website and sent to subscribers.

- Honoring the Collaborators – the Ukrainian Case – Irena Cantorovich
- Antisemitic Motifs in Venezuela’s Presidential Election – Lidia Lerner
- Mohamed Omar and the Anti-Zionist Movement in Sweden – Mathan Ravid
- Relations Between Jews and Muslims In Australia – Jeremy Jones (forthcoming)

Supporting Other Conferences

The Kantor Center supported the international conference hosted by the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center on “Displacement, Migration and Social Integration: A Comparative Approach to Jewish Migrants and Refugees in the Post-War Period (1945-1967),” held on 15-16 May 2011.

The Center will also be supporting Klal Yisrael Project’s Seventh International Symposium, on Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora Relations, which will be held at Tel Aviv University, 7-9 January 2013.
Prof. Dina Porat participated in the international scholars’ conference on Antisemitism, at the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, Indiana University, on 4-5 April 2011. She also participated in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony 2012 held by the European Parliament and the EJC, together with other Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, at the European Parliament HQ, Brussels, on January 24, 2012.

Prof. Porat represented the Kantor Center and Yad Vashem at the UNESCO symposium on New International Dimensions of Holocaust Education, at UNESCO headquarters, Paris, on 31 January, 2012.


Dr. Roni Stauber participated at the meeting of the Task Force on Internet Hate established by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism (ICCA). Dr. Stauber was nominated chairperson of the sub-committee on the Role of Counter-Speech in Countering Internet Hate-Speech. The event took place in London, on 27 October 2011.

Dr. Haim Fireberg was the keynote speaker at the annual experts meeting of EDPOL (European Diversity Police) in Dublin, on 20-23 March 2012. The title of his lecture was “New Antisemitism – Old Phenomenon.”

Dr. Roni Stauber and Dr. Esti Webman will present papers at a conference on: The Trial of Adolf Eichmann: Retrospect and Prospect, to be held at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, on 9-11 September 2012.

Dr. Raphael Vago participated in Budapest at the Balassi Institute at a Hungarian-Israeli Conference of Historians delivering a paper on “Israel-Diaspora Relations: Mutual Images, Expectations, Frustrations. The event took place in May 2011. Dr. Vago also participated at a Conference organized by the Jewish Community and the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania in Cluj and the Babes-Bolyai University, lecturing on “Cluj and the Jewish World in late 19th century”, in September 2012.
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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