Dear friends and colleagues,

We are pleased to present the third newsletter of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel-Aviv University. This newsletter covers the Center’s activities from January 2014 to September 2015. During the past year and a half the Kantor Center has been extremely active. We continued to realize the goals set in our Mission Statement, and to broaden and strengthen the cooperation with a wide range of colleagues and institutes both in Israel and abroad.

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

Among the highlights of our activities please note a conference on "Contemporary Lessons of the Dreyfus Affair", marking 100 years to Captain Alfred Dreyfus’s acquittal, held in cooperation with TAU’s Department of French Studies, the Sorbonne and the French Embassy in Tel Aviv.

The manuscript of the third volume in our "Legislating for Equality" series, the Africa volume, will hopefully be published by Brill Publishers (Netherlands) before the end of 2015.

The collection of essays, based on papers presented in the conference held in cooperation with Potsdam University and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, on German Jewry Today, was published by De Gruyter (Germany).

On January 2015 we marked the 70th year of the kidnapping of Raoul Wallenberg and of the liberation of Auschwitz, and a decade since the UN’s decision to hold an annual international Holocaust Memorial day, with the cooperation of the Swedish Embassy.

Our biennial 12th international seminar on "Old and New Religious and National Aspects in Contemporary Antisemitism" was an exceptional success, followed by the Kantor Center’s noteworthy participation in the fifth Global Forum held in Jerusalem by the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The monitoring and the analyzing of antisemitism resulted in two international widely attended press conferences held a day before Holocaust Memorial Day in April 2014 and 2015, in TAU; in topical briefs; and in materials sent to parliamentarians worldwide on a regular basis. In addition, reports of the current trends were presented to the Israeli government on the International Holocaust Memorial Days: the years 2014 and 2015 were exceptional in regards to the intensity of antisemitic expressions and incidents.

We, the Center’s staff, carry out this work with a sense of deep commitment, especially when facing the challenges originating in the rapid changes in the demography, politics and public atmosphere, most notably in Europe and the Middle East, and when realizing once again the utmost importance of providing balanced reports and thorough analysis of the current situation. 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.

On the eve of the Center’s fifth 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. Joseph Klafter, Rector Prof. Aron Shai and Dean of Humanities, Prof. Eyal Zisser, as well as Dr. Axel Stawski and Dr. Joseph Bollag for generously supporting our biennial international seminars.

UNESCO Director General Ms. Irina Bokova; members of our Board, and of the academic and legal boards that include two Supreme Court judges, 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 and her daughter Ariella Woitchik, who run the EJC office in Brussels; and 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.

With warm wishes,

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:

- 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 (that cooperates with the Ze’ev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East, within the Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism), and holding an annual press conference presenting the situation of antisemitism worldwide.

Prof. Dina Porat and Dr. Moshe Kantor

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
Staff and Board

- **Prof. Dina Porat**, Head of the Kantor Center
- **Dr. Roni Stauber**, Lecturer in Jewish History, Senior Research Fellow, Academic Head of the Wiener Library
- **Dr. Haim Fireberg**, Lecturer in Jewish History, Director of Research Programs
- **Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari**, Research Fellow, Demography
- **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
- **Adv. Nina Osin**, Legal Consultant
- **Sarah Rembiszewski**, Researcher and Coordinator of the Moshe Kantor Database
- **Dr. Mikael Shainkman**, Researcher, Scandinavian countries
- **Dr. Raphael Vago**, Senior Lecturer in Modern East European History and Senior Researcher

The Kantor Center works in cooperation with **Dr. Esther Webman**, head of the Zeev Vered Desk for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East.

Interns and Volunteers

- **Idit Deutch**, law student
- **Ran Aharon Levi**, doctoral student
- **Fanny Englard**
- **Yemima Silverman Z”l**
- **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.

Felix Gunsenheimer, 2015

Felix Binder, 2014

Antonia Zimmermann, 2014
Executive Board

- Adv. Arie Zuckerman, European Jewish Fund (Chairman of the Executive Board)
- Ambassador Arye Mekel
- Prof. Eyal Zisser, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities
- Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center
- Dr. Simcha Goldin, Head of the Goldstein-Goren Diaspora Research Center

During 2014, we welcomed Ambassador Arye Mekel to the Executive Board

Academic Board

- Dr. Ilya Altman, Russia
- Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, Israel
- Dr. Anthony Julius, United Kingdom
- Prof. Julius Schoeps, Germany
- Prof. Renata Segre, Italy
- Dr. Pierre-Andre Taguieff, France
- Prof. Robert Wistrich Z”l, Israel

Academic Legal Board

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

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)
- Mr. Bernhard Lazarus (South Africa)
- Mrs. Celia and Mr. Jack Michonik (Latin America)
- Mr. Sigi Siegreich (Australia)
- Mrs. Ruta Zandman (USA)
- Mr. Yitzhak Artzi Fund, founded by the late Dan David (Romania)
- Mr. Alan Silberstein (U.S.A, legislation against antisemitism)
Annual Press Conference on Antisemitism Worldwide,  
April 2014

The annual press conference, during which the Kantor Center’s Worldwide Report on Antisemitism 2013 was presented, was held at Tel Aviv University on 27 April 2014 (the eve of Holocaust Remembrance day in Israel). The press conference was organized in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress and TAU’s Spokesperson’s Office. President of the European Jewish Congress, Dr. Moshe Kantor provided opening remarks and Prof. Dina Porat described the year’s main trends. Prof. Porat noted that in 2013 there was an increase and growing intensity of visual and verbal antisemitic manifestations, and that antisemitism had continued to infiltrate into the mainstream from the extreme left and right fringes. Dr. Haim Fireberg presented the latest graphs and statistics of violent manifestations. The entire report and a video of the press conference are available on the Kantor Center’s website.

The Last of the Unjust,  
Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event,  
April 2014

On 28 April 2014, the Annual Holocaust Memorial Day, the Kantor Center, together with Yad Vashem and Beit Hatfutsot held an event in honor of Felix Sandman. During the event Claude Lanzmann’s film “The Last of the Unjust” was screened. The film depicts the fascinating interviews between Lanzmann and Benjamin Murmelstein, the last President of the Jewish Council in the Theresienstadt ghetto.

Seventy Years without Raoul Wallenberg, Conference,  
January 2015

On 15 January 2015, the Kantor Center and the Embassy of Sweden in Israel organized a conference on Raoul Wallenberg and the international diplomatic and legislative activity against racial discrimination.
The event also marked a decade to the UN’s Declaration of the International Holocaust Memorial Day and 70 Years to the liberation of Auschwitz. The event, attended by a large audience, was co-chaired by Prof. Dina Porat and the Swedish Ambassador in Israel, H.E. Mr. Carl Magnus Nesser, in the presence of the diplomatic corps. A member of the Wallenberg family, Ms. Cecilia Åhlberg, was also present. A video of the event is available on the Kantor Center website.

**On Nationalism and Minorities in the Danube Basin,**  
Conference in Honour of Raphael Vago,  
January 2015

On 16 January 2015, the Kantor Center held an event in honour of Dr. Raphael Vago on the occasion of his retirement. The event was organized together with TAU’s Lester and Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities, the Goren-Goldstein Center for Diaspora Studies, the Cummings Center for the Study of Russia and Eastern Europe, the Fred Lessing Center for the European History and Beit Hatfutsot.

**Annual Press Conference on Antisemitism Worldwide,**  
April 2015

The annual press conference presenting the Kantor Center’s annual report on Antisemitism Worldwide for 2014, was held at Tel Aviv University on 16 April 2015 (the eve of the annual Holocaust memorial day in Israel), in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress. During the press conference, Prof. Porat presented the main trends during the past year, and emphasized that with respect to violent antisemitic incidents, 2014 had been one of the worst years in the last decade, second only to 2009. Dr. Haim Fireberg presented the latest statistics, and Adv. Arie Zuckerman stated that Jewish life in Europe was at risk, describing the atmosphere of fear in many European cities in which Jews were afraid to approach synagogues and Jewish institutions.
Europe, Germany and Contemporary Antisemitism, Conference, March 2015

On 15 March 2015, the Kantor Center held an international conference in cooperation with the Technische Universität from Berlin, the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum from Potsdam, the Friedrich Nauman Foundation for Freedom, the Wiener Library for the Study of the Nazi Era and the Holocaust and Beit Hatfusot. During the conference, expert panels analyzed the many facets of contemporary antisemitism and its representation in the public sphere, the media, among politicians, different social strata, educated circles, and among minority groups.


On 10 – 11 May 2015, the Kantor Center held its 12th biennial International Seminar on Antisemitism, devoted this year to the theme of "Old and New Religious and National Aspects in Contemporary Antisemitism". Some forty researchers and community leaders from many countries and from Israel participated, most of which have been actively participating in these seminars for over 20 years. The seminar included several riveting high-level presentations, as well as a keynote address by Prof. Benny Neuberger on: "Liberal Nationalism, Integral Nationalism and Religion".

Drawing Memories – Animation and the Holocaust, Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Conference, April 2015

The event marking the Annual Holocaust Memorial Day was co-sponsored by the Kantor Center and by Beit Hatfusot, the Museum of the Jewish People. Mr. Dudu Shalita hosted the event and presented a lecture which accompanied a selection of evocative short films and video clips on the theme of the memory of the Shoah.
Supporting and Cooperating with Other Institutes and Centers

The Dreyfus Affair – Contemporary Lessons, International Conference, March 2014

An international conference was held on 11 March 2014, in cooperation with TAU’s Department of French Studies, the Kantor Center, the French Embassy in Israel, and the Sorbonne University. The conference was also supported by the Fondation pour la Memoire de la Shoah. The conference complemented and coincided with the exhibition "The Dreyfus Affair: an Open Case" at Beit Hatfutsot, which opened on 10 March 2014. The conference re-examined the notion of "engagement" as reflected in the trial and afterwards, through the choices and actions of major and minor players; and the consequences and influences in art and politics, national and international fields, learned in France and Israel.

The Lessons of the Holocaust and the Lessons of History, Symposium and Interdisciplinary Workshop, May 2014

On 19-20 May the Kantor Center, The Minerva Center for Human Rights, the Sourasky Central Library & the Wiener Library hosted Prof. Michael Marrus from Massey College, University of Toronto, for a public lecture on "The Lessons of the Holocaust" and an interdisciplinary workshop on "The Lessons of History."


The Wiener Lectures Series, coordinated by Dr. Roni Stauber, continued in 2014 and included lectures by, among others: Prof. Moshe Zuckermann on "The Impact of World War I on Art in Europe", Prof. Jose Brunner on "When the War Became a Trauma: On the Helplessness of Soldiers and Psychiatrists", and Dr. Iris Rachamimov on "Prisoners of War Camps and Concentration Camps, 1914-1922".

Marking the 70th Anniversary of the German Invasion to Hungary, Symposium, April 2014

On 19 March 2014, the Kantor Center hosted a symposium on the 70th anniversary of the German invasion to Hungary and the actions of the Resistance and the Jewish Zionist youth movements. The event was co-sponsored by Yad Vashem, the Memorial Museum of the Hungarian Speaking Jewry in Israel, Beit Lohamei Hagetaot, Moreshet - Mordechai Anilevich Memorial, and by the Israeli Society for the Research of Zionist Youth Movements in Hungary.
Jewish Soldiers in World War II, Conference, December 2014

On 8-10 December 2014, the Kantor Center, in cooperation with the Goren-Goldstein Diaspora Research Center and the Museum of the Jewish Soldier in World War II, held a conference on “The Jewish Soldier in World War II”.


This year, the Wiener Lectures Series, coordinated by Dr. Roni Stauber, was devoted to the topic of the end of World War II and its aftermath and included lectures from, among others, Prof. Alon Kadish, Prof. Aharon Shai and Prof. Eyal Zisser.

Towards Reconciliation: Confronting the Past and Accepting Accountability in the International Arena, International Conference, June 2015

The conference was organized by the Wiener Library, in cooperation with the Kantor Center, Minerva Center for Human Rights, Minerva Institute for German History and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The conference commenced with a keynote address by Prof. Ruth Lapidoth.

Tolerance and Law, Conference, February 2015

On 9-10 February 2015, the Center cooperated with the Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law in a conference on “Tolerance and Law”. Prof. Yoram Dinstein represented the Kantor Center. During the conference, international experts and human rights lawyers discussed the European Framework Statute for the Promotion of Tolerance, a law proposal initiative of the European Council for Tolerance and Reconciliation and spearheaded by Prof. Dinstein.

Dr. Roni Stauber and Prof. Ruth Lapidoth
Upcoming Events

Jewish Communities in Central Europe, October 2015

The conference, devoted to issues pertaining to the Jewish communities in Central Europe, will be held in Prague in 2015, in cooperation with the Charles Prague University.

Amending Laws Combating Antisemitism, Seminar, 2015-2016

During 2015-2016, The Kantor Center, in cooperation with the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, will host three seminars with national justice ministries, to examine whether the current national legislative frameworks in European countries are sufficient in combating antisemitic motivated discrimination, hate crimes and hate speech.

Marking 50 Years of the Nostra Etate, December 2015

In Mid-December 2015, the Center will hold in TAU, in cooperation with Prof. Aviad Klinberg and Rabbi David Rosen, an international conference to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nostra Aetate – the Vatican’s “Jewish Document” announced in 1965, and to launch a collection of documents published by the Center, titled: “In our Time – Changes in the Catholic Church towards the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust”. Among the expected guests are Cardinal Kurt Koch and the Custodian of the Holy Land, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa.
Jewish and Israeli Immigrants in European Capitals: Acculturation, Ethnic Identity and Trans-nationalism

A comparative study on the patterns of social, economic and cultural integration processes among Jewish groups. The research is conducted by Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari, Dr. Haim Fireberg and Adrian Grusznieki (MA).

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, research fellow at the Kantor Center.

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 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 Bi-Monthly Bulletin

The Kantor Center publishes a bi-monthly bulletin, edited by Ms. Irena Cantorovich. 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.

- "Holocaust Memory and Holocaust Denial in Poland and Moldova, A Comparison", Natalia Sineeva Ponkowska
- "Antisemitism and the Struggle for the 'Good' Society: Ambivalent Responses to Antisemitic Attitudes and Ideas in the 2014 Swedish Electoral Race", Prof. Kristin Wagrell
- "After the Charlie Hebdo Attack: The Line between Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech", Dr. Andre Oboler

The Center’s team completed the third volume of the publication *Legislating for Equality – a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms*, which will be published in late 2015 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.

In Our Time – Changes in the Catholic Church towards the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust, Documentation and Research, Eds. Dina Porat, Ruth Braude, Karma Ben Johanan, (Tel Aviv University Press, Israel)

In 2015, Tel Aviv University Press will publish a collection of documents published by the Center, titled: "In our Time – Changes in the Catholic Church towards the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust".

To be Jewish in 21st Century Germany, A Collection of Essays, Eds. Haim Fireberg, Olaf Glockner (De Gruyter, Germany)

The Center will publish a collection of essays, together with Potsdam University, on German Jewry Today, based on the papers presented during the conference on Contemporary German Jewry held at Tel Aviv University in 2013.

Forthcoming Publication

Laws Prohibiting Extremist Groups, their Propaganda and Symbols

The Kantor Center is currently working on compiling all laws related to the prohibition of extremist groups, and their propaganda and symbols. The research will culminate in a book which will present the European legal framework, including case law from the European Court of Human Rights, as well as national laws and constitutional court cases.
• On 13-14 May 2015 the Center’s staff participated in the 5th International Conference of the Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism, organized by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Center’s head Prof. Dina Porat and Adv. Talia Naamat co-chaired the "Law, Legislation and Enforcement Group". Dr. Esther Webman co-chaired the working group on "Antisemitism in the Muslim and Arab World". The Kantor Center’s researchers participated in the various working groups and plenary sessions.

• On 26-27 January 2015, Prof. Porat took part in events dedicated to International Holocaust Memorial Day in Prague and Terezin, organized by the European Jewish Congress under the title "Let My People Live".

• On 18-19 April 2015, Dr. Esther Webman gave a lecture on "The Persecution of the Jews in Germany in Egyptian and Palestinian Public Discourses: A Comparative Perspective" during a conference on the Responses in the Middle East to National Socialism and the Holocaust, 1933–1945", held at the University of Vermont.

• On 5 November 2014, Sarah Rembiszewski participated in the OSCE conference in Berlin marking the 10th anniversary of the OSCE’s Berlin conference on Antisemitism.
On 28 April 2015, **Dr. Roni Stauber** lectured on the "Transition in Israeli Perspectives on the Shoah and its Repercussion" as part of the conference "The Shoah in Israeli Culture, Memory and Politics" at Brandeis University.


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**Fanny’s 90th Birthday Party, September 2015**

This year the Kantor Center celebrated the very special occasion of **Fanny England's** 90th birthday. Fanny, of the Organization of Former Nazi Prisoners, has been part of our work from the very beginning. Fanny’s personality, and her work in fighting antisemitism and in commemorating the Holocaust continues to inspire and teach us as well as many students and soldiers. Fanny holds ongoing correspondences with heads of states abroad, especially in Germany, and is frequently interviewed on TV and radio.
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.

The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry
Gilman Building, Room 454C,
Tel Aviv University
P.O.B. 39040
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, 6139001, Israel.
Tel: +972-3-6406073
Fax: +972-3-6406034
Email: kantorce@post.tau.ac.il

The Moshe Kantor Database on Antisemitism and Racism
Gilman Building, Room 360C,
Tel Aviv University
P.O.B. 39040
Ramat Aviv, Tel Aviv, 6139001, Israel.
Tel: +972-3-6408779
Email: kantorce@post.tau.ac.il