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

We are pleased to present the fourth newsletter of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University. This newsletter covers the Center’s activities from September 2015 to April 2017. During the past year and a half 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.

A well-attended seminar hosted by the Austrian ministries of justice and the interior, on November 2015, that dealt with legislation against antisemitism and with the need to adopt the Working Definition of Antisemitism was followed by a no less attended conference in Paris, on September 2016, in cooperation with Jewish lawyers and jurists. Both resulted in some practical measures taken up by the participants.

An exceptional event took place on December 2015, when Cardinal Kurt Koch, in charge of Jewish-Catholic relations in the Vatican, presented to the participants of a conference in Tel Aviv University – including representatives of all denominations in Israel - the newly published declaration of Pope Francis advocating a close dialogue between Jews and Christians. A collection of documents issued by the Vatican between 1965 and 2015, all translated into Hebrew, published by the Tel Aviv University Press, was launched at that occasion. Later the book was presented to the Pope, and to the president of Israel, Mr. Reuven (Rubi) Rivlin.

The traditional ceremony, held in memory of the late Raoul Wallenberg for 30 years now, featured excerpts from the movie production "Denial", followed by a lecture delivered by Prof. Deborah Lipstadt. As a keynote speaker she analyzed the legal and ethical issues that the struggle against Holocaust Denial faces. A lively discussion followed in the full house.

On May 2016, on Holocaust Memorial Day, we hosted in the Museum of the Jewish People (Beit HaTfusot) the granddaughter of Amon Goeth, the notorious cruel commander of the Plaszow concentration camp – an exceptionally charming and candid young lady, who told the attentive audience the story of her unusual life. The public events held on Holocaust Memorial Day, sponsored by the late Dr. Felix Zandman’s family, have become a tradition during the recent twenty years.

The monitoring and analysis of the current situation of antisemitism and racism resulted in two international widely attended press conferences, held a day before Holocaust Memorial Day, in May 2016 and April 2017; in Position Papers, that are about to be published by Academic Studies Press in the US; 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 third volume in our "Legislation for Equality" series, the Africa Volume, has been published in 2016, and the fourth and last one, the Asia and Oceania volume, is on its way. These efforts are accompanied by two publications that promise to be a solid contribution to the legal struggle against BDS and hate on the Internet.

On the eve of the Center’s seventh 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.

Members of our Board, and of the legal board, chaired by Prof. Yoram Dinstein, and include two Supreme Court justices, Justice Daphne Barak-Erez and Justice Eliyakim Rubinstein; Ms. Orna Cohen, TAU’s spokeswoman; Ms. Liora Shani, head of the events department of Beit HaTfusot - Museum of the Jewish People; Ms. Raya Kalenova and Ms. Ariella Woitichik, heads of the EJC office in Brussels; 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 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
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Staff and Board

• Prof. Dina Porat, Head of the Kantor Center
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• Dr. Marcela Zoufala, Research Fellow, Charles University, Prague
• Zelda Katz, Language Editor

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.

Tirza Seene, intern, 2016-2017

Executive Board
• Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Chairman, Executive Board
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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 the late Dan David (Romania)
- Mr. Alan Silberstein (U.S.A, legislation against antisemitism)
- Dr. Axel Stawski (International seminars)
Conferences and Symposiums

**Opening A Dialogue: Combating Antisemitism Through Legal Means, Vienna, November 2015**

On 22-24 November, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and the Kantor Center held a seminar in Vienna, under the auspices of the Austrian Ministries of Justice and Interior, focusing on opportunities to combat antisemitism through legal means. The seminar was opened by Dr. Moshe Kantor, European Jewish Congress President, Mrs. Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Austrian Federal Minister of Interior, and Dr. Wolfgang Brandstetter, Austrian Federal Minister of Justice. The seminar was co-chaired by Dr. Ariel Muzicant, EJC Vice-President.

From left to right: Oskar Deutsch, Ariel Muzicant, Minister Johanna Mikl-Leitner, Moshe Kantor, Minister Wolfgang Brandstetter, Irit Kohn, Dina Porat, Andrew Baker

**Symposium marking the 50th anniversary of the “Nostra Aetate” and the launch of “In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah”, December 2015**

A conference commemorating 50 years to Nostra Aetate, during which the book In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah (Eds. Dina Porat, Karma Ben Yohanan and Ruth Braude, Tel Aviv University Press, 2015) was presented, took place at Tel Aviv University on 14-15 December 2015. The Honorable Judge Elyakim Rubinstein, Deputy-President of the Supreme Court of Israel, provided greetings, as well as Cardinal Kurt Koch (President, Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews) & Patriarch Fouad Boutros Twal (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem). The speakers and participants included, among others, Prof. Aviad Kleinberg, Rabbi David Rosen, Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Rev. Russell McDougall, Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, and Archbishop Elias Chacour.

Prof. Dina Porat and Cardinal Kurt Koch
The Annual Raoul Wallenberg Guest Lecture and Awards Ceremony,
January 2016

On 19 January 2016, for the 30th time, the Kantor Center in cooperation with the Office of the Vice President of TAU, held a gathering commemorating Raoul Wallenberg Day. Two students received the Wallenberg scholarship: Ms. Adi Feinermann from Humanities-Holocaust Studies, and Ms. Dana Alexander from Law and Human Rights studies.

On 22 January 2016, the Kantor Center, the United States Embassy in Israel and the Embassy of Sweden in Israel organized a guest lecture by Prof. Deborah Lipstadt on the David Irving trial and the release of the movie “Denial”.

Annual Press Conferences on Antisemitism Worldwide,
May 2016 & April 2017

The annual press conferences, during which the Kantor Center’s Worldwide Reports on Antisemitism on 2015 and 2016 were presented, were held at Tel Aviv University on the eve of Holocaust Remembrance day in Israel. The press conferences are organized in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress and TAU’s Spokesperson’s Office. The reports and videos of Dr. Kantor’s opening remarks are available on the Kantor Center’s website.

Adv. Arie Zuckerman, Prof. Dina Porat, Dr. Esther Webman
Conferences and Symposiums

Adolf Eichmann and Amon Goeth – 70 Years Perspective, Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event, May 2016

On 5 May 2016, the Kantor Center, in cooperation with Beit Hatfutsot, the Alfred P. Sloan Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism, and the Wiener Library for the Study of Holocaust and Nazism, held an event in memory of the late Dr. Felix Zandman, titled “Adolf Eichmann and Amon Goeth – 70 Years Perspective”. During the event, Prof. Porat interviewed Jennifer Teege, the granddaughter of Amon Goeth, the commander of the Plaszow Camp to a riveted audience. The Ambassador to Germany in Israel, H.E. Dr. Clemens von Goetze, participated in the event and delivered opening remarks.

From left to right: Mr. Avner Avraham, H.E. Dr. Clemens von Goetze, Prof. Porat, Mrs. Jennifer Teege, Mrs. Ruta Zandman, and Ms. Liora Shani

Continuing the Dialogue: Combating Antisemitism in Europe through Legal and Other Means, Paris, September 2016

On 21-24 September an international conference was held in Paris, organized by the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and the European Jewish Fund. The Kantor Center acted as the conference’s academic advisors. During the opening ceremony, Mrs. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, and Mr. Gilles Clavreul, Inter-Ministerial Delegate for the Fight against Anti-Semitism and Racism, provided greetings. During the conference, lectures were delivered by Prof. Irwin Cotler, Mr. Ben Dror Yamini, Prof. Dina Porat, among many others. Prof. Porat and Adv. Naamat’s articles were published in Justice Magazine, the IJLJ’s Winter 2017.

The conference was generously funded by the European Jewish Fund.

Mrs. Raya Kalenova, Mrs. Ariella Woitchik, Prof. Irwin Cotler, Mrs. Katharina von Schnurbein

Adv. Pascal Markowitz
Presenting "In Our Time" to the President of Israel,
April 2017

In Our Time: Documents and Articles on the Catholic Church and the Jewish People in the Wake of the Shoah, Eds. Dina Porat, Ruth Braude, Karma Ben Johanan, (Tel Aviv University Press, Israel) was published in 2015 by Tel Aviv University Press. The book was presented to the President of Israel, Mr. Reuven Rivlin on 20 April. The speakers were: Archbishop of Jerusalem, Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Rabbi David Rosen and the President.

President of Israel Reuven Rivlin's address at the President's Residence in Jerusalem. (Photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

The book was also presented to Pope Francis, on the occasion of Dr. Moshe Kantor and Mrs. Raya Kalenova's private audience with the Pope in the Vatican.

Three Brothers and a Cave, Movie Screening and Panel Discussion, Annual Holocaust Memorial Day Event, April 2017

During the event, the movie "Three Brothers and a Cave", directed by Tamar Tal Anati, was screened. The movie depicts three Jewish Italian brothers' journey to Tuscany to search for the cave they once hid in as children during World War II. The event was organized by the Kantor Center and Beit Hatfutsot, in cooperation with the Alfred P. Slaner Chair for the Study of Antisemitism and Racism, and in memory of Dr. Felix Zandman z"l.

Pope Francis with Mrs. Raya Kalenova, February 2017
Supporting and Cooperating with Other Institutes and Centers

World War II, the Holocaust and Justice, Wiener Lecture Series, 2015-2016

The Wiener Lectures Series, marking the 70th anniversary of the Nuremberg Trials, was coordinated by Dr. Roni Stauber, and continued in 2015-2016, in cooperation with the Kantor Center and the Minerva Center for German History. The Series included lectures by, among others: Prof. Arye Kochavi, Prof. Moshe Zimermann, and Dr. Raphael Vago.

Tribute to Elie Wiesel, November 2016

The event was organized by the Cymbalista Jewish Heritage Center in cooperation with the Kantor Center paying tribute to the late Elie Wiesel. During the event, the film First Person was screened. Among the speakers were Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, and Dr. Yoel Rappel, director of the Elie Wiesel archive at Boston University.

Islam and Antisemitism, Vienna University, Conference, November 2016

On 7-8 November 2016, an international conference was held in Vienna, organized by the Institute for Jewish Studies at University of Vienna, the Kantor Center and the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy. During the conference, lectures were delivered by Prof. Dina Porat, Dr. Esther Webman, Prof. Dan Michman and Prof. Meir Litvak.
Upcoming Events


On 14-15 June, a conference marking World Refugee Day and the Launch of Legislating for Equality Volume III: Africa will be held at Tel Aviv University. The Conference is 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, UNHCR and the United Nations Association of Israel.

Jewish Communities Confronting New Political and Social Changes, the 13th Biennial International Seminar on Antisemitism, Zurich, October 2017

The event is supported by Dr. Axel Stawski, New York, and Audiatur, headed by Dr. Joseph Bollag.

An End to Antisemitism!, Vienna University, Conference, February 2018

The international four-day conference will be held in Vienna University, and is organized by the University of Vienna, Tel Aviv University and New York University. The opening evening will be held in the Vienna Town Hall with Bernard-Henri Levi as the key note speaker. About 150 international scholars from the humanities and sciences and political, religious leaders and decisions makers will deliver lectures.
The research project, presented during the International Association of Jewish Jurists and Lawyers Conference in Paris in September 2016, examines legal arguments countering the BDS movement against Israel, including international, European and national legal trends. The research paper was commissioned by the Israeli Ministry of the Diaspora and Yad Vashem.

The legislation survey, conducted by the Kantor Center at Tel Aviv University, and commissioned by the Ministry of the Diaspora and Yad Vashem, examines the legal issues related to regulating online hate speech in several European states. Its purpose is to facilitate the work of bodies monitoring online hate speech, present the current legislative trends as well as best practices employed by some of the countries.
People at a Crossroads: A Research Proposal submitted to Erasmus

The 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 and Charles University in Prague, which culminated in two international conferences during 2013 in Tel Aviv and in 2015 in Prague, and the subsequent publications of conference contributions in two joint monographs, first among them: “Being Jewish in 21st-Century Germany” (eds. Haim Fireberg, Olaf Glöckner, 2015).

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 is conducted by Prof. Lilach Lev-Ari, Dr. Haim Fireberg and Adrian Gruszniecki (MA)

The Launch of the Europe Legislation Database, Kantor Center Website

During the summer of 2017, the Kantor Center will publish a database, compiling all laws and case law on the prohibition of hate crimes, hate speech, Nazi symbols, and Holocaust denial, in 13 European countries.
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 Tri-Monthly Bulletin

The Kantor Center publishes a tri-monthly bulletin, edited by Dr. 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.

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 summer 2017.


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 2017 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 Charles University, Prague, in November 2015 (eds. Dina Porat, Jiří Holý, Marcela Zoufalá, Haim Fireberg and Olaf Gluekner), will be published in 2018.
• A Festschrift in Honour of Prof. Dina Porat, March 2016
A symposium marking the launch of a Festschrift honouring Prof. Dina Porat took place on 15 March at Bnei Zion Auditorium, Beit Hatfutsot, the Museum of the Jewish People. During the symposium, lectures were delivered by, among others, author A.B. Yehoshua, Mr. Avner Shalev, chairman of Yad Vashem, Prof. Dan Michman and Prof. Anita Shapira.

• On 2-6 April 2016 Prof. Porat participated at an international conference titled "Anti-Zionism, Antisemitism, and the Dynamics of Delegitimization" at Indiana University.

• On 1 March 2016 Prof. Porat delivered a lecture on the attitude of the Vatican towards the Jewish people at the Austrian Jewish Community building in Vienna during an event attended by the Cardinal of Vienna.

• On 25 May 2016, Prof. Porat participated at a meeting of IHRA (The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) in Bucharest, during which the Working Definition of Antisemitism was adopted.

• On 24 January 2016, Prof. Dina Porat participated in a special session of the Israeli government on International Holocaust Memorial Day. During the session, the Ministry of Jerusalem and Diaspora Affairs handed to the government a report on antisemitism in 2015 that was prepared in cooperation with the Kantor Center. Prof. Porat also participated in this event in 2017.
• On January 2016 & 2017, Prof. Porat took part in events dedicated to International Holocaust Memorial Day in Brussels hosted by the European Jewish Congress, and on January 2017 she had a weeklong tour of lectures in South Africa.

• On 14 March 2016, Dr. Esther Webman delivered a lecture on "Antisemitism in the Arab and Muslim Worlds – Continuity and Change" during the landmark German Parliamentary Conference in Berlin.

• On March 6-7, Adv. Talia Naamat participated in the Fundamental Rights Agency’s stakeholders meeting in preparation for the Second FRA survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews.

• On 17-18 January 2017, Dr. Haim Fireberg and Adrian Grusniewski participated in a meeting in Prague in Charles University to prepare the Erasmus project.

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.