

**CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018–19**

Abbreviations:

AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council)  
BA (British Academy)  
BAJS (British Association of Jewish Studies)  
CBS (Centre for Biblical Studies)  
CJS (Manchester Centre for Jewish Studies)  
EAJIS (European Association for Jewish Studies)  
ECR (Early Career Researcher)  
ERC (European Research Council)  
JRRRI (John Rylands Research Institute)  
MES (Middle Eastern Studies)  
PGR Postgraduate Research  
R&T (Religions and Theology)  
REES (Russian and East European Studies)  
REF (Research Excellence Framework)  
SALC (School of Arts Languages and Cultures)

## **1. Introduction and background**

The major themes of the research of the Centre remain the broadly defined exploration of Jewish cultures and Jewish/non-Jewish relations in the widest sense. **The Centre's activities, in particular in doctoral and early career researcher training (see Table 5), innovative modern Hebrew teaching and cross-institutional collaboration in the Northern UK and Dublin, are currently being boosted by a £410,071 grant for 2018–2022.** This is a grant from a prestigious European Foundation, for European Regional Hubs for Jewish Studies (Manchester being the biggest of three in Europe). The Centre continues to function as an initiator, facilitator and host for external research grants and the research of individual post-doctoral fellows. Members of the Centre were managing research related grants to the total value of £312,479 and of £587,049, if the non-research component of the European Regional Hub of Jewish Studies grant is included. This includes the funding for one dedicated CJS post-doc (Silvestri). The Centre maintains a high international profile for the research of Manchester University academics by aggregating and maximizing awareness of their activities, projects, grants and publications, as well as by its public lecture series (disseminated as podcasts), and the online journal *Melilah* edited from the Centre. It maintains an effective, up-to-date and comprehensive website (<http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/>), complemented by a twitter presence. The Centre brings together staff at home in different divisions of the School and different Schools of the University, and supports and collaborates with the John Rylands Research Institute (JRRRI) in promoting the important research resources of the Library.

## **2. Management and membership**

**Co-directors:** Prof. Daniel Langton (R&T), Prof. Alex Samely (R&T), Dr. Jean-Marc Dreyfus (History);  
Administrator (part-time): Mrs. Laura Mitchell

**Planning committee:** Prof. Alex Samely (R&T), Prof. Daniel Langton (R&T), Dr. Moshe Behar (AMES),  
Dr. Jean-Marc Dreyfus (History), Prof. Cathy Gelbin (Drama).

**Core CJS members within Manchester University:** Dr. Moshe Behar (AMES), Prof. Cathy Gelbin (Drama), Prof. Daniel Langton (R&T), Prof. Yaron Matras (Linguistics), Dr. Ewa Ochman (REES), Prof. Alex Samely (R&T), Dr. Katja Stuerzenhofecker (R&T), Dr. Stefania Silvestri.

**Members who are retired or emeritus:** Prof. Philip Alexander, FBA (emeritus R&T), Prof. George Brooke (emeritus R&T), Dr. Adrian Curtis (retired from R&T), Prof. John Healey, FBA (emeritus MES), Prof. Bernard Jackson (emeritus R&T), Ms. Sophie Garside (retired from AMES), Ms. Malka Hodgson (retired from AMES), Prof. Ursula Tidd (emeritus Modern Languages/French).

**Affiliated Research Fellows:** Dr Katharina Keim (Lund University), Prof Avishalom Westreich (Shalom Hartman Institute, Jerusalem) Dr Renate Smithuis (now Heidelberg, see below), Dr. Rocco Bernasconi (Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano, previously a post-doc in MES), Rabbi Dr. Michael Hilton (London, Leo Baeck College), Prof. Les Lancaster (retired from Liverpool John Moores), Dr. Ion Popa (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem), Dr. Marton Ribary (University of Manchester, University of Surrey), Rabbi David Rue (Los Angeles Beit Din), Rabbi Dr. Reuven Silverman (retired from R&T), Dr. Marcel Stoetzler (Bangor).

Note: Rabbi David Rue, chief justice of the Beit Din (rabbinical court) of Los Angeles has been made honorary research fellow and is working towards an externally-funded two-volume Hebrew study of the Agunah problem, drawing upon the research carried out by Prof. Bernard Jackson's major research project at Manchester (2004-2009). The results of this will constitute REF-reportable impact of the earlier project; see 7 below.

**Externally Funded Post-doctoral positions:**

Dr. Stefania Silvestri ("50 Jewish Objects" Fellow from October 2018)

**Staffing changes and news:**

- Daniel Langton became Head of R&T in Jan 2019, Jean-Marc Dreyfus joined the co-directors with effect from September 2018.
- The following members were on research leave during the period indicated: Dr. Jean-Marc Dreyfus (History, January 2018–January 2019); Prof. Cathy Gelbin (January 2018 - January 2019), Prof. Alex Samely Sept 2018 – August 2019
- Renate Smithuis, lecturer in Medieval Jewish Studies and Principal Investigator of the Catalogue of Codices, Scrolls, and Other Texts in Hebrew Script until in September 2019 is now a CJS Honorary Research Fellow.<sup>1</sup>
- Marton Ribary, part-time lecturer in Jewish Studies during 2018–19 and PhD Manchester 2018, has been awarded a three-year Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellowship at Surrey University, for a project entitled "Computational modelling of law - Sustainable legal AI from Roman legal sources" tenable from 1 November 2019.

**Current PhD students with their topics and supervisors (11):** Adi Bharat, Representations of Jewish-Muslim Relations in Contemporary France (McGonagle and Lebrun), Julianne Burnett, Was Moses a Magician? (Swanson), Dominika Cholewinska-Vater, Contested loyalties in war: Polish-Jewish relations within the Anders Army' (Ochman and Dreyfus), Eyal Clyne, Orientalism in Israeli Academia (Erica Burman), Katharine Halls, 'Marriage and Gender in the Egyptian Jewish Community, 1919-1960' (Moshe Behar), Robert Kanter, 'A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations in the UK, c. 1900-1999' (Langton and Dreyfus), Richard Liantonio, The Basis of Divine Pleasure in the Psalms (Swanson), Lawrence Rabone, 'The Triumph of Philo-Semitism over Anti-Semitism and the Jewish-Christian Encounter in England, 1620-1656.' (Langton and Alexander), Samuel Rogers, Ethnic Ethics: Hearing Jesus' Teachings in Luke as a Minority in Antiquity (Oakes and Klutz), Emma Berg Saavedra, 'Jewishness, Zakar, and

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://www.hfjs.eu/hochschule/dozenten/wimis/smithuis.html>

Writing: Yiddishkait as a Textual Identity' (Pearl and Gelbin), Lindy Williams, Gardens in Ezekiel: A Changing Theology of Sacred Space in Response to the Challenge of the Exile (Swanson).

Note: Several current PhD students hold competitive School and/or externally funded studentships.

### **Doctoral students who completed 2018–19:**

Fabienne Cheung graduated December 2018 with a thesis on Identity in play: Michel Leiris, Georges Perec, and Marcel Bénabou (Tidd and Brillaud), Tereza Ward graduated July 2019 with a thesis on Social and Religious Jewish Non-conformity: Representations of the Anglo-Jewish Experience in the Oral Testimony Archive of the Manchester Jewish Museum (Langton and Williams). Izabella Goldstein graduated June 2019 with a thesis on Songs of the Jewish Underworld in Pre-World War Two Warsaw (Bithell and Fanning).

### **3. Objectives and progress made over the 12 month period**

#### ***Highlights***

European Regional Hub for Jewish Studies. The Centre has been awarded a further 4 years of funding of £410,071 for the period September 2018-August 2022.

Catalogues, Research dissemination of John Rylands Holdings: Collaboration with the John Rylands Research Institute continues to be strong, with work funded by a £120,000 Rylands Hebraica grant ongoing (formerly Smithuis, now Alexander), which was renewed for another £90,000 with effect from October 2018.

Information exchange and informal mentoring of staff research applications: Again, as a result of European Hub grant funding, our extremely successful facilitation of research dialogue across discipline boundaries and University subject areas continues has significantly increased beyond the University's boundaries<sup>2</sup>. Research network meetings of the Northern UK and Dublin Jewish Studies Partnership (whose Hub Manchester is) took place in January and June 2019 involving Jewish Studies academic staff from Northern UK Partner institutions. Throughout the year we continued to provide a meeting ground for academics in Manchester University to share formal information, exchange informal advice, and experiment with ideas across a number of different subjects within SALC, in particular between members in AMES, R&T, History and Drama.

Manchester's Centre for Jewish Studies has a strong digital humanities profile. This includes, but is not restricted to, academic outputs. The areas include, Public Engagement Dissemination of Research and Open Access Journal,<sup>3</sup> New Research Approaches and Methodologies, Social Media Public Engagement (e.g. "50 Jewish Objects" website blogs, twitter), Cataloguing online, and a Virtual Classroom Modern Language Teaching Pilot. For more details, please see last year's report.

CJS staff continue their strong research publication profiles in preparation REF 2020 (see Appendix), and CJS scholars maintain a strong academic and public profile (some details in section 7 below). Our website has again attracted international attention (20,000 page views in last 12 months), as does the online journal Melilah (127,434 page views in the last 7 years; see below); Prof. Browning's Manchester Bogdanow Lectures 2015 have had 27,436 views on youtube to date.<sup>4</sup> Our channels of communication include website, newsblog, email list and Twitter. We successfully completed 4 years

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/n-uk-js-partnership/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.melilahjournal.org/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z\\_advxc5DTs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_advxc5DTs)

of developing a pioneering a new way to teach modern Hebrew in the class room, with combined face to face and virtual interaction (Modern Hebrew, now located in the University Language Centre and available through LEAP). This constitutes one of the key activities funded by the European foundation mentioned above. Contributors from Manchester to the British Association for Jewish Studies (BAJS) Conference 2019 included Stefania Silvestri, Katharina Keim, and Philip Alexander, and the BAJS annual national Postgraduate Student Essay prize was once again won a Manchester student this year (Hollie Eaton). The CJS has successfully made the case that both the Fortunoff and Shoah Foundation Holocaust video testimonies collections should be added to the Library's online resources.

### **Objectives**

Details of progress to date against planned deliverables and milestones:

1. The "50 Jewish Objects" three-year research and public engagement Project, started in October 2018 and Dr Stefania Silvestri was appointed in October 2018 (funded from the new European Regional Hub of Jewish Studies grant, see above). Blogs and website publications throughout 2018–19<sup>5</sup>.
2. Workshops, displays and performances by artists and performers addressed to the general public in Manchester and Northern Partnership locations, which relate to these objects and arising from the original research which Dr Silvestri has begun to conduct. A first artwork was unveiled in July 2019 after the artist's engagement period in April-July 2019.<sup>6</sup>
3. Our fourth post-graduate research-training workshop for UK advanced doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers took place in June 2019, again with enthusiastic responses from doctoral and early career researchers from around the UK (also US, Israel and Japan).
4. We enhanced collaboration between Manchester and other Northern UK Jewish Studies Partnership institutions, and devoted to research methodology, networking and funding meetings Jewish Material Culture, using as framework the new "50 Jewish Objects" project. Meetings took place in January and June 2019.
5. Further resource enhancement of research use of the holdings of the John Rylands University Library is an integral part of the "50 Jewish Objects" project. The result will provide selective descriptions of objects within an innovative narrative framework (point 1 above)
6. We will host, exceptionally in September, the fifth annual Bogdanow Holocaust Lecture Series. The speaker will be Prof. Tony Kushner (University of Southampton), on "Illegality: Jews and Other Humans", 23 – 24 September 2019.
7. The twenty-fifth Sherman Community Lecture was delivered by Prof. Judith Olszowy-Schlanger (University of Oxford) on 4 June 2019 see table 5.
8. Members of the Centre have continued their vigorous grant application activity, both external and internal funding; see below for some recent successes.
9. The 2018–19 Sherman Conversations were dedicated to amplifying further the existing research impact of one the two REF Impact Case Studies to be submitted by R+T. The Agunah Research Unity conducted training workshops in London with Rabbis from progressive Jewish communities (December 2018), in Jerusalem with rabbinic authorities and activist women's groups (February 2019), and Boston and Chicago with Judges on rabbinic tribunals (June 2019).

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/50-jewish-objects-blog/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/50-jewish-objects-blog/2019/8/29/handle-with-care-by-jacqueline-nicholls.html>

The workshops were led by CJS member and Manchester R+T emeritus Prof. Bernard Jackson and CJS Honorary Research Fellow Dr. Avishalom Westreich.

10. PhD projects started during the year include several funded ones: Katherine Halls with Dr Behar, AHRC (£4k fees + £14,500 maintenance p.a.) and UoM Presidential Award (£1k); Lawrence Rabone with Prof. Langton, AHRC (£4k fees + £14,500 maintenance p.a.) and UoM Presidential Award (£1k). (Another Phd student with full SALC fee and maintenance studentship, Sherry Ashworth, will start work under Prof. Langton’s supervision in September 2019.)

#### 4. Research Awards and Applications (expand table as necessary)

<b>Title and Duration of Award</b>	<b>Start-Finish Date (or Application Submission Date)</b>	<b>PI and Co-applicants</b>	<b>Awarding Body, Amount</b>
Awarded: “50 Jewish Objects” Fellowship	Oct. 2018–July 2021	Samely, Langton	Prestigious European Jewish Foundation: £135,501
Related Awarded: European Regional Hub of Jewish Studies/Northern UK Jewish Studies Partnership	Sept. 2018–August 2022	Samely, Langton	Prestigious European Jewish Foundation: £410,071 (including the sum in the preceding row)
Awarded: Exploring and Revealing The John Rylands Library’s Persian and Hebrew Collections	Jan. 2019 – Dec. 2020	Alexander (formerly Smithuis)	Prestigious European Jewish Foundation; £90,000
Awarded: To publish a book on Modern Mizrahi Thought in the 20th Century	2018-2019	Behar	The Euro-Mediterranean Institute for Inter-Civilization Dialog (NIS 36,000, c. £6610)
The Manchester Agunah Research Project: Collecting evidence of impact	Oct 2018 – July 2019	Langton	SALC Impact Support Fund £1,500
Understanding ‘The Other’: The Nursing Profession and Jewish Refugees from Nazi Europe.”	Award 2019/2020:	Brooks	Barbara Brodie Fellow, Eleanor Crowder Bjoring Center for Historical Nursing Inquiry, University of Virginia, USA. USD3,000 (c.£2724).

'Memories of War in Post-socialist Space'.	2017-2019	Ochman	Manchester-Melbourne Humanities Consortium Fund, £2,395 (Manchester)
Monograph project: <i>Meanings: A Phenomenology of Reading</i> (enhanced research leave February 2019–August 2019)	February 2019–August 2020	Samely	Professorial Enhanced Research Leave Award, Faculty of Humanities, c. £45,000
Post-Holocaust exhumations	Sept. 2018 – Jan. 2020	Dreyfus	USC Shoah Foundation, Centre for Advanced Genocide Research, Center Fellow (USD 30,000; c. £27,249)
Lives of Letters Network activities	2018–2019	Keim (co-applicant)	JRRI Collaboration Grants Scheme, £3000
Lives of Letters Network activities	2018–19	Keim (co-applicant)	SALC Research Network Fund, £2500

## 5. Research events organised

Please see <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/past-activities/> for details

Date	Title	Speakers	Approx Attendance
16-30 Sept 2018	Shoah film series Berlin Babylon: 50 Films from 75 Years	Prof Cathy Gelbin	audience total of circa 4000
18 Oct 2018	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Exclusivism and Supersessionism'	Rabbi Ariel Abel of Princes Road Synagogue, Liverpool.	20
15 Nov 2018	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Exclusivism and Supersessionism',	Dr. Dwight Swanson, Co-Director and Senior Lecturer Manchester Centre for the Study of Christianity and Islam, Nazarene	20
17 November 2018	Screen & Talk showing of 'Inside the Mossad' Part of UK Jewish Film Festival 2018	Followed by Q&A with director Duki Dror, Ram Ben-Barak and Moshe Behar	163

29 Nov 2018	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Exclusivism and Supersessionism from a Qur'an Perspective',	Mohammed Ullah, Honorary Muslim Chaplain to the Manchester Universities.	25
9 January 2019	Northern UK and Dublin Jewish Partnership Research meeting, Material Culture and Jewish Studies, Manchester University	Stefania Silvestri (Manchester), Philip Alexander (Manchester), Hannah Holtschneider (Edinburgh), Zuleika Rodgers (Dublin), Nathan Abrams (Bangor), Jay Prosser (Leeds), Daniel Langton (Manchester), Alex Samely (Manchester), Mia Spiro (Glasgow)	9
24 Jan 2019	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Conversations on the Story of the Binding/Sacrifice of Isaac/Ishmael in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Story in Judaism'	Led by Prof Philip Alexander (Manchester) and Rabbi Dr Reuven of Manchester Reform Synagogue.	30
30 Jan 2019	The Jewish Historical Society Manchester Branch, partnering with The Centre for Jewish Studies 'A Non-Jew Looks at Jewish History: Fifty Years Studying and Teaching Judaism.'	Prof Philip Alexander (Manchester)	10
26 Feb 2019	Screen & Talk showing of 'Hitler versus Picasso and the others. The Nazi obsession for art'	followed by Q&A with Jean-Marc Dreyfus who appears in the film and chaired by David Berkley QC.	180
27 Feb 2019	The Jewish Historical Society Manchester Branch second meeting talk on 'The hunt for the identity of the voice of the 'harangue' in German Concentration Camps Factual Survey (1945-2014).'	Dr Toby Haggith (Senior Curator at the Imperial War Museum)	10

28 Feb 2019	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Conversations on the Story of the Binding/Sacrifice of Isaac/Ishmael in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Story in Christianity'	Led by Prof Philip Alexander (Manchester) and Rev Dr Caroline Wickens Minister of Moston Methodist Church	30
6 March 2019	Lives of Letters Network Seminar Series 2018-19: Correspondence, Provenance, and the Ethics of Collecting	Katharina Keim, Roberta Mazza	15
28 Mar 2019	Scriptural Encounter meeting 'Conversations on the Story of the Binding/Sacrifice of Isaac/Ishmael in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The Story in Islam'	Led by Prof Philip Alexander (Manchester) and Mohammed Ullah, Honorary Muslim Chaplain to the Manchester Universities.	30
29 May 2019	Workshop on traditional book binding techniques, open to the public, Friends Meeting House, Manchester	Jacqueline Nicholls (50 Jewish Objects artist)	10
4 June 2019	Sherman Community lecture on "How Jewish Books Survive", Steen Court Synagogue, Manchester	Professor Judith Olszowy - Schlanger	43
24 June 2019	Roundtable: Letters in Teaching and Learning	Katharina Keim (leading into a round table)	25 (from SALC, JRL, UoML)
25 June 2019	Northern UK and Dublin Jewish Studies Partnership Workshop on Jewish Studies and Material Culture	Stefania Silvestri (Manchester), Philip Alexander (Manchester), Hannah Holtschneider (Edinburgh), Zuleika Rodgers (Dublin), Nathan Abrams (Bangor), Jay Prosser (Leeds), Daniel Langton (Manchester), Alex Samely (Manchester), Jean-Marc Dreyfus	16



		(Manchester), Sophie Garside (Manchester), Emily Finer (St Andrews), Emily Michelson (Edinburgh), Katharina Keim (Lund), Katja Stuerzenhofecker (Manchester), William Tooman (St Andrews), Yulia Egorova (Durham)	
25 - 27 June 2019	Fourth Postgraduate Research Training Event and Research Meeting of the Northern UK and Dublin Jewish Studies Partnership, University of Manchester	Philip Alexander, Moshe Behar (Manchester), Jean-Marc Dreyfus (Manchester), Sophie Garside (Manchester), Hannah Holtschneider (Edinburgh), Jessica Keady (Wales Trinity Saint David), Katharina Keim (Lund), Daniel Langton (Manchester), Lucy May (Manchester University Library), Jay Prosser (Leeds), Alun Richards (Manchester University Press), Zoe Roth (Durham), Alex Samely (Manchester), Stefania Silvestri (Manchester), William Tooman (St Andrews), Yulia Egorova (Durham), Katja Stuerzenhofecker (Manchester)	33
26 June 2019	Screen & Talk showing of 'The Women's Balcony'; Part of the Postgraduate Research Training Event	followed by Q&A with Ma'ayan Nechama Atlas (Yeshurun Cheadle Synagogue) and chaired by Dr Katja Stuerzenhofecker	15
14-15 July 2019	International invitational conference entitled 'Jewish Music Between Oral and Written Traditions: The 19th Century in Context', funded by the	Conference organised by Diana Matut (Halle) and Marton Ribary; speakers: Mark Kligman, Hervé Roten, Tina Frühauf, Diana Matut, Jascha Nemtsov, Mark Kligman,	35

	European Association for Jewish Studies	Alexandre Cerveux, Enrico Fink, Martha Stellmacher, David Conway, Norbert Meyn, Deborah Rooke, Elam Rotem, Alexander Knapp, Alan Bern.	
1 Aug 2019	Scriptural Encounter meeting	Led by Prof Philip Alexander (Manchester) and Rabbi Dr Reuven of Manchester Reform Synagogue.	20

### Non-CJS events

Philip Alexander delivered a course entitled 'Manchester: Melting Pot of Faiths' for the Manchester International Summer School, 7-26 July 2019 to around 35 international students.

### **6. International links (Academic and non-academic) with universities and non-academic**

Summer School, Katz Center & Hebrew University

Jews and Science. Daniel Langton taught on 'Judaic Engagement with Scientific Evidence and Truth' at the Katz Center & Hebrew University's Advanced Summer School for Graduate Studies, which this year had the theme 'Secrets and Lies: Truth, Evidence, and Deception in Jewish History'. Hebrew University, 30 June - 4 July 2019

George Brooke has ongoing collaboration with Prof. Moshe Bernstein (Yeshiva University, New York) in editing a new edition of Dead Sea Scroll manuscripts (4Q158-4Q186) for the new series Dead Sea Scrolls Editions (Leiden: Brill); a doctoral candidate at Yeshiva, Binyamin Goldstein, has been employed to assist in the final preparation of electronic files for the project.

Dr Ewa Ochman, SALC, The University of Manchester and Prof Mark Edele, and Dr Julie Fedor from Melbourne University. Dr Mischa Gabowitsch (Einstein Forum, Potsdam) Dr Iryna Sklokina (Centre for Urban History, Lviv, Ukraine) 2017-2019: The Manchester-Melbourne Humanities Consortium Fund, project on 'Memories of War in Post-socialist Space', 2017–2019.

### **7. Public engagement, media coverage and potential socio-economic impact**

In September 2018 Berlin's cultural centre Babylon hosted a series of film screenings and public discussion events on the Shoah and its impact on today's cultural and political life, curated by Prof. Cathy Gelbin; <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/shoah-film-series/>

- Consultancy, BBC. GCSE Judaism web resources. Prof. Langton advised the BBC's Bitesize in Religious Studies in the area of Judaism. March 2019; <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/ztrqxn>
- Dr. Silvestri gave a workshop for 6thiForm students on the 50 Jewish Objects. 28 March 2019

- Dr Silvestri gave a public lecture at the Manchester Limmud (annual Jewish Learning Festival) on 'Jewish Women and Emotional Objects'. 30 June 2019. <https://limmud.org/event/limmud-manchester/>
- Dr. Dreyfus appeared in a TV reportage on ARTE on the looting of pianos in the Holocaust, 2 April 2019
- Dr. Dreyfus contributed to a panel of experts at the Paris Shoah Memorial on 11 June 2019, on the publication of the book: *Asperger's Children. The Origins of Autism in Nazi Vienna.*
- For the "Scriptural Encounters" Group see next point (Social Responsibility)
- The Centre's *Screen and Talk* film series had 2 public screenings in November 2018 and February 2019. Both were very popular and the tickets were sold out; <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/screen-and-talk/>
- Jacqueline Nicholls (50 Jewish Objects artist) led a workshop on traditional book binding techniques, open to the public, at the Friends Meeting House, Manchester in March 2019' <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/50-jewish-objects-workshop-19/>
- Ms Nicholls also presented her artistic engagement with the 50 Jewish Objects (in particular the Maimonides "Butterfly" Genizah fragment) as follows: 17 June 2019 'Picturing the Invisible' at University of the Arts London (<https://www.arts.ac.uk/research/groups-networks-and-collaborations/picturing-the-invisible/picturing-the-invisible-seminar>); 27 June 2019 at the **Kracow Festival of Jewish Culture: 'Handmade Books'** (<http://www.jcckrakow.org/attachments/article/1111/program%20jcc%20krakow%20festival%202019%20ENG.pdf>); and 23 July 2019 JW3 'Arts Salon: Inheritance' (London) (<https://www.jw3.org.uk/event/arts-salon-inheritance#.XVvQR-hKiUk>).

## 8. Social Responsibility

Our centre organises or supports a number of activities related to our research which aim to make a social responsibility contribution. Our most recent European Hub for Jewish Studies application was designed around a core of activities that have a public engagement and social responsibility pay-off. In addition to ad hoc and individual public engagement events (see points 4 and 7 above, and Appendix below), these included in the reporting period:

- the Shermans Community Lecture on a theme of topical interest to the **Jewish community** agreed with community representatives (see above)
- the **Scriptural Encounters** group which held 7 meetings between October 2018 and August 2019, addressed to a public for the discussion of knowledge and research on sacred scripture traditions, involving participants and discussions leaders from the three faith groups Judaism, Islam and Christianity, and secular participants; (<http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/scriptural-encounter/>)
- Travel bursaries for Manchester UG and PG students to **visit Auschwitz** independently, funded from the Bogdanow and Laski accounts. Students travelled between October 2018 and June 2019. 6 students were funded out of 42 applicants. Their brief reports on their experiences, often extremely interesting or moving, are published: <http://www.manchesterjewishstudies.org/bogdanow-activities - bogdanow-bequest>
- the provision of fee bursaries to three **Jewish community leadership representatives** or their nominees to learn modern Hebrew as part of their professional development
- Extracurricular Student Travel Bursaries to London Holocaust Museum in March 2019 arranged by Dr. Dreyfus. Funded by the Laski account for addressing social concerns about Antisemitism and related forms of discrimination, see table 11.

- In December 2018 Dr. Behar submitted an **expert opinion to the Israeli High Court** about the linkages between Zionism and the Arabic language. The overall petition is explained in the following opinion piece which also refers to Dr. Behar. <https://972mag.com/israels-nation-state-law-also-discriminates-against-mizrachi-jews/139541/>. All expert opinions submitted in the appeal are uploaded here <https://www.haokets.org/2019/09/22/הלאום-חוק-נגד-המזרחית-העתירה/>
- We have been supporting the activities of two SALC PhD students, Adi Bharat and Katharine Halls (AMES) who have founded the **Jewish-Muslim Research Network (JMRN)** network. See <https://jmrn.co.uk/>. While being primarily a scholarly forum for researchers in Judaism and Islam and related topics, it also has major implications for public perceptions and social cohesion. We will sponsor a major conference organized by them next year as the 2020 Sherman Conversations event.

### 9. Key Research Publications over the 12 month period (expand table as necessary)

- *Please list here only those publications (including forthcoming) associated with active members that make a contribution to the work of the Centre.*

Books	Edited Collections	Journal Articles	Chapters in Books	Reports and Other Outputs
1	2	4	9	

See Appendix B below for details

### 10. Statement of planned activities for the next 12 months

- *List the planned deliverables and milestones.*

2019-20 will see the continuation of a suite of new Centre for Jewish Studies activities, to be funded from the above-mentioned grant of £410,071 for the period Sept 2018 – Aug 2022 (see above under 1): These will include:

1. The “50 Jewish Objects” three-year research and public engagement Project, which started in October 2018 and to which Dr Stefania Silvestri was appointed (funded from the new European Regional Hub of Jewish Studies grant, see above). Initial blogs and website publications will continue to be published in 2019-20. Draft entries for the final publication will continue to be produced.
2. Workshops, displays and performances by artists and performers directed at the general public in Manchester and Northern Partnership locations, which relate to these objects and arising from the original research which Dr Silvestri will conduct. These will continue to be commissioned from 2019-20. After Ms Nicholls, the next major artist appointment will be Nicola Dale.
3. Our fifth post-graduate research-training workshop for UK advanced doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers will take place in June 2020. Feedback questionnaires from the earlier events were overwhelmingly and enthusiastically positive, and our event was considered pioneering in its mix of career advice, research “Current Trends” talks, and opportunities for one-to-one advice.
4. Enhanced collaboration between Manchester and other Northern UK Jewish Studies Partnership institutions, and a revamped network meetings of academics in the Northern British Isles Jewish Studies Partnership, using the framework of the new “50 Jewish Objects” project. Plans for research visits and workshops to be conducted by Dr Silvestri are under way for Leeds, Glasgow and Bangor.

5. The sixth annual Bogdanow Holocaust Lecture Series, to be given by Prof. Dina Porat (Chief Historian of Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Jerusalem, and Professor emerita at Tel Aviv University), 27-28 January 2020.
6. The twenty-sixth Sherman Community Lecture (speaker to be determined in consultation with the Education Committee of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester).
7. Continuing support for modern Hebrew teaching and its virtual classroom pilot (see above), enhanced by SALC fee bursaries.
8. Continued grant application activity, both external and internal funding.
9. PhD project starting 2019/20: Sherry Ashworth 'The Reception of the Book of Esther in Nineteenth Century Novels' (Langton and Morse) (full SALC studentship).

## **11. Resources**

### *Office*

Centre's administrator Laura Mitchell works in a shared office space with retired staff and CJS fellows.

### *Library*

The Bill Williams Jewish Studies Library is accessible on request. The completed catalogue of the holdings is published on the Centre's website.

### *Website*

The website is updated on a regular basis and continues to list and archive entries on publications and events. The video recordings of the annual Bogdanow Lecture series in Holocaust Studies are also made available for the public on our website.

## **12. Teaching summary**

Hebrew language teaching The Centre is committed to maintain the availability of credit-bearing Hebrew language teaching (levels 1-2) for the significant number of Manchester University students who take our broad range of Jewish Studies courses. As planned, levels 1 and 2 of Modern Hebrew were offered this year (2018–19).

### *Overview of Jewish Studies undergraduate course units offered in 2018/19*

Introduction to Judaism - 5

Holocaust Theology - 32

Biblical Hebrew Texts - 2

Bible in Ancient and Modern Worlds - 19

Jewish Philosophy and Ethics - 10

Ethical Issues and the Bible - 16

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