



Events and News Bulletin

Spring Semester 2017

April 3rd - Bucerius Institute Guest Scholar **Professor Christoph Schulte (University of Potsdam, Germany)**



held a lecture on The Haskalah and the Jewish Salonières of Berlin. The Jewish Salonières of Berlin have often been affiliated with German Romanticism. This lecture proposed a different model: the Jewish Salonières of Berlin were the daughters, sisters or wives of Maskilim; their salons were a heritage, setting and place of the Haskalah. From a gender perspective, the Jewish salons of Berlin demarcated a new era of Jewish-Christian relations: the enlightenment model of Jewish-Christian male friendship was replaced by the new model of hetero-erotic Jewish-Christian relations, wherein the Jewish Salonières were empowered and played a leading intellectual and social role.

April 20th – 21st - Together with the Clark Art Institute, the Bucerius Institute organized a colloquium on the topic: **Photography and Imagination**. Eminent participants included Professor Margaret Olin, Professor Shawn Michelle Smith and Professor Blake Stimson. The colloquium took place at the Clark Institute in Massachusetts, USA.

June 6th - On the occasion of the **conferment of an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy**



(Honoris Causa) by the University of Haifa to Mrs. Sonja Lahnstein-Kandel, the Bucerius Institute and the HCGES raised a toast to thank her for her involvement in both Institutes. Mrs. Lahnstein-Kandel is the Chairwoman of the German Friends and Supporters of the University of Haifa.

Professor Eli Salzberger, Director of the Haifa Center for German and European Studies, and Professor Amos Morris-Reich, Director of the Bucerius Institute, thanked Mrs. Lahnstein-Kandel personally. The family of Mrs. Lahnstein-Kandel, as well as Professor Michael Göring,



Events and News Bulletin

Chairman of the ZEIT foundation in Hamburg, Germany, colleges of both of the Institutes and special guests from Israel and Germany joined in the celebrations.

International Talks and Lectures: Professor Amos Morris-Reich partook as speaker in a number of distinguished international events, including:

March 2017 - "The Letter on Zionism and The Essay on the Stranger: Georg Simmel on Historical Contingency," The Stranger as Ideal, Roskilde University, Roskilde, Denmark.

March 2017 - "Race and Photography: Racial Photography as Scientific Evidence," at the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, U.Mass. Amherst, Massachusetts, USA.

March 2017 - "Photography and Imagination in Nazi Racial Science," Photography and Imagination Advanced Symposium, at the The Clark Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts, USA.

May 2017 - "Race and Photography: Racial Photography as Scientific Evidence," Sady and Ludwig Kahn Series in German-Jewish Studies, UCLA Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies, Los Angeles.



The Bucerius Institute thanks its interns, **Sarah Lebert** and **Leah Olbricht**, for assisting the institute this semester. Sarah Lebert is doing her B.A. in English and Jewish Studies at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen, Germany. Leah Olbricht is studying Political Science in Göttingen, Germany



Events and News Bulletin

July - Professor Amos Morris-Reich was interviewed for the *Impact Journal*. The interview is published in the July edition of the journal. Here, please find a link to the interview: http://bucerius.haifa.ac.il/images/publications/The_Racial_Type_IMPACT_publication_P95-97_02_2.pdf



Building a common language

Amos Morris-Reich is Director of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society. Below, he discusses his important work, fostering sustained research collaboration on contemporary German and Jewish history.



Can you briefly introduce yourself?
My academic background is in Jewish history and German history. I was working on my dissertation in Berlin, and I had to explain in one sentence what I was interested in and what my driving question is. The question that underlies and organizes most of the research I've published... I would say that it relates to the ways science affected Jewish history on the right and left centuries, although clearly they come in many and different guises, without neglecting the impact of Jewish history on science, for Jewish history the former is more important.

What is the importance of the work of the Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society at the University of Haifa?
One of the achievements of the Bucerius Institute - alongside a handful of other institutions in Israel or Germany - is to contribute to the establishment of a historical 'language' which is shared by Israeli and German historians working on German and Jewish history. Of course there

are individual differences in values, views, and research between historians, but the effect of the Bucerius Institute as a platform for continuous and sustained research collaboration is that the 'language' of German and Jewish historians is the same. If there are differences they are no longer the result of German or Israeli background, but this is an enormous achievement. This is apparent if one compares the situation today with that only two or three decades ago. One implication is that German and Jewish historians sometimes have more in common with each other than with their respective national publics.

In what ways does the Institute's work impact on society?
The main objective of the Institute is to advance research on German history and the main impact that it strives to achieve, and this is the way it should be, is academic, through the advancement of research, academic discussion, critical exchange of ideas and views, ultimately expressed in academic publications (which, if successful, opens further questions and leads to further research and publications). In this sense its main aim is to foster academic dialogue between academics working on related fields. But at the same time we want events and publications to speak to a wider public as well.

From your perspective, what is the significance of finding an intellectually and ideologically charged subject?

The subjects I find most interesting are those that are charged, because if they are charged they still contain something in them that is important to us because it still is part of our world and experience. I personally don't find that addressing subjects from external viewpoints by 'external' I mean external to the context of study is very productive. It's much stronger and more interesting path, in my view, of entering into sometimes problematic contexts and subjects and trying to reconstruct them on their own terms, from within, with their internal logic, structures, expectations and insights.

With a vast number of published works under your belt, what is your proudest achievement to date?

For me, it's more about how gradually the publications build up something which is more significant than the separate publications, bring together that separate matter and forms of treatment together to show the extent of the importance of subjects for the understanding of Jewish history.

Exploring the complexities of shared histories

The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society is an innovative, well-respected hub of activity where some of the brightest, most imaginative historical minds are dedicated to unravelling the complex relationships between Germany and Jewish history.

The Bucerius Institute is one of two institutes outside of Germany supported by funding from the Hamburg-based Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius Zeit Foundation. Also playing a major role in the University and providing support for the Foundation is Lubavitch's wife Sippa Lubavitch and, Chairman of the Board of the German Friends Association and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Haifa, and Professor Michael Gearing, Chair of the Board of Directors of Zeit Foundation.

UNWEAVING CONCEPTS
Professor Amos Morris-Reich is Director of the Institute and also works in the University's Department of Jewish History. His work is to connect Jewish history and German history to the history of science, exploring the ways in which science affected Jewish history in the 19th and 20th centuries. He highlights the scope and complexity of this work: "The effects are so wide, so diverse, pervasive, profound, far-reaching, dramatic (and tragic) and contrary that I can't think of any other scholar who could do this."

It's possible to address them all in one single book-length study. According to Morris-Reich, the effects of "this history include complex dialogues. This is underlain by the perspective of the scholars, to be studied and understood, but it's also shaped by how Jews were perceived by others and perceived themselves. It's also related to the way these dialogues impacted relations between different kinds of Jews, or definitions of Jews, Judaism and Jewishness, or the relations between Jews and non-Jews. He explores the complicated nature of the concept. "The impact of science on modern Jewish history is hard to grasp because it is part of the issue of Jewish history and therefore seems self-evident. The perspective is therefore crucial for bringing to the surface a particular aspect of the impact." To overcome this, the team at the Institute has sought to break the question into smaller, workable questions and bodies of knowledge that are based on a specific perspective each time.

POSSIBLE PARADIGMS
Since its inception, the Institute has served as a platform for the development of a wide range of approaches with a collective voice. "From 2009 the four facets of the Institute have been history and scholarship, visual history and history of photography, and history of relations between German and Jewish (particularly Israeli) scientists in the first decades after '48," explains Amos Morris-Reich. "The collaborative nature of the work is extremely important to this scientist and his colleagues. As Director of the Institute my central aim is to create a network of collaborations with other scholars who are interested in this field."

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The challenge for historians is how to speak to a wider public without distorting or oversimplifying the findings of their studies

Institute, on joint projects about relations between German and Jewish scientists in the first decades after '48. Amos Morris-Reich himself has an extensive body of work that he can draw from. In his first book, *Entitled: The Quest for Jewish Autonomy in Modern Social Science* (2005), he explored the role of the establishment of social science fields of knowledge and academic disciplines such as sociology and anthropology on relations of Jewish assimilation. Focusing on assimilated Jews who were prominent in establishing their respective fields of knowledge in the German speaking context, this study explored the ways that academic disciplines with their conceptual assumptions, guiding questions, kinds of data and evidence, forms of argumentation, and intended scientific and social goals defined how Jewish assimilation was conceived as a form of gradual disappearance of the Jew in anthropology and as a form of partial, incomplete assimilation or situation within majority society in sociology, he explains.

Morris-Reich's second book, *Race and Photography: Racial Photography as Scientific Evidence*, 19th-20th century, investigated those who advanced assimilation and focused on the interplay of scientific and ideological projects. "Here I took photography as a tool to follow the ways scientists and academic writers combined uses of photography for the study of race," he explains. Another strand of work under way at the Institute is a project on *Photography and Ideology of History* which draws upon photography established and established a certain class of objects, objects of the eye, that depends on the eye more than other kinds of visual objects. Studying the impact of modern science and photography by focusing on an ideological model in one of the main threads that ran through the study concerned with 'racial type.' Morris-Reich explains that the modern notion of race is clearly related to the modern notion of modern science, and the attempt to study human, culture and history in material scientific categories as history is not, rather than something uniquely separate from nature. Are there aspects that can speak about racial differences? "What does it even mean to answer this question?" he asks. "What's interesting is the status of race. Because it is still effective as a component in many ways that it was rejected conceptually. As a historian I think the 'grey area' that race involves can be very productive for historical investigation because we can see so many things about historical, sociological, and psychological processes and structures."

Project Insights
FUNDING
Ebelin and Gerd Bucerius Zeit Foundation, Hamburg
ABOUT THE BUCERIUS INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH OF CONTEMPORARY GERMAN HISTORY AND SOCIETY
The Institute aims to reveal the complexities of contemporary German history through research, collective projects and analyses of the history of science, visual history and history of photography. It promotes research in contemporary history as well as the social, cultural and political realities of Germany, and strives to foster greater familiarity and understanding of modern Germany among the academic community. The Institute is attempting to facilitate academic exchange between Israel, Germany and Europe.

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DIRECTOR
Amos Morris-Reich is Professor in the Department of Jewish History and Thought, University of Haifa, and Director of the University's Business Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society. He has previously held the Academic Coordinator role at the History Department for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences within the Van Leer Foundation Institute. Amos Reich held visiting scholar positions at the Herbert and Pauline Center for Advanced Judaic Studies in Philadelphia and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

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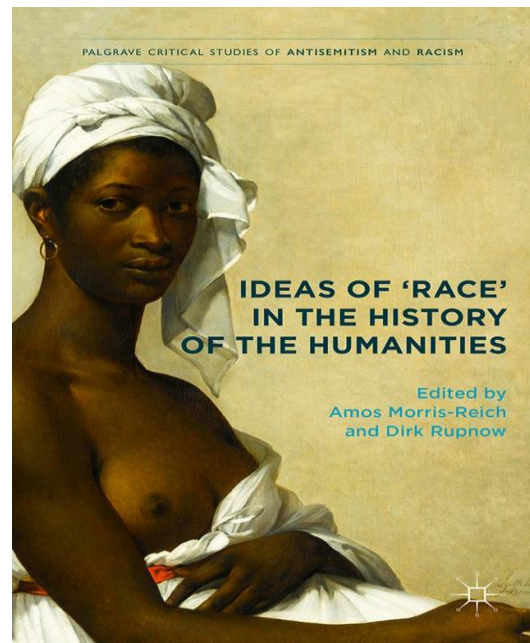
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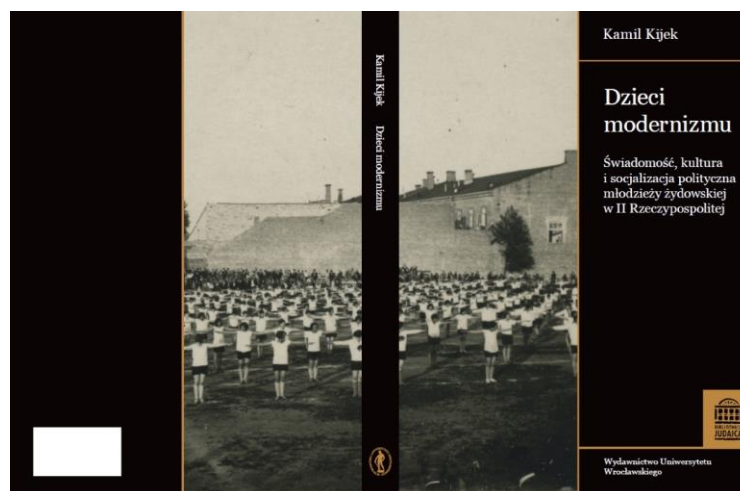
Events and News Bulletin

New Publications:

1. Morris-Reich, Amos; Rupnow Dirk (2017): Ideas of "Race" in the History of the Humanities, (Palgrave MacMillan)



2. Kijek, Kamil (2017): Dzieci modernizmu. Świadomość i socjalizacja polityczna młodzieży żydowskiej w Polsce międzywojennej, [Children of Modernism. Political Consciousness and Socialization of Jewish Youth in Interwar Poland] (Wrocław: Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego)





Events and News Bulletin

Upcoming Events:



Exhibition

The Jewish Vocational School Masada 1947 – 48



Opening: Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 18:00

Introduction by Lea Dror-Batalion

The event will take place in English and Czech

September 6 - October 27

Monday to Thursday 12:00 – 16:00, Friday 10:00 – 12:00

Department for Education and Culture

Jewish Museum in Prague

Maiselova 15, 110 00 Praha 1. Tel: 222 479 350

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