The Stephen Roth Institute
For the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism

Newsletter 2017
FROM THE DIRECTOR

Recent events have demonstrated that antisemitism and racism continue to be serious social and political problems that plague a wide range of societies.

As one of the world’s leading academic centers for the study of antisemitism, racism and other forms of prejudice, Tel Aviv University’s Stephen Roth Institute is dedicated to advancing our understanding of the historical sources, contemporary expressions and potential amelioration of these and related phenomena.

Towards that goal, the Roth Institute supports academic research by faculty and graduate students at Tel Aviv University, organizes international workshops and conferences, hosts scholarly visits and exchanges, and cooperates with universities in Israel and abroad on a range of academic projects dedicated to the study of antisemitism, prejudice and racism.

These and related activities not only advance our understanding of these critical problems but the ongoing study and discussion of these issues in Tel Aviv, in Israel and abroad contribute to our efforts to ensure the types of values and societies that will, ultimately, serve as the most effective antidotes to antisemitism, racism and other forms of prejudice.

Dr. Scott Ury
Director, Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism, Tel Aviv University

RECENT EVENTS AT THE ROTH INSTITUTE

Over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year, the Roth Institute hosted a number of presentations and seminars by scholars from leading institutions in North America and Europe.

In addition to a public lecture by Prof. Elisheva Carlebach of Columbia University on “The Image of the the Jew in Early Modern Print,” the Roth Institute also hosted a presentation by Prof. Hillel Kieval of Washington University, St. Louis, on blood libel trials in the turn of the century Central Europe, a seminar by Prof. Derek Penslar of the University of Oxford and the University of Toronto on the place of race in Theodor Herzl’s journalistic pieces, and numerous other events.

These and other presentations organized by the Roth Institute not only introduce scholars and students at TAU to cutting-edge research in today’s academic world, but also help promote scholarly discussion and exchange regarding antisemitism and racism among a wide variety of students, researchers and community members in Israel.
As part of its efforts to promote research and discussion on the relationship between antisemitism and other forms of racism, the Roth Institute co-organized a series of symposia on Jewish-Muslim relations over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year. Organized in cooperation with TAU’s Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, each symposium brought together a range of speakers from TAU and other institutions in Israel to discuss various aspects of Jewish-Muslim relations from the Middle Ages to contemporary times.

In addition to discussions regarding relations between Jews and Muslims in medieval times, speakers also addressed the impact of colonial rule on relations in nineteenth- and twentieth-century North Africa, the experiences of Jews and Muslims in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Europe, and representations of members of both groups in contemporary public and political debates in America, Europe and Israel.

Attended by a wide range of students, scholars and community members, these symposia sparked much discussion regarding the long and fascinating history of relations between Jews and Muslims.

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### RECENT LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES HOSTED BY THE ROTH INSTITUTE AT TAU

- **Jews and Muslims Through The Ages**
  - *Lecture Series | 2015-2016*

- **Seventy Years since World War II: Seven Decades of Shifting Boundaries in Eastern Europe**
  - *International Conference | December 16-17, 2015*

- **Prof. David Engel, NYU**

- **Prof. Elisheva Carlebach, Columbia University**
  - *Images of Jews in the Early Days of Print | January 10, 2016*

- **Neighbors? Jews and Non-Jews in Urban Spaces**
  - *International Workshop | January 13-14, 2016*

- **Prof. Ariela Gross, The University of Southern California**
  - *The New Abolitionism, International Law, and the Memory of Slavery | February 29, 2016*

- **Prof. Derek Penslar, The University of Toronto and Oxford University**
  - *Theodor Herzl: Between Anti-Semitism, Race, and Empire | March 16, 2016*

- **Prof. Ellie Shainker, Emory University**
  - *Killing Converts: A New Ritual Murder Accusation in Late-Imperial Russia | April 3, 2016*

- **Prof. Hillel Kieval, Washington University, St. Louis**
  - *Blood Inscriptions: Science, Modernity, and Ritual Murder in Fin de Siècle Europe | April 13, 2016*

- **Prof. Johannes Becke, Center for Jewish Studies, Heidelberg**
THE ROTH INSTITUTE RESEARCH GROUP ON INTER-GROUP RELATIONS

Through the support of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Tel Aviv and Berlin, the Roth Institute sponsored a two-year Research Group on inter-group relations in urban environments.

Starting in early 2015, the research group offered five TAU graduate students from a number of departments and faculties a regular forum in which they were able to gain exposure to the latest studies in different fields, advance their own MA or PhD projects, and meet with leading scholars.

In January, 2016, members of the group presented their research as part of an international workshop hosted by the Roth Institute on the topic of “Neighbors? Jews and Non-Jews in Urban Spaces.” Other workshop participants included scholars from Brown University, Central European University in Budapest, SUNY Binghamton, and the University of Wroclaw in Poland.

THE ROTH INSTITUTE PROJECT ON TOLERANCE AND INTOLERANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Over the course of the 2015-2016 academic year, TAU’s Project for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East continued its work monitoring Arab-language media for expressions and manifestations of antisemitic attitudes and opinions as well as discussions of Muslim-Jewish relations.

Under the direction of Dr. Esther (Esti) Webman, one of the world’s leading experts in the field, the dedicated staff identify, catalogue and analyze a wide range of print, visual and social media sources from across the Arab world.

Relevant items are then summarized in English and entered into TAU’s Database on Antisemitism and Racism, where they are available and accessible to scholars, students and community members via TAU’s central library system.

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IN MEMORIUM
The Roth Institute mourns the passing of longtime board member and leading scholar of human rights, Prof. Sir Nigel Rodley, and notes his many contributions to the Roth Institute’s academic activities and research projects.