

Newsletter of the Center for Austrian Studies, February 2020

Celebration of 350 Years of the University of Innsbruck

In October 2019, the University of Innsbruck celebrated its 350th anniversary. Director Prof. Gili S. Drori and Administrative Director Elisheva Moatti represented the Hebrew University's Center for Austrian Studies and participated in the festive events organised for the university and its international partners: visits to university campuses; lectures by Innsbruck's university faculty; receptions; and the main event, at Innsbruck's City Theatre, with German-language theatrical performances and speeches, also by Austria's President Van der Bellen in video.



Key among these events was the dedication of an artistic installation that celebrates the University of Innsbruck's international partners. Following a competition of student-designed proposals, the University of Innsbruck chose to create an installation that connotes the university's relationships with its many university partners worldwide. The design is of "arms" emanating from a locus that signals Innsbruck, each arm holding a plaque with the name of the partner university — and information such





as its distance from Innsbruck. These plaques also light up based on internet-mined information about the particular partner university. The Hebrew University, a long-standing partner of the University of Innsbruck, is of course included in this commemorative installation.

The October 2019 celebratory event in Innsbruck was also an excellent opportunity to meet with our various colleagues-partners. The Austria-Israel-Academic Network Innsbruck (AIANI), headed by Dr. Marion Wieser, organised a special program for the Israeli partners, including a luncheon with the Israeli ambassador to Austria, the Honourable Ms. Talya Lador-Fresher, and meetings with network members and university faculty who have been to, or who will soon teach or visit with the Center for Austrian Studies.

Annual Convention of Centers for Austrian Studies



The XXIII Annual Convention of Centers for Austrian Studies was hosted by the Center for Austrian Studies in Vienna, Institute for East-European History, and held at the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Austria, on October 22-25, 2019.

The Center for Austrian Studies at the Hebrew University was represented by the Director, Prof. Gili S. Drori, and the Administrative Director, Ms. Elisheva Moatti, as well as an MA student, James McIntosh, and a PhD student, Sagi Krispin. James McIntosh presented his research on *"The Imperative to Remember and the Impulse to Rebuild: Tension between Commemorating the Past and Reconstructing Ruins in Dresden, Jerusalem and Vienna"*. Sagi Krispin presented preliminary research questions and directions under the title *"Holocaust Remembrance – The Evolution of the Political Discussion in Austria"*.

The excursion to Forchtenstein Castle and Esterházy Palace in Eisenstadt offered many participants the opportunity to get to know the surroundings of Vienna for the first time, and get insights into the fascinating history of the Esterházy family.





Visit of the Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research of Austria, Prof. Dr. Heinz Faßmann and delegation



On February 5, 2019, the Division for Advancement and External Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem organised a visit for a delegation of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, headed by Minister Prof. Dr. Heinz Faßmann. Faculty, administrative staff and students participated in the visit. Prof. Gili S. Drori represented the Center for Austrian Studies and gave an overview of the Center's activities in teaching, research, academic events and those for the public. Prof. Israel Yuval, the Kollek Chair for the Study of Cultural Aspects of Vienna and Jerusalem, presented his activities, and Dr.



Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann, Cardinal Franz König Chair, introduced his latest research projects and cooperation with Austrian institutions. Ms. Avital Amrani introduced the Austrian Library at the Bloomfield Library for the Humanities and Social Sciences.



Designing Transformation: Jews and Cultural Identity in Central European Modernism

The International Symposium *"Designing Transformation: Jews and Cultural Identity in Central European Modernism"* (Vienna, May 16-17, 2019), offered a contemporary scholarly perspective on the role of Jews in shaping and coproducing public and private, as well as commercial and socially oriented, architecture and design in Central Europe from the 1920s to the 1940s, and in the respective countries in which they settled after their forced emigration starting in the 1930s. It examined how modern identities evolved in the context of cultural transfers and migrations, commercial and professional networks, and in relation to conflicts between nationalist ideologies and international aspirations in Central Europe and beyond.

This symposium shed new light on the importance of integrating Jews into Central European design and aesthetic history by asking symposium participants, including architectural historians and art historians, curators, archivists, and architects, to use their analysis to "design" – in the sense of reconfigure or reconstruct – the past and push forward a transformation in the historical consciousness of Central Europe. In doing so, the symposium pointed to the necessity of challenging the present political and cultural status quo that prefers to suppress cultural differences in society, by projecting progressive and transformative "designs" that recognize the value of such differences for the future.



International Conference: Between Israel and the Nations



On September 23-24, 2019, the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, the Center for Austrian Studies, the Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, and the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies organised an international conference *"Between Israel and the Nations"* in honour of Prof. Israel Yuval's retirement.

In 2012, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem appointed Prof. Israel Jacob Yuval to be the first incumbent of the distinguished Kollek Chair for the Study of Cultural Aspects of Vienna and Jerusalem. In this capacity, he has brought students on study workshops to Vienna, taught courses which deal with medieval Jewry in Vienna, entertained





scholars from different countries focusing on aspects, both medieval and modern, relating to Austria and Europe, and supported students who have continued their studies in these areas. Importantly, in his role as Kollek Chair, Prof. Yuval organised in cooperation with the Center for Austrian Studies the annual Zilk Lecture series, hosting renowned speakers to showcase various aspects, medieval and modern, relating to Austria within its European and global context: Prof. Steven Aschheim (2011; Vienna – *“The Creative and the Dark Sides of Modernity”*), Prof. Ewald Nowotny (2015; *“Austrian Economic Policy”*), Dr. Elana Shapira (2016; *“Jewish Patrons and Viennese Modernism”*); Prof. Eva Haverkamp (2017; *“Politics in Coin Production of Medieval Ashkenazi Jews”*), Dr. Martha Keil (2018; *“Jewish History and Political Shifts in Post-War Austria”*). In 2014, he organised with the Center and in collaboration with Prof. Michael Toch a study excursion on the topic of *“Town in the Country: Vienna and its Satellites”*.

Collaborative Research Project on Visual History of the Holocaust



Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann, incumbent of the Cardinal Franz König Chair in Austrian Studies at the Center for Austrian Studies, takes part in an international consortium of research institutions coordinated by the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History in Vienna and the Austrian Film





Museum that started a four-year research project on *“Visual History of the Holocaust – Rethinking Curation in the Digital Age”* in January 2019.

The consortium consists of 13 Austrian, German, Israeli and French research institutions, museums, memorial sites and technology developers that together with American partners explore the potentials as well as the limitations of digital technologies in the ongoing effort to preserve, analyse and communicate historical evidence of the Holocaust, and in particular audiovisual records. The project focuses on film footage produced by Allied forces and relating to the discovery of Nazi concentration camps and other atrocity sites.

In the course of the project, the historical films, which are currently dispersed across archival institutions in the US, Great Britain, Russia, and other former Soviet Republics, will be aggregated, digitized, analysed and annotated. However, the project aims not only to preserve the footage and develop new ways of analysing and annotating these historical images in the digital age, but also to develop strategies to interrelate the footage with other sources and establish virtual environments that create a resonating space for the participatory and interactive curation of visual Holocaust memory. The resulting digital repository will allow users to dynamically link film images with photographs, text-based documents and oral histories, as well as with images from subsequent cinematic representations of the Holocaust.

In the first year, the Jerusalem team worked on a complex methodological approach to study and conceptualize the relations between historical footage and its later use and circulation in documentary and feature films, graphic novels and artworks. Together with partners from Austrian and German research institutions, the Israeli researchers developed and discussed methodological approaches to digitally curate visual sources from the Holocaust in virtual environments. Creating an innovative research atmosphere, several workshops in Vienna prepared the ground for the technological and conceptual enhancement of these achievements in the following years.

The 2nd Vienna-Jerusalem Graduate School 2019: Memory and Media – Media of Memory

The Center for Austrian Studies and the Austrian Academy of Sciences jointly organise every two years a week-long graduate school for early Post-Docs, PhD and advanced Master students from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and universities in Austria. The joint project offers the opportunity to present and discuss current research projects in the fields of Memory Studies, Media Studies, History, and German and Austrian Studies with fellow young researchers and international experts.

The second Vienna-Jerusalem Graduate School took place in September 2019 at the Hebrew University's Center for Austrian Studies. Six students from various departments of the Hebrew University and six students from different academic institutions in Austria presented and discussed their research with renowned experts from Israel, Austria and Germany. This time, the graduate school focused on the





complex relationship between media and memory. The lectures and presentations dealt with a variety of topics, ranging from Holocaust memory to memories of migration, digital memory, cultural heritage, social media memory and memory theories. The excellent lectures and talks introduced a range of different media, such as exhibitions, films, photographs, Instagram stories, Twitter posts or smartphone applications, and demonstrated that media are not only important carriers for memory processes, but also that memories themselves are significantly mediated. The intense and very fruitful discussions offered a unique opportunity to connect with other young researchers, discuss research with experts from various disciplines, and to enjoy the interdisciplinary and intellectually stimulating atmosphere of the Graduate School.

Austria in Focus – Cardinal Franz König Lectures at the CAS

Since January 2018, the "Cardinal Franz König Lectures" at the Center for Austrian Studies focus on different aspects of Austrian history, memory and culture. The lectures are organised by the current incumbent of the Cardinal Franz König Chair in Austrian Studies, Dr. Tobias Ebbrecht-Hartmann.



In December 2018, Prof. Dr. Frank Stern from the University of Vienna talked about "*Viennese Dissonances in the Depiction of Jewishness, Antisemitism and Remembrance*" and introduced pre-war Austrian-Jewish filmmaking in the 1920s and 1930s. In his talk, he showed that Vienna served as a cradle for Jewish cinema and analysed the differences between Jewish films of that time and the anti-Semitic codes communicated and modernized with the help cinema during those years.

In November 2019, Prof. Dr. Helga Embacher from the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg introduced a comparative approach to critically analyse antisemitism and the hostility towards Islam in the 21st century. Based on the recently published study "*Antisemitismus in Europa*" (Antisemitism in Europe), Prof. Embacher presented case studies that explained the complexity and also the



relevance of studies on these topics and added a reflection about the role of religions in the political discourse.

The Cardinal Franz König Lectures addressed students in the European Studies and neighbouring programs. Therefore, the lectures were embedded into existing courses *"The Holocaust, Collective Memory and Cinema"* (2018) and *"Religion, Secularism and Pluralism in Europe"* (2019, taught by Dr. Karin Bischof).

Student Exchange Program with the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

This year, two students from the Diplomatic Academy, Mihaela Macukić and Maximilian Santner, came as exchange students for one semester to the Hebrew University, and one student from the European Forum, Sarah Hayum, went to Vienna.

Last year's students, Clara Knäpper-Bohman and Benjamin Flaig of cohort MAIS 2017-19, summarized their experience in Israel for us:

"We had the chance to spend one semester at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The unique status of Jerusalem as an Israeli and Palestinian city made us familiar with not only



Palestinian-Israeli conflict but furthermore both states' sentiments and cultures. Besides the knowledge gained at HUJI, we learned a lot from simply living in the area. Not only from the complex religious and historic situation but also from the local population, political actors such as NGOs and the blooming young arts scene. In other words, it was a vivid experience, which was a great match between theory and practice".



Student Exchange Program with the University of Innsbruck

This year, two students from the University of Innsbruck, Bianca Kreft and Michaela Bstieler, came to the Hebrew University for the fall term. A third student, Sophia Elisabeth Maria Werner, will follow in the spring term.

Michaela Bstieler wrote about her stay in Israel:

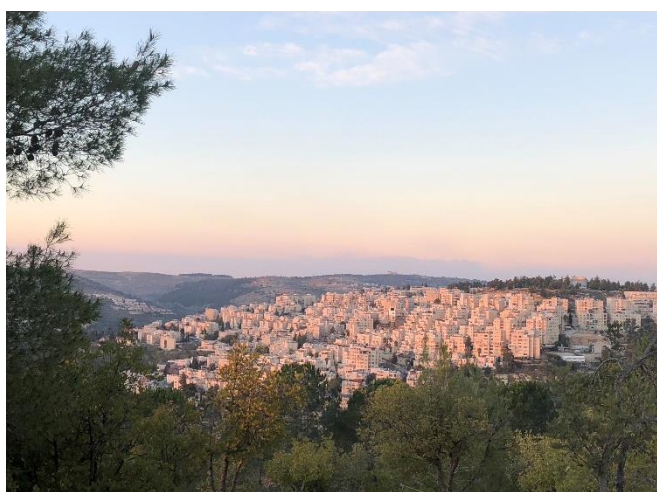
"I had just finished my Master's in philosophy at the University of Innsbruck when I decided to do something completely different and unfamiliar. I wanted to go abroad to the most exciting city I have ever visited: Jerusalem. With the help of AIANI (Austria-Israel-Academic Network Innsbruck), I finally got the chance to study at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and at the Rothberg International School in the fall semester 2019-2020 and to take part in the activities of the Center for Austrian Studies. Culture





shock aside, the most unusual but educational thing for me was to see how living in this area could look like. Architecturally, one can see huge differences between accommodations and housing, reflecting the particular socio-economic cleavages. While Rehavia is in its urban planning a witness to immigration and escape from Nazi Germany, a wealthy neighbourhood associated with German-Jewish culture; Hebron, on the other hand, forces you to ask different questions about conditions and premises of living. Yet, experiencing the hospitality of Bedouins in the Negev desert make you realize that living in the whole area is highly political, but never boring.

After all, I would recommend anyone to participate in this exchange program. It is without a doubt an unforgettable experience of which you'll learn so much from – at least about yourself and your positions in life”.



Presentation of Research Project



On January 13, 2020, the European Forum invited the research grant recipients to present their projects. The Aron Menczer Fund scholarship recipient, Dr. Neri Yeshayahu Ariel, a post-doctoral fellow at the Department of Talmud and Halakha, talked about his project on *“Jewish Identity, Erudition and Text Production in the Medieval Jewish Community of Vienna (appr. 1033-1421)”*.



Guests at the Center for Austrian Studies

Visiting Assistant Professor – Dr. Karin Bischof

Dr. Karin Bischof is the assistant visiting professor at the Center for Austrian Studies during the academic year 2019-20. Dr. Bischof is a lecturer and a research fellow at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna, and a research fellow at the Institute of Conflict Research. While staying with us, Dr. Bischof taught the MA course “*Antisemitism and the Development of Democracy in Austria after 1945*”, and worked on her research project on “*‘Militant Democracy’ (‘Wehrhafte Demokratie’) and the Current Challenges of Democracy*”.



Visiting Professor – Prof. Martin Heintel



Prof. Martin Heintel from the University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research, visited the Center for Austrian Studies in March-April 2019, and gave a course titled “*Regional Development in the European Union*”. This course was an introduction to the fundamentals of regional development in the European Union. It examined the administrative level as well as project orientation and practical issues of regional development, regional disparities, and borders. The course itself was built upon an interdisciplinary approach including human and economic geography, spatial planning, regional policy, and development.

Visiting Professor – Prof. Anton Pelinka

Prof. Anton Pelinka from the University of Innsbruck was our guest in June 2019, and taught an intensive MA course on the topic of “*Comparative European Politics*”. The focus of this course was a theoretically based introduction into political systems in general, into European political systems in particular; emphasizing especially the role of political parties and interest groups in Europe; developing an understanding of the changes the European political systems having to face. Basic questions to be answered in different ways were: Is there a specific European type of democracy? What are the common characteristics of European parties, party families, party systems? To which extent have interest groups a defining role for European politics? What are the consequences of transformation, especially in Central-Eastern Europe, beginning with 1989? What is the state of Europeanisation within the EU, and what is the impact of Europeanisation, especially for national politics and political parties? The course was designed to start with the essentials of European politics – the understanding of democracy, of parliamentary systems, of elections, of parties and interest groups. Based on these essentials, specific political systems were approached – major (i.e. larger) as well





as smaller countries. The phenomenon of political transition and the analysis of the European Union as a political system was analysed.

In spite of it all... Aron Menczer and Jewish Youth Vienna-Theresienstadt (1938-1943)



The Cultural Department of the City of Vienna (Kulturabteilung MA 7) funded in 2015-16 the Center's translation into Hebrew of the publication on Aron Menczer, *"Trotz allem... Aron Menczer und die Jugendalijah"*. The Center published the Hebrew version with the Hebrew University Magnes Press. Prof. Ya'akov (Kobi) Metzger, Aron Menczer's nephew, added two new sections. One is a comprehensive introduction, which examines Menczer's activity in light of some general issues raised in the research literature. The other part consists of archival sources that were added to the book for additional insights.

The first edition had been published in 1993. In 2013, Joanna Nittenberg and Benjamin Kaufmann published an expanded new edition with numerous additions and new texts and photos.

The Prof. Dr. Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships in Austria, summer 2019

Every summer, 49 students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem receive the Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships to participate in intensive courses in various cities in Austria. The Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs in cooperation with the Embassy of the State of Israel in Austria, the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research, the National Bank of Austria and the University of Vienna invited the 30 recipients attending intensive courses at the University of Vienna to receptions.

Shachar F. Orlinski, an MA student in the Department of History, addressed the following letter to Prof. Landesmann:

"Sehr geehrter Dr. Peter Landesmann, ich freue mich sehr, ein Stipendium der "Prof. Dr. Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships in Austria" erhalten zu haben. Derzeit verfolge ich einen Master of Arts Abschluss innerhalb des Programms für Spätantike Studien. Betreuer meiner Qualifikationsarbeit ist Prof. Yitzhak Hen (Hebrew University, Jerusalem). Ich untersuche den Sklavenhandel in Nordeuropa während der Merowingerzeit und möchte dieses Thema zu einer Dissertation ausweiten.

Der Intensivkurs Deutsch und ihre großzügige finanzielle Unterstützung haben mich in die Lage versetzt, die exzellente Chance wahrzunehmen, mich mit einem Großteil der früheren Forschungsliteratur meines Untersuchungsfelds bekannt zu machen. Meine Studien verlangen eine intensive





Auseinandersetzung mit den politischen, rechtlichen und religiösen Aspekten der fränkischen Gesellschaft. Der Großteil der Fachliteratur hierzu ist weiterhin in deutscher Sprache verfasst. Ein besseres Verständnis der deutschen Sprache erlaubt mir außerdem, eine höhere Sensibilität für Wörter deutschen (germanischen) Ursprungs in meinen (größtenteils lateinischen) Quellen zu entwickeln, das heißt also auch die nuancierten Informationen der Quellen selbst sowie die verschiedenen historiographischen Vorstellungen präziser erfassen zu können.

Neben der außergewöhnlichen Möglichkeit mein Deutsch zu verbessern, hat ihr großzügiges Stipendium mich darüber hinaus in die Lage versetzt, in einer deutschsprachigen Umwelt zu leben, so meine Sprachkenntnisse zu üben und meine Weltanschauung zu bereichern. Ich bin ferner äußerst dankbar für die Möglichkeiten, die ihr großzügiges Stipendium mir bezüglich akademischer Kontakte geboten hat: Hierzu gehören das Treffen und Kennenlernen herausragender Forscherpersönlichkeiten meines Faches und der Aufbau wichtiger Kontakte. Die Tatsache, dass außerdem eine Gruppe von Freunden, die ich dort erst kennen- und zu schätzen gelernt habe, Teil dieses Stipendiums waren, hat meine Erfahrungen noch weiter bereichert. Es war für mich eine wirklich einzigartige Erfahrung.

Vielen Dank für Ihre Unterstützung, die ich sehr zu schätzen weiß.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen, Shachar F. Orlinski“

Call for Applications

Prof. Dr. Peter Landesmann German Language Scholarships in Austria

Deadline for applications: Sunday, March 22, 2020 at 12:30.

The Center for Austrian Studies announces the availability of scholarships for intensive German language courses (2 weeks – 2 months) in Vienna, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz, Salzburg and Graz.

- The scholarships cover the cost of the course and accommodation.
- The scholarship to Vienna includes also the flight ticket.
- Courses will take place between July and September 2020.

The scholarships will be granted to students of the Hebrew University according to the following criteria:

- academic excellence
- letters of recommendation from two faculty members who are familiar with the student's work
- field of studies requiring knowledge of the German language is an advantage.
- previous German language studies are an advantage.

Applications should be submitted by e-mail to casscholarships@savion.huji.ac.il.

The application form can be downloaded from the European Forum's website – <http://ef.huji.ac.il>. For further questions, please contact the Center for Austrian Studies: E-mail: casscholarships@savion.huji.ac.il, Rooms 6203-4, Faculty of Humanities Building, Tel: 02-5883286/3866/1969.



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קול קורא

מלגות ללימוד השפה הגרמנית באוסטריה ע"ש פרופ' ד"ר פטר לנדסמן

תאריך אחרון להגשת מועמדות: יום א', 22 במרץ 2020 בשעה 12:30.
המרכז ללימודי אוסטריה מציע מלגות לקורסים אינטנסיביים בני שבועיים עד חודשיים בווינה, אינסברוק, קלאגנפורט, לינץ וגראץ.

- המלגות מכסות את עלויות הקורס והלינה.
- המלגה לווינה מכסה גם את עלות הטיסה.
- קורסים מתקיימים החל מיוני ועד ספטמבר 2020.

המלגות מתענקות לתלמידים באוניברסיטה העברית על פי הקריטריונים הבאים:

- הצטיינות בלימודים
- מכתבי המלצה משני חברי סגל המכירים את עבודת המועמד/ת
- עדיפות תינתן למי שלומד תחום הדורש ידיעת השפה הגרמנית.
- עדיפות תינתן למי שלמדו גרמנית בעבר.

בקשת תוגשנה בדוא"ל לכתובת casscholarships@savion.huji.ac.il.

ניתן להוריד את טופס הבקשה מאתר פורום אירופה: <http://ef.huji.ac.il>.
לבידורים ניתן לפנות למרכז ללימודי אוסטריה בדוא"ל: casscholarships@savion.huji.ac.il, חדרים 4-6203, בניין הפקולטה למדעי הרוח, טלפון: 02-5883286/3866/1969.



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