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Refugees Then and Now

World Refugee Day was marked at Sussex on 20 June 2017 by a seminar jointly hosted by the Centre and the University Chaplaincy. Introducing the event, Edward Timms compared the anti-Jewish rhetoric of the 1930s, directed against the so-called 'Alien Menace', with the anti-refugee attitudes of people now clamouring 'We want our country back'.

In the opening paper Dr Paul Oestreicher, who fled as a child with his parents from Nazi Germany to New Zealand, highlighted the responses of his patriotic father, a Jewish-born paediatrician who had served in the German army. The number of refugees accepted by New Zealand was severely restricted, and although Paul enjoyed a good education, he recalled being targeted by a playground game called 'Hunt the Hun', feeling vulnerable when a schoolmate called out: 'And he's a Jew!'

Fortunately, Paul's musically gifted mother smoothed the process of resettlement, and his parents subsequently joined the Quakers, the group that most actively supported refugees. Paul himself became a leading figure in the Anglican Church, Chair of Amnesty International UK, and Vice-President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

In a second paper (introduced by Barbara Einhorn), Prof Nadjie Al-Ali, author of *Iraqi Women: Untold Stories from 1948 to the Present*, recalled her upbringing in the Federal Republic as the child of an Iraqi father and a German mother. She then shared the findings of research projects showing how refugees from countries like Bosnia and Iraq have coped with differing forms of Islamophobia. The difficulty of drawing a distinction between political refugees and economic migrants was also elucidated.

Nadjie Al-Ali, who is a woman's rights activist as well as Professor of Gender Studies at SOAS in the University of London, concluded that it is increasingly difficult to influence public policy on behalf of refugees. Becoming 'British' presents serious obstacles, especially for Moslem women, but there was a more positive note in her voice when she added: 'I am a Londoner'.

Weidenfeld Institute

Building from over 20 years focused on studying the experiences of German J3r Span Lang (en-GB)MCID 221 BDC BT was also elucidated.

Congratulations and Farewell to Kim Wünschmann

After moving on from Sussex to her new appointment in Munich, Dr Wünschmann has shared with us the following reflections:

It was with mixed feelings that I said goodbye to Brighton this late summer. While greatly looking forward to new tasks at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU), it was not at all easy for me to leave my post as DAAD Lecturer at the University of Sussex. During the past two years, I enjoyed the annual Holocaust Memorial Day Brighton and the annual Holocaust Memorial Day Brighton and the annual Holocaust Memorial Day Brighton working in a friendly and supportive intellectual environment. I got to know many inspiring people and experienced meaningful exchanges of ideas in Sussex and at other places around the country.

Thanks to the affiliation with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the person appointed as DAAD Lecturer enjoys a unique position, which allows him or her to combine academic work with a wide range of cultural activities. I particularly valued my opportunities to meet members of Brighton's Jewish community and various generations of families with German-Jewish roots. It was moving to participate in important memorial initiatives like the annual Holocaust Memorial Day organised by the Centre in collaboration with the Association of Jewish Refugees. Public discussion of the future of Holocaust education in schools and universities

Writing German-Jewish Lives

The German-Jewish Family Archives Project hosted a workshop at The Keep on the 12 September 2017, bringing together scholars from different disciplines to discuss working with archival collections. Throughout the day, scholars from different academic disciplines spoke about using German-Jewish archives in various ways. Some had used their own family archives, while others had researched the German-Jewish collections at the Keep and elsewhere.

After Gideon Reuveni's opening remarks, Samira Teuteberg gave a brief introduction to the German-Jewish Family Archives held at the Keep and a website she is working on, which shows selected digitised materials from the collections and is available at www.sussex.ac.uk/affiliates/gjfa

Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Rose Holmes spoke about using oral history interviews and how she addressed common concerns in her research, including objectivity and reliability. Andrea Hammel outlined the current landscape of Kindertransport research and the different strands of current thinking. She juxtaposed this with the public discourse about refugee children arriving in the UK today and demonstrated the lasting impact the Kindertransport has had on the political debate.

From a more personal point of view, Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg talked about his journey into his family history after he discovered a suitcase containing letters from the 1930s. He illustrated how small pieces of information started to build up the story, which he eventually published under the title 'My Dear Ones'.

Professor Edward Timms focused on the literary works of two refugee writers whose papers