

New Directions in Antisemitism Research

Oslo Workshop (25-26 May, 2023)

Organized by Johannes D. Enstad, Senior Researcher at the Institute for Social Research and director of the [CHACE project](#), in collaboration with the Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX). Contact: j.d.enstad@socialresearch.no / +47 971 37 554



Day 1 (Thursday): C-REX

Location: 5th floor of Eilert Sundts hus, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo

- 08:30-09:00: Welcome & Introduction

Session 1: Online antisemitism and “big data”

- 09:00-09:40: *Gunther Jikeli*: Making Sense of “Big Data”
- 09:40-10:20: *Matthias J. Becker*: Reflections on the Decoding Antisemitism Project
- 10:20-10:40: **Break**

Session 2: “The receiving end” – Jews’ exposure

- 10:40-11:20: *Johannes D. Enstad*: Using Survey Data to Understand Variation in Jews’ Exposure to Antisemitism
- 11:20-12:00: *Birgitte P. Haanshuus*: How Norwegian Jews Deal with Online Antisemitism

12:00-13:30: Lunch break

Session 3: Stakeholder perspectives

- 13:40-14:10: *Elie Kagan*: The Challenges of Fostering Jewish Life in EU while Facing Antisemitism
- 14:10-14:40: *Ronen Bahar*: Jewish Life in Norway, Here and Now
- 14:40-15:00: **Break**

Session 4: Israel-related antisemitism

- 15:00-15:40: *Shany Mor*: Israel, Antisemitism, and the Y2K Reboot
- 15:40-16:20: *Torkel Brekke*: Antisemitism on the Left: Questions for Future Research

Evening

- 19:30-22:30: Dinner

Day 2 (Friday): Institute for Social Research

Location: Munthes gate 31

Session 1: What do we (not) know about antisemitic attitudes?

- 09:00-09:40: *Michał Bilewicz*: Psychological Research on Antisemitism: Methodological and Structural Insights
- 09:40-10:20: *Ayal K. Feinberg*: Designing and Learning from Survey Experiments
- 10:20-10:40: **Break**

Session 2: Islamic and far-right antisemitism

- 10:40-11:10: *Gunther Jikeli*: Minority-on-Minority Prejudice: Lessons Learned from Studying Antisemitism among Muslims in Europe
- 11:10-11:50: *Kjetil Braut Simonsen*: Antisemitism as Stigmatized Knowledge: the Norwegian Extreme Right and the Jews, 1945-2023

Lunch and park walk

- 11:50-12:40: Lunch
- 12:40-14:00: Walk in the Vigeland Sculpture Park

Session 3: Is antisemitism increasing?

- 14:10-14:40: *Daniel Staetsky*: Is Antisemitism Increasing?

Session 4: What is to be done? Wrapping up, future steps (14:40-15:30)

- Points for discussion:
 - Sketching an interdisciplinary research agenda
 - The prospect of a European research hub (strongly recommended reading):
 - [Kahn-Harris, K., Boyd, J., & Staetsky, D. \(2023\). The field of research on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life: Working towards a European research hub. Publications Office of the European Union](#)

Participants

- **Matthias J. Becker:** A postdoctoral researcher at the Centre for Research on Antisemitism (ZfA) at Technische Universität in Berlin, Becker is trained in linguistics, philosophy, and literature. He serves as the Director of *Decoding Antisemitism*, a transnational research project that investigates online antisemitism in the UK, France, and Germany.
- **Michał Bilewicz:** An associate professor of psychology at the University of Warsaw, Bilewicz is a social psychologist who chairs the Center for Research on Prejudice. His primary research interests are antisemitism, hate speech, and intergroup emotions. Bilewicz was awarded the 2021 Nevitt Sanford Award by the International Society of Political Psychology.
- **Torkel Brekke:** A historian of religion, Brekke is a professor and the head of the Diversity Studies Centre Oslo (DISCO) at Oslo Metropolitan University. With a PhD from Oxford University, his research interests encompass religion, politics, and prejudice against Jews and Muslims. His latest book, *Ingen er uskyldig: antisemittisme på venstresiden* [No one is innocent: antisemitism on the left], was published in 2023.
- **Johannes D. Enstad:** A historian with a foot in the social sciences, Enstad is a Senior Researcher at the Norwegian Institute for Social Research. He holds a PhD in History from the University of Oslo. His academic interests include Soviet and Russian history, right-wing extremism, and contemporary antisemitism. Enstad is the Director of the research project *Comparing Histories of Antisemitism in Contemporary Europe* (CHACE).
- **Ayal K. Feinberg:** A political scientist and Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-Commerce, Feinberg is also a Quantitative Research Fellow at the Anti-Defamation League's Center for Antisemitism Research. His research focuses on diaspora identity and security, hate crimes and bias incidents, radical right groups and parties, social conflict, political violence, and contemporary antisemitism.
- **Birgitte P. Haanshuus:** A political scientist and Researcher at the Center for Research on Extremism (C-REX), Haanshuus is a PhD candidate at the Department of Media and Communication, University of Oslo. Her PhD project examines antisemitism in the Norwegian digital public sphere. Haanshuus previously worked at the Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies, where she participated in a research group surveying antisemitic and anti-Muslim attitudes in Norway. Her research interests also cover right-wing extremism and hate speech in digital media.
- **Günther Jikeli:** A historian and sociologist, Jikeli holds the Erna B. Rosenfeld Professorship at the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism/Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University. In 2011-2012, he advised the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on combating antisemitism. Jikeli received the Raoul Wallenberg Prize in Human Rights and

Holocaust Studies in 2013, and his most recent book, *The Return of Religious Antisemitism?*, was published in 2021.

- **Elie Kagan:** As the Head of Crisis Management at the Security and Crisis Centre (SACC) by the European Jewish Congress (EJC), Kagan supports and advises various European religious communities on security and crisis management.
- **Ronen Bahar:** Bahar is President of the Jewish Community of Oslo. He was born in Israel and has lived in Norway since 2002.
- **Shany Mor:** A research fellow in political theory at Reichman University's Institute for Liberty and Responsibility, Mor holds degrees from Oxford, Columbia, and Berkeley. He has served as a Director for Foreign Policy on Israel's National Security Council, specializing in Israel-Europe and Israel-US relations.
- **Daniel Staetsky:** With a PhD in Social Statistics and Demography from the University of Southampton, Staetsky is the Director of the European Jewish Demography Unit at The Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR). Prior to joining JPR in 2012, he worked as an analyst at RAND Europe, a research fellow at the Southampton Statistical Science Research Institute, and a coordinator of migration statistics at the Central Bureau of Statistics in Israel. Staetsky's work spans demography, survey methodology, social statistics, and the quantitative study of antisemitism.
- **Kjetil B. Simonsen:** A researcher at the Oslo Jewish Museum, Simonsen holds a PhD in History from the University of Oslo and specializes in the history of antisemitism in Norway. In recognition of his active participation in the Norwegian public sphere and efforts to communicate information about the history of antisemitism and related topics, Simonsen was awarded the Sverre Steen Prize for Excellent Communication of History in 2020.