

THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY JEWISH STUDIES PROJECT

cordially invites you to a lecture by

Christian Wiese

Goethe University Frankfurt am Main

No 'Love for the Jewish People'? Hannah Arendt's 'Eichmann in Jerusalem' Revisited

Hannah Arendt's 1963 report from the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the chief bureaucrat of the genocide against European Jewry, and the subsequent debates about questions such as the 'banality of evil', the absence of Jewish resistance during against the Nazi persecution and the alleged initial complicity of German Zionism with Nazi ideology mark a crucial episode in the European, American and Israeli post-Holocaust discourse. The lecture will revisit those debates, tracing Arendt's position back to the laboratory of her political thought and confronting Gershom Scholem's famous accusation that Arendt lacked a genuine 'love for the Jewish people' with her own ambivalent Jewish self-understanding and critical attitude toward Zionism and the state of Israel. In an attempt to argue for a more nuanced assessment of Arendt's views, the lecture addresses a series of historical issues, including the role of German-Jewish émigré intellectuals in Holocaust historiography, the relationship between history and memory as well as the diversity of post-Holocaust Jewish identity.

Tuesday, November 8 at 6 p.m.
Gellner Room, Monument Building
Budapest, 1051 Nádor utca 9.

Christian Wiese is the Martin Buber Professor in Jewish Thought and Philosophy at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. From 2007 to 2010 he was Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies at the University of Sussex. His research areas include Jewish Thought, Modern Jewish intellectual history, the history and culture of German Jewry and the history of anti-Semitism. He has published several books, including 'Challenging Colonial Discourse: Jewish Studies and Protestant Theology in Wilhelmine Germany' (2005) and 'The Life and Thought of Hans Jonas: Jewish Dimensions' (2007). He is currently writing a biography on the Zionist journal and politician Robert Weltsch.

A reception will follow