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INTRODUCTION

This fourth volume of the Central European University's Jewish Studies Yearbook gives an overview of the activities of the Jewish Studies Program in the 2003–2004 and 2004–2005 academic years.

The Jewish Studies Project at CEU was launched ten years ago with the aim of revitalizing the study of Jewish history, culture, and society in the region. In the 1996–1997 academic year we started with a modest public lecture series, which has become one of the most popular events at the CEU, and is widely attended by the Budapest public at large. Now, ten years after our humble beginnings, the program has a teaching track for MA and Ph.D. students, organizes conferences on topics related to the Jewish history of the region, and – most importantly – has become a mainstay Jewish Studies in Central Europe. Our focus on modern East Central and Central Europe makes our program one of a kind, and has fortified our important role in the revival of Jewish studies in the former communist bloc. The newly-established Jewish Studies website provides general information on our activities, with regular updates on lectures and conferences, and links to relevant sites for the research of Jewish history, society, and culture in the region.

JEWISH STUDIES COURSES

The Jewish Studies Program has offered a specialization in Jewish Studies for MA and Ph.D. students ever since the 2001–2002 academic year. A formal recognition of a completed Jewish Studies specialization is offered to MA students in the History Department and Nationalism Studies Program who earn 12 classroom credits in Jewish Studies classes and write a dissertation on a related topic.

Our wide range of courses (see Appendix 2) is taught by the permanent faculty in Budapest as well as visiting professors from Israel, Western Europe, and North America. This year, with the help of the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, we have hired Michael Miller (Ph.D., Columbia University), whose research on the impact of nationality conflicts on the religious, cultural, and political development of Central European Jewry has strengthened our regional focus and enriched our program. Our visiting professors in the past two academic years have included Shlomo Avineri, Michael Brenner, Zvi Gitelman, John Klier, and Ivan Sanders.

The Jewish Studies courses are attended by more than 30 students per year, primarily from the History Department and Nationalism Studies Program. Since the 2002–2003 academic year, nine MA students – from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Russia, and the United States – have completed the Jewish Studies specialization, with theses on

diverse topics including Bukharan and Ashkenazic Jewish immigrants in Vienna, Jewish newspapers in interwar Bukovina, Jewish identity in contemporary Hungary, and zoocephalic figures in medieval Jewish illuminated manuscripts. Five students have continued their Ph.D. studies on the Jewish Studies track in the CEU History Department, and all of them are receiving full scholarships from CEU. (Two other students have continued their Ph.D. studies at New York University and the University of Pennsylvania, respectively.)

The "Jewish Studies Thesis and Research Support Program" remains an important part of Jewish Studies at CEU. The program was initiated to encourage all MA and Ph.D. students at Central European University – not only those on the Jewish Studies track – to complete theses on diverse Jewish subjects and to carry out individual research projects related to their topics. In the last two academic years we distributed ten grants in this framework.

Our cooperation with other academic institutions in Budapest – namely the Rabbinical Seminary/Jewish University and the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) – has continued. Under this arrangement, students from these institutions can enroll in Jewish Studies courses at CEU, while our students can enroll in courses at these institutions, particularly in the fields of Yiddish and Hebrew language and literature.

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

The Judaica collection at the CEU library has become the most important collection of English-language Jewish scholarship in Central Europe. The library subscribes to the most important scholarly journals in Jewish Studies and makes an effort to acquire all newly published books related to the regional and topical specializations of our Jewish Studies program. In addition, we have acquired a number of nineteenth-century Jewish periodicals on microfilm in Polish, Czech, Hungarian, German and Russian. These periodicals complement the extensive Judaica collections that are available at local Hungarian libraries (Széchenyi National Library, Rabbinical Seminary Library, Hungarian Academy of Sciences), as well as on-line (Compact Memory, Early Hebrew Newspapers). Recently, two deceased Hungarian scholars have bequeathed their extensive Judaica collections to the CEU library, vastly increasing our holdings of Hebrew and Yiddish books (with special focus on works published in Hungary and Romania in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries). We are currently planning to link the catalogue of the Jewish Studies library at CEU with the catalogue of the Institute of Judaic Studies at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest. This will enable researchers and students to access the resources at both libraries in a more effective way.

JUDAICA IN THE OPEN SOCIETY ARCHIVES

Files pertaining to the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe during the Cold War have been made available at the Open Society Archives (OSA), which is affiliated with CEU. The files covering the period from 1951 to 1989 deal with topics such as antisemitism, emigration from the Soviet Union, Zionism, anti-Zionist show trials, and contain one of the largest collections of Hungarian and Soviet samizdat publications (see <http://www.osa.ceu.hu/guide/Temp/judaica.htm>). Our Jewish Studies MA and Ph.D. students have found this to be an invaluable resource for research on Jews under Communism.

RESEARCH PROJECT

In the last two academic years we continued the research project "The Communist Party State and the Jews: Exploration and Study of Sources," which was launched in 2002 with the title "Jewish Issues in Communist Archives." The archival research uncovered substantial and previously unknown information on some cases, like the politics of Soviet bloc countries in the period of the 1967 war, already in the first years, which received immediately international feedback.¹ In the last research period the research team led by András Kovács conducted research primarily in the newly-opened archives in Budapest, Prague, and Warsaw with the aim of making the secret documents of the communist parties accessible. The researchers identified, indexed, and annotated several hundred relevant files. For this volume we selected some documents on internationally relevant issues for publication.

PUBLIC LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

In the 2003–2004 and 2004–2005 academic years, we hosted twenty-one bi-weekly lectures, which attracted audience from CEU and the public at large. Most of the texts published in this yearbook are edited versions of the lectures given in this period. (For a full list of lectures, see Appendix 1.) The lecture series included joint ventures with CEU's Anti-Americanism Project, Nationalism Studies Program, and Gender Studies Department.

In May 2005, the Jewish Studies Program organized a conference entitled "Jews and the Legacies of Empire," which focused on the continuities and discontinuities in Jewish politics, identities and mentalities following the dissolution of the Habsburg Empire. The conference was funded, in large part, by the European Science Foundation and organized in coopera-

¹ See Sh. Avineri, 'More pro-Arab than the Kremlin,' *Jerusalem Post*, 16 June 2005.

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tion with Pasts, Inc. Michael Silber (Hebrew University) inaugurated the conference with a keynote speech: "Jews and the State in the Two Halves of the Habsburg Empire: A Comparative Perspective." (For the whole program, see Conference Program.)

Our accomplishments in past decade in general, and the past two years in particular, have been made possible thanks to the generous support of the Hanadiv Charitable Foundation, the Dutch Jewish Humanitarian Fund, the Rich Foundation, the American Jewish Committee, the Federation of Czech Jewish Communities, and the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities. Thank you for supporting Jewish Studies in Central Europe.

András Kovács, Michael L. Miller

I. PUBLIC LECTURES