

**Institution: University College London**

**Unit of Assessment: 33**

**a. Overview**

The unit constitutes a department within the UCL Faculty of Arts and Humanities, identified as the 'Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies'. It is unique in the UK, as the only university department in the UK that is entirely and specifically dedicated to the field of Jewish Studies (JS), including the study of all aspects and periods of Jewish history, languages, and culture. Underpinned by UCL's ethos and progressive values, it is committed to further the enquiry and knowledge of JS and its dissemination in the local and international academic communities. Multidisciplinary diversity underlines and informs its research activity, which is wide in scope and embraces a variety of research areas and methodological and ideological perspectives.

The Department currently comprises ten full-time academic staff, five full-time research associates, one half-time research associate, and four part-time teachers who also engage in research – all from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds (their names appear in bold in this document). Our research associates are employed in major research projects in the Department that are or have been funded by the ERC, AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, and Wellcome Trust, with several members of our academic staff as PIs. The Head of Department is Stern. Departmental and Faculty Research Committees meet each at least once a term; their brief is to review, plan, and discuss research within the Department and Faculty, including standards and integrity of research, research strategy, ECR recruitment, funding opportunities, collaboration opportunities, and other research-related issues (e.g. Open Access compliance).

**b. Research strategy**

Our chief objective is to produce innovative, world-class research in a broad range of areas within the field of Jewish Studies, and to make a substantial contribution to the field by disseminating our research through publications and presentations at international academic meetings. Our research areas and staff associated with them are, in rough historical order:

- Mesopotamian magic and medicine, and their survival in the Babylonian Talmud in late Antiquity. **Geller** (with **Steinert**).
- Early rabbinic attitudes to paganism in the Roman Empire. **Stern**
- Aramaic language and literature (especially late), Targum, language and translation in rabbinic literature. **Smelik** (with **Damsma**). Syriac versions of the Bible. **Greenberg**
- Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. **Stern** (with team of 5 research associates).
- Jewish mysticism, Sabbatio-Frankism, and Hasidism. **Rapoport-Albert** (with **Loewenthal**).
- Eastern European Jewish history, early modern and contemporary. **Guesnet**
- Yiddish language and early modern Hebrew, esp. Maskilic and Hasidic. **Kahn, Beer**.
- World War II, the Holocaust, and its aftermath. **Berkowitz, Guesnet, Lochery**
- Modern Israeli literature, Gender Studies. **Ratner**
- Israeli politics, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Mediterranean and international relations. **Lochery**
- The Jews of Britain, Europe, the USA. **Berkowitz**
- Jews and photography, medicine, technology. **Berkowitz**

The strategy of our unit outlined in RAE2008 was (1) to develop major research projects, supported by grant applications from peer-reviewed funding bodies; (2) to encourage and develop national and international research collaborations; and (3) to pursue and maintain high standards of individual research by core academic staff. These strategies have been successfully fulfilled, as explained below. We have expanded the volume of our research and opened up new areas of study, for example in history of science and in medieval studies (through **Geller** and **Stern's** research projects). In several areas, our research can be described as pioneering (e.g. medicine and magic in the Talmud; Jewish calendars; Hasidic Hebrew; Jews and photography).

(1) Research projects. During this period we have raised very substantial funding for research projects, including grants of £1,873,255 (ERC), £726,281 (AHRC), £134,338 and £104,790 (Leverhulme Trust), and £91,781 (Wellcome Trust). These research projects have opened up opportunities for collaborative research and team work; they have promoted innovative research, in contents as well as in methodology; and they enabled the recruitment of new staff and early career researchers. The main research projects, with **Stern, Geller, and Rapoport-Albert** as

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PIs, led to the recruitment of a total of 9 researchers (of whom 8 early career), as well as to the convening of 12 international workshops and 2 international conferences at UCL, and 1 panel at the AJS 2011 conference in the USA. By fulfilling our research strategy through these research projects, we have achieved a significant change to the research environment of the Department. As a result of **Stern's** research projects, for example, the Department has become an internationally recognized, world leading research centre on ancient and medieval calendars.

(2) International collaborative research. Collaborative research has been carried out by **Stern** (with Marina Rustow, Johns Hopkins University, British Academy-funded project), **Berkowitz** (with Avinoam Patt, Hartford University, as editors of *We Are Here*, 2010), **Guesnet** (with Peter Oliver, German Institute for Polish Studies (DPI), for *Der Fremde als Nachbar*, 2009; and with German and Polish colleagues in the Gerda Henkel Stiftung project, '*Jewish Self Government*', 2010-13). Local collaborative research has been promoted through a new Jewish History Seminar series established by **Berkowitz** and **Guesnet**, which is held at the Institute of Historical Research (University of London), with the participation of colleagues at King's College and other London institutions. **Guesnet** is the Executive Chair of the UCL Grand Challenge on Intercultural Interaction group, in the context of which a series of interdisciplinary workshops, with participants from other departments and faculties across UCL, were held in 2011/12 on 'Negotiating Religion' (see further section e).

(3) Individual research. Our success in this area is indicated by our total number of publications in this period (including all staff: core academic, teaching staff, and research staff): 14 authored books, 10 edited books, 67 peer-reviewed journal articles, 53 chapters in books, and a large number of reviews and short publications. Individual research has been promoted through the establishment of a fortnightly Departmental Research Seminar, where members of academic staff present their research in progress and receive feedback from colleagues.

Our future aims are to consolidate and strengthen the position of the department as a significant international centre of excellence in the field of JS through major research projects and collaborative and interdisciplinary research. The ERC-funded project on 'Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages' will continue from 2013 to 2018 with **Stern** as PI and 5 research associates. Applications for further research projects have recently been made or will soon be submitted by **Berkowitz** (Wellcome Trust, on ethnic medical networks), **Geller** (Wellcome Trust, to continue his present project), **Smelik** (AHRC, on late Aramaic), **Guesnet** (AHRC, with a colleague from UCL History of Art, on the imaginary disease of *plica polonica* in early modern Europe), **Lochery** (ESRC, on Iberian Authoritarian Regimes), and **Stern** (to continue his team research on Calendars after 2018). A number of new collaborations are in planning, for example **Kahn**, a workshop series on 'Hebrew in Europe' in collaboration with KCL; **Ratner** a workshop series on 'Reading Hebrew Texts' with Ben-Gurion University. Collaborative and interdisciplinary research within the Department will be encouraged, for example through the launch of a research blog and a Moodle facility for staff to exchange research ideas and initiatives.

The scope of our research will also be expanded. This will be facilitated by the recruitment of core academic staff which will aim at filling gaps in the research areas of the Department, particularly in medieval history, Jewish philosophy and mysticism, and Israel Studies. To this end, external funds will be raised for the establishment of two new positions: (1) Medieval Jewish Philosophy and Mysticism; (2) Jewish-Muslim relations (with particular focus on contemporary society and Israel). The first will combine several research areas which are relatively under-developed at present in the Department; the second will strengthen our research in Israel Studies and in contemporary Jewish history. So far, 35% funding has been raised for the latter; we hope to conclude the fundraising process for both positions by the end of 2014, followed by appointments for 2014/15. These appointments will place the Department in a stronger position to attract research students in all areas of Jewish Studies, and to generate further research projects and collaborations. A further area of expansion in the Department's research will be Judeo-Spanish language and culture; teaching in this area is currently increasing, and funded research projects are in planning (**Pomeroy**).

### c. People

#### 1. Staffing strategy and staff development

Our staffing strategy is to recruit, develop and retain scholars of distinction or proven potential for distinction, who will produce high standard, original research and make an outstanding contribution to the research environment of the Department and to the international field of JS.

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The Department has maintained its level of staffing throughout the assessment period, which is evidence of the Department's long-term sustainability. We have an excellent record of staff retention: no member of staff has left the Department for another position, and we have successfully replaced core academic staff who were lost as a result of retirement or death.

Two core academic staff were appointed during this period (**Guesnet**, 2008, and **Kahn**, 2012). Research achievement and potential were key factors in their recruitment and appointment. Guesnet and Kahn not only replaced the gaps that had been generated by loss of staff, but also expanded the areas of research within the Department (Guesnet in Eastern European history, Kahn in Hebrew linguistics). The appointment of Guesnet opened up new opportunities for research initiatives (e.g. the Montefiore Testimonials Project).

Nine research associates were appointed in this period as part of funded research projects: **Wartenberg** (2008), **Sandman** (2008), **Jones** (2009, part-time), **de Blois** (2010), **Steinert** (2011), **Nothaft** (2011), **Isserles** (2011, part-time), **Bultrighini** (2013), **Vidro** (2013).

Five members of staff were promoted in this period, mainly in recognition of their research achievements: **Rapoport-Albert** (2009), **Stern** (2009) and **Lochery** (2012) to professorship, **Guesnet** (2011) to readership, **Smelik** (2010) to senior lectureship. A further indication of our staff's reputation and achievements are the prestigious research grants and fellowships that were awarded to them during this period. Research grants are listed below in section d. Fellowships awarded include the Harry Ransom Center Research Fellowship, **Berkowitz** (2010-11); two Max Planck Institut research fellowships, **Geller** (2008, 2009); and the ESAJS Fellowship, **Smelik** (2010).

The Department's staffing policies and practices demonstrate our commitment to equal opportunities, inclusivity, and an empowering working environment. We comply fully with UCL's equal opportunity policy with regard to staff recruitment, training, appraisals, and promotion. Our demographic profile demonstrates diversity of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, etc. among all staff and students. The Department ensures that staff are not disadvantaged, for example, where career development is affected by disruption caused by factors such as bereavement, prolonged illness, part-time status, etc. This policy applies to research students as well, for example one student was allowed to interrupt and defer her PhD research due to a difficult pregnancy and maternal leave.

Our probationary procedures strictly follow the UCL procedures. New staff are appointed as probationary and allocated formally-trained mentors for advice and guidance. Teaching and administrative workloads are carefully balanced to give probationary staff time to consolidate research while developing their teaching portfolio. New staff are offered a flexible training programme, ranging from core skills to additional skills as needed. In addition to continuous consultations with their mentors, their progress is monitored through probationary reporting and appraisals conducted by the HoD, of which the purpose is to review achievements and progress, identify training needs, resolve difficulties, and set future objectives.

Academic staff are appraised in accordance with UCL procedures (professors annually, others biennially) by the HoD, who is himself appraised by the Faculty Dean. Informal conversations are also frequently held between the HoD and other staff members on issues relating to personal development, research progress, career development, etc. These are effective mechanisms for providing one-to-one support, positive feedback, and mentoring, and for promoting and enabling staff development.

Our promotion procedures are carried out in accordance with UCL procedures, which involve consultations with the HoD and Faculty Dean, and are led by the central, UCL Academic Promotions Committee. Promotions are based on a set of well-defined and transparent criteria, including evidence of research and scholarship.

All academic and research staff are allocated office space and computers. Individual rooms are allocated to core academic staff, and shared rooms to research staff. All our rooms are adjacent to one another, on the same floor. We are able to provide adequate working space to all staff from the space that is allocated to the Department as a whole; further expansion of our research projects and activities will require additional space. Staff have the option of using UCL-managed or free standing computers; computers are regularly upgraded, and staff have access to a wide range of UCL centrally-available software, which can also be remotely accessed.

Individual allowances are given by Faculty to academic staff to cover their individual research expenses such as travel to libraries and archives, and travel to international conferences. Staff are encouraged to attend conferences several times a year (see section e below).

Research leave periods relieve academic staff from teaching and administration and enable them to make significant progress in research. Leave is normally granted on the basis of one term after nine, in accordance with general UCL policy, but flexibility is applied in certain cases, e.g. for special research projects, or to allow staff to recover and resume their research following unforeseen disruption such as bereavement or prolonged illness. Research leave outcomes are monitored by end-of-leave progress reports and the staff appraisal system.

Staff are encouraged to teach in the areas of their research. This results in high quality of teaching (which is evident from the feedback of our students and external examiners), and ensures minimal distraction from our research activities. In our experience, indeed, teaching students is a useful way of revising our own research and gaining new insights for it.

The academic reputation of the department and its contribution to the field of JS has attracted many distinguished JS scholars from the UK and abroad as Visiting Scholars (Anna Rosner in 2009/10, Marie Luise Schmidt in 2010, Magdalena Wroebel in 2010, Kamil Kyer in 2012) and Honorary Research Associates (47 in total, notably the early career researchers Jörg Schulte, funded by the DFG, and Gerben Zaagsma, funded by the Shoah Foundation, Paris). Appointed for periods ranging from one term to several years, they are integrated in the departmental research by participating at seminars and offering supervision and consultation.

## **2. Research students**

Post-graduate research students constitute an important part of the Departmental studentship. In this assessment period, 12 PhD degrees were awarded, out of a total cohort of 30 research students (including 16 part-time). 18 PhDs are still in progress, of which 1 is on the verge of being awarded. We have had 3 Postdoctoral Fellows, besides the early career researchers in the research projects (see previous section).

Recruitment of PhD students is selective, with the requirement of Hebrew and/or other languages that are essential for JS research. Recruitment procedures follow UCL equal opportunities policy. Selection is determined by merit and the likelihood of successful completion. PhD students are able to apply for AHRC funding, in future from the AHRC-funded London Arts and Humanities Partnership (LAHP).

Some strong PhD students have been attracted to UCL as a result of our major research projects, with which they have been formally or informally associated (e.g. **Damsma**, Sittig). Our MA taught degree programmes also contribute to PhD recruitment: in this period, 11 of our MA graduates proceeded to the PhD programme. Our MA programmes are designed to prepare for research; MA students attend the fortnightly Graduate Seminar together with PhD students, and their MA dissertations often form the basis of subsequent doctoral research.

Our policy on research training is determined by the Graduate School, and implemented by the supervisors, Departmental and Faculty Graduate Tutors, and the Graduate School. Training needs are identified at application and confirmed at admission by supervisor and student. Training combines generic and specific skills, based on individual preparation and project. The Graduate School provides a very wide choice of training courses on the themes of knowledge and intellectual abilities, personal effectiveness, research organization and governance, and communication, influence, and impact. The Department provides subject-specific training, e.g. Hebrew bibliography and electronic databases; archival research in Israel. All research students are allocated two formally trained supervisors, of whom one leads as subject specialist and meets students on a regular basis. The progress of research students is monitored by the supervisors and the Graduate Tutor through an online student log. Before and after PhD completion, students are actively advised by their supervisors on career and publication plans.

The Departmental Graduate and Research Seminars, which research students attend, enable them to present their research, receive feedback from peers and staff, and become in a broader sense an integral part of the Department. They are encouraged to become integrated into the wider academic profession by joining national and international JS and other associations (e.g. BAJS, EAJS, AJS, WUJS) and by attending national and international conferences, often presenting papers, with financial assistance from the Graduate School (e.g. Sittig at the AJS conference, Washington DC, 2011; Tworek at the Zalman Shazar Conference, Jerusalem, 2013; Griffiths at the IHR seminar, London, 2012). Sittig has made an active contribution to **Stern's** AHRC research project, presenting papers at four of its international workshops.

Research students also run their own academic conferences, with departmental support. The Students' International Conference at UCL, initiated by the late Prof. Klier, was organized in

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2009 by our research students with the help and consultation of **Guesnet**. In 2012, PhD student Tworek organized a graduate conference at UCL on 'Jewish Spirituality in Eastern Europe'.

Teaching experience is an essential part of graduate training. Research students and post-doctoral researchers are encouraged, whenever possible, to contribute to the departmental courses and seminars. **Damsma** (PhD 2008) has taught courses in the Department since 2008, under the mentorship of **Smelik**; Ranta (PhD 2009) since 2009, under the mentorship of **Lochery**; and Bartos (PhD 2012) taught a course on Germany-Israel relations. **Sandman** (postdoctoral Research Associate in **Stern's** AHRC project), has taught courses since 2009.

The strength of our doctoral students is evident in their success at securing prestigious doctoral funding. Four were funded by AHRC: Bartos (2009), Klein (2008), Duhaut (2012), and Sochanska (2005 and, after an interruption, 2009). The prestigious UCL Graduate School Research Studentship was awarded to Paluch (2010); the UCL Studentship to Burton (2008/9), Hall (2008) and Sittig (2009); the Rothschild Foundation scholarship to Sittig (2009); the Leo Baeck Doctoral Scholarship to Fronda (2012). Three PhD graduates have published academic books based on their thesis (**Kahn**, 2009; **Damsma**, 2012; Greene, 2013).

Prestigious and highly competitive postdoctoral research grants were awarded within the Department to two of our PhD graduates: **Damsma**, the Wingate Foundation (2010-11) and the Rothschild Foundation (2011-12); **Kahn**, The British Academy (2010-13). **Kahn** progressed from there to be appointed, in 2012, as Lecturer in Hebrew in the Department (with effect from 2013).

#### d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

The Department has been particularly successful at generating research income through applications to competitive, peer-reviewed funding bodies for major research projects. This high rate of success testifies to the quality of our research and to its national and international esteem. The following research grants were awarded during the assessment period:

ECR Advanced Grant, **£1,873,255**, '*Calendars in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation*' (**Stern**, 2013-18). AHRC major research grant, **£726,281**, '*Medieval Monographs on the Jewish Calendar*' (**Stern**, 2008-13). British Academy postdoctoral fellowship, **£258,188**, '*Grammar of the Hasidic Tale*' (**Kahn**, 2010-13). AHRC major research grant, initial award **£351,683** (adjusted for REF period: **£67,593**), '*Late Aramaic: the literary and linguistic contour of the Zohar*' (**Rapoport-Albert, Geller, Smelik** 2004-9). Leverhulme Trust standard grant, **£134,338**, '*Medieval Christian and Jewish calendar texts from England and Franco-Germany*' (**Stern** 2011-13). Leverhulme Trust standard grant, **£104,790**, '*The Jewish Calendar in Early Islamic Sources*' (**Stern** 2010-12). Wellcome Trust Fellowship, **£91,781**, '*Gynaecology in the Medical Texts of Ancient Mesopotamia from the First Millennium BC*' (Fellow: **Steinert**, PI: **Geller**, 2011-13). Hanadiv Foundation grant, **£59,000**, '*Contemporary Antisemitism in Russia*' (**Guesnet** 2006-10); Gerda Henkel Stiftung, **£44,360**, '*Jewish Self Government*' (**Guesnet** 2010-13). Rothschild Foundation Europe postdoctoral fellowship, **£25,000** (**Damsma**, 2010-11). Rothschild Foundation Europe postdoctoral fellowship, **£25,000** (**Kahn**, 2010-11). British Academy small grant, **£6,850**, '*Portugal and the Jews, 1939-1945*' (**Lochery** 2011). British Academy small grant, **£5,400**, '*Jewish calendar controversies in the 10th-11th centuries Near East: a historical and codicological analysis*' (**Stern** 2011-13). Rothschild Foundation Europe grant, **£5,000**, (**Guesnet** February 2011). UCL Grand Challenge on Intercultural Interaction, **£5,000**, '*Negotiating Religion*' (**Guesnet** 2011). UCL Grand Challenge Collaborative Pioneers Award Scheme, **£3,000**, '*Tourism as Colonial Policy*' (**Berkowitz** with Thornton of UCL Archaeology, 2011).

Income from less usual funding sources includes contributions from the City of Warsaw, Culture Department; Adam-Mickiewicz-Institute (IAM), Warsaw; Association of Jewish Studies, Boston; Littauer Foundation, New York; Embassy of the Republic of Poland, London; Polish Cultural Institute, London; and Wingate Foundation, total **£35,000**, for the UCL Warsaw Conference (**Guesnet** 2010). Montefiore Endowment, **£3,885**, for the Montefiore Testimonials project (**Guesnet** 2009-13). Bi-Arts British Israeli Arts Training Scheme, **£860** (2008) and **£900** (2009) towards international and collaborative conferences at UCL (**Ratner**). Smaller grants of **£400** and **£300** for individual conference attendance were awarded from the British Academy.

Applications to funding bodies for project grants are encouraged and facilitated by the Departmental Research Committee, which offers advice on grant applications, and by the Faculty's dedicated team of Research Facilitators (H. Bruun and J. Leveridge) who provide information, training, and detailed, expert advice with individual grant applications.

The Department's research resources are concentrated in the outstanding and

internationally renowned libraries in and around UCL. The UCL library offers the support of a dedicated subject librarian (Vanessa Freedman) who manages the collection, answers subject enquiries, and provides training specifically tailored for JS. Out of the 38,000 volumes of the JS collection, 15,800 are on open access, 11,000 in Special Collections, and the rest in stores. The collection covers the whole range of JS and is particularly strong in the area of Jewish mysticism and Yiddish; the latter is one of the most important in Europe. The library subscribes to over 50 subject-related print journals, and has extensive electronic journal collections and other electronic resources for the Humanities and JS, including databases and electronic books. Special Collections include subject-related collections of books, manuscripts and archives such as the Mocatta Library and the Lucien Wolf collection. Their archival collections relating to Anglo-Jewish history are particularly significant, notably the Gaster Papers, the Institute of Jewish Affairs archives, and the Montefiore Family Papers. **Guesnet** is leading a project to digitise, transcribe and translate the latter. A number of neighbouring libraries with significant Hebrew and Judaica collections supplement the resources of the UCL Library. Within a short walking distance are the libraries of the School of Oriental and African Studies, the Warburg Institute, the Institute of Archaeology, the Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House, Dr Williams's Library, the Wiener Library, and the British Library with its Oriental Books and Manuscript Department. The Department also houses the John Klier Library for students which includes over 1000 items, including core readings, articles, and videos.

Further resources close to the department are some of the world's leading museums, including the British Museum (essential for its Ancient Near Eastern collections, which provide the main primary sources for research by **Geller** and **Steinert**), the Jewish Museum, and UCL's own renowned Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology.

For the infrastructure of space (rooms) and IT facilities, see above, section c (staff). IT support is provided centrally by UCL. A state-of-the-art microfilm reader was purchased for **Stern's** AHRC project, and is available to all our researchers for manuscript and archival study.

#### e. Collaboration or contribution to the discipline or research base

The Department's contribution to international research in JS is extremely broad, reflecting the multi-faceted areas and disciplines in this field. Our contribution to the field of JS is achieved through publications and through the presentation of papers at conferences, colloquia, and seminars in the UK, all countries of Europe, the USA, Canada, Israel, and as far as Ethiopia and Hong Kong. In this period, our staff have delivered 120 papers by invitation (including named lectures and keynote papers), and have presented 57 papers at international conferences.

We are very active in the editorship of eminent academic journals, which enables us to make a considerable contribution to the field on an international level. **Stern** is editor of the *Journal of Jewish Studies*; **Smelik** of *Aramaic Studies*; **Berkowitz** of *Jewish Historical Studies*. **Stern** is also editor, with Charles Burnett (Warburg), of the Brill series *Time, Astronomy, and Calendars*, and **Geller** of the Brill series *IJS Studies in Judaica*. **Guesnet** is member of several editorial boards (*Polin, Quest, IJS Studies in Judaica, Scripta Judaica Cracoviensia*).

Several examples of collaborative research, e.g. by staff members with JS colleagues from other universities in London, the UK, and abroad (e.g. the USA), have been listed above in section b. In some cases, collaborative research has been carried out in the context of externally-funded research projects: e.g. **Rapoport-Albert**, with Susan Marten Finnis (Portsmouth University), '*Towards a New Cultural History of Czernovitz: The Jewish Press, 1918-40*', AHRC-funded (2004-9); **Rapoport-Albert**, **Geller**, and **Smelik**, AHRC-funded Zohar project (see above, section d); **Stern**, with Marina Rustow (Johns Hopkins University), British Academy project (see *ibid.*). In the context of his AHRC 'Calendars' project, **Stern** has collaborated with the Warburg Institute (e.g. for a joint workshop in 2009) and in particular with its AHRC 'Jewish astrolabes' project (also with the British Museum). Some collaborations were carried out in international research groups, e.g. **Rapoport-Albert**, '*Towards a New History of Hasidism*', Institute of Advanced Studies, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, 2008-9; **Smelik**, ESAJS research group, Oxford 2010.

Some collaborations led to jointly edited books, e.g. **Berkowitz** with Avinoam Patt (*We Are Here*), **Stern** with Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute), *Time, Calendars, and Astronomy in Jewish Tradition* (forthcoming 2014); **Rapoport-Albert** with David Assaf (Tel-Aviv University), 2-volume Festschrift for Immanuel Etkes (Jerusalem, 2009); with Israel Bartal (Hebrew University) *et al.*, 2-volume Festschrift for Chava Turniansky (Jerusalem, 2013); with Moshe Rosman (Bar Ilan University) and Marcin Wodzinski (Wroclaw University), *Towards a New History of Hasidism*,

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special 3-volume issue of *Jewish History* (forthcoming 2013).

Collaborations have also led to international conferences and seminars, e.g. **Ratner** an international seminar at UCL as part of an ongoing collaboration with Ben-Gurion University (2008), and a joint symposium with the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Oxford (2008); **Guesnet**, as founding member of International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism (ICRAR) in London, an international conference on '*Boycotts: Past and Present*', Birkbeck College London, 2013. Other collaborations involved non-academic bodies, e.g. **Guesnet** with the Embassies of Poland and of Lithuania, the Adam-Mickiewicz-Institute (Warsaw), the Polish Cultural Institute (London), and the Culture Department of the City of Warsaw, for the organization of 3 public, academic conferences that have been held at UCL in 2010-12.

We contribute to the discipline in several other ways, e.g. through membership of professional associations and their executive committees (**Stern**, EAJS Secretary (2008-10) and BAJS President (2012); **Smelik**, IOTS President), membership of academic advisory boards (**Guesnet**, *Judaica Europæana*), of policy advisory boards (**Lochery**, Centre for Social Cohesion).

We review research proposals and grant applications for academic institutions and funding bodies, such as the AHRC (Geller, Berkowitz), Leverhulme Trust (Geller), British Academy (Geller, Stern), the Royal Society (Guesnet), Rothschild Foundation (Beer, Guesnet, Berkowitz, Stern), Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (Geller, Smelik), Foundation for Polish Science (Stern), Czech Science Foundation (Berkowitz, Guesnet), Austrian Science Fund (Guesnet), Belgian Recherche Fonds (Geller), Wingate Scholarships, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, and Israel Academy of Sciences (Geller), Israel Science Foundation (Ratner, Stern, Berkowitz, Guesnet), Anne Frank Trust (Berkowitz), Jewish Memorial Foundation (Guesnet), St John's College Cambridge (Stern).

We review applications for academic promotions, e.g. **Berkowitz**, at the Universities of Manchester, Nottingham, Colorado, Albany (New York), Arizona State, UCLA, Tel Aviv; **Smelik**, Wyoming; **Ratner**, Tel-Aviv, Cambridge, Manchester; **Geller**, Yale, Haifa, Tel Aviv, and Southampton; **Stern**, Yeshiva, Bar-Ilan, and Ben-Gurion Universities.

We act as reviewers for several, major academic publishers, e.g. Routledge (Beer, Lochery, Berkowitz), Yale University Press (Berkowitz, Stern), Oxford University Press (Stern, Berkowitz), Cambridge University Press (Stern, Lochery), Brill, De Gruyter (Guesnet), Stanford University Press, Indiana University Press, Columbia University Press (Berkowitz); and for several journals, e.g. *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* (Berkowitz, Ratner), *Israel Affairs* (Ratner), *Hebrew Studies* (Kahn, Ratner), *Journal of Jewish Studies* (all staff).

The examination of doctorates is another important contribution to the discipline, in this period as follows: **Berkowitz**: 2011, Aberdeen; 2010, Royal Holloway; 2008, Southampton; 2007-9, Birkbeck; 2008, Oxford Brookes; 2010, IHR, London; 2010, Courtauld Institute of Art; **Guesnet**: 2010, Royal Holloway; 2010, UCL; **Lochery**: 2011, Kings College London; 2011, SOAS; 2010, Kings College London; 2008, SOAS and Kings College London; **Ratner**: 2008, Tel-Aviv; 2007-2008, Cambridge; 2012, UCL; **Smelik**: 2013, Manchester; **Stern**: 2010, Manchester; 2011, Manchester; 2012, EPHE Paris; 2012, Berlin (for a Habilitation).

We have organized a large number of international conferences. As director of the Institute of Jewish Studies (UCL), **Geller** has organised all the IJS annual conferences, each with the collaboration of individual members of staff (**Stern**, **Rapoport-Albert**, **Pomeroy**) (7 conferences in this period). **Guesnet** chaired and organized a series of international conferences at UCL on Jewish Eastern European history (2010, 2011, 2012) and on 'Europe and Islam in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages', in collaboration with the European Institute at UCL (2011); and a series of interdisciplinary workshops at UCL, *Negotiating Religion* (2011-12). As Secretary of EAJS, **Stern** organized the EAJS Congress in Ravenna (2010), and as BAJS President, the BAJS conference at UCL (2012). As PI of the AHRC-funded 'Calendars' project, **Stern** organized a conference at UCL on 'Astronomy and Calendars' (2012) and a series of 8 international workshops (2008-2011). **Ratner** organized a NAPH conference at UCL on 'Hebrew language and culture' (2009). As President of IOTS, **Smelik** organized two conferences in Helsinki and Munich. Other workshops and seminars were organized by **Ratner** ('The writing of Ruth Almog', in collaboration with Ben-Gurion University, 2008; 'Multiplicity and fragmentation in Israeli Identity', Yarnton, Oxford, 2009), **Berkowitz** and **Guesnet** (Jewish History Seminar series at the Institute for Historical Research, University of London, from 2011).