

Institution: University College London (UCL)
Unit of Assessment: 31 – Theology and Religious Studies
<p>1. Unit context and structure, research and impact strategy</p> <p>The UCL Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies is noted for its world-leading expertise and innovative research. Drawing on UCL's tradition of secularism and open-mindedness, it integrates all aspects of Jewish Studies, from antiquity to modernity, through the prisms of history, literature, and languages, and a wide range of disciplines including history of science and medicine, international relations, and sociolinguistics.</p> <p>The Department goes back to the foundation of UCL and the appointment of a Jewish professor of Hebrew, the first ever in England, in 1826. Hebrew and Jewish Studies have been continuously taught at UCL since its inception. The Department of Hebrew was re-established as the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies in 1967. Ours is the smallest department in UCL's Faculty of Arts and Humanities (A&H), allowing for an intimate and research-intensive environment. We have many research collaborations with colleagues across UCL, as well as at other universities in London, the UK, and internationally in Europe, Israel, and the USA.</p> <p>We host major research projects funded by the ERC, AHRC, Leverhulme Trust, and other funders. With only 8.2 FTE academic staff, we have raised in this period close to £4,000,000 in research grants. We have published 25 authored books (of which five have been subsequently translated), 16 edited books, 49 journal articles, and 63 book chapters. Book prizes were awarded to Anziska (OUP Dissertation Prize in International History; BAJS book prize 2019) and Stern (BAJS prize 2020).</p> <p>We are the only UK university department specifically dedicated to Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and as such see ourselves in a position of leadership, training future generations of scholars and engaging dynamically with the wider community.</p> <p><u>Research leadership and innovation</u></p> <p>As the largest and most important research centre in Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the UK, we lead the field on a national level, within Europe, and around the world, in line with UCL's institutional research strategy 'to inspire and empower research leadership'. Our research is internationally noted and acclaimed in the disciplines and fields of Hebrew, Aramaic, Yiddish, Judeo-Arabic, and other Jewish languages (Kahn, Smelik, Vidro, Yampolskaya), Assyriology (Geller), rabbinic literature (Smelik, Stern), Cairo Genizah studies (Stern, Vidro), Polish and east European Jewish history (Guesnet), Holocaust studies (Berkowitz, Gilbert), English and American Jewish history (Berkowitz), Israeli, Palestinian, and Mediterranean politics and international relations (Anziska, Lochery).</p> <p>Our vision is to develop and promote new areas of research in Jewish Studies and related fields, by conducting pioneering research in new or neglected areas, and drawing attention to their wider, contextual significance. All our research staff are engaged in innovative, emerging areas of research. Geller has worked on large corpora of unedited cuneiform medical texts from ancient Mesopotamia, and has discovered their historical continuity with medical texts in late antique Talmudic, Syriac, and Mandaic literature. Smelik has carried out a completely pioneering linguistic study of Hebrew and Aramaic in the Palestinian and Babylonian Talmuds, drawing on socio-linguistic theories of code-switching. Stern has researched the development of ancient and medieval calendars in many cultures, and is uncovering the early medieval origins of the rabbinic calendar through new discoveries in the Cairo Genizah. Guesnet has investigated a pseudo-medical condition known in early modern Europe as <i>plica polonica</i>, raising awareness of the intersection between history of the body, history of medicine, and cultural and transregional</p>

history. As a result of research on early modern Hebrew, **Kahn** has discovered Hasidic Hebrew and subjected it for the first time to serious linguistic analysis. **Berkowitz** has uncovered the contribution and creative role of Jews in the history of photography, film, and visual culture, in Britain and other parts of the world. **Lochery** has carried out original research on the role of Portugal and Brazil in WWII and its aftermath, in relation to diplomacy, the treatment of Jews, and the restitution of 'Nazi gold'. **Anziska** studies archives and oral history from Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon, to analyse conflict and political deadlock in the region from a uniquely trans-border perspective. **Gilbert**'s original research on Jews in South Africa challenges existing scholarship and communal memory, which have been shaped hitherto by apartheid politics and the agenda of the communal Jewish leadership.

Research projects

The promotion of pioneering, collaborative, and interdisciplinary research through **grant-funded projects** is at the core of our strategy. Our marked success in raising research grants enabled us to run the following projects:

- 'Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages: standardization and fixation', a five-year ERC Advanced Grant project, with Stern as PI, a team of five full-time researchers, and several international collaborations.
- 'Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish', a three-year AHRC standard grant project, with Kahn as Co-I, Kriszta Szendroi (UCL Linguistics) as PI, two full-time researchers, and three part-time research associates.
- 'Qaraite and Rabbanite calendars', a three-year Fritz Thyssen project, with Stern as PI, one researcher and Ronny Vollandt (LMU, Munich) as Co-I.
- 'Enlightenment Hebrew grammar', a two-year project funded by a Philip Leverhulme Prize, with Kahn as PI.
- 'Medieval Christian and Jewish calendar texts from England and Franco-Germany', a two-year Leverhulme research project with Stern as PI and two researchers (ended 30/09/2013).

These projects have significantly increased the scope and productivity of research in the Department and have attracted early career researchers (ECRs), thus supporting our mission to lead and nurture the next generation of researchers in Jewish Studies. They have provided resources for convening international workshops and conferences at UCL, and panels at international conferences abroad. These projects have established the Department as a world-leading research centre on ancient and medieval calendars (in particular the Jewish calendar) and on early modern Hebrew and contemporary Yiddish.

The diversity and interdisciplinarity of our research project teams have been highly conducive to innovation and exploration. The ERC project team, in particular, included a Classicist (Bultrighini), an Arabist and Iranologist (de Blois), a historian of science (Wartenberg), and Hebrew medievalists (Vidro, Sandman). Conversations within such diverse teams through regular meetings, collaborative working sessions, and email exchanges, created a unique environment which had a transformative effect on our research, often leading to unexpected discoveries and results. Thus, Stern's discovery of 'primitive rabbinic calendars', a hitherto unknown eighth-century precursor of the present-day Jewish calendar, only came about through teamwork with Vidro, whose research in the ERC project involved a systematic search of mainly later calendar texts in the Cairo Genizah. Similarly, Kahn's discovery that present-day Stamford Hill Hasidic Yiddish has completely lost grammatical case and gender, with concomitant syntactic effects, could not have occurred without the multi-disciplinary collaboration of a historical linguist and theoretical syntacticians within the AHRC project. Project teams have also provided a framework for large undertakings that individual researchers could not have managed alone, such as the edition of Isaac Israeli's monumental 14th-century scientific work, *Yesod Olam* (in the ERC project), and the global study of Hasidic Yiddish (encompassing north America, London, Antwerp, Israel).

Frameworks for collaboration

The Department's strong research ethos and its interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and creativity was actively promoted in 2014 with a new strategic initiative, our **research clusters**. Their primary purpose is to foster dialogue between researchers from different disciplines, periods, languages, etc. who happen to be working on similar research themes. Clusters that were initially identified included: visual culture (Berkowitz, Guesnet, Lochery, Stern); the social history of medicine, science, and technology (Berkowitz, Geller, Guesnet, Stern); Jewish languages and translation studies (Aramaic, Hebrew, Yiddish – Geller, Kahn, Smelik); World War II and the Holocaust (from historical, political, and literary perspectives – Beer, Berkowitz, Lochery, Ratner, later joined by Gilbert). In the spring of 2015, for example, our departmental research seminars were presented by two staff at a time, representing different disciplines but sharing common thematic interests; this brought their research into productive dialogue and exchange. Clusters have inspired collaborative research and impact activities (e.g. through the Litvak Days – see Section 4), and contribute more generally to the strategic cohesiveness of the Department's research.

Interdisciplinarity and collaboration are further supported through weekly **staff research seminars** (instituted in 2015) and **graduate seminars**, with papers ranging from Antiquity to the present-day in a wide variety of disciplines. They provide opportunities to bring together staff and students, exchange knowledge, learn from our very different perspectives, provide support and feedback, and generate discussion.

A further strategic move was the launch in spring 2020 – in the midst of the Covid-19 lockdown – of the **Middle East Research Centre**, initiated by Anziska and hosted at the UCL Institute of Advanced Studies. This Centre, still in formation, will facilitate cross-disciplinary research and collaboration in all areas of Middle Eastern and North African studies, from Antiquity to the present day. It brings together the majority of research staff and students in the Department, whose focus of research is the Middle East, with colleagues from the departments of Archaeology, History, Geography, Education, Architecture, Political Science, and Law. The Centre will serve as a research hub as well as forum for public consultancy and engagement. The Centre illustrates the strategic value of collaboration with other departments at UCL, which has enabled us to draw on the research strengths of the institution to broaden the range, reach, and interdisciplinarity of our research.

Specific research collaborations within UCL, the UK and internationally, are described in detail in Section 4.

Public engagement

Our research is driven by a clear understanding of its societal significance, and for this reason, we are fundamentally committed to communicating our research to the broader public. Research in Hebrew and Jewish Studies plays, in our view, a pivotal societal role in: **(1)** promoting knowledge and understanding of the Jews, their history, and their culture and heritage; **(2)** improving relations between Jews and others in Britain and other parts of the world; and **(3)** contributing towards peace, equity and justice, and well-being in Israel/Palestine and the Middle East. To achieve these aims, we engage wide audiences through public lectures and community education, summer schools, public academic conferences (many in collaboration with cultural centres and national embassies), theatre and musical performances, events at museums and exhibitions, and a range of consultative and other impact-generating activities – described in detail in Section 4.

Anziska and **Gilbert** were appointed to the Department in 2015 and 2019 with the strategic purpose of developing public engagement and community education in Jewish-Muslim

Relations, Palestinian and Israeli culture and politics (Anziska), and in Holocaust Studies (Gilbert). Anziska and Lochery are prominent voices in public debates on Israel, Palestine, and the Middle East; the impact of Anziska's research and book, *Preventing Palestine*, is elaborated upon in his Impact Case Study. Gilbert runs an intellectually robust programme of short courses on modern Jewish history and Holocaust studies at the Sir Martin Gilbert Learning Centre (London).

Other staff are similarly dedicated to deploying their research for the benefit of the broader public. Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, **Kahn's** AHRC team took the initiative of producing Yiddish translations of Covid-19 official communications for Hasidic communities in London, Manchester, and Quebec (see Section 4). More generally, Kahn's work on Hasidic Yiddish and Hebrew contributes to the popular recognition, from within and from without, of the legitimacy of Hasidic languages. **Geller, Stern, and Smelik's** Talmudic research and dissemination activities feed into the increasing international popularity of the study of Talmud in Jewish and other faith communities. **Lochery** engages with local government and commercial organizations in Lisbon and Porto to disseminate his research on 20th-century Portugal. The public activities of **Berkowitz** and **Guesnet**, with opera productions and collaborative events with the Polish and Lithuanian embassies, are driven by a responsibility to disseminate their research on relations between Jews and others in early modern and contemporary Europe and north America, and make their research societally impactful.

A strategic medium for public dissemination of our research is the **Institute of Jewish Studies** (IJS). The IJS, an independent charity, is based within the Department and directed by a member of our staff (**Geller**), with the mission of disseminating our research to the wider public. The IJS runs regular lecture series (on average 18 lectures per annum, with average audiences of 45, which have expanded to over 100 with the move to online delivery during the pandemic), and annual conferences for academic audiences but also open to the general public, in the range of 50-100 participants. All IJS events operate by free admission and the IJS has a mailing list of 1200+. The IJS programmes include UCL speakers and distinguished UK and international guests. In recent years, the Department's contribution to the IJS lecture series has become more formalized, as its academic and research staff are now expected to deliver one public IJS lecture per annum. IJS conferences are similarly convened by members of the Department, on subjects close to their areas of research (e.g. Jewish medicine – Geller, 2014; Jewish languages – Kahn, 2016; ancient and medieval calendars – Stern, 2017; Aramaic dialects – Smelik, 2018). Proceedings of IJS conferences are published in Brill's *IJS Studies in Judaica* series.

Looking ahead

Our research strategy for the future is largely focused on developing research projects through further **grant applications**, which the Department has been particularly successful at in the last ten years. This strategy remains most promising for our future sustainability as a research unit. Funded projects will enable us to undertake substantial research, recruit ECRs, promote interdisciplinary teamwork, fund workshops and conferences, and expand our international collaborations. We will also recruit ECRs through doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships. At all times, we remain actively engaged in applying for large external research grants from the ERC, UKRI, Leverhulme, and other funders. Already now, we are submitting applications for projects to run in the next REF period. Through a recently awarded grant of £120,000 from the Rothschild Foundation, we are appointing a new **Lecturer in Yiddish** for September 2021.

The recent creation of the **Middle East Research Centre** (see above) will open up new collaborative research opportunities for the future. MERC will be instrumental in promoting Assyriology at UCL (in our Department, led by Geller) especially after the recent discontinuation of this research field at SOAS.

The move to online delivery in the Covid-19 pandemic has had the benefit of attracting significantly larger audiences to the IJS lecture series, with greater international reach. New

online seminar series have recently been launched, on 'Ancient and Medieval Near Eastern Texts' (in collaboration with KCL, and well over 100 participants), and 'Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish'. We will build on the new opportunities that the pandemic has opened for the dissemination of our research and engagement with the broader public.

2. People

Academic staff

The Department is small but nevertheless needs to offer a wide range of expertise across the many fields and disciplines of Jewish Studies, in order to support the provision of comprehensive BA and MA degrees and the supervision of a diversity of doctoral students. Our people are consequently very diverse, whilst sufficiently versatile and knowledgeable in Hebrew and Jewish Studies to support the Department as a whole.

At the point of the REF census date, our staff counted eight full-time and one part-time (0.2 FTE) academics and two full-time Research Fellows. Our small size facilitates a mutually supportive, research-intensive environment. We have been very successful in recruiting additional research staff through funded research projects, and additional academic staff through fundraising in the private sector. Two new academic appointments were made in this period on the basis of fundraising: Gilbert (part-time, professorial) and Anziska. The latter was appointed in 2015 to a new position in the emerging field of Jewish-Muslim Relations, funded by a consortium of the Mohamed S. Farsi and the Polonsky Foundations, in fulfilment of one of our explicitly stated strategic aims in REF2014.

Academic staff are expected to devote around 40% of their time to research (with 40% teaching and 20% administration, enabling, and impact-related activities). Newly appointed staff are given a reduced administrative load in their first year. From 2014/15, a new policy was adopted whereby the teaching load of academic staff was reduced from three to two modules per annum. This had the effect of providing more time for staff to undertake research, and of enhancing research-driven teaching.

Academics are supported in their research by UCL's sabbatical leave policy (one term after nine taught). Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, UCL committed itself not to cancel or postpone any sabbatical research leave. In the Department, sabbatical entitlement is flexibly used, to best enable staff to time leave with fellowships and other research opportunities awarded at other universities (mainly in USA and Israel), or to enhance productivity by holding two terms of entitled leave consecutively. Some staff have been able to take additional leave through paid fellowships (Kahn, Smelik, Anziska, Guesnet) or project funding (Stern). Academic staff also receive an annual allowance of £1,000 for research expenses, which can be used for research trips (to libraries, archives, fieldwork), conference attendance, publication costs, small projects, equipment, etc., at the individual's discretion. In future, the Faculty will also support research-active Teaching Fellows.

Promotions at various levels were made during this period: Stern, Geller (Professor 2, October 2013 and 2019), Smelik, Guesnet (Professor, 2015 and 2020), Kahn (Reader, 2016; Professor, 2020), Anziska (Associate Professor, 2019). Professors are appraised once a year; other staff were previously appraised every two years, and since 2018 on an annual basis. Appraisals are an opportunity to discuss general progress, set objectives, and consider promotion prospects.

Retention is high in the Department, which contributes to our sustainability. This reflects a high level of staff satisfaction and a collegial working environment. Academics at UCL are employed on permanent contracts (as required by UCL's Statutes), which is a further factor towards retention. Only two academics have left, through retirement, during this period (Ratner, Beer). Some of our professorial staff (Geller, Smelik, Lochery) began their careers as lecturers at UCL (Kahn as MA student), which demonstrates the ability of our research environment to support academics over the full career cycle.

Research staff - ECRs

We encourage ECRs world-wide to apply through the Department to post-doctoral fellowships; consequently, in 2014-16 Lior Libman joined us as an Israel Institute post-doctoral fellow. ECRs are assigned a dedicated mentor who assists them already at the stage of applying for the fellowship. Most ECRs have been employed in the Department in the framework of research projects: thus, our successful award of an ERC grant enabled us to employ five full-time research fellows through 2013-18.

In order to support their career development, ECRs working within projects are given the freedom to develop and publish their own, solely authored research. Several were promoted to Senior Research Fellow (Sanders 2015, Wartenberg 2016, Vidro 2019) or awarded accelerated increments, in most cases through the initiative and encouragement of the PI. The precariousness of ECR short-term contracts, limited to the lifetime of the grants, is an issue that concerns us; we therefore offer advice and support towards their career development and assistance in seeking more permanent employment, for example by giving them honorary research fellowships after the projects end. Among our ECRs, Vidro has remained in the Department within another research project (Fritz Thyssen); most others have found academic/research employment elsewhere: Libman at Binghamton University, NY; Nothhaft at the Warburg Institute and Oxford University; Wartenberg at Bern and Tel-Aviv Universities; Bultrighini at the Institute of Classical Studies, London, and Freie Universität Berlin. After the current AHRC project ends, Yampolskaya will take up the position of Head of Jewish Studies at St. Petersburg State University.

Visiting scholars

The Department has hosted a diversity of visiting scholars (e.g. Yehudit Henshke, Haifa University, Israel, 2016; Hongmei Chen, Nanjing Forestry University, China, 2017-18) and honorary research fellows (HRFs) (Simo Muir, based in the Department since 2017) who have made significant contributions to research, seminars, and other activities in the Department.

In 2018, we tightened our policy on awards of honorary research fellowships, restricting the title to former PhD students and post-doctoral researchers, emeritus academic staff, and visiting scholars and researchers actively engaged in research within the Department. The purpose of this policy was to protect the title from dilution, to enhance the accountability of appointments, to reduce the administrative burden, and to maximize the contribution of HRFs to the Department.

Research students

Research student numbers remain robust, with (at census date) 22 active research students, half of which are part-time. Five are international (from China, USA, Australia, and Israel; one as non-resident), which highlights the global reach of our research degree programme. A sizeable proportion of our research students are recruited from among our MA graduates (25% of MA graduates in 2015/16 progressed to the MPhil/PhD in the Department), but many have no prior association with us. Three research students have been supported with an AHRC London Arts and Humanities Partnership grant, and two with UCL Wolfson Scholarships. A total of 12 PhD degrees were awarded in this period.

Research students are supported by the Graduate Tutor, alongside their primary and secondary academic supervisors. The Graduate Tutor advises PGR students on all the stages of their studies, from initial application to graduation and career advice. S/he convenes the fortnightly Graduate Seminar, where PGRs present their research in progress to academic staff and peers; these presentations form part of the upgrade procedure from MPhil to PhD and, more

holistically, help the students' scholarly development. Presentations are also made, for instance, by UCL Library, UCL Careers, and UCL Press. PGR students also receive training from the UCL Doctoral School, through a wide range of elective short training courses. PGRs gain career-enhancing teaching experience as Post-Graduate Teaching Assistants (PGTAs). In this capacity, they variously contribute to taught BA and MA courses by delivering a limited number of lectures, managing seminars, and marking coursework and exams. PGTAs are recruited fairly through the normal recruitment procedure of advertisement, applications, shortlisting and interview. There are also PGTA opportunities outside the Department, e.g. in History and in the BAsc degree programme (Arts and Sciences).

PGRs are encouraged to participate at international conferences (we offer travel grants to support this), and to organize graduate conferences at UCL (thus Pimlott: a conference on non-English-language literatures written in Britain, June 2018). They are also encouraged to apply for fellowships: Birnbaum was awarded a Silver Fellowship at Harvard University in 2017/18. The Department has a student and staff exchange agreement with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, supported with renewable Erasmus+ grants. This enables the exchange of two PhD students between the institutions for three months per annum.

Testament to our success in this area, PhD graduates have published their theses, won postdoctoral fellowships (University of Mainz; Freie Universität Berlin; Fritz Thyssen Foundation), and/or taken up academic positions (Brown University; University of Wroslaw; Bar-Ilan University; Kingston University, London; University of Exeter; Leo Baeck College, London) or academic-related positions (British Library, Bodleian Library). Sima Beer and Alinda Damsma were appointed Teaching Fellows in our Department in 2017 and 2019.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

Our commitment to EDI is inherently linked to our research in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. Antisemitism and other forms of racism are a central research concern for Berkowitz, Gilbert, and Guesnet. Their research informed seminars that were held in the summer of 2020 in response to the Black Lives Matter demonstrations and towards decolonisation of our research and teaching (we resolved to make this the theme of our research seminars in 2020/21). Anziska and Guesnet have played leading roles in UCL's Academic Board Working Group on Racism and Prejudice. Guesnet is founding member of the International Consortium for Research on Antisemitism and Racism, London. As an academic unit composed of individuals from many different academic disciplines (history, language and linguistics, politics, etc.) and many different cultural backgrounds, we positively encourage diverse perspectives on Jewish Studies in our research and teaching.

The Department's people are diverse with a wide range of ages (30s-80s), ethnicities, nationalities, religious and other beliefs, sexual orientations and domestic responsibilities. Women have represented two-thirds of research fellows (junior and senior) through the period. Following the retirement of three female academics in the last ten years, our percentage of female academic staff dropped to 25%. All female academics are currently professors. We aim to improve gender balance as we make new appointments. The majority of PGR intake last year was female, and did not identify as white.

In line with UCL's fair recruitment policies, we recruit academically excellent research staff and students whilst encouraging equality, diversity and inclusion by offering, for example, accessibility and other adjustments for those who identify as disabled or have mobility issues. Gender equality is actively promoted through our preparation of an Athena SWAN application, in support of UCL's institutional silver award. UCL regularly analyses staff data with respect to protected characteristics, and results of this analysis are regularly conveyed to us, to prevent any characteristic being at a disadvantage and to mitigate against discrimination. All new staff undertake UCL's mandatory induction modules, including training on health and safety, GDPR, diversity and unconscious bias. UCL's flexible EDI policies ensure that staff and research

students are not disadvantaged by bereavement, illness, and other personal circumstances. For example, a number of research students in our Department have been allowed on these grounds to interrupt or change to part-time.

The Department operates on equality principles, involving all staff in consultation and in policy making. Decisions, for example, about staff workloads, postdoctoral applications, and honorary research fellowships, are regularly made at the Departmental Research Committee (DRC), of which all academic staff and research fellows are members. PGR students are represented on the Staff-Student Consultative Committee.

All our HESA2 and HESA3 staff have been submitted to REF2021 and are equally represented. Our output selection was managed by a small committee appointed by the DRC and diverse in gender, age, and academic field (Stern and Kahn); the selection was partially informed by the authors' expression of their own preferred outputs. We have reviewed the impact of protected characteristics and intersectionality on our output selection, and this has shown that women were twice as likely to have their outputs selected than men. Data on ethnicity is less informative, as although we asked HR for a more fine-grained analysis, the available categories do not reflect the ethnic identities of many of our staff.

The Department will continue working towards promoting EDI, for instance in the context of its appointment of a new Lecturer in Yiddish for 2021.

3. Income, infrastructure and facilities

Research income and other funding

Our greatest success has been the award of substantial research project grants, with the highest ratio of grant income per staff in the Faculty (annual average £31,444.38 per FTE). Research income has had a transformative impact on the Department: it has expanded our research through recruitment of new research fellows and the development of international research collaborations, and has been a major contributor to the vitality and sustainability of our research.

Research projects awarded

- **ERC Advanced Grant:** Stern, 'Calendars in Antiquity and the Middle Ages' (2013-18), **€2,500,000.**
- **AHRC standard project:** Kahn (shared with UCL Linguistics), 'Contemporary Hasidic Yiddish' (2019-2022), **£681,756.**
- **Fritz Thyssen Foundation:** Stern, 'Qaraite and Rabbanite calendars' (2018-21), **€290,000.**
- **Leverhulme Trust project:** Stern, 'Medieval Christian and Jewish calendar texts' (ended 30/09/2013), **£134,338.**
- **Philip Leverhulme Prize:** Kahn, 'Enlightenment Hebrew grammar' (2017-19), **£100,000.**
- **Gerda Henkel Foundation:** Guesnet, 'Jewish self-government in Poland from its inception to the present' (2010-19), **£44,360.**

Fellowships awarded

- **British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellowship,** Kahn, 'The grammar of the Hasidic Hebrew tale 1864-1914' (2010-14), **£258,187** and **£2,988.**
- **AHRC Leadership Fellowship (Early Career Route),** Kahn, 'The First Hebrew Shakespeare translations' (2015-16), **£97,424.**
- **Harry Starr Fellowship,** Harvard University, Smelik, 'Bilingualism in early rabbinic literature' (2017-18), **\$60,000.**
- **Israel Institute Fellowship,** Libman, **£60,343.**
- **Taub Postdoctoral Fellowship,** New York University, Anziska (2016-17) **\$54,000**

- **Leverhulme Trust Fellowship**, Smelik, 'Code-switching in the Talmud Yerushalmi' (2018-19), **£23,190**.
- **Fulbright Research Scholarship**, Anziska, 'The Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace process 1977-1979', Nobel Institute, Oslo (2019), **£8,325**.

Staff also held prestigious fellowships and visiting professorships in Jerusalem (Yad Vashem; Israel Institute of Advanced Studies), Vilnius, Washington D.C., New York, Dartmouth, Arizona, and Philadelphia (Herbert Katz Center for Jewish Studies).

Smaller grants up to £10,000 from the British Academy/Leverhulme and other, private sources enabled initial research towards what later developed into larger projects (e.g. the 1982 Israel-Lebanon war, Anziska; the Jews and photography, Berkowitz). Similar-size grants were awarded by the European Association for Jewish Studies (EAJS), Salo Baron Foundation, and Wellcome Trust, for convening conferences.

Applicants for research funding are given a high level of assistance at all stages, from advice on grant capture to detailed feedback on draft applications, by the Faculty Research Development Manager and its expert, three-person Research Facilitation team (and for ERC applications, also by UCL's European Research and Innovation Office), as well as by a peer-review system operating within the Faculty.

Infrastructure and Facilities

Research is supported and driven by the Departmental Research Committee and the Faculty Research Committee. Both meet termly to shape future research strategy and to monitor research-related issues such as ethics and integrity, ECR recruitment, funding and collaboration opportunities, open access, and REF management.

The location of Department staff along a single corridor on main UCL campus impacts directly and positively on our research culture. This space includes the departmental office, two seminar rooms, and the John Klier Library and Study Space (a reference library and workspace for PGRs). Being together encourages collegial interaction and fruitful exchange of ideas. Conferences, workshops and other events are held in UCL centrally bookable rooms and lecture theatres, and (for small-scale events) within the Department. The UCL Bloomsbury Theatre and Studio (first opened in 1968, and re-opened in 2019 after a major renovation of its 500-seat auditorium), was the site of several productions by Berkowitz and Kahn (see Section 4); use of the theatre was awarded through internal competition within UCL.

The diversity of our research is supported by UCL's strongly interdisciplinary environment. UCL's Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS), co-founded in 2015 by the Faculties of A&H and Social and Historical Sciences, was conceived to promote interdisciplinary exchange; we have convened IAS workshops (e.g. Guesnet 2017), and colleagues regularly contribute to IAS seminars, conferences, and events. Other UCL schemes have provided infrastructure and grants of up to £10,000 towards research activities and publications, including UCL's Global Engagement Office, the Higher Education Innovation Fund, Research Impact Curation and Support and the Dean's Strategic Fund, from which we have won pump-priming awards to support a Yiddish Literary Journal, a cultural visit to Israel, and dissemination of research relating to Berkowitz's ICS (2017-19). As part of a UCL collaboration with the Institut Français, Geller ran workshops (2017; 2019) with the Sorbonne and other Paris research institutes on 'Women in the Bible and Ancient Near East'. Guesnet ran a project funded by the UCL 'Grand Challenges' programme with colleagues from the UCL School of Public Policy, leading to publication of a co-edited book, *Negotiating Religion* (2017).

UCL Press, founded in 2015 and the UK's first fully Open Access university press (all its publications are freely available online), has published Kahn's *The First Hebrew Shakespeare*

Translations (2017, c.10,000 free downloads), and the journal *Jewish Historical Studies* edited by Berkowitz since 2015.

The UCL Library has an exceptionally large collection in Hebrew and Jewish Studies (including, notably, Yiddish), and a range of online resources with subscriptions to subject-specialist databases, journals, and other publications (e.g. the Encyclopaedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics, and the Bar-Ilan Responsa project), curated by a part-time specialist librarian. Its annual expenditure on books supporting our research directly is c.£9,000. UCL Library also advises on copyright and licensing, and supports Open Access engagement. We are served by other excellent libraries in close proximity to UCL, whose collections and resources are often essential for our research (SOAS, British Library, Warburg Institute, Wiener Library, Institute of Classical Studies, Senate House Library). The British Library holds many Hebrew manuscripts, and the British Museum holds the world's most important cuneiform collections.

UCL's Information Services Division (ISD) provides a wide range of essential resources and support. Specialist software such as NVivo, with bespoke training, has been provided by ISD for our researchers (Bultrighini and Stern). UCL's Research Data Services provide safe storage for manuscript images that we purchased for our research projects from libraries world-wide. Our departmental website was re-written and re-branded in 2016 by all staff collectively at an away day, to project a new, forward-looking image of our Department and of its many research activities.

4. Collaboration and contribution to the research base, economy and society

Research collaborations

We have forged strong connections with researchers within UCL, London, the UK, and above all internationally, robustly reflecting the international character of Jewish Studies and our world-leading position within this field. Some collaborations have been underpinned by our funded research projects: Stern with Ronny Vollandt (LMU, Munich) in the Fritz Thyssen project, and with Marina Rustow (Princeton) in the ERC project; Kahn with Kriszta Szendroi (UCL Linguistics) in the AHRC project; and Guesnet with a network of colleagues from Germany, Poland, and the USA in the Gerda Henkel project.

Within UCL, we have collaborated on small research projects, grant applications, seminars and conferences with numerous Departments within A&H and beyond, such as History, History of Art, and the School of Slavonic and East European Studies. We work regularly with London partners: Kahn convened a conference with Andrea Schatz (King's College London) on 'Hebrew in Europe' (2014); Berkowitz and Guesnet convene a regular seminar on 'Modern Jewish history' in conjunction with KCL and the Institute of Historical Research (University of London). Other London partners are the British Museum, where Geller is academic advisor to a Wellcome-funded project on cuneiform medical texts, and the British Library, where Stern was advisor for the exhibition 'Hebrew Manuscripts: Journeys of the Written Word' (2020-21).

Most international collaborations, besides our research projects, have come about through networking and international reputation. This led to Geller's participation in many research projects and workshops in Berlin (Freie Universität, Humboldt University, and Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte), where he was seconded by UCL from 2010 to 2018. Similarly, Stern co-led with Jonathan Ben-Dov (Haifa) an international team at the Israel Institute of Advanced Studies (Jerusalem) on 'the Day Unit in Antiquity and the Middle Ages' (2018), and has participated in a research group in Paris led by Nicole Belayche (EPHE) and Anne-Valerie Pont (Sorbonne) on 'Civic Participation in the Roman Empire' (2016). Anziska collaborates with the Institute for Palestine Studies and *Jadaliyya* Magazine (Beirut) towards the creation of open access archives for research related to the 1982 Lebanon War.

Tangible evidence of a collaborative research culture is provided by our many joint publications. With colleagues from UCL, other UK universities, Europe, Israel, and the USA, we have co-

authored in total five monographs (e.g. Kahn with Rubin, *Jewish Languages from A to Z*, Routledge 2020), four edited books, one journal issue, and three substantial journal articles.

Enabling the profession

Our **editorial positions** testify to our academic leadership and international scholarly recognition. Three of our staff are editors of world-leading journals: *Journal of Jewish Studies* (Stern, with Alison Salvesen, University of Oxford), *Journal of Aramaic Studies* (Smelik), and *Jewish Historical Studies: Transactions of the Jewish Historical Society of England* (Berkowitz; a UCL Press open access publication). We are founding editors of several book series: *IJS Studies in Judaica*, Brill (Geller, with Guesnet, Kahn), *Time, Astronomy, and Calendars*, Brill (Stern with Charles Burnett, Warburg Institute), and *Textbooks of World and Minority Languages and Grammars of World and Minority Languages*, UCL Press, open access (Kahn with Riitta-Liisa Valijärvi, UCL). Geller is also co-editor of *Cuneiform Monographs* (Brill) and *STMAC* (de Gruyter), and Guesnet is editorial board co-chair of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*. Most of us are members of at least one journal editorial board.

Executive positions in **professional associations** were held during this period by Guesnet, Secretary and Director of the European Association for Jewish Studies, EAJS (2014-18), and Smelik, President of International Organization for Targumic Studies, IOTS (until 2018). Many staff are or have been on the executive committees of professional associations. Since 2019, Guesnet is Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies.

We contribute to our disciplines through international **peer review** for institutions, funders and publishers. We have reviewed c.65 promotions, appointments, and institutional evaluations, mostly for Israeli and US universities, and c.65 grant applications to research councils (notably the Israel Science Foundation, and many others in Europe and the USA), private funders, and academic institutions. Geller and Stern were on review panels of the ERC and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG). For publishers, we have peer reviewed c.75 book manuscripts and proposals, and c.180 articles for leading journals in Jewish Studies and a wide range of other disciplines, reflecting our interdisciplinary expertise and wide research interests.

We have **examined doctorates** for UK universities and worldwide, e.g. KCL, SOAS, Oxford, Paris, Berlin, Utrecht, Haifa, Stellenbosch, and Sydney.

Knowledge exchange: conferences and workshops

So as to generate knowledge exchange with audiences as diverse as possible and extend the reach of our impact, conferences and workshops that we convene are mostly free and open to the public. Nearly all, at UCL and elsewhere, involve the participation of international colleagues, and many are mounted in partnership with academic and non-academic bodies. They have been held under the auspices of the IJS (see Section 1) and of our research projects. The ERC 'Calendars' project hosted an international conference at UCL (2017); convened a panel at an AJS conference (Boston, 2013); and through 2014-16, ran seven international workshops at UCL on multidisciplinary themes including medieval mathematics and geometry, tables and diagrams in medieval manuscripts, the Muslim polymath al-Biruni, and the origins of the seven-day week. Within the Fritz Thyssen project, Vidro and Stern organized a workshop on 'Calendar polemics in medieval Judaism and Islam' at the LMU in Munich (2019). The AHRC Leadership Fellowship (Kahn) hosted a conference on 'Shakespeare and the Jews' at UCL (2017). The Montefiore Endowment project, led by Guesnet, organised a conference on Moses Montefiore (2013). A conference in Stellenbosch (South Africa) was convened by Smelik as IOTS President, and in various places in Europe by Guesnet as EAJS Secretary.

Other symposia have been facilitated by our long-standing collaborations with external, non-academic organizations around London. Our key partners include the **Lithuanian Embassy**, with whom Beerli, Berkowitz, Gilbert, and Kahn run collaboratively the 'Litvak Days', an annual public

event (since 2015) hosted at both the Embassy and at UCL, combining academic conference presentations and musical performances. At the **Polish Embassy** and the **Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies**, Guesnet and the IJS run the annual conference 'Polin'. Both annual events involve contributions of international colleagues, and attract audiences of over 100 (several hundreds on 3 June 2020, when Litvak Days ran as a webinar). Our partnership with these embassies is politically important, and also gives us access to new audiences for dissemination of our research. Events have also been held with **JW3** (the leading Jewish cultural centre in London and key constituency for our Department) and the **Polish Cultural Institute** (London).

Further knowledge exchange is achieved through the presentation of individual papers at other institutions and academic events. Invited papers, including keynote and prestigious lectures, were delivered in the UK (c.50), Europe (c.50), Israel (c.25), the USA (c.60), ex-Soviet states, South Africa, Australia, and South Korea. Berkowitz regularly lectures across a wide range of universities in the USA. We also participate regularly at the conferences of international professional associations, e.g. British Association of Jewish Studies (BAJS – annual), EAJS (quadrennial), Association of Jewish Studies (American, annual), and World Union of Jewish Studies (quadrennial), and of more subject-specific associations, e.g. Society of Biblical Literature, National Association of Professors of Hebrew, European Association of Israel Studies.

Dissemination to non-academic audiences

Dissemination to non-academic audiences is of reciprocal benefit: public events speak to and engage communities while conversely enriching our own research. Targeted societal impact is generated through public lectures to specifically non-academic audiences from London synagogues, Jewish societies and community centres, museums and libraries, and Jewish and other secondary schools. We actively contribute to significant, annual Jewish educational events, such as Jewish Book Week, the Jewish Film Festival, and Limmud Conferences (in the UK, South Africa, and Australia). Public lectures have been given at UCL's annual Festival of Culture, UCL's Lunch Hour Lecture series, and the UCL Petrie Museum. Other, notable venues have been the House of Commons (Guesnet), the Institute for Ismaili Studies, Israeli Stage Boston (Anziska), Sielecki Castle, Sosnowiec, Poland, and 92nd Street Y, New York (Berkowitz). Lochery has lectured in Porto to the YPO Gold Business Leaders, to the NATO Joint Command, to the Lisbon Poppy Ball, and on the cruise ship 'The World'.

Beer and Kahn direct courses at the annual Yiddish Summer Schools in London ('Ot Azoy', in partnership with the Jewish Music Institute and SOAS, c.80 participants), and contribute teaching to Yiddish summer schools in Paris, Brussels, and Weimar. Short courses in Yiddish were also given by Beer and Beer at the Jewish Museum (London) and the Oxford Synagogue. Together with a PhD student, Kahn has contributed Hebrew teaching to the London Summer School in Classics. Kahn has written a textbook, *The Routledge Introductory Course in Biblical Hebrew* (2014).

We have long-standing commitments in community education, Gilbert running short courses on her research in modern Jewish history at the Sir Martin Gilbert Learning Centre (see Section 1), and Stern running a weekly Talmud class at HGS synagogue (since 2003). Engagement with non-academic audiences informs directly our research: thus, two Talmud-related articles of Stern (2013 and 2014) were researched and published as a direct outcome of his weekly Talmud classes at HGSS.

'Popular' publications offer another way of disseminating our research. Several staff have contributed research-based articles to the press and popular journals, including the *New York Times*, *New York Review of Books*, *Wall Street Journal*, *National Post* (Canada), *Politico*, *History Today*, *BBC World Histories Magazine*, *The Conversationist*, *Jewish Chronicle*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Der Spiegel*, *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*. Stern has contributed online popular articles to the SBL website *Bible Odyssey* and the British Library's website. Berkowitz contributes blogs to

the UCL European Institute. In collaboration with students and staff of UCL Computer Science, Berkowitz produced two apps for visitors to the East End, both awarded by the British Computing Society (2014).

Theatre and opera performances

Most outstanding of all our public engagement activities have been the frequently sold-out research-based theatre and opera performances produced by **Kahn** and by **Berkowitz**, which have engaged students and a range of diverse professionals and colleagues across England and introduced new audiences to neglected works.

Kahn produced, as AHRC Leadership Fellow, the world premiere of the late 19th-century first Hebrew translation of *Romeo and Juliet*, performed at the UCL Bloomsbury Studio Theatre, 28 March 2017, with a cast of students to a capacity audience of 57. This was followed by a performance of the Hebrew version (by the same translator) of *Othello*, which Kahn produced with PhD student Paul Moore, at the Bloomsbury, 19-20 June 2018 (near sell-out both nights).

Berkowitz produced (again to near-capacity audiences) the sadly overlooked opera *The Tsar wants his photograph taken* by Kurt Weill and Georg Kaiser at the Bloomsbury, 4-5 February 2016, with an academic presentation. The opera was reprised at the Bloomsbury Main Theatre, with an audience of 400, on 4 May 2019. He then created and produced his own research-based musical, *Man and God*, at the Bloomsbury, 18 May 2019 (sold out), followed by a virtual, online performance of a seminar and musical on 6 August 2020. Berkowitz also co-produced with Lisa Peschel (University of York) plays from the Theresienstadt Ghetto, with an introductory lecture, at the Bloomsbury Theatre, 7-8 February 2015. All these productions drew explicitly on Berkowitz's research on the role of Jews in 20th-century photography, and are elaborated upon in his Impact Case Study.

Media appearances, interviews, consultancies

We engage with non-academic publics through frequent media appearances. Lochery was featured as a speaking character in David Hare's cartoon film *Wall* (on the West Bank separation fence). Stern appeared in a televised debate on BBC4 (3 November 2013), and in a documentary on Ahlulbayt TV, SKY channel 831 *I am a non-Muslim, and I wear Hijab* (2016). Berkowitz was interviewed for Canadian Television National News, BBC World Television Service, and Sunrise TV, on the liberation of Auschwitz commemoration in 2015. He was also interviewed for a documentary film about Picture Post by Rob West, Ship of Life Films (2019), and for the 'Soho Bites' podcast (2019). Radio interviews are given by staff on world-wide channels, such as Voice of Islam, Radio Sefarad, Radio Orlando, Sputnik News Agency, etc. Press interviews are given by staff to international news distributors, such as *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, *National Geographic Magazine*, *Jewish Chronicle*; *Times of Israel*, etc.

Berkowitz gave transformative advice to the National Theatre for its production of *The Lehman Brothers Trilogy* (cf. his Impact Case Study) and also collaborated with filmmaker Luke Holland with research for *Final Account: Third Reich testimonies*. Anziska advised France 3 Via Stella for its documentary series *The Price of Peace*, and Lebanese film producer Mazen Khaled for two films on the 1982 war, *Aliyah* and *Sabra and Shatila*. Stern acted as consultant for a documentary film on the Jewish calendar by TruthTable Ministries (Arizona). Staff have given expert advice to television and radio channels such as Al-Jazeera and the BBC (e.g. for the series *Who Do You Think You Are?*).

Consultancies for exhibitions

We work closely with museums and exhibitions, locally and internationally. Lochery has led tours abroad for the United States National WWII Museum, and is actively contributing to the Museum PRATA, Porto, and to the forthcoming 'World of Wine' exhibition in Porto, Portugal, for which he has already published two books in 2020. He also played a leading role in an exhibition at the Hotel Palacio (Estoril, Lisbon) in 2014 on espionage in WWII.

Other staff members have been collaborating with museums in preparation of exhibitions on their areas of research: Stern, for a forthcoming exhibition at the Yeshiva University Museum (New York) on the Jewish calendar, and for the British Library's exhibition on 'Hebrew Manuscripts: Journeys of the Written Word' (now open); Berkowitz, for several exhibitions at the Wiener Library, the Ben Uri Gallery, and the Insiders/Outsiders Festival, 2019-20; Beer, for the UNESCO Exhibition at the Paris Yiddish Centre; Anziska, for the Sursok Museum (Beirut) and Palestinian Museum (Ramallah). Collaborative activity with the Jewish Museum (London) is frequent.

Policy and public consultancies

Anziska, Guesnet and Lochery have advised members of the House of Lords, the UK the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the German Bundestag. Berkowitz serves as expert-witness on the situation of the Jews in Ukraine for an asylum case (for Duncan Lewis Solicitors, London, since 2017). Stern advised the Metropolitan Police about looted archaeological material (2016). Anziska is non-resident fellow of the US-Middle East Project, advising policymakers on Israeli-Palestinian relations, and also advisor for Makan; the impact of his consultancies is elaborated upon in his Impact Case Study.

Kahn with Kriszta Szendroi are Yiddish consultants to Interlink, Stamford Hill, London. On 23-5 March 2020, their AHRC research team produced Hasidic Yiddish translations of time-sensitive NHS Covid-19 communications for London's Hasidic community. These were used by the NHS, the Metropolitan Police, and Hackney Council, and were distributed through local charities (Shomrim, Bikur Cholim), bloggers, and a local Yiddish newsletter. Further translations have since been made by the AHRC team and disseminated among Hasidic communities in Manchester and Boisbriand, Quebec. This resourceful initiative has been commended for its international contribution to public health in the early stages of the pandemic.

Our multiple research collaborations, our contributions to the research base in the form of peer review and editorial work, and our rich contributions to society and culture through public engagement, conferences and events, theatre and opera performances, media contributions, and a wide range of public consultancies, effectively promote our mission by enabling our research in Hebrew and Jewish Studies to achieve productive impact and the widest reach.