The second Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School took place at Sussex from 13-16
July 2010. It was organized by the CGJS
in cooperation with the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo-Baeck-Instituts. The summer school was attended by twenty-four doctoral candidates from Canada, England, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Switzerland and the United States under the direction of Prof. Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Institute for the History of German Jewry, Hamburg), Prof. Christhard Hoffmann (University of Bergen) and Prof. Christian Wiese. Prof. Schüler-Springorum opened the proceedings with a lecture on ‘German-Jewish Gender History: Wherefrom, Whereto – and Why?’ The session was attended by Dr Kurt Hellman, whose generous donation will enable the Centre to organize these workshops for several years.

The young scholars presented their dissertation projects on a variety of subjects of modern European-Jewish history and culture, including Jewish religious and cultural history in early modern and modern Central and Eastern Europe;
Jewish politics and ideology in modern Germany,
France, Britain and Poland, Russian-Jewish
literature after World War I; German-Jewish and
Polish-Jewish social history (including questions
of gender) before World War II; Christian-Jewish
relations in England; the Jewish experience in Vichy France and in the Polish ghettoes; the history of the Jewish communities in post-Holocaust Germany and Poland. The students very much appreciated the opportunity to be given thorough feedback in an interdisciplinary setting.

We are delighted that, with this series of summer schools, the CGJS is establishing itself as a forum for young doctoral students from diverse cultural backgrounds and as the centre of a growing international network of a future generation of scholars in the eld of European-Jewish history.

Farewell to Andrea

Martin Buber Chair at the University of Frankfurt

Christian Wiese moderating a panel discussion at the University of Sussex

The appointment of Professor Christian Wiese to the Martin Buber
Chair in Jewish Thought at the University of Frankfurt am Main
is a signal honour for an individual scholar which will also bring
bene ts to the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. For Christian will continue as interim director of the Centre even after he and his
wife Angela return to Germany. In Frankfurt, a multicultural city with a large Jewish as well as a substantial Muslim community, he will contribute to a scholarly environment in which a dialogical approach to religious and cultural diversity is particularly important. He will be involved in developing a major project on ‘Plurality and Dialogue as a Paradigm of Contemporary Religion’ and has been appointed to the directorial board of the Institute of Religious Philosophy. He will teach interdisciplinary courses for students of Jewish Studies, Philosophy, History, and Religious Studies, including Islamic Studies and Protestant Theology.

This will strengthen Frankfurt’s reputation as a centre of excellence in these elds. The Martin Buber Chair is part of a range of institutions devoted to Jewish history and culture, including chairs in Rabbinic studies and Jewish history as well as the Fritz Bauer Institute for Holocaust Studies and the Jewish Museum. One of Christian’s plans in Frankfurt is to establish a research centre for Jewish intellectual history. With his team he will start a series of projects, including a scholarly edition of Hans Jonas’s works and research programmes devoted to the history of Jewish Studies in Europe in the nineteenth century. He has also been awarded a generous grant by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Stiftung that will support a programme of international cooperation with universities in Israel, the US and other parts of Europe. The strategic cooperation with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies (see page 1) will be a crucial part of this ambitious programme.

Christian’s legacy to the Centre during his four years at Sussex (as summarised by Edward Timms) includes an impressive range of programmes, conferences, externally funded research projects and publications. In a period when the humanities departments
of British universities have come under increasing pressure from central government to justify their existence, he has shown exemplary qualities of patient archival research, original scholarship and enterprising academic leadership. The Kochmann Summer School at Sussex and his supervision of seven doctoral students as well as post-doctoral fellows highlights his ability to transmit these values to a younger generation of researchers from different nations. Long may these connections continue!

Max and Hilde

Kochmann Summer

School 2010

Dr Andrea Hammel is leaving Sussex
to take up a Lectureship in German at
the University of Wales in Aberystwyth.
Her contributions to the work of the
Centre for German-Jewish Studies will
be familiar to many readers of this
newsletter. Indeed, her photograph
appeared on the front page of one of the
earliest numbers, wearing a hard hat as
protection during building work to create
an extension to the university library.
Since then she has been a continuously
creative presence, helping as Research
Assistant to organize our ground-breaking conference on the German-Jewish
Dilemma before co-editing the published
conference proceedings.

Andrea’s doctoral research focused on
the achievements of Women Refugee
Writers who ed to Britain in the 1930s,
and she has been instrumental in
promoting the work of Selma Kahn,
whose literary estate has been deposited
at Sussex by Selma’s son, Michael Kean. This research led Andrea to develop
a special interest in memoirs written
by members of the Kindertransport
generation, recording a series of

interviews with the support of a grant
from the British Academy. She went
on to play a leading role as Research
Fellow for the BARGE project, collecting
and analysing data about British Archival
Materials Relating to German-Speaking
Refugees of the period 1930-50.

During a farewell lunch at the Centre
Andrea was congratulated on her new
appointment by the Director, Christian
Wiese. Edward Timms, who worked
closely with her for over a dozen years,
then asked if she would like to recall
her best and her worst moments. ‘There
were no really bad moments,’ she said,
‘but some episodes were rather bizarre!’
Working in a eld where we have been
pushing out the frontiers of knowledge,
there have inevitably been strange
experiences, like agreeing to attend
a reunion of Young Austria at Bognor
Regis, only to discover that the average
age of the ‘young’ Austrians was over
seventy! We look forward to continuing
cooperation with her on new research
projects, now that those frontiers extend
to the Irish Sea.

Publications, Conference Papers and News

Andrea Hammel
‘Public Representations of Private Memories:
the Kindertransport and the Media’ in The
Kindertransport 1938/39: New Developments
in Research. Yearbook of the Research Centre
for German and Austrian Exile Studies, Vol.13, ed. Andrea Hammel and Bea Lewkowitz, Rodopi, Amsterdam (forthcoming)

‘Child Refugees Forever? The History of the Kindertransport 1938/39’, in Diskurs Kindheits- und Jugendforschung, 2010, No.2, Budrich Verlag, Leverkusen, 2010

‘Translating the Self: Memoirs and Authenticity‘, paper given at the 7th Biennial International Auto/Biography Association Conference, University of Sussex, July 2010
‘Holocaust Memoirs and Translation: Ruth David’s Child of Our Time’, paper given at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Germanists in Great Britain, 28-30 March 2010, University of Reading

Andrea Hammel organised the second workshop of the AHRC Network ‘Holocaust Writing and Translation’ on 1 July 2010 at the University of Sussex.
Delegates from the UK, US, Germany and Norway discussed themes such as productivity of translation, translation and theories of trauma, the role of translators in different contexts, the perception of translation in discussion of Holocaust testimonies and other texts, translation and reception, editorial practice and theories of Holocaust representation. The third workshop of the series will be held at the University of East Anglia on 17 December 2010. The nal workshop is scheduled on 24 February 2011 in London and will be held in conjunction with a public event at the Wiener Library.

Romy Langeheine
‘An Intellectual Biography of Hans Kohn’, paper given at the University of Sussex, Graduate Forum for Intellectual History, 11 May 2010

‘The Decisive Years of my Life: The Impact of the First World War on Hans Kohn’s Life and Thought’, paper given at the CGJS, Max and Hilde Kochmann Summer School, 14 July 2010

Nitzan Lebovic
Co-organisation of the two-day workshop ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23-24 June 2010

Nitzan, who was a research fellow at the Centre, has accepted the Apter Chair of Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values at Lehigh University, Pennsylvania

Leena Petersen

Poetik des Zwischenraumes: Zur sprachlichen Kulturkritik und physiognomischen Historizität am Beispiel von Walter Benjamin und ausgewählten Schriften seiner Zeit (Heidelberg: Winter Verlag, 2010)

‘On Dogmatism and Tolerance’, paper given within the context of the Lecture Series ‘Toleration of Variety in Judaism’ at the Oriental Institute, Oxford University, 26 April 2010

‘On Immediacy and Critique’, paper given at the workshop on ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23 June 2010

‘Reconsidering Utopia’, paper given at the 6th Annual Joint Conference of the Society for European Philosophy and the Forum for European Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago, John Felice Rome Center – Rome, Italy, 9 July 2010

‘On Aniconism and Negative Aesthetics in
German-Jewish Thought in the 19th and 20th Centuries’, paper given at the British Association
of Jewish Studies Conference 2010, University of Southampton, 5 September 2010

Co-organisation of the two-day workshop ‘The Hole in Time: German-Jewish Political Philosophy and the Archive’ at Westminster University, London, 23-24 June 2010

Co-organisation of a two-day international Work-in-Progress-Research Workshop in Berlin, 25-26 August 2010

Edward Timms
‘Evacuees and “Kinder”: A Comparative Approach’, in The Kindertransport 1938/39: New Developments in Research (forthcoming)

‘Family Photographs of the 1930s as Markers of Autobiographical narrative’, paper given at the 7th
Biennial International Auto/Biography Association Conference, University of Sussex, July 2010

Edward Timms’s memoirs, Taking up the Torch:
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