

Parkes Institute News

The [Interactive](#) Bulletin

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Image Credit: Nicola Woodhead

Interview: Going Down Under With Nicola Woodhead

WE interviewed PhD research student Nicola Woodhead about her project and recent trip to Australia. (This took place on 03/08/2020).

Hi Nicola, thank you for agreeing to talk with us! Could you introduce yourself and your project?

"I am a history doctoral student at the Parkes Institute, and my thesis topic is the Kindertransport. The main aim of my research is to showcase that the Kindertransport had international reach rather than that these refugee children only ever arrived and settled permanently in Britain.

"I aim to engage more critically with the narratives of arrival and departure to demonstrate that movement and re-emigration were a part of the Kindertransport scheme from the outset.

"In doing this, I also would like to point out that the scheme was designed so that refugee children would resettle elsewhere rather than ending with lives in the UK, I want to explore where, why and how Kinder re-emigrated. This has led to me being in contact with people all over the world."

What have you been working on this year?

"At the start of this year, I presented my research at several different events. I was a part of the Parkes Institute Debate Event: 'Kindertransport: New Approaches, New Sources' (November 2019) and the PhD Roundtable (January 2020). At both of these events, I spoke about the methodology of my PhD and talked about the new sources made accessible by the AJR. I also presented papers at the Australian Association of Holocaust Studies conference in Sydney (February 2020) and the British Association of Holocaust Studies Postgrad conference in Exeter (March 2020)."

Wow, you have achieved a lot this year, especially considering the circumstances. Could you tell us more about your trip to Australia?

"Thanks first of all to the Parkes Travel Fund which enabled me to complete this trip and for the AAJS for covering the cost of the conference. I presented a paper, "Imagining the Kindertransport: Transmigrant Kinder Life Narratives," as part of the panel Jewish Identities in Modern History. I accessed archives at the Sydney Jewish Museum and while in Melbourne accessed the archives at the Jewish Holocaust Centre. On my way to Melbourne, I went to Hay which is where many Jewish refugees were sent during the Second World War as Enemy Aliens. There I visited the Dunera museum and saw where this internment camp was. As part of this trip, I also conducted my first interviews for my thesis."

How have you found doing your work in lockdown since returning?

"Towards the start of lockdown, it was difficult adjusting to working and living in the same area of the house, with no real sense of separation. I also have discovered that I am someone who works best with not working in the same environment every day. I have, however, managed to continue to interview individuals, now done so remotely. I have been in contact with people I would not necessarily have met in person. Virtual events have helped keep a sense of community, particularly the Parkes doctoral seminars and the BAHS postgrad coffee mornings."

What have you got planned for the rest of the year?

"In the next few weeks, I have a couple of interviews scheduled, and I received a Kindertransport memoir in the post to read. But the main thing I am working on at the moment is preparation for my upgrade later this year."

Former Kinder Beate Hammett's belongings at the Sydney Jewish Museum.

Family Secrets and Lost Archives - new history resources added to Parkes Site

TWO new resources have been added to the Parkes Institute's growing collection of primary research materials.

The first of these is a [series of letters](#) by members of Parkes member Professor Tony Kushner's family. Written in the early 1970s, these cover the eventful lives of East European migrants to the UK over three generations.

Originally a chedar project undertaken by Tony as a boy, these include the immigration experience itself, as well as everything from the egg import trade during World War Two to Hull and North Africa.

The second source, also with commentary by Tony, is a [hitherto unpublished article](#) by Revd. James Parkes, written in 1943 as a response to reports of the unfolding Holocaust.

In a broader context, it also reveals a great deal about British responses to the Holocaust, which were often mixed. The article itself was not published, and Parkes himself was at odds with the Church of England at this point. It remains a revealing document, nonetheless.

Launched last year, the Re-sourcing Jewish History and Culture page already features a collection of sources, curated by the Institute's researchers and academics, in addition to these new documents.

Parkes Blog Launches New Interview Series

The official Parkes Institute WordPress blog has launched a new series of interviews.

Here, academic contributors to the Parkes journals are interviewed about their work, publications and more.

The first of these is with [Dr Tamar Ketko](#), of the Kibbutzim

College of Education, Technology and the Arts, Tel Aviv.

Her [recent article](#), "Korczak's Visits to Palestine in 1934 and 1936 – Second Thoughts," was recently published in *Jewish History and Culture* journal, edited by [Professor Joachim Schlör](#).

The series will interview contributors to other Parkes journals, such as *Patterns of Prejudice* and *Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History*.

More interviews will be published on the blog soon!

Special Report: Black History Month 2020

BLACK History Month 2020 fell in a momentous year for many reasons, so much so that the Parkes Institute made its own public statement on the Black Lives Matter protests sweeping the world.

The Institute also commemorated Black History Month itself with a special seminar, in association with Southampton's Centre for Imperial and Post-Colonial Studies (CIPCS)

This took place on 13th October, and was hosted by

the Institute's [Dr Devorah Baum](#), and featured as its speakers [Professor David Brauner](#) and [Professor Bryan Cheyette](#) (both from the University of Reading).

Professor Brauner discussed "Blackness and Jewishness in the Fiction of Howard Jacobson," while Professor Cheyette addressed "The Ghetto in America: Black and Jewish?"

The event, which took place on Zoom, was also recorded, and is [available now](#) on the Parkes Institute's YouTube page.

2021 Southampton Holocaust Memorial Day Lineup Confirmed

SOUTHAMPTON will be marking the UK's national Holocaust Memorial Day with a commemorative event organised by the Parkes Institute and Solent University.

The Memorial Day is dedicated to the remembrance of victims who were persecuted as a result of genocide, and will also discuss modern discrimination. This year's theme is 'Be the Light in the Darkness'.

The event will take place online via Zoom, on Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 18:00 GMT. The event is free, but registration is now closed. Please note that the event will be

recorded.

The Mayor of Southampton, [Councillor Sue Blatchford](#), will open the evening, together with the University of Southampton Vice-President for Education [Prof. Alex Neill](#), the Pro Vice-Chancellor of Solent University [Nona McDuff OBE](#), and [Dr. Claire Le Foll](#), Director of the Parkes Institute.

The evening will feature a testimony by holocaust survivor [Henry Schachter OBE](#), followed by a questions and answers session, and a performance by students from Solent University of scenes from the play *Kindertransport* by [Diane Samuels](#).

Marc Chagall, Apocalypse en lilas, Capriccio, 1944-47.

Interfaith Week 2020

INTERFAITH Week 2020 took place over five days, between the 8th and 15th November, and was a collaboration between the Parkes Institute, the University of Southampton Faith and Reflection Centre, and Solent University. Once again, the Covid-19 pandemic meant the schedule had to move online, but a full range of events were still able to take place.

The week began with a Virtual Piece Walk which took place on Zoom, followed by an Interfaith Dialogue on 'Saving the Earth.' There was then an Interfaith Panel Q&A with NHS Solent Trust, and a special Parkes Lecture on "Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Marc Chagall's Paintings" [PICTURED] hosted by the Institute's [Dr. Helen Spurling](#) and [Dr. Claire Le Foll](#).

The week then concluded with a special Remembrance Day Service, and, finally, an Interfaith Dialogue at Solent University.

Throughout, the week's events were recorded, and can be found on the [Parkes Institute's YouTube channel](#).

Events Round-Up: Medics, Skeletons & Disease

DESPITE the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the Parkes Institute has continued to host a series of online events covering a wide range of topics. (All of these are available on the official Parkes YouTube channel.)

The first of these was the [Howard Rein lecture](#), which took place on 27th October 2020. Its theme was "The Medical Liberation of Belsen: British Doctors as Co-Presents to the Holocaust", and was delivered by

[Professor Tony Kushner](#) and [Dr Aimee Bunting](#).

Next, was [Dr Lindsey Askin's](#) seminar, "Why Are Skeletons Like Texts – Combatting Bias and Methodological Demons in the Study of Ancient Jewish Medicine and Magic," [PICTURED] which happened on 24th October 2020.

Finally, [Dr Hannah Ewence](#) gave her seminar, "Borders, Ports and Pestilence: Managing Disease during the Age of Jewish Mass Migration," on 8th December 2020.

Credits

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