With this newsletter, we invite you to events taking place at CJMC and provide information about new projects, positions, and publications in the field of Jewish Studies in the Scandinavian countries. By establishing a network that connects researchers from different disciplines, we hope to facilitate interdisciplinary and international cooperation.

The “Center for the Study of Jewish Thought in Modern Culture” (CJMC) at the University of Copenhagen was launched on March 25, 2014. It offers a public forum for exchanges of thought between scholars interested in Judaism and its impact in modern and postmodern philosophy, theology, psychology, history, sociology, literature, art, and culture in general.

The center's aim is to create an academic home for the discussion of three focal areas which are particularly prominent in Jewish thought, but which also have a much broader significance:

1. **post-Holocaust hermeneutics and philosophy of language**
2. **trauma, witnessing, and memory mediation**
3. **images of (in)humanity in religion, art, and ethics**

CJMC's multi-disciplinary approach is propelled by scholarly interests not only in classic, but also in forgotten or understudied Jewish sources and their capacity to enrich contemporary culture. Thereby we wish to initiate a dialogue between foreign and familiar voices from the past and present, and to link internal and outside perspectives on Jewish thought.

**NEWS**

- **New staff at CJMC**

  - Casper Løwenstein (MA in Philosophy) interned with us at the center in August and worked there as a research employee between September 1 and November 30, 2014. On December 15, he has taken up a position as PhD student.
News from CJMC's affiliated researchers

- Tanja Schult and Diana Popescu have received 4 years’ funding for the postdoctoral project “Making the Past Present: Public Perceptions of Performative Holocaust Commemoration in Israel, Germany, Poland, and Sweden since the year 2000” from the Swedish Board of Science.

Abstract:
Despite the prominence of the Holocaust in the national agendas of many countries, the concern that it will soon disappear from public consciousness has intensified since the early 2000s. We investigate how increasing numbers of artists, museum practitioners and educators address this challenge by employing performative practices such as hands-on activities, audience participation, and living history interpretations. What understandings of this past do they transmit and to what ends? While performative elements are recurrent in Holocaust commemorative projects, we know little about their effectiveness in relaying the relevance of this particular past. To address this knowledge gap, we will analyze these practices in newly-produced commemorative works and gauge the ways in which they engage audiences in four countries with strong Holocaust remembrance cultures: Israel, Germany, Poland and Sweden. This goal will be achieved by creating a new theoretical framework on the uses of performative strategies in Holocaust commemoration and by conducting a thorough investigation of its effects on audiences. In doing so, this innovative project will address the long-neglected question of audience reception and open new avenues for research on this central aspect of Holocaust memory. Furthermore, it will shed light on the cultural significance of performative commemoration and its possible role in strengthening social activism and civil responsibility in democratic societies.

- In January 2015, Jayne Svenungsson will take up a Chair in Systematic Theology with competence in Philosophy of Religion at Lund University. Svenungsson’s present research is centered on political messianism in 20th century Jewish thought and her ambition is to broaden the traditional scope of the discipline to include not only Christian perspectives, but also Jewish and Muslim theologies and philosophies.

Activities at CJMC in fall 2014:

October 21
Workshop and PhD course: 
Aesthetics of Memory. Read more

November 14
Workshop and PhD course:
Representations of the Holocaust in Literature, Art and Film. Read more

UPCOMING EVENTS

Activities at CJMC in spring 2015:
Participation is free, but registration is required.

April 28-29
Workshop and PhD course with Paul Mendes-Flohr:
Judaism despite Christianity? The 1916 Correspondence between Eugen Rosenstock-Huessy and Franz Rosenzweig. Read more

May 5
Two lectures on occasion of the 70th anniversary of Denmark's liberation 1945:
Post-Holocaust Theology, Philosophy and Literature. Read more
May 18-20
International conference and PhD course:
*(Hi)*Stories of Holocaust Memory – Jewish Thought in Modern Culture.* [Read more](#)

For updates and further activities in 2015, please see the CJMC calendar:

**OPEN POSITIONS / CURRENT CALLS**

- **Open Position in Sweden**

University of Gothenburg: Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and Theology: [http://www.gu.se/omuniversitetet/aktuellt/ledigaanstallningar?id=19144&Dnr=657221&Type=S](http://www.gu.se/omuniversitetet/aktuellt/ledigaanstallningar?id=19144&Dnr=657221&Type=S)

- **Current calls for applications in Denmark**

If you are interested in applying for a postdoctoral grant (2-3 years) funded by one of the following Danish funding agencies, and wish to be affiliated with CJMC, please contact Claudia Welz (cwe@teol.ku.dk):

- Danish Council for Independent Research|Humanities
- VELUX FOUNDATION
- Carlsberg Foundation

- **Scholarships for research stays at CJMC**

See [http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/students/browse/scholarship/125/erasmus-mundus-action-2-partnerships.html](http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/students/browse/scholarship/125/erasmus-mundus-action-2-partnerships.html) and


**RECENT PUBLICATIONS**

*By affiliated researchers in Scandinavia*

Since the field of Jewish Studies is still under-represented at universities in the Northern countries, and since many scholars in this field do their work more or less isolated, without the support of flourishing research environments, we include an overview of recent Scandinavian publications in the newsletter.
If you want to become part of the network and submit references to your recent work, you are welcome to contact Claudia Welz at cwe@teol.ku.dk.


Schleicher, Marianne


Svenungsson, Jayne

Welz, Claudia