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## Activities Report

**Kurt and Ursula Schubert Center for Jewish Studies**

**Faculty of Arts, Palacký University Olomouc**

**Academic year 2019/2020**





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Ladies and gentlemen, dear supporters of the Kurt and Ursula Schubert Center for Jewish Studies (CJS), Faculty of Arts (FoA), Palacký University in Olomouc (UPOL),

let me acquaint you with the **activities of CJS in the academic year 2019/2020**. While the winter semester of 2019 took place under normal conditions, the following summer semester and de facto the whole calendar year 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions associated with it interfered with teaching, research and public presentation of our results, and affected international academic and student mobility. Nevertheless, we managed to stay in active mode, completed several projects and organized a number of events. It would not be possible without the extraordinary commitment of all CJS members and especially without their determination to orientate themselves in the new environment, learn to work with online tools and adapt existing work procedures to the new situation. Immense gratitude and recognition belongs to all of them.

### **Teaching WS 2019 / SS 2020**

In the field of teaching, we managed to flexibly react to the situation. With the first-year students, for whom personal contact in the new academic environment is most important, we completed traditional **two-day excursions around the Jewish monuments of Moravia and Bohemia** in the autumn of 2019. We visited places connected with the history of smaller Jewish communities in Eastern Bohemia, e.g., Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Žamberk and Dobruška. The excursion was - as usual - attended by senior students who act as tutors of the newly enrolled colleagues. After the introduction of online teaching at the beginning of the summer semester, we managed to implement most of the courses online, communication with students remained lively and in some respects gained new dimensions thanks to the use of online tools. The fact that we managed to maintain quality teaching is proved by positive student evaluations, which have been conducted online for several years at Palacký University.

CJS traditionally opens not only courses for students of its own study programs, but also courses for those interested in Jewish Studies from all over the university. In the last few years, language courses have attracted the most interest, especially Arabic courses as well as modern Hebrew. CJS currently also offers modern Hebrew courses to the public as part of a lifelong learning program.

CJS teachers also guarantee and teach courses with Jewish topics, integrated into the study plans of related study programs (Religion Studies, German Studies, Czech Studies).



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Photo: CJS archive

Despite the disruption of **international academic motilities** throughout 2020, at least a few of the planned lectures and courses led by lecturers from partner foreign institutions were realized. Back in the winter semester, November 27, 2019, **Dr. Oren Roman from the University of Haifa** gave a lecture at CJS devoted to the basic development of the Yiddish language. From 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November **Dr. Dora Zsom from ELTE** organized a block course on *Arabic Amulets (types and usages), Magic & Mysticism: Sufi dhikr and Abraham Abulafia* and *Jewish Sufism: Abraham Maimonides and his circle*.

As part of the **Public Lectures Series**, which the CJS organizes in cooperation with experts from domestic and foreign collaborating institutions, the following lectures were delivered during the winter semester: **doc. Marek Preiss, Centrum Rafael, Prague: Transgenerational Transmission of Trauma** (16 October, 2019); **Chief Rabbi Karol Sidon: Derech chajim (The Way of Life) - Maharal's commentary on Pirkej avot** (13 November, 2019) and **prof. Ingeborg Fialová-Fürst, Department of German Studies FoA UPOL: Biblical figures (Moses) and their image in German literature** (4 December, 2019).

Students of Jewish Studies have proven to be creative, resourceful and, above all, practical. Within the framework of the seminar *Material Culture in Judaism* and under the guidance of Dr. Lenka Uličná they prepared practical tutorials, which may come in handy in the kitchen and in the shrine during and after the pandemic. Instructions for the crocheted kip can be found here: <https://youtu.be/iwuVHq-ap1M>,



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a cookbook called The Cookbook for the Perplexed here:  
[https://www.instagram.com/the\\_cookbook\\_for\\_the\\_perplexed/](https://www.instagram.com/the_cookbook_for_the_perplexed/)

### Awards

Collective publication of T. Visi, T. Bibring, D. Soukup (eds.), Berechiah ben Natronai ha-Naqdan's Works and Their Reception / L'oeuvre de Berechiah ben Natronai ha-Naqdan et sa réception, Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes, Sciences Religieuses (BEHE 182), Turnhout: Brepols, 2019, is an output of the project "Life and work of Berechiah ben Natronay ha-Nakdan" (CACR). In 2019 it received a significant award, the Honorable Mention of the Rector of Palacký University.

### Research and projects

CJS members continued their research projects supported by foreign and domestic grant institutions:

**"Averroes Edition"** (Thomas Institute, University of Cologne, Germany)

**"Revitalization of the Moravian Jewish Heritage Research"** (Excellence Research Project, UPOL, 2017-2020)

Project **"Support of small strategically important fields"** (Ministry of Education and Sports, 2016-2020), focused on interuniversity cooperation. Within this project, CJS developed joint activities especially with the Prague Center for Jewish Studies (PCJS; Charles University in Prague).

Several new projects have also been successfully launched:

Our cooperation with Thomas Institute of the University of Cologne coordinated by doc. Tamas Visi resulted in an important project **"Academic Jewish Studies Research Consortia. 'Hebrew Science in a European Context: Research Collaboration Olomouc-Cologne' "**, (The Rotschild Foundation Europe, 2019-2023).

In framework of the **Academic Jewish Studies - Jewish Language Teaching Fellowship project** (The Rotschild Foundation Europe, 2020-2023) CJS received support for Hebrew teaching by a native speaker. Since summer semester 2020, Peer Friedman, M.A. is teaching at CJS.

As part of the IGA project (FoA UPOL) **"Jewish Cultural and Intellectual History of Olomouc - Specialized Interactive Map"**, an application was created for smartphones, accompanying users in an attractive form of "city game" through the history of the Jewish community in Olomouc. The application in the Czech, English and German language versions responds to the current interest in Jewish history and culture as part of the national historical and cultural memory. It provides quality



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content and relevant information in an understandable and engaging way and thus becomes an effective tool both for making the city more attractive in the field of tourism and for preventing the growing xenophobia and anti-Semitism in society.

### **Conferences, workshops**

The International Summer School **“Schismatics, Heretics, and Religious Crisis: Frankism and the Turbulent 18th Century in East Central European Jewry”**, prepared in collaboration with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (funded by the European Association for Jewish Studies), scheduled for August 2020, had to be postponed to August 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Summer School is expected to welcome roughly twenty domestic and foreign students who will attend lectures and workshops by experts in the field, such as Prof. Pavel Maciejko (Johns Hopkins University), Prof. Rachel Elior (HUJI), Prof. Avishai Bar-Asher (HUJI), Prof. Tamas Visi (UPOL), Dr. Daniel Soukup (UPOL), Prof. Martin Elbel (UPOL) and Prof. Pavel Sládek (UK).

From 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019, the **8th International Student Workshop of Judaism and Jewish Studies in the Modern World. The Students Voice** took place. CJS, in cooperation with the Prague Center for Jewish Studies, welcomed students from Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Austria, Hungary, Ukraine, Sweden and the United Kingdom to a three-day workshop on Jewish history and culture, this year with special emphasis on space. Students showed their perception of space in a variety of areas: from the world-famous Aby Warburg Library, through the visualization of the Łódź Ghetto, the reconstruction of Jewish urban space in pre-war Stockholm to a variety of literary and philosophical topics. In addition to the teachers of FoA UPOL and the Charles University in Prague, guests from the Central European University in Budapest, the University of Haifa and the Kiev- Mohyljan Academy also commented on the contributions. Although this was for many of the students the first opportunity to present an English paper at an international symposium, the level of their presentations was comparable to regular academic conferences.



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Marcin Wodzinsky from the University of Wrocław also accepted the invitation to the international students conference, giving the participants a behind-the-scenes look at the Historical Atlas of Hasidism (2018).

Photo: Vojtěch Duda, 15 November, 2019

### **International mobility**

Despite significant restrictions to the possibilities of travel due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, student mobility continued. Within the Erasmus+ program, a total of four CJS students completed a semester at the **Hebrew University of Jerusalem** and at **Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan**. One student of the doctoral study program from Bar Ilan University completed a study stay at CJS where she conducted research into art (comics) in the Terezín Ghetto.



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## Internship

Within the framework of students' internships, CJS successfully cooperates with the following partner institutions: Yad Vashem Memorial in Jerusalem, Centropa in Vienna, Jewish Museum in Prague, Loštice Synagogue - Respect and Tolerance Association, and regional museums in the Czech Republic.

## Cultural and educational events for the public



MUZEUM UMĚNÍ OLOMOUČ, ŽIDOVSKÁ OBEC OLOMOUČ  
A CENTRUM JUDAISTICKÝCH STUDIÍ KURTA A URSULY  
SCHUBERTOVÝCH FF ÚP V OLOMOUČI  
Vás zvou na zahájení výstavy

### JINDŘICH BUXBAUM ZBOŽNÍ ŽIDÉ V EVROPĚ

v úterý 5. listopadu 2019 v 17.00 hodin ve druhém patře Vlastivědného muzea  
nám. Republiky 5, Olomouc

Výstava přináší výběr ze tří fotografických cyklů olomouckého fotografa  
Jindřicha Buxbauma – *Chasidů v Mikulově, Židů v Londýně a Chasidů v Antverpách*.  
Vznikaly mezi lety 2014–2018 a autor se v nich věnuje životu Chasidů a světu  
tradičního ultra-ortodoxního judaismu.

Výstavu zahájí fotograf Jindřich Štreit a judaista a bohemista Daniel Soukup.  
S hudebním programem vystoupí Hana a Petr Ulrychovi s houslistkou  
Kateřinou Štruncovou.

Záštita nad festivalem a výstavou převzala Jeho Excelence Daniel Meron,  
velvyslanec Státu Izrael v České republice.

Výstava potrvá do neděle 1. prosince 2019. Otváráno je denně kromě pondělí a úterý  
od 10.00 do 19.00 hodin | [www.vmo.cz](http://www.vmo.cz) | [www.muio.cz](http://www.muio.cz)

**DNY  
ŽIDOVSKÉ  
KULTURY  
OLOMOUČ**  
JIDÍŠ STÁLE ŽIJE!  
23.10. – 10.11.2019  
[www.muio.cz/dky](http://www.muio.cz/dky)

**JINDŘICH BUXBAUM**  
Až vyzrábám tečku, od útrob úst k ústům, obcovávám k fotografu.  
Bavím se po 8. ročníku ve Šternberku a velkou vzápětí mu byl otčen, který  
zažil léta genocidy v tenebrním ghettu a v Osvětimi.  
Židovství je pro něj konstantním měřítkem a glórie se sám k tomu hlásí.  
Řád se skvěle odlišuje vzhledem i vztahem chci své komunity jak v nás,  
tak v zahraničí a je jejich přirozenou součástí. Právě smí fotografovat  
na veřejnosti, když je schopen lidem vstoupit za zápy. Svou přítomností  
nikdy nesdílí, třeba jindy při otázkách táhne nebo komentuje. Tím,  
stojící na jeho křivce žije komunity a zanevší v tichosti i v tiché pouti  
svy, současně navzdory problémům bezpráví a rozptýlení v diasporě.  
Tímto je mu fotografování nebylo, vystavovat začal znovu v roce  
2006, a to rozhodně Štejn Židů, který je mu na spikrovaných cestách  
do jeho mlčevání země příjme rozptýlen. Postupně rozšířil Vzpomínkou  
na Osvětimi a Třebísku, pokračoval Židovskou školou dnes a Židovskou  
světovou. Jako umělecký dokumentarista židovské komunity musíme její  
střední život nejen v nás, ale i v rámci Evropy, ve Jevně a Říjnu. Žid  
v Antverpách, Židů Židů v Londýně. V posledních letech se aktivně věnuje  
zrychlení teorie Chasidů, světa tradičního ultra-ortodoxního judaismu  
a současnosti, a to prostřednictvím sázení tzv. příběhů. Na svých  
fotografických dokumentech jich každoročně nává na místo, kde jsou  
publikovány v rámci publikace Židovská úroveň a židovství.  
Seabur fotografů Židů v diasporě a texty jazyky a bohemisty Daniela  
Soukupa vyřel knižně. Je autorem úvodních i doprovodných fotografic  
ji publikuje. Jaroslava Achaba Heřmana. Židovské sdělení a publikování,  
jaké i knižně žije v ghettu a Třebísku.

From 30 October to 8 November 2019 the **11th festival Days of Jewish Culture Olomouc** took place, this time with the subtitle **Yiddish is still alive!** The professional section of the festival presented development and social connotations of Yiddish in Eastern Europe and in America, recalled some important research results and pointed out the overlaps in contemporary culture. A total of four films were presented in the film section. A special space was dedicated to currently iconic Yiddish films *American Matchmaker* and *The Light Ahead* by prominent American director and Olomouc native, Edgar Ulmer. The festival also focused on contemporary Israeli culture, and therefore two current Israeli documentaries on Ashkenazim in current Israeli society were presented. The musical duo Svetlana Kundish & Patrick Farrell performed as part of the festival, presenting a range of new Yiddish songs at an extraordinary concert in the Chapel of the Palacký University Art Center. The festival was

accompanied by an exhibition of photographs by Jindřich Buxbaum, *Pious Jews in Europe*, installed on the second floor of the Regional Museum in Olomouc. The exhibition brought a selection of three photograph collection by the Olomouc photographer - Chasidim in Mikulov, Jews in London and



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Chasidim in Antwerp (2014–2018). The festival was organized under the auspices of Ambassador of the State of Israel, His Excellency Daniel Meron, and the City of Olomouc.

17.2.-2.3.2020, CJS launched an exhibition of **Judita Matyášová *Jewish children in Denmark*** in the UPOL Art Center. The exhibition, accompanied by a public lecture and workshop for CJS and UPOL students, took place under the auspices of the Danish Embassy in the Czech Republic, represented by Michael Bennett Jensen, and under the auspices of the City of Olomouc, represented by Deputy Mayor Karel Konečný.



Photo: Vojtěch Duda, February 17, 2020

You can find more detailed information on our website: <https://judaistika.upol.cz/en>



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and on our Facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/CJSFFUP>.

Thank you for your attention, cooperation and kindness and we look forward to sharing our activities in the next academic year not only with students and colleagues from CJS and other UPOL institutions, with interested Czech and foreign experts, but also with supporters from the general public. We are convinced that the so-called third role of the university, the relation to society in addition to the role of education and research, should continue to gain in importance and we focus on communicating research results to the general public in a high-quality and comprehensible form.

For CJS

Dr. Ivana Cahová, Head of the department