

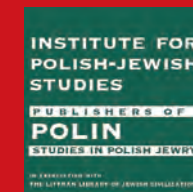
# Please support the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies

35 years of research and education dedicated to the legacy of Polish and East European Jewry

June 2019

2019

Jewish Roots Workshop 2019



## The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies

The Institute for Polish Jewish Studies receives no core funding from the State. Supporters therefore play a key role in sustaining the Institute – the key educational institution in Britain devoted to the history and culture of Polish and East European Jewry.

The Institute for Polish Jewish Studies is a registered charity in England (Charity number 293643).

Our web address is: <http://polishjewishstudies.co.uk>

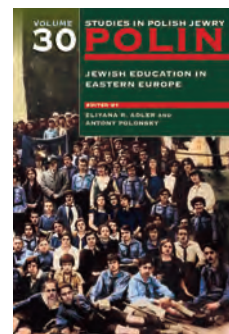
Supporting the Institute through your donations can make a contribution to realise the Institute's goals. These are:

- Preserving the history of Polish Jewry on an international basis
- Disseminating the results of research by means of publications, lectures, conferences, seminars and documentary films
- Focusing attention of the world public on what is most significant and precious in this legacy of Polish and East European Jewry
- Collaborating with our East European colleagues to understand our shared past.



Please support us with a donation to the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies. All donations can be Gift-aided.

You can donate online via BT MyDonate at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7m7erty>



Since 1984, the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies (IPJS) has been an international leader in the presentation and dissemination of academic research on eastern European Jewish history and culture, with a strong focus on the Polish-Lithuanian Jewish community.

The IPJS is best known for the publication of the yearbook *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, co-edited by the historians Antony Polonsky (Brandeis University) and François Guesnet (University College

London) and published by the Littman Library for Jewish Civilisation/Liverpool University Press. In recent years volumes have been dedicated to the history of the Jews in Lithuania, the Ukraine, Jewish education in Eastern Europe. *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* publishes original research by leading scholars from a variety of disciplines working in the fields of history, literary criticism, history of the Holocaust, and the history of Jewish-non-Jewish relations.

The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies has hosted a number of significant public events, with the yearly conference to launch the new volume of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry* being the most important. These events have been held in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and the Polish Cultural Institute, London. The IPJS cooperates with the Polish Cultural Institute, London, the Institute of Jewish Studies at University College London, and the American Association of Polish-Jewish Studies.

Public events devoted to a number of topics are organized throughout the year. These events focus on the rich and variegated history and culture of eastern European Jewish communities, as well as the Holocaust. Members of the Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies engage actively in academic research and education, and are frequent public speakers on the history and culture of Polish and eastern European Jewry, as well as on the history of the Holocaust.

To receive news of our events, please consider signing up to our emailing list if you have not already done so, here:

<http://eepurl.com/dskFFP>



The Institute for Polish-Jewish studies is delighted to announce a second Jewish Roots Workshop.

After the great success of our first Workshop, we are delighted to announce that we are planning a second one, hopefully to be held in June 2019, on the general questions of genealogy, with a focus on the fate of Jewish families during the Holocaust. We also hope to include your reflections on engaging with your family's eastern European roots.

We are planning four sessions: two genealogy sessions – one with the much-lauded Michael Tobias, a Vice-President of JewishGen, Inc and co-founder and Board member of Jewish Records Indexing- Poland (JRI-Poland); and this year we are also delighted to have Sima Velkovich, a researcher based at the Reference and Information Department of Yad Vashem, the internationally leading research centre for Holocaust history - as well as two family-research presentations. We also will be joined by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research UK, a new local branch of the internationally renowned institution from New York City.



Much-valued and mutually appreciated from last year's workshop, were the conversations between family-researchers and participants with our specialist IPJS historians of Jewish history in Eastern Europe, Prof Antony Polonsky and Dr. François Guesnet. They will be joining us again to continue this mutual exploration and enrichment, which this time should include lunch and a film screening.

Should you have a story of your family researches in Eastern Europe to tell, please email us at [jewishrootsworkshopipjs@gmail.com](mailto:jewishrootsworkshopipjs@gmail.com).

To receive updates, please consider signing up to our emailing list if you have not already done so, here:

<http://eepurl.com/dskFFP>



Tuesday 13 November, 6.30pm – 9pm

2018

## Memories of the Minsk Ghetto 1941–43

The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies in partnership with The Together Plan. An illustrated talk with extracts from her recently published book *'We Remember Lest the World Forgets'* by Debra Brunner, Co-Founder and Co-Director of The Together Plan



Debra Brunner has spent the last four years bringing into print in English the stories of the survivors of the Minsk Ghetto. These are the stories of loss, endurance and survival of 27 elderly Jewish people, the last of their generation. For the survivors of the Minsk Ghetto still living in Belarus, the publication of this volume marks a watershed. Those who perished will not be forgotten. With the awakening of Jewish life, the once whispered words of the child survivors of the Ghetto, previously uttered only in secret, are now shared with the world.

Debra Brunner is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of The Together Plan, an organisation working with socially and economically disadvantaged Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. They build relationships between individuals, communities and organisations in the UK, Belarus and beyond, to bring mutual support and friendship. Their partnering communities support orphanages, children's shelters, and special needs projects in wider Belarusian society.

**Tickets** £7.50 (£5 students)

Registration online only, through Eventbrite:  
<https://minskgetto.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Venue

UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT  
Anatomy Building, GO 4 Gavin de Beer LT

**Find us on the map:** <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/maps/gavin-de-beer-lt>



Wednesday 28 November, 6.30pm – 8pm  
Thursday, 29 November, 10am – 5pm

2018

## 8th Annual Litvak Days in London Music: Soundtracks of Jewish life in the wider world

Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania, University College London,  
The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies



Music and song have been constants in Jewish life, from the chanting of Jewish prayer to the instrumental music of Jewish weddings and celebrations, and the Litvak contribution to the musical

world includes Jascha Heifetz, George Gershwin, Benny Goodman, Leonard Cohen, and even the rock singer "Pink".

Lithuanian Jewish music was recognized as a musical style by the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, and its influence has become increasingly significant. Litvaks have contributed to the world of music in every field: from their inspiration to founding of the (Lithuanian) national composers' school; to the documentation in song and music of Nazi persecution, and its inspiration to partisan bravery and defiance during the Holocaust; to the Litvak contribution to classical music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and now, to the Litvak musical resurgence within contemporary Lithuanian music, following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This year's Litvak Days will honour the Litvak contribution to every genre in the field of music, to better understand and evoke the past, and enjoy its contemporary incarnations.

**Wednesday 28 November** 6.30pm – 8pm

**Concert by Aerogram** (from the heritage of Lithuanian (Litvak) music)  
**Tickets (free) and Programme:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/8th-litvak-days-in-london-day-1-concert-by-music-quartet-aerogram-tickets-51022053335>

**Thursday, 29 November** 10am – 5pm

**Conference: Music: soundtracks of Jewish life and the wider world.**  
**Tickets (free) and Programme:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/8th-litvak-days-in-london-day-2-conference-music-soundtracks-of-jewish-life-and-the-wider-world-tickets-51023450514>

A light lunch will be provided.



Monday 10 December 2018, 7pm – 8.30pm

2018

## Anna Bikont: On Irena Sendler

The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies is delighted to host Anna Bikont, journalist and writer, who will talk about Irena Sendler



Anna Bikont was a *Solidarity* activist and a co-founder of *Gazeta Wyborcza* – the first newspaper published legally in Poland outside communist control. She is the author of *The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime Jedwabne* which won the European Book Prize in 2011, and the recipient of many journalistic and literary awards.

In her presentation, Anna will discuss Irena Sendler, and her new book – a biography of this remarkable woman. Irena Sendler saved hundreds of Jewish

children from certain death in German-occupied Poland. The book is impeccably researched, very detailed and thorough. It shatters many myths and is perhaps the best biography of Sendler.

**Tickets** £7.50/£5 concessions, from Eventbrite:  
<https://sendler.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Venue

Media room (4th Floor)  
POSK  
238–246 King Street  
London W6 0RF

**Find us on the map:** <https://tinyurl.com/ycum7xaq>

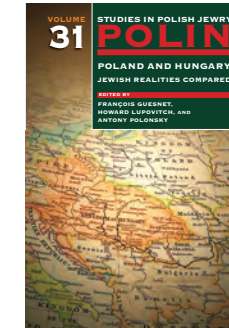


Tuesday, 29th January, 9.30am – 5.30pm

2019

## A One-Day Conference to launch Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry Vol. 31 – Poland and Hungary: Jewish Realities Compared

Organised by the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies and the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL. Co-organised and supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and the Polish Cultural Institute, London, with support from the UCL European Institute



At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Jewish communities of Poland and Hungary were the largest in the world and arguably the most culturally vibrant, yet they have rarely been studied comparatively. Despite the obvious similarities, historians have mainly preferred to highlight the differences and emphasize instead the central European character of Hungarian Jewry. Speakers at this conference will reflect on the usefulness of historical comparisons thinking about the

different social and cultural trajectory of Hungarian and Polish Jews, the Holocaust, historical consciousness, and the role of Jews in the respective entertainment industries. Author Barry Cohen joins us at the conclusion of the conference, with his reflections on conversations with Poles who discovered their Jewish origins late in life.

'*Polin Vol. 31*' is published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization/Liverpool University Press.

Volume Editors: François Guesnet, Howard Lupovitch and Antony Polonsky. It will be available to purchase at the conference at a 25% discount.

This event is open to all. Registration is required, online only.

**Conference Tickets** £15/£10 concessions + booking fee, includes coffee/tea and a kosher lunch.

### Registration, programme and tickets

<https://polandandhungary.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Venue

Embassy of the Republic of Poland,  
47 Portland Place, London W1B 1JH

