

# Dr Jonathan Kaplan

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### EDUCATION

- 2014-2022 **PhD in History**  
Freie Universität Berlin  
Thesis: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic and the National-Socialist Past [in German]  
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Martin Lücke (Freie Universität Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Moshe Zimmermann (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Award date: 22/04/2022
- 2009-2012 **Master's Degree in History**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Thesis: 'The German Question' in East German History Writing 1945-1961: Culture, Territory and Enemies [in Hebrew]  
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Moshe Zimmermann
- 2006-2009 **Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

### RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Since 2024 **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow**  
Project: The German Democratic Republic's Jewish Diplomacy and Coming to Terms with the Past  
[GDRJEWS](#) | Grant Agreement No: 101153882  
Center for European Studies  
University of Verona
- 2023 **Hilde Robinsohn-Guest Fellow**  
Moses Mendelssohn Center - European Jewish Studies  
University of Potsdam
- 2023 **Manfred Lahnstein Postdoctoral Fellow**  
The Bucerius Institute for Research of Contemporary German History and Society  
University of Haifa
- 2018-2019 **Junior Fellow**  
Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (WVI)
- 2015-2018 **Doctoral Fellow**  
Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk

- 2013-2014 **Visiting Doctoral Fellow**  
Graduate school at Jena Center – History of the 20th Century  
Friedrich Schiller University Jena
- 2011 **Visiting Scholar**  
Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow  
(Scholarship of the Free State of Saxony)
- 2010-2014 **Student Fellow**  
Richard Koebner Minerva Center for German History  
at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-2024 **Research Associate**  
Specialized Information Service (FID) for Jewish Studies  
Frankfurt University Library
- Research and project management
  - Workshop and exhibition organisation
  - Administration
- 2021 **Archival Research**  
for the Documentary Film “[The Round Number](#)”  
(David Fisher, Israel, 2021, 60 min.)
- 2020 **Research Associate**  
Bremen University  
German Research Foundation (DFG) Project:  
*“Bibliographical-Historiographical Handbook of the Historical German-Jewish Press from its Beginning (1755) to National-Socialism (1943)”*
- Bibliographic research on Hebrew-language periodicals, newspapers and journals published in Germany
- 2019-2020 **Research Assistant**  
Human Rights Center – Cottbus Prison Memorial
- Archival research on the history of the Cottbus Prison 1949-1989
  - Conducting interviews with former inmates of the Cottbus Prison
  - Organisation of public events and lectures on German-Jewish life in the German Democratic Republic

## TEACHING

- Summer Term **BA Seminar: A State of Crisis: Israel, Past and Present**  
2024 (03-HIS-0213.SE01)  
History Department, Leipzig University  
Module: 03-HIS-0213 History of the Cold War and Its Termination (1945 to the Present), Prof. Detlev Brunner
- 2013 **Research and Teaching Assistant**  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
MA Seminar on “Nazi Morality” (nr. 39923)  
Prof. Norbert Frei (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena)

## WORKSHOPS AND EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED

- 07/2023 “Jewish Books & Jewish Collections. Treasures of the University Library Frankfurt” Exhibition at the 12<sup>th</sup> EAJS Congress
- 07/2017 “Jews in German Film” - Workshop for Research Fellows of Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk, Berlin

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### MONOGRAPH

*Diplomatie der Aufarbeitung. Das Ministerium für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten der DDR und die nationalsozialistische Vergangenheit* (Berlin/Leipzig: Hentrich & Hentrich, 2022)

### ARTICLES

#### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“From Exile to Socialism: Jewish Returnees from the UK, Holocaust Memory, and Nation-Building in the GDR.” In *Yearbook of the Research Centre for German and Austrian Exile Studies*, Leiden: Brill (in preparation, forthcoming 2027)

“Between Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: East Germany’s Policies towards Israel in Historical Context.” *Journal for Religion, Society and Politics*. Wiesbaden: Springer (in review, forthcoming 2026)

“Fighting Nazis and Confronting the Past: The German Democratic Republic and the National Committee against Nazis in the United States.” In *Remembering Across the Iron Curtain*, edited by Anna Koch and Stephan Stach, 293–314. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2024

“[‘Queen Esther’ of the Third Reich: Leni Riefenstahl in the Hebrew-Speaking Press in 1930s Mandate Palestine.](#)” *Slit – Online Journal for History, Film and Television*, 2023: 55–85. [In Hebrew]

“[Die ‚kleinen Nazis‘ und die großen Diplomaten – Die Integration von ehemaligen Nationalsozialisten im Ministerium für Auswärtige Angelegenheiten der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik.](#)” *S:I.M.O.N. Shoah: Intervention. Methods. Documentation* 7, no. 2 (2020): 66–81. Vienna: Wiener Wiesenthal Institut für Holocaust-Studien (VWI)

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

„Zwischen Antizionismus und Antisemitismus: Die Israelpolitik der DDR im historischen Kontext.“ In *Münchener Beiträge zur jüdischen Geschichte und Kultur. Israel: Deutsche Projektionen*, Jg. 18, no. 2 (2024): 16–28. München: Lehrstuhl für Jüdische Geschichte und Kultur, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München

“‘ništ fun unzere?’ Israel-GDR Relations in the Israeli Press: The Case of Otto Winzer.” In *The Historical German-Jewish Press: Platform, Mouthpiece, Sources*, edited by Susanne Marten-Finnis and Michael Nagel, 425–439. Bremen: edition lumière, 2021

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *The Jewish Imperial Imagination: Leo Baeck and German-Jewish Thought*, by Yaniv Feller. *Political Theology* 26, no. 2 (2023): 214–216.

## TRANSLATIONS

“Lebenserinnerungen von Israel Alexander.” In *Bittersweet. Jüdisches Leben im Roten Wedding 1871–1929*, edited by Carsten Schmidt, 137–162. Berlin/Leipzig: Hentrich & Hentrich, 2023

## INVITED TALKS

- 2025 **Israelpolitik in der DDR. Ideologie und Diplomatie**, Seminar “German-Israeli Relations”, Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg (June 2025)
- The German Democratic Republic’s Jewish Diplomacy: Between Anti-Fascism, Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism**, Jewish History Colloquium, George Washington University (March 2025)
- 2024 **Socialist Anti-Zionism or East German Antisemitism? The Complex Relations between the German Democratic Republic and the State of Israel**, Rubin Forum, The Zvi Yavetz School of Historical Studies, Tel Aviv University (November 2024)
- 2019 **Ambassadors of Memory: The Struggle of guilt and Responsibility in the GDR**, Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) (February 2019)

## CONFERENCES

- 2025 **Diplomacy and Distrust. The GDR’s Cold War Pursuit of Jewish Recognition.** Session: “The Politics of Jewish Memory and Antisemitism in Cold War Eastern Europe: Political Spaces, Ideological Conflicts, and the Shaping of Jewish Identity”, AJS 57th Annual Conference (December 2025) [accepted]
- Jewish Identities in the GDR: Memory, Politics, and the Legacy of the Holocaust**, Holocaust Survivor “Diasporas”, House of the Wannsee Conference / Yad Vashem (September 2025)
- 2024 **Zwischen Antizionismus und Antisemitismus: Die Israelpolitik der DDR im historischen Kontext**, Israel: Deutsche Projektionen, Ludwig-Maximilian-Universität München (May 2024)
- 2023 **Am Rande der Diplomatie – Juden im Auswärtigen Dienst der DDR, ...und der Zukunft zugewandt? – Überjüdische Geschichte[n] in der DDR**, Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies, University of Potsdam / Jewish Museum Berlin (October 2023)
- Samuel Burr Yampol and the Fight against Nazis in the United States**, Publishing Anti-Fascism, University of Reading (September 2023)

**The Beginning of the Holocaust in Breslau 1933. Walter Steinfeld's Murder and its Impact on the German-Jewish Community.** Session: "Antisemitism and Shoah in Poland", Branching Out: Diversity of Jewish Studies, 12<sup>th</sup> EAJS Congress, Frankfurt am Main (July 2023)

- 2021 **The first Victim of the Holocaust. The Life and Death of Walter Steinfeld and the Jewish Community of Breslau in 1933**, Interdisciplinary Workshop: Jewish Communities in the Former German Eastern Territories 1920-1938, German Historical Institute, Warsaw (November 2021)
- 2019 **Israel-GDR Relations in the Israeli Press**, The Historical German Jewish Press as Interface. Platform, Mouthpiece, and Sources of Current Research Programmes, University of Bremen (November 2019)
- 2018 **The 'Small Nazis' and the Big Diplomats – The East German Foreign Ministry and the Nazi Past**, The Annual Workshop for Young Researchers in German History and Culture in Israel, Tel Aviv University (February 2018)
- 2017 **Foreign Policy, Ideology and Propaganda: Reading the Nazi Past in the East German Archives**, Annual Conference of the British Association for Holocaust Studies, University of Sheffield (July 2017)
- 2016 **Archiving the Nazi Past: Politics and Ideology of 'Coming to Terms' in the Stasi and the GDR Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Interdisciplinary Conference at the Department for European Languages and Cultures, University of Groningen (October 2016)

## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS AND PODCASTS

- 2024 [Podcast Jüdische Studien](#), Ep. 67: Zwischen Antizionismus und Antisemitismus: Die Israelpolitik der DDR im historischen Kontext
- 2023 ['The Jewess who had Hitler in her clutches'](#), *Haaretz*, April 7, 2023, p. 13.

## LANGUAGES

English – fluent

German – fluent

Hebrew – native speaker