



The field of research on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life

Working towards a European research hub

Independent
Expert
Report



The field of research on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life: Working towards a European research hub

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Working towards a
European research hub

This report was prepared by a research team working under the auspices of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR). Research and analysis was undertaken by report authors, Dr Keith Kahn-Harris (Project Director, European Jewish Research Archive) and Dr Jonathan Boyd (Executive Director, JPR). Analytical advice and support was provided by Dr Daniel Staetsky (Senior Research Fellow, JPR, and Director of the European Jewish Demography Unit).

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THE FIELD OF RESEARCH OF CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM AND JEWISH LIFE:

WORKING TOWARDS A EUROPEAN RESEARCH HUB

1. Introduction

This study is an outgrowth of the [*European Union Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life \(2021-2030\)*](#), published in Strasbourg on 5 October 2021. Among numerous other insights, the Strategy notes that the European Commission “has been supporting research on antisemitism, Jewish life and the Holocaust through Horizon 2020 and the Europe for Citizens programme, and it will continue to do so under their successors, Horizon Europe and the CERV programmes.” However, in its analysis, it adds that “university chairs on antisemitism and Jewish studies in the EU are only loosely connected” and that “there is no overarching research hub.” As a result, among the many plans outlined in the document, the EU announced its intention to “foster, in cooperation with the Member States and the research community, **the creation of a European research hub** on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life and culture fostering multidisciplinary research across Europe and fund research through Horizon Europe, on various structural forms of racism and xenophobia, taking into account national specificities and intersectionality.”

Elements of the research agenda already exist and are highlighted within the Strategy. In calling for “research efforts on all aspects of antisemitism and Jewish life in Europe [to] be increased to complement Holocaust research,” it notes that the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey on Jewish people’s experiences and perceptions of antisemitism will be run for the third time in 2023 and at regular intervals thereafter (indeed, the 2023 exercise is about to go into the field at the time of writing), the Eurobarometer on perceptions of antisemitism among the general public will be conducted for the second time in 2024 and every five years thereafter, and it indicates that an EU-wide survey on antisemitic prejudices in the general population of all Member States, including among young people, will be funded, a project that is currently out to tender and scheduled to commence in 2023.

Notwithstanding these important endeavours, this report asks some rather more fundamental questions. To what extent are the academic fields of contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life ready and able to respond to calls for such work or build on them? Indeed, to what extent do these fields of study exist at all as collective entities rather than as a set of disparate researchers? If such fields do exist, are they fit for purpose? What work needs to be done to ensure that the EU and individual EU Member States – and the Jewish communities within them – have the research infrastructure required to undertake empirically accurate research that can guide policy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life?

The recognition in the Strategy that a European research hub may be needed correctly assumes that the answers to these questions are not straightforward. Europe’s Jewish populations are small; with a handful of exceptions, most countries are home to fewer than 30,000 Jews, and many are much smaller than that. Setting aside the possibility that non-

Jewish researchers might be drawn into the field to study these topics, the pool of Jews from which one might draw expert researchers is modest and, in all probability, declining.

This study, therefore, takes these fundamental questions as its starting point. It has been conducted by three professional social scientists deeply engaged in the study of antisemitism and contemporary Jewish life, each with decades of experience in the field and currently based within, or associated with the [Institute for Jewish Policy Research \(JPR\)](#), a body that is described and discussed further within this report. In approaching the work, we devised a methodology to analyse the research that has been done on these topics over the past three decades, drawing on the [European Jewish Research Archive](#) (referred to herein as 'EJRA' or 'The Archive') which is housed at JPR. EJRA is an open-access repository of research papers and reports that have been published on the topics of interest since 1990. The Archive, established in 2014 with funding from the [Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe](#), holds the most comprehensive collection of such work, and by analysing its holdings variously by author (and particularly by a sub-sample of the most productive authors), as well as by subject, country/countries of interest, date, publisher and other variables, it is possible to make empirical assessments about the state of the field as a whole. Where appropriate and possible, we have drawn on other data sources to enhance our analysis, including Jewish population data, published reports, examination of institutional websites and interviews with key informants.¹

Our analysis demonstrates that while there is a fair degree of research activity on contemporary antisemitism and current Jewish life in Europe, it is a rather disparate field, if indeed one can describe it as a field at all. A small number of researchers are engaged regularly in the work, and only a fraction of them do so as their primary area of interest; many rather dip into it on occasion, while dedicating the bulk of their work to other topics. Vanishingly few university departments, academic research centres or independent research institutes exist with a specialist focus on antisemitism or contemporary Jewish life. Instead, with a few notable exceptions, the field is commonly sustained by individual academics who 'happen' to have an interest in these topics, and by specific research projects that are put out to tender and attract academics to them for their duration. That said, the amount of research being conducted on antisemitism is growing – far more studies have been published over the past decade than during the previous one, which, in turn, showed an increase on the decade before that – but at the same time, research on some other major topics that come under the general rubric of contemporary Jewish life, notably demography and education, is comparatively rare.

From the earliest stages of this study, there has been a question about where we might draw the boundaries around the field of interest. For example, when considering research on antisemitism, should the focus be exclusively on antisemitism as it is perceived and experienced today, or should it also include research on the Holocaust itself, or the historical roots of antisemitism, or indeed on racism more generally? And with regard to contemporary Jewish life, should that include contemporary studies of traditional Jewish texts, or aspects of Jewish history that may have implications for the present, or perhaps elements of Jewish education that might serve as an important basis from which to maintain and build Jewish life in the future? In truth, there are no simple answers to these questions, but ultimately, we have concluded that the field of interest here should simply be termed 'contemporary Jewish life,' and should include any research that aims to understand, support and protect Jewish life as it is lived in present-day Europe. We see research on antisemitism as a component part of that; the underlying purpose of research on contemporary antisemitism ought to be to

¹ Particular thanks go to Olaf Glöckner and Matthias Becker.

understand and ultimately to help combat it to ensure the continuation of Jewish life in Europe. Similarly, more general research on Jewish life ought to both monitor how Jewish populations and communities are faring in Europe today, and help guide communal and governmental policy on securing Jewish life on the continent for the foreseeable future.

That future is not secure. There were 3.2 million Jews living in Europe fifty years ago; today that figure is 1.3 million. Fifty years ago, there were 941,000 living in today's 27 EU Member States; the equivalent figure for 2020 is 789,000. Following the cataclysmic loss of Jewish life on the continent during the Second World War, most of Europe's Jewish populations have continued to decrease in size ever since, partly as a result of natural decline, partly through migration, and partly through a gradual, and sometimes government-imposed, erosion of Jewish identity. Today, only two EU Member States have Jewish populations of more than 100,000; eighteen have fewer than 10,000.

Thus, the research field of contemporary Jewish life in Europe matters. It should not be limited solely to understanding antisemitism and the Holocaust; for Jewish life to sustain itself, it needs not only to be protected from racist harassment, discrimination and violence, but also to be carefully monitored and supported to help it to grow. The main topics of research about Jewish life today – demography, identity, education, culture – are, therefore, essential parts of the endeavour; it is within these that we find evidence of communal life, and learn most about the health and prospects of Jewish communities across the continent.

Based on our analysis, we can see that those involved in research on these topics, and indeed on antisemitism itself, come from a wide range of disciplines, including sociology, political science, education, anthropology, geography, history, social statistics and demography, and they draw on a wide range of quantitative and qualitative research methods. We can also see that research quality varies significantly – whilst some is done by professionally-qualified experts in these fields, some is done by well-meaning amateurs, eager to address an issue of concern, particularly antisemitism. That is not to suggest that research done by professionals is credible and that done by amateurs is not – the picture is rather more complex than that – but it does indicate that research standards are patchy and inconsistent, and that the studies that affect policy may or may not be the most robust. All of this points to a need to define the field of study more clearly, to determine the skill sets one needs to acquire to become an expert in it or any part of it, and to put in place the mechanisms that will allow for such expertise to be developed and maintained over time.

In truth, part of the responsibility for such work should lie with the Jewish communities of Europe themselves – indeed, for Jewish life to flourish, it must take responsibility for its own development, including its internal research capacity. Yet, in addition to its own stated purposes, the research work that is already being facilitated by the European Union unquestionably contributes to this, and the proposal to establish a research hub should be welcomed warmly. In building it, it will be important to work with existing academic and Jewish community research frameworks that share a similar vision, so that European Jewish communities do not simply become reliant on the European Union to maintain the research infrastructure, but are rather inspired and supported to work in partnership with the EU to ensure that policy developed to sustain and develop Jewish life is always guided by the best possible evidence.

2. Explanation of key terms used in this report

- The **countries of interest** in this report are all EU Member States, together with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.
- The **field of interest** in this report is the field of research on contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism in the countries of interest.
- The main data sources for the project are:
 - The database of JPR's European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA) – which includes over 4000 records of research items for the field of interest in the countries of interest, published since 1990 – exported to the statistics programme SPSS. This will be referred to as **the EJRA holdings**.
 - The creation and analysis of a new dataset of the most productive researchers in the EJRA database for the countries of interest. The EJRA data are supplemented by biographical and other relevant information about researcher careers, drawn from web searches and information obtained through personal contacts. This will be referred to as **the sample**.
- The **sample** consists of the researchers who, up to and including the period from 2010 to the present, have been most prolific in publishing research-based publications in the field of interest concerning each individual country of interest as well as Europe as a whole.

3. Summary of key findings

3.1. The field

- The number of research studies per country increases according to the size of that country's Jewish population.
- The field cuts across national boundaries, including the boundaries of the EU.
- The proportion of research studies dealing with antisemitism has more than doubled between the 1990s and 2010s.
- In most countries of interest, antisemitism and the Holocaust are the most-researched topics, although in countries with a larger research community in the field, there is a greater diversity.
- Demography and education appear to be low down the list of research priorities in most countries.
- The field is not, in the majority of cases, part of the academic field of Jewish Studies.
- There is no institutionalised field of 'contemporary Jewish Studies' in Europe.

3.2. The sample

- The sample has 181 individual members. This is just under 8% of the total 2,324 authors listed in the European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA).
- Within this sample, we estimate that there is an inner cohort of 60 particularly active researchers who have devoted much of their career to it.
- However, this is not a field in which the ranks of its most productive members are dominated by long-serving researchers holding senior positions in universities and elsewhere.
- In terms of gender, the sample as a whole is almost equally balanced, with a slight leaning towards women.
- For 56% of the sample, field-related publications only constitute a minority of their total published output.
- The longer that a sample member's career lasts, the greater the possibility that they will also contribute to research outside the field.
- The number of researchers who have devoted their entire careers to the field is modest at best.
- Sample members are as likely to have come into the field as researchers trained in other topics and disciplines as they are to have specialised in the field during their research training.
- Sample members who specialise in antisemitism are more likely to have 'switched to' or 'dipped into' this field from other fields, compared to other field-relevant topics. Antisemitism is an 'attractive' topic to move into.
- Antisemitism is more likely to be a sample member's sole focus within the field compared to researchers on other topics.
- The field does not seem difficult to enter for those members of the sample who wish to do so.
- There is significant mobility within the sample, both in terms of countries of interest and career locations. The country in which a researcher is based does not always match the researcher's country of interest.
- English is the main language of scholarly publication for most of the sample, with German and French second and third respectively.

3.3. Centres and institutions

- There are only a limited number of existing institutional centres for the field, and most that do exist are not exclusively devoted to the field.
- No one institution can be said to have an ‘outsized’ impact on the field; only one exists that specialises in the field as a whole.
- Many of the most important existing nodes within the field are individuals rather than institutions.
- There is no evidence of systematic and organised Europe-wide or regional forms of organisation that connect researchers on contemporary Jewish life.
- There is no evidence of systematic and organised connections between research on contemporary Jewish life in Europe, and research on contemporary antisemitism and on Holocaust memorialisation in Europe.

Recommendations for the development of the field, drawn from the findings of this research, can be found in section 9 of this report.

4. Methodological summary

The methodology for the project was agreed in consultation with the European Commission in August 2022. As the main aim of this report is to make recommendations about what a ‘hub’ for the field of research on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life should look like, we sought to understand what this field looks like at present and what centres of activity already exist. There are two main ways to do this: (i) to start by investigating institutions, centres and departments where research of this kind takes place; or (ii) to start by investigating the researchers and their publications that make up the field. Given that the field is dispersed across a larger number of institutions, as we shall see, we have chosen to follow the second approach. By beginning with the individual, we can build a picture of the field and its existing institutional housing.

In order to do this, we have made use of one existing data source in particular: the European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA), maintained by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR). EJRA is a freely available online repository that seeks to include records of every item of research that has been published since 1990 and that focuses on antisemitism and/or Jewish life in Europe. It was built to be comprehensive, and work identifying its holdings has been undertaken since its establishment in 2014. Moreover, the database underpinning the Archive was constructed to enable export to data analysis packages, so it has allowed us to conduct detailed analyses of EJRA’s holdings and, by extension, the field of interest in general.

While scholarly publications in the field of interest can be found in multiple online databases, EJRA is a unique resource that was built to address a number of limitations in the accessibility of the field:

1. Existing databases in the field of Jewish Studies have highly incomplete holdings of scholarly works in this field.

2. Even within the most comprehensive databases (or portals such as Google Scholar), many search terms are imprecise and it would take dozens of separate searches to have any confidence in surveying the breadth of the field.
3. Search terms vary linguistically and there is no easy way to simultaneously include literature on the countries of interest in all relevant languages, through a single portal or database.
4. While many scholarly journals today use metadata to ensure that they appear in searches, that is not the case for all of them, particularly in countries with less developed scholarly infrastructures.
5. Certain kinds of publication – chapters in edited collections of ‘grey literature’ such as policy reports – do not show up in any searches at all, or are only posted online for limited time periods.

By seeking to consolidate records of all relevant works in the field in question for the countries of interest, EJRA provides the only viable database that would allow us to gain an overall picture of the field.

In 2020, JPR published the report [*Social Research on European Jewish Populations: The State of the Field*](#), which was based on extensive analysis of the EJRA holdings as of July 2019. The report also included a full methodological discussion exploring the challenges and potential of turning a database into a dataset.

For the current report, we re-ran some of the 2020 analysis, taking into account further additions to the archive since 2019, as well as technical improvements to the Archive that ensure greater analytical accuracy. The broad conclusions the earlier report makes about the field in question remain valid, although some of the individual statistics have changed. Unless otherwise stated, the figures quoted throughout this report are from the 2022 analysis.

However, EJRA has limitations as a data source in that its individual records are research publications. In order to investigate the careers of the researchers who make up the field – as well as the institutions within which they work and the scholarly infrastructure they make use of – we needed to construct a new database in which individual records were the researchers themselves. To do this, we used EJRA to identify a sample of the most productive researchers in each of the countries of interest. This sample consists of 181 individuals (inclusion criteria and other technical details are provided in the methodological appendix at the end of this report). Having identified the sample members, we used web searches and publicly available information to add further details of their careers, including their current place of work and their educational background.

As well as enabling us to calculate trends in research careers, the sample also allowed us to identify key institutions within the field. To this we added further information on those institutions, using a number of sources including information provided by selected key individual researchers. This further information enabled us to connect up the EJRA data to the institutions in which the field is ultimately housed.

We encourage readers of this report to read the methodological appendix in order to understand the findings more fully.

5. Analysis of the European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA) holdings

5.1. Countries

The European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA) includes records of 3,571 published items that include research for the countries of interest. Table 1a shows the number of items EJRA holds that concern (in whole or in part) each country of interest, ranked by the number of items. Individual EJRA items may concern multiple countries, hence the total number of items in EJRA is less than the sum of the column. A column is also included to show the size of each country's 'core' Jewish population as of 2020, to help assess the relationship between the size of its Jewish population and its research output.²

Table 1a confirms the broad finding of the 2020 EJRA report (see footnote 2) (with some minor switching of places in the country rankings), that ***the number of items per country increases according to the size of that country's Jewish population***. The table also shows that, as found in that previous study, there are some 'outliers' that are higher in the table than expected, notably Poland, Germany and Austria. These are of greater interest to the field than the relative and absolute sizes of their Jewish populations would suggest, whereas France, Switzerland and Denmark appear to have less coverage than would be predicted given the size of their Jewish populations.

² Population figures are taken from: Staetsky, Daniel and DellaPergola, Sergio (2020). [*Jews in Europe at the turn of the Millennium*](#). London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research, pp.68-70. The 'core' Jewish population is defined as "...all people who, when asked in a sociodemographic survey, identify themselves as Jews, or who are identified as Jews by a respondent in the same household, and do not profess another monotheistic religion" (p.22).

Country	Number of items	Percentage of total EJRA items for all countries of interest	Core Jewish population (2020)
United Kingdom	905	25.3%	292,000
Germany	790	22.1%	118,000
France	521	14.6%	448,000
Poland	445	12.5%	4,500
Hungary	317	8.9%	47,200
Ukraine	243	6.8%	45,000
Netherlands	181	5.1%	29,800
Belgium	167	4.7%	29,000
Austria	144	4.0%	10,300
Italy	144	4.0%	27,300
Sweden	141	3.9%	15,000
Spain	136	3.8%	13,000
Czechia	121	3.4%	3,900
Lithuania	116	3.2%	2,400
Romania	112	3.1%	8,900
Slovakia	99	2.8%	2,600
Switzerland	99	2.8%	18,500
Latvia	91	2.5%	2,400
Denmark	85	2.4%	6,400
Greece	78	2.2%	4,100
Moldova	77	2.2%	1,900
Norway	70	2.0%	1,300
Finland	68	1.9%	1,300
Portugal	64	1.8%	3,100
Croatia	61	1.7%	1,700
Serbia	60	1.7%	1,400
Estonia	59	1.7%	1,900
Bulgaria	56	1.6%	2,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	35	1.0%	500
Ireland	28	0.8%	2,700
Slovenia	23	0.6%	100
Luxembourg	22	0.6%	700
North Macedonia	15	0.4%	100
Cyprus	10	0.3%	300
Malta	9	0.3%	100
Montenegro	8	0.2%	0

Table 1a. Number of EJRA items that concern each country of interest, in whole or in part

Country	Number of items	Percentage of all items for country of interest	Core Jewish population (2020)
United Kingdom	721	79.7%	292,000
Germany	539	68.2%	118,000
France	349	67.0%	448,000
Switzerland	63	63.6%	18,500
Poland	271	60.9%	4,500
Hungary	190	59.9%	47,200
Finland	38	55.9%	1,300
Norway	39	55.7%	1,300
Spain	67	49.3%	13,000
Romania	55	49.1%	8,900
Netherlands	88	48.6%	29,800
Slovakia	47	47.5%	2,600
Italy	67	46.5%	27,300
Portugal	28	43.8%	3,100
Greece	33	42.3%	4,100
Sweden	59	41.8%	15,000
Austria	59	41.0%	10,300
Ukraine	98	40.3%	45,000
Belgium	66	39.5%	29,000
Bulgaria	21	37.5%	2,000
North Macedonia	5	33.3%	100
Serbia	20	33.3%	1,400
Croatia	20	32.8%	1,700
Czechia	39	32.2%	3,900
Bosnia and Herzegovina	11	31.4%	500
Denmark	26	30.6%	6,400
Moldova	22	28.6%	1,900
Lithuania	31	26.7%	2,400
Ireland	7	25.0%	2,700
Estonia	14	23.7%	1,900
Malta	2	22.2%	100
Slovenia	5	21.7%	100
Luxembourg	4	18.2%	700
Latvia	16	17.6%	4,500
Montenegro	1	12.5%	0
Cyprus	0	0.0%	300

Table 1b. Number of EJRA items for each country of interest that only concern that country of interest

Table 1b ranks countries by the number of items in the Archive that solely concern that country.

While there remains a correlation between the size of a country's Jewish population and the number of EJRA items that are solely devoted to that country, the pattern is less clear than in Table 1a. For example, Switzerland, Finland and Norway have climbed up the rankings, whereas Ukraine and Belgium have dropped.

The key variables determining a country's place in either or both rankings cannot easily be disentangled. We can occasionally account for the situation in some countries though. For example, Finland and Norway have recently hosted large, state-funded research projects on their countries' Jewish populations which have 'boosted' their standing.

Finally, while position in the rankings of items for a country solely dealing with that country may indicate the presence or otherwise of an ‘autonomous’ research field, ‘multi-country’ research is an important part of every country’s research field. Further, this kind of research can help bind the field together across national boundaries. While the United Kingdom has now left the EU and has the largest autonomous field, the entire EJRA collection for the UK also includes tags for 49 other countries, including all EU countries.

Other analyses conducted for our 2020 report found that individual countries of the Former Soviet Union, such as Ukraine, are more likely to be researched in conjunction with other countries of the same type, as are all former communist countries to a lesser degree. We can conclude therefore that ***the field cuts across national boundaries, including the boundaries of the EU***, and that ***funding for the field should ideally cut across those boundaries too***.

5.2. Topics

While items contained within the Archive are tagged with multiple selections from a list of several hundred topics, each item is also given one of seven mutually exclusive ‘main topic’ tags: Antisemitism; Culture and Heritage; Demography and Migration; Education; Holocaust and Memorial; Identity and Community; and ‘Other’. Table 2 shows their distribution for all items published from 1990 onwards.

Main Topic	Number of items	Percentage
Antisemitism	861	24.2
Identity and Community	649	18.2
Holocaust and Memorial	515	14.5
Culture and Heritage	289	8.1
Education	241	6.8
Demography and Migration	195	5.5
Other	814	22.8
Total	3564³	100.0

Table 2. Distribution of main topics in EJRA holdings covering countries of interest from 1990 onwards

The ‘Other’ main topic requires further explanation. When the main topic categories were first established during the early phases of EJRA’s development, they were identified based on existing communal discourse and understanding of the field. Initially, ‘Other’ constituted a small minority of items. However, as literature searches were expanded to help build the Archive, a considerable amount of research was discovered on a wide variety of areas beyond these main topic items. Indeed, the ‘Other’ category has now grown to the point that it needs to be recoded to form new main topics in future developments of the Archive, a task that is planned for the near future. In the meantime, we list in Table 3 the top twenty sub-topics for items that are tagged with the ‘Other’ main topic tag.

³ The small discrepancy between this number and the figure of 3,571 given on the previous page is due to a small number of items for which a main topic could not be reliably ascertained.

Sub-topic	Number of items	Percentage
Jewish/non-Jewish relations	89	9.2%
Haredi/Strictly Orthodox Jews	85	8.8%
Jewish-Muslim relations	76	7.9%
Ethnography	66	6.9%
Jewish revival	62	6.4%
Jewish organisations	62	6.4%
Post-1989 developments	56	5.8%
Jewish women	52	5.4%
Religious observance and practice	50	5.2%
Orthodox Judaism	43	4.5%
Language	42	4.4%
Health	41	4.3%
Family and household	39	4.0%
Politics	37	3.8%
Synagogues	36	3.7%
Diaspora	35	3.6%
Oral history and biography	33	3.4%
Ritual	32	3.3%
Interfaith dialogue	32	3.3%
Reform/Liberal/Progressive Judaism	31	3.2%

Table 3. Top twenty sub-topics under the 'Other' main topic tag in EJRA

The principal clusters of topics within 'Other' include Jewish organisations (including synagogues), relations between Jews and non-Jews, and *haredi* (strictly Orthodox) Judaism,⁴ each of which constitutes about 10% of the total number of items for this main topic.

Analysis shows that the distribution of all the main topics since 1990 (the cut-off date for inclusion into EJRA) has changed significantly over the past three decades (Figure 1).

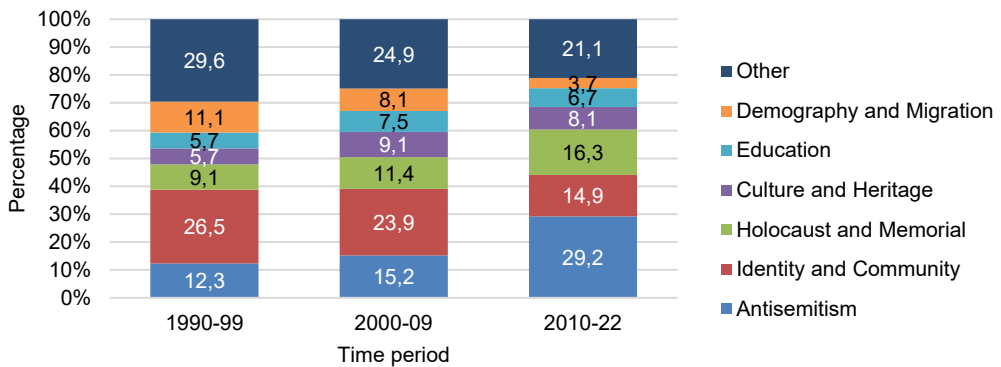


Figure 1: Distribution of main topics since 1990 in three multi-year bands

⁴ The UK is home to the largest *haredi* population in the world outside of Israel and the United States, and Belgium has the highest proportion of haredim within its total Jewish population of any country in the world. See: Staetsky, L. D. (2022). [Haredi Jews around the world: Population trends and estimates](#). London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

The proportion dealing with antisemitism has more than doubled between the 1990s and the 2010s. By contrast, ***Demography and Migration – never more than a small proportion of the whole – has fallen rapidly in recent years.*** This decline in emphasis on demography is striking given the acute demographic challenges facing most European Jewish communities.

Education⁵ is consistently low down the list of research priorities (although in certain countries it has increased since the 1990s). This is in striking contrast to the findings of five surveys of European Jewish leaders conducted by the JDC International Centre for Community Development between 2009 and 2021, all but the last of which suggested that ‘strengthening Jewish education’ was the principal issue of concern for those leaders.⁶

The distribution of main topics by country is complex, but some striking tendencies can be observed. Table 4 shows the principal main topic for each country of interest (i.e. the main topic that is assigned to the greatest proportion of that country’s EJRA holdings).

⁵ Note that education about the Holocaust and about antisemitism is included in the Holocaust and Memorial and Antisemitism main topics. The Education topic primarily concerns research on Jewish education.

⁶ See: Kosmin, Barry A. [*Fourth Survey of European Jewish Community Leaders and Professionals, 2018*](#). JDC International Centre for Community Development, American Joint Distribution Committee. November 2018. In the most recent study, strengthening Jewish education came in second place on the list of priorities.

Country	Principal main topic	Percentage of all country EJRA holdings	(If main topic is Other) Principal sub- topic within all items tagged with main topic Other
Austria	Identity and Community	16.8	
Belgium	Antisemitism	39.2	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Identity and Community	37.1	
Bulgaria	Holocaust and Memorial	32.1	
Croatia	Identity and Community	29.5	
Cyprus	Antisemitism	70.0	
Czechia	Antisemitism	37.2	
Denmark	Antisemitism	42.4	
Estonia	Holocaust and Memorial	28.8	
Finland	Identity and Community	36.8	
France	Other	33.8	Jewish-Muslim relations
Germany	Antisemitism	30.0	
Greece	Antisemitism	30.8	
Hungary	Antisemitism	29.0	
Ireland	Identity and Community	35.7	
Italy	Antisemitism	41.7	
Latvia	Antisemitism	28.6	
Lithuania	Holocaust and Memorial	33.6	
Luxembourg	Antisemitism	31.8	
Malta	Antisemitism	55.6	
Moldova	Other	22.1	Religious observance/practice
Montenegro	Identity and Community	37.5	
Netherlands	Antisemitism	34.8	
North Macedonia	Holocaust and Memorial	40.0	
Norway	Antisemitism	31.4	
Poland	Holocaust and Memorial	26.3	
Portugal	Identity and Community	26.6	
Romania	Antisemitism/Hol. & Mem.	33.9	
Serbia	Holocaust and Memorial	35.0	
Slovakia	Antisemitism	27.6	
Slovenia	Antisemitism	30.4	
Spain	Antisemitism	29.4	
Sweden	Antisemitism	39.7	
Switzerland	Antisemitism	39.4	
Ukraine	Other	34.8	Jewish relations with non-Jews
United Kingdom	Other	29.4	Haredi Jews

Table 4. Principal topic in each country of interest

One of the interesting findings here is ***the dominance of Antisemitism (19 countries) and Holocaust and Memorial (6) as the most researched topics. Together, they are the principal main research topics in over twice as many countries as those where Identity and Community (7) and Other (4) are the principal main topics.***

These findings have multiple possible interpretations. The dominance of Antisemitism or Holocaust and Memorial in many countries may suggest that concerns for the existential risks that Jews face and have faced may make such topics an urgent priority in research, at least in some countries, compared to topics concerned with Jewish life as it is lived today. Equally,

one might posit that antisemitism and the Holocaust have become central components of Jewish identity itself and that the research emphasis on them is a reflection of this: certainly, recent work on Jewish identity in Europe demonstrates that these topics rate very highly in the identities of European Jews.⁷

While we are not able to establish any relation between research interest in antisemitism and the current level of antisemitic crimes and discourse in a particular country, we do note that antisemitism has become a more salient topic in public discourse than was the case a couple of decades ago. The situation with regard to the Holocaust as a topic is similar inasmuch that in some countries – Poland being one example – memorialisation of the Holocaust has become a hotly contested public issue.

None of this is to say that the popularity of particular research topics directly correlates to the public salience of those topics. It is not possible to establish whether researchers and research funders are proactively ‘leading’ interest in these topics or whether they are reacting to it. We can say though that, as we will demonstrate later in this report, researchers seem to have more licence to switch into research on antisemitism and Holocaust memorialisation, compared to other field topics. However, it may also reflect an increasing interest in these topics among researchers, and/or increased access to funding for research on them.

To sound one note of caution on the above findings, we should not conflate Antisemitism and Holocaust and Memorial as main topics, nor assume that researchers move freely back and forth between these topics. Nor should we assume that the prominence of one topic guarantees the prominence of the other. These two topics occupy first and second place within eight countries,⁸ compared to 24 countries which had one of the two in first or second place.

We also note that further analysis of the Antisemitism main topic shows that only 5% of the items with this tag are concerned with Jewish people’s perceptions of antisemitism (although about a third are based on reports of antisemitic incidents, usually made by Jews themselves), perhaps because research on Jewish populations – like any population that is small, difficult to define and geographically skewed to very particular areas – is complex and requires considerable methodological expertise. However, it may also suggest that research on antisemitism is often disconnected from research on Jews. Of course, antisemitism is itself often disconnected from the reality of Jewish life in a particular location, or to the number of Jews in that location. This finding also suggests that the correlation between the size of a Jewish population and the number of EJRA items is even stronger if we leave out items concerning antisemitism.

Another limitation of the body of research on antisemitism is the near-complete absence of research evaluating programmes designed to combat antisemitism. This is perhaps particularly striking given the often fierce debate over the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, that there seems to have been little or no systematic research on how IHRA is interpreted and utilised by organisations. Yet the point is broader – given rising anxieties about antisemitism⁹ and the increased research

⁷ See: DellaPergola, S. and Staetsky, L. D. (2022). [The Jewish identities of European Jews: What, why and how?](#) London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

⁸ Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Romania.

⁹ See European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) (2018), [Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism. Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU.](#)

focus on the topic over time, the absence of any evaluative work on initiatives designed to address the problem is striking.

In the 2020 JPR report on EJRA, we also found that research on antisemitism and the Holocaust often forms a 'baseline': the kind of research that exists when no other research on contemporary Jewish life can be found within a country. Conversely, it is striking that both the United Kingdom and France – the countries with the two largest Jewish populations in Europe – have 'Other' as the main topic. In these countries there is a more diverse research 'ecosystem' that allows the 'luxury' of research on a wider range of topics.

We also note that **three topics – Education, Demography and Migration, and Culture and Heritage – are not the principal main topic for any country.** Indeed, thirteen countries of interest have no items dealing with Education at all, including countries with Jewish populations large enough to support Jewish schools and an educational infrastructure, such as Denmark, Italy and Greece.¹⁰

5.3. Conclusion

The research summarised here and in the 2020 report demonstrates that the field has considerable gaps in 'coverage' by country and by topic. Later in this report we will discuss what an 'ideal' distribution might look like. But any field of study is shaped by the interests of the individuals who contribute to it, and the field reflects both their priorities and the infrastructure that supports them. It is to these individuals and institutions that we now turn.

6. Analysis of the sample

The sample of the most active field researchers includes **181 individual members. This is just under 8% of the total 2,324 authors** who have contributed to EJRA publications as sole author or joint author.¹¹ Together, the sample is responsible for a minimum of 27% of all EJRA publications.¹²

6.1. Career progression

Although not all members of the sample currently work in universities, 92% of them hold PhDs.¹³ Table 5 shows that the majority of the sample who have PhDs received them since 2000 (the mean number of years since receipt of PhD is 26).

¹⁰ The full list is: Bosnia, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia.

¹¹ This figure excludes editors who have not also authored EJRA publications. Due to limitations with the database software that EJRA uses, it is not currently possible to count editors separately from authors.

¹² Due to limitations of the database software EJRA uses, it is not possible to state exactly how many publications sample members are responsible for. The minimum percentage number quoted is for all sole-authored publications by the sample members – a figure that can be calculated. The notional maximum percentage is just over 38%, but that assumes that no sample members co-author with each other, which we know to be untrue. So the 'real' figure is likely to be around 35%.

¹³ Note that, in this report, the figures quoted for some fields in the database are based on valid cases unless otherwise stated. In this particular case, it was not possible to ascertain whether six members of the sample hold PhDs. The 92% figure is based on 161 sample members out of the 175 for whom we have information.

Decade received PhD	Years since PhD	
	Number of individuals	Percentage
1960-69	3	2.0
1970-79	8	5.3
1980-89	15	10.0
1990-99	21	14.0
2000-09	48	32.0
2010-19	48	32.0
2020-22	7	4.7
Total	150	100.0

Table 5. Decades in which sample members received their PhD

Time since being awarded a PhD is not an automatic indicator of career stage or scholarly reputation. The various job titles that sample members hold were collated into a smaller number of current career stage categories (Table 6). As the criteria for inclusion in the sample is the degree of productivity by country, the sample deliberately controls for career stage; few of its members are PhD students or in the immediate post-PhD phase of their careers.

Career stage	Number of individuals	Percentage
Senior (e.g. Professor)	62	35.4
Mid-career (e.g. Docent, Senior Lecturer)	78	44.6
Junior ¹⁴ (e.g. Research Assistant)	13	7.4
Emeritus/Retired	18	10.3
Changed career	4	2.3
Total	175*	100.0

* No information of this type is available for the remaining six sample members.

Table 6. Assessment of career stage of sample members

More specifically, 38 members of the sample (21%) hold the job title Professor, Emeritus or Chair. Four of them hold the title of Chair.¹⁵

Interpreting these figures is difficult as we can make no simple comparison with other fields of research. However, we can say with some confidence that **this is not a field in which the ranks of its most productive members are dominated by long-serving researchers holding senior positions in universities and elsewhere**. Moreover, analysis of the dataset also shows that for 70% of the senior portion of the sample, field-relevant publications only constitute a minority of their total output (compared to 50% of mid-career and 25% of junior researchers in the sample). This seems to indicate that career pathways towards seniority may be less dependent on their work within the field in question than their work in other fields.

¹⁴ Two current PhD students who are on the verge of completing were included in this category.

¹⁵ Claudia Lenz, Chair for prevention of racism and antisemitism, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society; Karin Stögner, Chair of sociology, University of Passau; Monika Schwarz-Friesel, Chair and Head of Department for Linguistics, Technical University Berlin; Jolanta Ambrosewicz-Jacobs, UNESCO Chair in Education about the Holocaust, Jagiellon University of Krakow. [NB: In May 2022 the Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain (FCJE) and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) signed a cooperation agreement to launch the new Simone Veil Extraordinary Chair for the prevention of racism, antisemitism and the promotion of interculturality.]

There is certainly no hint in the data that the field is a route to career ‘success’ above other fields (which could be inferred, for example, by a recent promotion to seniority accompanied by a recent rise in proportion of field-related publications).

In terms of gender, the sample as a whole is almost equally balanced, albeit with a slight leaning towards females. 57% are female, as are 55% of those who hold Chairs, Professorships or Emeritus Professorships.¹⁶ In terms of the gender equality ‘health’ of the field, there does not seem to be an issue to be addressed here.

6.2. Productivity

The mean total number of EJRA items associated with sample members (as author/co-author or editor/co-editor) is 9.5, with a maximum of 48.¹⁷ Their distribution can be seen in Figure 2.

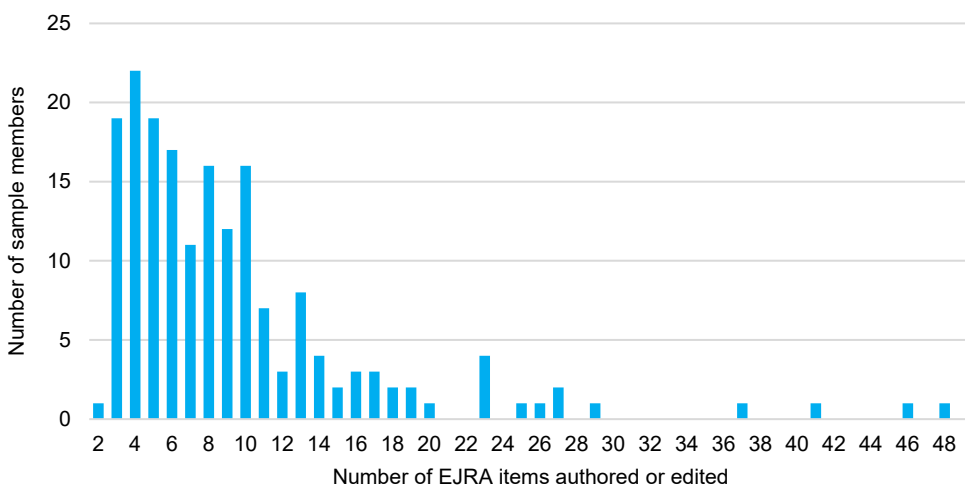


Figure 2. Distribution of output levels for sample members (all publications)

The mean total number of EJRA items associated with sample members as sole author or sole editor is 6, with a maximum of 36.¹⁸ The distribution can be seen in Figure 3.

¹⁶ There are some indications that the proportion of female sample members in the field has grown over the past few decades, with all those who have completed PhDs since 2020 female, compared to 25% in the 1970s, although the skewed distribution of the sample (with the majority receiving PhDs since 1990) makes drawing firm conclusions uncertain.

¹⁷ For András Kovács of Central European University.

¹⁸ Mark Tolts of Hebrew University (now retired but still active in the field) who has only one co-authored publication.

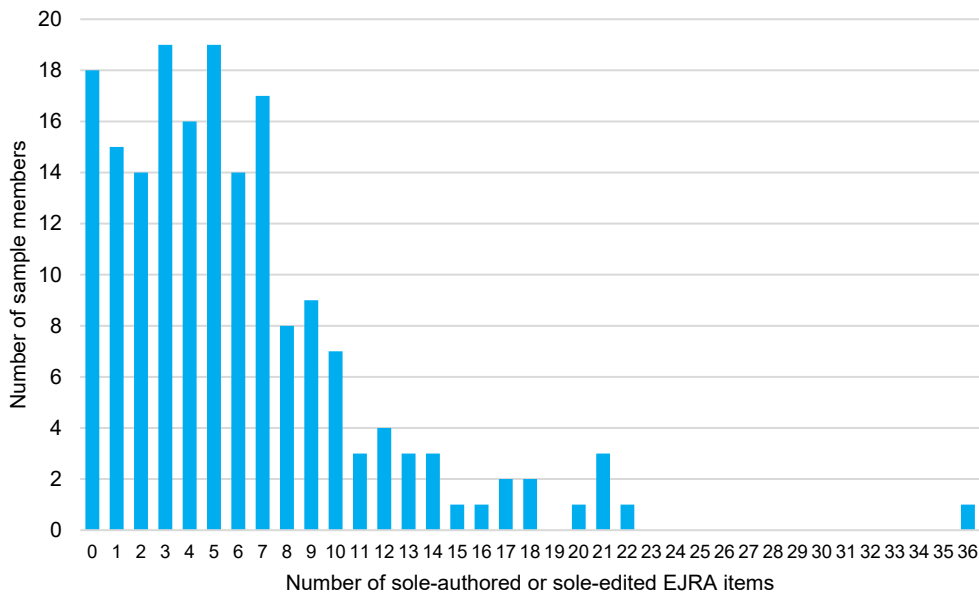


Figure 3. Distribution of output levels of sample members (solely- authored or edited publications only)

Both graphs show that only a minority of the sample has produced more than ten items, either individually or in collaboration with others. There may be multiple reasons for this comparatively modest output, for example being early career, having research interests outside the field, or having a teaching-only position that allows limited time for writing. Moreover, measuring productivity in terms of total number of publications is a rather blunt instrument insofar as a single-authored monograph ‘counts’ as much as a multi-authored journal article. **Nonetheless, it is worth noting that, for over half of the sample (56%), field-related publications are only a minority of their total published output.**

For each member of the sample, a judgement was made as to whether they were ‘active’, in the sense of having an ongoing programme of research in the field or another kind of commitment to it. 70% were judged as active according to these criteria. By combining this status with the proportion of field publications, we can split the field as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Proportion of sample members' output devoted to the field and whether active within the field

Again, we have no way of assessing whether the proportion of 37% (60 individuals) as active researchers for whom field publications constitute the majority of their work, is greater or lesser than in other fields. It is worth noting though that 60% of those in the junior career stage category are 'Majority-Active', compared to 43% mid-career and 29% senior. In the 2020 analysis of EJRA's holdings, we estimated (using a very different method) the minimum size of the most active and most committed 'inner core' of the field to be a minimum of 41 individuals. The figure of 60 as the most active and committed core of the sample, offers a complementary estimate. What we can say with a degree of confidence is that ***the field is small, and that the broad area of study remains the focus of one's entire career for only a minority of the sample.***

The reasons for such limited numbers of 'fully committed' field researchers could only be ascertained through a further (probably qualitative) piece of research that would investigate the sample through more direct means. There are several possible hypotheses that could be tested, and we list some of them here without preference for any of them:

- It is difficult to sustain a career exclusively in the field due to institutional pressures or limitations in funding.
- Researchers attracted to the field lose interest over time – or, conversely, become more interested in other areas as their careers progress.
- The field is a good jumping-off point for wider interests, or people deliberately use it for that.
- The field is considered too parochial by academia and/or Jewish communities so there is insufficient interest in the work – or the research being generated is not seen as policy-relevant.

6.3. Institutions, disciplines and research topics

The majority of the sample – nearly 80% – is affiliated with or employed by a university. The various types of institutions to which sample members are affiliated can be seen in Table 7.

Institution type	Number of sample members	Percentage
University	127	77.9
Jewish research organisation/think-tank	11	6.7
Research organisation/think-tank (non-Jewish)	8	4.9
Private sector (not research-related)	4	2.5
Government	2	1.2
Jewish college/school	2	1.2
Museum or memorial (Jewish)	2	1.2
NGO	2	1.2
Private research consultancy	2	1.2
Jewish NGO	1	0.6
Non-profit sector	1	0.6
Total	163*	100.0

* The remaining 18 in the sample are classified as either retired or having no current affiliation, or no information is available.

Table 7. Type of institution that sample members are affiliated to/employed by¹⁹

Amongst those sample members with a university affiliation, the diverse range of the types of departments and centres to which they are attached can be seen in Table 8.

Discipline	Frequency	Percentage
Social Science	44	38.3
Jewish Studies	22	19.1
History	10	8.7
Religious Studies	7	6.1
Education	6	5.2
Antisemitism/Racism/Holocaust	6	5.2
Humanities	5	4.3
Middle East/Israel studies	3	2.6
Other	12	10.4
Total	115	100.0

Table 8. Main research discipline of sample members, based on departmental affiliation

It is clear that the sample is positioned primarily within disciplines that do not require a specific interest in Jewish life, antisemitism, Israel, the Holocaust or related issues. It is particularly striking to see that only 19% are based in a department or centre of Jewish Studies and just 5.2% in a department that focuses on antisemitism, racism and/or the Holocaust. In other

¹⁹ Some sample members have multiple affiliations. This table summarises the principal affiliation, defined in terms of being the most enduring or the one that is the principal employer. In any case, most sample members who have multiple affiliations are associated with multiple universities, which does not impact on the table.

words, **most members of the sample are not institutionally ‘obliged’ to work within the field in question.**

An analysis of the disciplines in which sample members completed PhDs reveals an even more striking picture (Table 9).

Discipline	Frequency	Percentage
Social Science	88	59.1
History	22	14.8
Education	9	6.0
Jewish Studies and Bible	7	4.7
Humanities	6	4.0
Religious Studies	5	3.4
Other	12	8.1
Total	149	100.0

Table 9. Discipline in which sample members completed their PhD

The majority of sample members were trained in departments and disciplines that do not have an explicit connection to the field (although particular PhD supervisors might be connected to it).

On the basis of the previous two tables, we can conclude that ***the field in question is not, in the vast majority of cases, part of the field of Jewish Studies*** and that ***there is no institutionalised field of ‘contemporary Jewish Studies’ in Europe.***

In terms of the research topics for sample members’ doctorates, under half (47%) were relevant to the field. Another 17% were in related fields (such as Jewish history) and 30% were either unrelated to the field or in another Jewish-related topic. We can conclude from this that ***sample members are as likely to have come into the field as researchers trained in other topics and disciplines as they are to have specialised in the field during their research training.*** This may also suggest that ***the field does not seem difficult to enter for those researchers who wish to do so*** (although that does not necessarily imply that there are positive incentives to enter the field compared to incentives to enter other fields). This further raises questions about the quality of the research, and whether the field, or parts of it, requires specialist, field-specific training – an issue we will return to.

Researchers who completed PhDs in field-related topics specialised in the main topics shown in Table 10.

Main topic of dissertation	Frequency	Percentage of all field-related PhDs	Percentage of all PhDs
Identity and Community	21	28.0	14.9
Holocaust and Memorial	11	14.7	7.8
Antisemitism	8	10.7	5.7
Demography and Migration	7	9.3	5.0
Culture and Heritage	4	5.3	2.8
Education	4	5.3	2.8
Other	20	26.7	14.2
Total	75*	100.0	46.8

* Note that the remaining 100 other members of the sample who completed PhDs – 57% of the total – specialised in non-field topics.

Table 10. PhD dissertation main topic among sample members who have completed PhDs in the field

Given that antisemitism is first in the rank of EJRA items, as we demonstrated above (see Table 2), it is striking to see how few sample members have completed PhDs on the topic. This finding is reinforced when we compare the distribution of PhD main topics in the field with the distribution of principal main topics for each sample member's publications (Table 11). The top percentage in each column is shaded in blue, with the bottom in orange.

Main topic of dissertation	Sample		Entirety of EJRA
	Percentage of all field-related PhDs	Principal main topic in individual EJRA holdings	
Identity and Community	28.0	22.7	18.2
Holocaust and Memorial	14.7	13.3	14.5
Antisemitism	10.7	29.8	24.2
Demography and Migration	9.3	4.4	5.5
Culture and Heritage	5.3	6.6	8.1
Education	5.3	3.3	6.8
Other	26.7	19.9	22.8

Table 11. Comparison between sample member PhD main topics (if field-related) and main topic in EJRA holdings

While antisemitism is the fourth most popular PhD main topic (including 'Other'), it is the principal main topic within EJRA and for the sample as a whole. Moreover, other analysis discovered that **62% of those within the sample for whom antisemitism was their principal main topic had completed PhDs on topics other than antisemitism and contemporary Jewish life**. This is the highest proportion of PhDs outside the field for any other main topic. It seems, therefore, that **antisemitism may be an 'attractive' topic to switch to in the course of a career**, but raises questions about research expertise.

As we have seen, the Antisemitism main topic has taken up an increasingly large proportion of EJRA's holdings since 1990. It seems that a significant part of that growth can be accounted for by researchers who have switched to it after they have already been trained and established research careers, often in an entirely different discipline. All of this raises questions of whether this 'switching' may mean that any methodological specificities of antisemitism research are ignored. There is certainly a strong possibility that the limited numbers of researchers trained with *both* social scientific skills *and* with substantive academic grounding in the study of antisemitism means that there is a paucity of people properly qualified to contribute to and shape policy-oriented research on antisemitism. It is also possible that the sub-field of contemporary antisemitism studies may be insufficiently developed to attract PhD candidates, at least in some countries.

There is less switching with regard to Education, Demography and Migration, and Culture and Heritage, which are the bottom three topics in all three distributions (Education being bottom and joint bottom in the first two).

Of course, we are only speaking here of the *principal* main topic. Not only may EJRA holdings for particular individuals include multiple main topics, but the main topics themselves do not preclude covering other topics as well. In fact, only 23% of the sample have the same main topic for every EJRA item they have published. The mean number of sub-topics that is covered by sample members in their total field-relevant publications is 19.3, although individual items usually have fewer topic tags than this.

There are revealing disparities between different main topics in how far they attract researchers whose career within the field is only concerned with one main topic, as Table 12 demonstrates.

Sample member main topic	Do all items concern main topic?	
	Yes (%)	No (%)
Antisemitism	40.7	59.3
Holocaust and Memorial	29.2	70.8
Demography and Migration	25.0	75.0
Education	16.7	83.3
Culture and Heritage	8.3	91.7
Identity and Community	7.3	92.7
Other	13.9	86.1
Total	22.7	77.3

Table 12. Degree to which sample member EJRA holdings concern their principal main topic

Antisemitism is more likely to be a sample member's sole focus within the field compared to other main topics – indeed, it is over five times more likely than those whose principal main topic is Identity and Community. It seems that, whereas Identity and Community is explored by researchers with wide-ranging interests within the field as a whole, Antisemitism is more likely to be disconnected from other research in the field. We should add that we cannot discount the possibility that those with an interest in topics other than antisemitism may struggle to sustain that interest because of difficulties in attracting funding for those other topics.

Sample members also differ in the extent to which a principal main topic binds them to the field. Table 13 compares principal main topics by the proportion of a sample member's publication career that has been devoted to the field.

Sample member principal main topic	Majority (%)	Minority (%)
Demography and Migration	87.5	12.5
Identity and Community	51.2	48.8
Education	50.0	50.0
Antisemitism	37.7	62.3
Culture and Heritage	33.3	66.7
Holocaust and Memorial	22.7	77.3
Other	51.4	48.6

Table 13. Proportion of field-relevant publications throughout sample member's career (%)

At one extreme, Demography and Migration is the majority career preoccupation for those who specialise in it, perhaps because it requires technical expertise in quantitative data gathering and analysis, alongside interest in engagement in Jewish life. At the other end, Holocaust and Memorial is a minority career preoccupation, with both Antisemitism and Culture and Heritage also forming a minority of sample member career publications. In other words, **whereas Demography and Migration and, to a lesser extent, Identity and Community and Education, appear to be specialisms that require a career commitment, topics such as the Holocaust, Antisemitism and Culture seem to be seen as topics that one is more likely to 'dip into'.**

Finally, there appears to be no clear correlation between the principal main topic and career stage or gender: we have no evidence that the sense of the accessibility and attractiveness of particular topics is dependent upon experience or background.

6.4. Geographic coverage

As with main topics, the sample dataset records the principal country of interest with which each sample member engages in their work. 32 countries are recorded (Table 14).

Country	Number of sample members	Percentage
United Kingdom	20	11.0
Germany	16	8.8
France	14	7.7
Netherlands	11	6.1
Poland	11	6.1
Hungary	10	5.5
Europe*	9	5.0
Ukraine	8	4.4
Lithuania	6	3.3
Norway	6	3.3
Spain	6	3.3
Austria	5	2.8
Belgium	5	2.8
Finland	5	2.8
Romania	5	2.8
Sweden	5	2.8
Czechia	4	2.2
Serbia	4	2.2
Switzerland	4	2.2
Bosnia	3	1.7
Croatia	3	1.7
Italy	3	1.7
Moldova	3	1.7
Slovakia	3	1.7
Bulgaria	2	1.1
Former Soviet Union*	2	1.1
Greece	2	1.1
Portugal	2	1.1
Estonia	1	0.6
Ireland	1	0.6
Latvia	1	0.6
North Macedonia	1	0.6
Total	181	100.0

* 'Europe' and the 'Former Soviet Union' are treated as individual countries in cases where sample members frame their research principally in terms of these concepts.

Table 14. Principal country of research interest for sample members

There are a number of countries of interest missing from the table: Cyprus, Denmark, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro and Slovenia. The absence of Denmark is not unexpected given that, as we saw earlier, Jewish life in Denmark appears to have less research published on it that we would expect from the size of its Jewish population (6,400). However, two sample members are based in Denmark²⁰ and while their primary specialism is actually in Sweden, both have published on Denmark too. We do not have a satisfactory explanation for the

²⁰ Lars Dencik and Karl Marosi.

under-representation of Denmark, but we note that Sweden's larger Jewish population (of 15,000) and the close ties between the two countries may be part of the reason. It may also be that there is a livelier national conversation about Jews in Sweden, given debates about circumcision and Jewish ritual slaughter, which drives research in some way.

In any case, the identification of a principal country of interest for each sample member does not mean that this is the only country with which they are concerned. 50% of sample members have publications that cover more than one European country of interest, with a mean of 3.9 countries per sample member. We can also distinguish between EJRA items that solely concern one country and those that cover multiple countries. This allows us to assess the extent to which sample members are 'committed' to one country of interest or multiples ones, both in terms of individual items and the totality of field-related publications (Figure 5).

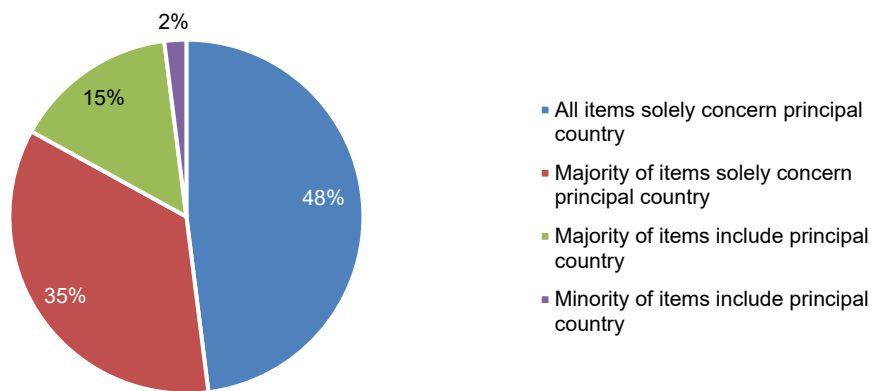


Figure 5. Proportion of sample members' EJRA items that concern principal country

Figure 5 shows that all but 2% of the sample have a principal country of expertise and just under half of the sample is only concerned with one country. Between the two extremes, half of sample members cover their principal country in the majority of their publications, but with varying degrees of exclusive focus.

Not all researchers are located in their principal country of interest. Table 15 shows the country location of the institution where sample members are principally based.

Country	Number of sample members	Percentage
United Kingdom	21	12.7
Israel	16	9.6
France	12	7.2
Germany	12	7.2
USA	12	7.2
Netherlands	11	6.6
Hungary ²¹	10	6.0
Poland	8	4.8
Norway	6	3.6
Sweden	6	3.6
Belgium	5	3.0
Austria	4	2.4
Czechia	4	2.4
Lithuania	4	2.4
Switzerland	4	2.4
Finland	3	1.8
Romania	3	1.8
Russia	3	1.8
Serbia	3	1.8
Canada	2	1.2
Croatia	2	1.2
Denmark	2	1.2
Italy	2	1.2
Slovakia	2	1.2
Bosnia	1	0.6
Bulgaria	1	0.6
Estonia	1	0.6
Greece	1	0.6
Ireland	1	0.6
Moldova	1	0.6
Portugal	1	0.6
Spain	1	0.6
Ukraine	1	0.6
Total	166*	100.0

* 15 sample members are either retired, have no current affiliation, or there is no information available for them.

Table 15. Principal country location for sample members

There are 33 countries on this list. The 'missing' countries of interest are Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro and Slovenia. Figure 6 consolidates the principal country locations further.

²¹ Two sample members are based at the Central European University, which has relocated from Hungary to Austria. For the purposes of this analysis this university is treated as being located in Hungary.

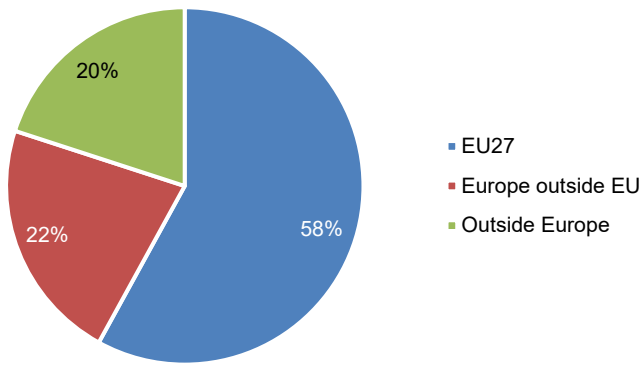


Figure 6. Sample member locations, by region (%)

Of particular note is that 33 sample members, 20% of the total, are located outside of Europe (broadly defined): in Israel, the USA, Canada and Russia. Whilst some of these were born in Europe or grew up there, it is perhaps gratifying to note that the majority of the sample (80%) is currently based within Europe and, hence, their research is, broadly speaking, 'indigenous'. That stated, it is striking that over a quarter of the Europe-based sample is based outside of the European Union, mostly in the UK, which is home to the single largest sub-group within the sample.

Table 16 shows the countries where sample members who have doctorates received their PhDs (including PhDs that are *not* in the field topics of interest).

Country	Number of sample members	Percentage
United Kingdom	23	14.8
Germany	17	11.0
USA	16	10.3
France	15	9.7
Israel	11	7.1
Hungary	8	5.2
Russia ²²	6	3.9
Finland	5	3.2
Poland	5	3.2
Austria	4	2.6
Czechia	4	2.6
Italy	4	2.6
Netherlands	4	2.6
Sweden	4	2.6
Norway	3	1.9
Spain	3	1.9
Switzerland	3	1.9
Belgium	2	1.3
Bosnia ²³	2	1.3
Lithuania	2	1.3
Romania	2	1.3
Serbia	2	1.3
Slovakia ²⁴	2	1.3
Belarus	1	0.6
Bulgaria	1	0.6
Canada	1	0.6
Estonia	1	0.6
Greece	1	0.6
Ireland	1	0.6
Moldova	1	0.6
Portugal	1	0.6
Total	155	100.0

Table 16. Country location for sample PhDs

There are 31 countries on this list. The missing countries of interest are: Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Latvia, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Slovenia and Ukraine. The consolidated proportions (Figure 7) are almost identical to those shown previously in Figure 6.

²² Includes PhDs completed in Russia when it was part of the Former Soviet Union.

²³ Includes one PhD completed in Bosnia whilst it was part of the former Yugoslavia.

²⁴ Includes one PhD completed in Slovakia whilst it was part of the former Czechoslovakia.

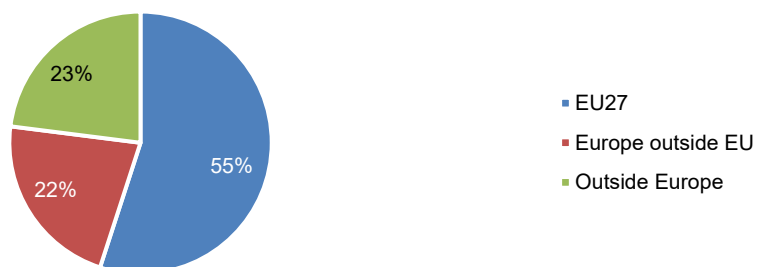


Figure 7. Location where sample members received PhD, by region (%)

34 PhDs, 22% of the total, were completed in countries either outside Europe or outside the countries of interest (USA, Israel, Canada, Russia and Belarus).

For PhDs completed in field-related topics, the principal countries of interest for the PhD are shown in Table 17 (note that this includes field-related PhDs where the principal country of interest is outside the countries of interest for this report).

Country	Frequency	Valid percent
United Kingdom	12	14.5
France	10	12.0
Germany	7	8.4
Poland	6	7.2
Spain	6	7.2
Austria	4	4.8
Lithuania	4	4.8
Belgium	3	3.6
Hungary	3	3.6
Bosnia	2	2.4
Croatia	2	2.4
Finland	2	2.4
Israel	2	2.4
Serbia	2	2.4
Slovakia	2	2.4
Switzerland	2	2.4
Ukraine	2	2.4
USA	2	2.4
Estonia	1	1.2
Europe	1	1.2
FSU	1	1.2
Greece	1	1.2
Ireland	1	1.2
Italy	1	1.2
Latvia	1	1.2
Netherlands	1	1.2
Portugal	1	1.2
Sweden	1	1.2
Total	83	100.0

Table 17. Country location for PhDs in the field

The table includes 28 countries. Here, the missing countries of interest are Cyprus, Denmark, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Montenegro, Norway and Slovenia. In Figure 8, the consolidated percentages are substantially different to those found in Figures 6 and 7.



Figure 8. Location where sample members received PhD (field topics only), by region (%)

The fact that only 7% of PhDs in the field were received at universities outside Europe shows that doctoral research in the field is likely to be conducted in institutions that are ‘close to the ground’. However, as can be seen in Figure 9, the relationship between the country where a doctorate was received, the researcher’s country of interest and subsequent career locations is much more fluid.

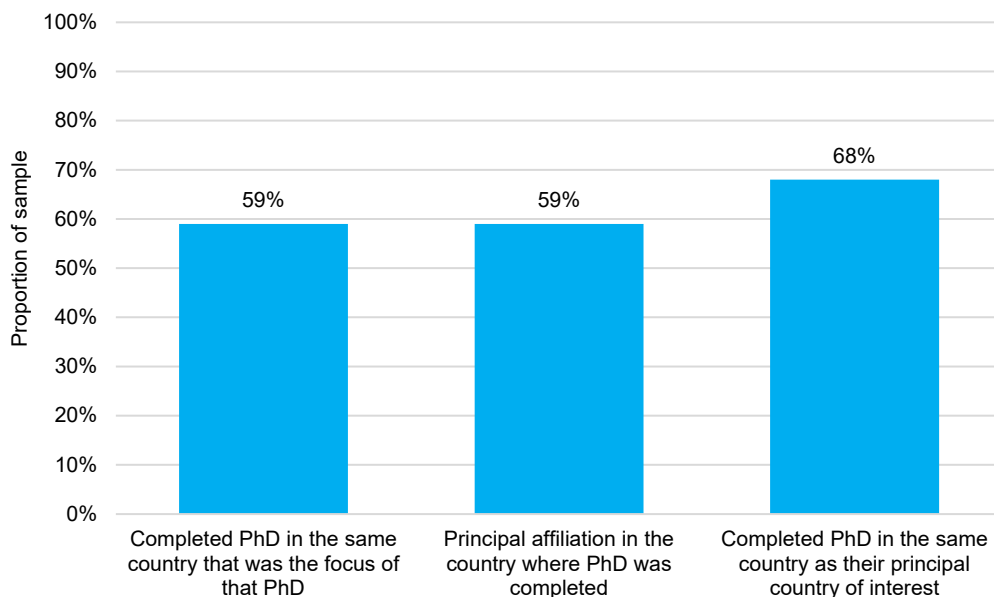


Figure 9. Measures of ‘cross-border’ research training and subsequent careers (%)

We can conclude from the data presented above that for a large minority of the sample, **there is significant mobility within the field, both in terms of countries of interest and career locations and that the country in which a researcher is based does not always match the researcher’s country of interest.** It is also distinctly possible – although we have no way of demonstrating this with the data available to us – that one of the longer-term

consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic may well be to deepen the ways in which **research in one location does not always have to involve presence within that same location**.

Of course, we note that for the majority of sample members, PhD location, current affiliation and country of interest do indeed form a seamless whole. But it is clear that focusing the future development of the field in one physical location might not reflect the ‘messy’ fact that cross-border research and career mobility between countries is a common reality within the field. Moreover, the overarching story of Jewish demographic decline in Europe combined with the fact that such a sizeable proportion of field-committed researchers is based outside of the EU, suggests that one needs to approach the question of where to locate the centre of the field rather carefully, if indeed it should be located in a physical space at all. Certainly, any plan for a proposed hub in the field of research on antisemitism and contemporary Jewish life would need to ensure that it was open to the involvement of researchers who cannot or do not want to curtail their mobility. In other words, **field careers should not be restricted to one country or one geographic region**.

6.5. Language

Sample members have published in multiple languages. Table 18 shows the principal language in each sample member’s EJRA holdings.

Language	Number of sample members	Percentage
English	118	65.6
German	13	7.2
French	12	6.7
Dutch	10	5.6
Hungarian	5	2.8
Norwegian	4	2.2
Polish	3	1.7
Russian	3	1.7
Czech	2	1.1
Italian	2	1.1
Catalan	1	0.6
Croatian	1	0.6
Lithuanian	1	0.6
Portuguese	1	0.6
Romanian	1	0.6
Slovak	1	0.6
Spanish	1	0.6
Swedish	1	0.6
Total	180	100.0

Table 18. Principle language of publication (in EJRA)

While this list contains eighteen principal languages, **English remains the dominant language of scholarly publication for most of the sample** and no other principal language is used for more than 8% of it. Indeed, for 59% of the sample whose principal country of expertise was not English-speaking, their principal language of publication was English. The principal language of publication ‘matched’ the principal country of expertise for 50% of the sample, although this rises to 71% when taking into account secondary languages of publication.

7. Institutions and infrastructure

In order to assist the European Commission's planning for a research hub in the field of contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life, we need to assess the potential and limitations of existing centres. However, it is not easy to define what a 'centre' might mean in this context and what models might be useful to learn from. What we can do, though, is take a closer look at the institutions and infrastructure that sustain the sample members and the wider field at present. We begin by looking at centres within universities, before

7.1. Universities, university departments and centres

The 161 members of the sample who hold PhDs studied at 104 different universities, based in 31 different countries. The 157 members of the sample who have an institutional 'base', are affiliated to 120 different institutions, of which 97 are universities, in 32 countries. These figures alone suggest that there is no one university or institution that 'dominates' what is clearly a very diverse sample. However, are there significant concentrations of field researchers in any of them?

Table 19 ranks institutional affiliations of sample members. It includes the following information:

- Institution and country in which it is located.
- The *total* number of sample members who either completed a PhD at that institution, are currently employed there or have some other kind of current affiliation to it. The next two columns break this number down into:
 - the number of sample members who are currently employed by or affiliated to the institution;
 - the number of sample members who completed PhDs at that institution.
- If there is a department/centre within the institution in which more than one sample member completed a PhD or is currently employed or affiliated, that department/centre is listed together with the number of sample members who have a past or current connection to it.

The table only contains those universities and institutions that have three or more total sample members who completed a PhD or are otherwise currently affiliated to it.²⁵

Institution	Country	Total number of affiliations to institution	Current number of affiliations to institution (post-PhD)	Number that completed PhD at institution	Main relevant department/centre at institution (if applicable)	Number of past/present affiliations to department/centre
Hebrew University	Israel	9	4	7	NA	0
Eötvös Loránd University	Hungary	6	5	6	Institute of Intercultural Psychology and Education	2
Technische Universität Berlin (TU Berlin)	Germany	6	3	4	Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung	3
Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR)	UK	5	5	-	NA	0
Centre national de la recherche scientifique	France	5	5	-	Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux	2
Lund University	Sweden	5	3	2	NA	0
Humboldt University	Germany	5	2	3	Institute for European Ethnology	2
École des hautes études en sciences sociales	France	5	0	5	NA	0
University of Warsaw	Poland	4	3	3	Centre for Research on Prejudice	3
University of Vienna	Austria	4	1	3	NA	0
Belgrade University	Serbia	3	3	2	Philology	2
Ben-Gurion University	Israel	3	3	0	Sociology and Anthropology	2
Indiana University	USA	3	2	1	Jewish Studies	2
Tel Aviv University	Israel	3	3	2	NA	0
Abo Akademi	Finland	3	0	3	Religious Studies	3
Goldsmiths College	UK	3	1	2	Sociology	3
University College London	UK	3	1	2	NA	0
University of Basel	Switzerland	3	1	2	NA	0
University of Oslo	Norway	3	1	2	NA	0

Table 19. Universities and institutions to which sample members are currently affiliated or studied for PhDs in the past

²⁵ Universities and institutions that have two sample members are: Birkbeck College, Central European University, DePaul University, HL Senteret, Kings College London, Nicholas Copernicus University Torun, Slovak Academy of Sciences, University of Groningen, University of West Bohemia, University of Chicago, University of London Institute of Education, University of Southampton, Charles University, Purdue University, London School of Economics, Mykolo Romerio Universiteta, University of Amsterdam, University of Hamburg, University of Helsinki, Corvinus University, European University Institute.

Table 19 shows that, while there are universities or large institutions to which multiple sample members have been connected, none has more than nine. Further, within each university, no department or centre has more than three connections to sample members. In fact, there is only one department or centre specifically devoted to a single field main topic that has more than two connections to sample members: the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung at Technische Universität Berlin. Most departments and centres that have two or more connections are either in related fields such as religious studies, or in broader disciplines such as sociology.

The sample, therefore, initially seems to be decentralised or 'homeless' – one in which those centres that do exist play only a minor role. Yet if we draw on other data, the picture of the field becomes more complex, and significant centres start to emerge more clearly. In Table 20, we have supplemented the data presented in Table 19 by counting the institutional connections of researchers who are present on EJRA but not in the sample. We have also included 'visiting' and 'honorary' institutional connections as well as past connections. While we do not have complete information for each institution, we have enough to radically transform the table (ranked, as with Table 19, for all institutions with three or more affiliations).

Institution	Total connections among members of the sample	Total other EJRA connections	Total connections of all types	Key centre/ department	Total connections for key centre
University of Potsdam	10	16	26	Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum für europäisch-jüdische Studien	26
Institute for Jewish Policy Research	5	17	22	-	NA
Technische Universität Berlin	6	12	18	Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung	15
Hebrew University	9	8	17	Department of Jewish History	3
Selma Stern Zentrum für Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg	0	0	16	-	NA
Eötvös Loránd University	6	1	7	Institute of Intercultural Psychology and Education	2
Central European University	2	5	7	Jewish Studies Programme	6
Ben-Gurion University	3	3	6	Sociology and Anthropology	4
CNRS	5	0	5	Centre d'études en sciences sociales du religieux	2
Lund University	5	0	5	-	NA
Humboldt University	5	0	5	-	NA
EHESS	5	0	5	-	NA
University of Vienna	4	1	5	Institut für Judaistik	2
Indiana University	3	2	5	Jewish Studies	4
Tel Aviv University	3	2	5	-	NA
University College London	3	2	5	-	NA
University of Warsaw	4	0	4	-	NA
University of Basel	3	1	4	-	NA
Belgrade University	3	0	3	-	NA
Abo Akademi	3	0	3	-	NA
Goldsmiths College	3	0	3	-	NA
University of Oslo	3	0	3	-	NA

Table 20. Universities and institutions to which sample members, and others who have contributed to EJRA, have some past or present connection

The Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum at the University of Postdam did not even appear on the previous table as it only had two members in the sample (both full-time staff members). However, when we add looser types of affiliation to the Centre, including researchers who have fewer items in EJRA than members of our sample, the Centre becomes a much more important player. The Jewish Studies Programme at the Central European University also comes into the list, as does the Selma Stern Zentrum für Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg (a collaboration between a number of universities and centres in the region). In addition, some of the centres identified in the previous table take on even greater importance in this one, including the Institute for Jewish Policy Research and the Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung at Technische Universität Berlin.

These expanded criteria do not change the 'ranking' of a number of other institutions. Institutions such as Goldsmiths College and Belgrade University, for example, may have some past or present connections to field members, but this does not mean that they serve as any kind of centre for the field. Eötvös Loránd University, which was second in the first table, only increased its number of connections by one. This suggests that, while the University has hosted field members, it may not be because they are field members, so much as they are qualified researchers at one of Hungary's highest rated universities.

These two ways of ranking institutions – and the differences between them – also represents two ways of thinking about what a hub for the field might be. If we view the existing centres for the field as places of employment and educational qualification whose membership is made up of people primarily committed to the field, then the first table suggests there are few of them and those that exist are connected to very few researchers. If, on the other hand we view existing centres as 'nodes' that link up diffuse networks of researchers with varying levels of commitment to the field, then while there are few institutions that meet such a definition, those that exist do connect significant numbers of researchers.

Institutions, centres and departments are rarely stable though. Research foci shift along with changing faculty interests, shaped by the priority of funders and wider intellectual and socio-political trends. In the case of TU Berlin's Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, since its foundation in the early 1980s it has developed from a centre that was largely focused on history to one that hosts faculty with a range of historical and contemporary interests. Sina Arnold and Matthias Becker (the latter's work on the 'Decoding Antisemitism' project is discussed below) have been particularly important in raising the profile of contemporary research within the Centre.

The Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum has undergone a similar evolution since its establishment in the early 1990s. The period since 1989 has seen major changes to the German Jewish community with the migration of Jews from the Former Soviet Union greatly expanding the Jewish population. From the 2000s, under the direction of the political scientist Julius Schoeps, the Centre developed a greater contemporary focus. Olaf Glöckner, in particular, has focused his work on contemporary Jewish life. Pivotal to this was his involvement in a large-scale study on German Jewry and Education funded by the Pincus Fund, under the direction of the Israeli scholar Eliezer Ben Rafael. Through that project Glöckner developed contacts in Germany and throughout Europe, and his subsequent work has involved collaborations with a great variety of co-authors.

The Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum is, along with the Institute of Jewish Studies, Institute of Jewish Theology, Geiger College and Frankel College, part of a Jewish Studies cluster centred around the University of Potsdam. However, even with 26 connections, researchers with even a partial interest in the field represent a minority of the Moses Mendelssohn Zentrum's total affiliates. In this respect, research on contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism only constitutes a modest part of a much larger range of research interests

there. The same is true for all the other centres identified above. There is only one institution that is *solely* committed to the field, the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, which is entirely devoted to research on contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism in the UK and across Europe.²⁶

A full accounting for the complex networks of collaboration and institutional connections across the field in the countries of interest would require a much-expanded piece of research that looked at the entirety of the wider EJRA list of over 2300 field-relevant authors. Nevertheless, we remain confident that we can at least conclude that ***there are only a limited number of institutional centres for the field at present*** and that ***most of those that do exist are not exclusively devoted to the field, and focus instead on broader fields of interest.***

The lack of 'obvious' existing centres that might play a coordinating role remains striking – particularly the lack of Jewish Studies departments that one might have imagined could have fulfilled this function – in a sample that includes the most productive researchers in the field of interest. It is therefore worth looking in more detail at the institutions that are on the above list to ascertain their reach and assess their contribution to the field.

7.2. 'Temporary' and individual centres and networks

Research in the field in question – as in other fields of research – is often conducted collaboratively, through international teams of scholars working out of multiple institutions. This can have the effect of creating 'temporary' centres of activity for the lifetime of a project or deepening the networks between existing centres, institutes or departments.

For example, as mentioned above, Matthias J. Becker of TU Berlin's Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung, is currently project lead for the three-year programme 'Decoding Antisemitism: An AI-driven Study on Hate Speech and Imagery Online', a collaboration with a number of other universities in Germany, the UK and France, which is funded by the Alfred Landecker Foundation. This project expands the scope of the field methodologically (as a pioneering 'big data' project) and reaches into multiple universities and departments with little previous track record in the field. How far that expansion will be permanent is, of course, unclear at the moment. We note here that the project is so large that it is, to some extent, quasi-autonomous from its host institutions. Projects of this kind may raise dilemmas for institutions as to how to embed the expertise developed after the project is completed. Certainly, in the case of TU Berlin's Centre for Antisemitism Research, the Centre still has a heavy historical focus despite 'Decoding' and other projects it hosts on contemporary antisemitism.

Another example of a large multidisciplinary research project is 'Minhag Finland', which looks at contemporary Finnish Jewish identity. It is managed by Ruth Illman, the director of the Donner Institute for Religious and Cultural Historical Research in Turku, Finland, which operates closely in conjunction with Åbo Akademi, Finland's Swedish-speaking university. The project is funded by the Polin Institute, which supports research on religion at Åbo Akademi. It involves five researchers at three different Finnish institutions (all of whom are part of the sample) and has significantly enhanced scholarly understanding of this small Jewish population. While all of the researchers had interests in Judaism, Jewish life and Jewish history prior to the project, it remains less certain what the project will contribute to

²⁶ JPR has also undertaken research work on countries outside of Europe, but its primary areas of research interest are the UK and Europe.

long-term capacity-building in this area. The Donner Institute and other institutions connected to the project do not have the field-related research embedded into their identity beyond the commitments of individual researchers. However, as this report was being completed, another major research grant was awarded by Finland's KONE Foundation for a project on antisemitism in Finland, to a team that included some of the members of the Minhag Finland group.

In institutions that do not 'have to' conduct research on contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism, an intensive commitment to the field may well be dependent on the enthusiasm of key individuals. Such is the case with the Centre for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw. Professor Michał Bilewicz, who is based at the Centre, is the most productive researcher on Poland in EJRA, with 26 items (which may be an underestimate). A psychologist by training, he has been part of many group projects on antisemitism and related fields (only three of his EJRA publications are sole authored). One other member of the sample, Mikołaj Winiewski, is also attached to the Centre, and another, Adrian Wójcik, was formerly employed there. Antisemitism, though, only constitutes the theme of a minority of the work of all three researchers. Antisemitism is an important part of a wider interest in prejudice in all its forms, and while there is no reason to expect that it will cease to be an important part of the Centre's work going forward, much of the expertise that has built up there is dependent on its current employees.

7.3. Research outside university structures

Of course, not all research is conducted purely within universities. Some individuals within the sample are based at other types of institutions that conduct their own research, often collaborating closely with universities. One example of this is HL Senteret: The Norwegian Centre for Holocaust and Minority Studies. As its name suggests, the interests of the Centre range in time and in breadth beyond the field of concern. Two researchers at the Centre are part of the sample – Cora Alexa Døving and Vibeke Moe – but projects run by the Centre have also involved other researchers in Norway and beyond, including other sample members. The project 'Negotiating Jewish Identity – Jewish Life in 21st Century Norway',²⁷ was funded by the Norwegian Research Council from 2017-2021. Managed by Cora Alexa Døving, the project board includes researchers at universities in the UK, Denmark and Sweden. The project's six sub-projects involve five researchers (including Claudia Lenz, a sample member based at the University of Hamburg) and a PhD student.

Policy-oriented think tanks and research institutions outside of academia also play a role within the sample. The Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) is responsible for 143 published items on EJRA, covering 39 countries of interest (as well as others), with contributions from 63 authors. The Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) currently hosts five sample members, and is responsible for 143 published items on EJRA, covering 39 countries of interest (as well as others), with contributions from 63 authors. Since its establishment in 1941, JPR has been an important centre for a global network of researchers and policy experts. It has long had an exclusive interest in the study of contemporary Jewish life and a built-in policy focus: its organisational purpose is to generate data to help develop policy to support Jewish life in Europe, so its outputs form part of an overarching research and policy programme committed to the field of interest. It has published research on multiple European countries and on behalf of European bodies such as the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), and this work has also had an important influence on its use

²⁷ <https://www.hlsenteret.no/english/research/Minorities/negotiating-jewish-identity---jewish-life-in-21-ce/>

of existing data – for example, in its maximisation of FRA datasets for further analysis, publishing key reports on Jewish demography, identity and antisemitism which draw on them.²⁸ As an independent research institute, JPR is unable to run its own doctoral training programme or other degree-level courses (although it can and does offer internships to students to gain professional experience in the field). And while most of its researchers hold a PhD, are authors of academic publications and may have taught at universities, an institution of this kind (funded significantly through charitable donations and partially dependent on research commissions from outside bodies) necessarily imposes stricter limits on the degree to which full-time employees can initiate their own research projects and publication programmes in order to maintain its policy focus.

It is worth noting that the wider EJRA holdings also include 418 publications (just under 10% of the total) that have no named author or where the author cannot be easily ascertained. Many of these ‘corporate’-authored publications are reports published by Jewish community organisations as well as organisations that monitor antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes. There are over 100 such bodies and Table 21 lists those with three or more EJRA items (note that this list does not include items published by these organisations that have a named author).

²⁸ See, for examples, Staetsky, D. and Boyd, J. (2014). *The exceptional case? Perceptions and experiences of antisemitism among Jews in the United Kingdom*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; Staetsky, L. D. (2017). *Are Jews leaving Europe?* London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; Dencik, L. and Marosi, K. (2017). *Different antisemitisms: Perceptions and experiences of antisemitism among Jews in Sweden and across Europe*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; Graham, D. (2018). *European Jewish identity: Mosaic or monolith? An empirical assessment of eight European countries*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; Boyd, J. (2019). *Young Jewish European: perceptions and experiences of antisemitism* (Luxembourg: European Commission/FRA/JPR); Staetsky, D. and DellaPergola, S. (2020). *Jews in Austria: A demographic and social portrait*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; Staetsky, D. and DellaPergola, S. (2020). *Jews in Europe at the turn of the Millennium: Population trends and estimates*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; DellaPergola, S. and Staetsky, D. (2022). *The Jewish identities of European Jews: What, why and how?* London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research; and Staetsky, D. and DellaPergola, S. (2022). *Jews in Belgium: A demographic and social portrait*, London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

Organisation	Country	Number of EJRA items
Community Security Trust	UK	57
European Shoah Legacy Institute (ESLI)	Europe	40
Zentralwohlfahrtsstelle der Juden in Deutschland	Germany	23
Coordination intercommunautaire contre l'antisémitisme et la diffamation (CICAD)	Switzerland	20
Recherche- und Informationsstelle Antisemitismus Berlin (RIAS)	Germany	19
Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive	France	18
Antisemitism.be	Belgium	18
CIDI – Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israel	Netherlands	15
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)	Europe	15
Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeindebund – Fédération suisse des communautés israélites	Switzerland	10
Fonds Social Juif Unifié, Département de l'Enseignement, L'Observatoire national de l'école juive	France	9
United Jewish Israel Appeal (UJIA)	UK	8
Osservatorio Antisemitismo	Italy	8
Det Jødiske Samfund i Danmark / AKVAH	Denmark	8
GRA Stiftung gegen Rassismus und Antisemitismus	Germany	8
Observatorio de Antisemitismo en España	Spain	7
Jewish Leadership Council	UK	7
Institutul Național pentru Studiarea Holocaustului din România "Elie Wiesel"	Romania	6
Anti-Defamation League	USA	6
Amadeu Antonio Stiftung	Germany	5
Forum gegen Antisemitismus	Germany	5
Brüsszel Intézet / Tett és Védelem Alapítvány (TEV)	Hungary	4
Federace Židovských Obcí V ČR	Czechia	4
All Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism	UK	4
Euro-Asian Jewish Congress	Israel	4
CEJI	Europe	3
United Jewish Community of Ukraine	Ukraine	3
American Jewish Committee (AJC)	USA	3
Board of Deputies of British Jews	UK	3

Table 21. Ranking of top 'corporate' authors in EJRA

For some organisations that monitor antisemitism, the decision to avoid a named author is a conscious one, intended to ensure that the security of personnel is maintained. With some items, the 'real' author, or at least the contributing author, is known to this research team as having other named items in EJRA. And in a few cases, reports name multiple people as being in part responsible for the publication, without it being clear who the principal author is (or even if there was one, in the case of some models of collective authorship).

Researchers who contribute to corporate-authored work may have a variety of relationships with the wider field. It is possible that some anonymous authors have 'parallel' careers within the field or even in the sample, enabling them to be embedded in field networks through other means. In addition, there are opportunities, at least for those working in the antisemitism monitoring field, to meet each other at dedicated seminars and conferences.

Nonetheless, research conducted by organisations that are not self-defined research organisations may raise issues of quality control. Certainly, they are largely removed from the scholarly system of peer review and their scholarly oversight may be variable. Of course, that may be the case for non-university research organisations too, although that self-

definition also means that the organisations' entire reputation rests on their research integrity, giving a substantial incentive for high standards.

Regardless of the organisation, a named author on a report can at least provide some kind of personal commitment and accountability to high quality research, regardless of whether it is in fact achieved. Organisational reports that lack a named individual or individuals are less accountable to the field. It is certainly difficult to make an assessment of the research capacity of those organisations whose work is published anonymously, particularly with regard to assessing what specific research training researchers might have had.

Whether anonymous or not, research in the field is also conducted at think tanks or research institutes without an enduring connection either to the field or to the Jewish community. One example is the Verwey-Jonker Instituut in the Netherlands which, between 2013 and 2018, published nine research reports on antisemitism and antisemitic incidents in the Netherlands (most of them in conjunction with other kinds of racism). Seven of them were funded by the Anne Frank Stichting. All were co-authored in various combinations by eight researchers based at the Instituut. Five of them are part of the sample, none of whom have PhDs. Of these five, only one (Willem Wagenaar) has had any further involvement in the field. Most of the researchers have worked on a great variety of research projects and their 'involvement' in the field was time limited. In this way, it is important to note that such temporary endeavours do not necessarily build capacity in the field, even though they do contribute to knowledge.

7.4. Collaborations, networks and key individuals

In the previous two sections, we have seen that while the field does contain institutions where research is concentrated within the field, ***it is questionable whether any single institution can be said to have an 'outsized' impact on the field.***

At the same time, the field is home to significant levels of co-operation, collaboration and networks. As we saw in the case of the Moses Mendelssohn Centre, the building of personal connections are a crucial task of universities and research institutions. 33% of EJRA items are either co-authored, part of edited collections or have a corporate author. 26% of EJRA items are edited collections, chapters in edited collections, conference papers or conference proceedings. This kind of publication requires a level of social connection to the rest of the field on the part of the individual or collective author (or, at the very least, a level of connection to a related field in the case of collections where not all contributions are directly relevant to the field).

By their very nature, networks of collaboration and discussion are difficult to quantify and to track. But we can be sure that they are alive and well in the field, even though it is likely that, with limited institutional anchoring, they may sometimes be ephemeral. Such networks therefore rely on the energy of particular individuals within the field to create and sustain. We can tentatively suggest, therefore, that ***some of the most important existing connectors within the field are likely to be individuals rather than institutions.***

One way of identifying such individuals is to rank researchers in the sample by number of co-authors and co-editors, as shown in Table 22.²⁹

²⁹ Some caution is needed in interpreting this table, since early career researchers have less opportunity to collaborate than mid-career and senior ones. Nonetheless, all but two researchers in this table began their publishing careers post-1990.

Researcher	Number of co-authors/ co-editors	Principal country location	Institutional Affiliation
Kovács, András	20	Hungary	Professor, Jewish Studies, Central European University
Bilewicz, Michał	19	Poland	Professor, Center for Research on Prejudice, Department of Psychology of Intergroup Relations, University of Warsaw
Glöckner, Olaf	16	Germany	Research Associate, Moses Mendelssohn Center for European Jewish Studies, University of Potsdam
Loewenthal, Kate	16	UK	Emeritus Professor, Department of Psychology, Royal Holloway, University of London
Boyd, Jonathan	15	UK	Executive Director, Institute for Jewish Policy Research
Lenz, Claudia	13	Norway	Chair for prevention of racism and antisemitism, MF Norwegian School of Theology, Religion and Society
Graham, David	13	UK/Australia	Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Jewish Policy Research
Kasstan, Ben	13	UK	Research Fellow, Department of Global Health and Development, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Miller, Helena	12	UK	Director of Degrees and Teacher Training Programmes, Senior Research Fellow, London School of Jewish Studies
DellaPergola, Sergio	11	Israel	Professor Emeritus, Department of Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University; Chair, JPR European Jewish Demography Unit
Ildiko, Barna	10	Hungary	Assistant Professor and Head of Department, Department of Social Research Methodology, Eötvös Loránd University
Wagenaar, Willem	10	Netherlands	Researcher, Anne Frank Stichtung
Døving, Cora Alexa	10	Norway	Research Professor, HL Senteret: The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies in Oslo
Moe, Vibeke	9	Norway	Researcher, HL Senteret: The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies in Oslo
Staetsky, Daniel	9	UK	Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Jewish Policy Research, Director, JPR European Jewish Demography Unit
Gidley, Ben	9	UK	Senior Lecturer, Department of Psycho-Social Studies, Birkbeck College
Pearce, Andy	9	UK	Associate Professor, Centre for Holocaust Education, University College London
Kosmin, Barry	9	USA	Research Professor of Public Policy and Law, Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College, Hartford
Illman, Ruth	8	Finland	Director, Donner Institute
Likhachev, Vyacheslav	8	Ukraine	Centre for Civil Liberties

Table 22. Ranking of sample researchers by number of co-authors/co-editors

Of course, some field researchers may have careers that involve little collaboration. This is particularly the case with researchers in countries with small Jewish populations who carry a disproportionate amount of a country's field research 'load'. One example is Peter Salner, Senior Researcher in the Institute for Ethnology and Social Anthropology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences, one of only two sample members specialising in Slovakia. He has authored 22 EJRA items on Slovakia, of which 21 are sole authored. The latter figure is 21% of all EJRA items on Slovakia and 30% of all sole-authored EJRA items on Slovakia. Contrast this with András Kovács, Professor of Jewish Studies at the Central European University and the most productive of the ten sample specialists on Hungary. He has authored 31 items on Hungary, of which 18 are sole authored. The latter figure represents 6% of all EJRA items on Hungary and 9% of all sole-authored EJRA items on Hungary.

To conclude this section, while there are valuable networks of collaboration across the field in question, including within the sample, these networks are likely to be unevenly spread. In this sense, institutional centres can play a significant role in proactively deepening these networks into otherwise neglected areas, but the extent to which they currently do so appears to be limited and uneven. The reasons for this require further analysis: determining whether significant individual researchers or institutional centres do not currently do more to serve as active or consistent foci for the field may be related to a lack of awareness of the issue, insufficient interest in it, inadequate capacity to undertake it or the absence of funding to achieve it.

7.5. Funding sources

It is challenging to account for funding sources for research conducted either by the sample or the wider field. Not all research publications list their funding sources, and academic conventions for doing so vary internationally and in different kinds of publication. In the case of corporate-authored reports it is often difficult to distinguish bibliographically between a publisher and a funder. In the case of national or sub-national research funding councils, not all countries have publicly available, searchable archives of funded projects. All of this means that we cannot systematically account for how and where field research is funded. Indeed, even where we do have funder information, there are significant differences between how much and how frequently they give. We also note that a list of *successful* research grant applications, even if it were possible to compile one, would only tell part of the story without accounting for unsuccessful ones.

Nevertheless, we can at least provide some indicative data on the number of grants in field-related areas by a number of national and EU funding bodies. We first searched for all grants that had an explicitly Jewish,³⁰ Holocaust-related or antisemitism focus (all broadly conceived) and then attempted to enumerate how many of them were relevant to the field in question. The timescale that each database covers vary, but none of them go back further than the EJRA cut-off date of 1990 (Table 23).

³⁰ This also included grants for projects that focused on Jewish aspects of Israeli society.

Country/Region	Funding body	Total grants on Jewish-related, Holocaust-related or antisemitism-related topics	Number of grants relevant to field
EU	Horizon, FP7 and previous programmes	51	4
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	125	8
France	Agence Nationale de la recherche	14	2
UK	UK Research and Innovation	128	19*

* Includes PhD grants and research seminar grants.

Table 23. Estimate of research awarded for field-related research by selected European and national bodies

It is quite possible that these numbers may be an underestimate and research funding infrastructure differs considerably across countries. Nonetheless, we can conclude that, at the very least, research grants for projects that focus on *contemporary* Jewish life and antisemitism are, in all of these cases, a small proportion of the total of all Jewish, antisemitism and Holocaust-related grants. Whether this is due to the preferences of the funding bodies, peer reviewers, or applicants and potential applicants, cannot be ascertained. Certainly though, there may be a self-reinforcing element here: the lack of existing funded projects means that there is a lack of role models or qualified peer reviewers.

Research is also funded by charities and foundations. In Table 24, we list all the funders of this kind that are attached to more than one EJRA item. They are listed in rank order, but without the numbers quoted, in order not to risk under or over-estimating their relative significance.

Funding body	Location
Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft	Germany
Pears Foundation	United Kingdom
Anne Frank Stichting	Netherlands
American Jewish Committee (AJC)	USA
World Jewish Congress	Global
The L.A. Pincus Fund for Jewish Education in the Diaspora	USA
Euro-Asian Jewish Congress	Israel
Ford Foundation	USA
Parliamentary Committee Against Antisemitism Foundation	United Kingdom
Alfred Landecker Foundation	Germany
Jubiläumsfonds der Oesterreichischen Nationalbank	Austria
Open Society Foundations	USA/Global
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee	USA/Global
Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah	France
Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe	United Kingdom
Forum for Dialogue Among Nations	Poland

Table 24. Key funding bodies

The table suggests that at least some research in Europe is funded by organisations based outside of Europe. We would, however, hesitate to draw strong conclusions from this due to the limitations discussed above.

In any case, a focus on funding sources risks ‘missing’ something more basic: most research funding bodies – particularly state research funding bodies – require applicants to have existing or planned ‘housing’ within an appropriate institution, usually a university. In some universities, researchers have to, in effect, ‘bid’ to the university to support the application. Moreover, research funders often prioritise or even restrict their funding to research teams rather than individuals, and there are certain sources of funding (such as EU Horizon funding) that can only be made by coordinating an application between a consortium of multiple universities in multiple countries.

For all these reasons, the field cannot only be sustained by the enthusiasm of individual researchers. Rather, it requires institutional housing that will support and encourage field-related research funding applications to be made. Here we note again the limited number of departments, centres and other institutions that are principally devoted to the field. It may well be that this institutional limitation of the field subtly discourages interested researchers to pursue the field as a priority in their careers.

That said, we do note that at least some large, multi-institution research funding bids have been successful and, in the cases of Norway and Finland discussed above, significant within national fields at least. We also note other international collaborations, such as the ‘Decoding Antisemitism’ project mentioned above, as well as the ongoing project ‘Muslim-Jewish encounter, diversity and distance in urban Europe’, a collaboration between researchers in the UK, France and Germany, funded by the Open Research Area (ORA) for the Social Sciences, (itself a collaboration between the UK, French and German research councils). Also worthy of mention are the first two surveys of Jewish people’s perceptions and experiences of antisemitism sponsored and published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) in 2013 and 2018. Both projects brought together a consortium of individual specialists in contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism working under the auspices of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, thereby helping to generate the data needed by the FRA, whilst simultaneously enhancing cooperation and expertise within the field.

Anecdotally, we have been told by researchers working within the field that there has been an increase in funding opportunities for projects on contemporary antisemitism (or, that funding bodies look upon applications for this kind of research more favourably than they might have done in the past). Given the recent increase in research publications on contemporary antisemitism – discussed earlier in this report – it would certainly be no surprise if the increase turned out to correlate with an increase in funding. However, this possible finding cannot be substantiated without a dedicated research project on the subject.

Finally, we should acknowledge that not all research is supported by specific grants. While quantitative research that involves data-gathering (rather than analysis of existing data) usually requires dedicated funding, other forms of quantitative work, as well as qualitative and desk research may not. Research publications may also follow the formal completion of a research project. However, the degree to which the field relies on unfunded research must remain an open question for now.

7.6. Publication infrastructure

Any field of research requires a publishing infrastructure. How far, then, does this field have its own infrastructure and with what other fields does it 'share' one?

Sample members have been published in the full range of research publishing formats: monographs, scholarly journals, edited books, reports etc. For sample members, the scholarly journal article is the principal format for 49% of them (i.e. the most common publication type for each). It is also the most common single format for items in EJRA's holdings, at 35%. There are 701 different journals recorded in EJRA; those that have ten or more items are listed in Table 25.³¹

Journal name	Number of EJRA items	Notes
East European Jewish Affairs	73	
Jahrbuch für Antisemitismusforschung	70	
European Judaism	32	
Patterns of Prejudice	25	
Диаспоры (Diasporas)	24	Now defunct
Contemporary Jewry	24	
Nordisk Judaistik/Scandinavian Jewish Studies	23	Open access
Jewish Culture and History	21	
Тирош – труды по иудаике (Tirosh - Works in Jewish studies)	16	Open access
Jewish Political Studies Review	15	Open access
Holocaust Studies: A Journal of Culture and History	15	
Holocaust. Studii și cercetări	15	
Ethnic and Racial Studies	15	
The Jewish Journal of Sociology	15	Now defunct
Journal of Contemporary Antisemitism	14	
Journal of Modern Jewish Studies	14	
Journal of Jewish Education	13	
Nationalities Papers	10	
Osteuropa	10	
Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies	10	
Bet Debora Journal	10	

Table 25. Principal scholarly journals in which EJRA items are published

As with the institutions discussed in this study, no single journal dominates the field. The most common one, *East European Jewish Affairs*, has published 4% of all EJRA's collection of journal items. The journal's 73 EJRA-relevant articles represent an estimated 15% of its total number of articles. We estimate similar proportions or less for both the *Jahrbuch für Antisemitismusforschung* and *European Judaism*. History and the study of cultural texts remain the focus of these journals.

While all but four journals on the above list are dedicated to issues of Jewish life, antisemitism or the Holocaust, we also note that there are only two journals that are explicitly dedicated to the social scientific study of contemporary Jewish life: *Contemporary Jewry* and the now-defunct *Jewish Journal of Sociology*.³² In both cases, EJRA-relevant items only account for

³¹ Note that, for technical reasons, this list includes journal publications for countries other than the countries of interest in this study. However, the two Russian-language journals on this list have also published articles on the countries of interest in addition to Russia.

³² The Jewish Journal of Sociology ceased publishing in 2017.

a modest proportion of the output of these journals since 1990 and, in the case of *Contemporary Jewry*, which operates from the United States, most articles are focused on North America and Israel. Beyond this list, it is striking how few EJRA items were published in 'general' Jewish Studies journals. The *AJS Review*, *Journal of Jewish Studies* and *European Journal of Jewish Studies* (not on the above list) account for two items each.

In our 2020 analysis of the EJRA holdings, we calculated that 15% of the scholarly journals on EJRA were in some way devoted to issues of Jewish life, Judaism, antisemitism or the Holocaust, although they accounted for 40% of journal items.³³ The sheer number of journals in the collection demonstrates how far the field extends over a range of other fields. In this sense, despite the modest preponderance of loosely field-related journals, the field is academically 'homeless'.

Something similar is true regarding publishers of monographs and edited collections. 28% of EJRA's holdings consist of these types of item, as well as constituent chapters. Table 26 shows the top publishers of monographs and edited volumes, out of 314 listed in EJRA.³⁴

³³ Kahn-Harris, Keith. (2020). [Social Research on European Jewish Populations: The State of the Field](#). London: Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

³⁴ Strictly speaking, this is an underestimate. The list does not include the publishers of individual book chapters from edited books. These were excluded in order not to count a publisher of one edited book with multiple individual chapters listed on EJRA. However, this also means that where there is only one chapter that is EJRA-relevant, the publisher will be excluded. Since many of these 'single chapter' items are part of collections that have no other Jewish-related or field-related content, the table may, in fact, overestimate the significance of the small number of 'Jewish' publishers.

Publisher	Number of EJRA items
Indiana University Press	17
De Gruyter	17
Brill	15
Springer	10
Palgrave/Macmillan	10
Nomos	9
Peter Lang Publishing	8
Honoré Champion	8
Routledge	7
Berghahn	7
Universitetsforlaget	7
Transcript	7
Valentine Mitchell	6
Bar Ilan University Press	6
Wallstein	5
Campus Verlag	5
Philo Verlag	5
Hentrich & Hentrich	5
Academic Studies Press	5
VEDA	4
Beltz Juventa	4
Wochenschau Verlag	4
Západočeská univerzita	4
Cornell University Press	4
Presses Universitaires de France	4
Suhrkamp Verlag	4
Manchester University Press	4
State University of New York Press	4
University of California Press	4
Múlt és Jövő	4
Transaction	4
L'Harmattan	4
Neofelis Verlag	4
Oxford University Press	4

Table 26. Principal publishers of EJRA items other than scholarly journal articles

Four of the above are specialist Jewish publishers – Philo Verlag, Hentrich and Hentrich, Múlt és Jövő and Valentine Mitchell – although field-relevant publications are only a minority of their output. Some of the other publishers – including Indiana University Press, Brill and Academic Studies Press – have an extensive Jewish Studies list. There are also a number of book series from large multinational scholarly publishers that have a particular importance to the field, such as Brill's *Jewish Identities in a Changing World* and De Gruyter's *Europäisch-jüdische Studien – Beiträge* and *An End to Antisemitism!* Again though, while specialist publishers and series may play a disproportionate role in sustaining the field, none of them come close to dominating it.

7.7. Knowledge transfer and the accessibility of the field

While we acknowledge the importance of ‘blue skies’ research and knowledge for its own sake, the field can and should also inform policymaking and practice on antisemitism and contemporary Jewish life. Jewish communal organisations, government departments, the law, museums and education systems are just some of those areas of society that could benefit from research generated by the field. However, scholarly publications may not be accessed easily by those who might benefit most from their findings. Journal articles may attract the most prestige within academia, but they may also use technical vocabulary that can be difficult to interpret without specialist training, and many journals remain largely paywalled and inaccessible without access to a university library. Hardback monographs by some academic presses can be unaffordable for many (including university libraries in developing countries).

It is now widely acknowledged within academia and research communities that potentially relevant research may require active efforts to be ‘translated’ and disseminated more widely. This is sometimes known as ‘knowledge transfer’. There are a number of ways that knowledge transfer might work: producing privately commissioned research focused on particular policy issues, organising public events and exhibitions, consulting privately with interested organisations, publishing articles in magazines, newspapers or online for a wider audience, and so on. How far does the field engage in such activities?

Using the current methodology, we are not able to ascertain reliably what proportion of the field engages in more ‘active’ knowledge transfer methods such as public events, consulting and other forms of ‘outreach’. Most of these types of activities do not leave enough of a trace for us to reliably measure their extent. What we can do, though, is to examine the extent to which the research publications held by EJRA are potentially accessible outside of a narrowly-specialist audience.

One way of measuring accessibility in this sense is by looking at whether journal articles are available for free, without a paywall. In Table 25 we identified three journals that had a blanket open access policy but, increasingly, contributors to journals published by major academic publishers may pay to make an article open access (payment is made either by the university or by the funder sponsoring the research). While EJRA does not include information on open access policies, they can be inferred by the proportion of journal item records that have an accompanying ‘pdf’ of the article than can be downloaded from the site. The proportion of journal articles that are accessible in this way is 28%. While some of these are accessible because the journal in question is now defunct or because an editor or author has given special permission to include it in the archive, we estimate that the majority are accessible because that article or the entire journal has an open access policy.

By contrast, 92% of EJRA items that are classified as ‘reports’ have a freely available copy held in EJRA. This is a strong indication that, as we would expect, research publications produced outside of academic formats are much more accessible to potential users. We note here though, that in some university systems, what is sometimes known as ‘grey literature’ lacks the prestige that leads to scholarly advancement compared to journal articles. While such publications may seem to be optimal if the field is to have wider relevance, as we discussed earlier in this report, grey literature may also raise issues of quality control if it is outside of systems of peer review and specialist scholarly discussion.

It may be then, that the ‘optimum’ member of the field would have a publication record that encompassed both specialist scholarly publication and other sorts of publication. 50 members of the sample – 28% of the total – have published both reports and scholarly journal

articles, suggesting some level of simultaneous engagement in scholarly and public-facing spaces. Due to technical limitations of the database, we cannot determine which authors within the wider EJRA collection have published both reports and journal articles. However, we have calculated that the absolute maximum proportion of the collection that it could be is 18%, with the 'real' figure likely to be much lower than that.³⁵ This suggests that sample members are more likely to publish both journal articles and reports than the rest of the field, and hence, concomitantly, sample members are more likely to engage simultaneously in academia and other forms of knowledge transfer.

There are other ways of assessing the types and amount of knowledge transfer work that takes place that are beyond the scope of this study. For example, it would be helpful to explore the extent to which individuals and/or existing research centres are commissioned by Jewish community bodies to undertake policy-relevant research for them. We know that this type of work is undertaken by certain researchers in our sample and indeed, forms part of the programme of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research, but accurate quantification or assessment of it has not been possible here. Similarly, we know that some datasets are made available to researchers for further analysis – notably, the FRA surveys of discrimination and hate crime against Jews – but more work is required to determine the extent to which such datasets are utilised, and what might motivate researchers to maximise their value.

8. Further analysis

8.1. The self-consciousness of the field

Given that there is little infrastructure dedicated exclusively to the field in Europe, how far is the field in Europe conscious of its own existence?

There is a modest amount of evidence that at least some researchers may see themselves as located within a particular region within a global field. For example, the [Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry \(ASSJ\)](#), while its membership is dominated by the US, Canada and Israel, also has a European representative on its board (currently, Jonathan Boyd of JPR) alongside other regional representatives. While the Association's journal, [Contemporary Jewry](#), currently has no Europe-based members on its editorial board, it has still published 24 articles on the field in question since 1990 – the equivalent of about one per annum. European-based scholars also form part of other field-related global associations, such as [The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy \(ISGAP\)](#). Field members are part of national, Europe-wide and international Jewish Studies associations, even though they usually form a small minority within them, as evidenced by the limited number of field-relevant papers at conferences of the [British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies](#) and the [European Association for Jewish Studies](#).

Some European projects do provide some degree of consolidation to at least sections of the field. The EU-funded [European Holocaust Research Infrastructure](#) brings together and

³⁵ This figure is the percentage of report authors (n=409) amongst the entire collection of EJRA authors (n=2,324), since the maximum number of authors who could have authored both journal articles and reports is the same as the lower figure, and there are fewer report authors than journal article authors (1,324).

enables access to resources on the Holocaust that are dispersed across multiple countries, and this has, at times, assisted and involved scholars with specialism in contemporary research on Holocaust memory and memorialisation. Another EU-funded project, [Networks Overcoming Antisemitism \(NOA\)](#), which is managed by the European NGO [CEJL](#), attempts to bring together partner organisations across Europe to develop common resources and standards of good practice. The ‘National Report Cards’ that NOA is currently working on will, amongst other things, highlight gaps in research on antisemitism in EU countries.³⁶

Ad hoc regional collaborations may also create connections between fields in multiple countries. For example, [Åbo Akademi University \(Institutum Judaicum Aboense\)](#), [Uppsala University \(Forum for Jewish Studies\)](#) and the [Institute for Holocaust Research in Sweden](#) have begun a collaboration with the long-term purpose of initiating research on Nordic antisemitism. Such projects may help to consolidate resources more effectively across national boundaries.

The closest thing we have found to a project deliberately intended to enhance the field through networking is known as ‘Presence – Network Jewish Contemporary Research e.V.’ The network was founded in April 2022 by a group of scholars that included members of our sample: Dani Kranz (currently at Ben Gurion University in Israel), Sandra Anusiewicz-Bar and Olaf Glöckner (both University of Potsdam), and it aims to connect scholars in German-speaking countries who are doing research on contemporary Jewish life, Jewish practical experiences and Jewish/non-Jewish relations and entanglements – and who are interested in sharing their results, perspectives and conclusions with a broader public. The network places value on interdisciplinarity and includes, among others, social scientists, scholars of religion, Jewish historians, musicologists and language experts. Its declared goals include strengthening academic work on contemporary Jewish life, supporting young scholars in particular (and their independent research), and working to develop policy, and it was founded in part to address a perceived current imbalance of attention to contemporary Jewish life in Germany, compared to the history of Jewish life in the country. The establishment of the network points to the sense of need that exists among researchers working in the field, but it is still very much in its infancy, and has no online presence.

What we have not found, however, is any evidence of systematic and organised Europe-wide or regional forms of organisation that connect researchers on contemporary Jewish life, other than in one-off conferences or edited collections. Nor have we found evidence of systematic and organised connections between research on contemporary Jewish life in Europe and research on contemporary antisemitism and on Holocaust memorialisation in Europe.

8.2. Absences

Throughout the analysis conducted for this report, we have been struck by a number of absences. These absences tell us some important things about the field and the recommendations of the report will seek to address them.

First of all, we note that the sample does not include some of the most prominent Jewish academics in the countries of interest – regardless of specialism – and that even some of those who are part of the sample may have fewer field-relevant publications than one might

³⁶ A Belgian Report Card is now available: <https://www.noa-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Belgian-Report-Card-English.pdf>

expect. We will not name these individuals, but readers of this report may be surprised not to have encountered them here. Evidently, to be a Jewish 'public intellectual', speaking from the academy about contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism, it is not necessary to have first-hand experience in researching these issues.

However, that should not be read necessarily as a criticism. For one thing, these 'absent' academics often have extensive experience with Jewish history that enables them to place the current historical moment in context. It is important to question, though, whether the balance is right between field and non-field public intellectuals. Further, as we have seen, even from within the sample, in the case of antisemitism, there does seem to be a willingness to enter a specialist field of research without necessarily having specialist training in it. This may, in some cases at least, raise issues about the quality of research or risk 'reinventing the wheel', as researchers pursue projects unaware of previous work on the subject.

In the previous section we describe the field as (in the case of publications at least) 'homeless.' It may well be that the range of disciplines, institutions and publications in which field research is conducted ensures intellectual diversity and avoids intellectual ghettoisation. Nonetheless, the relative lack of connection to the discipline of Jewish Studies is striking. *De facto*, it seems that in many places Jewish Studies is a discipline that is primarily concerned with Jewish history, Jewish texts and Jewish languages and literature, rather than contemporary lived Jewish reality.

There is also a different kind of absence in this report: of certain kinds of information that could not be produced within the scope of this project. We have already seen that a full analysis of the sources of research funding for the field is not possible without an extensive and lengthy piece of specialist research (and even then, there would likely still be some major absences where details are impossible to find). The same is true for details of teaching within the field. It became clear at a very early stage that information on who teaches what and where is only erratically publicly available. Although we could list Jewish Studies degrees and who provides them, as well as Masters and other qualifications on antisemitism, we cannot provide a full accounting for the courses that comprise them, nor for the number of students that take them. Information on PhD students and supervisors is also not always available, and in some countries even the title of the PhD is nowhere recorded publicly.

Such absences of sources are, to a degree, another sign of the homelessness of the field. While there have been some attempts to collate information about Jewish Studies in Europe, the field of contemporary Jewish life only exists at the margins of this discipline, as we have seen. Without the infrastructure of specialist journals, academic associations, centres and conferences that bring the field together, the field remains disparate and enigmatic.

Yet even though the field lacks infrastructure and perhaps even consciousness of itself as a field, we still contend that it exists. As we have seen, complex and enduring networks of scholarly cooperation extend across multiple European countries, creating a succession of virtual, temporary quasi-hubs. Beyond the considerable diversity, those who research contemporary Jewish life and antisemitism in the countries of interest are engaged in a common enterprise, even if their knowledge of who else is engaged in that enterprise may be limited.

8.3. Conflict and risks to the field

Contemporary Jewish life in Europe can often be enmeshed in public debates and political controversies on issues that include antisemitism, remembrance of the Holocaust, ritual slaughter and circumcision. The field itself (or, more accurately, members of the field) may become part of such debates and controversies – disputes concerning the extent to which opposition to Israel correlates with antagonism to Jews, or on the role of local collaborators in the Holocaust have, on occasion, affected the capacity of researchers to investigate such issues, according to some of the reports we heard from researchers in the course of undertaking this work. Some such cases have made their way into the public domain, and whilst we have no way at this stage of assessing the extent to which this occurs, we raise it here as it could affect the cultivation and development of the field and the researchers that comprise it.

Considering these issues through the lens of this study, we would maintain that a hub should steer away from the specifics of any particular controversy, and instead model good practice on how researchers might navigate a field affected by such political disputes. It could promote a model of the ideal field researcher not by their position on this or that political matter, but rather by their deftness in how they balance a commitment to empirical research with a sensitivity to these types of topics and issues. As we have noted, a number of academics who intervene in political debates on antisemitism in particular do not do so from a basis of research on antisemitism. It would benefit both the field as a whole and the tone of public debate if experienced, high-quality researchers on antisemitism and Holocaust memorialisation could be supported in facilitating empirical work in these areas and translating their findings into public policy.

Thus a hub could (a) provide training and model good practice to demonstrate how researchers might navigate these types of issues and respond to them through their research; and (b) work with the European Commission and other research funders to promote high quality work in these areas, through the promotion and distribution of grants to appropriately trained and qualified researchers.

9. Recommendations

The recommendations in this final section of the report are intended to be compatible with the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life. In addition to the particular research-based elements of the Strategy, action against antisemitism and working towards the flourishing of Jewish life in Europe require that the needs and experiences of European Jews are understood. In making the following recommendations we hope to make a contribution to that work.

9.1. Guiding principles

We do not claim that there can be one single normative standard of what the field should look like, either on a Europe-wide level or nationally. However, given that, as we have demonstrated, the field in question has limited coherence and self-consciousness, we are currently in a situation in which possible normative standards are not even discussed. The principles we set out here derive both from the findings of this research into the field and from our experience working within the field, including at the only European Institute devoted entirely to it. They are intended to inform a wider discussion and to be a starting point for the process of making policy for the field; section 9.2 focuses more specifically on practical recommendations.

9.1.1. The field needs a stronger identity

In this report we have consciously and deliberately used a particular vocabulary intended to emphasise that 'the field' is something that needs a stronger and more coherent identity. The more frequently that it is named, the more it will embed itself in discourse. We recommend that the field should be termed research on 'contemporary Jewish life in Europe.'

9.1.2. Research on antisemitism and Holocaust memorialisation should form part of the wider field of contemporary Jewish life in Europe.

This report has demonstrated that research on contemporary Jewish life often exists in the shadow of research on antisemitism and (to a lesser degree) research on Holocaust memorialisation. Antisemitism in particular has clearly become a 'popular' research topic among researchers and funders alike. While we acknowledge the value of much of this research and that antisemitism has an independent existence beyond Jewish life, it is also true that Jews are the victims of antisemitism and that the vitality of Jewish populations is partially dependent upon their protection from it. Thus, understanding antisemitism – and developing policy to combat it – should not be divorced from research on Jewish life; on the contrary, research on Jewish life should provide the context in which much of antisemitism is understood. Studies in areas such as contemporary Jewish demography, education, culture, identity, and indeed Holocaust memorialisation, are not simply of internal community interest; in conveying the extent to which Jewish life on the continent is vibrant or not, and indeed why it may or may not be so, they also shape understanding of antisemitism and its effects. For these reasons, research on contemporary Jewish life ought to be supported at least as well as research on contemporary antisemitism, not least to provide a counterweight to the strong 'gravitational pull' that research on antisemitism currently has.

9.1.3. The field should develop a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to contemporary Jewish life

As we have seen in this report, researchers 'arrive' in the field from many different disciplines, and field research covers a great variety of aspects of contemporary Jewish life. This heterogeneity can enrich the field, ensuring topics are approached using a variety of methodologies and conceptual frameworks. However, at present this diversity of research topics and methodologies does not add up to a coherent whole, and researchers rarely communicate outside of specific sub-sections of the field. We recommend, therefore, that work should be done to enable the field to become a 'holistic' space of interdisciplinary communication, one in which researchers see all the topics within the field of contemporary Jewish life as potentially relevant to their own specific research specialisms.

9.1.4. The field should create opportunities to strengthen consciousness of its own existence

In order that principles 9.1.1 to 9.1.3 may be upheld, there ought to be more opportunities for researchers to see themselves as part of the field. For example, a researcher investigating Jewish schooling in France should see themselves as in some way connected to researchers investigating Jewish identity in the Netherlands, or Holocaust memorials in Lithuania or antisemitism in Greece. These connections may run alongside other disciplinary commitments.

9.1.5. The field requires a home to help to cultivate it and plan for its future

It seems clear from the research conducted for this report that the field has not ‘naturally’ developed as an autonomous and self-guided disciplinary space; there are many ‘gaps’ in coverage of certain topics and countries. In order to create the conditions in which these gaps might be addressed as part of a self-conscious field, there needs to be a degree of strategic planning for the field on a Europe-wide level and perhaps on a regional and national level too. That strategic planning process should identify topics and locations where research should be concentrated, set out broad questions that the field should address, and devise means to encourage research in these areas.

9.1.6. The field requires attention to methodology and to research quality

The fragmented nature of the field as it currently exists risks unnecessary duplication of research projects and/or irreconcilable methodologies that make systematic comparisons between studies very difficult. This may be a particular challenge for research on antisemitism. We note that the field has grown fast and attracted researchers with limited or no background in this topic, and that, at the very least, this diversity may lead to issues in comparability between research data. There is also a lack of common standards in evaluating intervention programmes on antisemitism (when evaluations are conducted at all).

9.1.7. The field requires attention to training

As this report has demonstrated, there is a lack of specific university courses and training programmes focused on the field of contemporary Jewish life in Europe. Further, the number of researchers who ‘transfer’ into the field after their research training in other disciplines has been completed, raises questions about the fitness of their methodological and substantive knowledge in the field. Training is therefore an essential component to ensure that quality and cohesion of the research produced within the field is developed.

9.1.8. The field should deepen links between research and policymaking within and for Jewish communities

While we recognise the value and importance of ‘blue skies’ research that may not have an immediate policy ‘payoff’, we suggest that the field of research on contemporary Jewish life can and should aspire to be transformative for European Jewish communities. Many European Jewish communities and Jewish organisations do not routinely use research to feed into the policymaking process (insofar as there is a deliberate process of policymaking in the first place). Deepening links between research and policymaking within and for Jewish communities is therefore an essential part of the wider process of nurturing Jewish life in Europe.

9.2. Specific recommendations

In order to develop the field in ways that are consistent with the above principles, we make a number of specific recommendations about what a research hub for the field might do.

First of all, we concur that **a hub should exist**. As we have shown in this report, the field is highly diffuse and needs to be consolidated. While some existing projects, institutions and individuals mentioned in this report perform some of the functions of a hub, there is no **one** space in which the field comes together. For that reason, the development of a hub offers the best possible chance of putting into practice the above principles for what the field of contemporary Jewish life should look like.

9.1.2. Form and management of the hub

- ***The hub should be virtual***, at least initially. Creating a physical hub in a specific place will limit its reach and effectiveness, particularly given the small numbers of researchers currently involved in the work, their disparate geography, fluidity of movement within Europe and beyond, and the post-pandemic reality of online interaction now being normative.
- ***The hub's area of interest should be 'contemporary Jewish life in Europe'***, which should include research on antisemitism as well as other key topics such as demography, education, identity, culture and Holocaust memorialisation. Within this area, ***the hub should pay particular attention to addressing 'gaps' in research coverage.***
- ***The hub's scope should encompass Europe as a whole.*** As we have seen, research in the field often involves comparison and collaboration between countries, including European countries that are not EU members.
- ***The hub should have a governance structure, including an executive board, comprised of leading research and policy specialists in the field.*** The governance structure of the hub should include a channel of communication with European Commission experts to help formulate and develop its strategy and programme.
- ***The hub should have a permanent professional secretariat, led by a senior director with expertise in the field, and supported by professionals in the areas of social research and policy, training, event management and communications.*** It would be advisable to embed it within an appropriate existing research body to help manage the practicalities of the work, and to ensure optimal synergy with the field as it is currently constructed.
- ***The hub's primary objectives should be to help recruit, train and retain expert capacity in research affecting Jewish life as it is lived today within Europe,*** and to help ensure that research generated by the field can be used to help formulate policy both within and for Jewish communities.
- ***The hub should facilitate discussion and formulate policy about methodological standards in the field,*** particularly with regard to research on antisemitism, to help foster high quality empirical work.
- ***The hub should work closely with existing key researchers and centres*** in which field researchers are based, to help enhance their work and develop a sense of shared purpose.
- ***The hub should have a strong online presence to support its objectives.*** That online presence should be focused on promoting the field and drawing in researchers and policymakers who have an interest in it.

9.2.2. Recruitment to the field

- ***The hub should oversee an internship programme for young postgraduate researchers*** to work in approved academic departments and research organisations to gain experience in the field. This programme would help develop careers within the field.
- ***The hub should build a programme to help establish and distribute research grants for PhDs in contemporary Jewish life***, focusing on work in areas of greatest priority.
- ***The hub should work to create new academic positions focused exclusively on specific aspects of contemporary European Jewish life*** (education, demography, antisemitism, identity, culture, etc.) in key universities, academic departments and/or research organisations. Holders of these positions should be networked together to help maximise the value of research undertaken, and support policy development work.

9.2.3. Training for the field

- ***The hub should create and run a summer university/diploma programme*** for MA and PhD students already engaged in or interested in becoming involved in the field of contemporary Jewish life, to enhance their skills and expertise in the various areas of study that comprise it.
- ***The hub should run an annual conference for established researchers*** working in the field to share their work, learn from one another and engage with community leaders and EU policymakers to understand their interests, concerns and research needs in order to develop the research agenda going forward.
- ***The hub should provide small training grants*** to help existing researchers at all levels to attend programmes and seminars that develop their understanding of research in particular areas of contemporary Jewish life, as well as their methodological, policy development and knowledge transfer expertise.

9.2.4. Retention and growth of the field

- ***The hub should establish annual prizes*** for an outstanding established scholar in the field and for an early career researcher, to help give prominence to the field and encourage new and existing research specialists.
- ***The hub should create a network or association of researchers*** involved in research on contemporary European Jewish life to build links and connections between them and to facilitate shared learning and common endeavour. Existing networks and associations could be used as initial sources of contacts and publicity in building the hubs own, autonomous, networks.
- ***The hub should promote and provide support for the development of appropriate research proposals*** and encourage them to come together to submit bids as appropriate.

9.2.5. Interaction between research and policy

- ***The hub should work with major foundations operating in European Jewish life*** to build a sense of common purpose and help support funding efforts to further enhance and extend research within the field.
- ***The hub should promote initiatives that help to make existing field research accessible to researchers and policymakers.***
- ***The hub should publish a bi-annual summary of new research from the field***, in a format accessible to non-specialists and policymakers.
- ***The hub should offer research grants to Jewish community organisations*** within Europe in order to help them fund specific research projects and identify research specialists able to conduct the research on their behalf.

9.3. Building the hub

The exact form that the proposed hub will take will, of course, depend on the amount and the scope of its funding. The above recommendations have widely varying costs, depending both upon which are selected and their operational scales. We recommend that ***the first priority is to build a working Board to work in partnership with the European Commission to determine what can be done, at what scale and cost, over what time frame.*** It should use this report as a reference point to begin those discussions. Particular consideration ought to be given to the infrastructure and resources required to build and maintain the hub, and the activities required to help establish the field.

9.4. A final word

From its inception, this project has focused on the *people* involved in the field research. The methodology identified the researchers who make up the field and then ‘worked backwards’ to identify the institutions to which they are attached. We would suggest that this person-centred approach should also be applied to the building of the hub itself. Our recommendations have suggested ways in which individual researchers, aspiring researchers and research-users can be connected to each other and to the field as a whole. As things stand at present, field members are often isolated from each other and find their intellectual ‘homes’ in other spaces, if they find them at all. A hub can and should change this situation. Crucial to its success will be recruiting people at an early stage who are good ‘connectors’; who know how to reach out to others in a collegial, supportive manner. Ultimately, the hub will have the greatest chance of success if it builds a *convivial* space.

10. Conclusion

As academic professionals committed to the field of research on contemporary Jewish life in Europe, the authors have been privileged to produce this report and to take the first steps in the naming and development of the field. Research forms an important part of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life and we hope that our findings and recommendations provide a pathway towards the greater understanding of Jewish life in Europe and towards its flourishing. Despite the limitations of the field as it stands, there are many challenging and illuminating research projects being carried out across Europe and many fine researchers carrying them out. It is our hope that in the years to come, we will see the field building on its current achievements.

Appendix: Methodology

Given that the EJRA sample of 181 researchers is the data source that is most central to the report, some further clarification, informed by the process of constructing the sample, is useful here.

The criterion for inclusion in the sample was:

- The top ten most prolific (in terms of number of EJRA items) researchers who specialise in each country of interest, who meet all of the following criteria:
 - At least two publications in total;
 - At least one publication (as author/co-author or editor/co-editor) since 2010;
- A majority of EJRA publications must concern the country of interest in whole or in part.
- The top 100 most prolific (in terms of total number of items authored or edited) researchers on the EJRA database who have at least one post-2010 publication that concerns one of the countries of interest and are not otherwise included above.
- Not all countries have ten researchers who meet these inclusion criteria. This means that, in a few cases, researchers who are specialists in one country may not be included despite having more EJRA items than researchers who are specialists in another country that attracts less researchers and publications. For example, the Hungary specialist with the *least* number of field-related publications has a total of four, the same number of publications as the Bosnia specialist with the *most* field-relevant publications. This means that two other Bosnia specialists with three EJRA items were added to the sample, while no Hungary specialists with three publications were included. Our justification for this is that in *relative*, rather than absolute terms, the Bosnian specialist included in the sample holds the same role with regard to this country of interest as the Hungarian specialists with more publications.
- As the sample was being built, it became clear that the criterion of having at least one post-2010 publication included a number of researchers who had 'Emeritus' positions, were retired or had moved on to careers that were not research-related. Such individuals were retained in the sample since some remain active and, in any case, their more recent publications continue to be part of the field. However, in order to boost the number of active researchers, another researcher who met the criteria was added to the country quota. In the case of France, for example, the two most productive country specialists – Martine Cohen and Laurence Podsolver – are, respectively, Emeritus and retired. They are included in the sample and, in addition, the eleventh and twelfth most productive French country specialists in EJRA were added.
- For very prolific researchers, it is possible that EJRA does not include all relevant publications. However, for less prolific researchers who specialise in countries that do not have much relevant research in the field, their EJRA holdings are likely to be comprehensive, given the extra effort that was made to ensure that such marginal countries are appropriately covered. The net result is that it is possible that the difference in field-relevant productivity between the least and the most prolific researchers in the sample is understated to a degree in our findings.

- EJRA includes significant numbers of publications that have no named author (for example, reports from antisemitism monitoring organisations in some countries). It is possible that some of the members of the sample have contributed to such publications.
- EJRA's inclusion criteria exclude the following items that may be part of researchers' overall productivity but are not included in the sample counts:
 - Theoretical works that may draw on field research but are not themselves contributions to field research (theoretical reflections on antisemitism, for example).
 - Systematic global comparative studies that may include countries of interest to this report but are not limited to them (e.g. the Anti-Defamation League's global studies on antisemitism).
 - Historical works that include a small amount of work that tracks the narrative to the present moment.
 - Research on Jewish culture that is primarily concerned with the texts themselves.
 - Textbooks.
 - Popular publications (e.g. op-ed articles).
- For some members of the sample, it was not possible to find relevant biographical information in some areas (e.g. PhD dissertation topics).
- The university systems in the countries of interest vary (e.g. not all countries offer post-PhD qualifications such as Habilitation. University systems also vary by the amount of information that is made accessible online (e.g. Scandinavian countries include Masters' theses in institutional repositories, whereas in Poland, most repositories do not include doctoral theses). This means that, in compiling the biographical information, it was necessary to restrict the amount of information collected to that which is broadly internationally comparable.

In addition to these clarifications regarding the sample, we also wish to acknowledge that the EJRA database as a whole remains under construction and does not yet include every single relevant item of published research for the countries of interest. However, as we argued in the methodological appendix in the 2020 report, we are confident that the 'undercount' is consistent across the countries of interest – in other words, there is no reason to conclude that we have 'missed' relevant items at different rates for each country – with one exception: given that JPR is based in the UK and embedded in the UK research and Jewish communities, the EJRA holdings for this country are likely to be near-complete.

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The EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life commits the European Commission to supporting research on antisemitism and contemporary Jewish life, and creating a European research hub in this field. To that end, this report maps the current field of research on antisemitism and contemporary European Jewish life, to determine how the proposed hub might support and enhance research in these areas. The methodology for the study draws on the European Jewish Research Archive – the only comprehensive database containing work undertaken in this field since 1990 – to identify key researchers and institutions, and assess which topics and countries have greater or lesser research coverage. The report concludes that the field has limited structure or cohesion as it currently exists, and few means of consolidation as a research community. In response, it makes key recommendations about what a research hub should do, and how it should be structured to best support the field.

Studies and reports

