

THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHIVE OF THE JEWISH JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY: INTRODUCING THE EUROPEAN JEWISH RESEARCH ARCHIVE

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We are pleased to announce that the future of the archive of the Jewish Journal of Sociology has been safeguarded. Back issues up until 2006, which had only been previously available as hard copies, have now been scanned, converted to searchable pdfs and made available for free online through the European Jewish Research Archive (<http://archive.jpr.org.uk/>)

The European Jewish Research Archive (EJRA) is a project of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR), funded by the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe. It provides a free-to-use online repository of research and other publications that discuss post-1990 European Jewish life. The hosting of the Jewish Journal of Sociology's archive – which extends long before 1990 and includes items on non-European Jewry - on EJRA represents an exception to its normal inclusion policy.

EJRA was developed by JPR as a response to two limitations in research on contemporary European Jewry. First of all, there is little consciousness of contemporary European Jewry as a coherent research field. Unlike in the US, where research on contemporary Jewish life is well established and institutionalized, research knowledge is scattered amongst disparate researchers and bodies, with no overall coordination. This lack of coherence, together with other issues such as language differences, makes pan-European comparative research difficult and also acts as a barrier to researchers who might be interested in entering this field. The second limitation, which follows on from the first, is that there is no European equivalent of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive (BJPA) in the US. BJPA – which in this and the previous two issues has provided a summary of recent research – is an indispensable clearinghouse for research on contemporary Jewish life. However its European holdings are limited and it does not include non-English language items.

EJRA has therefore been developed to be a European-focused analogue to BJPA. As such, it is possible to search the BJPA archive from

within EJRA and, in due course, vice versa. However, given the very different context within which EJRA is situated, it also serves as a resource for the consolidation and emergence of a research field of contemporary European Jewry, a necessary first step in developing more and better research on European Jewish life.

EJRA is free to access and searchable via a number of fields: author, date, title, country, language etc. Items are also tagged, allowing sophisticated searches. The collection policy is broad: EJRA includes records of research reports, policy papers, books, edited collections, scholarly journal articles, theses and other material. EJRA prioritises items that are published since 1990, dealing with European Jewish life since 1990 (on the basis that European Jewish life changed dramatically around this date with collapse of communism and other developments), but where appropriate it will make exceptions. Where it can be sourced and copyright permissions allow, each item is accompanied by a downloadable pdf. EJRA includes items from nearly 40 countries, defining 'Europe' very broadly, including all former Soviet Union countries and, in some cases, Turkey. At the time of writing, EJRA includes items in 23 languages and, where possible, English translations or titles and abstracts are provided. The archive is recognized in Google Scholar and generates metadata that is recognizable by bibliographic software packages such as Zotero.

The EJRA database is currently being added to, with a substantial backlog of items awaiting entry. JPR invites scholars who have published on contemporary Jewish life to check whether their publications have been included on EJRA and to supply items where they are missing. In particular, JPR is keen to source pdfs where they are missing (hard copies can be scanned where necessary) and where authors and institutions can give copyright permission.

EJRA is actively being developed to ensure that it remains both up to date and robust enough to cope with technological changes and user requirements. 2016 will see a full public launch of the archive, together with the start of a programme of publication of curated collections and specially commissioned subject guides.

For further information, and to search EJRA, visit <http://archive.jpr.org.uk/>