

Antisemitism @ Work Initiative
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Call for Papers:

ANTISEMITISM AND THE WORKPLACE Opening the black box Vienna, July 4/5, 2022

Antisemitism - the age-old hostility, prejudice, negative stereotypes and active discrimination against Jews as individuals and as a collective, has seen a sharp ascent in Europe over the past decade (FRA, 2021, DelaPragolla, 2019). In France, “the most dangerous European country for Jews” (Mortimer, 2020) 85% of Jewish young people report having experienced an antisemitic incident (de Neuville, 2020). In the UK, which saw last year the highest number of antisemitic incidents ever (JTA, 2022), police records for the period 2020/2021 show that “Jews are statistically more than four times more likely to be the targets of hate crimes than any other religious group” (CAA, 2022); whereas the USA has evidenced last year the highest number of anti-Jewish incidents on record (ADL, 2021) with one out of every four Jews (24%) encountering antisemitism in the last 12 months (AJC, 2021). Fueled by the social and dark media, conspiracy theories that have long had a close association with antisemitism (Boyford, 2011) link Jews to present-day political and financial instability (Kofta, M., Soral, W., & Bilewicz, 2020; Lockwood, 2021). Jews also feature prominently in current conspiracy discourse such as Covid-19 (Jews caused it **and** are profiting from it: Gerstenfeld, 2020) and ‘replacement theory’ (Walzer, 2021). The evidence is clear that antisemitism alongside allo-Semitism¹ prevalence and intensity are on the rise worldwide, not confined to a particular age group or social strata (Schwarz-Friesel, 2020). It is also prevalent in domains without any Jewish presence (e.g. Malaysia: Ainslie, 2019), while in other geographies bereft of Jews (e.g. China: Horn, 2021) Jews are believed to be omnipotent superbeings.

Thus, far from being an episodic and marginal issue, antisemitism is a marker to the crises we, as human collective, currently face globally. Engaging with antisemitism provides us an opportunity to reflect and comment on current world travails as well as seek solutions.

The study of antisemitism has been a central topic in the humanities: historians, theologians and culture and arts specialists have studied it for centuries; and it has attracted a fair attention among social scientists too, notably in political science, and to lesser extent of sociologists and social psychologists. The one field where antisemitism scholarship is noted in its absence is business and management studies. Bar a newly published academic paper (Altman et al., 2022) the previous most recent publications date back some 35 years (Korman, 1988a,b). So, while antisemitism is spreading and intensifying globally, we have no documented studies on its manifestation in the world

¹ A proteophobia manifested in a radically ambivalent attitude towards Jews. Bauman, Z. “Allo-Semitism: Premodern, Modern, Postmodern,” in *Modernity, Culture, and “the Jew,”* ed. B. Cheyette & L. Marcus Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998, 148.

of work, how it may impact careers or about its occupational prevalence. We don't know how it affects victims and who are the perpetrators and by-standers; what are the common institutional responses, if any; sectorial variations; and how antisemitism features in the wider discourse on diversity and inclusion. In fact, with the exception of academia itself - antisemitic abuse on campus has been documented over the past three decades (Malaney & Williams, 1994; Pollack, 2011; Farber & Poleg, 2019; Elliott, 2019) and is now at record levels (Ball, 2021)² - we practically know next to nothing.

We wish to start addressing this lacuna. In this gathering we hope, through knowledge sharing and discourse, to gain a deep understanding of workplace antisemitism. We welcome conceptual, theoretical and empirical papers from a wide range of relevant disciplines in business & management and further afield: history, law, economics, sociology, politics, psychology, philosophy and ethics, among others.

DATES & VENUE

This small-scale foundational conference will take place over a day and a half on the afternoon of **Monday, July 4th** and **Tuesday, July 5th** on **WU campus** premises in Vienna's Prater district.³

We anticipate Special Issue publications to follow from the conference in 2023/4.

SCHEDULE

Proposal Submission: Send an abstract (c. 300 words) by May 1st, 2022 to antisemitism.work@gmail.com

Confirmation: Acceptance or otherwise will be advised within a week of receipt of submission.

Paper submission: A full paper of any length, in time for the conference, would be preferred but is not a condition for attendance and presentation.

Costs: The conference will be **free** to attend (no conference fee) thanks to support from Pearn Kandola LLP. and the WU Vienna. Voluntary contributions would be welcome.

References

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<https://www.adl.org/resources/reports/2021-online-antisemitism-report-card>

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² Campus antisemitism may be disguised as or conflated with anti-Israel/anti-Zionist ideology (Steinberg, 2019).

³ The timing and place correspond to EGOS 2022 colloquium scheduled later that week at the same venue.

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Topics (illustrative):

ORGANIZATIONAL THEORY

Insights from organizational, institutional, organizational culture /climate/character and organizational design lenses; and antisemitic manifestations

Structures of **power**, centre vs. periphery and antisemitic conduct

Institutional **processes**; cohesion vs. conflict, divergence vs. convergence and antisemitic conduct

ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOR

Work **misbehavior** - deviance, aggression, incivility, toxic culture, negative emotions, envy, hate, cruelty, innuendo

Leadership style and its relevance to workplace antisemitism

The **imagined Jew** and his (her) role in organizations

Antisemitism as factor in pursuing **work careers**

Features of the **antisemitism-free** workplace

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT/ INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Diversity management, equity & inclusion policies and the fight against antisemitism

intersectionality (structural faultlines) and its impingement on antisemitism

Standpoint theory and the Jewish experience at the workplace

Trade unionism and antisemitism

Voice/silence, helplessness and antisemitism

Well-being and the issue of Jewish minority status (identity) at the workplace

OCCUPATIONS/ PROFESSIONS

Occupations and antisemitism - historical and contemporary perspectives

Antisemitism and workplace **discrimination**

The role of the **bystander**

Boycott attempts of Israeli academia - antisemitic ramifications

HISTORY/ POLITICS / DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

Country profiles on workplace antisemitism in different historic periods

Antisemitism in ‘traditional’ **religious**, officially **secular** and **post-secular** societies as manifested in the workplace

Social movements and antisemitic/ phillosemitic expressions at the workplace

Critical Discourse Analysis of antisemitic expressions and conduct at the workplace

Antisemitic **language**: vocabulary, utterances, innuendo, jokes, folklore tales & the workplace

SOCIOLOGY

The **public sphere** and discourse on handling antisemitism in public, state and civic institutions

Stigma of Jews at work

LAW/ CRIMINOLOGY

Employment law and antisemitism

Antisemitism at the workplace as a case of **human rights**

Antisemitism as **offence** & the work context

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychological theories lens on workplace antisemitism

Profiling the workplace antisemite

Issues of **belonging**, **commitment** and (social) **identity**

Cognitive bias (behavioral economics) and antisemitism at work

ETHICS

Facing the ‘**other**’ - the workplace in antisemitic environments and times