



ACJC NEWSLETTER

The establishment of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion is a watershed moment for Australia's Jewish community. It presents a vital opportunity to deepen our nation's understanding of how antisemitism operates today, and how institutions can respond in informed and proportionate ways. It's also helping us to begin healing after an incredibly difficult period, and to ensure that our voices are heard.

ACJC's role in this important work, through the Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism (MIRRA), includes contributing research, translating evidence into practice, and helping ensure that the Commission's deliberations are grounded in the lived realities of Australian institutions and communities.

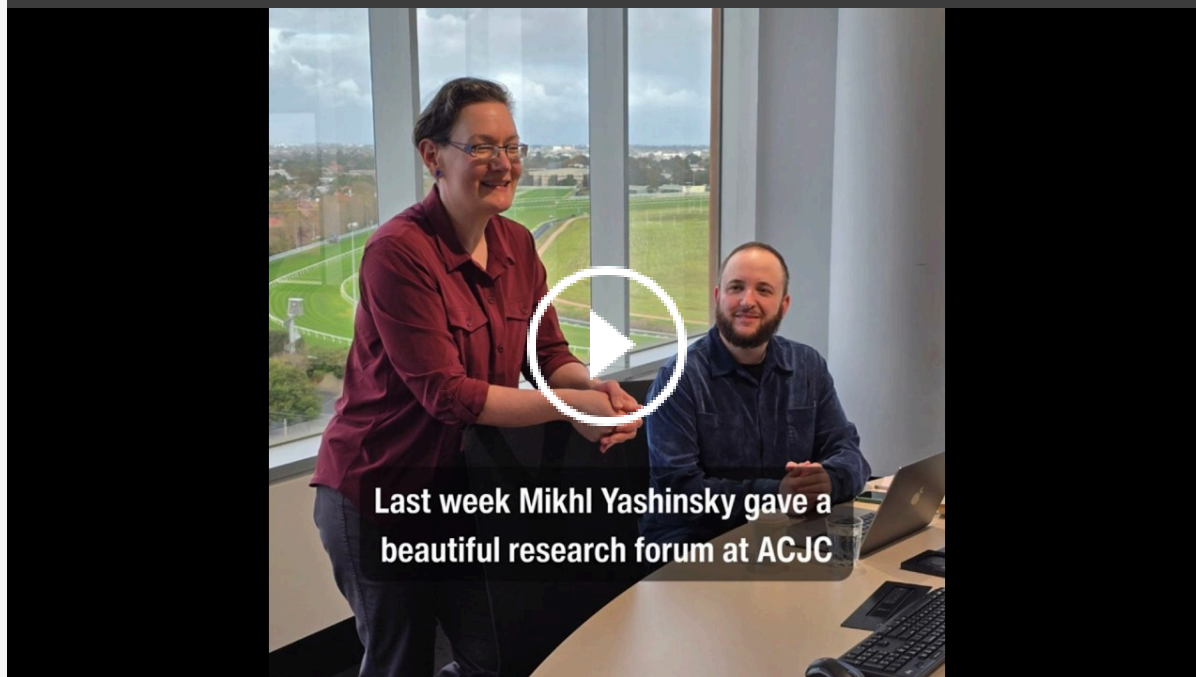
Our staff and students are also balancing the weight of this work by continuing to build and celebrate ACJC's contributions across so many aspects of Jewish life. These past few months have included, to mention just a few highlights: A community lecture on new research into ancient biblical manuscripts, taking part in panels at the ARK Centre and Melbourne Holocaust Museum, supporting a sold-out play about the Yiddish Sherlock Holmes, and welcoming two new staff members to expand the MIRRA Training program.

We thank you for your ongoing support, and look forward to keeping you informed about and engaged in all things ACJC.

Warm regards,

Associate Professor David Slucki, ACJC Director

ACADEMIC UPDATE



Professor Rebecca Margolis, Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilisation

In May 2026 I co-convoked a visit to Australia by New York Yiddish actor and translator Mikhl Yashinsky, through a partnership between ACJC and Yiddish Australia. His visit included facilitating an ACJC translation workshop on the work of Yiddish poet Ezra Korman, a sold-out performance of his original one-man musical *The Yiddish Sherlock Holmes* with Kadimah, and being a guest at the *Yiddish Sof-Vokh* immersive weekend retreat.

I also recently submitted two book manuscripts for publication. The first examines the television series *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, and the second, titled *How Did Yiddish Become Funny*, looks into language as a comic cue in American film and television.

In addition, I was fortunate to co-supervise the successful completion of Vanessa Costanzo's Master of Arts thesis on the writer Lily Brett, together with Associate Professor Christiane Weller – congratulations Vanessa!

MIRRA UPDATE

Monash Initiative for Rapid Research into Antisemitism

MIRRA's ongoing contributions to the work of the Royal Commission include research, a MIRRA submission, and detailed positioning papers that assist the Commission in navigating complexities – such as clarifying key concepts and highlighting where evidence can support practical institutional responses.

We're also continuing to bring together scholars and sector partners to examine antisemitism across higher education, the arts and public institutions, and making significant progress in our research into healthcare, security, Holocaust education, sport, law and other sectors.

MIRRA's work to date has already informed the expansion of our university training program, with new support from the Australian Government Department of Education enabling us to scale this work nationally. Our focus over the coming months will be growing the MIRRA trainer workforce and deepening our engagement with higher education institutions Australia-wide.

Make a difference as a MIRRA Trainer!

If you're interested in becoming a MIRRA antisemitism and cultural awareness trainer, or know someone who is, please keep an eye on our socials for recruitment announcements, or email us your Expression of Interest (EOI) via the button below.

[MIRRA Trainer EOI](#)

GEN26



The Gen26 Australian Jewish community survey: Opening soon

This online nationwide survey is conducted once per decade, and provides accurate data that helps Jewish organisations, schools and services to plan and prioritise resources. Led by ACJC and the Jewish Communal Appeal.

[More information](#)

BRAVE CONVERSATIONS



Project leads Dr Daniel Heller (ACJC) and Dr Farid Zaid (Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health) spoke at The Wheeler Centre on *Dialogue in a Divided World*.

The Brave Conversations Project (BCP) continues to work with educators, students and institutional leaders across Australia to build capacity for constructive dialogue and disagreement on polarising issues.

Recent achievements have included a national expansion of workshops at universities across NSW, ACT and WA, presenting to the Group of Eight's Expert Oversight and Implementation Committee on Antisemitism, a workshop with the Department of Home Affairs Social Cohesion Youth Reference Group, and facilitating *Teaching Through Tension* workshops at Monash University across multiple faculties. A recording of The Wheeler Centre event, part of their *Fifth Estate* series, can be found [here](#).

EVENTS AND CONFERENCES



Hadassah Australia Doctors' Networking Event

Tuesday 21 July, 7–9pm

Melbourne location

This special evening, bringing together Australian Jewish and Israeli doctors, will feature David Slucki sharing insights about Gen26 and ongoing research into antisemitism in healthcare.

[Register here](#)



Australian Association for Jewish Studies Conference

7–8 February, 2027

Melbourne location

This conference explores the dynamic relationship between haunting and humour across Jewish history, thought and cultural expression. Call for papers closes 30 August 2026.

[More information](#)

MEDIA AND PUBLICITY

Some of our recent media and public appearances:

Noé Harsel, ACJC/MIRRA Senior Policy Advisor, on the fallout of a performer's antisemitic language at the Biennale of Sydney: [Australian Jewish News](#) by Sharyn Kolieb, 23 March.

David Slucki, ACJC Director, on understanding, measuring and responding to antisemitism in the context of the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion: [7am Podcast](#) with Ruby Jones, 11 May.

Emeritus Professor Andrew Markus spoke at a Royal Commission hearing about his evidence-based approach to understanding antisemitism in Australia: [Executive Council of Australian Jewry/YouTube](#), 12 May.

David Slucki on the findings of the Royal Commission to date: [ABC Radio National: Religion and Ethics Report](#) with Andrew West, 20 May.



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