



CHOL Events: November /December 2024

New Research on South African Jews

Three sessions: **Wednesdays** 6 and 27 Nov and 4 Dec 2024

7.00pm South African time

(10.00am California; 1.00pm New York; 6.00pm UK; 7.00pm South Africa, Europe; 8.00pm Israel)

To join please email info@chol.website for the link (to be put on the CHOL mailing list)

- 6 November: **Reviva Hasson**
Topic: *The Paradox of South African Jewish Emigration*
- 27 November: **Gavin Beinart-Smollan**
Topic: *Finding Displaced Relatives: how South Africans found their missing loved ones during and after the Second World War.*
- 4 December: Professor **Shirli Gilbert**
Topic: *Who is researching What, about South African Jews these days?*

South African Jewish community history offers so many topics for in-depth study. The CHOL community fulfils a great role in eliciting and organising personal family stories and primary research documents for our communities. But we are eager to hear what subjects have been chosen for current dissertations for higher degrees and by leading research scholars. In this series curated by professors Shirli Gilbert (UCL) and Adam Mendelsohn (UCT) we are offered a window into the academic world of South African Jewish research.

Details below:

Checkout www.chol.website for **34 presentations, 57 memoirs, 53 communities, and 142 stories** of South African Jewish people and communities

CHOL November/December 2024 Seminars – Details:

New Research on South African Jews More details

Three sessions: Wednesdays 6 and 27 November and 4 December 2024

7.00pm South African time

(10.00am California; 1.00pm New York; 6.00pm UK; 7.00pm South Africa, Europe; 8.00pm Israel)

- 6 November: Reviva Hasson

Topic:

The Paradox of South African Jewish Emigration

- The South African Jewish community ranks as the strongest Jewish community in the English-speaking world and yet Jews have been leaving such that the population today is half what it was at its peak. This paradox underlies our question: why have Jews been leaving South Africa? Using data from three community surveys in the post-apartheid era we explore the 'what, where and why' of South African Jewish emigration trends as well as differences based on age, place of residence, financial wellbeing and Jewish identity strand.

- **Bio**

Reviva Hasson is a social scientist at the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies. Her research focuses on the study of contemporary South African Jewry, with an emphasis on survey data analysis. She holds a BSc in Environmental Science and a Master's in Economics, both from UCT. Reviva coordinated the 2019 nationwide survey of the South African Jewish community, is a participant of the prestigious international Nahum Goldman Fellowship program and is a recipient of the UCT Research Associateship Award. She lives in Cape Town with her husband and three children.



~~~~~

- 27 November: Gavin Beinart-Smollan

**Topic: Finding Displaced Relatives:** how South Africans found their missing loved ones during and after the Second World War

- In 1944, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies established the 'Relatives Information Service' (RIS), to help South African Jews trace relatives in Europe with whom they had lost touch. In this session, we will explore how this remarkable organisation worked and try to understand its place in the massive global effort to help people in the Allied countries, Jewish and not, find their missing European relatives. We will also explore how you might go about searching for the names of your own relatives in the files of the RIS. Please come prepared with any South African family stories of WW2-era relative tracing that you have!

- **Bio:**



Gavin Beinart-Smollan is a public historian and PhD candidate in History and Judaic Studies at New York University. His dissertation is titled 'Fragile Ties: The Translational Family Relationships of Lithuanian Jews, 1899-1949'. Gavin is the creator of the [South African Jewish Cookbook Project](#), and is the public historian in residence at The Jewish Board, a large mental health agency in New York City. He lives in Stamford, Connecticut with his wife and daughter.



- 4 December: Professor Shirli Gilbert

**Topic:**

***Who is researching What, about South African Jews these days?***

*Where are the current scholars based, and what topics have piqued their interest? Shirli Gilbert Professor of Modern Jewish history at University College London, tells us what is currently in the pipeline, who is investigating and on what topic (and give a few examples)*

- **Bio**

Shirli Gilbert is Professor of Modern Jewish History at University College London. She obtained her D.Phil. at the University of Oxford and was a postdoctoral fellow in the Society of Fellows at the University of Michigan. She has published widely on the Holocaust and its legacies, and Jews in South Africa. She is Editor-in-Chief of *Jewish Historical Studies: A Journal of English-Speaking Jewry*.  
6 November:



CHOL – Community History On-Line, under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish studies at UCT and the South African Jewish Museum [www.chol.website](http://www.chol.website)



**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum