



Monthly Bulletin

March 2012

2012/03

1



Georg Simmel, possibly the most post-modern among the founders of sociology, was a daring and innovative philosopher and the first one to introduce a shift of the sociological perspective, from the “big” social questions that focus on society, to a social microcosm that centers on the individual. The Bucerius Institute is proud to announce the publication of a collection of Georg Simmel's essays *How is Society Possible?* published for the first time in Hebrew by *Kibbutz Ha Meuchad* in February 2012. [Dr. Amos Morris-Reich](#), Head of the Bucerius Institute is the scientific editor of this essay collection that touches on topics such as adventure, the sociology of senses, meal or money. Simmel's essays paved the way for a new kind of social thought dealing with issues which were previously regarded as “marginal” and “low” and were invaluable assets for sociologists, anthropologists and researchers on communication around the world.

2



On March 14, a delegation of the German-Israeli Society ([Deutsch Israelische Gesellschaft, DIG](#)) came to visit the Bucerius Institute. Among the delegation were the president, Reinhold Robbe, and several other persons with executive functions. The DIG deals with different topics related to Germany and Israel. The organization steps in current debates and counters right wing radicalism as well as anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. The range of the DIG's activities includes lectures, seminars, exhibitions, concerts, educational journeys and youth events. At this first meeting of both organizations, both sides described their activities and investigated into the possibility for future cooperation.

3



On March 5, the Bucerius Institute invited to the [screening of the documentary](#) *Germans. Life in Israel* in cooperation with the [Goethe Institute Tel Aviv](#). It gave the audience an insight into the lives of Germans who came to Israel to raise a family or start a business, to become an artist or to study here. How are Germans treated in Israel? How are they perceived? How do the authorities deal with Germans, and which surprises and challenges does the new country offer? All these questions were answered by very different individuals from their own points of view. In most cases they did not plan to stay, nevertheless after coming here, either fate, coincident or spontaneous decision caused a change of their plans. The screening was preceded by a meeting with the German students of the University of Haifa's Oversea and Ulpan Program. Along with the Institute's interns and scholarship recipients, the students were able to tell similar stories.

4



During the conference, “The Future of Holocaust Testimonies II” that took place at the Western Galilee College in Acco from March 19 -21, Lea Dror-Batalion opened her exhibition “[The Jewish Vocational School Masada Darmstadt](#)” for the first time in Israel. Ms. Dror-Batalion offered guided tours through the exhibition that tells the moving story of Holocaust survivors who studied at the Masada School to learn a profession for their immigration to Eretz Israel. The exhibition displays the story of Jewish life before the war and in post-war Germany - a story of the survival and the new life they created in Israel, Canada and the USA. On April 18, the exhibition will be opened during a festive ceremony at the Israeli National Museum of Science (Madatech) in Haifa. The opening will take place as part of a student exchange between the Heinrich Emanuel Merck School in Darmstadt and the Bosmat School in Haifa at the eve of Holocaust Memorial Day.

5



Which role did German historians play in the construction of a historical narrative that supported and justified the hegemony and leadership of Prussia in the Second Reich? [Dr. Giora Sarid](#) answered this question in his presentation "[On Prussian Historians and German National Identity](#)" that took place on February 15 in the Keller House in Haifa's Carmel Center. Dr. Sarid presented various key figures such as Leopold von Ranke that shaped the historical discourse in Prussia lastingly and introduced the Israeli public to an interesting aspect of German history.

6



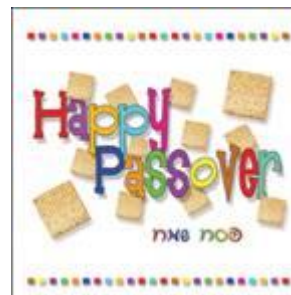
[Simona Malá](#) from the University of Olomouc/Czech Republic is besides Anke Költch and Julia Werner one of Bucerius' visiting scholars in 2011-12. Currently she is working on her Ph.D. thesis about Charlotte de Rothschild (1819-1884), one of the most important women in the English branch of the Rothschild family. Simona focuses on Charlotte's life, as she described it herself in her diaries in German and mutual correspondence with the female members of her family. Using the example of Charlotte de Rothschild, Simona wants to point out the facets of multiple-identity of a German-Jewish woman living in England. The multi-leveled character and transnational identity of a Jewish woman in the nineteenth century is at the heart of her thesis. As the method of her work she chose the historical anthropology of German provenance with an emphasis on Geertz' "thick description".

7



The Bucerius Institute recently became part of the [Clio-online](#) network. The website bundles internet offers for historians, develops new concepts for conveying specialized information and also provides a technological infrastructure that supports a more intensive usage of the internet in historical science. Through its modular and cooperative structure Clio-online strives for advancing and integrating central functionalities of scientific communication and discussion. Furthermore, it wants to communicate information with all the possibilities the internet has to offer. Scientific information, production and reception get connected in a whole new way. The meta-search engine allows the users to access existing databases and websites at one single spot on the web. In addition, moderated mailing lists make it possible to link scientific potential and knowledge and boost academic discussions.

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The Bucerius Staff wishes a Happy Passover or a Happy Easter to you and your families.

We invite you to become our fan and follow us on



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