



BAJS Secretariat
David Tollerton
Department of Theology & Religion
The University of Exeter
Mail Room, The Old Library
Prince of Wales Road
Exeter, Devon UK
EX4 4SB

Tel: +44 (0)1392 724238

Email: d.c.tollerton@exeter.ac.uk

Website: www.britishjewishstudies.org

BAJS Annual General Meeting 22 July 2019 Oxford

Present:

- Committee: Helen Spurling, Yulia Egorova, Ben Gidley, Hindy Najman, Andrea Schatz, Holger Zellentin, David Tollerton, Marton Ribary
- Plus 25 members

Apologies

Zulieka Rodgers, James Renton, Hannah Ewence, Mia Spiro

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Copies of the previous minutes were circulated and approved.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising

3. Committee and Officers

AS, DT, and BG left the room while the meeting deliberated their appointment to the BAJJS committee. Appointments were confirmed (AS as president 2020-21, DT as secretary, BG to join committee as ordinary member). Mia Spiro's appointment to the committee was also confirmed in her absence. HZ thanked Helen for all of her work as secretary of the society. Andrea thanked the meeting for her appointment as future president.

4. Essay Prizes

HS provided an overview of the 2019 competition. There were 8 undergraduate submissions and 8 postgraduate submissions. These covered a good range of subject areas, but came from a relatively small number of institutions. HS encouraged members to think of submissions from a range of institutions. The undergraduate winners were Ryan Commins and Isobel Carter, and the postgraduate winners were Robert Walker and Holly Eaton. HS congratulated the winners and voiced satisfaction that there was a good chronological and subject range across the winning essays.

5. President's report

HN thanked HS for all of her support during her period as president and conference preparation, the BAJJS committee for support, OCHJS and in particular Martine Smith-Huvers, Judith Schlanger as chair of Oxford Jewish Studies, Zuleika Rodgers for communications, and postgraduate students helping with running the conference. HN suggested that BAJJS could do more to get foundation and philanthropic support and is willing to help with future efforts in this regard.

6. Treasurer's report

HZ provided details of the BAJJS finances. The overall position of the association is positive, and HZ thanked HS for encouraging members to pay their fees and set up standing orders. There have been more new members this year than in previous years, and HZ again thanked HS for her efforts in this regard. He encouraged all members present to seek out new members of BAJJS.

7. Secretary's report

HS reported that 360 members are receiving the newsletter emails, and from this point they should contact DT for new items. Joshua Lander has finished his PhD and is ending his BAJIS studentship role. HS thanked him and noted that we are interviewing for a new studentship holder later in the conference. Applications for the replacement of MR as postgraduate/early career representative are welcomed, with a deadline of 29 July 2019. HS reported that we have been working to make sure BAJIS is represented in REF2021. We were unfortunately unsuccessful in getting a Jewish studies appointment, but HS has written to panel chairs hoping for Jewish studies assessors in 2020, stressing the interdisciplinarity of subject. Martin Goodman asked if it would be useful for members to also campaign for representation, and HS replied in the affirmative. HS or DT will write to members concerning REF matters in the near future.

YE (chair of the 2019 panel) reported on the book prize. This was a new initiative open to all areas of Jewish studies. This year's prize covered publications 2016-19. YE stressed that the purpose of the award is to support Jewish studies in the UK and Ireland - so future entrants will need to be based at a UK/Irish university, or presenting a book based on a PhD defended in the UK/Ireland. YE announced that this year's winner is Seth Anziska for *Preventing Palestine: A Political History from Camp David to Oslo*. Special mention was also given to Shirli Gilbert's *From Things Lost: Forgotten Letters and the Legacy of the Holocaust*. YE explained that there were two skype meetings of the panel to agree process and then agree winner and special members. Panel members agreed that this worked well. The prize award would be formally announced and a certificate given at the next day's reception. From next year there will be a two-year cycle, covering publications since 2018.

8. Web officer's report

(In ZR's absence) HS emphasised that anyone can sign up for automatic BAJIS updates – there are currently 465 subscribers. ZR would like copyright-free images for use on the website, and members should contact her if they can help with this.

9. Bulletin editor's report

YE confirmed that the latest bulletin is about to be published.

10. Social media officer's report

(In JR's absence) HS reported that BAJIS has 950 follows on Twitter. Members were asked to use the #BAJS2019 hashtag during the conference. HS thanks BG for undertaking social duties during the conference.

11. Postgraduate / Early Careers report

MR discussed the early career professionalization event held earlier in the day, reporting that it was a very successful session. He reminded members present about the mentoring programme and noted that DT will send out more information on this in due course. MR was standing down and it was noted that DT would circulate an email advertising his post. MR was thanked for his work in the role.

12. Conference 2020

HS provided the main details. It will be held 13-15 July 2020 at Southampton. Theme will be 'World in crisis'. A formal cfp would be circulated shortly.

13. AOB

Martin Goodman spoke about the passing of Fergus Millar. He was foundational during formative years of BAJIS alongside Gaza Vermes. The inclusion of Jewish studies in scholarship on the ancient world owes a great debt to his work.

HS offered final thanks to HN, noting that this is the largest-ever BAJIS conference.

14. Date of the next meeting

In Southampton in July 2020.

Provisional minutes by DT 22/07/2019 and updated 20/12/19