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## **BAJS Annual General Meeting 5 July 2021 Online**

### **Present:**

- From the committee: David Tollerton, Andrea Schatz, Ben Gidley, Mia Spiro, Zuleika Rodgers, Helen Spurling, Eva Frojmovic, Ilana Tahan, Katharina Keim, Hannah Ewence,
- 17 additional BIAJS members

**Apologies:** James Renton, Lindsey Askin

**Minutes of previous meeting:** approved

**Matters arising:** none not addressed below

### **Committee and Officers:**

The AGM approved

- James Renton as president-elect.
- Judith Olszowy-Schlanger to the committee.
- The proposal from the committee to create the new role of 'Events Officer'.

### **President's report:**

HS was pleased with the success of the online conference to date. She particularly thanked the Parkes Institute and EAJS for financial support. Over the last twelve months, she was especially proud of BAJJS' work in campaigning against potential job losses in Jewish studies, though recognised the major continuing challenges in this area. The current REF cycle is near completion, but HS noted that BAJJS will need to be active in promoting and supporting all dimensions of Jewish studies as the next cycle comes into view.

### **Treasurer's report:**

DT provided the treasurer's report in LA's absence. He gave an overview of the association's accounts, noting that while it faced no short-term problems, in the longer run there would need to be a drive to improve membership fee payment.

### **Secretary's report:**

DT thanked committee colleagues for their work during the challenges of the pandemic. He was also pleased at the apparent success of the online conference and thanked HS for the enormous work she has put into it. He thanked the book and essay prize judges for their time in supporting the competitions. DT presented a new committee parental leave policy drafted by HS. This was approved by the AGM.

### **Proposed Association Name Change:**

DT outlined the arguments for changing the association's name that have been publicised over several months. The AGM approved the change of name to 'The British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies' by over a 2/3 majority.

**Web officer's report:**

ZR had nothing new to report.

**Bulletin editor's report:**

HE reported that the new 2021 bulletin is complete and due for release shortly after the AGM.

**Social media officer's report:**

BG noted that the BAJS twitter account has around 18,000 followers and he has been taking a more systematic approach to regularly publicising Jewish studies work via the feed.

**Postgraduate / Early Careers report:**

KK noted evidence of the negative impacts of the pandemic on PG/ECRs and that the PG/ECR session at the conference would particularly focus on pandemic experiences and ways of providing greater support.

**Incoming President's report:**

AS was pleased to announce that EAJS have just confirmed financial support for the conference at KCL. It will be held 11-13 July 2022 – avoiding a clash with the World Congress of Jewish Studies. AS stated that we are planning for a conference in-person and she has received provisional confirmation from KCL that the venues will be available. The full call for papers announcement is due in mid-August.

**AOB:** None

**Date of the next AGM:** July 2022