



BIAJS Secretariat
Dr Lindsey A. Davidson
Department of Religion and Theology
University of Bristol
7 Woodland Road
Bristol BS8 1TB
UK

Tel: +44 (0)117 455 2046
Email: la18861@bristol.ac.uk
Website: biajs.co.uk/

Annual General Meeting

Date: 06 July 2024, 3:00-4:00 PM BST

Venue: University of Glasgow, Glasgow Union building

Minutes: Lindsey Davidson (secretary)

Present

Mia Spiro (president), Karen Skinazi (president ex-officio), Ben Gidley (president elect), Yulia Egorova, Hannah Ewence, Sonia Gollance, Jaclyn Granick (online), Sami Everett, Katrin Steffin, David Tollerton, Lindsey Davidson (minuting), Nathan Abrams, other BIAJS members.

Apologies

Zuleika Rodgers, Hannah Bash, Steven Samols, Eva Frojmovic, David Tollerton, Alexander Samely.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting - Confirmed.

Matters Arising – None.

Welcomes and farewells from president (MS) - committee and officers

- Jaclyn Granick (general committee member) approved to extend 2 years to July 2027.
- Ben Gidley confirmed as president for 2025/26.
- MS will move to president ex officio for 2025/26.
- Nathan Abrams confirmed as treasurer for 2025/26 (renewed annually).
- Bidding farewell to Karen Skinazi now that ex officio tenure is at an end.
- Bidding farewell to Eva Frojmovic for her many years of service on the committee.
- Bidding farewell to Katrin Steffen after one year owing to a job change beyond UK or Ireland.
- Bidding farewell to David Tollerton after his many years of service as secretary and then bulletin co-editor.
- Bidding farewell to Alexander Samely owing to health reasons.

Congratulations to new appointees and fond farewell to colleagues departing from the committee. Thank you for your dedication to BIAJS!

President's Report (MS)

- 50 institutions represented. 20% cancellation rate from US and Israel. Google forms and online programme had some hiccups.
- Book Prize announcement: winner is Anna Koch, [Home after Fascism](#), the honourable mentions go to Jane Brooks and Marina Sapritsky-Nahum. Anna Koch accepted her prize in person.
- Details will go on the website: <https://bajsbulletin.wpcomstaging.com/about/bajs-book-prize/>

Treasurer's Report (NA) - Plenty in savings. PayPal transaction fees (put family/friends not business).

Secretary's Report (LD) - De-tangling communication of AGM from the conference and hybridity to be a focus for next year as Andrea Schatz reminded LD that the AGM should be announced separately to the conference (this has not been done for many years, perhaps a covid disruption of practice).

Essay Prizes (SG and LD). Roughly ~10 UG entries. 3 PG entries (all ancient). More UG entries on antisemitism than other topics, but overall excellent range of time and topics.

- PG winner: **Max Benster** (Oxford), "Reflecting on the Cosmos in Hellenistic Judaism"
- UG winners (shared): **Dylan Moss** (Oxford), "Lancelot as a New King David: Medieval Jewish Notions of Davidic Descent as Reflected in the Medieval Hebrew Arthurian Romance"; and **Ethan Yang** (UCL), "A comparative study of the magical כִּשְׁף terminology in the Hebrew Bible and its Aramaic rendering in the Targumim"
- Details will go on the website. <https://bajsbulletin.wpcomstaging.com/about/annual-bajs-student-essay-prize/>

Membership Secretary's Report (HE) - New Google form with embedded payment, working really well. Still ongoing. We still have standing orders and bank transfers. Live picture = healthy membership 150 people in this year. Please update if you have a historic rate. There will be a membership drive.

Web Officer's Report (ZR) – Nothing new to report.

BIAJS Bulletin (SE) – SE reports that a lot of people have submitted news. Will extend to early August. Send us your news. The bulletin will be published in September.

Social Media Officer's Report (BG) - Facebook page fell away in use, time to move away from Twitter for lack of engagement and high antisemitic engagement. More activity and posting on BlueSky. Intend to expand to LinkedIn. Please tag BIAJS25 for the conference. Send news – mostly already just promoting active accounts – but if you do have events, please send to BG and ZR. We are especially interested in events beyond England.

Events Officer's Report (SG) - Come to the live music and dance tonight.

PG/ECR Representative's Report (HB and SS) – Nothing new to report.

PhD Studentship Holder's Report (KMc) - Monthly virtual seminars, six held so far. Please promote these events to your students.

Antisemitism Working Group (BG) - Launched originally by James Renton and fell into hiatus after his presidency, BG now re-launching it with a proper re-launch in the autumn. The AWG was started because of what academics were dealing with in teaching, with colleagues, accusations and being singled out, lots of issues and experience. HH asks if overlap with ICPG, UCU Jewish members caucus, at all. BG says that no, the AWG is not a staff network or representing Jewish scholars - but just a resource, a helpline, for those in situations, especially lone subject specialists, ECRs, PhDs, where they may have been asked to be arbiters or give advice but unsure of how to respond because they are not experts in antisemitism studies.

Work with Libraries / Archives (vacant) - EF asked Vanessa Freedom to ask Hebraica Libraries Group but they did not receive any volunteers or nominations from a Jewish studies librarian professional. So, anyone welcome to nominate someone.

Incoming President's Report - 2026 Conference – BG elected for 2025/2026. July conference will be at BG's institution - Birkbeck. Exact dates TBC but likely week of the 13th July 2026. BIAHS will link up.

British Jewish History Month - No updates.

REF2029 Strategy - No updates.

AOB

- Ordinary member Charlotte Hempel notes her observation of possible internationalization. Discussion acknowledge the benefits of a variety of scale for conferences – nice to have both small and big gatherings. Mobility abroad a negative factor in involvement as BIAJS members, especially for ECRs?
- Sonia: timing of the conference in respect to WCJ. LD notes as well BIAJS ought not to overlap with SOTS unless they are coordinated to be in the same location (as was the case last time it was in Oxford).
- Ben: should we be connecting more to EAJS and AJS? Yes.
- Student member noted desire for more representation from PGR/ECR reps.

DONM - July 2026.