

PLENARY LECTURE “INTERNET AND ANTISEMITISM”

Presenter: Monika Schwarz-Friesel, Technical University of Berlin

Title: “Online Hate and Antisemitism 2.0: The Spreading of Judeophobia on the World Wide Web”

The talk will focus on the rising problem of internet antisemitism and online hatred that is found on all platforms, not just on social media, but also on the online commentary sections of quality media. The spreading of antisemitic texts and pictures on all accessible as well as seemingly non-radical platforms, their rapid and multiple distribution on the WWW, a discourse domain less controlled than other media¹, is by now commonly shared within the space of public online communication. As a result, the increasing importance of Web communication makes antisemitism generally more acceptable in mainstream discourse and leads to a normalization of anti-Jewish utterances².

Empirical results from a longitudinal corpus study are presented. They show how centuries old anti-Jewish stereotypes are persistently verbally reproduced and actualized across different social strata. The data confirm that hate speech on online platforms follows the pattern of classical antisemitism: The texts reveal that contemporary antisemitism is camouflaged as “criticism” but still roots on the ancient and medieval stereotypes and mental models of Jew hostility. Thus, the “israelization of antisemitism”³, the most dominant manifestation of modern Judeophobia proves to be merely a new garb for the age-old Jew hatred.

¹ Schwarz-Friesel, Monika.,Hass via Internet.“ In: Marx, K./Schwarz-Friesel M., *Sprache und Kommunikation im technischen Zeitalter. Wieviel Internet (v)erträgt unsere Gesellschaft?* Berlin [u. a.]: de Gruyter, 2013.

² Schwarz-Friesel, Monika, “Educated Anti-Semitism in the Middle of German Society. Empirical Findings. In: Fireberg, H./Glöckner, O. (eds.), 2015. *Being Jewish in 21st-Century Germany*. Oldenbourg: de Gruyter, 165–187.

³See “ *Inside the Antisemitic Mind. The Language of Jew Hatred in Contemporary Germany*“ by Monika Schwarz-Friesel and Jehuda Reinharz, 2017, UPNE: Brandeis.