

Presenters: Yochanan Altman, Middlesex University London, Roman Batko, Jagiellonian University Kraków, and Mark Davies, Teesside University

Title: **“The trade and consumption of Jewish Figurines in contemporary Poland - old antisemitism in new cloths? An Internet discourse”**

Panel: Internet and Anti-Semitism

In Poland, especially in Krakow during the Feast of Emmaus (Easter Monday) Jewish figurines, made mostly of wood, but also metal, ceramics and plastic, are sold and bought as a talisman or souvenir. However, it is not an innocent act of folkloric attachment to some tradition. Jews are presented with (a coin or bag of) money which is supposed to usher in good luck to its owners. These figurines can also be found in souvenir shops throughout the town.

Our goal is to investigate if, and if so to what extent, the phenomenon of trading figurines of Jews has also a presence on the Internet. In addition to the documenting & analyzing the extent of Internet 'traffic', we wish to pay particular attention to the tone and contents of the discourse - the extent of (antisemitic) stereotyping, depersonalization and reification of Jews.

As research method we use content and discourse analysis, especially in terms of semantics of Web text, used rhetorical figures-of-speech and employed language registers, as well as visual ethnography, which will allow us to examine the pictures and figures depicted on the Internet.