

Presenter: Salo Aizenberg, Downtown Investment Advisory

Title: **“Hatemail: Anti-Semitism on Picture Postcards”**

Panel: Media Studies, Journalism and Visual Culture

During the Golden Era of the picture postcard (1890s-1920), the world was awash with postcards, with literally billions mailed each year. Postcards were part of the everyday fabric of life and an important tool for short and quick communications, similar to today's email and twitter. Postcards also acted as a window to places, peoples and events of the world at that time, prior to development of television and widespread use of photographs in newspapers. One subject depicted on postcards was anti-Semitism, reflecting deep-seeded attitudes of society. These postcards were printed by publishers to meet public demand, eagerly mailed by the population, knowingly delivered by government-operated post offices, and later saved by collectors. This talk will show the powerful visuals and discuss many examples of anti-Semitic picture postcards from several countries to examine and contrast anti-Semitic themes and attitudes, and how they foreshadowed subsequent events.