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Title: **“Antisemitic Discourse On Its Way Into The Political Arena Once Again: What Happened, And What To Do About It”**

Panel: Media Studies, Journalism and Visual Culture

During the first half of 2017 in Slovenia, two antisemitic outbursts met with a lot of media and public attention: the first involved a rather classically worded tirade of Holocaust denial as a Jewish conspiracy; the other presented the late Simone Veil who, in her capacity of Minister of Health successfully decriminalized abortion in France during the 1970s, the as a “mass murderer” of countless human embryos. The very instigation for her political fight was recognised in the fact that she was, as an Auschwitz survivor, heavily traumatized. In this way, the very experience of surviving the Holocaust was pathologized.

Slovenia is by no means an exception to widespread, and rather “standard” in repertoire, antisemitic beliefs; like in all European postsocialisms, there is by now also a decades-long tradition of historic revisionism concerning organised collaboration during WWII.

In combating antisemitism, much attention is nowadays given the seemingly boundless “freedom of speech” in the social media. I will argue that the medium of spreading antisemitism is of secondary importance to the fact that, like in the two Slovenian cases, the real danger lies in the fact that antisemitism (and racisms of all sorts, including xenophobia and misogyny) is once again a legitimate part of the political discourse. In the first Slovenian case described, the person who embarked on an hour-long, televised Holocaust denial rambling was an ex-Chief of Cabinet of an ex-Prime Minister. In the second case, it was a law professor and a Judge at the European Court of Human Rights of 16 years that heralded his views on Facebook. The contribution will focus on the analysis of the ways in which antisemitic, racist and misogynist discourse has once again attained legitimacy in the political arena, and what can be done about it.