

Presenter: Deborah Hartmann, Yad VaShem

Title: “**Current Antisemitism and Holocaust Memory - A Complex Interplay**”

Panel: Political Studies

Politicians and educators often expect Holocaust education being a kind of antidote against Antisemitism. Therefore Holocaust memorials are supposed to teach about the past in order to cure the antisemitic hatred of today. But why should a memorial, which was primarily established to preserve the memory of those who were murdered and those who survived the Holocaust, focus on current political topics, including Antisemitism? What are the risks and dangers of intermingling the historical anti-Jewish Nazi ideology that lead to the extermination of millions of European Jews with new forms of modern Antisemitism? By focusing on educational work at the Israeli Holocaust Memorial Yad Vashem as a case study, the paper presents experiences of working on Holocaust memory with educators from Germany and Austria in Israel, and critically discusses how forms of secondary Antisemitism after Auschwitz as well as Israel-related Antisemitism appear in this context, and which strategies could help meeting this challenges in settings that strictly separate the past from the present.