

Episode 23: The Challenges of Anti-Antisemitism

Guests:

Prof. Dr. Elad Lapidot – Professor of Jewish Philosophy, University of Lille; Co-Director, Center for Intellectual Diaspora, Catholic Academy Berlin; Visiting Professor, Dartmouth College (USA).

Dr. Hannah Tzuberi – Scholar of Judaic and Islamic Studies; Co-Principal, Orthodox Lauder Beth Zion School, Berlin

Hosts: Efe & Philip

Bio:

Prof. Elad Lapidot is an internationally recognized philosopher whose work engages deeply with Jewish thought, the critique of antisemitism, and the interplay between knowledge and politics. He earned his doctorate in philosophy at the Sorbonne in Paris and has taught at universities in Bern, Berlin, and beyond. His major publications include *Jews Out of the Question: A Critique of Anti-Anti-Semitism* (2021; German: *Kritik des Anti-Antisemitismus*) and *Heidegger and the Jews: Difficult Others* (with Micha Brumlik). Together with Roi Bar, he produced the first Hebrew translation and commentary of Hegel's *Phenomenology of Spirit*. His forthcoming works include *State of Others* and *Politics of Not Speaking* (both 2025). He is currently serving as a Visiting Professor at Dartmouth College.

Hannah Tzuberi studied Judaic and Islamic Studies at the Free University of Berlin, where she also worked as a research associate at the Institute of Jewish Studies. Her research focuses on contemporary European Jewry, collective memory, nation-building, religion, and secularism. She is co-editor of *Jewish Friends: Contemporary Figures of the Jew* (2020). In addition to her academic work, she serves as Co-Principal of the Orthodox Lauder Beth Zion School in Berlin - the first orthodox school in the German-speaking world since the Shoah. The school is part of the community center of the affiliated Khahal Adass Jisroel synagogue, which was the target of an attempted antisemitic arson attack after October 7 - one of the gravest antisemitic incidents in Berlin in recent years.

In this Episode:

October 7, 2023, was a profound rupture that reshaped Jewish life worldwide and intensified debates about memory, responsibility, and political belonging. It was also followed by a dramatic rise in antisemitism. The political anti-antisemitism that confronts it has been criticized for risking authoritarian tendencies or being instrumentalized for authoritarian policies, especially in the US but also in Germany. In this episode, Dr. Hannah Tzuberi and Prof. Elad Lapidot share personal perspectives on the aftermath - from attacks on Jewish institutions in Berlin to the daily anxieties of families in Israel. Prof. Lapidot presents prevailing theories of antisemitism by Adorno, Sartre, and Hannah Arendt and outlines his critique of anti-antisemitism. He warns of approaches that by reducing Jews to antisemitic projections, center perpetrators, and render Jewish knowledge invisible, thereby coming dangerously close to the antisemitism they seek to confront. Dr. Tzuberi introduces her concept of the 1 "figure of the Jew" and critiques Germany's self-referential memory culture as a form of "reforestation." Together, they discuss how rigid victim-perpetrator roles - also reflected in the construction of the "figure of the Palestinian"- deny human complexity and shape contemporary debates. They reflect on what is at stake when justice is pursued solely through identity politics. They also explore the meaning of "Never again!" - balancing particular responsibility with universal ethics - and reflect on

Walter Benjamin's reading of Klee's Angelus Novus, the Angel of History. Finally, Dr. Tzuberi and Prof. Lapidot introduce the Association of Palestinian and Jewish Academics, which they co-founded.

Links:

Dr. Hannah Tzuberi:

<https://fu-berlin.academia.edu/HannahTzuberi> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

https://archiv.hkw.de/de/programm/beitragende_hkw/persons/personenseite_210933.php (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Prof. Dr. Elad Lapidot:

<https://pro.univ-lille.fr/elad-lapidot> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/wissen/geist-soziales/martin-buber-zu-denantisemitischen-massakern-von-1929-19309954.html> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Berlin Center for Intellectual Diaspora

<https://intellectualdiaspora.org/de/about/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Lapidot, Elad. *Anti-Anti-Semitismus: Eine philosophische Kritik*. Matthes & Seitz Berlin, 2021. ISBN 978-3-95757-945-4.

<https://www.matthes-seitz-berlin.de/autor/elad-lapidot.html> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025)

Please also check out our other episodes to explore multiple perspectives:

On Antisemitism: Magda Teter, Naika Foroutan, Udi Goren, Michel Friedman, Benjamin Fischer, Meron Mendel, Ken Stern, Anita Haviv, Volker Weiss

Dedication:

We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends.

To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us.

To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.

To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.

Disclaimer: *In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, expert perspectives and terminologies. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.*

Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

*Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the Preis des Historischen Kollegs in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.*