

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester

THE
BOGDANOW
LECTURES
2019
IN HOLOCAUST STUDIES

THE CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES

Illegality: Jews and Other Humans

Prof. Tony Kushner

University of Southampton

Monday 23 September

The Concept of Illegality:
Defining the 'Other'

Tuesday 24 September

Illegality and the Migrant
Experience: From Mandate
Palestine to Lampedusa

**Daily Times and Venue:
6:00pm in A113 Samuel
Alexander Building**

www.manchesterjewishstudies.org

Monday 23 September, Lecture 1: **The Concept of Illegality: Defining the 'Other'**

Since the ancient world, the tendency to categorise people in a hierarchical way has been prevalent. There have been 'out' groups including minority and those of migrant origin, throughout history subject to discrimination and violence. It is, perhaps, only since the twentieth century that migrants have been defined as 'illegal'. This introduction explains how this came to happen on a general level and then using brief examples to illustrate the impact of such labelling. These case studies will range from East European Jews in the 1900s to more recent examples such as in Britain with those from the 'Windrush generation' and in the USA with those at the Mexican border from Central America.

Tuesday 24 September, Lecture 2: **Illegality and the Migrant Experience: From Mandate Palestine to Lampedusa**

Following this foundation, we will explore the exact moment when the term 'illegal immigration' came into use – Mandate Palestine and the British attempt to keep Jewish migration to a strict number. Having established this bureaucratic language and infrastructure of control, the concept had a life of its own and the second half of this lecture will focus on the contemporary migrant crisis, focusing on the tiny Italian island of Lampedusa (famous in Yiddish folklore through the play *The King of Lampedusa*) and so-called 'boat people'. It asks what happens when migrants cease to be ordinary human beings trying to reach safety and security and instead become simply 'illegals'.

Taken together, these lectures probe the power of naming and the ethics of representation.

Tuesday 24 September, 2-4pm, Masterclass: **Illegality: Jews and Other Humans**

A102 Samuel Alexander Building

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