

## **ESA (European Sociological Association) Conference in Geneva 2011**

07-07-2011

The researchers of the project have presented papers at the 10th Conference of the European Sociological Association SOCIAL RELATIONS IN TURBULENT TIMES Geneva, Switzerland, 7th to 10th September 2011.

Remco Ensel

### **Islamic songs and the transfer of antisemitism in the Netherlands**

The death of the young Muhammad al-Durra in the early days of the Second Intifada, September 2000, has proven to be a potent and controversial symbol of the conflict in the Middle East. For more than ten years it has continued to be a point of reference in the debate on anti-Zionism in the Netherlands. It has become a sign of the cruel practices of the Israeli, Zionist forces as well as a symbol of the struggle for Palestine. In addition, the al-Durra incident has been taken as example of the revamping of a deep-rooted antisemitic allegation of infanticide. Based on a collection of Arabic-language music cd's bought in stores in and around Amsterdam, I have examined how five songs in particular narrate and interpret the death of Muhammad al-Durra.

Evelien Gans

### **The Shoah as instrument to express, deny and blow up antisemitism in the Netherlands**

Contemporary antisemitism attaches itself to the Shoah (Holocaust) as one of its most favorable expressions. The phenomenon in which the Shoah is turned against the Jews, has been called, in its early manifestation, in Germany, in the sixties of the 20th century, secondary antisemitism. We are talking here about a form of actual existing antisemitism.

Next to this there is the debate about antisemitism. And here a paradox becomes noticeable. At the one side there is a new taboo on defining contemporary antisemitism because the Shoah functions as a rule. That serves the interests of antisemites but also of them who want to believe that antisemitism is something of the past – and a question of 'Yiddisher' exaggeration and need for attention. This reaction denies the multiformity of antisemitism. At the other side contemporary antisemitism is blown up and instrumentilised by those who, for their part, think that serves their purpose. In fact, it is a matter of a mirror image. While the one uses the Shoah to deny or diminish the impact of contemporary antisemitism, the other makes use of it in order to warn that a new Holocaust threatens – this time from the part of the Muslims.

The paper will mainly focus on the latter aspect on the basis of the recent book of the Dutch Israeli Manfred Gerstenfeld, Het Verval. Joden in een stuurloos Nederland (The Decline. Jews in a disoriented Netherlands).

Iwona Guśc

### **On transfer of ideas in turbulent times. Debates on antisemitism in Poland and the Netherlands**

The paper focuses on perceptions of Polish antisemitism and the debate(s) it provoked in Poland and the Netherlands. The observations made in this paper cover the period of the Solidarity revolution and of martial law in Poland (1981-1983). My analysis relies on printed documents such as official communist press; underground Solidarity press published in Poland and within the émigré communities; archival documentation of the Solidarity office in Amsterdam; and last but not least the Dutch press.

Annemarike Stremmelaar

### **Sites of antisemitism? Perceptions of Jews on Turkish web forums in the Netherlands**

The paper explores the reproduction of anti-Jewish stereotypes found on web forums frequented by Dutch of Turkish descent. It deals in particular with the national and transnational transmission of anti-Jewish stereotypes and the function they serve in a social context. An examination of references to Jews on Turkish web forums in the Netherlands reveals that anti-Jewish notions are often expressed in the context of perceived negative media coverage of Muslims and Turks. This suggests that voicing anti-Jewish opinions answers forum participants' need for a positive identity. While the impetus for expressing negative views on Jews thus often comes from public debate in the Netherlands, the perception of Jews as collective enemy is reinforced by discourses current in Turkey