

SMALL IS
BEAUTIFUL 

THIRD ENCOUNTER FOR LEADERSHIP
OF SMALL JEWISH COMMUNITIES

THE ARITHMETICS OF INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

Do they Add? - Do they rest?
Can they multiply? - Can they divide?

Stockholm, June 18th -20th 2017



Pan European resilience efforts are supported by UJA-Federation of New York



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PROGRAMME

Sunday 18th June

All the activities will be held in Bejt, Community Center from the Jewish Community of Stockholm

14:00 – **Welcome and presentations / expectations**

What we will talk and what we will not talk about
by **Mariano Schlimovich, UK**

14:30 – **Sharing expectations**

Exercise by **Mario Izcovich, Spain**

15:30 – **Interfaith, intermarriage, mix marriage?**

What are we talking about?

Some considerations for a common understanding.

What Judaism says about interfaith marriages?

Clive Lawton, UK

16:45 – Coffee break

17:00 - **What the data from different researches tells us about interfaith marriages?**

Lars Dancik, Sweden and **Marcelo Dimentstein, Spain**

18:30 – Coffee break

18:45 – **Redefining our concerns and feelings**

Discussion in four small groups.

With **Joy Levitt, US**; **Clive Lawton, UK**; **Marcelo Dimentstein, Spain** and
Lars Dencik, Sweden

19:30 - **Conclusions** moderated by **David Gidron, Israel**

20:30 – Dinner

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Monday 19th June

9:00 – **World Coffee, common work**

Obstacles and challenges, orientations and recommendations.

By **David Gidron, Israel**

11:00 – Coffee Break

11:15 – **Personal realities of living in interfaith partnerships.**

Panel with local guests - Moderated by **Clive Lawton, UK**

12:45 – Lunch

14:00 – **Learning & Sharing. Best practices and failures**

Joy Levitt, US

15:30 – Coffee Break

16:00 – **Learning & Sharing. Best practices and failures**

Joy Levitt, US

17.30 - **Conclusions** - by **Mario Izcovich, Spain**

18:00 – **Visit to the Jewish community of Stockholm. Main Challenges**

20:00 – Dinner

Tuesday 20th June

9:00 **Next steps in the communities. Concrete outcomes to develop.**

Potential Pilot programmes to replicate

10:15 **The Stockholm Declaration**

Discussion and definition of some general directions to be shared with other leaders across Europe.

11:30 **Wrap up and follow up. Common issues of small communities.**

12:15 – Lunch & farewell

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Speakers & Presenters

Joy Levitt

CEO JCC Of Manhattan

Joy is the executive director at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan. Prior to coming to the JCC, she served as a congregational rabbi on Long Island and in New Jersey for twenty years. She earned a bachelor's degree from Barnard College, followed by a master's degree from New York University, and a rabbinical degree from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

Most recently, she founded the Jewish Journey Project, an initiative designed to revolutionize Jewish education for children. As a lay leader, she serves on the boards of Avodah: The Jewish Corps for Service and the Shefa School, a new Jewish community day school for children with language-based learning disabilities.

Joy is married to Michael Strassfeld, also a rabbi, with whom she co-authored a Night of Questions: A Passover Haggadah and together, they have five children.

Lars Dencik

Senior Professor Of Social Psychology - Board Member Of The Association For Jewish Culture In Sweden

Lars resides in Sweden where he was born in 1941 of Jewish parents from Czechoslovakia who escaped the Holocaust. Today he is senior professor of social psychology at Roskilde University, Denmark and active in the programming committee of the Association for Jewish Culture in Sweden. His current research deals with the relations between societal modernization and Jewish life in Sweden and Europe.

Lars has previously served as professor of peace- & conflict studies at Fachbereich Politik, Universität Konstanz, Germany and as visiting professor at several universities around the world, among them the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He was member of the task group founding Paideia – the European Institute for Jewish Studies in Stockholm, and of its academic board. He has been a longstanding member of the editorial board of Judisk Krönika (Jewish Chronicle) in Sweden.

Lars was part of the international team of researchers involved in European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) survey of Jews' perceptions and experiences of antisemitism in eight EU-member states and has been research fellow of the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) in London. Prof. Dencik is the author of several research reports and scholarly articles dealing with societal modernization, xenophobia, ethnicity, identity, and childhood- & family relations. He has also published extensively on Jewish issues.

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David Gidron

JDC-Europe Resilience Work Group

David is a social psychologist and expert in community resilience and emergency management. A Lt. Colonel in the IDF, David worked as an organizational psychologist in a variety of field units. He served as head of the civil emergency behaviour branch in the home front command. David has worked as an expert consultant and senior researcher of emergency management and community resilience for private and public organizations in Israel and abroad. These include JDC-ELKA, Israel Trauma Coalition, Mahut, Nastec, the Gertner Institute, and more. Later, under the Israel Trauma Coalition, he helped establish a network of community resilience centres in the north of Israel.

Until recently, David was the professional director for the Israel Trauma Coalition and the ministry of welfare and the ministry of health for the five resilience centres in western Negev. These centres are the backbone for preparing the communities for crises, providing psycho-social trauma treatment and building community resilience in the ongoing emergency situation in the region.

David continues to serve as a senior consultant for community resilience and emergency preparedness for numerous municipalities, government ministries, private and public institutions and is a member of the JDC-Europe resilience work group.

Clive Lawton

Clive was recently honoured with an OBE for services to education and the Jewish community. Clive was head of King David High school Liverpool and Deputy Director of education for the city of Liverpool.

He is seen as a leading light in interfaith dialogue and education in the UK. He works worldwide in educational and leadership development, is the Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Jewish Council, senior consultant to Limmud, which he co-founded, scholar-in-residence JW3, London's flagship community centre, of which he was a founding trustee, sits as a magistrate in North London and broadcasts on BBC radio.

Author of about fifteen books, he holds degrees in English literature, education, theatre and film studies, management science, and Hinduism and Islam.

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Marcelo Dimentstein

Director Of Research & Evaluation, JDC Europe, Operations Director, JDC International Centre For Community Development (JDC-ICCD)

Marcelo is a social anthropologist and since 2009 directs the JDC International Centre for Community Development (JDC-ICCD).

In his position as director of the JDC-ICCD, he has been coordinating research on different phenomena of Jewish contemporary life in Europe and is himself dedicated to analysing the transnational history of the reconstruction of the Jewish communities after the fall of communism.

Marcelo also teaches at different JDC Europe's Leatid leadership training seminars. He has also taken an active role in organizing and running inter-faith dialogue events. He lives in Barcelona with his wife and daughter