Melbourne, 22 September 2026

Negotiating Belonging: Leadership, Resistance, and Culture in an Age of Exclusion

14:00–14:15 - Opening Remarks – Kasia Williams and Ezra May

MC: Belle Kwan

Panel 1 *-* ***Confronting Antisemitism: Community Perspectives and Responses***

14:15 – 14:30 - Keynote: Zachary Townend, City of Glen Eira

14:30 – 15:15 - Panel discussion **Eva Hussain** (Polaron Connect), **Maria Dimopoulous** (Settlement Council of Australia, **Ezra May** (ASPJ), **Bruce Hill** (Australian Jewish News)

15:15–15:30 - Discussion

15:30–15:45 - Break

Panel 2 - Performance, Resistance, and Cultural Repair

15:45–16:05 - Estelle Rozinski
Performance / Artistic Presentation, "He taught the canaries to sing – but now what?"

16:05–16:25 - Anna Hirst Friedman
Cultural Productions as Sites of Resistance, Dialogue or Repair: Amidah – A Silent Prayer

16:25–16:40 – Discussion

16:40–18:30 - Break

Panel 3 - Cultural Leadership, Resistance, and Belonging in Jewish Life

18:30–18:45 - Opening Remarks – Kasia Williams and Ezra May

18:45–19:00 - Keynote: Zachary Townend, City of Glen Eira

19:00–19:15 - Agata Dabrowska
Between Memory and Belonging: Yiddish Theatre, Cultural Resistance, and Identity under Political Pressure (The Case of Damian Josef Neć's Der Szturem. Cwiszn)

19:15–19:30 — Jakub Parnes
Between a 'Nazi Rag' and a Community Leader: Trust-Building Strategies in Gazeta Żydowska (1940–1942)

19:30–19:45 — Katarzyna Williams
Cultural Leadership in an Age of Displacement: Rachel Holzer and Jewish Cultural Life in Australia

20:00 — Conference Close

This event is organized with the support of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Jean Leadership Emerging from Migration, Ethnicity, Race and Gender in Australia and the EU, co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.