



Seminar

**DAN DINER**

Fellow, SCAS.

Professor of Modern European History, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

*Choreographed Diplomacy:  
The German-Israeli Encounter in Luxembourg 1952*

Thursday, 1 October, 4:15 p.m.

In the Thunberg Lecture Hall  
SCAS, Linneanum, Thunbergsvägen 2, Uppsala  
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C O L L E G I U M  
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## ABOUT DAN DINER

Dan Diner received his Ph.D. in International Law at Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main in 1973 and was awarded his habilitation in 1980. He has held teaching positions at the following universities: Odense (1983–85), Essen (1985–99), and Tel Aviv (1988–99), where he headed the Minerva Institute for German History. From 1999 until 2014, he served as Director of the Simon-Dubnow-Institut für jüdische Geschichte und Kultur at Universität Leipzig. Since 2001, he has been a professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a full member of the Philological-Historical Class at the Sächsische Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Leipzig, where he heads the project ‘Encyclopedia of Jewish European Cultures’. He has been the principal investigator of the European Research Council Advanced Grant project ‘Judging Histories’, based at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 2014.

Diner has been a visiting scholar at numerous research centers, among them, the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (2004–05); the Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University (2008, 2011); the Center for Jewish Studies, Duke University (2011); and the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (2014–15). He has also taught as a visiting scholar at several universities, among them, the University of Oxford (2003) and the University of Chicago (2014–15).

Diner has received the Ernst-Bloch-Preis der Stadt Ludwigshafen (2006), the Capalbio Award (2007) and the Leipziger Wissenschaftspreis (2013). Among his publications are the books *Cataclysms: A History of the Twentieth Century from Europe’s Edge* (Madison 2008), *Beyond the Conceivable: Studies on Germany, Nazism, and the Holocaust* (Berkeley 2000), *Gegenläufige Gedächtnisse: Über Geltung und Wirkung des Holocaust* (Göttingen 2007), *Zeitenschwelle: Gegenwartsfragen an die Geschichte* (Munich 2010) and *Rituelle Distanz: Israels deutsche Frage* (Munich 2015). His books have been translated into numerous languages.

## ABSTRACT

On September 10, 1952 the German-Israeli Agreement on restitution and indemnification was signed in the town-hall of the city of Luxembourg. The event is generally perceived as the foundational event of post-45 German-Jewish-Israeli relations. Yet, the presentation doesn’t intend to tell the extensively researched story of the so called “Wiedergutmachung”, but to interpret a diplomatically choreographed occasion which lasted just about thirteen minutes, and this by using the modes of thick historical-anthropological description. In this respect the presentation probes a new approach in the domain of diplomatic history beyond politics proper. The subject is composed of questions of belonging, origin, language, memory and emotions at the backdrop of crimes against humanity committed against the Jewish people. Last but not least does the narrated event points at a deeper conceptual intention which might be recognized as belonging to the complex domain of political theology.