

Confronting Israel Delegitimization & Antisemitism: Trends, Challenges, Solutions

TEMPLE SINAI, Oakland CA Israel Education Committee

Miriam F. Elman

Executive Director

Academic Engagement Network

Associate Professor

Syracuse University (on leave)





AEN: an independently-branded educational nonprofit

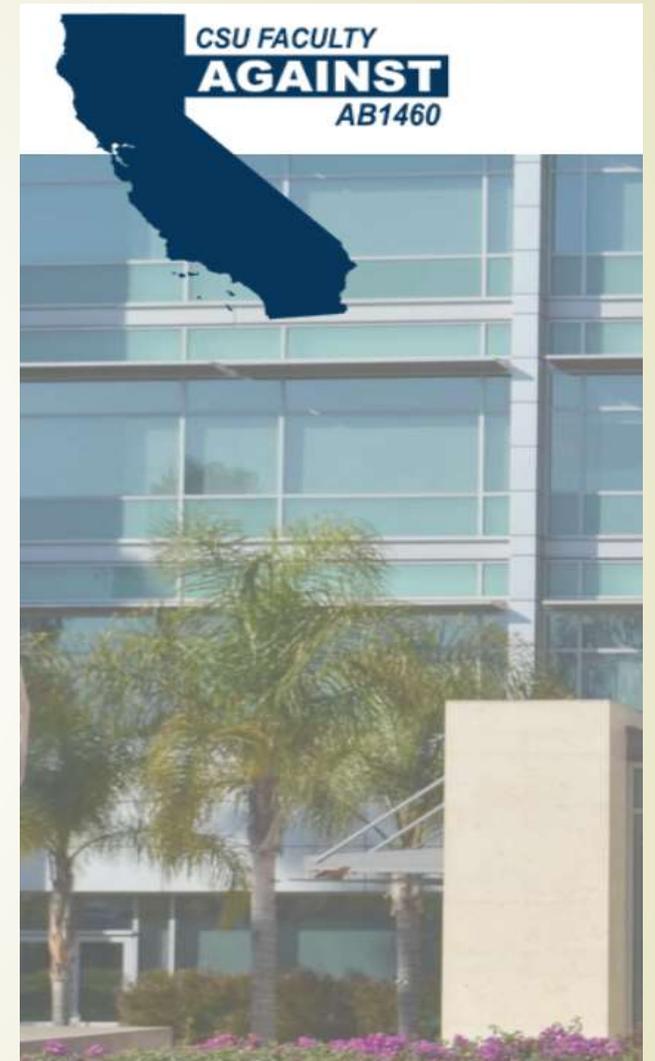
- Support a welcoming, non-hostile learning environment for Jewish students, and all students
- Contribute to literacy on the Jewish experience, Jewish identity, and Israel and the Middle East by educating and providing resources to faculty members
- Promote academic freedom, open inquiry & free expression
- Respond to & combat antisemitism by providing guidance on best practices to administrators and faculty members

<https://academicengagement.org/>



AEN in California

- Nearly 120 faculty members
- AEN financially supports UC-Berkeley's Antisemitism Education Initiative
- AEN is working with AJC and other partners to ensure that the new CSU ethnic studies graduation requirement does not negatively impact Jewish & Pro-Israel students
- AEN is collaborating with Hillel to provide antisemitism awareness training and educational programming at San Francisco State University



M Mondoweiss

Students at two universities just voted to divest from Israel – Mondoweiss

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Columbia University have both passed historic resolutions calling for divestment from Israel.

Sep 30th (238 kB) ▾



IN THE NEWS

Society for the Study of Social Problems Votes by Majority To Support BDS, Motion Falls Short Due To Rules Change

August 26, 2020 / By SSSP BDS Resolution Co-Sponsors /

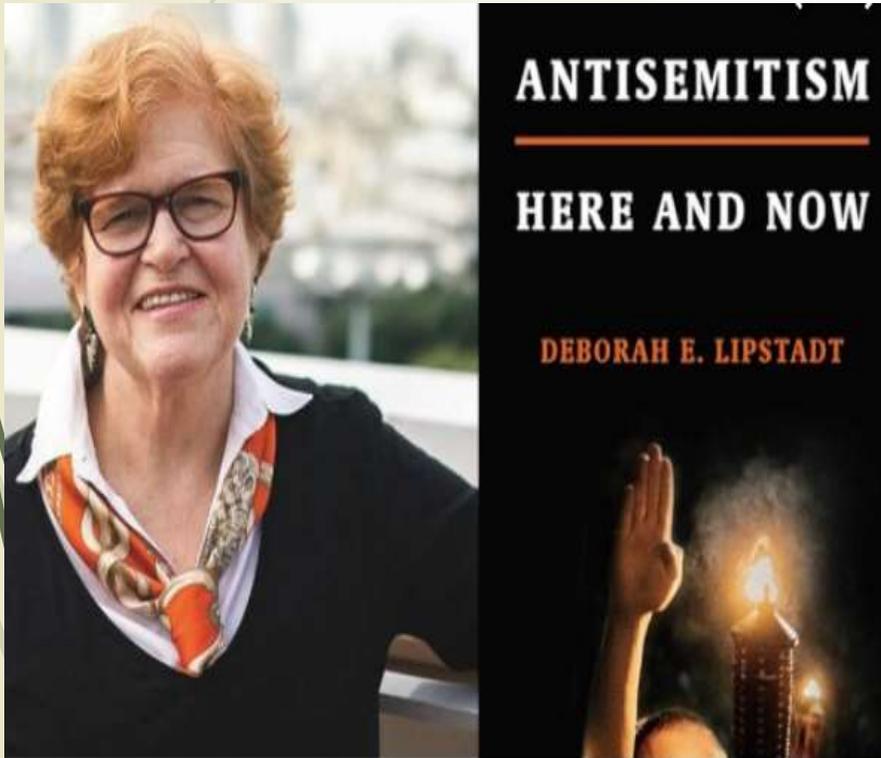


Trends on Campus

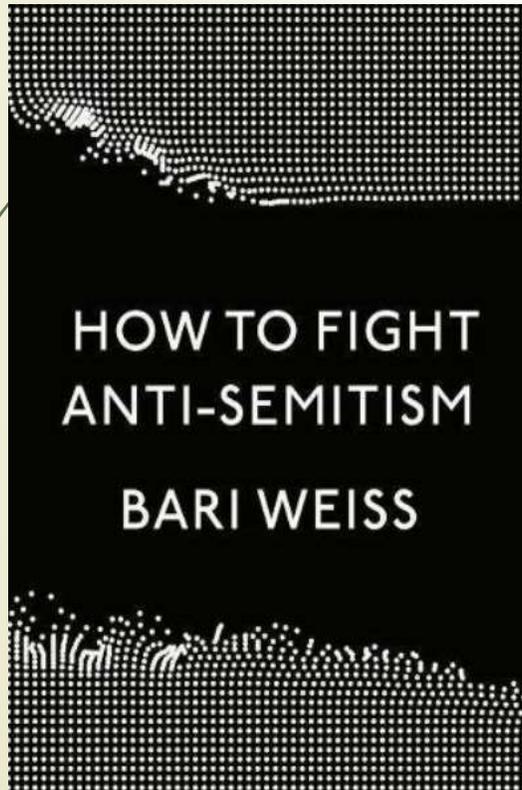
- ▶ There's a more pernicious form of anti-Israel activism on campuses today: a "cancellation" discourse toward Israel and its supporters



A new set of realities on campus



- ▶ “I use the term, however reluctantly, because it captures what I am seeing today. Most Jewish students on American campuses...are not abandoning their Jewish identity; they are hiding it. They have become *Marranos*.”



- **“It does not matter how progressive you are, how vegan, or how gay, how much you want universal health care and pre-K and to end the drug war. To believe in the justness of the existence of the Jewish state—to believe in Jewish particularism at all—is to make yourself an enemy of this movement” ~~ Tablet, 10.14.20**

- There are over 4,000 campuses in the US—only a few hundred are impacted by BDS and anti-Israel hostility.

Israel on Campus Coalition 
@IsraelCampus

For the second consecutive year, Chicago served as a hub of anti-Israel activity. israelcc.org/yearendreport

2016-2017 YEAR END REPORT



 ISRAEL on
CAMPUS COALITION

A surge of antisemitic incidents

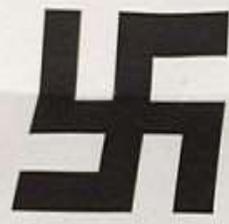
- Hillel recently reported that on the 550 colleges and universities that it serves, antisemitism has been at an all time high—with nearly 200 incidents during 2019-2020.

University of California



WHITE MAN ARE YOU SICK AND TIRED OF **THE JEWS**

DESTROYING YOUR COUNTRY THROUGH
MASS IMMIGRATION AND DEGENERACY?

 JOIN US IN THE
STRUGGLE FOR
GLOBAL WHITE
SUPREMACY AT 

THE DAILY STORMER

www.dailystormer.com



- ▶ **Far-left antisemitism manifests as self-defining anti-racists, often from minority communities themselves, expressing a dogmatic anti-Israelism. Like antisemitism on the right, it also puts Jews at the center of what is wrong with society, the state, and the world.**



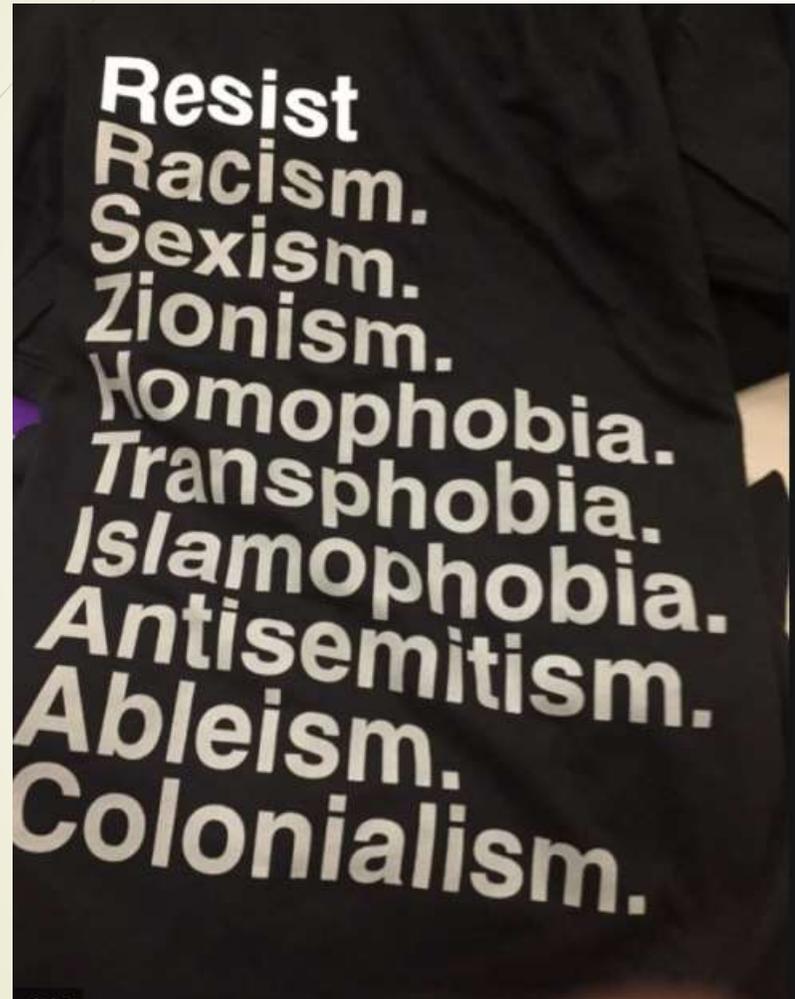
Defining antisemitism



- ▶ Defining antisemitism isn't easy but we can delineate some specific features and manifestations.
- ▶ Antisemitism is different than other types of hatred.
- ▶ Antisemitism is a kind of superstition—a conspiracy theory in which Jews play the starring role.
- ▶ Jews are depicted as degenerates, but also as a sinister collective obstructing the “natural order of things.”



- **The “new antisemitism”:** Israel stands accused of cardinal sins against human rights and social justice, including apartheid and genocide.



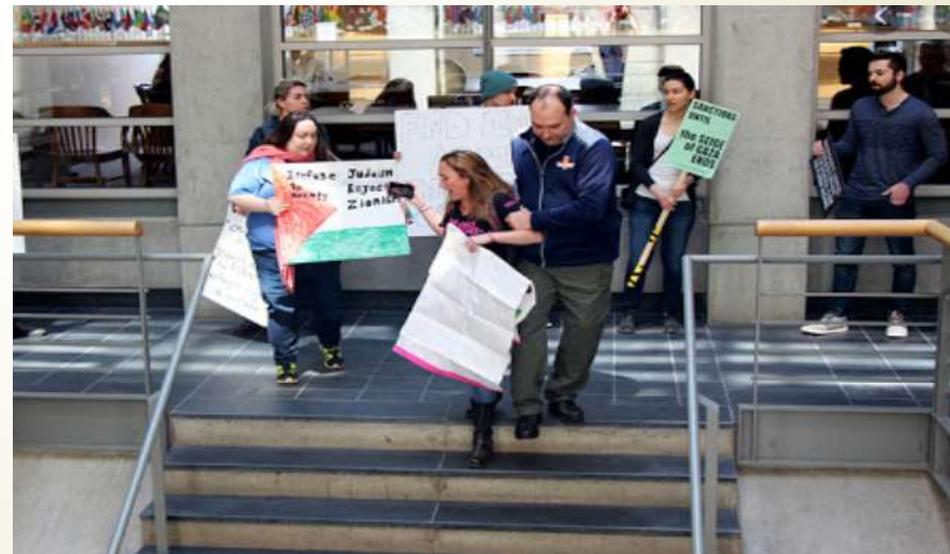
Criticism of Israel morphs into antisemitism when it projects the negative stereotype of the Jew (sinister, clannish, disloyal, traitorous, rootless, cunning, money-grubbing, and power-grabbing) onto Israel, which just happens to be the world's only Jewish-majority state.



Challenge #1: COVID-19



- ▶ *Will we be told that antisemitism needs to take a back seat due to other pressing campus needs?*



We very quickly started to see social media posts equating Jews with Covid-19, reminiscent of age-old blood libels casting Jews as disease-spreaders



JANUARY 5, 2021 3:07 PM 3

'Guardian' Article Spreads Antisemitic Falsehoods on Vaccine

➤ “[It was] gross antisemitism...[a] false story of Israeli medical malpractice which is supposed to prove the innate moral rot of the Jewish state”

~~Shany Mor (IDI & Bard College)

The COVID vaccine blood libel against Israel



USC'S STUDENT GOVT. VP ROSE RITCH FORCED TO RESIGN AFTER SYSTEM HORRIFIC BULLYING OVER HER SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL



July 11, 2020

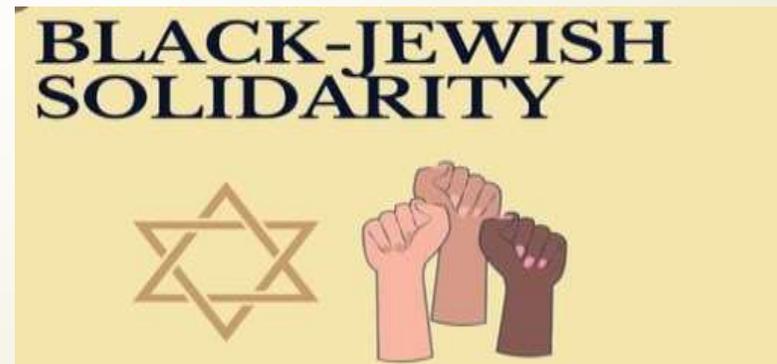
'Free Palestine' Spray Painted on University of Wisconsin's Hillel House



A close-up photograph of a sign for the "Barbara Hochberg Center for Jewish Student Life". The sign is partially obscured by blue spray-painted text that reads "FREE PALESTINE".

Challenge #2: Strengthening Black-Jewish solidarity

How do we advance Black-Jewish allyship on campus while ensuring that black lives matter is a welcoming place for Jewish and Zionist students?





In New Video, Notorious Anti-Israel Group JVP Portrays 'Jewish Conspiracy to Murder Innocent Americans'

 by Ben Cohen



DEADLY EXCHANGE

Ending US-Israel Police Partnerships
Reclaiming Safety

A Jewish Voice for Peace Campaign





One of the most disturbing aspects of US/Israel police partnerships: **the actors who facilitate them.**



The organizers of the exchanges are predominantly U.S.-based Jewish organizations, including:



The Anti-Defamation League

The American Jewish Committee

The Jewish Institute for National Security of America

American Israel Public Affairs Committee



Tufts U passes referendum reminiscent of 'antisemitic blood libel'



**Jewish Voice for Peace
at Tufts**

"#EndTheDeadlyExchange because the Tufts police should not be training with an occupying military known for its human rights violations!
#SafetyThroughSolidarity"

**End The
Deadly
Exchange**

**Tufts SJP
Deadly
Exchange
101**

THURS, OCT 15 8PM

ISRAEL ON CAMPUS

Cal Jewish students still 'pained' over anti-Zionist remarks

BY GABE STUTMAN | APRIL 26, 2019



Screenshot from Berkeley ASUC video of the student senate meeting on April 17, 2019

➤ **“The IDF trains the police departments in America to kill black people”**

University of California-Berkeley student

Outrage Greet Pro-BDS Petition to University of California Blaming Israel for Teaching Methods That Killed George Floyd



Instagram | sjpcsuf

Join us at this week's meeting where we discuss decades of Israeli-US police cooperation of racial profiling and violent suppression of protests, also known as the deadly exchange. Zoom link will be in bio! ps 📎 (95 kB) ▾

Meeting :
Wednesday
October 21st
@ 11:30 am

DEADLY EXCHANGE

Discussion on how the US and Israel exchange tactics in violence and control

Solutions: Ensuring Student Rights



U of Michigan prof. who refused to write Israel letter denies anti-Semitism

ADL and AEN Craft Model Policy for Universities to Ensure Study Abroad Opportunities Apply to All Qualified Students

Palestinian Academic & Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI)

➤ *Faculty signatories to the academic boycott of Israel are urged to carry out a number of actions on their own campuses in the US:*

- Work to close down study abroad programs in Israel
- Persuade colleagues to end all inter-university research & teaching collaborations
- Refuse to co-sponsor, endorse, or attend academic programs & projects that promote Israeli-Palestinian “reconciliation” & “co-existence”

الحملة الفلسطينية
للمقاطعة الأكاديمية
والثقافية لإسرائيل



Palestinian Campaign
for the Academic & Cultural
Boycott of Israel

December 2019 Executive Order on Combating Antisemitism

- ▶ The EO puts universities on notice that they cannot dismiss or tolerate discriminatory conduct against Jewish students, or ignore systematic harassment of Jewish students, simply by labeling the attacks a criticism of Israel.

New York University Reaches Settlement With US Department of Education Over Antisemitism Complaint, Pledges to Revise Anti-Discrimination Policies

Jewish UIUC students file civil rights complaint, alleging anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism over five year period

NEWS > BAY AREA

Jewish students settle lawsuit against S.F. State University

Training Administrators

- *Diversity officials need help in better identifying and responding to situations where a critique of Israel or Zionism becomes an intolerable form of antisemitism*



STUDENT LIFE
ENGAGE | SERVE | BELONG

OFFICE FOR
EQUITY, DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION



SJP UIUC

September 1 at 10:30am · 🌐

Join SJP and other amazing, radical organizations on campus at this rally next week. There is no room for fascists, white supremacists, or Zionists at UIUC. Tuesday, September 5th @ 11:30am, Alma Mater.

[#SmashingFascism](#) [#NoJusticeNoPeace](#)

Smashing Fascism: Radical Resistance Against White Supremacy



Join us for a radical anti-fascist demonstration Tuesday, 9/5 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm near the Alma Mater. Our mission is to make it clear that there is no room for racists and fascists to have a platform in Champaign/Urbana! This is also a great opportunity for radical organizations to introduce themselves to the community.

Please bring any signs, banners, or other messages of solidarity and resistance with you!

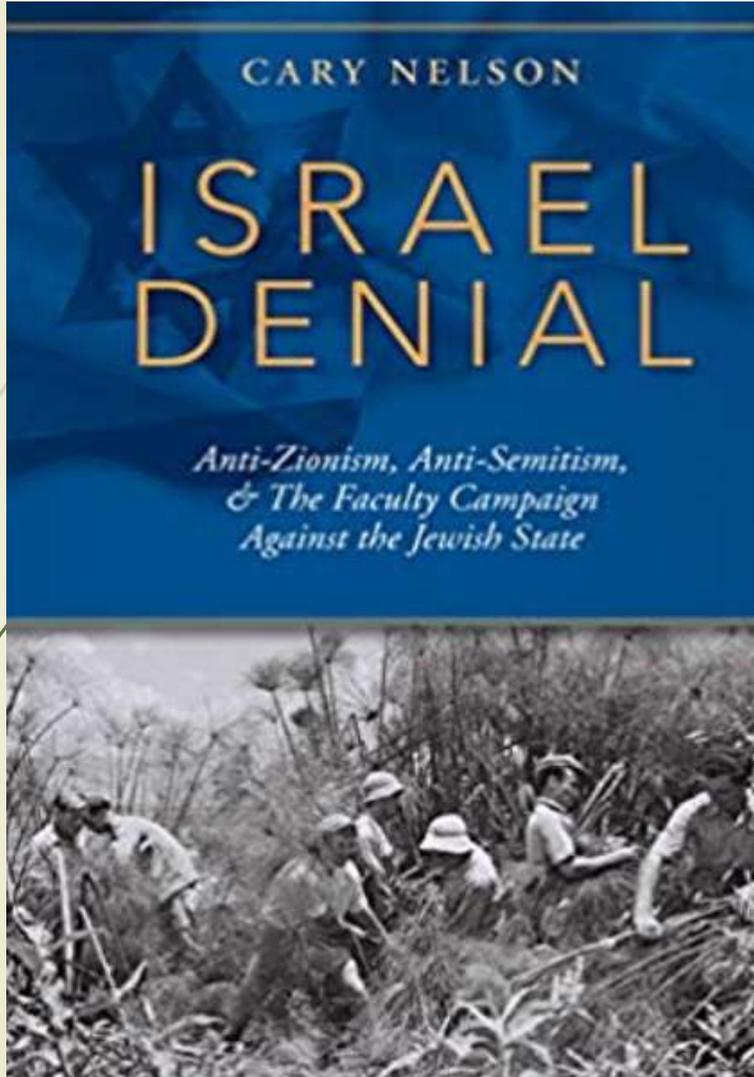
Facebook Event: <http://tiny.cc/UIUCrally>

 Jewish Voice for Peace PSU
April 16, 2019 · 🌐

We're so excited to see everyone tonight! Please update your RSVP if you're coming so we know what to expect! We're also selling t-shirts and buttons so stop by for some anti-zionist propaganda.



- “Zionism is an inherently violent, racist philosophy that should not be allowed in our leftist organizing spaces.”
~~ JVP chapter,
George Washington
University, 2019



“Even anti-Israel faculty who make wild accusations about Israel can get their work published—they even get rewarded with promotions, get tenure, and win awards from professional academic associations”

Prof. Jasbir Puar (Rutgers University)



- It is simply inconceivable that a book with wild accusations and antisemitic delusions that Israel intentionally stunts the growth of Palestinian children gets published by a respected university press and that its author gets promoted and wins awards for it.

WHOSE NARRATIVES? GENDER, JUSTICE, & RESISTANCE A CONVERSATION WITH LEILA KHALED

PARTICIPANTS

Leila Khaled
Ru'a Abu Dahou
Ronnie Kasrils
Sekou Odinga
Laura Whitehorn

CO-MODERATORS
Dr. Rabab Abdulhadi
Dr. Tomomi Kinukawa

Join the open classrooms of Rabab Abdulhadi (AMED Studies) and Tomomi Kinukawa (Gender Studies) for a historic roundtable conversation with Palestinian feminist Leila Khaled, followed by Q&A discussion with students, activists, and scholars.



REGISTRATION bit.ly/319EFeo SPONSORED BY AMED Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diaspora Studies Program, SF State + amed@sf.edu

September 23, 2020 12:30-2:30pm PST, 3:30-5:30pm EST, 10:30-12:30am



Brown U professor hates Israel so much she erases Jews from her photos of "Palestine" (UPDATE)



UC Merced Investigates Twitter Account of Professor

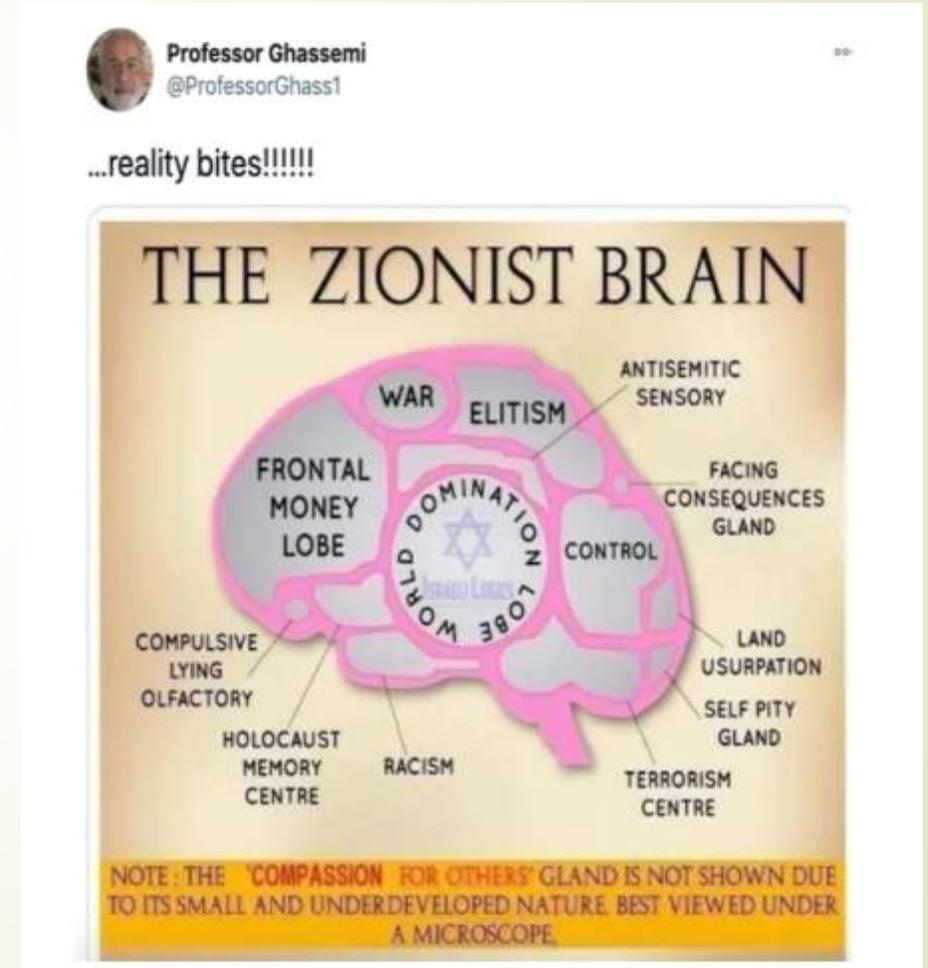
Report Reveals More Anti-Semitic Tweets from UC Merced Professor



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ قَاصِمِ الْجَبَّارِينَ

ISRAHELL

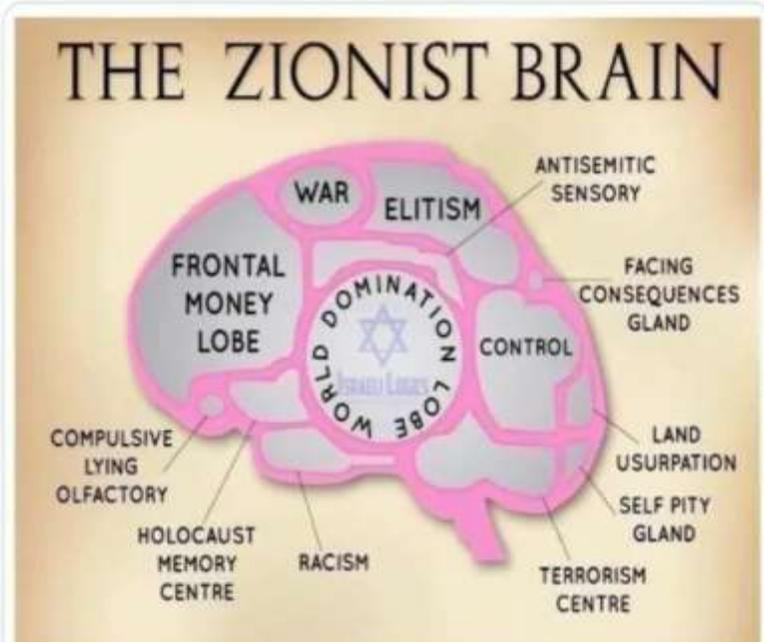
Professor Ghassemi
@ProfessorGhass1
Professor of engineering at the University of California
Merced, CA Joined July 2019
564 Following 604 Followers



Professor Ghassemi
@ProfessorGhass1

...reality bites!!!!!!

THE ZIONIST BRAIN

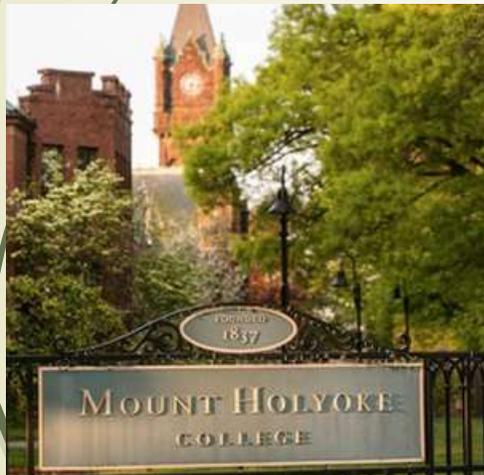


NOTE: THE 'COMPASSION FOR OTHERS' GLAND IS NOT SHOWN DUE TO ITS SMALL AND UNDERDEVELOPED NATURE. BEST VIEWED UNDER A MICROSCOPE.

Administrators & Faculty Speaking Up and Speaking Out

Mount Holyoke

**Opposing all forms of
prejudice and oppression**



SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 2:08 PM 3

An Open Faculty Letter to the USC Community on Supporting Zionist Students at USC

by USC Faculty



OCTOBER 8, 2020 3:38 PM 7

Columbia University Faculty Members Issue Open Letter of Support for President After He Denounces Pro-BDS Referendum



“NOT A COINCIDENCE”: SWASTIKA DISCOVERED ON COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY CAMPUS SHORTLY AFTER VOTE TO DIVEST FROM ISRAEL

A Final Word on the Abraham Accords

“Why insist on the path of resistance and boycott and distancing? What should be distanced are the traditional and familiar ideas.”

Yusef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimen,
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Secretary-General





➔ **THANK YOU!**

<https://academicengagement.org/>

