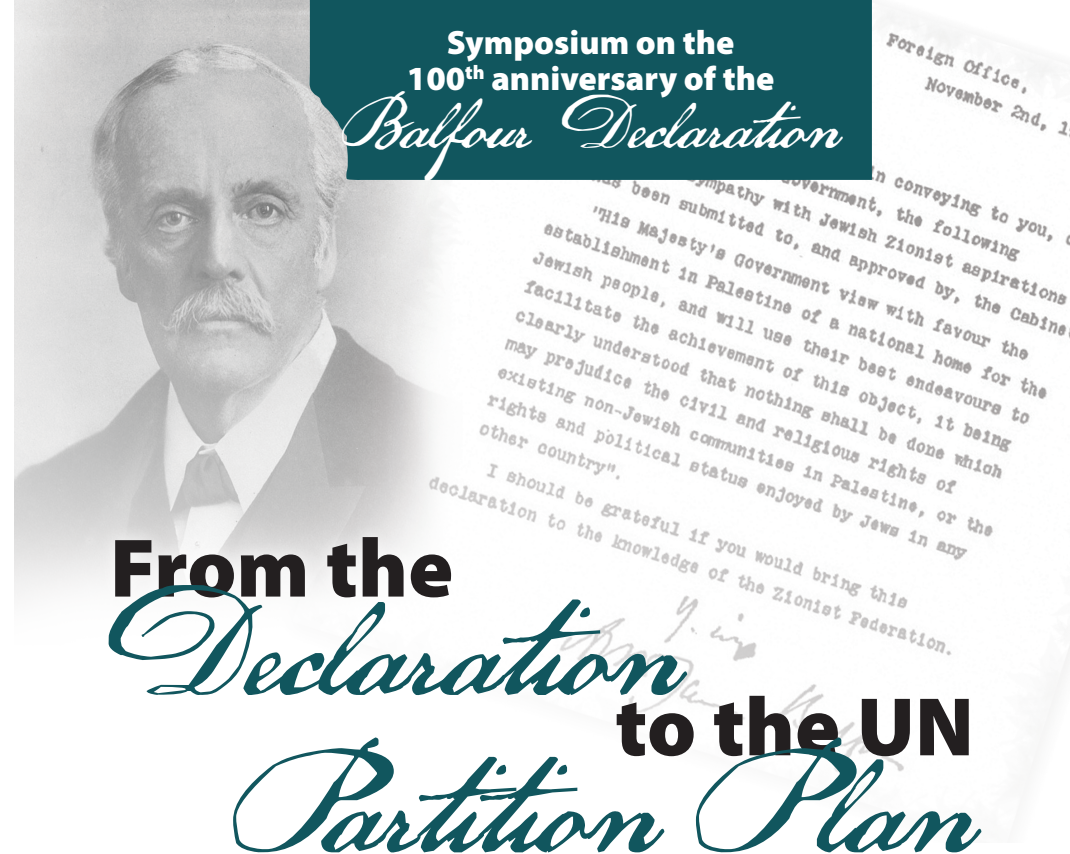# The Balfour Declaration

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

Photo: CUNY Graduate Center

Symposium on the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration

From the Declaration to the UN Partition Plan

OCTOBER 31ST, 2017 • 6:30-9:30 PM
Martin E. Segal Theatre Center
First Floor: CUNY Graduate Center • 365 5th Ave, New York, NY 10016

PARTICIPANTS:

Elissa Bemporad	David Brodsky
Sara Reguer	Louis Fishman
Ronald Zweig	Ilan Troen
KC Johnson	

THE GRADUATE CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

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SESSION I

Moderator: **Elissa Bemporad** *(GC, Queens College)* — 6:30

Sara Reguer *(Brooklyn College)* — 6:35
A British Wartime Commitment—the Balfour Declaration

Ronald Zweig *(New York University)* — 7:00
The Balfour Declaration and Its Implementation in the Context of British Colonial Policy

KC Johnson *(GC, Brooklyn College)* — 7:25
The United States, Wilsonianism, and the Balfour Declaration

Discussion with panel — 7:50

Intermission- light refreshments — 8:05

SESSION II

Moderator: **David Brodsky** *(GC, Brooklyn College)* — 8:15

Louis Fishman *(GC, Brooklyn College)* — 8:20
The Palestinians and the Balfour Declaration: from Ottoman Citizens to Resistance, Rejection, and Marginalization

Ilan Troen *(Brandeis/Ben-Gurion Universities)* — 8:45
The Balfour Declaration: Historic Significance and Contemporary Relevance

Discussion with panel — 9:15

Participants

Elissa Bemporad *is the Jerry and William Ungar Associate Professor of East European Jewish History and the Holocaust at Queens College and The Graduate Center, CUNY. She is the author of Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk, and is currently finishing a book entitled Legacy of Blood: Jews, Pogroms, and Ritual Murder in the Lands of the Soviets, forthcoming with Oxford UP. She is also the co-editor of Women and Genocide: Survivors, Victims, Perpetrators, forthcoming with Indiana UP in March 2018.*

Sara Reguer *is Professor in the Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY, where she also serves as chair of the department. In addition to work on Mandate Palestine, she is author The Most Tenacious of Minorities: The Jews of Italy; My Father's Journey: A Memoir of Lost Worlds of Jewish Lithuania (Academic Studies P 2015); and, most recently Opinionated: The World View of a Jewish Woman. She is also co-editor The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times.*

Ronald W. Zweig *holds the Marilyn and Henry Taub Chair in Israel Studies and is Director of the Taub Center for Israel Studies in the Skirball Department for Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. He has served as editor of the Journal of Israeli History and the online edition of the Palestine Post (1932-1950), a retrospective newspaper digitization project. Author of Britain and Palestine during the Second World War, he is more recently author of German Reparations and the Jewish World: A History of the Claims Conference, now in its second edition, and The Gold Train, which has been published in five languages. He is currently preparing a study of the "Palestinian Refugee Israel in Israeli Policy After 1948."*

KC Johnson *is Professor of History at Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, CUNY. He specializes in U.S. political, diplomatic, and legal history, and has written books in each area, including Asia Pacific in the Age of Globalization and All the Way with LBJ: The 1964 Presidential Election. He served as Fulbright Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Tel Aviv University in 2007-2008, and also has participated in a program sponsored by the U.S. embassy providing content assistance in American Studies to Israeli high school teachers.*

David Brodsky *is Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College, CUNY. His numerous publications focus on rabbinic literature (especially the Babylonian Talmud) in its Zoroastrian-Persian, Christian-Syriac and Greco-Roman contexts. He is author of A Bride without a Blessing: A Study in the Redaction and Content of Massekhet Kallah and Its Gemara (Tübingen, Germany: Mohr Siebeck, 2006) as well as works on the history of Jewish sexuality.*

Louis Fishman *is Assistant Professor of History at Brooklyn College, CUNY. He is currently finishing a book, tentatively entitled Claiming the Homeland, about Jews and Palestinians in the Ottoman years, his main area of research. In addition to scholarly articles on the subject, he regularly writes about Turkish, Israeli, and Palestinian politics for Haaretz and other international outlets. He divides his time between Brooklyn College, Istanbul and Tel Aviv.*

Ilan Troen *is the Stoll Family Chair in Israel Studies, emeritus, at Brandeis University and the Lopin Professor of Modern History, emeritus, at Ben-Gurion University, Israel. He is founding Director of the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies at Brandeis. He is author of Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs, and Actualities in a Century of Jewish Settlement, and is co-author of Jews and Muslims in the Arab World: Haunted by Pasts Real and Imagined. His most recent publication as editor and contributor is Essential Israel; Essays for the Twenty-First Century (Indiana, 2017). Troen is founding editor of the journal Israel Studies and the monograph series Perspectives on Israel Studies (Indiana University Press). He is past President of the Association for Israel Studies.*

Live Streaming of symposium at: https://www.gc.cuny.edu/All-GC-Events/GC-Presents/Videos-Streaming