

# Israel at 60

If you will it, is it still a dream?

**Dr. Emanuele Ottolenghi**  
Transatlantic Institute Brussels



Herzl's famous words 'If you will it, it is no dream' encapsulated the ambitious and visionary nature of the Zionist project. Despite the vast gap between his vision and the ensuing reality of Zionism as a movement and then Israel as a state, less than 60 years after Herzl wrote them, Israel was established. Another 60 years have passed now - and the reality of Israel offers a very different picture from what the founder of political Zionism would no doubt have aspired to create. But is it still a dream? Israel still stirs passions among Jews in the Diaspora. It is a vehicle of identity - even among many who reject it as part of their self-image as Jews. And it is central to the future of Jewish existence in the world - for better or worse. Taking Herzl and his vision as a starting point, this lecture is an attempt to bring yesteryear's vision to meet the present realities and discuss successes, failures and challenges of Israel.

**Emanuele Ottolenghi** is the executive director of the Transatlantic Institute in Brussels. A political scientist by training, he came to Brussels in 2006 after having previously taught Israel Studies at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies and at the Middle East Centre of St. Antony's College, Oxford University. He did his undergraduate studies at the University of Bologna and obtained his PhD at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a frequent commentator on Israeli domestic politics, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and Europe's Middle East policy. His areas of expertise are: Israel (domestic politics, constitutional issues, political trends, elections), the Arab-Israeli conflict, terrorism and security issues, Italian foreign policy, EU Middle East foreign policy, and transatlantic relations.

**Donderdag 8 mei 2008**  
**om 20.00 uur**

*Lezing in het Engels*

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## Donderdag 15 mei 2008

### **My Kishinev Pogrom. An American Story**

**Prof. dr. Nancy K. Miller**

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

## Donderdag 22 mei 2008

### **De Nederlands-joodse auteur Etty Hillesum als kroniekschrijfster van haar tijd (1941-1943)**

**Prof. dr. Klaas Smelik**

Universiteit Gent

## Donderdag 26 juni 2008 (Hof van Liere - Prinsstraat 13, 2000 Antwerpen)

### **The People and the Book: The Invention of Print and the Transformation of Jewish Culture**

**Prof. dr. David Ruderman**

Center for Advanced Judaic Studies, University of Pennsylvania

**TIJDSTIP: Donderdag om 20.00 uur**

**PLAATS: Universiteit Antwerpen - Rodestraat 14 (R.013) - 2000 Antwerpen** (tenzij anders vermeld)

**INFO: Instituut voor Joodse Studies - T +32 (0)3 275 52 43 - [ijs@ua.ac.be](mailto:ijs@ua.ac.be)**

Indien u op de hoogte wenst gehouden te worden van onze activiteiten gelieve contact op te nemen met het Instituut:

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