CPA Jewish Psychology Section

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Jewish Psychology Section is to address the needs of the members and promote the advancement of psychology as it relates to issues affecting the Jewish community.

———

Mission Statement

Systemic and structural oppression is well-documented in society and is particularly targeted towards vulnerable and marginalized populations, of which Jewish communities are one. The oppression of Jewish people and communities, that is, antisemitism (i.e., anti-Judaism, classical antisemitism, and antizionism [definitions below]) is well-documented (B'nai Brith Audit, 2024; Stats Canada, 2024).

The psychological toll of antisemitism is an area of study pertinent to the discipline of Psychology. Historically and currently, antisemitism is a pervasive form of discrimination and violence experienced by Jewish people from a diversity of communities and cultural backgrounds (e.g. Mizrachi, Beta Israel [Ethiopian], Sephardic, Ashkenazi). Over the course of history there have been many attempts to destroy the Jewish people through slavery, expulsion, genocide, and subjugation (e.g., dhimmitude, forced conversions, expulsions of Middle Eastern Jewry, the Holocaust or Shoah). As such, intergenerational trauma is a widespread issue within Jewish communities. This trauma is not limited to being intergenerational as every generation including the generations living today experience the resulting trauma of anti-Judaism, classical antisemitism, and antizionism (e.g. attacks on Synagogues, Jewish schools and institutions, individuals).

Psychology, like many professions in the early part of the 20th century restricted admissions, i.e., quotas, for Jewish people to Canadian graduate programs. Similarly, Jewish Canadians were routinely excluded from hospital appointments, faculty positions, and society more broadly.

The study of all forms of human rights abuses, including antisemitism, is an important scholarly pursuit. The Section promotes intersectionality in all its contexts in order to understand the complexity of the Jewish experience.

Definitions

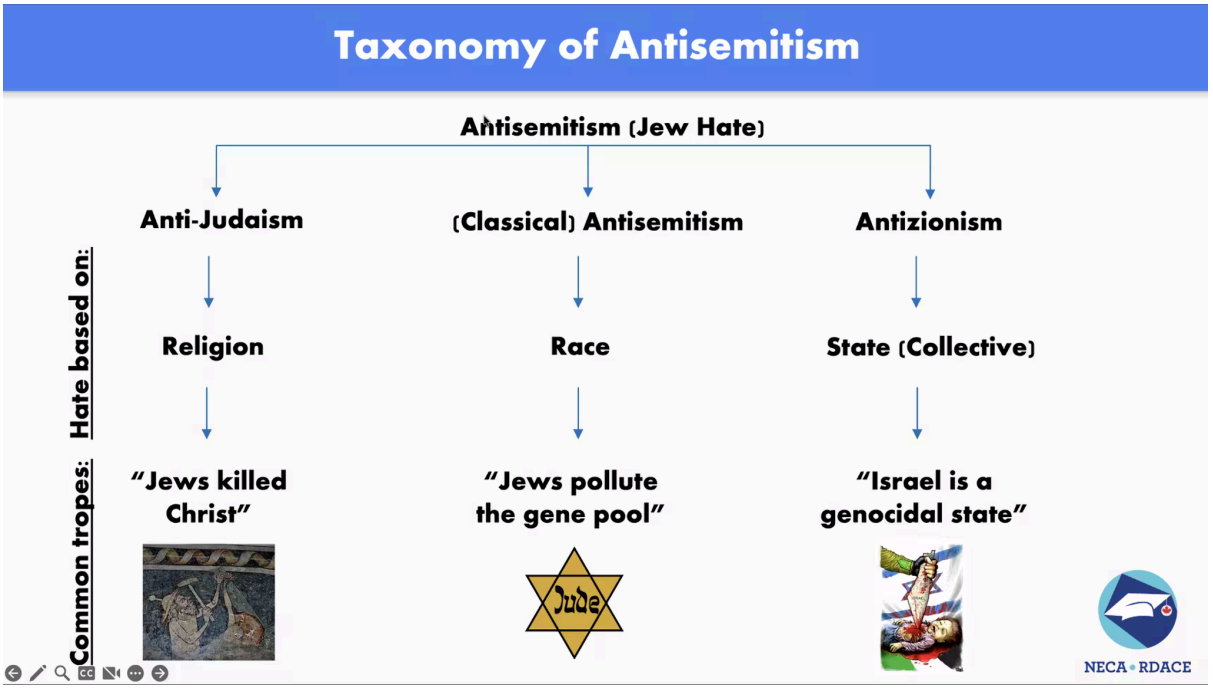
Antisemitism has manifested differently in different eras. The language and specific content may change but the pattern and structure of targeting Jews through conspiracies and libels remains the same. These conspiracies and libels take the

form of accusations that Jews are or act against what is valued in a particular historical era. These false narratives are used to justify the violence, discrimination, and systemic oppression of Jews. Anti-Jewish hate (i.e., antisemitism) has historically taken three main forms: anti-Judaism, classical antisemitism, and antizionism.

Anti-Judaism: Conspiracies and libels that target Jews on the basis of **religion** claiming that Jews and their practices are malevolent. This view justifies violence, discrimination, and persecution of Jews on this basis.

Classical antisemitism: Conspiracies and libels that target Jews on the basis of **race**, claiming that Jews are or have qualities that are subhuman, superhuman, or racially impure. This view justifies violence, discrimination, and persecution of Jews on this basis.

Antizionism: Conspiracies and libels that target Jews on the basis of the **Jewish collective** and the right of Jews to self-determination in their ancestral homeland, claiming that Israel is an illegitimate and malevolent state. This view justifies violence, discrimination, and systemic oppression of Jews on this basis.



Kogan © 2026