

On the Passing of Professor Robert Wistrich: Magisterial Scholar of Global Antisemitism



Professor Robert Wistrich (1945 – 2015)

Professor Robert Wistrich passed away suddenly yesterday of a heart attack in Rome at the age of 70. As [noted](#) by his colleagues at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP):

He was in Rome to address the Italian Senate on the rise of Antisemitism in Europe—speaking out, as he consistently did, about the inescapable lessons that history has taught.

Wistrich was a member of ISGAP's International Academic Board of Advisors. This summer, he planned to be a key member of the faculty of the ISGAP Summer Institute for Curriculum Development in Critical Antisemitism Studies, which will take place at Hertford College, Oxford and assist college and university teachers develop Antisemitism courses to be taught at their home institutions.

Wistrich was born April 7, 1945 in Lenger in what was then Soviet Kazakhstan to parents who had fled Poland at the start of the Nazi invasion in 1939. When his family was repatriated to Poland in 1946, the oppressive Antisemitism drove them first to France and ultimately to England. *The Times of Israel* obituary published today [noted](#) his education and early academic research:

At the age of 17 Wistrich won an open scholarship in

history to Queens' College, Cambridge, eventually earning his masters degree in 1969, followed by a doctorate at the University of London in 1974. During his university years he founded a literary and arts magazine.

Between 1974 and 1980, he worked as director of research at the Institute of Contemporary History and the Wiener Library and was then appointed a research fellow of the British Academy. In 1982 he was given tenure at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Wistrich was the renowned scholar of European and Global Antisemitism who produced seminal major works on Jew Hatred. He was the Neuberger Professor of European and Jewish at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the head of the University's Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism and editor of its annual research *Antisemitism International*. Wistrich had been a member of the International Catholic-Jewish Historical Commission delving into the controversial role of the Vatican regarding its role in the fate of European Jewry during the Holocaust of WWII. Wistrich's enduring scholarship is reflected three enduring works: *The Jews of Vienna in the Age of Franz Joseph* here to watch Professor Wistrich inaugurate ISGAP's program at the Sorbonne in December 2014.

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