



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Megan Hollinger



Two people play hockey in front of a synagogue with swastikas painted on it, in Sainte-Marguerite, Quebec, 1938. Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives, file no. PC 01-03-074F

## Creating Contact, Bridging Divides

Canada has seen a concerning rise in antisemitic hate crimes and incidents in the 21st century. Those who seek to curb the rise of anti-Jewish hate typically address the problem through legal and political means. I argue that we need strategies, programs, and initiatives that target the social roots of antisemitism. In this presentation, I examine social and community-based strategies that focus on intergroup contact and bridging divides between Jewish and non-Jewish communities. These programs proactively seek to improve social relations with Jewish communities as a form of lasting and meaningful change.

**Megan Hollinger** is a doctoral candidate in religious studies at the University of Ottawa. Her research examines social and community-based strategies and programs for combating antisemitism in Canada.

28 September  
5:00–6:00pm

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