The Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies presents a virtual lecture with author Emanuel Rosen
Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:30 pm (EST)

In 1933, Dr. Hugo Mendel, a successful Jewish lawyer, escaped Germany along with his family and moved to Tel Aviv. They were some of “the lucky ones” who made it out alive. Two decades later, he and his wife Lucie returned to Germany to take stock of all that was stolen from them: Hugo's career and reputation, their country, their sense of belonging. A few months later, after returning to Israel, Hugo jumped to his death.

Now, Hugo’s grandson Emanuel Rosen retraces his grandparents’ fateful European trip and its aftermath in his memoir If Anyone Calls, Tell Them I Died (Amsterdam Publishers; March 22, 2021). Rosen tells his family’s story—their life in pre-war Germany, the new bitter-sweet life they established in Israel, their return visit to Europe, and Emanuel’s mother Mirjam’s legal fight to get the German government to accept responsibility for her father’s suicide even though it happened years after the war ended. The book offers a window into a family who fled Europe just in time, the diaspora they were part of (with all the evocative specificity of its culture and language and sensibility) and how they longed for the place that did nothing to save them and everything to destroy them.

Rosen’s book is a personal and timely testament to the trauma of displacement, as Rosen travels the world to attempt to understand how Hugo Mendel came to kill himself one afternoon in Tel Aviv almost 65 years ago.

Emanuel (Manu) Rosen is a bestselling author whose books have been translated into thirteen languages. He was born in Israel where he went to school, served in the army, and was an award-winning copywriter. After his graduate school education in the United States and a successful career as an executive in Silicon Valley, Emanuel turned to writing. He is married to Daria Mochly-Rosen, a professor at Stanford University. They live in Menlo Park, California, and have four adult children. If Anyone Calls, Tell Them I Died is his fourth book.

To attend, email michaelabaxleaney@outlook.com to get the Zoom link and passcode. Please: For security reasons, do not share the link or passcode with anyone else – ask them to contact Michaela directly.