

This conference suggests exploring perspectives that dispense with the modern notion of monolithically constructed „cultures“. It suggests to replace it by a concept like thinking in polyphonic relationalities and translations within a multicollective environment. How can be reconstructed in this way consistent arguments of the Sephardi/Mizrachi/Mustarabi Jews towards the Muslim Nahda, towards modernity, towards a possible „Jewish Enlightenment“ in the South.

It is generally accepted that Jews in particular living under Islam in medieval Baghdad, Cairo, Tunis, Fez, Sevilla or Toledo not only frequented and interacted with a remarkable great number of local and translocal collectives – such as manufacturers, physicians, rabbis, falāsifa, members of Sephardi synagogues, mutakallimun etc. – but also translated as virtuosi between their different vocabularies and forms of knowledge under the conditions of Islam. There are good reasons to argue that a replacement of the prism of culture can also shed new light on the relational rationality of Jewish groups within Islamic contexts beyond the period of the Middle Ages.



A Jew and a Muslim playing chess in 13th century al-Andalus.

Location:

The conference will take place in the Interdisciplinary Center for European Enlightenment Studies (IZEA), Thomasius-Room, on the site of the Francke-Foundations, Halle/Saale (Franckeplatz 1, House 54).

Organized by:

Department of Jewish Studies, University Halle-Wittenberg, Großer Berlin 14, D-06108 Halle (Saale)

Funded by:

Vereinigung der Freunde und Förderer der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (e.V.) und die PhilFak 1 der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg.



MARTIN-LUTHER
UNIVERSITÄT
HALLE-WITTENBERG

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Ottfried Fraisse, Department of Jewish Studies
at the University of Halle-Wittenberg

ottfried.fraisse@judaistik.uni-halle.de

Beyond Cultural Identities - The Jews of Polyphony, Relationality and Translation in Muslim Contexts

Halle, 18-20 July 2022

Organized by the Department of Jewish Studies

Conference Venue: Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies



Monday 18.7.2022

16:30 Beginning

- Welcome: Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Décultot, director of the IZEA (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Europäische Aufklärungstudien)
- Welcome: Dr. Björn Bentlage (Oriental Institute, Leipzig)
- Introduction: Otfried Fraisse (University of Halle-Wittenberg)

17:00 First session

Chair: Otfried Fraisse

Opening lecture

- 1) Irene Zwiep (University of Amsterdam): Translation as De-essentialization: Zunz's and Steinschneider's Attempts at Overcoming Eurocentrism.

18:15 Catering

19:00

Wrestling with European heritage

- 2) Nili Belkind (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Cultural Intimacy Through Conflicting National, Ethnic and Social Relations in Israel: Jowan Safadi's Music Video „To Be an Arab“.

Tuesday 19.7.2022

9:00 Second session

Translating Concepts between Contexts

Chair: Nili Belkind

Jewish Translocality

- 3) Omer Michaelis (Tel Aviv University): Translating the „Inner“ (Bāṭin) from Islamic to Rabbinic Asceticism: Its Entangled Meanings in Baḥya ibn Paqūda's Duties of the Hearts.
- 4) Menashe Anzi (Ben Gurion University of the Negev): Rabbi Yiḥye Qāfiḥ – Between Enlightenment, the Heritage of Maimonides and the Salafiyya of the Indian Ocean.
- 5) Oded Zinger (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Schmoozing Outside of Court? Informal relations between Jews and Qadis in Medieval Egypt.



Yihyah Qafih

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 Third session

Mashriq: Relationality of Sound

Chair: Jonathan Hirsch

Jewish Music in Motion

- 6) Clara Annette Wenz (University of Würzburg): Biographic Be-longings: Music in the Memories of Syrian Jews.
- 7) Nili Belkind and Edwin Seroussi (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): Between Colonial Powers, Zionists, and Palestinian Arabs: the Iraqi-Jewish Musician Azzuri Effendi/Ezra Aharon in Mandate-Era Jerusalem.



Ezra Aharon

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Fourth session

Maghrib: Polyphony of Andalusian, North-African and European Traditions of Knowledge

Chair: Oded Zinger

Spaces of Translation

- 8) Lilac Torgeman (Bar-Ilan University): Cultural Intersections and Relationality: Rabbi Nathan Amram's Hebrew Translation of Eli ibn Albair's Arabic Astronomical Work.
- 9) Michal Ohana (University of Halle-Wittenberg): Raphael Moshe Elbaz's *Kise ha Melakhim*: Merging Jewish, North African and Universal History.
- 10) Otfried Fraisse (University of Halle-Wittenberg): Combating Orientalism and Fundamentalism: Relational Reasoning in Israel Moshe Hazan's *Sheerit ha-Nahala*.

Coffee break 16:45 – 17:00

17:00 Fifth session (Hevrutha)

Chair: Lilac Torgeman

Relationality of Law

- 11) Zvi Zohar (Bar-Ilan University): Conditional Overlap between Jewish Law and Non-Jewish Religious Law: Rabbi Israel Moshe Hazan's Responsum on „*Huqqot ha-Goyyim*“ (Hevrutha).



I.M. Hazan,
Kerath shel Romi

19:00 Dinner

Wednesday 20.7.2022

9:00 Sixth session

Between Mashriq and Maghrib: Polyphony of Traditional and Bourgeois Mind

Chair: Noah Gerber

Jewish Nahdas

- 12) Tamir Karkason (University of Halle-Wittenberg): „*Haskalah* and Jewish Reformism in the Islamic Countries: Between Edirne, Baghdad and Tunis“.
 - 13) Jonathan Hirsch (University of Potsdam): Reclaiming the Arabic Maimonides in Cairo – the Quest for Arab-Jewish scholarship in interwar Egypt.
 - 14) Annie Greene (University of Chicago): Translating the concept of „*Tanzimat*“ in Baghdad: Modeling Civic Practices for Ottoman Jews.
- ### 11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break
- ### 11:30 Seventh session
- Mashriq: Spaces of Translation**
- Chair:** Menashe Anzi
- #### Intellectual History's Materiality
- 15) Noah Gerber (Tel Aviv University): Isaac Ezekiel Yahuda: A Native Antiquarian straddling Middle Eastern Jewish and Muslim Contexts.
 - 16) Tom Fogel (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem): „*we-hāḏa al-hirz lil-Gōyim*“ [And this is an amulet for the Gentiles]: Relationality and Translation in Jewish Yemeni occult sciences.



Isaac Ezekiel Yahuda

13:00 Final Discussion