

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE JEWS IN MUSLIM MAJORITY COUNTRIES - HISTORY AND PROSPECTS

Recent years have seen a growing interest in Jews from Arab or Muslim majority countries of the Middle East and North Africa across a variety of time periods. Scholars working at Western or Israeli universities often focus on aspects of Jewish communal and political life in Muslim majority countries prior to their exodus in the aftermath of the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948, or on their absorption into the margins of Israeli society in subsequent decades and the increasing role of Mizrahi Jews in contemporary Israeli politics and culture. But there is also a growing trend in research that reaches beyond nationalist or communalist narratives to conceptualize Jewish communities in Middle Eastern countries as parts of local societies and evolving nation states. Moreover, a tradition of Jewish Studies exists in various Arab and Muslim majority countries that is largely separated from Western scholarship. Some North African and Middle Eastern countries, like Tunisia and Iraq, have seen a renewed interest in the Jewish heritage of the country, and Jewish contributions to national history.

Bringing together established and younger scholars from different continents and academic disciplines, the conference discusses questions of culture, identity and memory of Jewish life in Arab and Muslim majority countries, self-identification and belonging, as well as prospects for ethno-religious diversity and intercommunal relations in the MENA region.

This conference is a window into an area of scholarship that has hitherto been largely overlooked in Germany. It is jointly convened by the W. Michael Blumenthal Academy of the Jewish Museum Berlin and the "Research Network Re-Configurations. History, Remembrance and Political Transformations in the Middle East and North Africa", located at Philipps-Universität Marburg, in cooperation with the Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg and "Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in Europe" (EUME), a research program at the Forum Transregionale Studien.

## THE JEWISH-ISLAMIC FORUM OF THE ACADEMY OF THE JEWISH MUSEUM BERLIN

With a multifaceted program of conferences, workshops, panel discussions, readings and screenings, the Jewish-Islamic Forum provides a platform for discussing religious philosophy and practice and the history of Jewish-Islamic relations both in the Muslim world and in Europe. Questions confronting Jews and Muslims as religious minorities in secular Christian societies like Germany take on special status.

Relations between Jews and Muslims represent a politically charged, topical issue. Against the background of the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on Europe, we seek to strengthen the relationship between the two minorities in Germany and overcome mutual prejudices. The Jewish-Islamic Forum aims to counter a dichotomous perception of Judaism and Islam, and to reveal common ground from a comparative perspective, without neglecting unique and specific qualities of each.

## THE RESEARCH NETWORK RE-CONFIGURATIONS. HISTORY, REMEMBRANCE AND TRANSFORMATION PROCESSES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The "Research Network Re-Configurations. History, Remembrance and Transformation Processes in the Middle East and North Africa" is a research unit located at Philipps-Universität Marburg's Centre for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF). "Re-Configurations" provides an institutional framework for an innovative, interdisciplinary, comparative, empirically-founded, and theory-led investigation of the transformation processes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA region).

## INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

The entry is free but booking is kindly requested by 15 October 2017 as places are limited:  
[www.jmberlin.de/en/jews-in-muslim-societies](http://www.jmberlin.de/en/jews-in-muslim-societies)

## WHERE

W. Michael Blumenthal Academy of the Jewish Museum Berlin  
Fromet-und-Moses-Mendelssohn-Platz 1  
10969 Berlin  
(Opposite the Museum)



Joint conference by



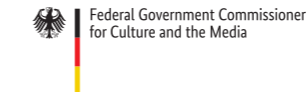
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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# JEWS IN MUSLIM MAJORITY COUNTRIES

# HISTORY AND PROSPECTS

24-27 OCTOBER 2017



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Jewish Museum Berlin

# PROGRAM

## 24 OCTOBER 2017 TUESDAY

15:00-16:00 ARRIVAL AND REGISTRATION

16:00-16:15 WELCOME

16:15-17:15 **Mark Cohen** / PRINCETON UNIVERSITY  
Jews in the Islamic World during the Middle Ages

17:15-18:15 **Orit Bashkin** / UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
The Jew as a metaphor, Jews and the Arab Nahda

18:30-19:30 **Aomar Boum** / UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
Of Synagogues, Shrines and Cemeteries: Morocco's Jewish Life in Memory

CHAIRS: **Achim Rohde** / PHILIPPS-UNIVERSITÄT MARBURG and **Yasemin Shooman** / JEWISH MUSEUM BERLIN

## 25 OCTOBER 2017 WEDNESDAY

9:00-10:45 **PANEL 1**  
**BETWEEN DHIMMI STATUS AND CONVIVENCIA**

CHAIR: **Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin** / BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV; EUME, BERLIN

**Kerstin Hünefeld** / FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN  
Juggling Sharia Law – An Analytical Insight into the Pseudo-epigraphic Letters of Protection from Yemen and their Jewish Authors' Strategies of Empowerment

**Miriam Frenkel** / HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
Jews' Response to their Dhimmi Status

11:00-12:30 **PANEL 2**  
**MAJORITY-MINORITY RELATIONS: MUSLIM PERCEPTIONS OF JEWS AND JUDAISM**

CHAIR: **Walid Abd El Gawad** / W. MICHAEL BLUMENTHAL FELLOW

**Liran Yadgar** / YALE UNIVERSITY  
Ibn Taymiyya's Views on Judaism

**Orly Rahimiyan** / BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV AND BEN-ZVI INSTITUTE  
The Images of Jews in the eyes of the Iranians during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Menashe Anzi** / BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV  
Theosophy and Anti-Theosophy in Basra: Jews, Muslims and Booklets in Arabic

12:30-14:00 **BREAK**

14:00-15:00 **PANEL 3**  
**MINORITY-MINORITY RELATIONS: EASTERN CHRISTIAN PERCEPTIONS OF JEWS AND JUDAISM**

CHAIR: **Georges Khalil** / FORUM TRANSREGIONALE STUDIEN; EUME, BERLIN

**Alexandra Cuffel** / RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM  
Jewish-Christian Relations from the Fatimid-Mamluk Period: Recent Findings and Program for Future Research

**Carsten Walbiner** / KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITÄT EICHSTÄTT-INGOLSTADT  
Attitudes towards Judaism and Jews in Early Modern Christian Arabic Literature (1600-1840)

15:00-16:00 **PANEL 4**  
**HISTORIOGRAPHY AND IDENTITY POLITICS**

CHAIR: **Sophie Wagenhofer** / VERLAG WALTER DE GRUYTER

16:30-18:00 **PANEL 5**  
**JEWISH SPACES IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

CHAIR: **Gudrun Krämer** / FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

**Menachem Klein** / BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY  
Jews and Arabs in the Main Palestine Cities in the Late Ottoman Period

**Harvey E. Goldberg** / HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
The Symbolic Role of the Jews in the Struggle between State and Society in Late Ottoman Libya

**Michelle Campos** / UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
Rethinking Jewish Spaces and Places in the Modern Middle East

## 26 OCTOBER 2017 THURSDAY

9:15-11:00 **PANEL 6**  
**JEWS IN PRE-MODERN IRAN**

CHAIR: **Tal Ilan** / FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

**Alberto Tiburcio** / PHILIPPS-UNIVERSITÄT MARBURG  
A Reconsideration of Sources on Jewish Communities in Iran (1666-1747)

**Mohammad Ali Tabataba'i & Heidar Eyvazi** / RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE QURAN AND HADITH, QOM  
A 13<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> Century Jewish Convert to Islam and His Refutation to Judaism

**Hakan T. Karateke** / UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
Jewish Perspectives on the Ottoman Polity: A Methodological Assessment

**Ahmad Dallal** / GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR  
The Jews of Yemen: Intertwined Identities and the Distortions of Contemporary Historiography

11:15-12:45 **PANEL 7**  
**JEWISH-MUSLIM RELATIONS IN 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY LEBANON AND SYRIA**

CHAIR: **Reuven Snir** / UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

**Seth Anziska** / UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON  
Lingering Between Jaffa and Beirut: Jewish Presence and Absence in Postwar Lebanon

**Aline Schlaepfer** / AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT AND UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE  
Dynamics of Conflicts and Solidarities in a Transregional Context. Jewish Communities in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Lebanon

**Faedah M. Totah** / VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY  
Jews of the Old City of Damascus

12:45-14:15 **BREAK**

14:15-15:45 **PANEL 8**  
**CONTEMPORARY CULTURES OF REMEMBRANCE IN LITERATURE AND FILM - PART 1**

CHAIR: **Christina von Braun** / ZENTRUM JÜDISCHE STUDIEN BERLIN-BRANDENBURG

**Yuval Evri** / SOAS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
Between Fractions and Continuities: The Arab-Jewish Literary World at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

**Najat Abdulhaq** / MICT - MEDIA IN COOPERATION AND TRANSITION, BERLIN  
Rethinking Narratives: The Emergence of the "Arab Jew" in Contemporary Arabic Literature

**Yaron Shemer** / UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
Rethinking Egyptian Jews' Cosmopolitanism, Belonging, and Nostalgia: Egyptian Cinematic Perspectives

16:15-17:15 **PANEL 9**  
**CONTEMPORARY CULTURES OF REMEMBRANCE IN LITERATURE AND FILM - PART 2**

CHAIR: **Achim Rohde** / PHILIPPS-UNIVERSITÄT MARBURG

**Ronen Zeidel** / TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY  
On the Last Jews in Iraq and Iraqi National Identity: A Look at Two Recent Iraqi Novels

**Mazin Ali** / BAGHDAD  
Yahud Al-Eraq baad 2003: Sahfiya, Thaqafiya, Akademiya (Arabic with translation)

17:15-18:45 **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:**  
**JEWISH STUDIES IN MENA COUNTRIES**

CHAIR: **Ella Shohat** / NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

PANELISTS:  
**Mohamed Hawary** / AIN SHAMS UNIVERSITY, CAIRO  
**Mohammed Kenbib** / MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY, RABAT

## 27 OCTOBER 2017 FRIDAY

9:00-13:00 **YOUNG SCHOLARS FORUM (OPEN FOR INVITED PARTICIPANTS ONLY)**

SPEAKERS:  
**Parisa Mohamadi Kasir Abadi, Iskandar Ahmad Abdalla, Brahim El Guabli, Amir Reza Haghghatkhah, Katharine Halls, Ilker Hepkane, Tamir Karkason, Ariane Sadjed**

TUTORS:  
**Orit Bashkin** / UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Georges Khalil** / FORUM TRANSREGIONALE STUDIEN BERLIN; EUME, BERLIN  
**Stefanie Schüler-Springorum** / ZENTRUM FÜR ANTISEMITISMUSFORSCHUNG, TU BERLIN  
**Reuven Snir** / UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA

13:00-13:30 **CLOSING SESSION**