

Between Baghdad and Barcelona Jewish Experiences in the Mediterranean

3rd Baron Young Scholars Workshop

27 May 2025, 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Department of Jewish Studies, Lecture Hall 1

University Campus Altes AKH, Court 7.3



Between Baghdad and Barcelona

Jewish Experiences in the Mediterranean

3rd Baron Young Scholars Workshop

27 May 2025, 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

Department of Jewish Studies, Lecture Hall 1

University Campus Altes AKH, Court 7.3

Weaving a vibrant tapestry of Jewish life in the Mediterranean, this workshop explores the religious practices, intellectual traditions, and cultural exchanges that have shaped Jewish communities from late antiquity to the present. It investigates migration, mobility, and the evolution of diaspora networks, alongside the challenges of persecution and the resilience emerging from political and social change. The event also examines Jewish representation in cultural productions while celebrating the diverse identities of Sephardi, Mizrahi, and other Mediterranean Jewish experiences. Bringing these perspectives to the forefront is essential in a scholarly landscape that often prioritizes Ashkenazi and Western narratives.

Program

9.30 – 9.45 a.m.

Welcome Address and Introduction

Kerstin Mayerhofer, Vienna

Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Los Angeles

9.45 – 11.15 a.m.

Panel 1: Text and Language

Chair: Lawrence H. Schiffman, New York

Everyday Objects in Ibn Janāḥ's Kitāb al-uṣūl:

Actualising Exegesis as a Source for Material Culture

Lea Gzella, Munich

The Mediterranean Zoo of the Medieval Hebrew Encyclopedias

Hanna Zoe Trauer, Jerusalem

Unsettling Boomerang Theory: Hebraism at the Root of The Extractive Economy

Ishai Alon Mishory, New York

11.15 – 11.30 a.m. Coffee / Tea

11.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Panel 2: Networks and Migration

Chair: Dina Porat, Tel Aviv

Visual Histories of Jewish Migration Processes across the Mediterranean in the 20th Century. Experiences and Infrastructures of (Im)mobility in the Port City of Marseille
Anna Sophia Messner, Düsseldorf

One among Many, One of a Kind: The Jewish Refugee Movement across the Aegean Sea (1943–1944) and Its Entanglement with Other Forms of Migration in the Area
Julia Fröhlich, Vienna

*“From the Newborn Baby to the Grandfather”
Medical Aid for Moroccan Jews between the Holocaust and Decolonization*
Julia Schulte-Werning, Vienna

1.00 - 2.00 p.m. Lunch

Speakers only.

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Panel 3: Antisemitism, Persecution, and Resistance

Chair: Kerstin Mayerhofer, Vienna

*The Many Faces of Antisemitism in the Arab World:
The Merge of Muslim and Western Traditions of Jew-Hatred*
Armin Lange, Vienna

*Dance as Refuge from the Holocaust in Morocco’s International City:
A Microhistory of Tangier During the Second World War*
Natalie Bernstein, Tangier / Los Angeles

*(Sur)Passing the Baton:
Memorial Sites of National Socialism and their Managers since the 1990s*
Beatrice Leeming, Cambridge

3.30 – 3.45 a.m. Coffee / Tea

3.45 p.m. – 5.15 p.m.

Panel 4: Culture, Identity, Nationality

Chair: Sarah Abrevaya Stein, Los Angeles

*On the Way to the Holy Land: The Mediterranean & Its People in the Eyes
of 19th Century Jewish Visitors to Ottoman Palestine*
Samuel Kessler, Richmond, Virginia

“Nonsense for the Masses”: Negotiating Jewish Vernacular Religion in Yemen
Tom Fogel, Tel Aviv / Vienna

*“From the Sea Eastward”: Traces of a Mediterranean Notion from Maximalist
Revisionism to the Canaanite Movement*
Franziska Weinmann, Munich

Download program and
abstract booklet here:



Contact

Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Awards
for Scholarly Excellence in Research of the Jewish Experience
University of Vienna
Department of Jewish Studies
Spitalgasse 2, Court 7.3
A-1090 Vienna
f +43-1-4277-43313
m baronawards.judaistik@univie.ac.at

Concept & Design: Mag. Dr. Kerstin Mayerhofer

Generously funded by the University of Vienna and supported by the Salo W. and Jeannette M. Baron Foundation/Knapp Family Foundation.