

## International Research Training Group: "**Belongings: Jewish Material Culture in Twentieth-Century Europe and Beyond**" Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem invites applicants for a **post-doctoral position** in Jewish material culture. The position will be integrated into a new doctoral program in Jewish Studies, which will open its doors in Leipzig on **1 September 2024**. "Belongings: Jewish Material Culture in Twentieth-Century Europe and Beyond," is an international cooperation between The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJI), Leipzig University (LU), and the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow (DI). With the help of generous funding from the Alfred Landecker Foundation and the DFG (The German Research Foundation), this program offers interdisciplinary training to doctoral students in the fields of modern European and Jewish history, German and Slavic literary studies, Jewish philosophy, cultural studies, folklore and performance studies, as well as art history. The program is likewise intended to ensure that the post-doctoral fellow achieves the highest quality of research, develops skills for a successful academic career, and establishes solid international networks. **The duration of the post-doctoral position is five years, during which time the post-doctoral fellow will receive a monthly stipend of 12,000 NIS, basic research and travel funds, and working space.**

"Belongings" is an International Research Training Group (IRTG) which proceeds from the idea that Jewish history can be reconstructed, narrated, and commemorated in substantial and innovative fashion through the analysis of its world of objects. This includes objects that were lost, imagined, longed for, or that left a recognizable void due to the cataclysms of the twentieth century. The polysemous quality of the English term "belonging(s)," which can mean both "being affiliated to a specific context" and "being owned," serves as a framework for the IRTG's exploration of individual as well as collective notions of the relationship between people and objects. Organized around five **interdisciplinary research clusters** – Practice, Ownership, Text, Memory, and Stage – the IRTG aims to scrutinize objects of Jewish provenance, but also those that proved meaningful to a specific Jewish community for cultural, religious, or economic reasons, among others.

While understanding the Holocaust as the centre of gravity for the topic, the IRTG will delve into the material worlds of the late nineteenth century and reach forward into the present, seeking new tools to offer nuanced insights into the diverse European Jewish worlds and their entanglements with their non-Jewish surroundings. The shift of the centres of Jewish life in the twentieth century from Europe to the Americas and Palestine/Israel will likewise be taken into account.

The Post-doctoral Researcher will take active part in the **Qualification Program** of the IRTG, playing a key administrative role in the ongoing organization of the program. Post-docs in the IRTG "Belongings" will receive active support and mentoring by the PIs regarding career advancement and preparation for a tenure-track position, including specially designed courses at both universities for their advancement; they will collaborate in continually developing thematic foci, methodologies, and theoretical discussions. They will be involved in the group's scholarly development in Leipzig and Jerusalem during the first two years, in support of the PhD students; and at the same time, will be provided with a supportive framework in which to pursue **an independent monographic research project** (second book) relating to the field of Jewish material culture.

Researchers of all nationalities holding a PhD for up to five years (documented submission of thesis no later than June 2024) in the aforementioned fields are welcome to **apply for the Post-doctoral Researcher position**. As the working language of the program is English, proficiency in this language is required. The monographic study should be written in English.

### Tasks

- Conducting research and writing a post-doctoral study (second book) within the IRTG's research interests, expanding its theoretical / methodological perspectives
- Regular and active participation in the structured qualification program
- Presentation of own research at workshops and conferences
- Active exchange with the group of Doctoral Researchers, international project partners and co-supervisors, including longer research stays at the partner university in Leipzig
- Organizational duties (independent organization of team meetings, co-organization of workshops, research colloquia, conferences; compilation of reports)

### Requirements

- Completion of a PhD no more than 5 years ago (date on certificate; documented submission of thesis no later than June 2024)
- Explicit record in (Jewish) material culture studies and an outstanding academic record
- Articulated interest and experience in interdisciplinary research environments
- Very good command of English
- Desired: (passive) command of Hebrew / German

## What we offer

- An exciting, interdisciplinary and international working environment with structured mentoring
- A wide range of opportunities for the acquisition of academic and further professional skills
- A modern workplace and attractive working conditions (mobile working)
- Flexible working hours and a family-friendly program structure

For further information on the graduate program and the recruitment process please contact: [Rosenzweig@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:Rosenzweig@mail.huji.ac.il).

The **deadline for submission** of all application materials is **April 2, 2024**. (Digital) Interviews will be held in the first half of May.

## Application process

1. Complete the [online application form](#)
2. **The following documents should be uploaded** via the [Documents Upload page](#) Please send your application in English.
  - a letter of motivation.
  - a CV.
  - a project proposal indicating two clusters that seem most suitable/desired (max. 3 pages).
  - English copies of university degrees (incl. PhD).
3. **Two letters of recommendation**, from tenured researchers- should be uploaded according to [these guidelines](#)
4. To complete the submission process go to the [Submission Status page and follow the guidelines](#)