

Participants

Vera Ábrahám, Sámuel Birnfeld Library of the Jewish Community, Szeged (Hungary) | **Prof. Dr. Leora Auslander**, The University of Chicago (USA) | **Michał Czajka**, Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw (Poland) | **Andrea Jelínková**, Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague (Czech Republic) | **Dr. Dóra Pataricza**, Sámuel Birnfeld Library of the Jewish Community, Szeged (Hungary) | **Prof. Dr. Janusz Spyra**, Jan Długosz University, Częstochowa (Poland)

Dubnow

Leibniz
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Research Colloquium

Jewish Material Cultures in
East Central Europe in the
20th Century

Summer Semester 2019

Contact and Organization

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Cover Illustration: Ratibor, Germany, books confiscated by the ERR unit (1939–1945). Source: Volume one of the album originally entitled »The Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR) of which the Offenbach Archival Depot has become the antithesis«; compiled and arranged by Captain Isaac Bencowitz, Director of the Offenbach Archival Depot (OAD), between April and December 1946. © FA 1 73/74, Yad Vashem.



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STAATSMINISTERIUM
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Topic

Modern Jewish history can be explored anew by assuming a perspective that adopts materiality as its point of departure. As portable belongings, visible remnants, or just silent reminders of lost stories, objects illuminate the Jewish experience of migration and transfer, as well as expulsion, annihilation, and destruction, from a unique angle.

Against this background, the colloquium addresses the fate of Jewish cultural artifacts and the institutions to which they belonged in the twentieth century. It explores libraries, archives, as well as private book collections in Central and Eastern Europe, including the Czech lands, Hungary, and Poland. This focus will offer a glimpse of the richness of European Jewish intellectual and spiritual life in the interwar period, it will shed light on the history of destruction in the course of World War II and the Nazi looting of Jewish cultural property. Finally, it will enable us to track the reconstruction of Jewish cultural heritage in the aftermath of the Holocaust. While presenting a sort of biography of objects, it will reflect some fundamental changes that affected both the cultural geography of the Jewish world and Europe's geopolitical map after 1945.

Program

Thursdays, 17.15–18.45
Dubnow Institute, Seminar Room

- 4 April **Leora Auslander**
Jewish Things?
Material Culture and Jewish Studies
- 2 May **Vera Ábrahám, Dóra Pataricza**
Zwischen Szeged und Jerusalem:
Das Schicksal der Immánuel-Lőw-Bibliothek
- 16 May **Andrea Jelínková**
Silent Witnesses:
Books in Ghetto Terezín during
and after World War II
- 27 June **Michał Czajka**
Remnants of the German-Jewish Past:
Archival Holdings at the Jewish Historical
Institute in Warsaw after 1945
- 4 July **Janusz Spyra**
Spuren einer zerstörten Welt:
Das deutsch-jüdische Kulturerbe in
Śląsk Cieszyński nach 1945