

Dubnow

*S. Dubnow*  
Institute

# Passing Through Hands

## Objects in Jewish Everyday Lives

Research Colloquium  
in cooperation with the IRTG  
»Belongings«

Summer Semester 2026  
Dubnow Institute/Stream



## Topic

This research colloquium examines how everyday objects shape, mediate, and preserve Jewish lived experience across time, space, and generations. It approaches material culture as a site where history, memory, affect, and identity intersect, focusing on ordinary domestic, personal, inherited, and mobile objects as carriers of layered histories.

Speakers explore how everyday objects contain multiple histories and how the »everyday« is produced through material practices. Central is the entanglement of subjects and objects: how things shape human experience and enable individual and collective, transgenerational forms of attachment and memory.

Drawing on Jewish Studies, Material Culture Studies, Anthropology, History, Memory Studies, and curatorial and literary perspectives, the lectures highlight objects as active participants in social life. Special attention is given to materiality's affective qualities, the way how objects evoke longing, loss, comfort, belonging, and ambivalence, as well as to the temporalities and spaces objects create, particularly in contexts of migration, displacement, and diaspora.

By foregrounding the everyday, the colloquium expands approaches to Jewish history beyond textual and institutional frameworks, emphasizing ordinary objects as archives of lived experience. Organized by the Dubnow Institute, Leipzig University, and the International Research Training Group »Belongings,« the series invites scholars, students, and the public to reconsider how Jewish life is remembered and imagined through material worlds.

## Program

**Time: Thursdays, 5.15 to 6.45 p.m.**

**Venue: Leipzig/digital**

**7 May 2026**

Dubnow Institute/Stream

**Mikołaj Łoziński**

“Some things should stay within the family”

A conversation about the book *Książka* (2011)

**21 May 2026**

Dubnow Institute/Stream

**Robert Mueller-Stahl**

Capturing Life. German-Jewish Private  
Photography in the 1930s

**4 June 2026**

Dubnow Institute/Stream

**Sara Soussan in conversation with Alina  
Gromova**

The Everyday in a Vitrine.

Curating the unfolding Present in German  
Jewish Museums

**11 June 2026**

digital

**Talia Tokatly**

Blood Butterfly Formation. Epigenetic  
Objects, the Migration of Things from their  
Original Places and their Metamorphosis in  
the Work of Talia Tokatly

**2 July 2026**

Dubnow Institute/Stream

**Anna Shternshis**

Lard on Challah. Soviet Jewish Food  
Practices in the 1920s – 1950s

## Speakers

**Prof. Dr. Alina Gromova**, HTWK Leipzig | **Mikołaj Łoziński**, Warsaw | **Dr. Robert Mueller-Stahl**, ZZF Potsdam | **Prof. Dr. Anna Shternshis**, University of Toronto | **Sara Soussan**, Jewish Museum Frankfurt | **Talia Tokatly**, Mevaseret Zion

## Concept and Organization

Carolin Heymann-Serota, Katarina Rakić, Laura Schilling with Prof. Dr. Anna Artwińska and Dr. Elisabeth Gallas (Dubnow Institute, Leipzig University, and IRGT »Belongings«)

## Participation

Four of the five events will take place in person at the Dubnow Institute and will also be streamed via Zoom. One lecture will be held exclusively online. To participate in-person, registration is required using a form at [www.dubnow.de](http://www.dubnow.de).

If you would like to participate digitally, you can find the access link on the DI webpage a few days before the event. Registration is not required.

## Contact

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## Photo

Porcelain cup by Herend, Budapest, 1960s.  
From: »Objekttage« of the Jewish Museum Berlin/  
publications.

**BELONGINGS**

Jewish Material Culture  
in Twentieth-Century Europe  
and Beyond



SACHSEN



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