The Annual Conference of the Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University convenes international scholars specialized in the life, work and impact of Simon Dubnow for an exchange on the historical formation of tradition, historical theory, language, and most particularly the crisis-ridden inter-war period on the eve of the Catastrophe in respect to Dubnow’s diasporic self-understanding.

This conference in honour of Simon Dubnow will mark the 150th anniversary of the historian’s birth. It is a joint endeavor, bringing together the Simon Dubnow Institute, Leipzig, The Historical Society of Israel and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

ORGANISATION

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VENUE

Simon Dubnow Institute for Jewish History and Culture at Leipzig University
Goldschmidtstraße 28
04103 Leipzig

In Cooperation with The Historical Society of Israel and The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
Wednesday, November 3

19:00 Welcome of the Conference Participants

Thursday, November 4

9:00 Dan Diner Introduction

HISTORICAL TRADITIONS
Chair: Jörg Deventer
9:15 Israel Bartal (Jerusalem)
'Neither a Future, nor a Past': Simon Dubnow and his Predecessors

10:00 Michael Brenner (München)
Graetz and Dubnow: A Juxtaposition

10:45 Coffee Break

LITERATURE AND MEMORY
Chair: Susanne Zepp
11:15 Dan Miron (Jerusalem/New York)
Jewish Social History as Literature: Simon Dubnow’s World History of the Jewish People

12:00 Alexis Hofmeister (Köln)
Imperial Memory: Simon Dubnow’s Book of Life

12:45 Lunch Break

CONCEPTS AND IDEAS
Chair: Nicolas Berg
14:30 Dan Diner (Jerusalem/Leipzig)
The Notion of ‘Nation’: On Historical Semantics in Dubnow’s Writings

Friday, November 5

15:15 Robert Seltzer (New York)
A Philosophy of Jewish History: Simon Dubnow in Search for a Conceptual Understanding

16:00 Coffee Break

THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE
Chair: Natasha Gordinsky
16:30 Marion Aptroot (Düsseldorf)
The Language of Autonomy: Yiddish as a Means of Cultural Identification

17:15 Ruth Wisse (Cambridge, Mass.)
A Personal Statement: Simon Dubnow in my Life

19:00 Conference Dinner

AT THE EVE OF TURMOIL
Chair: Dan Diner
9:00 Joshua Karlip (New York)
At the Crossroads: Simon Dubnow and His Disciples at the Eve of World War II

9:45 Samuel Kassow (Hartford)
What should we do in Haman’s Times: The Public Intellectual on the Eve of War

10:30 Coffee Break

INTERWAR CONSTELLATIONS
Chair: Omar Kamil
11:00 Gabriel Motzkin (Jerusalem)
Nationalism and the Question of Minorities: A Reassessment

11:45 Anne-Christin Saß (Berlin)
The Historian’s Craft: Simon Dubnow and the Historical Section of YIVO in Berlin

12:30 Lunch Break

VISIONS AND VALUES
Chair: Jan Gerber
14:00 Anke Hilbrenner (Bonn)
Diaspora Nationalism: Dubnow’s Vision for a Multicultural Europe

14:45 Verena Dohrn (Berlin)
Ethos and History: Simon Dubnow meets David Koigen in Weimar Berlin

15:30 Simon Rabinovitch (Boston)
‘Castles in the Sky’? On Visions of Autonomism in America

16:15 Coffee Break

LOOKING BACK
Panel Discussion

16:30 Steven Zipperstein (Stanford)
Closure

Dan Miron (Jerusalem/New York)
Robert Seltzer (New York)
Ruth Wisse (Cambridge, Mass.)