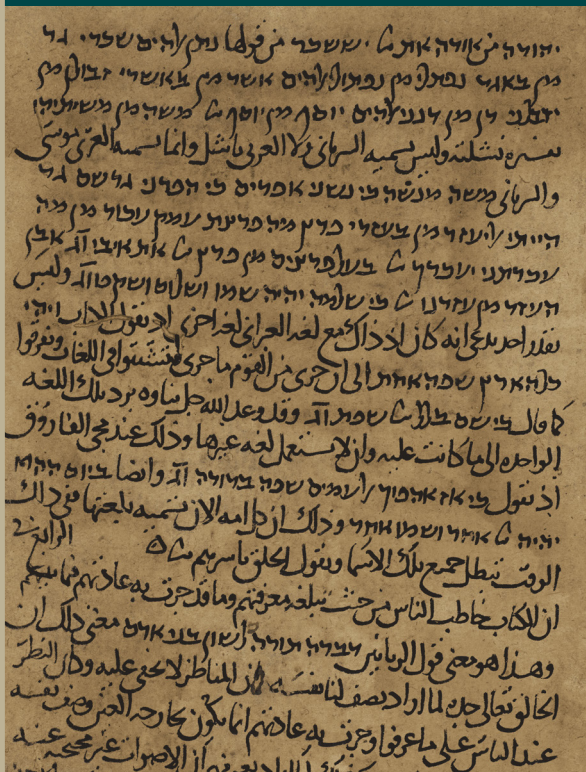
Dubnow Institute

Jewish-Muslim Studies

Approaches, Challenges, Perspectives

International Conference
6–7 May 2025
Dubnow Institute, Leipzig



Topic

The relationship between Judaism and Islam is marked by significant structural similarities and a long shared historical experience. Since the second half of the nineteenth century, the obvious parallels between the Islamic and Jewish legal and religious traditions have led Jewish scholars in particular to undertake comparative analyses of the two systems from various angles, exploring mutual influences and common sources. These scholarly inquiries have since expanded beyond legal studies to include fields such as philology, poetry, dogmatics, mysticism, and ethics.

In recent years, the study of Jewish-Muslim relations has increasingly become the focus of academic research. Numerous research centers, programs, and projects have been established to explore different periods and facets of these interactions. The conference aims to bring together interdisciplinary approaches to Jewish-Muslim relations, incorporating insights from Jewish and Islamic studies as well as other social sciences. The aim is to develop and discuss both common and novel questions that transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Program

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

16.00 **Opening Session**

Yfaat Weiss/Jan Gerber
Opening Words

Hakki Arslan
Introduction

16.30 **Digital Keynote Lecture/Stream**

Miriam Frenkel
The Jewish Gaze upon Islam:
From Haskalah to recent scholarship

Discussant: **Lukas Mühletaler**

18.00 Coffee Break

18.30 **Sociological Perspectives on Muslim-Jewish Encounters**

Chair: **Ufuk Topkara**

Arndt Emmerich
An Ethnographic Study of Yiddish-Speaking Muslims and Turkish-Speaking Jews in Urban Germany

Johannes Becke
Learning from the Enemy?
Ambivalences of Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel/Palestine

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

10.00 **Legal Studies and Jewish Orientalism**

Chair: **Walid Abdelgawad**

Hakki Arslan
Comparing Jewish and Islamic Law:
Approaches and Challenges

Gregor Schwarb
Jewish Law in Arabic:
A Transdenominational Approach

Amit Levy
Jewish Orientalism and Zionist Realities:
Studying Arabic and Islam in Jerusalem

11.30 Coffee Break

12.00 **Comparative Approaches in Intellectual History**

Chair: **Hakki Arslan**

Ronny Vollandt
Jewish Literature in Arabic:
A Comparative Approach

Ufuk Topkara
Interwoven Journeys:
The Quest for Meaning and Responsibility in Victor Frankl's Thought and Islamic Ethical Thought

13.30 Lunch Break

15.00 **Keynote Lecute/Stream**

Philip Lieberman
Exotic, Exceptional or Ordinary:
Studying the Jews in the Middle East

Discussant: **Birgit Schäbler**

16.30 **Final Discussion**

The Future of Jewish-Muslim Studies

Speakers

Dr. Walid Abdelgawad, Leipzig/Berlin | **Dr. Hakki Arslan,** Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Prof. Dr. Johannes Becke,** Heidelberg University of Jewish Studies | **Dr. Arndt Emmerich,** University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, UK | **Prof. Dr. Miriam Frenkel,** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Prof. Dr. Jan Gerber,** Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Dr. Amit Levy,** University of Haifa | **Prof. Dr. Phillip Lieberman,** Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN | **Prof. Dr. Lukas Mühlethaler,** Free University Berlin | **Prof. Dr. Birgit Schäbler,** University of Erfurt | **Dr. Gregor Schwarb,** Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich | **Prof. Dr. Ufuk Topkara,** Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin | **Prof. Dr. Ronny Vollandt,** Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich | **Prof. Dr. Yfaat Weiss,** The Hebrew University of Jerusalem/Dubnow Institute, Leipzig

Contact & Venue

Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and
Culture – Simon Dubnow
Goldschmidtstraße 28
04103 Leipzig
+49 341 21 735 50
sekretariat@dubnow.de
www.dubnow.de

Concept and Organization

Dr. Hakki Arslan/Prof. Dr. Jan Gerber

Registration

External participation is possible.
If you are interested in joining, please send an email to Dr. Hakki Arslan: arslan@dubnow.de

Livestream

The keynote speeches will be streamed. You will find the links to the livestream at **www.dubnow.de** shortly before the lectures begin.
Registration is not required for digital participation.

Photo

Abū Yūsuf Yaʿqūb b. Isḥāq. al-Qirqisānī (Baghdad, 10th c.), [from the thirty-seven exegetical principles in the introduction to] Tafsīr Berešit (Commentary on the first weekly section of the Book of Genesis), London, British Library, Or. 2557, fol. 5r.
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SACHSEN

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