

Topic

The conference is a collaboration between the Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow, Leipzig, and the Unit of Judaic Studies / Munich Research Centre of Jewish Arabic Cultures at the University of Munich. It examines the influence of Muslim rule on Jewish and, by extension, Samaritan literature, with a specific focus on religious texts, including translations of the Bible.

Although Jewish and Samaritan literary production under Islamic rule has received considerable scholarly attention, this conference aims to deepen understanding by analyzing how the realities of Muslim political authority and Islamic intellectual traditions affected or shaped Jewish and Samaritan religious writings. Instead of concentrating only on coexistence or cultural flourishing, the conference explores how Jewish and Samaritan authors responded – textually, linguistically, and theologically – to the Islamic environment in which they lived. This includes how Islamic models of thought, language, and literary forms left their mark on Jewish and Samaritan religious expression.

The conference's scope covers Al-Andalus, the Middle East, Iran, and the Ottoman Empire, from the early Islamic period to the late modern era (roughly 900–1900).

Contact & Venue

University of Munich
Main building, Room M110
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz 1
80539 Munich

Seidlvilla
Nicolaiplatz 1B
80802 Munich

Concept and Organization

Prof. Dr. Jan Gerber / Dr. Ali B. Langroudi /
Prof. Dr. Ronny Vollandt

Participation

External participation is possible. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ali B. Langroudi by email: balaeilangroudi@dubnow.de

Photo

Sukkat Shalom Synagogue in Tehran, Iran, Detail
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Dubnow

Simon Dubnow
Institute

Jewish Literature under Muslim Rule

Textual Transformations and Inter-Religious Encounters

International Conference
April 14–16, 2026
University of Munich

Munich Research Centre for
JEWISH-ARABIC CULTURES
jac@culture.lmu.de

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Tuesday, April 14, 2026

Venue: Room M110, Main building, University of Munich

18.15 Jan Gerber / Ronny Vollandt
Opening Words

18.30 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Reuven Firestone

Hinting What May Not Be Declared and Inferring What May Not Be Said: Decoding Jewish Anti-Muslim Polemics Written under Muslim Rule

19.30 Reception

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Venue: Seidlvilla, Munich

9.00 Registration

9.30 NEGOTIATING INTERRELIGIOSITY

Chair: **Gregor Schwarb**

Jasper Bernhofer

Elements of Arabic Psychology and Philosophy of Mind in Samaritan-Arabic Polemics against Judaism

Haitham Ismaeil

An 18th-Century Samaritan Theological Defense Against the Accusation of Worshipping the Golden Calf

Kübra Güneş

Maimonides on Treatment of Non-Jews in the Context of the Commandments of Kings and Wars and Its Roots in Islamic Tradition

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 IDENTITY AS REFLECTED IN LITERATURE

Chair: **Hanna Trauer**

Ariane Sadjed

Judeo-Persian and the Hebrew "Revival": Religious Canonization in the Writings of Haim Moreh

Ravza Aydın

The Defence of the Other: Perceptions of Identity and Homeland in Avram Galante's Article "Why I Defend Islam?"

12.30 Lunch Break

13.30 CONCEPTUAL ENGAGEMENTS

Chair: **Ali B. Langroudi**

Mohammad Golshan

Rethinking the Concept of Qadīm: Reading Burhān-i Hudūth and Qidam in Two Judeo-Persian Keter Malkuth Commentaries

Dan Shapira

I Firk 143: One of the Oldest Qipčaq Texts (Composed after 1340, Copied after 1470s) from the Islamicate and Persianate World

Roza Ashkenazi

Religious Terms and Jewish Personal Sacral Names in Judeo-Persian Literature and Judeo-Persian Transliterations of Classic Persian Poetry

15.00 Break

16.00 Opening of the Exhibition Jewish Life in the Arab World: Photographic Memories of Times Past

Venue: Institute of the Near and Middle East
LMU, Veterinärstr. 1, Munich

18.15 KEYNOTE LECTURE

Venue: Room M110, Main building, Munich

Julia Rubanovich

Epic Voices:
Medieval Judeo-Persian Biblical Poetry in Context

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Venue: Seidlvilla, Munich

10.00 LITERARY ADOPTIONS I

Chair: **Avner Ofrath**

Shlomo Zuckier

'Oral Torah' between Late Talmudic and Early Islamic Discourse

Gavin McDowell

Sefer ha-Yashar: A Persianate Tales of the Prophets

11.00 Coffee Break

11.30 LITERARY ADOPTIONS II

Chair: **Ronny Vollandt**

Joshua Krug

Voluntary Conversion and Identity Formation in the Medieval Islamic World: Maimonides' "Letter to Ovadiah the Convert" in Context

Şeyma Benli

Two Jewish Brothers, Two Separate Translations: A Comparative Study of the First Ottoman Turkish Renditions of the Psalms

12.30 Concluding Remarks

13.00 Lunch Break

Speakers

Roza Ashkenazi, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg | **Ravza Aydın**, LMU Munich / Sakarya University | **Şeyma Benli**, Istanbul Medeniyet University | **Jasper Bernhofer**, LMU Munich | **Reuven Firestone**, Hebrew Union College, Los Angeles | **Jan Gerber**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Mohammad Golshan**, University of Göttingen | **Kübra Güneş**, Ankara University | **Joshua Krug**, Heschel Rabbinical School, Potsdam | **Haitham Ismaeil**, University of Halle | **Ali B. Langroudi**, Dubnow Institute, Leipzig | **Gavin McDowell**, École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris | **Avner Ofrath**, LMU Munich | **Julia Rubanovich**, Hebrew University of Jerusalem | **Ariane Sadjed**, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna | **Gregor Schwarb**, LMU Munich | **Dan Shapira**, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan | **Hanna Trauer**, LMU Munich | **Ronny Vollandt**, LMU Munich | **Shlomo Zuckier**, University of Toronto