

Fifth International Spring School in Jewish Studies

HOME, BELONGING AND EXILE: SEPHARAD AND BEYOND

May 27 - June 3 2022, Madrid - Toledo



UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM



The Hebrew Bible begins with the creation of the whole world, but quite quickly zooms into the history of one family and consequently one people. Abraham, the first patriarch and the founder of the family and of the nation, is born in Haran, but is commanded to move on to what will shortly become the Promised Land, the Land of Israel, later Palestine. But the family does not stop there: it moves to Egypt, then (quite miraculously) back to its

original land from years gone by, and then exiled again to Persia and Babylon, then they return again, and afterwards exiled again by the Romans (having a Jewish Hellenistic branch in Egypt as well), and spreading almost all around the world, East and West. During hundreds of years Jews found equilibrium between moving and staying while longing (in principle or in practice) to another place, their promised land. Jews became what the great historian Simon



Dubnow, who was murdered by the Nazis in Riga at the age of 81, called *‘am ‘olam* a nation in/of the world.

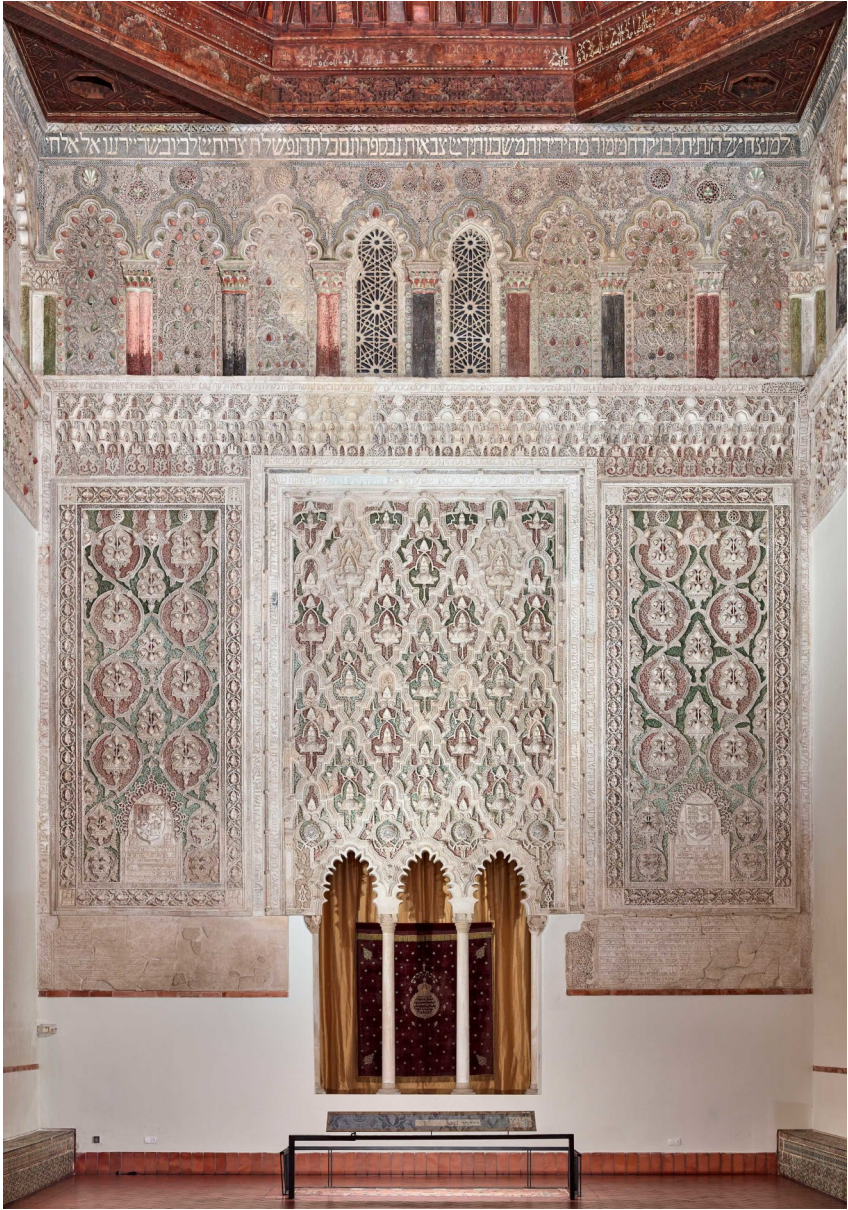
During their long lasting history, Jews both belonged to their homes at the places where they lived, sometimes for hundreds of years, but almost always expelled or otherwise forced to leave at some point, yet kept some kind of cultural and social unity. They created a flourishing religious and secular culture, and the Bible (and also

their other books) was for them a “portatives Vaterland” (‘portable homeland’), as the poet Heinrich Heine punned.

In the Madrid 2022 International Spring School in Jewish Studies, scholars and students from various places of Jewish belonging will explore the diverse historical questions of exile, belonging and home. We aim at learning about new realms of the Jewish existence and their mutual relationship.



Wyngaerde, Panoramic view of Madrid, ÖNB, Cod. Min, 41 (1563)



Prayer Hall, Samuel Halevi/ Tránsito Synagogue, Toledo

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL SPRING SCHOOL IN JEWISH STUDIES “HOME, BELONGING AND EXILE: SEPHARAD AND BEYOND”

Date: May 27 - June 3, 2022

Organization: Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department, University of Amsterdam; The Open University of Israel; King's College London; Jewish Cultures across Mediterranean Europe (J-Med), CSIC-UCM; Sephardic Museum, Toledo.

Coordination and supervision: Prof. Javier Castaño; Prof. Pablo Torijano; Prof. Avriel Bar-Levav; Prof. Andrea Schatz; Prof. Bart Wallet; Prof. Irene Zwiép.

Secretary: Irene Rincón (CSIC).

Venues: Sephardic Museum, Toledo; Faculty of Philology, University Complutense of Madrid; Center of Human and Social Sciences, CSIC.

Fee: Check with your university.

Credits: Check with your university. The students that attend to all the sessions and complete the necessary requirements by their university will receive a certificate.

Contact and information: jmed@csic.es

Detailed Schedule

May 27, Friday

20:00 *Qabbalat Shabbat* (Shabbat Bechukotai) at the Jewish Community Center, Madrid (CJM)

Dinner at the CJM

May 28, Saturday

READING TORAH IN SEPHARAD

9:15-12:00 Synagogue services at the CJM

13:00 Lunch at the CJM

19:30 Welcome and introductions

20:30-21:30 Irene Zwiép (UvA), *Parashat haShavua Workshop*
at Residencia de Estudiantes

May 29, Sunday - Toledo

THE GENESIS OF AN EXILE

10:00-13:00 Visit to Salón Rico, Salón de Mesa, Taller del Moro,
Old Synagogue Santa María la Blanca and Sephardic
Museum

Bart Wallet (UvA), *Reinventing Jewish Spain: Narratives of
Absence and the Heritagization of the Jewish Past*

13:30-15:00 Lunch

16:00-16:45 Formal Programme Opening (Samuel haLevi/
Transito Synagogue)

17:00-17:30 Irene Zwiep (UvA), Avriel Bar-Levav (OUI), *A Winter
School in Jewish Studies in the Spring*

17:30-18:30 Opening Lecture: Maurice Kriegel (EHESS), *Jews
Within and Without — and Government. Sepharad and
Beyond*

May 30, Monday - Madrid (University Complutense)

DYNAMICS OF BELONGING

9:30-10:45 Javier Castaño (CSIC), *A Bottom-Up Approach to
the History of a Diaspora*

11:00-12:15 Julian Weiss (KCL), *Iberian Expulsions, 1492: Race
and Absolutism*

12:45-14:00 Gadi Sagiv (OUI), *From Spain to Poland: How
Modern Hasidic Masters Discuss Medieval Jewish
Philosophy*

14:00-15:15 Lunch

15:30-17:00 Maite Ojeda (UV), *Jewish Communities in Spain
and the Spanish Protectorate in Morocco (1900-1950):
An Ethnographic and Comparative approach to
Ethnicity and Nationalism*

May 31, Tuesday - Madrid (University Complutense)

EXILIC IDENTITIES

9:30-11:00 Avriel Bar-Levav (OUI), *Jewish Languages and the Portable Homeland: Maintaining Exilic Identity*

11:30-13:00 David Torollo (UCM), *Exile, Memory and Belonging in Thirteenth Century Castile and Twentieth Century Morocco*

13:00-14:00 Lunch

15:00-18:00 Visit to the Historical Library of the University Complutense

June 1, Wednesday - El Escorial and Madrid (Residencia de Estudiantes)

TEXTUAL/DIGITAL ENCOUNTERS

9:30-13:30 Visit to El Escorial Monastery and Library

13:30 Lunch

15:30-16:45 Andrea Schatz (KCL), *Exilic Forms of Belonging: From Salamanca to Krakow*

16:45-18:00 Ophir Münz-Manor (OUI), *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Digital Humanities — (But Were Afraid to Ask)*

June 2, Thursday - Madrid (Center of Human and Social Sciences of the CSIC)

PORTABLE SEPHARAD

9:45-11:15 Mariano Gómez Aranda (CSIC), *Abraham Ibn Ezra's Biblical Commentaries: Wisdom Transplanted to Other Lands*

11:15-12:00 Welcome address by the director of Institute of Languages and Cultures of the Mediterranean, and visit to CCHS Tomás Navarro Tomás Library

12:00-13:30 Katja Šmid (CSIC), *Sephardic Voices in Exile: Home and Belonging between Sepharad and Eretz Israel*

13:30-14:00 Spring School concluding remarks (Andrea Schatz, Bart Wallet, Javier Castaño)

June 3, Friday

Farewell

Speakers

Avriel Bar-Levav is an Associate Professor of Judaic Studies at the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies at the Open University of Israel (OUI). He is co-editor of *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture*. His studies focus on the history of the Jewish book and on Jewish attitudes towards death.

Javier Castaño is a Tenured Researcher in the Jewish and Islamic Studies Department of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). His research interests include the social and cultural history of the Jews in late medieval Iberia and the early modern Sephardic diaspora, and medieval Hebrew diplomatics and paleography.

Mariano Gómez Aranda is a Tenured Researcher in the Jewish and Islamic Studies Department at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and the president of the Spanish Association of Hebrew and Jewish Studies (AEHJ). His studies focus on medieval Jewish commentaries of the Bible and on the relationship between medieval Jews and science.

Maurice Kriegel is a Professor Emeritus of Socio-Cultural History of Medieval and Modern Judaism at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). His research interests are the history of the Jews in medieval Spain and of the Sephardi communities and the Marranos in the early modern period, the history of the spiritual-intellectual trends in medieval and early modern Jewry, and the relationship between religion and modern nationalism.

Ophir Münz-Manor is an Associate Professor of Rabbinic Culture in the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies at the Open University of Israel (OUI), and Dean of Academic Studies . He is a specialist in Jewish liturgy and liturgical poetry from Late Antiquity and the early middle ages.

Maite Ojeda Mata is a Lecturer in the Sociology and Social Anthropology Department at the University of Valencia (UV). She is interested in the historical-political conditions in which socio-political identities are define, particularly in the arena of Jewish/non-Jewish relations, and more recently on Muslim/Jewish relations in Spanish Morocco. Among other monographs, she is the author of *Modern Spain and the Sephardim: Legitimizing Identities* (2017).

Gadi Sagiv is an Associate Professor and head of the Department of History, Philosophy and Judaic Studies at the Open University of Israel (OUI). His field of interest is Modern Jewish history, in particular Eastern European Hasidism.

Andrea Schatz is a Reader in Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at King's College London (KCL), and current President of the British and Irish Association for Jewish Studies (BIAJS, 2021-22). Her research interests include questions of language, nation and diaspora; Jewish perspectives on Orientalism and secularism; and exilic history among early modern European Jews.

Katja Šmid is a Distinguished Researcher in Sephardic Studies at the Jewish and Islamic Studies Department at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and co-editor of the *European Journal of Jewish Studies*. Her fields of expertise are Ladino language and literature with a special focus on Judeo-Spanish rabbinic writings, Ottoman Sephardic women, and Judeo-Balkan cultural legacy.

David Torollo is a Lecturer in the Hebrew and Aramaic Studies Section at the University Complutense of Madrid (UCM). His current project focuses on the circulation of wisdom (practical ethics) literary texts among Jews, Muslims and Christians in medieval Iberia and its Mediterranean border zones.

Bart Wallet is a Professor of Jewish Studies: Early Modern and Modern Jewish History in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). His field of specialization is early modern and modern Jewish history. He is co-editor-in-chief of *Studia Rosenthaliana* and co-editor of the *European Journal of Jewish Studies*.

Julian Weiss is a Professor of Medieval & Early Modern Spanish Studies, and member of the Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Network at King's College London (KCL). His research interests include medieval and early modern literature and theory, and Sephardic studies, and he is currently working on the early modern Hispanic reception of Flavius Josephus works.

Irene Zwiép holds the Chair in Hebrew and Jewish Studies in the Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department at the University of Amsterdam (UvA). She is director of the Institute of Culture and History of the same university, and chairman of the Menasseh ben Israel Institute. Her field of specialization is modern intellectual Jewish history. She is co-editor-in-chief of *Studia Rosenthaliana*, and co-editor of *Zutot: Perspectives on Jewish Culture*.

