

Potsdam/Berlin
July 20-22, 2016



Re-Framing American-Jewish History and Thought New Transnational Perspectives PROGRAM

International Conference sponsored by



University of Potsdam

in cooperation with



Center for Jewish Studies
Berlin-Brandenburg

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Re-Framing American Jewish History and Thought:

New Transnational Perspectives

July 20-22, 2016, in Potsdam and Berlin

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 – Potsdam, Neues Palais, Hs. 8, 060/61 (Foyer AudiMax)

2.00 pm *Welcome*

Elisabeth Gallas, Anton Hieke, David Jünger, Ulrike Kleinecke, Markus Krah: Conference Organizers' Welcome

Oliver Günther (President University of Potsdam): Greeting

Walter Homolka (Director School of Jewish Theology): Greeting

2.30 pm *Introduction*

Gary P. Zola (Cincinnati): Toward a Transnational Research Agenda on American Jewry

Markus Krah (Potsdam): The (Sorry) State of the Field of Transnational American Jewish Studies

3.00 pm *Roundtable: Transnational Perspectives on American Jewish History and Thought*

Tobias Brinkmann (University Park, PA): Locating 'Germany' in American Jewish History and Memory

Eli Lederhendler (Jerusalem): Lost and Found: Modern Jewish Historians' Assessments of Pan-Jewish Communities

Miriam Rürup (Hamburg): Transcending Nationality: Statelessness and World Citizenship in 20th-Century Jewish/Non-Jewish Relations

Cornelia Wilhelm (Munich): From Community and Place to Network and Space: The Transnational Dimension of Immigration in American Jewish History

Chair: Markus Krah (Potsdam)

4.30 pm Coffee break

5.00 pm *Panel I: Re-Positioning 19th-Century Jewish America*

Janice Rothschild Blumberg (Atlanta): An American Rabbi's Advice to

Herzl: Rabbi "Alphabet" Browne and Zionism in America

Richard Frankel (Lafayette): Understanding the Rise of Modern
American Antisemitism in the Context of Late-Nineteenth-
Century Globalization

Anton Hieke (Bobbau): The Maimonides Library and American-
German *Bildung*

Chair: Gary Zola (Cincinnati)

6.30 pm Reception (Hs. 9, Eastern Terrace, one floor up)

8.00 pm Conference Dinner (Restaurant "Waage," Am Neuen Markt 12,
Potsdam, by invitation)

Thursday, July 21, 2016 – Potsdam Graduate School, Am Kanal 47 (4th floor)

9.00 am *Panel II: Transnational Encounters in Religion and Theology*

Jörg Jehoschua B. Ahrens (Lucerne): American Impact on the
Beginnings of Jewish-Christian Dialogue in Continental Europe
after World War II

Dana Evan Kaplan (Mobile, AL): The Transnational Influences behind
the Theological Shifts and Transformations in American
Reform Judaism on the Crabgrass Frontier, 1935–1975

Claire Maligot (Paris): American Jewish Contributions to the Second
Vatican Council, 1960–1965

Chair: Ulrike Kleinecke (Lucerne)

10.45 am Coffee break

11.00 am *Panel III: Re-Framing German-Jewish Thought in America*

Martina Steer (Wien): Entangled Memories: Moses Mendelssohn as Jewish *lieu de mémoire* in the United States

George Y. Kohler (Ramat Gan): Steven Schwarzschild as a Reader of Hermann Cohen

Hans-Michael Haußig (Potsdam): Abraham Joshua Heschel and his Relation to Religious Studies (Religionswissenschaft) in Europe

Chair: David Jünger (Berlin)

12.30 pm Lunch

1.30 pm *Panel IV: American Echoes of Weimar Germany*

Philipp von Wussow (Frankfurt): A “Weimar Jew” in America? Leo Strauss and the Emergence of a Counter-Counterculture

Herbert Kopp-Oberstebrink (Berlin): Bridging the Abyss: Jacob Taubes’s Endeavors of ‘Understanding the Religious Dimension’ within the Context of American Jewish Intellectuals

Merel Leeman (Amsterdam): Rewriting America: George Mosse and Peter Gay’s Émigré Perspectives

Chair: Mirjam Thulin (Mainz)

2.30 pm Coffee break

2.45 pm *Panel V: American Jewish Politics and the Post-Holocaust Jewish World*

Daniel Soyer (New York): Jewish Transnational Concerns and the New York Electoral Left in the World War II Era

Constance Paris de Bollardièrre (Paris): American Bundists of the Jewish Labor Committee in Immediate Postwar France, 1944–1948

Sonja Pilz (Potsdam): Holocaust Remembrance in German and North American Jewish Memorial Prayers: A Window onto Two Jewish Identities and Theologies

Chair: Anton Hieke (Bobbau)

4.30 pm Coffee break

4.45 pm Transfer to Zentrum Jüdische Studien Berlin-Brandenburg,
Sophienstr. 22a, Berlin

6.00 pm *Keynote Lecture*

Michael A. Meyer (Cincinnati): Looking Back: American Jews Relate to
their Places of Origin

Friday, July 22, 2016 - Potsdam, Neues Palais, Hs. 8, 060/61 (Foyer AudiMax)

9.30 am *Panel VI: Cultural Reflections of Jewish Transnationalism*

Cristina Spinei (Iasi): Sholem Aleichem's Expressions of Jewish
Transformations through the Encounter with a New World

Klara Szlezak (Passau): Photography and the Negotiation of a
Transnational Jewry in Maurice Fishberg's *The Jews* (1911)

Jesper Reddig (Münster): Re-Framing the "Nation of Immigrants" and
the "Einwanderungsland" in U.S.- and German-Based Post-Soviet

Jewish Literature: Yelena Akhtiorskaya and Olga Grjasnowa

Lars-Frederik Bockmann (Berlin): The Material Unconscious: On the
Reinterpretation of American Pop Cultural Archives as

Transnational Jewish Memory in the Novels of Michael Chabon

Chair: Elisabeth Gallas (Leipzig)

11.30 am Coffee break

11.45am *Concluding Discussion: Looking at American Jewry from the Outside
and from Within*

Christian Wiese (Frankfurt): Blind Spots of German Academia?

Zohar Segev (Haifa): The Perspective from Zion to America

Gary P. Zola (Cincinnati): What Can American Jewish Studies Learn
from Europe?

Chair: Sarah Panter (Mainz)

1.00 pm End of Conference