Re-Framing American Jewish History and Thought:

New Transnational Perspectives

July 20-22, 2016, in Potsdam and Berlin

Wednesday, July 20, 2016 – Potsdam, Campus Neues Palais, Hs. 8, R. 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

2.30 pm  Introduction

Markus Krah (Potsdam): The (Sorry) State of the Field of Transnational American Jewish Studies
Gary P. Zola (Cincinnati): Toward a Transnational Research Agenda on American Jewry

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

Tobias Brinkmann (Philadelphia): 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, Potsdam (4th floor)**

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

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

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 Hausßig (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 Bollardiète (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
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

11.45 am  

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

Conference sponsored by University of Potsdam  

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