

Diaspora and Debris: Material Culture in German-Jewish History

Seventh Junior Scholars Conference
in Jewish History at the GHI Washington



(Photograph showing a small town museum in Lawra, where Nazi-Looted Judaica objects are spread out over the floor, Russian Archives of the ERR, 2008.1.6, Spertus Institute)

International Conference at the GHI Washington, April 25-27, 2023
Co-organized by Anna-Carolin Augustin (GHI Washington), Mark Roseman (Indiana University Bloomington), and Miriam Rürup (Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies, Potsdam), with additional support from the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts

Program

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

6:00-8:00 pm Welcome and Casual Reception

Wednesday, April 26, 2023



(Photograph of a young child, who sits among suitcases and a crutch while waiting to depart the Deggendorf displaced persons' camp, USHMM)

9:00-11:00 am Welcome

Convener & Simone Lässig (Director of the GHI)

Panel 1: Objects of Migration & Exile

Chair: Richard F Wetzell (GHI)

Kimberly Cheng: All Things Considered:
Shanghai's WWII German-Speaking Jewish
Refugees and Objects of Material Culture

Merle Bieber: A „Steirerhut“ in Edinburgh.
„Tracht“ in the Field of Tension of
Persecution, Identity and Memory for Austrian
Jewish Emigrants and Their Descendants

Judith Siepmann: Silesia and discourses of
Heimat: The Judaica and Arts and Crafts
Collection of the Pinkus Family

11.15–11.30 am Coffee Break

11:30 am–1:00 pm Panel 2: Judaica & Jewish History

Chair: Anna-Carolin Augustin

Zvi Orgad: Concise Shrines: Torah Arks of
Franconia

Roni Tzoreff: Shiviti Objects, Temple
Consciousness and Modern Ashkenazi Identity

Moishi Chechik: The Birth of the Tallit

1:00–1:45 pm Catered Lunch

1:45–3:00 pm **Shuttle to The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center, Bowie, MD**

3:00-5:00 pm **Tour and Discussion of Materials in the USHMM Museum's Collection**

The Rubenstein Institute and the Archival and Curatorial Affairs Division/Chief Acquisitions Curator, Alexandra Drakakis, and Chief Archivist, Colleen Rademaker

5:15-6:30 pm **Shuttle Back to GHI**

7:30 pm **Conference Dinner**

Thursday, April 27, 2023



(Part of an illustration by Lene Schneider-Kainer of a small houses in the High Atlas mountains of Morocco. LBI Art & Objects Collection, 79.320a.)

9:30–11:00 am Panel 3: Nazi-Looting, Restitution & Provenance Research

Chair: Mark Roseman

Sören Groß/Ron Hellfritsch: Escaping from the Nazi Regime. The Persecution and Emigration of two Jewish Businessmen

Tammy Kohn: German *Judaica*: Material culture of German Jews in Argentina

Shir Kochavi: Rethinking the Narratives of the Jewish Past: Exhibiting Provenance Research

11:00-11:30 am Coffee Break

11:30 am–1:00pm Panel 4: Blind Spots: Hidden (Parts of) Object Biographies

Chair: Miriam Rürup

Sol Izquierdo de la Viña: Two Albums Divided by the Atlantic: Objects' Biographies from the Legacy of an Exiled Jewish Woman Artist

Anna Rosemann: Modern Press Photography – A Forgotten Heritage of German Jewish Material Culture

Hannah-Leah Wasserfuhr: Tracing Jewish Visibility on German Main Street

1:00–2:00 pm Lunch & Concluding Remarks

2:00 pm Departure

The Conference will take place at

German Historical Institute Washington
1607 New Hampshire Ave NW
Washington DC, 20009-2562,
USA

The Conference Dinner will take place at

Restaurant Meze
2437 18th Street NW
Washington DC, 20009
USA

Address for the visit to the The David and Fela Shapell Family Collections, Conservation and Research Center, Bowie, MD

Marconi Dr.
Bowie, MD 20715
USA

To attend the panels online, please join our **Zoom meeting:**
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84470681088?pwd=YkZGQmh2QmNDV1lXUDdKU0gwS0Q2dz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7068 1088
Passcode: 161121

WIFI: GHI-Guest

password: W1llkomm3n!



Anna-Carolin Augustin joined the GHI as a research fellow in April 2019. Her main field of interest is modern German-Jewish History and Culture with emphasis on Jewish Material Culture. She received her PhD in modern history from the Universität Potsdam in 2016.

Her first monograph, *Berliner*

Kunstmatronage. Sammlerinnen und Förderinnen bildender Kunst um 1900, was published in 2018 (Wallstein Publishing House).

Being also a trained museum professional, she has additionally devoted herself to provenance research in the field of Judaica. In her current research project, she examines the entangled object biographies and migration paths of Jewish ritual objects as well as their changing attributions of meaning and functions after 1945 in a transnational, cultural-historical study. She is also currently working on two collaborative publications: One on the fate of the Hamburg Leo I. Lessmann Judaica Collection (with Julie Marthe Cohen, Jewish Museum Amsterdam) and on the rescue of the Marie-Anne von Goldschmidt-Rothschild modern art collection (with Christel Force, MET; Katharina Weiler, Städel Museum).

1607 New Hampshire Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009
augustin@ghi-dc.org



Merle Bieber has been a PraeDoc/PhD candidate at the Institute for Jewish History in Austria (Injoest), St. Pölten, since 2020. Her dissertation's is titled „Koschere“ Lederhosen, „jüdische“ Dirndl? Das Tragen von Tracht als Repräsentation der Zugehörigkeit in Wien und Niederösterreich zwischen Aufkommen der Sommerfrische

und 1938 [„Kosher“ lederhosen, „jewish“ dirndl? The wearing of „Tracht“ as a representation of affiliation in Vienna and Lower Austria between the burgeoning summer retreats in the 19th century and 1938], supervised by PD Dr. Martha Keil. She was a project member of „Mobile Dinge, Menschen und Ideen. Eine bewegte Geschichte Niederösterreichs“ [Mobile things, people and ideas. A history of Lower Austria in motion] at the Institute for Jewish History in Austria (Injoest) from 2019 to 2022. She received her MA from the University of Vienna and wrote her Master's thesis on „Ich fühle mich nicht als Österreicher.“ Assimilation, Vertreibung und Verfolgung einer jüdischen Familie im Spiegel der Identitätsfrage ihrer NachfahrenInnen [„I do not feel like an Austrian“. Assimilation, eviction and persecution of a Jewish family reflected by the question of identity of their descendants].

Linzer Straße 1617
3100 St. Polten
Austria
merle.bieber@injoest.ac.at



Moishi Chechik is a PhD student at the Talmudic department of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, from which he also received his BA and MA. He wrote his Master's thesis on the way Ashkenazic heritage was debated and transmitted in early modern Poland; it received the

Polonsky prize for creativity and innovation. Currently, he is working on the Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg's Work and Position in the History of Halakhah. In the beginning of the pandemic, he published together with Tamara Morsel-Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of Jewish History at NYU, the article 'Plague, Practice, and Prescriptive Text Jewish Traditions on Fleeing Afflicted Cities in Early Modern Ashkenaz' *Journal of Law, Religion and State* 8 (2020): 152-178.

HaNatsiv 9

Jerusalem

Israel

moishi.chechik@mail.huji.ac.il



Kimberly Cheng is a 2022-2023 Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow at the GHI. In Fall 2022, she graduated from the Joint PhD Program in Hebrew and Judaic Studies/History at New York University, where she was trained in Modern Jewish History and Modern Chinese History. Her dissertation research centered around Central European Jewish refugees in WWII China and their encounters with their Chinese neighbors. Her current postdoctoral project examines Chinese life in Nazi Germany and the immediate postwar period. Previously, her research has been supported by the Leo Baeck Institute, the USC Shoah Foundation, and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20009
Cheng@ghi-dc.org



Sören Groß is a provenance researcher at the Deutsches Optisches Museum (German Optical Museum) in Jena. He studied history and philosophy for high school teaching at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, graduating with the first and second state examination. From 2019 to 2021, Groß did his doctorate at the same university in the field of National Socialism Research and the Youth Concentration Camps. At the same time he worked as a scientific assistant in the History Research Center of the Archive from the University in Jena. Groß has been working at the Deutsches Optisches Museum since January 2021 in the provenance research project "INSIGHT D.O.M. " He also became an administrator for this project in January 2022. Sören Groß is a co-initiator and founding member of the "AG Technisches Kulturgut" within the "Arbeitskreis Technisches Kulturgut e. V."

Bachstraße 10

07743 Jena .

Germany

soeren.gross@deutsches-optisches-museum.de



Ron Hellfritzsich is a provenance researcher at the Deutsches Optisches Museum in Jena. He studied history, political science and New history at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena and at the Latvijas Universitate in Riga (Latvia). In 2022 he received his Ph.D. in Eastern European

History from the University of Greifswald. The topic of his dissertation was "German Colonial Imaginations of the Baltic".

In 2019 Ron Hellfritzsich was managing director of the "Historical Commission for Thuringia". In February 2020 he joined the provenance research project "INSIGHT D. 0. M". Since January 2021 he has worked there as an academic researcher and project administrator. Ron Hellfritzsich is co-initiator and founding member of the "AG Technisches Kulturgut" within the "Arbeitskreis Technisches Kulturgut e. V."

Liebknechtstraße 38

99086 Erfurt

Germany

ron.hellfritzsich@deutsches-optisches-museum.de



Sol Izquierdo de la Viña, since January 2022, has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Technical University Berlin, where she is conducting the project "Travelling Identity: Orientalist Imaginaries of Lene Schneider-Kainer through Her Journeys during the Weimar Republic and in Exile." Previously, she was co-curator of the exhibition "Whose Expression? The Brücke Artists and Colonialism" at the Brücke-Museum in Berlin. She received her Ph.D. in Art History from the Complutense University of Madrid in 2021. Her Ph.D. dissertation, awarded with the Enrique Fuentes Quintana Prize, examined Ernst Ludwig Kirchner's reception of Indian art and culture from transcultural and postcolonial perspectives.

Donaustr. 9
12043 Berlin
Germany
solizquierdo@ucm.es



Shir Kochavi is an art historian with extensive expertise in provenance research and the history of collecting. Shir was assistant curator at The Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at UC Berkeley, where she was involved in the curation of exhibitions and research of Jewish artifacts from all over the world. Her professional experience includes positions in contemporary art and antique galleries in Israel and the UK as well as the Christie's Auction House. Before moving to California, Shir worked as a provenance researcher at the Company for Location and Restitution of Holocaust Victims Assets in Israel, where she cooperated with numerous museums and archives. She received her PhD from the University of Leeds and holds an MA in the History and Business of Art and Collection from the Institut d'Études Supérieures des Arts, Paris, and a second MA in Law Studies from the Bar Ilan University, Israel. Shir has published several articles on material cultural and provenance research, and the publication of her first book is planned for 2024.

1984 42nd Avenue
Oakland, CA 94601
Shirko29@gmail.com



Tammy Kohn is a researcher, museum consultant, and lecturer on Jewish art. She obtained an MA degree in Jewish Art and Visual Culture at the JTS, New York. Tammy has vast experience working in several museums around the world. In 2012 she began lecturing on Jewish Art for Spanish speakers, and since then she continues to research the expressions of the Jewish experience in Jewish art and material culture in Argentina. She co-curated the new permanent exhibition of the Jewish Museum of Buenos Aires in 2012 and participated as a guest curatorial researcher for the renovation of the Buenos Aires Holocaust Museum in 2017-2019. Currently, she is a professor of Jewish Art at the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary, based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and a PhD candidate in a joint program of that institution and the JTS Budapest, University of Jewish Studies. Her dissertation is about "Jewish Ceremonial Art from the German-Speaking World in Argentina as Objects of Memory during the Holocaust and Its Aftermath."

Ciudad de la Paz 2212 Piso 1
City of Buenos Aires
1428 Buenos Aires
Argentina
tammykohn@gmail.com



Simone Lässig has been the director of the GHI Washington since October 2015 and a Full Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at the University of Braunschweig since 2006 (on leave). Before taking up the GHI post, she served as the director of the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research in

Braunschweig. During her tenure at the GHI, she has made digital history, the history of knowledge, and the history of mobility and migration foci of the institute's research. Her own fields of scholarship are Jewish, German, and transatlantic history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Currently, she is working on two book-length projects: The history of a transnational Jewish family from the early nineteenth century to the 1970s, which will focus on gender, family, and kinship, and a study on religion as an agent of change, with the preliminary title "Coping with Disruptive Change: Jews, Middle-Class Culture, and Social Transformation in Germany, 1800-1860." One of her recent publications was *Refugee Crises 1945-2000: Political and Societal Responses in International Comparison* (ed. with Jan Jansen, Cambridge University Press, 2020).

German Historical Institute
1607 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington DC 20009
directorsoffice@ghi-dc.org



Zvi Orgad teaches in the Department of Jewish Art at Bar-Ilan University. His Ph.D. thesis focused on the working methods of early modern Eastern and Central European synagogue painters. Dr. Orgad's research interests are the semiotics of synagogue art, early modern Jewish visual and material culture, the working methods of synagogue interior painters and Hebrew illuminated manuscript decorators, and Jewish museums. His book, *Eliezer-Zusman of Brody: The Early Modern Synagogue Painter and His World*, was recently published by Brill.

P.O.B. 5207
Ashkelon 7815101
Israel
zvi.orgad@biu.ac.il



Mark Roseman is Distinguished Professor in History and Pat M. Glazer Chair in Jewish Studies at Indiana University. Trained at the Universities of Cambridge and Warwick in the UK, he is the author or editor of eleven books on the Holocaust and modern European history, many of which have

been translated into other languages. His books include *ÜberLeben im Dritten Reich. Handlungsspielräume von Juden und ihren Helfern* (2021); *Lives Reclaimed. A story of rescue and resistance in Nazi Germany* (2019); *Jewish Responses to Persecution, 1933-1946: Volume I, 1933-1938* (with Jürgen Matthäus) (2010); *The villa, the lake, the meeting. The Wannsee Conference and the 'final solution'* (2002); and *The past in hiding* (2000). He is general editor of the four-volume *Cambridge History of the Holocaust* (in preparation).

Indiana University Bloomington

History Department

844 Ballantine Hall, 1020 E.Kirkwood, Bloomington, IN 47405-7103

marrosem@iu.edu



Anna Rosemann is a historian of European cultural history and a museum professional. She worked in various museum collections for several years, including the Jewish Museum Berlin and the Natural History Museum Berlin. For her master's thesis on Germany's first press photography agency, Zander & Labisch, she won a prize from the Berlin-Brandenburgisches Wirtschaftsarchiv. Since 2019, she has been a PhD candidate in German-Jewish cultural history at the Europa-Universität Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder). She was a Research Fellow of the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk and currently works at the German Museum of Technology in the Department of Collections and Exhibitions.

Stiftung Europa-Universität Viadrina
Kulturwissenschaftliche Fakultät
Große Scharrnstraße 59
15230 Frankfurt/Oder
Germany
Anna.rosemann.90@gmail.com



Miriam Ruerup is director of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European-Jewish Studies (MMZ) in Potsdam. Before moving to Potsdam in December 2020, she was director of the Institute for the History of the German Jews in Hamburg and worked as a research fellow at the German Historical Institute Washington. Between 2006 and 2010 she was a postdoctoral fellow/assistant professor in the history department of Göttingen University. In 2007 she published her doctorate on the history of German-Jewish Student fraternities in Imperial and Weimar Germany (title: "Ehrensache" with Wallstein-Verlag, Göttingen). Miriam studied history, sociology and cultural anthropology at the universities of Göttingen, Tel Aviv and Berlin. Formerly she worked for the Foundation "Topography of Terror" in Berlin, the Rosenzweig Center in Jerusalem, and the Simon Dubnow Institute in Leipzig. She is also the chairwoman of the „Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts“ (WAG).

Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies
Universität Potsdam
Am Neuen Markt 8
14467 Potsdam
Germany
miriam.ruerup@uni-potsdam.de



Judith Siepmann joined the Leibniz-Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow in 2018, working in the framework of the research project “Material Traces of German-Speaking Jews: Book Collections and Libraries in Eastern Europe after World War II” on the fate of the

private collection of textile manufacturer Max Pinkus from Neustadt in Upper Silesia. She is now pursuing her doctoral dissertation focusing on the fate of Jewish-Silesian collections in the 20th century.

She studied Theatre, German Literature, History, and Musicology at the universities of Munich (LMU) and Tel Aviv and completed her MA at the LMU in 2012. From 2013 to 2015, she participated in the project “Traces of German-Jewish History” of the German Literature Archive Marbach (DLA) and the Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Between 2015 and 2018, she took part in the research project “‘Time Regimes’ and ‘Lived Time’ of German Jews under the Nazi Regime” led by Professor Guy Miron (Yad Vashem/Open University of Israel).

Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow,
Goldschmidtstr. 28
04103 Leipzig
Germany
siepmann@dubnow.de



Roni Tzoreff recently received her PhD from the Department of Art at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel, under the supervision of Dr Ronit Milano and Prof. Sara Offenberg. In the dissertation she explored the ambivalent relationship between Zionist/Israeli art and modern Jewish traditional objects. She is interested in conceptualizing the broad cultural meaning of traditional objects, and the way their political, theological, aesthetic and gendered functions changed through the twentieth century. Since 2022 she has been a teaching associate at the Department of Art, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Yerucham, HaHadasim 423
Negev
Israel
ronitzoreff@gmail.com



Hannah-Lea Wasserfuhr is a PhD candidate at the Hochschule for Jewish Studies Heidelberg at Heidelberg University. Currently, she is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Leo Baeck Institute NYC founded by the Ismar Elbogen Scholarship Program of the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Scholarship Provider and the Leo Baeck Institute. Previously, she studied Art History and History, and she has a Master's degree in Jewish Museology. In her PhD project, she studies the "Industrial production and marketing of Jewish ritual objects during the Imperial Period and Weimar Republic" with the aim of shedding some light on these objects' biographies and their visibility within the consumer market prior to the devastation of the Shoah.

Leiblweg 2
69126 Heidelberg
Germany

currently:
375 Mt Prospect Ave
07104 Newark, New Jersey
h.l.wasserfuhr@gmail.com



Richard F. Wetzell is a Research Fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington DC and editor of the *Bulletin of the GHI*. His research has mostly focused on the intersection of law, science, and politics in modern Germany. His publications include *Beyond the Racial State: Rethinking Nazi Germany* (co-edited, Cambridge UP, 2017), *Crime and Criminal Justice in Modern Germany* (ed., Berghahn Books, 2014), and *Inventing the Criminal: A History of German Criminology, 1880-1945* (UNC Press, 2000). He is currently working on a book titled *Racial Science and Nazi Biopolitics, 1933-1939*.

German Historical Institute Washington
1607 New Hampshire Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20009
Wetzell@ghi-dc.org