

Jews in the Balkans: History, Religion, Culture

This international conference will reflect the diversity and dynamism of Jewish life in the Balkans, where Jews, especially before World War II, played an important role in its social, cultural and economic development. In some areas, such as in the Macedonian city of Bitola, in Thessaloniki or in the Croatian-Dalmatian city of Salona, Jews had been living since Ancient Roman times. During the Inquisition, Sephardic Jews from Spain and Portugal settled in what was then the Ottoman Empire, whereas Ashkenazi Jews took up residence mainly in Slovenia and Croatia. A vibrant Jewish life developed especially in larger cities where Jews established religious communities and various cultural, athletic and humanitarian organizations.

The conference offers a great opportunity to deepen historical knowledge about life, thoughts, activities and roles of Jews in the Balkans in times of war and peace. Scholars from Macedonia, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia, Italy, Israel, Germany, Austria, Greece, Spain, Great Britain and the USA will discuss new findings.

The conference is organized by the Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies (University of Potsdam) and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Split).

It is supported by the Moses Mendelssohn Foundation Erlangen & Berlin, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Split) and the Jewish Community of Split.



Address of the conference:

University of Split, Faculty of
Humanities & Social Sciences
Poljana kraljice Jelene 1,
21000 Split

Scientific coordination:

Martina Bitunjac
Moses Mendelssohn Centre for
European-Jewish Studies, Potsdam
Tel.: 0049-331-28094-20
mbitunja@uni-potsdam.de

Logistic coordination:

Jelena Novaković
University of Split, Faculty of
Humanities & Social Sciences
Office for Research & International
Cooperation
Tel.: 00385-021-552-561
jnovak@ffst.hr

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Jews in the Balkans: History, Religion, Culture

May 8 – 10, 2017

University of Split, Croatia



MONDAY	MAY 8, 2017
Jewish City tour through Split 14:00 Meeting point: In front of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Poljana kraljice Jelene 1)	
Registration	16:00
Welcome	17:00
➤ Šimun Anđelinović (<i>Rector of the University of Split</i>)	
➤ Zina Kalay Kleitman (<i>Ambassador of the State of Israel in Croatia</i>)	
➤ Aleksandar Jakir (<i>Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Split</i>)	
➤ Julius H. Schoeps (<i>Director of the Moses Mendelssohn Centre for European-Jewish Studies, Potsdam</i>)	
➤ Ana Lebl (<i>President of the Jewish Community of Split</i>)	
Keynote speech	
➤ Ivo Goldstein (<i>University of Zagreb</i>) Was there a Jewish Yugoslav Community? Some Reflections on Past and Present	
Opening of the Exposition “Jews in Split” Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	19:30
TUESDAY	MAY 9, 2017
Panel I	9:00–10:15
Jews between Occident and Orient in the Modern Age Chair: Ivo Goldstein (Zagreb)	
➤ Zrinka Podhraški Čizmek (<i>Split</i>) & Naida-Mihal Brandl (<i>Zagreb</i>) Jews as a Building Factor of Adriatic and Mediterranean Worlds in the 18th Century	
➤ Esther Gitman (<i>New York</i>) Amatus Lusitanus (Beloved of Portugal). His Life and Work (1511–1568)	
➤ Vlatko Janev (<i>Skopje</i>) The Social and Economic Position of the Jews in Macedonia (1800–1912)	
Coffee break	10:15

Panel II	10:30–12:00
Jewish Communities between Social Participation and Animosity Chair: Marijan Buljan (Split)	
➤ Ivan Matijević (<i>Split</i>) The Jewish Community in Salona	
➤ Yaron Harel (<i>Tel Aviv</i>) Announcing a Project: Exposure and Preservation of the Jewish Cemetery in Bitola	
➤ Giuseppe Motta (<i>Rome</i>) Romanian Nation-Building and the Jewish Question. Reality and Perception of the Jewish Communities in Romania (1878–1940)	
➤ Dragana Stojanović (<i>Belgrade</i>) Working with the Culturally Positioned Women’s Roles: an Organized Contribution of Jewish Women of Belgrade within the Jewish Community and in the Wider Society	
Lunch	12:00-13:30
Panel III	13:30–15:00
Judaism and Literature Chair:Yaron Harel (Tel Aviv)	
➤ Katja Šmid (<i>Madrid</i>) Sephardi Literary Legacy of the Rabbi Ya'acob ben Yosef Yisrael from Monastir	
➤ Simona Delić (<i>Zagreb</i>) “Old Sepharidic Ballads” sung by the Sarajevo Rabbi Moritz Levy in Madrid before the Second World War	
➤ Krinka Vidaković-Petrov (<i>Belgrade</i>) Jacob Musafia:A Judeo-Spanish Account of Travel to the Middle East from Yugoslavia (1930)	
➤ Michael Studemund-Halévy (<i>Hamburg</i>) The Predominance of Sefardic Women in the Post-Shoah Judezmo Literature in Bulgaria	
Coffee break	15:00
Panel IV	15:15–16:30
Jews as Transmitters of Political, Cultural and Religious Transfer Chair: Shlomo Shpiro (Tel Aviv)	
➤ Haris Dajč (<i>Belgrade</i>) & Ljiljana Dobrovšak (<i>Zagreb</i>) Zionist Movements in Yugoslavia	
➤ Branko Ostajmer (<i>Zagreb</i>) Marcus Ehrenpreis – a Rabbi in Đakovo, 1896–1900	
➤ Dieter J. Hecht (<i>Graz</i>) Austrian Jewish Soldiers Conquering the Balkan previous to World War I	

Coffee break	16:30
Panel V	16:45–18:00
Expressions of Jewishness in Art and Culture Chair: Giuseppe Motta (Rome)	
➤ Jasmina Huber (<i>Düsseldorf</i>) Jewish Topics and Musical Motives in the Compositions of Marko Aaron Rothmüller	
➤ Martina Bitunjac (<i>Potsdam</i>) Jewish Artists during the Shoah – between Exile and Resistance	
➤ Klaus-Jürgen Hermanik (<i>Graz</i>) The film “When day breaks” – a visual lieu de mémoire for the Yugoslav Jewry	
WEDNESDAY	MAY 10, 2017
Panel VI	9:00–10:30
Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Chair:Andrijana Perković Paloš (Split)	
➤ Milivoj Dretar (<i>Ludbreg</i>) Anti-Semitism in Ludbreg	
➤ Aleksandar Jakir (<i>Split</i>) Anti-Semitism in Yugoslavia (1918–1941)	
➤ Aleksandar Stojanović (<i>Belgrade</i>) & Mladenka Ivanković (<i>Belgrade</i>) Anti-semitic Propaganda and Legislature in Serbia 1939–1942	
➤ Leon Saltiel (<i>Thessaloniki</i>) The Holocaust in Thessaloniki and the Actions of the Red Cross	
Coffee break	10:30
Panel VII	10:45–12:15
Jewish Resistance in the Balkans Chair: Julius H. Schoeps (Potsdam)	
➤ Kotel DaDon (<i>Zagreb</i>) Religious Life during the Holocaust – a Spiritual Resistance	
➤ Miloš M. Damjanović (<i>Pristina</i>) The Participation of Kosovo-Metohijan Jews in Anti-Fascist Fighting of 1941–1945	
➤ Marijan Buljan (<i>Split</i>) Jewish Community of Split, with Emphasis on the Activities of the Emigration Committee	
➤ Dragan Cvetković (<i>Belgrade</i>) The Jewish Component of the Yugoslav Partisan Movement – Geostatistical Analysis of Losses	
Lunch	12:15

Panel VIII	14:00–15:30
Jewish Life after the Shoah and the Cold War Chair: Olaf Glöckner (Potsdam)	
➤ Aleksandar Manojlovski (<i>Skopje</i>) The Jewish Religious Community in Skopje in Search of Deported Jews from Macedonia in March 1943	
➤ Andrijana Perković-Paloš (<i>Split</i>) Jews in Croatia during the 1990s	
➤ Dona Danon (<i>Zagreb</i>) Adaptation of two Generations of Zagreb Jews to Post-Socialism and the New Croatian Nation-State	
➤ Shlomo Shpiro (<i>Tel Aviv</i>) Relief and Rescue: Jewish Communities during the Wars in Former Yugoslavia	
Coffee break	15:30
Panel IX	15:45–17:15
Greek Jewry in the post-Shoah Era Chair: Martin Arndt (Zagreb)	
➤ Philip Carabott (<i>London</i>) Greek Jewry in Dire Straits	
➤ Alexandra Patrikiou (<i>Athens</i>) The Tortu(r)ous Paths of Property Restitution in Salonika	
➤ Dimitrios Varvaritis (<i>Vienna</i>) Greek-Jewish Readings of Antisemitism in Greece, 1945–1960s	
➤ Anna Maria Droumbouki (<i>Berlin</i>) „We are not beggars nor do we ask for anybody’s charity“: Greek Jewry on German Compensation(s)	
Concluding remarks	17:15–17:45