

Tuesday, November 23

10:00 am–12:15 pm

PANEL IV: ITALY

Chair: Davide Liberatoscioli (Potsdam)

Martin Borýsek (Potsdam)

“But God Sent my Way One Gentile who Was Dear to Me” –
Reflections on Non-Jews and their Coexistence with the Jews
in the Works of Elijah Capsali

Antonino Campagna (Rome)

Cooperating through Distrust: Mediterranean Contracts and
Trade between Rome and Algiers in the Late 16th Century

Paola Ferruta (Paris)

Ethnic-Religious Pluralism and Constructions of Otherness
in Habsburg Trieste (1782–1868)

12:15–12:30 pm Coffee Break

12:30–1:30 pm

ROUND TABLE:

CONVIVENCIA AS A CONCEPT

IBERIA, THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND BEYOND

Chair: Sina Rauschenbach (Berlin/Potsdam)

Participants: Sérgio Costa (Berlin), Carsten Schapkow
(Norman, OK), Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (Berlin),
Susanne Zepp-Zwirner (Berlin)

Venue

Haus der Brandenburgisch-Preußischen Geschichte
Am Neuen Markt 9
14467 Potsdam

Directions

Board the Regionalbahn or S-Bahn to Potsdam Main Station,
from there it is a five-minute walk or a short ride by bus or
streetcar to the stop “Alter Markt/Landtag”

Contact & Registration

Selma Stern Center
for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg
Email: info@selma-stern-zentrum.de
Website: www.selma-stern-zentrum.de
YouTube: Selma Stern Zentrum

Organizational Notes

The conference will be held in person, pandemic restrictions
permitting, and will be simulcast on our YouTube channel.

We would be very pleased to welcome you personally. In
accordance with hygiene measures, only limited places will be
available.

Please register to participate by November 12 at:
info@selma-stern-zentrum.de

Many thanks for your interest.



Sponsors



CONVIVENCIA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

EARLY MODERN PERCEPTIONS,
PRACTICES, AND LIMITS IN DEALING
WITH THE RELIGIOUS OTHER



Aleppo Room (1601–1603), DSK / Museum für Islamische Kunst, SMB / Gerhard Munza

International Conference
November 21–23, 2021
Potsdam

CONVIVENCIA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

EARLY MODERN PERCEPTIONS, PRACTICES, AND LIMITS IN DEALING WITH THE RELIGIOUS OTHER

The concept of “convivencia” stems from the corpus of scholarship on the medieval Iberian Peninsula, where it is traditionally used to describe cultural and social interactions between the members of the major religious communities resident there. Similar to medieval Spain and after the Iberian expulsions, Christians, Jews and Muslims continued to live together in the Early Modern Mediterranean. In historiography, however, these Mediterranean regions have rarely been viewed through a comparative lens with regard to their religious make-up. Often very global interpretations dominate, perceiving places either as havens of tolerance or sites within an overarching oppression.

In their specific case studies, scholars presenting at the IXth International Conference of the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg will analyze a variety of contacts between religious communities and individuals in North Africa, in the various provinces of the Ottoman Empire and in different parts of Italy. The conference seeks to investigate in how far the concept of “convivencia” can help us to better understand inter-religious relations in the Early Modern era and to discuss the significance of religious affiliations from comparative perspectives.

Sina Rauschenbach
Susanne Härtel

Sunday, November 21

6:00 pm
Welcome Address & Introduction
Sina Rauschenbach
Convenor, Selma Stern Center

Greetings

S. E. Ricardo Martínez
Ambassador of Spain in Germany
Barbara Höhle
Vice-President, University of Potsdam
Julia von Blumenthal
Chair of the Board of Trustees, Selma Stern Center
Kerstin Schoor
Spokesperson, Selma Stern Center

Keynote Lecture

David Nirenberg
Deborah R. and Edgar D. Jannotta Distinguished Service Professor
Committee on Social Thought, Department of History, and Divinity School,
The University of Chicago
Convivencia vs. Race:
On the Dangers of Extracting Morality from History

Musical Accompaniment
Pedro Burruezo & Nur Camerata

Reception

Monday, November 22

10:00–10:45 am
PANEL I: MEDITERRANEAN PRELIMINARIES
Chair: Allyson Gonzalez (Jerusalem)
Menahem Ben-Sasson (Jerusalem)
Sharing with Apocalyptic Dreams in Medieval Daniel's
Visions

Monday, November 22

10:45–11:15 am Coffee Break

11:15 am–1:30 pm
PANEL II: OTTOMAN EMPIRE (15th–16th c.)
Chair: Sonja Brentjes (Berlin)

Johannes Niehoff-Panagiotidis (Berlin)
From the Byzantines to the Ottomans = From the
Romaniotim to the Sephardim?

Dotan Arad (Ramat Gan)
Brothers or Enemies? Karaite-Rabbanite Relations in the
Ottoman Empire

Susanne Härtel (Berlin/Potsdam)
How to Become a Rabbinic Authority of all Jews. Elijah
Mizrahi (c. 1450–1526) and his Political Agenda under
Ottoman Rule

1:30–3:30 pm Lunch Break

3:30–5:45 pm
PANEL III: OTTOMAN EMPIRE (16th–18th c.)
Chair: Muzaffer Erol (Potsdam)

Marc David Baer (London)
Sultanic Saviors and Tolerant Turks: Early Modern
Jewish Views of the Ottomans

Gürer Karagedikli (Ankara)
Rumors and Anti-Jewish Sentiments in Ottoman
Istanbul in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Baki Tezcan (Davis, CA)
Could *The Golden Gate of the Languages* Remain Open for
Non-Christians? Ali Ufki/Wojciech Bobowski and the Limits
of Cosmopolitanism in the 17th Century