



Sex Work and Jewish History

April 23rd- 25th, 2023

Technical University Berlin, Center for Antisemitism Research
and Queen Mary University of London

Conference location Sunday, April 23rd and Monday, April 24th, 2023

Technical University Berlin, Hauptgebäude (Main Building)
Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin
Room H 2036

Conference location Tuesday, April 25th, 2023

Center for Antisemitism Research (ZfA), Technical University Berlin
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 104-106, 10553 Berlin
Room 1115 (seminar room) and 1118 (coffee breaks)

Contact: Center for Antisemitism Research (ZfA), Technical University Berlin
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 104-106, 10533 Berlin

All persons attending the conference need to register. Please send an email to:
l.meyerink@campus.tu-berlin.de

Sunday – April 23rd, 2023

Conference Location:
Technical University Berlin, Hauptgebäude (Main Building)
Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin
Room H 2036

16:00 Registration

16:15 Welcome

Stefanie Fischer (ZfA, TU Berlin) and Daniel Lee (Queen Mary University of London)

Izabella Goldstein – Jewish Underworld: Songs of the Thieves

Chair: Elisabeth Janik-Freis (ZfA, TU Berlin)

Opening Keynote – Mir Yarfitz (Wake Forest University): Bad Jews: Bad for the Jews?

Izabella Goldstein – Jewish Underworld: Songs of the Prostitutes

17:45 Wine and pretzels

Monday – April 24th, 2023

Conference Location:
Technical University Berlin, Hauptgebäude (Main Building)
Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin
Room H 2036

9:00 Welcome (Stefanie Schüler-Springorum, ZfA, TU Berlin)

9:20 - 10:20 PANEL 1 – Prostitution in medieval Europe

Chair: Stefanie Schüler-Springorum (ZfA, TU Berlin)

1. Savoy Curry (Northwestern University Evanston): Prostitution and Jewish Identity: Understanding the Intersection of Class, Gender, and Religion in Late Medieval Municipal Court Trials
2. Ephraim Shoham-Steiner (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be'er Shevah): "If we Keep the Law on this matter, we are Debauchers": Gender Immigration and Jewish Prostitution in Late Medieval Europe

Break (15 min)

10:35 - 12:35 PANEL 2 – Facets of Sex Work in Central Eastern Europe: Past and Present

Chair: Stefanie Fischer (ZfA, TU Berlin)

1. Aleksandra Jakubczak (Columbia University/Polin Museum): From Tavern to Brothel-Keeping: Jewish Women Managing Sex in Eastern Europe, 1870-1939
2. Susanne Korbel (University of Graz): Everyday Life of Jewish Sex Worker in Central Europe, 1900-1930
3. Izabella Goldstein (Independent Researcher): Songs of Jewish Thieves and Prostitutes in Contemporary Poland
4. Ruth Ennis (University of Leipzig): Claims of a “Mädchenhandel”: A Contribution to a Global and Gender History of Migration Control (1868-1878)

12:35 - 13:35 Lunch

13:35 - 15:05 PANEL 3 – Chase the Trafficking: Police, Social Welfare and the League of Nations

Chair: Marion Kaplan (New York University)

1. Elisabeth Janik-Freis (ZfA, Technical University Berlin): Henriette Arendt and the Beginning of Female Police Work Between Jewish Welfare and Jewish Prostitution, 1895-1922
2. Sarah Frenking (University of Erfurt): “France, Headquarter of International Trafficking” – Antisemitism, Police and the League of Nations, 1927-1943
3. Margarita Lerman (Hebrew University Jerusalem/Leibniz Institute for Jewish History and Culture – Simon Dubnow): “No One Sees the Hump on Their Own Back.” Inner-Jewish Deliberations on Jewish Delinquency and Sexual “Deviance”

Break (15 min)

15:20 - 16:50 Panel 4 – Sex Trade in Italy: Migration, Jewish Abolitionism and transnational Feminism

Chair: Mir Yarfitz (Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem)

1. Laura Schettini (University of Padua): Prostitution and migrations from the Italian perspective (19th and 20th centuries)
2. Paola Zichi (Queen Mary University of London): Jewish Associationisms, Institutional Networks and Feminist Projects in Milan and Trieste (1899-1933)
3. Ruth Nattermann (LMU Munich): Fighting the Sex Trade, Aiding Refugees. Italian-Jewish humanitarian movements between the end of the 19th century and the age of fascism

Break (15 min)

17:05 – 18:35 PANEL 5 – Sex Work in Mandatory Palestine and in Israel

Chair: Paola Zichi (Queen Mary University of London)

1. James Sunderland (Oxford University): Whispers of Lives: Jewish Women and Sex Work in Mandatory Palestine 1918-1948
2. Yeela Lahav-Raz (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Be’er Shevah): When Trance-national becomes Trans-local: The case of End-Demand policy and Israeli sex industry
3. Nomi Levenkron (Tel Aviv University): “This Pack of Wolves” – Jewish Pimps from the Diaspora to the State of Israel

18:35 End of Day 2

Walk from conference location to “Kuchel Eck” where we have dinner.

19:15 Conference Dinner

Kuchel Eck
Ludwigkirchplatz 1
10719 Berlin

Tuesday – April 25th, 2023

Conference location (different building):

Center for Antisemitism Research, Technical University Berlin
Kaiserin-Augusta-Allee 104-106, 10553 Berlin

Room 1115 (seminar room) and 1118 (coffee breaks)

9:15 - 10:45 PANEL 6 – Tributes and Memories in Honor of Philippa Hetherington

Chair: Daniel Lee (Queen Mary University of London)

1. Julia Laite (Birkbeck University of London): Trafficking: A useless category of historical analysis?
2. Sonja Dolinsek (University of Erfurt): Beyond 1940: The fall and rise of anti-trafficking movements
3. Jessica R. Pliley (Texas State University): The Mesmerizing Whoremaster: From the Prototypical Jewish Pimp to the Stereotypical Black Pimp in the American Imagination

Break (15 min)

11:00 - 12:15 Marion Kaplan (New York University): Sex Work and Jewish History: Reflections and New Directions

12:15 End of Conference

12:15 - 13:15 Lunch