



WORKSHOP

Migrant Jews at the Intersection of Migration and Emotion

Past and Present

24 May 2023

Migration is a crucial component of humanity. Humans have been forced to migrate due to epidemics, natural catastrophes, climate change, persecution, and wars. Moreover, with industrialization, economic motivations became a further determinant of migration. From the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, these concerns have been studied in migration studies and addressed primarily using economic rationalist approaches. Nevertheless, people have also migrated voluntarily, prompted by the desire to explore the unknown. International migration includes well-educated and upper-middle-class people. Today, the immigrants can be the ones who come today and leave tomorrow or live in both the country they came from and the country they immigrated to. Focusing on these latter groups, the dominant economic rationalist approach in migration studies may not be sufficient to understand the different aspects of the facilitated migration of our times.

In recent years, there has been an increasing number of studies aiming to understand the state of being a migrant from the perspective of emotions by bringing together migration studies and emotion studies. Emotions develop through interactions in and between social relations and space. While migration leads to a change in both social relations and space, emotions acquired in the homeland are transferred to the land of migration. New social relations in the land of migration thus bring about the construction of a new emotional state. Therefore, it is possible to say that the debates on assimilation, integration, multiculturalism, and transnationalism, which occupy an essential place in migration studies, also have an emotional dimension.

In our workshop, we would like to explore different aspects of emotion in various Jewish immigration experiences. We plan to discuss the emotional drivers of emigration and the emotional aftermath of the immigration process. We will shed some light on the different circumstances, internal and external distress, and motivation to migrate. Combining case studies of different immigrant groups will allow us to shed light on current historiographical research and examine the emotional aspects of immigration and immigrant groups.

Place: Freie University, Department of History and Cultural Studies, Room 2.2051,
Fabeckstraße 23-25, 14195 Berlin

Conveners: Dr. Maya Shabbat (maya.shabbat@gmail.com)

Dr. Olaf Glöckner (gloeckne@uni-potsdam.de)

Adem Muzaffer Erol, PhD Candidate (aerol@uni.potsdam.de)